

DAKABIN HOTEL UNVEILED

The Comiskey Group, has unveiled the first artist impressions of the new Dakabin Hotel and onsite shopping precinct.

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PAINT, SIP & SPLATTER SUCCESS

Taking a leap of faith during a time when businesses were doing it tough has seen Kallangur local Katie Boulter come out the other side even stronger.

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WATER SAFETY FOR KIDS

JOSHUA EAST

OLYMPIC gold medallist and proud mum-of-three, Brooke Hanson, is leading the new Swim-Start program in Queensland, which aims to provide access to learn-to-swim classes for children aged 0 to 4.

The program, supported by \$4.8 million over two years, will offer more than 30,000 Swim-Start vouchers valued up to \$150 to eligible families facing financial pressures.

Sport Minister Stirling Hinchliffe expressed excitement about the program, stressing the importance of early education in water safety, particularly with the arrival of summer.

"We don't want family finances to be a barrier to preschool-aged Queenslanders learning about water safety and developing the skills they'll carry with them for life," Mr Hinchliffe said.

Since 7 November, families meeting the eligibility criteria have been able to apply for the SwimStart vouchers, which can be used to access swimming lessons with a registered Swim-Start activity provider. There is a limit of one voucher per child per financial year.

Olympic champion Brooke Hanson expressed her joy in being part of the SwimStart program, highlighting the importance of learning to swim, especially in a state like Queensland.

"Making lessons more accessible for families who may be doing it tough is a fantastic initiative," she said. "I would encourage anyone who is eligible to dive in and get their kids learning how to swim as young as possible."

Round 1 for voucher applications closes on 1 May 2024. For more information visit www.qld.gov.au/swimstart



FIRST HOME BUYERS CELEBRATE

ELISABETH WALSH

THE State Government is taking steps to support first-time home buyers by doubling the First Home Owner Grant as part of a set of measures aimed at reducing the cost of living. Since Monday, 20 November, eligible first-home buyers have had access to \$30,000 through the grant.

The Full Story on page 2



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FIRST HOME OWNER GRANT DOUBLED

JOSHUA EAST

CONTINUED from page 1
 The funds for this program will be drawn from the progressive Coal Royalties regime, ensuring that coal companies contribute their fair share to first homeowners.
 Queensland will now offer the equal highest First Home Owner Grant in Australia, surpassing the grants available in New South Wales and Victoria by triple the amount.
 Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said she understood how much the cost of living was impacting Queenslanders, especially first-home buyers. "Our government is committed to easing these pressures by delivering the largest cost of living relief package anywhere in the nation," she said. "I want to see home ownership rates continue to rise, which is why our government is stepping up to lend a helping



hand. "The existing first home owner grant has been very successful, which is why our government is doubling the grant program - meaning eligible first home buyers will receive \$30,000 cashback. "I hope this puts the dream of owning a first home within reach of more Queenslanders. "We can only do this because we're making sure coal companies pay their fair share."

It is estimated that this doubling of the grant will support around 12,000 buyers by 30 June 2025, when the boost is set to expire. Treasurer Cameron Dick highlighted the opportunity presented by the emerging capacity in housing construction to get more Queenslanders into their own homes. "Queensland's strong budget position gives us the flexibility to adapt to changing condi-

tions like this, by reinvesting the proceeds from progressive coal royalties," he said. Minister for Housing, Leanne Enoch, said all Queenslanders should have a place to call home. "Helping first-home buyers is just one of the many ways our government is responding to national housing pressures," Ms Enoch said. "We are delivering thousands and thousands of homes as part

of our Big Housing Build. "More than 200,000 forms of housing assistance were provided to Queenslanders last financial year alone. "We hope this helps put home ownership in reach for young Queenslanders." Between July 2015 and April 2023, over 6,849 grants worth \$115.3 million were paid to home buyers to assist them in buying their first home in Moreton Bay. To be eligible for the First Home Owner Grant, buyers must be purchasing or building a new home valued below \$750,000, including land and any contract variations. The grant is available to individuals who are 18 years or older and are purchasing their first residential property in Australia. The home must meet certain criteria, such as not having been lived in or sold as a place of residence at the time of completion.

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NEW DAKABIN HOTEL PLANS UNVEILED

JOSHUA EAST

QUEENSLAND hospitality company, the Comiskey Group, has unveiled the first artist impressions of the new Dakabin Hotel. The pub, situated on a sprawling 3.75-hectare land on the corner of Alma and Old Gympie Road, is set to become a vibrant entertainment hub with its very own indoor basketball court.

With a development cost of \$35 million, the Dakabin Hotel is expected to be completed by mid-to-late 2024 and will be accompanied by a \$15 million on-site shopping precinct. The shopping centre will host a variety of well-known multinational tenants, including Guzman Y Gomez, KFC, Zarraffa's, and a NightOwl service station.

Director Rob Comiskey said he had received a large amount of leasing enquiries and has confirmed some major brands will be opening soon.

"Dakabin is a massive growth area, not to mention its close proximity to the thriving North Lakes community; it really is a great opportunity for leasing," Rob said.

"Our Dakabin development is in a high-profile location on



Artist impression of the new Dakabin Hotel entry

the main road, offering great visibility right opposite Woolworths. We do have a few tenancies left, and we are looking for businesses that we believe will be well-suited to the area; if you think that's you, then, by all means, get in touch!"

The Comiskey Group anticipates the remaining tenancies

will be filled soon and invites leasing enquiries via hello@comiskey.com.au.

In addition to the shopping precinct, the Dakabin Hotel will house a restaurant with both indoor and outdoor dining options, a sports bar with TAB facilities, a gaming room, a large kid's room with

an indoor basketball court, and more features yet to be announced.

Director David Comiskey said the Dakabin Hotel will begin taking shape in the coming months.

"The earthworks are nearing completion, and we will commence the concrete footings

very soon," David said.

"In just a few months, Dakabin Hotel will start to take shape, and the progress should be exciting to watch. We had been working on the design of the development for over a year. We put a lot of effort into it, and so we were very eager to release the artist impressions when they were complete. It's great to finally be able to show the community what we have planned. We hope you can see by the quality of the build that we have made every effort to deliver a world-class venue to Dakabin for all to enjoy."

FOSTERING GREAT RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN GENERATIONS



JO KELSEY

SEASONS Mango Hill and Mango Hill State Secondary College recently celebrated the opening night of The Love of Local Art Exhibition, a collaboration that highlights the power of intergenerational relationships through art.

The exhibition showcased the remarkable talents of both junior and senior students from Mango Hill State Secondary College. Residents, community members, and families were invited to attend the event and vote for their favorite art pieces.

Claire McCallum, Sales and Marketing Manager at Seasons, expressed her delight with the opening night, describing it as "absolutely delightful." She also praised the exceptional talents displayed by the students. Rebecca McGuire, the Art Teacher



from Mango Hill State Secondary College, echoed McCallum's sentiment, stating, "The exhibition has been fantastic. To see the connection between the students and residents is so special."

As part of the exhibition, winning art pieces will be permanently displayed at Seasons Mango Hill, creating a lasting legacy for the students. Additionally, the students will receive prizes for first, second, and third place, recognising their outstanding achievements.

The partnership between Mango Hill State Secondary College and Seasons Mango Hill has proven to be a success, with both parties expressing enthusiasm for continuing the collaboration in the future. By fostering relationships between different generations, the partnership aims to create a supportive and inclusive community.

The Love of Local Art Exhibition not only showcases the artistic talents of the students but also serves as a platform for connecting different generations. Through the shared appreciation and enjoyment of art, residents, students, and community members have the opportunity to forge meaningful connections and learn from one another.

This intergenerational collaboration not only benefits the students by providing them with a real-world audience for their artwork but also enriches the lives of the residents at Seasons Mango Hill. The exhibition is a testament to the power of art in bringing people together and fostering a sense of community.

The Love of Local Art Exhibition serves as a reminder of the importance of intergenerational relationships and the positive impact they can have on the community as a whole.

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SHOULD WE LET OUR KIDS WATCH THE NEWS?

SHEREE HODDINETT

I'VE had links to the news for as long as I can remember. I grew up in a household where we watched the news every night and quite often we had a newspaper floating around as well. Although back then I was more interested in the printed TV guide and what was happening in all my favourite shows! Yet I was still aware things were happening in the world. I remember hearing about famous people dying, war erupting in other countries and bad accidents taking lives. While the news can be a scary thing, it's also very much an important part of our lives.

There seems to be a belief in our culture that the innocence of childhood is sacred and must be preserved at all costs. But these children are likely to grow into adults who have little to no idea about some of the things happening in the world. Just because they hear about murder, violence, war, death, pain and everything shocking, doesn't necessarily mean they will head down that path themselves.

I've never been one to shy

away from being honest with my kids. Yes, I do tell them little white lies about certain topics, but when it comes to chatting about what's happening in the news, I'll have a conversation with them about it. The Israel-Hamas war is a prime example of a big thing happening in the world and yes, my girls (now 10 and eight) have asked questions about what it is and why it's taking place. Another big news item has been the bushfires kicking in across the country and the potential fear of whether we could be in the firing line. We chat about topics on a level that they understand, but sometimes the questions that follow can be even trickier to answer!

It does come down to personal preference what you choose to talk to your kids about and exactly how much detail you give them. But there are times they can access the information themselves, whether we can control it or not. If you are a regular watcher of the news, you'll likely notice a lot of it isn't 'good' news. Terrorism, natural disasters, violent crime and famine - the news

is often a cocktail of negativity that can worry young minds. But in a digital world that is constantly evolving, news is everywhere. So how can you help children understand the news and keep it in perspective for them?

- Ask your kids questions to see if they know about a current event. For school-age kids and teens, you can ask what they have heard at school or on social media.
- Factor in your child's age and their development or ability to understand what is going on.
- Depending on the topic, of course, answer questions as honestly as you can, but keep it brief when necessary too. Remember it's okay to say you don't know the answer, but you'll try to find out.
- If your child doesn't seem interested in an event or doesn't want to talk about it, don't push the issue.

- Listen carefully. When kids hear about an unsettling event they may worry about it happening to them. Focus on what your kids ask so you can help them cope with their fears.
- Put news stories in context. Broaden the discussion from a specific news item about a difficult event to a larger conversation.
- Decide what and how much news is appropriate for your child. Think about how old your kids are and how mature they are. Encourage them to take breaks from following the news, especially when the topics are difficult.
- Watch the news with your child and talk about it. Turn off a story if you think it's inappropriate for your child.

EMERGENCY HOUSING SUPPORT

IN a bid to address the growing demand for emergency accommodation for families experiencing homelessness, the State Government has announced an investment of \$23 million for the Immediate Housing Response for Families (IHRF) program.

The IHRF program has already allocated tens of millions of dollars for emergency accommodation for thousands of families. This latest injection of funds is designed to further strengthen the program's ability to offer emergency housing to those most in need.

Housing Minister Meaghan Scanlon expressed the government's commitment to transparency and collaboration with all levels of government.

"We know there are housing concerns across the community, and we are getting on with the job of building more homes to put a roof over the head of people who need it most," Minister Scanlon said.

"I committed to a quarterly data release for greater transparency and to better respond to the changing demand. That's why we have announced another \$23 million in IHRF funding."

The first release of the social housing register quarterly data showed a stabilisation in applications for social housing. Housing register applications for the September quarter were at 25,362 - slightly lower than the previous quarter. The latest data release also showed that government-managed social housing was found for 848 new households between 1 July and 30 September. While the number of single households had decreased, there was an increase in the number of families seeking assistance, prompting the allocation of more funding by the Queensland Government.

Furthermore, recent data from the Open Data Portal revealed an increase in social housing tenancies and a decrease in unoccupied homes. The data emphasised the need for ongoing vacancy management and the rollout of indigenous housing in remote and discrete communities. To address this issue, the government has established a dedicated vacancy management team and has allocated additional funding in the latest budget for the delivery of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing statewide.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR'S 'AHA MOMENT' INSPIRES JOURNEY TO SELF-EMPLOYMENT



BRUCE GIDDINGS

CALEB Mundy from Narangba is reelling in the benefits of taking a new direction in life after experiencing an 'aha moment' two years ago.

The 18-year-old says he was drifting aimlessly through life when a moment of clarity came to him in June 2021.

"I didn't have a clue at the time, just hanging around with mates, not doing well at school, not doing anything useful at all really," he says. "My motto in life was to go where the world takes you."

The turning point in Caleb's life journey came one winter afternoon in mid-2021 after he decided to take part in a career development course organised by his school.

He had tried different schools over a long period of time, failing

time after time to fit in, to engage with the teaching methods and curriculum.

Caleb knew that his continuing challenges with education were in large part caused by his ADHD, a diagnosis he received when he was around seven years old. With the help of a supportive family, he had tried various strategies and medications over the years, with varying degrees of success.

As Caleb drifted through high school the academic slide gathered speed, affecting his self-confidence, and ability to make decisions in his own best interests.

"I was headed absolutely nowhere, and hardly even cared either," he says.

The 'aha moment' that turned him around happened one winter afternoon at school during a presentation on Life Directions and Careers with Taj Pabari, founder of the ASE group, a social entrepreneurship company based in Brisbane.

That was the day that Caleb realised he had the power to undo certain self-limiting beliefs about his own capabilities, and began to consider something he hadn't considered very much, the idea of working for himself, instead of a boss.

He started to prepare himself for a future in small business, looking for a start, a small business idea that could kick-start him on a pathway to bigger things.

As a starting point, Caleb sourced a variety of popular snacks, impulse buys, and bundled them as a product he named 'Caleb's Refreshing Snacks'. He went on to successfully market the snack packs at the local Sunday markets.

The successful venture, although modest in scale, showed the sixteen-year-old the value of following through on an idea and giving it a shot.

Since then, Caleb has continued to develop his business smarts and is busy trialling business ideas, making ready to jump on the right opportunity when it appears.

