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## DEUS EX MACHINA: MEET THE MIGHTY MACHINES THAT MAKE LIFE GRAND

These days, if you want something done, chances are there's a machine to do it for you. They're often whirring away in the background, doing their jobs without complaint (hopefully!) and making our lives easier, and we generally take them for granted.

This month, Redlands Coast Museum is celebrating the magic of machines with its Mighty Machines Day, where history steams back to life through an impressive assembly of powerful machines.

Museum visitors can explore the elegant ironwork of an 1864 Albion printing press, experience the raw power of a 1900 Garrett steam engine, get up close to vintage cars, quarry giants and fire trucks. How cool is that?

The event is a live tribute to the machines that have built communities and connected generations. The people who preserve them – restorers, volunteers, enthusiasts – will share their passion and the stories behind these remarkable creations at the Mighty Machines Day on Redlands' Ekka Monday holiday. Find out more on page 7.

We hope you love reading about your community in this edition, and find something that opens a window to a new part of the Redlands.

*Pictured: Stephen York and Ian Munday at Redlands Coast Museum.*

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# ART TAKES OVER STRADDIE IN SPECTACULAR OPEN-AIR SHOWCASE!

BY ASHLEIGH HOWARTH

For one colourful weekend, North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah) won't just be a beach paradise – it will become one giant creative playground.

From open studios and beachside pop-ups to live art, photography, music, design, workshops and unexpected creative spaces, this year's Straddie Arts Trail invites locals and visitors to discover the island through the eyes of its artists.

Held across three big days from August 14 to 16, the trail encompasses the townships of Dunwich (Goombi), Amity Point (Pulan Pulan), and Point Lookout (Mooloomba), and will feature more than 65 artists across 35 stops, promising an immersive celebration of creativity, community and the laidback spirit that makes Straddie unlike anywhere else.

For resident artist, writer and filmmaker Trish Lake, the arts trail is one of her favourite events of the year, and one that changed her life.

After attending previous arts trails as a visitor, Trish exhibited for the first time last year, taking the leap from hobby artist to professional creative.

"Like other artists, I have spent a lifetime making art, but never

considered it being more than just a hobby until I became involved with the Straddie Arts Trail," she said.

"That was the trigger for me to cross the line and move from hobby artist to someone who could put together a body of work and sell some paintings.

"I was so shocked when I sold a painting on the first day, and close to 20 over the course of the weekend.

"If it hadn't been for the Straddie Arts Trail, I doubt I would have taken that extra leap. I can honestly say it has changed my life."

This year, Trish returns to the trail with renewed confidence, exhibiting her watercolours, pastels and acrylics at Stop 11 as part of the exhibition Sojourns and Seascapes, where she will be joined by four other creatives whose careers span filmmaking, writing, illustration, media, environmental advocacy and education.

Other highlights of the trail include artworks at the QUAMPI, Quandamooka Arts and Cultural Centre, a film night at Straddie Brewing Co, exploring the island's rich history, culture and creativity at the North Stradbroke Island Museum, plus more.

"The island is home to many incredible and inspiring artists, so make



Pictured: Artist Trish Lake is once again looking forward to showcasing her artwork at this year's Straddie Arts Trail. Photo: Supplied.

sure you come on over and immerse yourself in the beauty and creativity of Straddie."

For more information, visit [www.iamstraddie.com.au](http://www.iamstraddie.com.au). Updates about specific events will also be shared on the Straddie Arts Festival Facebook and Instagram pages.

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# LOCAL KINDNESS NEEDS A HOME – CAN YOU LEND A HAND TO HELP?

Bay Islands Kindness Inc. was established with a simple but powerful purpose: to lift the island community through kindness by providing access to donated food, clothing, household essentials, basic disability aids, and other necessities to residents experiencing hardship.

The organisation also creates opportunities for connection, inclusion, and community participation through programs, events, and activities. The home for this heart-warming enterprise has been a rent-free cottage on Macleay Island – but things are changing, and the Bay Islands Kindness management team is sending out an urgent appeal.

“The owner of the cottage intends to sell the property,” says Natalie Lutter, president of Bay Islands Kindness.

“While we are incredibly grateful for the generosity shown to us over the years, we now face the very real possibility of losing a place where people can come together without judgement, practical support is distributed, volunteers connect, and new community initiatives are born.”