He credits Taj Pabari's ASE Group (incorporating The Australian School of Entrepreneurship) for awakening an interest in a career pathway and giving him the impetus to begin a needed change in his life's direction.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2024.

Shane King

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MANGO HILL SET TO SPARKLE

BRUCE GIDDINGS

LOUISE Winton can hardly wait for 9 December to arrive so she can don her tiara, ballgown and high heels, and take to the stage.

As the Musical Director for Mango Hills Christmas Carols, Louise will be in her element, singing up a storm and assisting in the production of other musical acts, beginning at 4pm on Saturday, 9 December.

She says while music and performing are her passion all year round, the Christmas event at the Mango Hill Community

Centre in Cherside Road remains a special joy.

"I love this event because it's firmly focused on families," Louise says. "There are so many wonderful memories made for the little ones every year. But at the same time, there is plenty of variety for adults."

She says the presentation will evolve a little this year to allow each act a few extra minutes to shine, while keeping to the set schedule.

"We know that Santa will arrive at 5.15, so the entertainment will revolve around that,"

she says.

Louise smiles as she mentions some recent changes to her own act after undergoing a modest rebrand earlier this year.

"I have added extra sparkles and a tiara to go with my ballgown and heels, and have a new identity on Facebook and in real life, Louise the Diva."

Louise will bring extra Christmas sparkle to Mango Hill with acts such as Soundwave Community Choir, Moreton Celtic Fiddle Group and Madhouse Theatre, among others.

Louise the Diva will lead the community carols.

Her strong singing voice, cultivated through a rich background in musical theatre, has contributed to the success of the Mango Hill Christmas Carols every year since she began performing at them in 2017.

The popular Christmas carol event will stay true to its beginnings as a family night, a community getting together. As in previous years, there will be fun and games, along with presents for the children from Santa.

There will be a free giant slide for the kids, food tents, fairy floss, a free jumping castle for the smaller kids, and more. Santa will arrive at 5.15pm and the fireworks display will be at 8.30pm. Participants are asked to bring a chair or picnic blanket and be ready for a fun family evening.

Louise Winton



GROW IT LOCAL EXPANDS PROGRAM

JOSHUA EAST

GRASSROOTS organisation Grow It Local has joined forces with the Queensland Government to promote local food production and reduce food waste.

In a partnership aimed at encouraging sustainable living practices, the government has provided \$150,000 in funding over three years to support the national Grow It Local initiative and roll out the program state-wide.

Environment Minister Leanne Linard expressed her support for Grow It Local, stating that it encouraged a holistic approach to food and waste management.

"More than three million tonnes of food is sent to landfill in Queensland each year, even though there is an increasing number of Queenslanders experiencing food insecurity," Ms Linard said. "It is estimated that households spend between \$2,000 to \$2,500 per year on food that is ultimately wasted."

"Critically this is also about teaching children practical skills that will empower them to grow, cook and compost their own

food at home, which I think is an invaluable investment in our future."

To celebrate the collaboration with Grow It Local, the Queensland Parliament has transformed into ParliMINT, with four different varieties of mint planted in its small edible garden.

Speaker of the Queensland Parliament, Curtis Pitt, said an edible garden could be created anywhere.

"Many people who drive or walk past Parliament House in the Brisbane central business district would be surprised to know that we have a small, edible garden, the produce of which is used by the chefs in our kitchen," he said.

"In addition to growing our own herbs and spices, we also have an 'Eggsembly' of chooks who provide us with fresh eggs that come out of our kitchen."

"Our resident chooks the Cluck of the Assembly, Dorothy Dixie, Miss Hansard and Erskine Lay are very welcome residents and contributors at the Queensland Parliament.

"I hope that through Grow It Local, more Queenslanders will become inspired and establish their own garden, or work with their neighbours to create a community garden, and realise the many benefits such an endeavour creates."

Chef, River Cottage Australia star and Grow It Local co-founder, Paul West, said anyone could grow their own food, regardless of the space or time available.

"It's something everyone can do - whether you've got a suburban backyard or just a windowsill in the kitchen," Mr West said. "Gardening, and all the physical and mental health benefits that come with it, is accessible to everyone, even if you start with just one plant."

"Growing your own food is addictive, once you start, there's no going back!"

Currently, there are 5,739 local growers registered with Grow It Local in Queensland, cultivating 413,793 square meters of land and diverting 11,914 kilograms of food waste from landfill each week through home composting activities.

Kindness for Kids in Care

JO KELSEY

THE annual Kids in Care Christmas Toy Appeal, organised by Kindness for Kids in Care Inc, is set to bring joy to even more children this year. The heartwarming initiative, which began over a decade ago, has grown exponentially over this time thanks to strong partnership with Morayfield Shopping Centre, Caboolture Sports Club, local businesses, sporting clubs, the Department of Child Safety and with assistance from local member Mark Ryan MP.

Last year, the Toy Appeal successfully provided presents for over 750 local kids in care, and the organisers are determined to make Christmas even merrier for a greater number of children in 2023. The growth in popularity of the event led to the establishment of Kindness for Kids in Care in 2022. This new organisation aims to extend its support beyond the Christmas season, providing year-round assistance to children in care.

Kindness for Kids in Care of-



Mark Ryan MP with members of Kindness for Kids in Care

fers various forms of support, including providing suitcases for children to carry their belongings, supplying essential toiletries, and assisting them in transitioning to independent living.

Community members who wish to contribute can do so by leaving presents in the designated Big Box near Morayfield Shopping Centre's food court. Additionally, Planet Fitness in Rothwell is also collecting presents, which can be dropped off at the Sales & Information Centre at North Harbour.

Gifts such as dolls, Lego blocks, balls, toy cars, and board

games are always in high demand and greatly appreciated. The generosity of our community has been remarkable, and we encourage anyone interested in contributing or assisting Kindness for Kids in Care to reach out to Committee Chair Prue Aranovitch at 0408 962 839.

The Annual Christmas Toy Appeal continues to be a shining example of the power of community collaboration and compassion. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of children in care, ensuring they feel loved and supported throughout the year.



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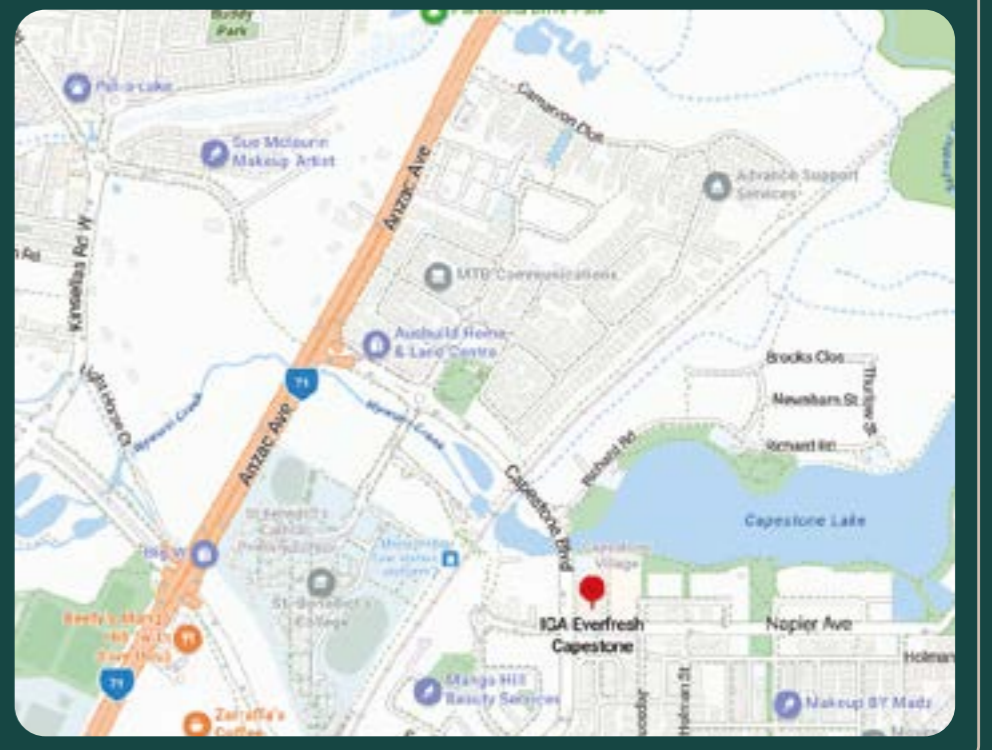
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LAUNCHING INTO THE NEXT CHAPTER

SHEREE HODDINETT

TO work or to study? Not sure what path to take after high school? Every year students across the state finish their Year 12 studies, but for some taking the next step in education, employment or training in the year following their departure from high school can be a challenge. The Queensland Department of Education rolled out the Link and Launch service across a number of school sites to support those struggling with this next step. It's designed to help them work through their options and choose a pathway that will equip them to successfully transition to study, training or work.

The Link and Launch program is aimed at Year 12 graduates from the past two to three years who are looking for guidance. This Queensland-wide program stretches over 38 regions across the state. One program, hosted by Clontarf Beach State High School, covers the area from Margate and Redcliffe through to Deception Bay and North Lakes. The service is available to all secondary schools in these areas, whether they are a state, non-state or independent school.

Within our local region, schools already taking part in Link and Launch include:

- Clontarf Beach State High School
- Morayfield State High School
- Deception Bay State High School
- Redcliffe State High School
- North Lakes State College
- Kairos Community College in Deception Bay
- The YMCA Vocational School
- Arethusa College

For Link and Launch coordinator Brant Echlin, his involvement with the program came about after five years of working with pre-vocational senior students at the Sunshine Coast Technical Trade Training Centre.

"The role of Link and Launch coordinator came up in my native Moreton Bay and I was excited at the prospect of working with young people in their post-high school journey," Brant says. "My role involves working alongside the client, assisting them in articulating their future and providing them with the options and agency to facilitate this."

"This could be as simple as enrolling in a course, or navigating around the challenges some young people face, such as driver's licences or navigating government processes."

"My role is an amazing blend of career counsellor, education



Link and Launch coordinator Brant Echlin with Charlie who is now studying to be a teacher aide

advisor and support person."

Initially kicking off in 2019, the Link and Launch program was piloted in four schools and continues to grow with more than 3000 students having come on board since the beginning. It has been specifically tailored to suit the cohort of students, geographic location and size of each school – together with the general needs of the community. Any Year 12 graduate can access the Link and Launch service – there are no prerequisites, no waiting period, no need to be on benefits, no means testing and no cost. While the program's core client group are Year 12 students without education, training or employment, assistance is open to others seeking guidance or a change.

Through his role with Link and Launch, Brant has been able to help a number of applicants find success. Jake came to Brant for assistance in finding a path forward into a trade.

"He always had an interest in electrical work, but wasn't sure how to enter into the industry," Brant says. "I recommended he undertake a Certificate II in Electrotechnology, to gain the initial knowledge and skills for the trade while he sought an apprenticeship. Currently, he is near completion of his course and is lined up for a role at a commercial electrical firm."

Eboni joined Jake at the first meeting with Brant and after seeing the result decided to take part in Link and Launch as well. Eboni was seeking a role in beauty or hairdressing and wanted some clarification on the best way to achieve her goals. Brant presented several options including study or an apprenticeship and afterwards Eboni was able to visit several hair and beauty firms with Brant.

Impressed with her personality and pizzazz, a local firm has now taken Eboni on as an apprentice hairdresser. To assist with work and her personal life, Brant is also helping Eboni get her driver's licence through the local Braking the Cycle program.

"Brant, as our Link and Launch Coordinator, was fantastic,

walking alongside us and doing whatever needed to happen to reach our goal," Eboni says. "Because of Link and Launch, we're both on our career pathway and not looking back!"

How the program works
Link and Launch officers are based at participating host schools to connect with those looking to access the program. These officers assist young people in navigating a range of post-school study, training and work options in line with their individual goals, aspirations, skills and strengths and support them to make independent choices that will equip them to make a successful transition.

Some options you can consider through the program include:

- Free apprenticeships for under 25s
- Fee-free TAFE
- Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs
- Alternative entry to university
- Employment
- Federal incentives and participation programs like Transition to Work.

What else do you need to know?

Participation in the program is voluntary. That's right, you take part of your own accord.

Students enrolled at school are not eligible to join the program as career guidance and planning support are already provided by schools.

There is no right or wrong path to go down, just the chance to have some guidance and make the most of opportunities that come your way.

The program is run on school sites but is separate from the rest of the school. You don't need to be a former student of these high schools to be eligible.

To find out more about Link and Launch and whether it will work for you or someone you know, visit education.qld.gov.au/students/student-engagement/link-and-launch or www.wethedifferents.qld.edu.au/link-launch

BILLY JOEL'S CLASSICS REIMAGINED AT ACOUSTIC TRIBUTE SHOW



ELIZABETH WALSH

BILLY Joel fans will be in for a treat with an upcoming acoustic performance of his best-known melodies, brought to life by musician Jimmy Mann.

The event, Celebrating the Music of Billy Joel, will take place at the Redcliffe Entertainment Centre on Friday, 9 February.

Jimmy Mann said he recalled being 19 years old when he first became captivated by a young Billy Joel's performance of Just the Way You Are on television. "It was such an amazing song and performance from this guy," Jimmy said. "Incredible songwriter, singer, artist, musician, great piano player – all that stuff really changed my musical life."

"He has a way of writing that draws you close to your own personal experiences, as many songwriters do, but for me, Billy's music just captured it all."

Jimmy's musical journey started at the age of eight when he began playing the piano accordion, inspired by his father's musical talents. Over the years, he transitioned to playing the piano and studied

classical, blues and jazz fusion. While he always enjoyed singing, it was the encouragement of the leader of a band in a major cabaret show that propelled him to embrace his singing abilities.

Since then, Jimmy has performed with various bands and worked alongside many musicians in the industry. His long standing collaboration with Elton John tribute artist, Lance Strauss (Elton Jack) in the show Rocket Man vs Piano Man spans 15 years.

For this performance, Jimmy will be accompanied by his good friend Andrew Williams on acoustic guitar and backing vocals.

"I have added the acoustic guitar because I love the fullness and rhythmic value it adds to the sound, while still keeping everything in the acoustic domain," Jimmy said.

The performance will feature acoustic renditions of classics like Scenes from an Italian Restaurant and New York State of Mind, along with rock and roll tunes like You May Be Right.

In addition, Jimmy has added a few of Billy Joel's songs he hasn't performed in a show before,

including And So It Goes, Vienna and Don't Ask Me Why.

"I have always wanted to portray them in a more free, open fashion, bringing a new kind of meaning to these particular songs," he said. "The words still pretty much have the same meaning today, just a simple story about a couple that meet as kids, get married, go through life and then realise it's not going to work out and break up but stay friends," he said. "As with so many of Billy Joel's songs, these are words that so many people can relate to."

Aside from the exceptional music, the show will also incorporate visual elements with photos and videos projected onto the theatre screen.

Jimmy said he and Andrew were both looking forward to performing in Redcliffe.

"It's a beautiful area and special to me. I have family that live in the area and most of my grandkids have grown up here so it will be great to have all the family along."

Tickets are \$49pp (excluding booking fee). Book online at the Redcliffe Entertainment Centre website.

QLD Schools \$2 Million Funding Boost

ELIZABETH WALSH

MORE than 860 schools across Queensland are set to benefit from a \$2 million boost to school food programs.

Education Minister Grace announced the new funding on Tuckshop Day (Friday, 3 November) last month.

Minister Grace emphasised the importance of healthy eating in student performance and commended schools for their efforts in providing food support.

"We know the positive impact healthy eating can have on a

student's performance at school," she said.

"That's why we're putting an additional \$2 million on the table to further assist state schools who already do a great job providing food support, including breakfast programs."

The funding is aimed at establishing or enhancing food programs, with a focus on schools with the highest level of need.

Schools categorised as remote or very remote will receive an increased payment. Additionally, \$500,000 has been allocated for grants of up to \$20,000 for external food providers, such as

registered charities, to directly provide food services to schools.

This funding is in addition to the \$2.7 million earmarked for the school breakfast program in the 2023/24 State Budget.

In total, the Palaszczuk Government has invested \$8.2 billion in 2023/24 to ease the cost of living pressure on Queensland families.

The State Budget also includes \$29 million for playground improvements and tuckshop upgrades in state schools across the state. So far, 150 schools have received funding through the Playgrounds and Tuckshops Upgrade program.

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FINDING HIS WAY TO THE TOP

SHEREE HODDINETT

STEVE Baxter is a name synonymous with the world of business. His journey is an inspiring example of how sheer determination and hard work can lead to success as both an entrepreneur and an investor. Leaving school at just 15, Steve made the bold decision to join the army, spending his time working as a technician in electronics and telecommunications. In 1994 Steve ventured down the path of start-ups, investing his life savings of \$11,000 to launch internet service provider SE Net. It seems it was just the beginning...

It was a decision in 2001 that would eventually cement Steve's position as a high-profile entrepreneur in Australia. Steve co-founded PIPE Networks, which grew into one of Australia's largest broadband networks. The company was listed on the Australian Securities Exchange in 2005 and in 2010 was acquired for a large sum (\$373 million to be precise), marking a significant milestone in Steve's career. Some of you may also recognise Steve for his role as a judge on

was a different place, back then trades weren't exactly like they are now and there were different career expectations.

"It was somewhat boring at the time but it gave me a technical skill, which I probably haven't used since, to be truthful. But it also gave me a whole bunch of friends. I suppose it probably gave me some work ethics, that I think assist when you're in business, that's for sure."

Steve and an old school friend founded PIPE Networks in 2001, a company that has grown into one of the biggest broadband networks in Australia. PIPE, which means Public IP (Interchange Peering) Exchange, was all about a way to get internet service providers and telcos to interconnect more rationally than they were at the time.

"It was a decision that came with a lot of hard work, but would pay out in the long run," Steve says of starting PIPE. "It was an amazing ride to be on and the first time I was involved in the listing of a business and everything that goes along with that. Obviously, I sold my

show Shark Tank. What was the big appeal behind it for this businessman? He admits he enjoyed the idea of being a celebrity for a short period and that it definitely does change your life.

"So I had built myself a little bit of a profile here locally, doing things such as River City Labs, Accelerator and I was very vocal in trying to support entrepreneurship," Steve says. "So Channel 10 approached me to go on the show. People often ask me, 'What was it like being on the show?' and for me, it was a great experience. It raises your profile and you have the opportunity to help others along the way."

Steve is also now part of The ASE Group as an investor, advisor and ambassador. Driven by a dynamic team of young visionaries, The ASE Group is revolutionising the education and employment landscape in Australia. Founded by then 19-year-old Taj Pabari alongside co-founders Tionne Young and Gabrielle Parker along with CEO, Jahin Tanvir, all currently under the age of 25, this trailblazing social enterprise specialises



"Start-ups are people who have an idea how to do something and they typically look at a market (clever ones anyway) and understand that there's an opportunity to disrupt what's in place."

the Australian version of Shark Tank. His ability to identify promising business ideas and provide support and investment has helped many entrepreneurs achieve success. Despite his achievements, Steve remains extremely humble about what he's done.

"I've never really thought about it, to be honest," he says of his achievements. "It's just what I've done over the years and you have to do something with your time."

Looking back to the very beginning of his working life, Steve recalls the decision to join the army at the age of 15 as not exactly a rational one, but a choice he made which helped shape him into the person he is now.

"I was in the army from 1987 through to 1995 and it was a very interesting time to be in the military," Steve says. "I was 15 and 15-year-old boys definitely don't make rational decisions. It was just the thing to do, it was a career and at that time Australia

previous business, but this was a vastly different proposal and on a much bigger scale."

After many years of learning what you should and shouldn't do in the world of business, these days Steve is very much about supporting those looking to get a start.

"Start-ups are people who have an idea how to do something and they typically look at a market (clever ones anyway) and understand that there's an opportunity to disrupt what's in place," Steve says. "Usually what's in place is a larger provider who basically has grown arrogant with respect to their customers and no longer providing innovative solutions. So I think I enjoy seeing things get better. The way things get better is when people actually have freedom to go out and do something different. And that's what start-ups are about. Also, if you get it right, it's a very profitable thing."

Now down to the nitty gritty of his time on television

in delivering cutting-edge education, entrepreneurship and employment programs that inspire and empower the next generation of leaders. The organisation has recently secured a \$5.6 million contract with the Australian government. Taj speaks very highly of Steve and shares the inspiring story that led to their partnership.

"I've known Steve since I was 14 years old," he says. "When we first met, he wasn't a big fan of my first business and in fact, I left his office crying. However, we kept in touch and nearly a decade later, we're joining forces to help Australians develop life skills, start a business, or enter the workforce. And the best part? Steve's not just cutting a cheque - he's genuinely walking alongside us and our participants throughout their journey too."

"I'm excited to join The ASE Group and support their mission to equip every Australian with the skills, resources and mindset

to start a business or enter the workforce," Steve adds. "Their innovative approach and dedication to empowering the next generation of leaders are truly inspiring. Some people are easy to follow and this team is a prime example - it's an honour to be part of their journey."

Businessman aside, Steve is also a loving husband and proud dad to three girls. When he has some free time, he likes to do a spot of fishing or spend time flying (he even has a pilot's licence). So, what does a typical day look like for a busy man like Steve?

"At this time of year in Queensland, the sun's up early and so am I, so that's usually around 4.30/5am," Steve says. "So I'll start the day with a walk or a bike ride, usually on the bike in summer and walk in winter. Then I'll come back to my veggie garden and potter there for about 10 minutes or so and then the kids are usually up by then so it's time for breakfast and getting ready for the day."

"After that, I've got to work and I'm not home until about 5.30/6pm, so by the time we do dinner, showers and reading books with the kids, I'm pretty much done for the day myself."

If starting your own business is something you plan on doing now or sometime in the future, Steve has some parting words

of wisdom.

"Just do it," Steve says without even pausing. "I get asked that a lot. People will start pitching to me about a business idea and I'll just tell them they should do it. You're not going to find out if it's viable unless you do it. You have to start and you won't know whether it'll work unless you give it a go."

Want to know more about the man that is Steve Baxter? You can follow him on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit stevebaxter.com.au.

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FEE FREE TAFE

YOUNG CROSSING ROAD TRANSPORT CORRIDOR RECEIVES \$32.75 MILLION FUNDING BOOST

JOSHUA EAST

THE State Government is taking steps to enhance the nursing workforce in Queensland by offering an additional 3,500 Diploma of Nursing placements for free in 2024. The fee-free program, known as Fee Free TAFE, will be available through TAFE Queensland, CQUniversity, and Mater Education.

To support the Fee Free TAFE program, the State Government will invest an additional \$40.60 million on top of the existing investment of \$46.9 million in the Diploma of Nursing. This will amount to a \$87.5 million boost to the program, enabling students to save up to \$24,000.

Moreover, the Queensland and Australian governments have formed a National Skills Partnership, which will provide 43,400 free TAFE places across the state over three years, backed by a \$170 million investment.

Queensland Premier and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, Annastacia Palaszczuk, expressed her satisfaction with the continuation of the Fee Free TAFE initiative in partnership with the Federal Government.

"As Queensland continues to grow, it is important we have a job-ready frontline health service to meet the needs of the future," she said.

"That's why our government is investing an additional \$87.5 million to give future health heroes access to the skills and training they need, without the cost barrier.

"I heard from students in Townsville that this program meant they could follow their dream of becoming a nurse when they otherwise couldn't afford to do so. That is why we do this.

"Growing our next generation of healthcare workers is just the start as we chart a long-term blueprint on recruiting, retaining and building Queensland's health workforce.

"And vocational education has a big role to play in that work."

Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development, Di Farmer, highlighted the significance of this investment in nursing education for Queenslanders.

"We are making it easier for Queenslanders to jump on the frontline of the health industry. Cutting study costs has proven to be a great career kick-starter," Ms Farmer said.

"The Diploma of Nursing is always one of the most popular courses in the vocational education and training sector and the Queensland Government is committed to making up to 3,500 study-free places available in 2024.

"Our Good people. Good Jobs: Queensland Workforce Strategy 2022-2032 positions us to seize the job opportunities available now and into the next decade and the health sector is always a priority."

Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women, Shannon Fentiman, stressed the critical role of nurses in the health system.

"A Diploma of Nursing offers the nurses of tomorrow hands-on, industry-relevant training including placement in a healthcare setting," Ms Fentiman said.

"If you want work that is meaningful, fulfilling, well-paying and secure, then choose health, and when you complete your studies, we will have a job for you."

ELIZABETH WALSH

THE Australian Government has announced a commitment of \$32.75 million in infrastructure funding for the Youngs Crossing Road and Bridge project at Lawnton.

The project aims to enhance the existing road and construct a new bridge over the North Pine River to offer greater flood protection, enhanced safety, and increased road capacity.

Mayor Flannery thanked the Federal Government for their support and said the funding heralded a new and positive period of growth for the region.

"The Youngs Crossing Road transport corridor is nationally significant and a critical link in the Queensland road network, being one of only four road crossings of the North Pine River connecting City of Moreton Bay, Sunshine Coast and beyond to Brisbane and the Australia Trade Coast," he said.

"It is currently used by approximately 20,000 vehicles every day, with traffic is forecast to increase to 27,500 vehicles by 2036.

"During heavy rains and flooding, transport is pushed onto the Bruce Highway or Old Gympie Road which are already crippled by massive

congestion and causing daily delays for residents and businesses across the southeast."

In addition to the Youngs Crossing Road and Bridge project, other projects across the City of Moreton Bay also receiving funding include the Klingner Road - Boardman Road intersection upgrade at Kippa-Ring.

Mayor Flannery said the funding announcements were good for the community and more broadly, southeast Queensland.

"The best partnerships are collaborative and this project has been one all levels of government have worked on together for years now," he said.

"I am just so pleased to see crucial road connections have been given funding and that party politics has been put to the side for the benefit of community."

Design work for the construction of the Youngs Crossing Road and Bridge project has been finalised and resources allocated, with work now set to begin on the tender process.

In addition to the Federal Government's commitment of \$32.75 million, the project has also received \$15 million from the State Government, with the Council itself providing \$32.25 million in funding.

BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR CLASS OF 2023

JOSHUA EAST

QUEENSLAND'S Class of 2023 is on track for a prosperous future, as a recent survey revealed over 90 per cent of the previous year's Year 12 completers had successfully transitioned into education, training, or employment. This marks the highest post-school engagement rate for state school leavers since 2008.

The annual Next Steps survey for 2023 showed that 91 per cent of students who completed their Year 12 studies

in 2022 became involved in further education, training, or employment six months after graduation.

The survey data also revealed that 60 per cent of the respondents preferred to pursue education or training, while 31 per cent secured employment immediately after their Year 12 completion. A bachelor's degree remains the most popular option among school leavers, with around 40 per cent of students opting for tertiary education.

In 2023, 80 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Is-

lander Year 12 completers were engaged in education, training, or employment, marking a three per cent increase from the previous year.

Education Minister Grace Grace expressed her satisfaction with the survey results, stating, "It's encouraging to see such a high proportion of state school students successfully making the transition to pathways outside school.

"This is a testament to the hard work of students and a credit to the principals, teachers, support staff, and families involved."

A total of around 37,000 out of 51,000 young individuals who graduated from Queensland state, independent, and Catholic schools in 2022 participated in the Next Step survey.

For more information visit the Next Step website at www.qld.gov.au/year12completers

ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS LOCAL STUDENT

JOSHUA EAST

THE Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise has announced Kailee Richardson, a year 12 student at Deception Bay State High School, has been accepted into the Rotary Youth Transition Seminar (RYTS).

As a sponsor of Kailee, the Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise will be providing financial support for her attendance at the upcoming RYTS camp. Barry Wallett, Principal of Deception Bay High, said Kailee applied to Rotary after hearing about the RYTS at the school's assembly.