The team is reaching out in the hope that a community individual or organisation may be able to assist by providing a suitable property, financial support, grants, sponsorship, or fundraising opportunities.

“This cottage has become much more than a building,” says Natalie.

“It is a safe, welcoming and peaceful community hub where friendships have formed, vulnerable community members have found support, and future projects have begun to take shape. It is a valuable community asset for those who need it most.”

If you can help, contact the team via email at bayislandskindness@gmail.com.



Photo: Supplied.

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# ORMISTON TO HOST 2026 OPEN WOMEN'S STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Ormiston will take centre stage this September as the Redlands Softball Association hosts the 2026 Open Women's State Softball Championships, welcoming elite players from across Queensland for one of the nation's premier softball events.*

Softball was developed in Chicago in 1887 by George Hancock, who originally called it "indoor baseball". It started as an impromptu game with a folded-up boxing glove as a ball, hit with a broomstick. The game underwent several name changes (mush ball, big ball, town ball, recreation ball, playground ball), moved outdoors, and saw changes to the ball (bigger and softer than a baseball), the bat (slightly thinner and longer), and the diamond (considerably smaller). Baseball was pitched overhand; "softball" was pitched underhand – and a new game was born. It reached Australia in the 1930s, and Softball Australia currently boasts 50,000 members.

Tony McKell, president of the Redlands Softball Association and a director of Softball Qld., started playing at the age of six.

"My parents played, my wife and our children play, her parents played – there's something for everybody," he says.

"Our State reps are playing A-grade, and there's C-grade for people who've never played before. Anyone of any ability, age or gender can play – four-year-olds up to 80-year-olds; people with injuries or

permanent disabilities. Redlands Softball Association was the first Australian club to develop and introduce walking softball, and every Wednesday, elderly players with movement restrictions take to the field."

Women's softball has been included in the Olympic program from 1996 to 2008 and then again from 2020 onwards.

Closer to home, the 2026 Open Women's State Softball Championships, one of the biggest events of its kind in Australia, will be played at Redlands Softball Association in Ormiston from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 September.

Spectators can expect some exciting competition.

"There will probably be about half a dozen under-18 State players, all of the under-23 State players, and probably 50 to 60 current or ex-Queensland players," says Tony.

"There will be teams from all over Queensland at a quality we haven't seen for 20 years. There are no clear favourites; any one of six teams could win."

As an added special feature, this year marks the Redlands Softball Association's 50th anniversary, so any additions to the trophy cabinet would be warmly welcomed.



Photos: Supplied.



## DEON LACY REDLANDS PROPERTY REPORT

AUGUST 2026 Your monthly update on the Redlands property market, development activity and local opportunities

### MARKET – KNOW THE NUMBERS



MEDIAN HOUSE PRICE  
**\$1,180,000**



ANNUAL GROWTH  
**22%**



MEDIAN DAYS ON MARKET  
**27 DAYS**



HOUSES SOLD – 12MONTHS  
**318**



CURRENT HOUSES FOR SALE  
**870**

Source: PriceFinder & REA Insights - Redlands Coast - June 2026

### SELLING HINTS

#### FIRST IMPRESSIONS MATTER

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### COMMUNITY CORNER



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If you're looking for something to do locally, check out The Community Leader's What's On page here and online.

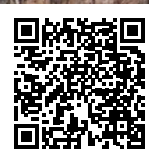
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MORE ABOUT  
**WHAT'S ON**



Brian and Lorraine from One Agency



11 AUG



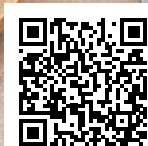
## RANGER STACEY'S JOEY CLUB

Tuesday August 11, 9:00am to 10:00am, IndigiScapes, Runnymede Road, Capalaba

Ranger Stacey invites young nature lovers to a lively morning of wildlife discovery. Children will bellow like koalas, flap like birds and hop like kangaroos before enjoying story time and a sensory bushwalk to uncover natural wonders along the trail. Designed for children aged 0 to six, this interactive experience encourages curiosity and care for the environment. All children must be accompanied by an adult, and tickets are required for adults and kids. Participants are reminded to wear sun-safe clothing, bring a hat, and carry a water bottle. For tickets, scan the QR code.