"She is an admirable student and is looking forward to her next challenges on leaving school at the end of 2023," Mr Wallett said.

As the STEM ambassador at her school, she has demonstrated a passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Upon completing her studies, Kailee aspires to embark on her Bachelor of Design in 2024.

The Rotary Youth Transition Seminar, organised by Rotary District 9620, aims to assist young individuals in navigating the transition from one phase of life to another, be it further education, employment, or travel. RYTS equips participants with critical life skills such as financial management, career planning, communication, teamwork, personal growth, and

leadership. The program is designed for young achievers who have shown outstanding merit in their endeavours.

The RYTS program includes a lineup of guest speakers and mentors who share their stories and insights on a wide range of topics, including leadership, entrepreneurship, social justice, health, and wellness, among others. Participants are also engaged in physically, mentally, and emotionally challenging activities like hiking, camping, yoga, meditation, and community service. RYTS provides an opportunity for participants to discover their strengths, passions, and potential while forging friendships and connections.

RYTS is one of the several youth programs offered by Rotary locally and internationally. In addition to sponsoring Kailee, the Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise recently financed 25-year-old Social Worker, Emilie Medina, from the Nundah Community Living Centre, to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) on the Sunshine Coast. The RYLA program offers leadership development training, which would typically cost around \$10,000 in the commercial market.

For more information about Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise and their youth programs visit www.redcliffesunriserotary.org.au



Kailee Richardson and the DBSHS Principal Barry Wallett

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NEW LAWS TO RESTRICT THE SALE OF WEAPONS TO JUVENILES

ELISABETH WALSH

THE Queensland Government is set to introduce new legislation to restrict the sale of knives, certain other bladed items, and replica firearms, including gel blasters, to juveniles. The move comes as part of an ongoing effort to combat knife crime and youth offending in Queensland.

Police Minister Mark Ryan said the State Government was committed to continually looking for new ways to improve community safety.

"These laws will assist in keeping dangerous items out of the hands of young criminals before violent offences can occur," Mr Ryan said.

The proposed laws come on the heels of successful results since the implementation of Jack's Law and aim to reduce the accessibility of these items to young people, deter violent offences and enhance community safety.

Jack's Law is a result of the advocacy of the Jack Beasley Foundation and Brett and Belinda Beasley.

It was enacted after their 17-year-old son, Jack, was fatally stabbed on the Gold Coast in 2019. The law allows police to use handheld metal detecting wands to detect weapons, deter offending, and protect the community.

In the first six months of wanding operations under Jack's Law, police have seized a total of 350 weapons. These operations, which use

handheld metal detecting wands, have been conducted in various locations, including Safe Night Precincts, public transport, and transport hubs.

More than 31,800 individuals have been scanned during these operations, resulting in 904 people being charged with nearly 1,600 offences, most of which are related to weapons and drugs.

Under the new laws, it will be an offence to sell knives, and certain bladed items such as machetes, axes, swords, and replica firearms to juveniles. Those attempting to use false identification to purchase these items could also face charges.

Retailers will have to display signage indicating the prohibition of sales to juveniles, and secure storage will be required for specific bladed items like machetes, axes, swords, sickles, daggers, double-edged blades, and spears.

In addition to restricting sales, the laws will also prohibit the advertisement of these items in a violent manner or in a way that suggests they are suitable for combat.

The legislation is based on research conducted by the Queensland Police Service (QPS), which considered crime statistics and similar legislative responses, such as the restriction on the sale of spray paint to juveniles.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Paul Hart emphasised the importance of these new laws in enhancing police efforts to combat knife

crime and keep communities safe.

"It will allow officers to take action against those unlawfully selling weapons to young people, who may intend to use them to commit violent offences," he said.

"Already, thanks to Jack's Law, police have removed 350 weapons off our streets in just six months – many that could have been involved in acts of senseless violence.

"With every wanding operation we see an opportunity to educate on the impacts of knife crime and intervene in the lives of those who are making the poor decision to carry a weapon.

"The results from Jack's Law speak for themselves, and with further legislation restricting young people's access to weapons – we're confident we can continue to enhance community safety."

Brett Beasley, from the Jack Beasley Foundation, expressed gratitude for the government's support in restricting weapon availability, particularly to young people.

"Belinda and I will always grieve for Jack, but it is very heartening to see that his legacy lives on," Mr Beasley said.

"Six months after Jack's Law came into effect it's really encouraging to see that police are using Jack's legacy to undertake wanding operations right across the state.

"It's clearly making a real difference in helping to keep communities safe.

"It's also very gratifying to see the government take another significant step in relation to restricting the availability of weapons, especially to young people.

"Our work with Jack's foundation will continue with its focus on educating young people about the dangers of carrying knives and other weapons.

"It's great that the government is further supporting our work by making it harder for dangerous weapons to fall into the wrong hands."

Representatives from the Gel Blaster industry expressed their support for the restrictions on the sale of gel blasters to minors, believing it will promote community safety while allowing enthusiasts to continue enjoying the sport.

Various retail organisations, including the Shopping Centre Council of Australia, the Australian Retailers Association, and the National Retail Association, applauded the proposed laws and expressed their willingness to work with the government to ensure effective implementation and educate retailers and customers.

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LUKE'S TIPS FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

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- Full-time work
- Study Full-time
- Help a charity
- Travel

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#2 EXPERIENCE

Work history will look great on a resume if you have held a Part-time job, whilst studying.

- Work Part-time in any industry, whilst studying.

#3 NETWORK

Surround yourself with the right people who will inspire and challenge you;

- Find a mentor in the industry
- Do an internship
- Volunteer in the industry
- Attend local events/workshops



Luke HOWARTH MP

Federal Member for Petrie

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INDEPENDENT | PREP - YEAR 12
NORTH BRISBANE

NEW LAWS PROVIDE STRICTER PENALTIES

JOSHUA EAST

TOUGHER penalties for irresponsible dog owners have been introduced to Parliament following feedback from thousands of Queenslanders.

The proposed changes to dangerous dog laws include increased fines and jail terms for owners whose dogs cause serious harm or death to a person. Under the new laws, dog owners could face fines of up to \$108,000 or up to three years' imprisonment.

The reforms come after a review of the Animal Management (Cats & Dogs) Act 2008 and recommendations from a taskforce composed of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, participating local governments, the Local Government Association of Queensland, and RSPCA Queensland. The taskforce received feedback from more than 3650 Queenslanders through a survey and more than 300 written submissions during a 60-day consultation process.

In addition to tougher penalties, the revised laws also include a ban on restricted dog breeds such as Dogo Argentino,



Fila Brasileiro, Japanese Tosa, American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier, and the Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario.

To support the reforms, the government has allocated a \$7574 million funding package. This funding will enable more coordinated and effective government action in response to dog attacks and support dog management initiatives in First Nations communities.

A community education and awareness campaign will also be launched over three years to promote responsible dog ownership, prevent dog attacks, and reduce the risk of harm from such incidents.

Mark Furner, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, emphasised

the government's commitment to community safety.

"Queenslanders told us that they wanted urgent action to toughen our dangerous dog laws and the Queensland Government is supporting the community 100 per cent," Mr Furner said.

"The Animal Management Taskforce recommended meaningful changes to the Act and I thank the participating local government representatives, the Local Government Association of Queensland and RSPCA Queensland for their vital contributions to these new laws.

"Importantly, almost 4000 Queenslanders have had their say through the consultation process and I am grateful that these law reforms have such widespread support.

"There is strong support for individual responsibility when it comes to dangerous dogs and under our updated laws owners will continue to bear that responsibility.

"There needs to be a strong deterrent in place to prevent irresponsible behaviour that can put the community at risk."

A WIGGLY GOOD TIME WITH FREE KINDY

ELIZABETH WALSH

THE Wiggles have teamed up with the Queensland Government to promote the rollout of free kindy programs across the state.

The partnership, worth \$135,000, aims to spread the message to Queensland families that kindy is free from 1 January 2024.

As part of the collaboration, The Wiggles will embark on the Wiggly Big Day Out Tour in December, reaching over 33,000 families in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, and Brisbane.

Minister for Education Grace Grace said many Queensland families would benefit from the initiative.

"Free kindy is on the way for Queensland families in 2024 and who better to spread the message than The Wiggles," she said.

"It's absolutely fantastic to have The Wiggles supporting our free kindy program during a tour which will reach thousands of people.

"At each location, there are tickets to give away to four families, with one lucky family at each concert getting the chance to meet the Wiggles in person backstage."

In addition to the tour, The Wiggles will utilise social media



and other digital platforms to encourage families to search for and find their nearest free kindy program.

The initiative aims to ensure all families have the necessary information to enrol in the program, which will provide cost-of-living relief of up to \$4,600 annually to Queensland families. It will also allow an additional 50,000 families to access early childhood education for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year, in the year before starting Prep.

Kindy is available to children who will turn four years old by 30 June in the year before they start Prep, as well as some five-year-olds attending govern-

ment-approved kindergartens.

Blue Wiggle Anthony Field said The Wiggles were proud to partner with the Queensland Government to promote the message about free kindy for families.

"For over 30 years, The Wiggles have educated and entertained children and their families through music, song and dance, and we hope this partnership is a great way to connect with Queenslanders and encourage families to enrol in kindy," he said.

To find a local, approved and free kindergarten, search 'Free Kindy Queensland' or visit www.qld.gov.au/FreeKindy.

SWAPPING FOOD GAINS POPULARITY



MARNIE BIRCH

WHEN the home veggie patch produces an abundance of crops, consuming them all can be problematic. Fortunately, an international crop-swapping initiative called, Grow Make Bake offers a solution. Community-based swap groups provide growers and gardeners with an opportunity to share resources and swap excess produce without any money changing hands.

Having left behind a large productive garden and orchard for Deception Bay, Sharon Buchanan-Hepburn was inspired by the Grow Make Bake concept operating in Burpengary. Joining forces with local permaculture enthusiast and community gardener, Leesa Cornford, they established a Grow Make Bake group that meets monthly in Deception Bay.

On the last Sunday of each month, locals, creatives and food producers gather at the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre to share and exchange homegrown, homemade and home-baked items. Members set up a swap table, browse other products, ask questions and chat before the exchange of goods takes place.

"This is when the magic happens," says Leesa, explaining there's lots of kindness and positivity, but a member may decline a swap if it doesn't suit their needs.

Products swapped include fruits, pickles, fresh vegetables and herbs, a diverse range of

potted plants and seedlings, cakes, lemongrass champagne, as well as hand-painted cards and gifts.

Although the group is primarily about edible exchanges, Sharon and Leesa also wanted to offer an outlet for crafters, not just for people growing plants.

"People can bring their craft creations to the meetings and swap," says Sharon, who brought baked goods, preserves and fermented foods to the meeting. She swapped homemade pesto, pickled carrots in brine, dehydrated lemon slices (for adding to soda water), and a kombucha scoby for cherry tomatoes, a lemon grass plant, a potted lemon balm and a tote bag.

"There's also a share table where you put things you want to give away," Sharon reveals. Last month, members helped themselves to complementary sweet potatoes and Black Sapote, a fruit with the texture and taste of chocolate pudding.

According to Leesa, age is no barrier to participation. Primary school children and teenagers have grown plants or made crafts and attended with their parents, who reported it was a fantastic experience.

The concept of swapping means, "People can enjoy their gardening," says Sharon, "and instead of having excess produce, which often goes to waste, they can swap it for something they don't already grow."

In this way, the group reduces food waste and minimises the distance food needs to

travel from its source to the point of consumption, maximising its freshness and nutrient content.

What's more, there's a social aspect to the meetings.

"Gardeners enjoy talking to fellow gardeners about their patch and produce, and the swap day is a perfect venue for this," Sharon says, adding this strengthens community connections, friendships and mental well-being.

Michael Cuckson, Community Engagement Worker from the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre hosting the swap, agrees.

"With no money involved, it is a truly giving environment," he says. "More than just swapping products, it is about connecting with your local community, sharing with neighbours, learning from each other and having fun along the way."

The Grow Make Bake in Burpengary has been operating for seven years. Facilitator, Sarah Heath, first became involved "to swap homegrown items and to surround myself with supportive, creative people."

She's keen for swap groups to operate in all suburbs and mentors new groups to get started. Plus, she's eager to expand the concept by collaborating with and including other community groups like beekeepers, quilters and more.

"I love the concept of a village, a place of people with skills, knowledge, and experience with a willingness to share and swap," she says.

Grow, Make and Bake - Deception Bay
Meetings: Last Sunday of the Month
Upcoming dates: 31 Dec 2023, 28 Jan 2024
9am-10.30am
Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre,
24 Endeavour Street, Deception Bay
New members and Volunteers welcome

IT'S ALL IN THE BAG

SHEREE HODDINETT

WHEN Kerri Raedel first started Buddy Bags in mid-2022, she had no idea it would grow to become what it is today. Now 15 months on from a very humble beginning of just a few containers of items, Buddy Bags (which is operated by Raedel Support Group Inc.) has reached the point of needing a shed space as well as extra storage to continue helping kids in the community. On top of providing their usual essential hygiene and birthday bags, Buddy Bags has just finished putting together a mammoth 400 Christmas bags to help brighten what could otherwise be a gloomy time of year for some children.

Buddy Bags came from the idea that all children deserve love, no matter who they are or where they are. It came to life after Kerri discovered a gap for kids in the community and wanted to make a difference. Kerri has now been working with child safety offices in both Caboolture and Strathpine, as well as other foster care organisations, with Redcliffe Child Safety recently joining the Buddy Bags list. Little did Kerri know when she started Buddy Bags that it was going to become a full-time project, not that she would have it any other way.

"It all started with a table and four tubs in my garage," Kerri says of Buddy Bag's lowkey beginning. "Now I've got a whole shed full of assorted tubs with clothes, toiletries, toys and so many other items. Plus on top of that, we have storage space to keep the containers with all the winter clothes for next year.