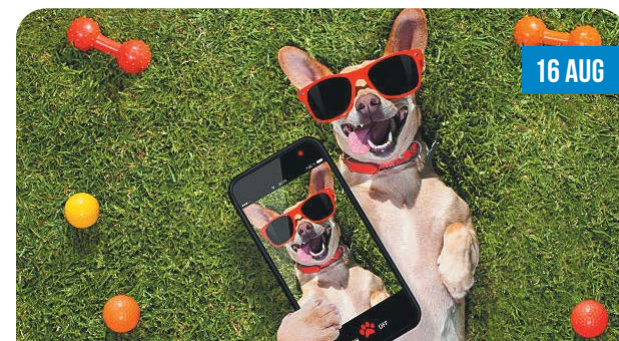
15 AUG



## SPOON CARVING WORKSHOP

Saturday August 15, 10:00am to 2:00pm, Redlands Coast Museum, 60 Smith Street, Cleveland

Discover the timeless art of wood carving at the Spoon Carving Workshop at Redlands Coast Museum. Perfect for beginners aged 16 and over, this hands-on experience teaches traditional carving techniques using hand tools, with step-by-step guidance from experienced instructors. Participants will create their own handcrafted wooden spoon to take home while learning safe carving practices in a relaxed and supportive setting. Morning tea and museum entry are included, making it a rewarding day of creativity, craftsmanship and heritage. Tickets are \$145 for museum members and \$155 for non-members. Bookings are essential as places are limited. Scan the QR code to book.



16 AUG

## PUPPYPALOOZA: PUPS AT THE PUB MARKET

Sunday August 16, 8:00am to 2:00pm, Grand View Hotel, 49 North Street, Cleveland

Redlands Coast Collective Markets presents its ever-popular pup-up market, PuppyPalooza, for humans and their furry best friends, at the Grand View Hotel this August. Browse pet product stalls, indulge in food and drinks, meet fellow dog lovers and enter your furry friend in fun competitions. With a pet photographer, Insta-worthy photo opportunities and plenty of treats and activities for pups and their humans, it's the perfect outing for anyone who loves four-legged companions. If you'd like to book a table for a meal, visit the Grand View's website or give them a call in advance to secure your place.



26 AUG

## A TASTE OF IRELAND

Wednesday August 26, performances at 3:30pm and 7:30pm, RPAC, Middle Street, Cleveland

Direct from Off-Broadway and London's West End, the internationally acclaimed *A Taste of Ireland – The Irish Music & Dance Sensation* returns to Australia in 2026 for a strictly limited tour. Featuring former World Irish Dance champions and performers from *Lord of the Dance*, *Riverdance* and *Éireann*, this spectacular production combines live music, breathtaking dance, Irish humour and beloved Celtic classics in a high-energy celebration of Ireland's rich culture. For tickets, go to [rpac.com.au](http://rpac.com.au).



29 AUG

## TWILIGHT MAKERS MARKET

Saturday August 29, 4:00pm to 8:00pm, Raby Bay Harbour Park, Cleveland

Set against the picturesque waterfront of Raby Bay Harbour Park, the Twilight Makers Market returns this August for a relaxed evening of creativity, community and coastal charm. This popular monthly gathering brings together more than 60 talented local artisans showcasing handmade goods, alongside a tempting lineup of food trucks and live music. With its vibrant yet laid-back vibe, it's the perfect way to spend a winter's evening by the bay.



29 AUG

## GV FEST

Saturday August 29, Grand View Hotel, 49 North Street, Cleveland

Billed as a "one-day, one-night" celebration, the Grand View Hotel's GV Fest raises a glass and says "cheers" to 175 years of the hotel's history. Free entry to the daytime festival is on offer from 11am, with a ticketed outdoor concert at 5:00pm starring pop sensation Vanessa Amorosi. As Queensland's oldest pub, the Grand View invites the community to come together to celebrate its incredible legacy as a local watering hole that brings generations together. And absolutely everybody's welcome!

# DEUS EX MACHINA – MIRACLES FROM THE MACHINES AT REDLANDS COAST MUSEUM’S POWERFUL DISPLAY

BY JAN NARY

Machines have had a huge impact on civilisation. Some of those machines will have pride of place at the Redlands Coast Museum’s Mighty Machines Day on Redlands’ Ekka Holiday in a display that features vintage cars, tractors, windmills, a steam engine, a printing press and a motorail carriage.