"We've grown so much in more than 12 months and the support from the community - I can't explain how much it means to me."

What makes Buddy Bags different from other organisations of a similar nature, is the personal nature with which they operate.

"So the difference with Buddy Bags to other charities I believe, is that we don't just pre-pack generic bags. Our bags are specifically for that child - they're personal," Kerri says. "They get to open it up and see a new toothbrush or a scrunchie and hair clips, or for some young boys a new wallet or a hat. It's a personal service for these children and I think that's the key because they receive a reminder that they are loved.

"Hand on heart, while I'm president, the group is going to stay personal, it's going to stay connected to the community so that

people understand their hard-earned money and their time is getting delivered to the local children. We might be a little charity, but it's a big organisation."

So, where did the idea to put together 400 Christmas bags come from?

"We had a discussion with Strathpine Child Safety, who we supply essential and birthday bags for and discovered they didn't have anyone to facilitate a Christmas present project for the foster children through their office," Kerri says. "So I chatted to my Buddy Bags team and we decided we could work together and make the project happen. So I committed to it, because how could you not? It's kids and it's for Christmas."

With 400 children to create a wonderful Christmas for, the project would require two presents per child and of course, it would all go into a bag.

"For me, I want it to be a personal thing for the recipient and I

"So the difference with Buddy Bags to other charities I believe, is that we don't just pre-pack generic bags. Our bags are specifically for that child - they're personal."

want to make it special, so of course, I wanted to have bags that we could put the presents in because we are Buddy Bags," Kerri says. "If we give a birthday bag or a hygiene pack, there's always a bag. Because we are providing items for kids that don't always stay in one place, it's nice for them to have a bag to put things in.

"With our Christmas project, we have 400 Christmas bags that have been made by people in the community and the baubles are being sewn onto them as well. On top of that, another lady made 400 Christmas tags to put on each bag and we've also had 400 Christmas cards made to go into each bag. I was fortunate enough to be able to negotiate with Child Safety and we have the first name of each child to make it even more personal."

With a wish list provided by Child Safety, members of the

community had the fun job of going shopping for presents (800 in total!) ahead of the delivery date of 1 December.

"It's a big job and it's 800 presents, all wrapped too," Kerri says ahead of the 1 December deadline. "But it will all come together and we get to make a difference at Christmas time for some of these kids who may not be having the best time in their life."

As much as she is the brainchild of the group, Kerri knows none of it would be possible without the support of the amazing volunteers who help collect donations and pack bags or even the community who donate money or items.

"I have a great team of volunteers who do so much to make sure these bags get out there," she says. "But also the community out there, so many people want to help and they drop items into our drop-off points. I get phone calls, messages, emails and I do my best to stay connected with everyone and thank them when I can.

"Our Facebook page is where I communicate as much as possible and share videos of what we put together.

"So this whole venture has just exploded and I don't know what next year holds, but everyone's telling me it's going to get bigger and bigger and bigger."

Knowing the impact she is having on such young lives, how does Kerri feel about being able to help so many children?

"I feel lucky that I could do it and I feel really lucky because I couldn't have done it on my own," she says. "But I also feel happy because we're making a small difference and that's how change happens. So it's all happening in small steps.

"So, I'm happy, I'm lucky and very humble. It keeps you humble when people donate things to

you because you know they cost money, or they sew a bag because that is hours of time. I'm humbled by all of it and happy that we can fill a request when one comes through. We have never not filled a bag, so in the whole time of Buddy Bags we have always got the bags out.

"It's 52 weeks a year and it's on-call too, because these kids still need the help no matter what."

To find out more about Buddy Bags, you can follow their Facebook page or send an email to raedelsg@gmail.com

Kerri Raedel with one of the Buddy Bags ready to go to a child.



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MONDAY 25 DECEMBER 2023

BLUE PACIFIC SHOWROOM
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ADULTS - \$175
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CHILDREN (4-6) - \$40
CHILDREN (0-3) - FREE



8:30PM SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

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\$40* CIRCUS
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21 KITTYHAWK DRIVE, CHERMSIDE

@KEDRON-WAVELL

PAINT, SIP AND SPLATTER SUCCESS

Taking a leap of faith during a time when businesses were doing it tough has seen Kallangur local Katie Boulter come out the other side even stronger.

SHEREE HODDINETT

Driven by a passion to succeed both as an individual and by helping others, Katie Boulter is certainly making waves as a young entrepreneur. Katie is the director at Rose Soiree, a paint and sip lounge based in Bulimba and is also the founder of Like She Owns the Place – Networking with Purpose. Katie was just 21 when she decided to leave Rockhampton where she grew up and try her luck in the big city of Brisbane. Now 30, based in Kallangur and running successful business ventures in the heart of Brisbane, there's certainly nothing holding this young businesswoman back from excelling in her chosen craft.

It was while she was working in a role in real estate recruitment that the tables turned for Katie and she decided to tackle the opportunity of seeing what she could achieve for herself, which also coincided with the Covid pandemic hitting our country.

"I had just started a new role in real estate recruitment after being in real estate for six years," Katie says. "I always thought I wanted to be a real estate agent and then when it came down to it, I realised I was going to make a terrible agent, I have no poker face and I would just give everything away."

"So I went into real estate recruitment and then four weeks later is when Covid hit for the first time. And of course being in a recruitment role in a global pandemic is pretty unhelpful. I say I had the best of a bad situation. I had a job to go back to, I was still accruing annual leave and I was on Job Seeker, basically just waiting for that day I could go back to work."

At home, with spare time on her hands, Katie was busy building her social media profile and linking up with others via online networking. Like She Owns the Place came to life as a way of trying to connect with others in the world of real estate so that the connections were in place when Katie was finally able to return to work. But it was when she hosted her first networking event aimed at women in real estate, that things pivoted in a different direction.

"There was no real estate agents there, but it was all the small businesses that work with real estate agents," Katie says. "Then I realised that small business is where it's at. These people are the vibe, they're out there giving it a go."

"Then I hosted another event for Christmas for small business owners who didn't have a team to celebrate Christmas with and we all did Christ-



Caption Here| Image: Photographers name

mas together and that was at a paint and sip. I encouraged people to bring along somebody that supports them in their business, and I brought my friend along. I said to him at the time that I thought we should open a paint and sip business. It was a random idea and neither of us are artists, but I thought it would be an affordable start-up option and was still quite a new concept at the time so we had a chance to get into the market ahead of the trend."

The rest is history and Rose Soiree has now been in operation for three years. Not only is the paint and sip doing well but there is now also a splatter room where you can have even more fun with paint, balloons, darts and lots of other creative inspiration in a room designed for making mess with your art. So, how does Katie feel about what she has achieved thus far?

"Sometimes I don't really notice, to be honest," she says. "I think a lot of people in business probably relate, you just keep going. You do something and it's hard for a second and then you move

on to the next part and you just keep going and going and going. But then you have these moments where you have stopped for a second and the realisation kicks in that I did that."

"There's moments, for example, when I'm sitting in my car and I smile because I was able

to buy a brand new car after always having old unreliable bombs for cars. Other times I can go for a walk in the middle of the day or I can do other things I like and be more flexible and live the life I actually enjoy."

"Instead of just going through the motions and think-

ing this is why I do what I do, it's never really about I made all this money or I'm so successful, I think it's more when I stop and I'm actually enjoying what I do, that's when I feel this is success and this is what I'm doing this for."

It seems the apple doesn't fall far from the tree for a life

first 19 years of my life and I grew up in that environment. I loved being able to walk down there after school and help out. I remember doing stocktake or when Mum and Nan were first building a website and it was a pretty new thing back then for businesses to have a website and e-commerce and stuff

hard to imagine others seeing you as an influence or mentor in their lives. But it's a role that Katie grabs with both hands.

"Mentoring others is definitely something I want to go more into," she says. "With my podcast and live events and other things like that, it's always been a matter of interviewing other people and touching on their stories, what they've done and their successes. But I have a lot of people who message me and ask, 'What do you think about this opportunity or what do you think of that?'"

"I'll suggest trying different options and seeing what works best for them. It just makes me really excited because they're giving it a go and I remember when I was giving it a go. One of the sayings that I live by is 'a problem shared is a problem halved.' If people can come to me and I can tell them in five minutes and it saves them hours, that is so fulfilling to me because there really is enough room at the table for everyone."

To find out more about paint and sip sessions or the splatter room, visit www.rosesoiree.com.au.

"One of the sayings that I live by is a problem shared is a problem halved."

CREATING HAPPINESS WITH THAI FOOD

Forget flying to Bangkok to taste Thai Street Food. You can experience authentic Thai cuisine and hospitality at Bangkok Riceberry Restaurant in North Lakes.

MARNIE BIRCH

RESTAURATEUR Vicky (Wipamas) Breuer grew up in Bangkok, helping her mum cook and prepare meals using traditional Thai ingredients. When she moved to Australia, she observed that authentic Thai flavours were often missing from restaurant menus. Her passion for the authentic cuisine of her homeland led Vicky and her sister to establish a restaurant with a difference: a restaurant called Bangkok Riceberry, in North Lakes.

After arriving in Australia in 2006 on a student visa, Vicky graduated in commerce and marketing from Macquarie University. She was determined to learn English and support herself while studying by working in Thai restaurants, at the Sheraton Mirage in Port Douglas with her husband, Pavel who works in hospitality management, and assisting VIPs at Sydney's Star Casino. The years of experience paid off as Vicky excelled

in cooking, hospitality, and customer service.

"Who better to explain Thai cuisine to customers than a Thai person?" Vicky says.

Seeking a more affordable lifestyle for her family, Vicky moved to North Lakes in 2020. "You can relax on Sunday and go to the beach," she says. "People are friendly."

During the pandemic lockdown, Vicky experimented with Thai recipes alongside her brother-in-law, a chef with a decade of experience. Her ultimate goal was to open a restaurant showcasing the traditional tastes and flavours of Thai cooking.

In December 2020, her dream became reality. Vicky and her sister Chanya opened the doors to Bangkok Riceberry restaurant in North Lakes.

"Every dish is based on the food we eat at home. We've created authentic Thai dishes, stir fry sauces, Pad Thai noodle sauces, and traditional curries," she says, revealing that Pad See



Team Phaphawi Singasai, Vicky Breuer, (owner) Jenny Ouwatanapong

Ew, curries and chilli basil are the most popular dishes at the restaurant. Kra-pow chicken with fried egg and Pad See Ew noodles (a stir-fry rice noodle dish with choices of meat, seafood, or veggies in a dark soy sauce) is a dish Vicky cooks for her own family.

"Every time I cook this dish, it reminds me of home," she says. Eating at Bangkok Riceberry is like being an invited dinner guest in a Thai family home.

"I want to make people happy through food. This is the Thai way."

Customers are greeted with welcoming smiles, and regular patrons feel part of an extended family.

"I want to make people happy through food," Vicky says. "I love talking to our customers, remembering them and what they like to eat. We want to give them the best customer service we can."

A unique feature sets this restaurant apart - its namesake speciality of riceberry rice. Vicky discovered this variety of purple rice eight years ago on a trip home to Thailand. Riceberry rice is a low-GI rice packed with antioxidants and beneficial nutrients such as carotenoids, vitamin E, zinc, omega-3 and folate. Renowned in Thailand for its health-giving properties, it is claimed to slow ageing and lower the risk of diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, hyperten-

sion, and dementia.

"We wanted something different to attract customers. They're delighted (the purple rice) tastes like white rice and is so good for them," says Vicky, adding that she encourages customers to broaden their palette by trying more distinctive Thai flavours instead of the meld of Thai-Australian dishes.

"If you ask for coconut rice in Thailand, they won't even know what that is," states Vicky, explaining, "Not every Thai dish is spicy. If a dish is too spicy, the chilli can overpower other flavours, and you won't taste the sweet, salty, or sour elements."

Passionate about staying true to Thai culinary traditions, Vicky reveals some customers are surprised when they eat traditionally prepared meals for the first time. According to Vicky, a Thai curry should never be thick, as it is made using coconut milk instead of coconut cream. Thai eggplant and bamboo shoots are the only veggies added.

"We match curries with something fresh, or rice noodles, for balance. This way of eating is the traditional way Thai people eat their food," she says, adding that she always welcomes customer feedback so she can correct a misunderstanding immediately.

Admitting the restaurant trade has felt the effects of cost-of-living pressures, Vicky

remains optimistic the restaurant's loyal customer base is her biggest asset. Valued staff members Jenny Ouwatanapong and Team Phaphawi Singasai are highly supportive of the restaurant's success.

"It's a happy workplace," says Vicky.

Aside from offering a comprehensive menu of authentic starters, sides, mains and stunning fresh cakes for dessert, the restaurant has a community spirit. Students are trained in kitchen and hospitality skills, and Vicky is currently developing options to serve free meals to people experiencing homelessness in conjunction with a regional neighbourhood centre.

"This is the Thai way," she tells me.

In reflecting on her career, Vicky is positive that her culinary journey has been a good role model for her children.

"Sixteen years ago, I was a student," she says. "Now I own a restaurant."

Bangkok Riceberry
1/12 Endeavour Blvd, North Lakes
P: 0452 537 899

SPREAD HOPE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

ELISABETH WALSH

THIS Christmas, Karuna Hospice Services is calling on the Greater Brisbane North community to come together and embrace the gift of giving to help them continue providing free, specialised in-home palliative care to patients and their families.

Karuna CEO Tracey Porst

highlighted the importance of Karuna's holistic approach to caring for patients and families during such a difficult time.

"It takes a village as the saying goes," Mrs Porst said. "Karuna has a 30-year history of uniquely blending nursing, medical, family, and spiritual care, which is a vital source of peace of mind for hundreds of families each year.

The Karuna team provides

a wide range of services to support patients and families in their own homes, helping them to live well and die peacefully. Karuna's services are accessible throughout Brisbane North and into Caboolture, Redcliffe, and Bribie Island, and are provided free of charge.

As Christmas approaches, Karuna is urging the community to consider donating to their Christmas Appeal, which

will enable the organisation to continue their vital work.

"Donating to our Christmas Appeal will help Karuna care for people living with terminal illnesses," Mrs Porst said.

"Enabling someone to remain at home with their loved ones during the holiday season will make a world of difference this Christmas."

Karuna's clinical and family support teams will be working

throughout the entire festive period to provide essential services to families in need.

This includes specialised palliative care, working in collaboration with the patient's GP and specialist to meet their individual needs. The team also offers pain and symptom management, emotional support and counselling, bereavement support, spiritual care, as well as carer education and training.

To support Karuna and commemorate a loved one, individuals can donate to the charity and place a bauble in their name on Karuna's virtual Christmas tree.

Donations can be made by visiting give.karuna.org.au/ Christmas



Support Karuna and help us deliver specialised palliative care in the community.

Please donate today and place a bauble on our virtual Christmas tree.



IT'S FACE TIME: Get Ready for the Young Archies



GABRIELLE TURNBULL
ART SO LIVELY

AS the year draws to a close, Art So Lively is making preparations for a very special school holiday workshop. It is a first for the art academy and I'm getting very excited. Let me explain.

About March 2024 is the time for two big portrait awards, the Archibald Portrait Prize and its counterpart for children, the Young Archies. Earlier in the year I wrote about this FREE national portrait award for children between five and 18 years. This award provides a wonderful opportunity for our children to 'throw their hats into the ring' and have a go.

To become a finalist is extremely exciting and rewarding. Not only does the entrant's portrait hang in the NSW Art Gallery with the grown-up's art, and then tour Australia, but there are generous prizes for each finalist. Of course, there is

an extra special prize for the winning portrait in each age bracket. There are also highly commended awards bestowed. So all in all, I encourage children in our area to start creating now to be ready to send away your entry in February 2024.

During the school holidays, Art So Lively is providing a three-day portraiture workshop for interested children between the ages of five and 18. One day will be devoted to the 5-8 year olds. The other two days will be aimed at the older kids. The intensive workshop will provide time for children to experiment, play and incubate their ideas. The studio will provide the materials, dedicated space, specific activities and expert guidance to create a portrait worthy of entering the Young Archies. Now is the time to let people know when and where and how their child can get involved.

Times and dates:

9:30am-12:30pm,

Wednesday,
10 January 2024
for 5-8 year olds
9:30am-2:00pm,

Thursday, 11 January
Friday, 12 January 2024
for 9-18 year olds

Fee:

\$70 for 5-8 year olds (one day)
\$220 for 9-18 year olds (two days)

To find out more and get involved contact Gabrielle at Art So Lively Art Academy Shop 2, Cominos Arcade, 141 Redcliffe Pde, Redcliffe. Mobile 0477 002 545

TRASH FASHION ART EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHTS BEACH POLLUTION



ALYSSA MACKAY

A TOURING exhibition that has been capturing attention with its message about marine life conservation is about to make waves in Redcliffe.

Starting this month at the Redcliffe Museum, Beach Couture: A Haute Mess is a collection of wearable art made from rubbish collected from beaches and oceans by artist, Marina DeBris.



Marina said she hoped her artwork would convey a sense of urgency to viewers about the ever-growing problem of beach and ocean pollution.

"Also, that they see the magnitude of it, realising I am just one person collecting in very specific locations," she said.

"Of course, the ultimate goal is that the public acts on this by changing habits and/or becoming involved with local groups, politicians, or starts their own grassroots section."

The exhibition features two photo series with American model and actress Hannah Kat Jones wearing some of Marina's outfits, which tell the story of society's addiction to plastics, particularly single-use plastics.

There will also be a display called 'Artefacts from the Anthropocene', offering a glimpse into what a future archaeological dig could reveal.

Marina has been actively collecting waste from beaches since 1999 when she returned to the US from Bondi Beach. Most of the rubbish in Beach Couture: A Haute Mess was collected from Sydney's eastern suburbs beaches, with some earlier works using rubbish from Venice and Playa Del Rey beaches in Los Angeles.

Marina said she collected rubbish daily, which had given her a good grasp of the specific issues surrounding ocean pollution.

"I also am acutely aware of other environmental issues," she said. "I try to make pieces using those items specifically and often try to merge it with other issues, usually in the title."

"Pandemia was created during COVID when I was constantly picking up face masks - I still am! I also noted how the single-use coffee cups had expanded out of control, as well as the breeding of dogs. The piece is made up of over 900 face masks (I have many, many more), coffee cup lids and even a toy stuffed dog, all found on the beach."

To kick off the exhibition, Marina will give an opening floor talk on Saturday, 2 December from 10am to 11am. The exhibition runs until Sunday, 18 February.

Beach Couture: A Haute Mess
Saturday, 2 December - Sunday, 18 February
(Opening hours: Wed-Fri, 10am-4pm; Sat-Sun, 10am-3pm)
Redcliffe Museum
75 Anzac Avenue, Redcliffe.

**\$30,000
WHEELS OF
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The Sands Social and Kedron-Wavell members only promotion. Terms and conditions apply. Activate entries in the hour prior to a draw by swiping your members card to be eligible to win. Must be present to win. Gambling can be harmful to some people. Only gamble what you can afford to lose. Contact Gambling Helpline on 1800 858 858 or visit www.gamblinghelpline.org.au for free, confidential support.

WE'RE SERVING UP SAVINGS FOR OUR MEMBERS WITH OUR

DINNER DEALS

AVAILABLE FROM 5PM.

SUN

\$17* Sunday Roast
MEMBERS



MON

\$17* Burger
MEMBERS



TUE

\$17* Schnitzel
MEMBERS



UPGRADE TO A PARMI FOR \$22*

WED

\$17* Classic Pizza
MEMBERS



THU



Kids eat FREE!

On Thursday, kids eat FREE!
Bookings essential!

T&Cs apply. Children must be 12 or under. One free child meal, per one full-priced main meal. Not available with any other offers.

*Available from 5pm. T&Cs apply. Member's price shown. Limited time only.



YOUR COMMUNITY CLUB
50 KEOGH ST, SANDGATE
(07) 3609 2001

TheSandsSocial

Queensland Ballet Takes Centre Stage with Health and Wellbeing Dance Programs

JOSHUA EAST

Queensland Ballet has received a \$750,000 investment from the State Government to offer clinically designed dance programs for vulnerable Queenslanders. The funding was announced at the opening of Queensland Ballet's Van Norton Li Community Health Institute last month.

The programs are specifically designed for key groups in the community, including individuals with Parkinson's disease, brain injuries, arthritis, mobility issues, neurological and mental health conditions, and orthopaedic rehabilitation patients. These programs will provide rehabilitation, mobility, and strength classes aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of participants.

Minister for Health, Mental Health, and Ambulance Services, Shannon Fentiman, expressed her excitement about the partnership.

"We know that dance and rehabilitation programs offer a range of health benefits including improved strength,

mobility, and balance, as well as opportunities for social connection," Ms Fentiman said.

"The \$750,000 investment will deliver tailored programs to people with conditions like Parkinson's disease, arthritis, and mobility issues to support their health and wellbeing.

"Our government's commitment to providing Queenslanders with world-class healthcare is evident in this partnership, and I am confident these programs will have a positive impact on participant's health and wellbeing."

The programs have been developed and evaluated by Queensland Ballet teaching artists, health clinicians, and researchers from Griffith University and Queensland University of Technology. By incorporating research-based methods, the dance programs aim to provide participants with a holistic approach to their health and wellbeing.

The programs will be available to key groups in the community, residential



aged care facilities, and various hospital settings until 30 June 2026. The funding will also allow the programs to expand and reach individuals in both metropolitan and regional areas.

Queensland Ballet's Artistic Director Li Cunxin

AO said he was pleased the funding would help to improve the community's health and wellbeing, using dance as a tool.

"Dance has changed my life in so many positive ways," Mr Cunxin said.

"I applaud the Queensland

Government and Queensland Health for their innovation and vision to support our Dance Health programs, as part of the Van Norton Li Community Health Institute.

"Dance brings a range of health and wellbeing benefits, in a proactive and

enjoyable way – you just get immersed in it! Everyone, of all ages and abilities, can participate.

"We can't wait to expand our programs to impact more people's lives across Queensland."

Is drinking costing you more than money?

Don't suffer any longer...

there is hope... Call Alcoholics Anonymous 1300 22 22 22



Eco Eve

Eco-Friendly Xmas Tips

The Bad News

WITH Christmas fast approaching, did you know that the delivery of online purchases requires more plastic packaging than shopping in-store? Black plastic packaging is unable to be recycled due to carbon black pigments. Bubble wrap, plastic packaging tape and plastic mail envelopes all contribute to landfill.

Soft plastics jam Council's automated recycling sorting machines. With the cessation of REDcycle (soft plastic recycling program), soft plastics must be placed in the general refuse bin for landfill disposal.

The Good News

You can get creative with alternative eco-friendly Christmas gift packaging:

- Tea towels, scarves
- Jars or bottles
- Cut printed fabric and trim edges with pinking shears to stop fraying
- Old sheet music or newspaper tied with a ribbon or flowers
- Reusable fabric bags
- Baskets
- Re-use delivery boxes from online purchases
- Unwanted craft paper or brown paper bags
- Pages from an old Atlas or large book
- Giftwrap made from sugar cane waste
- Leave large items unwrapped and tie with a ribbon or bow
- Re-think excess online purchases - are the products obtainable locally?

Alternative Gift Ties

- Jute, string, wool, twine or old crochet or embroidery thread and craft ribbon
- Fresh and dried flowers, a candy cane or Christmas ornaments
- Washi tape instead of sticky tape
- Folded fabric fastened with ribbon or twine or a hair clip
- Homemade paper tags tied to gifts, as adhesive sticker tags can't be recycled

Minimise Plastic

- Use fabric, string and reusable mesh bags for fruit and vegetable purchases
- Take a reusable container from home for butcher and delicatessen purchases
- Use beeswax wraps (a great Xmas gift) to cover cut produce
- Go paperless and send digital Christmas greetings

Christmas Tickle Up

MEADE MURPHY



WELL, it's that time of the year to give your antique furniture a "tickle up" for Christmas. It is also summer and your polish can start to dry out and lose its colour and shine.

The first thing you need to do is identify what type of finish you have on your furniture. If your furniture is vintage or has been restored in the last forty years, it would more than likely have been finished in a lacquer. If your furniture is early 1900s to 1950 and in original condition, it will be an old brown varnish. If your furniture is a genuine antique e.g. Georgian 1790s to Edwardian 1915 circa it will be a shellac (French polish) finish.

The second stage is - how dirty or waxy is the furniture? Do the arms of your lounge or old chair have a build-up of grime or body fat? Your old pieces may have spent time

near a fireplace long before you purchased them. To remove this grime, purchase a litre of Digger's Wax & Grease Remover, apply it to a pad of fine steel wool, and wash the grime off with the grain of the timber until the grime is removed. Use a rag to remove any excess remover and grime.

The third stage is to put some moisture back into the furniture polish. You will need to purchase one litre of methylated spirits, one litre of pale boiled linseed oil and one litre of gum turpentine. Place 150ml of each into a 500ml spray bottle. Shake to mix up and spray onto a pad of fine steel wool and apply to polish with the grain. Do not rub too hard as you only have to put moisture back into the polish. Shake each time before spraying as the ingredients separate quickly. Leave the mixture on for twenty

minutes before removing the excess that hasn't soaked in with a dry rag.

The fourth and final step is to seal with an application of wax. The best wax on the Australian market is Gilly Dark Restoring Wax. Apply this also to a pad of fine steel wool and apply to the furniture with the grain. Fill any nail holes, small cracks and chips with wax filling sticks - leave for two hours to harden before buffing off with a rag.

This fourth stage of rejuvenation works very well for shellac and varnish finishes. For highly lacquered finishes, such as a piano finish, use orange oil and apply with a soft cloth. You can purchase all these ingredients at your local hardware store, such as Bunnings. We used to import these products from overseas.

The other bonus about doing a "tickle up" at this time of year - your house will smell amazing for Christmas.

My son and I have been doing our yearly maintenance for all the rich and famous around the Clayfield, Ascot and Hamilton areas. Check out the Victorian figured walnut grand piano (pictured) that I "tickled up" last week. I fully restored this iconic piano thirty years ago before it was used for The Thorn Birds mini-series. We have also done the maintenance on the Sir Edmund Hornibrook House in Lancaster Road, Ascot. We fully restored this old Queenslander in 2010 and did all the maintenance of the polished doors, windows and fireplaces. Have a look at the magnificent leadlight windows of this iconic house (pictured).

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THE RIDE OF HIS LIFE

BRUCE GIDDINGS

TWO-and-a-half-year-old Leo broke into a huge grin when he first met Super Ute driver Jimmy Vernon just before his race at the Gold Coast 500 (GC500) in October.

The keen motorsport fan was especially delighted when he was shown the colourful decal featuring his own photographic image on the back of Jimmy's helmet.

"See, you'll be coming around with me for the whole race," Jimmy told him after the two had performed some pre-race checks together.

According to Leo's mother, Jennifer Hamilton, from North Lakes, her boy couldn't stop smiling for the rest of the day.

"He is now a definite convert to the Super Utes, probably for life," she says.

The day at the GC500 was a huge day out for Leo, who has been either sick in hospital or incapacitated at home for the last two years, a period covering most of his young life.

During those two years, he has been forced to undergo multiple courses of life-saving chemotherapy and blood transfusions with all the attendant side effects, not to forget all the painful poking, prodding and testing that goes along with what is an extraordinary and major medical intervention.

The chemotherapy was an absolute must for Leo, a vital treatment for cancer in his liver, which had also spread to his lungs.

Jennifer says the liver cancer showed up one day without warning.

"Leo made it to six months of age without a single sign of illness," she said.

"He was a happy boy, always

smiling and laughing, achieving all his life milestones as expected."