Special guest displays will include modern and heritage waste management vehicles from JJ Richards, quarry trucks from Karreman Quarries, vintage cars from the Bayside Vehicle Restorers Club, a Barnes Auto tow truck and two fire trucks from the Queensland Fire Department.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to experience a flight simulator operated by the No. 23 (City of Brisbane) Squadron RAAF Association, offering a hands-on aviation experience for aspiring pilots and aviation enthusiasts alike.

The 1864 Albion printing press, a donation from the Queensland Museum, is under the care of restorer Ralph Gofton.

“It doesn’t require much maintenance; it’s a robust machine, and its ornamentation indicates how much pride went into its manufacture,”

Ralph says. “It works on the same principle as Gutenberg’s original printing press, where individual pieces of type were set into a frame and coated with ink and a sheet of paper was pressed evenly over the blocks by what’s basically a wine-press mechanism.”

Gutenberg’s invention marked the leap from laborious quill-pen copying done in religious chapels by priests to mass production of printed material. Interestingly, the printers’ union delegate in a workplace is still called “the chapel father”.

Ian Munday loves steam. He did his naval training on steamships and is the only museum volunteer with a steam operator’s ticket. Twenty years ago, he joined the Redlands Coast Museum to take care of the museum’s 1900 Garrett portable steam engine.

“It’s a power source for other machines,” he explains.

“It doesn’t run on rails; it has to be towed by a heavy horse team to where it’s needed, then the belt around its drive wheel can be connected to a water pump, a saw mill, a threshing machine – even a shearing shed.



Photo: Supplied.

“It came from a Roma property and needed to be re-tubed and restored. Usually, they run on steam from boiling water, but for museum demonstrations, we hook it up to an air compressor and run it on air. Steam is wonderful, but it can be dangerous.”

Mighty Machines will be on display on August 10 from 10:00am to 1:00pm at Redlands Coast Museum.



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2026–27

# BUDGET

**Delivering  
what matters**


## Deputy Mayor's message

On 30 June, Council adopted its 2026–2027 Budget during a time when many households across Redlands Coast continue to face cost-of-living pressures. We recognise these challenges and have worked hard to ensure this Budget balances the needs of our community both individually and collectively; taking care today while planning for the future.

This Budget is guided by what our community has told us matters most: reliable essential services, well-maintained infrastructure, vibrant community spaces, protection of our natural environment, and a Council that manages public funds responsibly and respectfully.

Importantly, Council is investing in maintaining and renewing the infrastructure our community relies on, helping ensure Redlands Coast remains a safe, connected and liveable place.

The Budget includes a \$136.2 million investment in roads, water and wastewater infrastructure and other capital works.

It also continues support for valued services like disaster preparedness, community facilities, libraries and environmental programs.

Importantly, pensioner concessions and rebates of \$335 per year for a full pensioner and \$167.50 for a part-pensioner continue, with \$4.2 million in total pensioner concessions and rebates budgeted this financial year.

While the cost of delivering services continues to rise, Council has taken a disciplined approach to financial management, identifying efficiencies and absorbing approximately \$14.5 million in inflation costs that would otherwise have been passed on to ratepayers.

Unlike many neighbouring councils, Redland City Council relies heavily on residential rates to fund services and infrastructure. We do not have the large commercial and industrial revenue base enjoyed by some other local government areas.

Some difficult decisions have been required, but they have been made with a clear focus on delivering value for money and protecting the services and infrastructure that residents depend upon.

This is a responsible and balanced Budget that reflects Council's commitment to listening to the community, managing resources wisely and delivering what matters most for Redlands Coast.



**Cr Julie Talty**  
**Deputy Mayor of Redland City**  
**Email: [mayor@redland.qld.gov.au](mailto:mayor@redland.qld.gov.au)**



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2026–27 budget**



# BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



## Core water, wastewater and waste win big

Council's commitment to core services continues in 2026–27, with critical water, wastewater and waste projects allocated nearly one-third – \$39.34 million – of the entire capital works budget.

Water mains will be replaced in Dunwich and Birkdale and a comprehensive program will see old water meters across the city replaced with new.

We'll also see refurbished sewer maintenance manholes across the city,

and upgraded electrical switchboards at sewage pump stations in Ormiston, Victoria Point and Cleveland.

Work on the critical environmental rehabilitation program at Judy Holt Park in Birkdale will continue, and stormwater upgrades at Birkdale Recycling and Waste Centre will improve stormwater flows and operational efficiency. An additional general waste bin bay at our Russell Island Recycling and Waste Centre will improve capacity and support growth.

## All roads lead to home

Council's commitment to keeping our city connected is reflected by a \$46.33 million investment in targeted transport upgrades that will help smooth the way.

On our Southern Moreton Bay Islands, the Greenseal program continues, with 12 roads set to be upgraded. This builds on the great work from last year where we 'greensealed' nearly 30 roads.

Our cycling and pedestrian network will see expansion of the Moreton Bay Cycleway in Redland Bay and planning for an upgrade to the Hilliards Creek pedestrian bridge in Ormiston. In addition, more than 20 footpath improvement projects will complement our day-to-day maintenance work to help ensure everyone can get around more easily and safely.

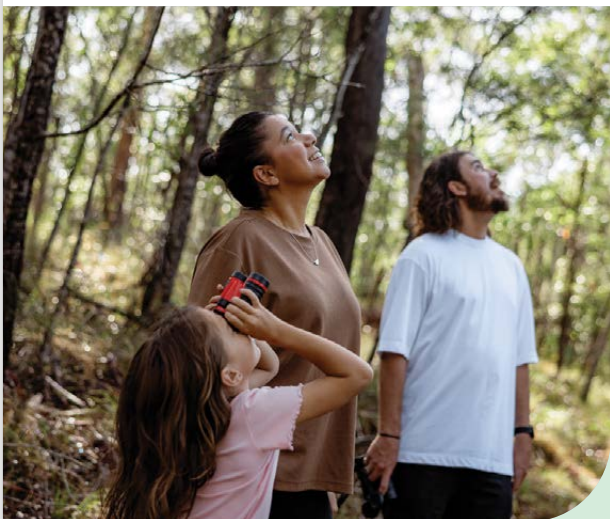


## Helping community initiatives thrive

Community-led initiatives enrich Redlands Coast, so Council has a grants program to help ensure their success.

Grants are available for not-for-profit organisations for a wide range of activities, including events, economic development, cultural heritage, creative arts, environment and conservation, community and sport and recreation.

See what grants are available



## We hear you – green spaces matter!

We hear you loud and clear Redlands Coast – you love your parks, open spaces and conservation areas, so this year we've invested \$10.3 million towards improvements including a new, city-wide proactive tree management program.

In addition, the skate and BMX facilities at William Taylor Memorial Sports Field in Thorneside and Cascade Park in Victoria Point are being upgraded and at Orchid Drive Park in Mount Cotton and Ribonwood Street Park in Thornlands we'll see modern play equipment with shade.

Budget has also been allocated towards the environmental programs you've told us matter, like Council's koala conservation work.

## Everyday maintenance



468,000  
community assets



1300 km  
road network



6500  
hectares of  
open spaces



320  
conservation  
areas



230  
playgrounds



33  
dog off-leash  
areas



376  
parks



25  
sports parks



112  
bookable spaces



7  
libraries



1217 km  
wastewater  
network



8  
wastewater  
treatment plants



1325 km  
water network



3 active cemeteries  
1 memorial garden



120,000 tonnes  
of waste and recycling  
managed



Redland Performing  
Arts Centre, Redland  
Art Gallery, Redlands  
IndigiScapes Centre

# Maggie's Mates

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Photo: Supplied.

**What's your name?** Hi, I am Laszlo.

**Where do you live?** I live in Tingalpa with my sibling Duke and my new family.

**How long have you lived there?** Duke and I are the new kids on the block! We've been in our new home for just a few weeks.

**What's your favourite time of day?** Playtime, which is all day! Duke and I play, wrestle, eat, and pass out for a micro-nap. Then we do it again and again!

**What is your most treasured toy?** Colourful springs! I may be little, but I have excellent spring juggling and fetching skills. Actually, no...now that I think about it, my favourite toy is (biting) my brother.

**What is your favourite food?** I'm a Maine Coon, and I have a lot of growing to do, so my favourite food is everything! Mum says I'm like a dog in that way, which is just rude.