Jennifer has a keen eye for medical matters, having qualified in veterinary medicine and practised for years as a Veterinary Surgeon, before becoming a full-time mum.

As soon as she noticed a firmness in part of Leo's abdomen, Leo was off to the doctor, who sent him for a scan.

Jennifer vividly remembers the look on the radiographer's face on checking the images that afternoon. It was a forced expression, an attempt to cover something. She received a call from Leo's GP within an hour, who told her that Leo must go to the hospital that same day.

Leo immediately began chemotherapy and a battery of tests at the Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) at Southbank (formerly the Lady Cilento).

Jennifer's days by Leo's bedside at the hospital blended into nights, and soon became weeks and months. Leo's entire family were involved from the start, with Jennifer, Dad Marcos, and big brother Kai spending hundreds of hours at the hospital while trying to keep home life, school and work on track. It soon became a test for everybody, including members of the wider family, and friends.

Jennifer said that Leo remained true to himself through most of the unpleasant journey, laughing and smiling much of the time, despite enduring painful and energy-sapping treatments and many blood transfusions.

Jennifer says he ended up needing more than 30 blood transfusions of various kinds, and she is so grateful that his blood type is a common one because blood supplies for many blood types are in a precarious position in Queensland

and across Australia.

The tedious chemo treatment gradually took effect, removing the growths in his lungs, and reducing the size of the tumour in his liver.

However, with the size reduced, doctors were now certain that the growth on Leo's liver was entangled in the blood supply, meaning it could not be removed.

Leo's only chance was to obtain a liver transplant.

During the six weeks of waiting for a donor, the chemo was discontinued, a requirement for a successful transplant but also a risk for a recurrence of the cancer, while the wait was on.

Leo's cancer markers spiked again after the first three weeks of chemotherapy, so he was treated again with a different type of drug to reduce the risk of resistance. The liver transplant would not be performed if there were malignancies anywhere in the body.

Once the markers fell again three weeks later, he was taken off chemotherapy and another waiting period began.

Jennifer's mind entertained a torrent of awful thoughts at this stage. She found herself mentally preparing for a peaceful end of life for her son. Yet she was desperate to fight for her boy's life at the same time.

Other thoughts continued to intrude into Jennifer's mind, such as the certain knowledge that a new liver for Leo meant that someone else's life had been extinguished, a life support switched off.

Jennifer says many tears were shed as the weeks of uncertainty tested Jennifer, Marcos, Kai and the whole family.

Then one Sunday afternoon, as the family were sitting in their lounge room at North Lakes

watching a superhero movie together, Jennifer's phone rang.

"We have a liver for Leo," the doctor told Jennifer. "He needs to come in now."

Jennifer says she forgot to pack her toothbrush and other essentials in her rush to take her boy to the hospital.

It was two o'clock in the morning when Jennifer carried Leo into the operating theatre, singing to him as she went, as she had done many times before for various less risky procedures. She carefully laid him on the operating table as he was anaesthetised in her arms. She tried to remain strong as she walked out, leaving her boy in the care of the liver transplant team.

Seven hours later the phone rang and a doctor said, "I'll meet you downstairs."

Leo's transplant operation had been a success.

Jennifer has the highest praise for Dr Peter Hodgkinson and the members of his liver transplant team. The team, who are on call 24/7, "is absolutely incredible," she says.

"They held our hand through the whole process, all our ups and downs. We feel so lucky they have been there for us."

Jennifer says she feels emotional whenever she thinks about the family that needed to give the approval to donate the liver.

"It's heartbreaking for them. They've lost somebody, and out of that, our family has had a win."

"I am so grateful to them. It's a debt our family can never repay."

Leo lives a carefree life now and is enjoying doing things other kids do, like going for a swim, something he couldn't do while the tubes were in. He remains on oral medications twice a day, but that will become less over time.

He has suffered a little hearing loss due to chemo side effects, and wears two discreet hearing aids.

Leo is unaware of how precarious his health has been and is full of energy now, catching up on some of the activities he missed out on for two years. He loves playing with his collection of toy race cars and is ecstatic to be at home with his mum, dad and big brother Kai. He remains a big fan of Jimmy Vernon and the Super Utes.

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Jimmy Vernon and the colourful decal on Jimmy's helmet



Jimmy in ICU after the transplant and now

SPORTING LIFE.

JIINDA MAGIC HAS US UNDER THEIR SPELL

BRUCE GIDDINGS

WOMEN'S champions, Jiinda Magic, demonstrated that winners are grinners after taking out the senior women's division in the Indigenous Football (Soccer) tournament held in North Lakes in November.

"Jiinda" means sister in the language of the Gumbaynggirr people from the Grafton region, also home to the founder of the club, Kirilly Philips. The team, now based in southeast Queensland is well-named, with the women (over 15s) playing the game for each other and for the team.

The Queensland-based Indigenous Football Tournament was established in 2018 and plays an important role in keeping developing Indigenous football stars connected and in touch.

The tournament at North Lakes attracted teams from as far away as remote Western Australia, Mornington Island and the Northern Territory, to showcase talented players in every grade, junior and senior.

Jiinda Magic's team manager, Ramone Close said "the sisters" were absolutely ecstatic to come out on top of what is the premier Indigenous football competition in

Australia.

"The Jiinda Magics and every other team really look forward to this competition every year," Ramone said. "It's a rare chance to meet friends old and new, and make new connections in the sport."

The champion men's team for 2023 is the Sunshine Coast Goannas.

Football and AFL are both popular sports among First Nations girls aged four to 14, with only netball, swimming and basketball attracting more participants, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

The weekend tournament took place in front of around 1500 spectators, including sharp-eyed talent scouts representing higher grades of football, at Kinsellas Sports Complex, North Lakes.

The event also featured various stalls, including a recruitment exhibit from the Australian Defence Forces, stalls manned by health department staff, and of course, food stalls.

The Kinsellas Sports Complex at Innovation Place is home to the North Lakes United Football Club, a product of the 2022 merger between the North Lakes Mustangs and the Lakes Football Club.

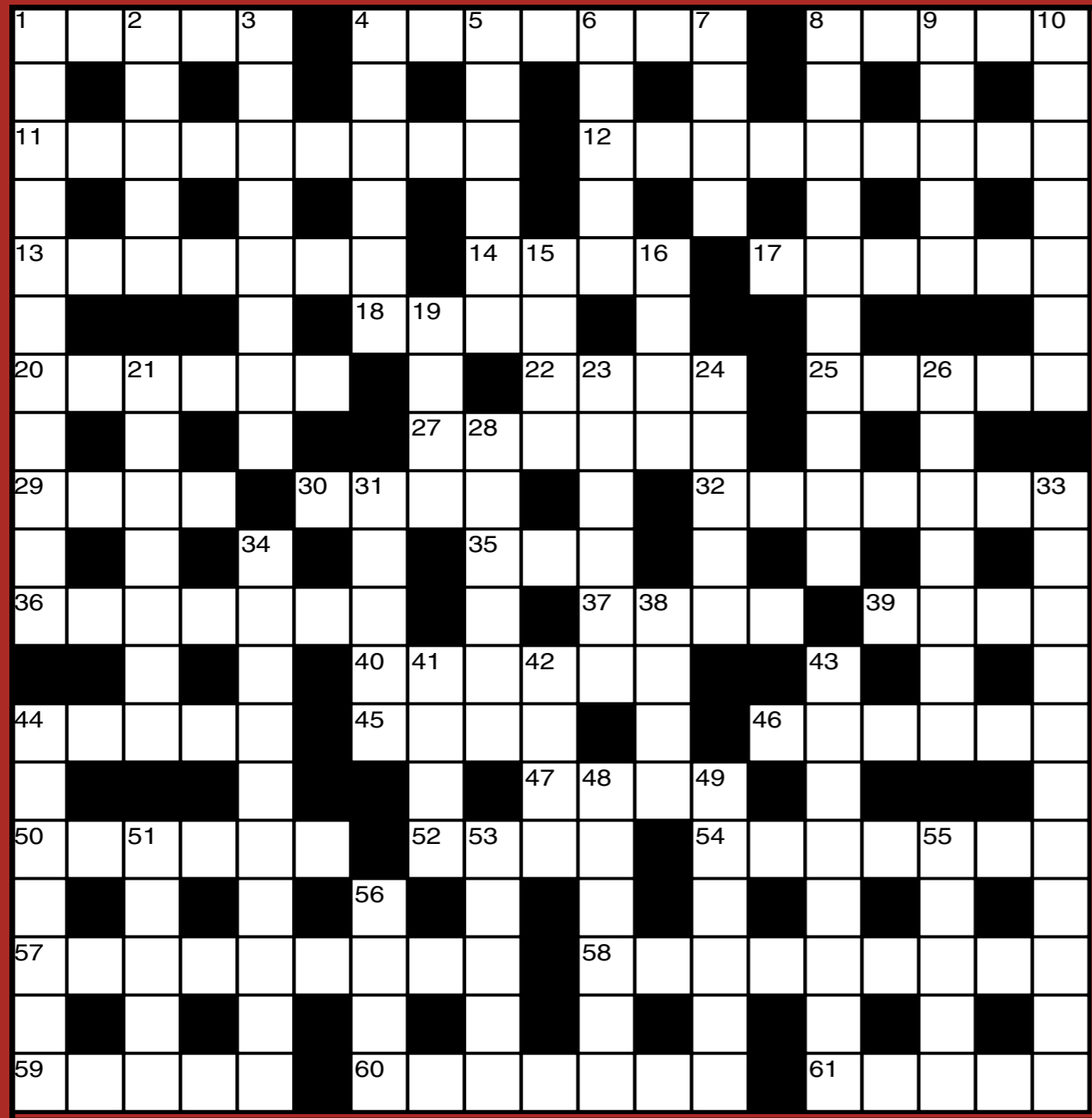


Jiinda Magic celebrating a goal

The team at the end of the game



THE BIG ONE CROSSWORD



DOWN

- 1 Bed-roll (8,3)
- 2 Unspoken
- 3 Critic
- 4 Virile
- 5 Italian operatic tenor
- 6 Volley of gunfire
- 7 Globes
- 8 Gardener
- 9 Disgorge
- 10 Lasted
- 15 Centres
- 16 Desperate
- 19 Expect
- 21 Palaeolithic human
- 23 Unkeyed (music)
- 24 Male honey-bee
- 26 Chess pieces
- 28 Eccentric person (3,3)
- 31 Acclaim
- 33 Deal
- 34 Seer or prophet
- 38 Footwear
- 41 White part of oranges
- 42 Inferior
- 43 Aeroplane
- 44 Ghastly
- 48 Supplement (3,3)
- 49 Wet or muddy
- 51 Starer
- 53 Unfasten
- 55 Japanese port
- 56 Disclose secrets

ACROSS

- 13 Stencil
- 14 Fitted with shoes
- 17 Castrated sheep
- 18 Small measurement (coll)
- 20 Metal, US coin
- 22 Poet
- 25 Harnessed together
- 27 Sign
- 29 Flock of larks
- 30 Useless plant
- 32 Simple wind instrument
- 35 University teacher
- 36 Mouth abscess
- 37 Dutch navigator, ___ Tasman
- 39 Carbonise
- 40 Spacecraft series
- 44 Painter of Water Lilies
- 45 Trend
- 46 Eats heartily (coll) (4,2)
- 47 Congeals
- 50 Opt for
- 52 Covering of certain seeds
- 54 Sugar in milk
- 57 Poor dive (coll) (5,4)
- 58 Children's home
- 59 Fault
- 60 Prejudice
- 61 Pamphlet

MEDIUM

5			7	4			3	1
		1	8		9		5	
		2	3		1			
			6				2	
		6		7		4		
	3				8			
			5	6	3			
	1		2		7	8		
6	5			3	4			7

SUDOKU #86

Puzzle Solutions on Page 38

HARD

	2	3					7	
1				8			9	5
			6		5		4	
	4		9	1	8			
		5					7	
				5	7	3		1
			8		2		1	
	5	2				4		9
3							5	2

DATE CLAIMERS

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Pack a picnic blanket and jingle your way to one of City of Moreton Bay's free Christmas carol events. From 4pm to 8pm enjoy a sleigh-load of activities, including Christmas carols, a visit from Santa, kids activities, markets, food trucks, the return of the popular Christmas llamas, and a fireworks finale. Follow the Christmas City of Moreton Bay Facebook page to stay up-to-date on all event details.