**What's your worst habit?** I like stinky stuff... I like to sniff and chew on feet, and I sleep on dirty clothes.

**Your favourite local hangout?** Wherever my brother Duke is!

**Who is your best doggo friend?** I've been getting to know my new big sister, Kona! You may have seen her in the comics sometimes; she's big but really nice.

**Do you have any funny or embarrassing stories?** Mum bought some robo-fish from the toy store...but they were so real they scared me! It's embarrassing enough to be afraid of a tiny fish, but it wasn't even real!

**What do people love most about you?** I'm a little shy – but I'm very brave! And I love cuddles and brushes.

**Laszlo's favourite charity is Little Paws Kitten Rescue, and we have made a \$50 donation on his behalf.**



Would you like your best mate to be featured in Maggie's Mates? Email us at [sales@market2market.com.au](mailto:sales@market2market.com.au) and we'll send you a questionnaire. We will donate \$50 to a registered animal charity of your choice for each profile published in The Community Leader.



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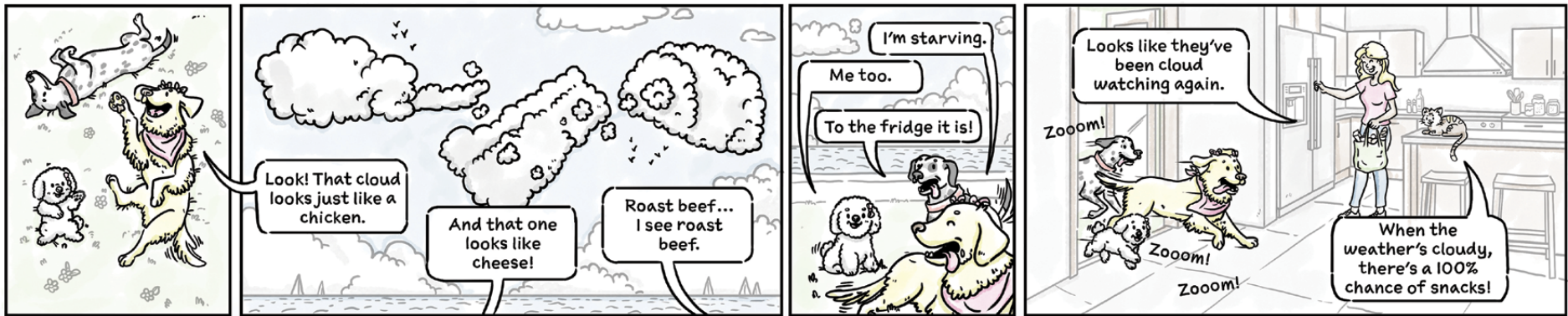
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# MISS MAGGIE OF MANLY



## TIPS FOR INTRODUCING A NEW KITTEN TO YOUR HOUSEHOLD

BY DR NICKY THOMAS, WYNNUM MANLY VETERINARY HOSPITAL

A new kitten can make a lovely addition to your family. There are several factors to consider to ensure you are properly prepared to help your kitten settle into your home.



### KITTEN PROOFING YOUR HOME

- Remove any toxic plants from your home. There are a number of plants that are toxic to cats, notably lilies.
- Keep dangerous chemicals and medications stored safely out of reach.

- Keep electrical cables covered or tied away with cable ties and use plug socket covers.
- Keep small objects, strings, plastic bags, foam and hair ties well out of reach.

### KITTEN PROOFING YOUR GARDEN

- Ensure fences and gates are high enough to keep cats confined to your yard and ensure any holes are filled.
- Remove toxic garden plants.
- Keep cats away from ponds and water features.
- Store dangerous items such as fertiliser, insecticides, paint and solvents in a secure location.

### MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED TO MEET THE KITTEN'S NEEDS

Items you will need for a new kitten include:

- Bedding.
- A secure carry case for trips in the car.
- Bowls for food and water.
- Food. Find out what food your kitten has been fed prior to joining your home and continue to feed this at least initially. If you are planning to change your kitten's food, do so gradually to prevent stomach upsets. Choose a food appropriate for your kitten's growth stage.
- Litter tray.
- Cleaning equipment – an enzyme-based cleaner can be useful for cleaning up any accidents.
- Grooming equipment.

### PREPARE FAMILY AND OTHER PETS TO MEET YOUR NEW KITTEN

- Ask family to let the kitten approach them rather than rushing and crowding them. Encourage gentle handling of your kitten, especially by children.
- Give your kitten a quiet place to rest – kittens can sleep for 20 hours a day!
- Allow your kitten to see other pets from a distance before introducing them. Keep dogs on a lead and give adult cats space to get away if they are overwhelmed.

Taking time to ensure you are well prepared and introducing a kitten carefully into your house can lead to a positive experience for everyone!

Daisy Layne

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# FAIR USE SYSTEM FOR COUNCIL’S MAINLAND RECYCLING AND WASTE CENTRES

FROM REDLAND CITY COUNCIL

**Redland City Council is reshaping the way mainland Recycling and Waste Centres (RaWCs) are managed to create a fairer system that will help to mitigate rising waste costs and reduce overall pressure on Council’s waste utility charge.**

Under the system, which is due to take effect from 6 October 2026, residents will receive 12 free visits to the Redland Bay and Birkdale RaWCs each financial year for the disposal of general mixed waste (landfill) and green waste loads.

Unlimited free visits will still apply for the disposal of certain materials, including scrap metal, whitegoods, barbecue gas bottles, lead-acid batteries, household recyclables such as cardboard, and second-hand items that can be sold at RecycleWorld.

The disposal of asbestos and other hazardous waste types will also remain free for residents under the new system, subject to these loads complying with existing disposal requirements and conditions at the gate.

Fees will apply at all times for the disposal of bricks and concrete, clean soil, mattresses, timber, and tyres.

Introducing a new system will help to create more equitable use by ensuring that a resident pays their way when their vehicle exceeds 12 visits in a financial year and that this cost is not being unfairly passed on to other residents, especially where commercial waste is not declared.

Under previous access arrangements, people could use a RaWC more than 100 times without paying any more in their waste utility charge than those visiting only a couple of times per year.

The importance of an equitable access system was demonstrated in a recent Council audit, which found that nine per cent of visitors to the mainland facilities accounted for about 40 per cent of the landfill and green waste received, with some vehicles dumping several tonnes of waste each year.

Council’s modelling data also demonstrates that there are more vehicles accessing Council’s waste facilities than there are residential premises on Redlands Coast.

The new access model will more closely align Council’s policies and systems with other local governments in south-east Queensland, with some using a voucher system and others charging a fee at the gate.

Importantly, the disposal of recyclables will not count towards the 12-visit allowance when brought to a RaWC on their own, ensuring residents can continue their efforts to recycle as much as possible.

Across the past 10 years, the cost of providing waste and recycling services to the Redlands Coast community has increased by more than 150 per cent.

These costs are expected to continue rising above inflation with the Queensland Government’s planned increase to the waste levy and a reduction in the levy rebate.

Introducing a fairer system for access to RaWCs is one of the ways Council is helping to keep the waste utility charge as low as possible as these costs increase.

With the data showing that only nine per cent of people are currently going over the 12-visit allowance, the majority of households will not be impacted by this change and can continue using the facilities as they always have.

The changes do not apply to RaWCs on the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, Coochiemudlo Island and North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah), with these facilities to maintain the same arrangements already in place.

Exemptions to the new fees will apply in certain circumstances, such as for declared storm or disaster clean ups, or where an application is lodged for the one-off disposal of waste from a deceased estate.

Commercial operators and non-residents will continue to be charged at the gate for all waste.

The Mainland Recycling and Waste Centre Residential Allowances and Fees are outlined in Redland City Council’s Register of Fees for the 2026–2027 financial year, which is available on Council’s website.

Residential ID and proof of address is required to be shown on entry to RaWCs, with visits to be counted per registered passenger vehicle.

The gatehouse operator will advise drivers how many free visits have been used.

For further information about the changes, search ‘Redland residential waste allowances’.

## New residential waste fees and allowances

**From 6 October 2026 at Birkdale and Redland Bay recycling and waste centres**

All households on Redlands Coast pay the same waste charge as part of their rates to support our recycling and waste centres. However, usage varies: 91% of vehicles visit fewer than 12 times per year, while the remaining 9% who visit more than 12 times generate more than 41% of the landfill and green waste received.

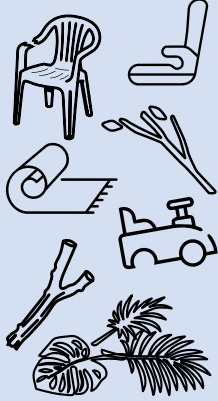
We are making it **more fair for most people** by introducing a 12-free-visit allowance and fees for items that cost us more to dispose of.