Every Saturday

Narangba Park Run Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate at Narangba's 5k park run. **Details:** FREE, 7am, Harris Ave, Narangba. www.parkrun.com.au/register or www.parkrun.com.au/harrisavenue

New Social Group forming

If you're over 60 and looking for like minded people to share coffee, a chat and the occasional movie, a new social group is forming in the Deception Bay and Burpengary areas. Men and women welcome **Details:** Phone Marian after 1pm | 0420 444 175

3 December

The Queenslanders with Disability Network is supporting the 2023 Ted's Wheelie Challenge, also known as the **Deception Bay Mobility Scooter Convoy**. All individuals who use mobility scooters and electric wheelchairs are invited to join the convoy. Meet at the Deception Bay PCYC at 9am for the official start at 10am. The convoy will travel along accessible paths on the esplanade, finishing with a free community barbecue. **Details:** FREE | 9am to 12pm | Deception Bay PCYC, 100 Main Terrace, Deception Bay | Contact: Andrew Backhouse on 0409 878 791 or email abackhouse@qdn.org.au

8 December

Discover the art of equine safety, learn the essence of horse care, establish trust and navigate various obstacles with your horse at **Horse Riding, Horse Games and Horse Care**. This session is for those aged 8 years and over and is recommended for people wishing to enhance their physical, social and emotional wellbeing. Safety helmets supplied. **Details:** \$5pp | 9am to 12pm | Bribe Island Saddle Club, 392 Bribe Island Road, Caboolture | Contact: 3205 0555 or email healthyactive@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

10 December

Come along to Old Petrie Town for a free gig featuring professional whip-cracking entertainer Nathan "Whippy" Griggs. As a five-time Guinness world record holder, Nathan is bringing his incredible whip-cracking show from the Northern Territory to Queensland. The event is open to everyone and promises a fun atmosphere with the option to purchase merchandise, grab a bite and support Nathan by contributing to his hat as it is passed around for donations. **Details:** FREE | 10am | Old Petrie Town, 901 Dayboro Road, Whiteside | Contact: 3285 5934

10 December
Are you concerned about the rising cost of living, extreme weather events (like heatwaves or bushfires) or climate change? Then, join **Queensland Conservation Council and Moreton Climate Action Now** to find out how we can tackle all these at the same time - be energy smart and build more climate resilient neighbourhoods. This free community event will feature leading advocates, along with nibbles, electric vehicle (EV) displays, and a hands-on workshop on food and water security. **Details:** FREE | 10am | Alf Shaw Park Community Centre, 190 Stanley St, Strathpine | Contact: kanch.pathirana@qldconservation.org.au or 0435792348

12 December

Bring your imagination and artistic skills to a Christmas badge decoration workshop at the **Deception Bay Library**. At this free, all-ages, drop-in event attendees will draw or colour a picture of their choice and learn how to transform it into a unique and personalised badge. No bookings are necessary. The event is facilitated by the library staff. **Details:** FREE | 9am to 6.30pm | Deception Bay Library, 9 Bayview Terrace, Deception Bay | Contact: 5433 2970 or email deceptionbaylibrary@moretonbay.qld.gov.au

13 December

Learn about strategies for readiness in the face of bushfires, floods, heatwaves, storms and cyclones at the inaugural **Connected Communities 'Ready and Set to Go' - Disaster Preparedness** event. At this free, family-friendly session, disaster management and government organisations will offer invaluable advice and resources. There will also be kid's activities, giveaways



and refreshments. **Details:** FREE | 5pm to 7pm | Bray Hall, 3 Mundin Street, Petrie | Contact Melissa Cerveny on 0404256 558 or email melissac@encircle.org.au Book: events.humantix.com/connected-communities-ready-and-set-to-go

13 December

There's a special treat for the kids during the school holidays at the North Lakes Sports Club. **The Kids Christmas Movie Day** will feature a screening of the timeless Christmas classic The Polar Express. Each ticket includes a snow cone, popcorn, candy cane and a coupon for free chicken nuggets at either the Banyan Restaurant or Crave Cafe. The event is fully supervised, making it perfect for kids aged three and above. **Details:** \$15pp | 9.30am to 12pm | North Lakes Sports Club, 36-42 Flinders Parade, North Lakes | Book: www.trybooking.com/CMEKN

15 December

Those in search of unique, locally-crafted gifts this holiday season will find an array of options at the **Christmas Alleyway Night Market** in North Lakes. This year marks the 6th Alleyway Night Market event and will feature delicious food trucks, an elf face-painter, live entertainment, and numerous local producers and market vendors. Make a small donation and participate in one of the membership promotions to win an exciting prize. **Details:** From \$1 | 5pm | North Lakes Sports Club, 36-42 Flinders Parade, North Lakes | Contact: info@whatsonmoretonbay.com.au

16 December - 16 March

Experience the captivating world of nationally and internationally acclaimed local artist, **Martin Edge**, at the Pine Rivers Art Gallery. Through Martin's vivid memories, All the best, from Martin Edge showcases everyday, whimsical and monumental moments from his life. This exhibit is a collaborative effort

LOCAL CLUB MEETINGS

Rotary Caboolture
Every Wednesday at 7pm Bronze Room at Sports Central, Cnr of Beerburum Rd & Hasking St, Caboolture Ph: 0417 744 731 www.caboolturerotary.org

BPW Caboolture
Meets the first Friday of each month at 7am at Sports Central, Cnr of Beerburum Rd & Hasking St, Caboolture. Ph: 0402 065 619 or email president@bpwcaboolture.com.au

Mango Hill Progress Association
Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Mango Hill Community Centre. Ph: 0415 342 007 or email admin@mangohillprogress.org

Burpengary Camera Club
Third Thursday of each month at 7.15pm at KSP theatre, Cnr Old Bay Rd and Maitland Rd, Burpengary East. \$5pp Ph: 0409 766 645 or email burpengarycameraclub@gmail.com

Artisans' Guild
Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1-17 Maitland Road, Burpengary East. Ph: 3888 6333 or email galleries@artisansguild.org.au

Pine Rivers VIEW Club
Meets the 3rd Wednesday

of each month at 10.30am at Murrumba Downs Tavern, 232 Dohles Rocks Rd, Murrumba Downs. Ph: 0417 639 800 or email pinerivers.view@gmail.com

Zonta Club of Caboolture
Last Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm Jacaranda Café, King Street Caboolture Ph: 0407 169 682 (Pam) New members welcome

QCWA Burpengary Green Wattles Branch
Meets every Wednesday at 9am to 11.30am at the Burpengary Men's Shed, Maitland Road, Burpengary East. Everyone is welcome to come along and meet new friends, learn a craft and enjoy a lovely morning tea. Phone 0409 195 163.

Phoenix Country Music Club
Meets the second Sunday of each month commencing at 11am at the Burpengary Community Hall, Station Rd, Burpengary Young and Old alike are welcome and encouraged to get up and have a go. Phone 0405 722 246

Probus Club of Caboolture
Meets on the second Monday of each month at 9.30am at Council Hall 21 Hayes Street Caboolture. Contact Secretary on 0418632689 or probuscaboolture@gmail.com.

Burpengary Men's Shed Drop In Group
Meets on the first Tuesday of each Month from 6pm - 8pm at The Burpengary Men's Shed 1-17 Maitland Road Burpengary East. Contact Rodney Hansen on 0481 480 486.

Morayfield & District Lions Club Inc
Business Meetings on the second Wednesday of the Month and Dinner Meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the Month. December meetings may vary. Arrive 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start at 1 Maitland Road Burpengary East (third driveway in from corner of Maitland Rd & Old Bay Rd). Contact Glenda Riley on 0407027535

50+ Club Kallangur
Meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. Ph: 3204 6366

Probus Club of Pine Rivers Inc.
Meets the 1st Thursday of each month, except January at 10am, at Pine Rivers Memorial Bowls Club, 1-11 Sparks Rd, Bray Park. Phone Secretary 32611926 of 0401261637

Pines Garden Club
Meets on the 1st Monday of the month except public holidays and the 2nd Monday from 9am to 12pm at the Community Hall 1480 Anzac Ave Kallangur. Visitors most welcome.

team for **Storytime in the gallery: Djagan Yaman**, at the Caboolture Regional Art Gallery. Read alongside artworks and objects in the latest exhibition by Kabi Kabi artist, Lyndon Davis. Introduce your children to books and inspire a love of reading through action, rhymes and songs. **Details:** FREE | 10.30pm to 11am | Caboolture Regional Art Gallery, 4 Hasking Street, Caboolture | Contact: 54332800

20 December
Join the Caboolture Library

29 December
Don't miss out on the adrenalin-fuelled excitement of **Monster Thrillmasters Live** at Caboolture Showgrounds. Witness Australia's most legendary monster trucks in action. **Details:** Child \$35 Adult \$45 Family Pass \$150 | 5.30pm to 7pm | Caboolture Showgrounds, Beerburum Road, Caboolture | Book: www.eventbrite.com

ADVENTURE AWAITS

GONE FISHING!



MEADE MURPHY

SCHOOL holidays are here and it is time to take the kids out for a fishing adventure. On the Sunshine Coast there is bream, whiting and dart in the gutters all the way from Double Island Point to the mouth of the Noosa River. In the Maroochydoore River, there is good whiting on the run-out tide between the yellow channel marker and the green marker at night 100m from the Mudjimba Boat Ramp.

Due to white spot, we can't take any locally dug worms from Moreton Bay but there are plenty of surf worms you can pull out at Kawana Beach half tide out. Caloundra is still fishing well. There are whiting directly out the front of the Power Boat Club boat ramp on the Bribie Island side of the main channel. There are flathead around the logs on

the Bribie Island side of the channel near the bar on the flooding tide. If you want to beach your boat and walk over to the surf, the locals are getting dart and the odd trevally there. Be careful and watch where you wade near the bar, especially on the run-out tide. The Ribbon Reef formations off Caloundra are producing a few snapper, pearl perch and parrot fish but not of any decent size. On Bribie Island, there are still a few whiting at South Point and Skirmish Point on the incoming tide. Worms are the only bait to use.

Rock worms are starting to come back at Scarborough after the 2022 dam releases wiped them all out. The rock worms at Woody Point still haven't replenished after eighteen months. There are whiting in Hayes Inlet in front of the sewage pipes at the start of the run-in tide. There are a few bream at night on

the banks out the front of Mullet Creek and out the front of the reef located off the Clontarf Beach boat ramp and the wells under the bridge.

On the Gold Coast, there is plenty of whiting at Jumpinpin and on the middle bank on the run-in tide and Kalinga Bank side of the middle bank on the run-out tide. I bagged out with thirty whiting on the black moon last month. The secret to fishing such a powerful current is no.4 to 5 ball sinkers with a 1.2m trace. Drop down to a no.2 ball sinker when the tide slows down. The quality of fish there is good; six of my thirty bag limit were over 35cm. The Broadwater also has good fishing with bream around the pontoons on Sovereign Island in the last hour of the incoming tide but you will need to use a bit of burley to school them up. Bream are also on the rock walls at Wave Break and South Strad-

broke. Our members are also catching large whiting at the front of the council chambers in the Nerang River at night.

If you are going to Moreton Island there are dart and bream in the gutters between Camel Rock and Long Point, but you will have to use No. 5 flat sinkers due to the sweep created by the swell whipped up by NE to SE winds. There are still some flathead but mainly around the main creek at Yellow Patch.

Your kids are never too old for a fishing adventure - see me pictured on Father's Day with my sons Jake & Mason aged 34 & 32 and daughter Bethany aged 30. Second picture is me teaching Bethany how to cast.

Watch this space for the release dates for the 2024 Moreton Island Classic.

Stay warm and safe out on the water.

BRISBANE BAR TIDE TIMES DEC 2023

Time	m	Time	m
1 0511	0.49	16 0515	0.36
FR 1851	0.74	SA 1857	0.56
2 0007	1.57	17 0016	1.75
SA 1240	0.59	SU 0604	0.43
1932	0.78	SU 1250	2.51
		1948	0.56
3 0051	1.53	18 0114	1.74
SU 0630	0.69	0700	0.52
SU 1322	2.16	MO 1341	2.44
2018	0.81	2040	0.55
4 0145	1.51	19 0217	1.76
0722	0.80	0803	0.62
MO 1409	2.08	TU 1435	2.33
2109	0.80	2132	0.53
5 0253	1.52	20 0327	1.83
0826	0.89	0914	0.71
TU 1502	2.01	WE 1532	2.21
2202	0.76	WE 2225	0.50
6 0407	1.60	21 0435	1.94
0941	0.93	1030	0.77
WE 1600	1.97	TH 1632	2.09
2254	0.69	2318	0.46
7 0514	1.73	22 0542	2.09
1056	0.92	1146	0.78
TH 1656	1.94	FR 1734	1.97
2343	0.61		
8 0608	1.89	23 0011	0.42
1203	0.87	0641	2.24
FR 1749	1.92	SA 1300	0.75
		1834	1.88
9 0028	0.52	24 0100	0.39
0655	2.06	0734	2.37
SA 1303	0.80	SU 1404	0.70
1838	1.90	1930	1.81
10 0110	0.45	25 0147	0.37
0738	2.22	0822	2.46
SU 1358	0.72	MO 1500	0.65
1926	1.88	2023	1.76
11 0150	0.39	26 0230	0.37
0820	2.35	0906	2.51
MO 1448	0.65	TU 1550	0.63
2011	1.85	2111	1.74
12 0230	0.34	27 0309	0.38
0902	2.45	0947	2.51
TU 1537	0.60	WE 1634	0.63
2057	1.83	2154	1.73
13 0309	0.31	28 0345	0.40
0945	2.53	1026	2.49
WE 1626	0.57	TH 1714	0.64
2144	1.81	TH 2233	1.72
14 0349	0.31	29 0421	0.44
1030	2.57	1102	2.44
TH 1715	0.55	FR 1749	0.68
2232	1.79	2309	1.71
15 0430	0.32	30 0455	0.49
1115	2.58	1137	2.39
FR 1806	0.55	SA 1821	0.70
2323	1.77	2345	1.71
		31 0530	0.55
		1211	2.33
		SU 1853	0.72

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WHEN it comes to local cafes offering abundant menu choices and a modern aesthetic, the new kid on the block at MKT Deception Bay tops the list.

Located in the recently opened Coles supermarket precinct, H Cafe and Bar offers traditional-style cafe food: french toast, wraps, burgers, eggs, and steak, in addition to a commodious range of aromatic Vietnamese dishes. You'll find noodle salads, banh mi, bao, and stir-fried rice meals, while fans of Korean-Thai food can enjoy chicken karaage or a vege rosti.

Open seven days a week and with extended opening hours, shift workers could tap into an extensive quick morning snack menu, or servings of breakfast, lunch and dinner any time of the day.

A pork banh mi was excellent value at \$12. The delicious Vietnamese baguette had lashings of marinated pork, pickled carrot, cucumber, mayo, soya sauce and coriander. Helping the customer's hip pocket was a beef patty burger with egg (a Sunrise Burger), which will set you back \$8.

Liquid refreshments of beer, spirits and Oyster Bay wines complement a selection of hot drinks and tropical juices. Smoothie fans will relish a choice between smoothies made on yoghurt, ice cream or alternative milks. Low gluten, vegetarian and vegan options are also offered.

I enjoyed the friendly table service, which made for a refreshing change from the usual counter ordering systems, and I found the staff welcoming and attentive, with smiles all around. With prices and selections like these and convenient shaded parking available right at the door, I imagine it won't be long before there is a queue for tables.



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