**Scan the QR code to find out more**



### 12 FREE VISITS\*

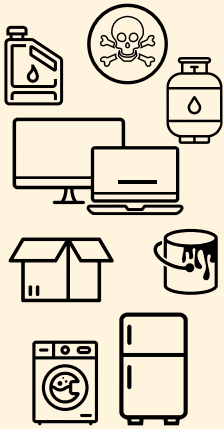
For loads of landfill (mixed waste) and green waste



\*Per passenger vehicle per financial year for Redland City residents – ID must be shown. After 12th visit: fees payable.

### UNLIMITED FREE VISITS

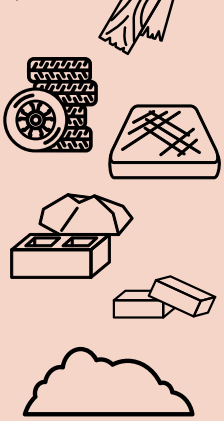
Recyclables, asbestos and hazardous waste\*\*



\*\*Within current limits and disposal requirements

### FEES FOR ALL VISITS

Bricks and concrete  
Clean soil  
Mattresses  
Timber  
Tyres



# FLOWER POWER TO BLOOM ACROSS REDLANDS IN AID OF DAFFODIL DAY

BY ASHLEIGH HOWARTH

Volunteers from the Cancer Council Queensland Redlands Branch will be painting the town yellow this month as they rally community support for one of the organisation’s most recognised fundraising campaigns – Daffodil Day.

Held annually in August, Daffodil Day raises funds for life-saving cancer research plus vital services for the more than 33,000 Queenslanders diagnosed each year.

According to Cancer Council Queensland, one in two people will receive a cancer diagnosis by the age of 85.

Redlands Branch volunteer Jill Watson is encouraging residents to dig deep and support the appeal, saying every dollar makes a huge difference.

“Our volunteers will once again be at Alexandra Hills Shopping Centre, Birkdale Fair Shopping Centre, Capalaba Park Shopping Centre and Victoria Point Shopping Centre on August 20 and 21 from 8:30am to 3:30pm, so please pop down and say ‘hello,’” she said.

“We’ll be selling big beautiful bunches of daffodils, along with merchandise including teddy bears, magnets, pens and keyrings.

“We’ll also have our homemade daffodil cookies available again after they proved so popular last year.”

The Redlands community has a strong track record of supporting the campaign, with volunteers raising \$15,000 during last year’s appeal.

“All money raised will go towards cancer research aimed at improving treatments and finding a cure, as well as funding accommodation centres for people travelling from regional areas for treatment, free transport to medical appointments, counselling services through the Cancer Council helpline, and the organisation’s wig service,” she said.

“We were thrilled with the support we received in 2025 and we’re hoping the community will get behind us once again this year to match or even beat that figure.

“People should also keep an eye out for additional pop-up stalls at local businesses and coffee shops that we might do throughout the month.”

For more information or to make a donation online, visit <https://www.daffodilday.com.au/fundraising/qld>



Pictured: Volunteers from the Cancer Council Queensland Redlands Branch will pop up once again in local shopping centres to help raise money for Daffodil Day. Photo: Supplied.

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## Funding stronger communities and events

Council offers two key grant programs to support grassroots community initiatives and larger-scale events. These programs are designed to strengthen local connections, celebrate our unique identity, and build a vibrant and thriving Redlands Coast.

**Events on Redland Coast Grant Program**

For events that engage locals, attract visitors and boost the economy.

**Stronger Communities Grant Program**

For projects that improve wellbeing, inclusion and long-term community outcomes.

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For more information, eligibility criteria, guidelines and applications scan the QR code or visit [redland.qld.gov.au/grants](https://redland.qld.gov.au/grants)

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13

# ARE YOU A FUTURE SPORTING CHAMPION WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED?

CONTRIBUTED BY THE QUEENSLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT

The Queensland Academy of Sport (QAS) is searching for Queensland's next generation of sporting stars, and you – or someone you know – could be one of them. If you dream of becoming an Olympian or Paralympian, this is your chance to take the first step.

YouFor2032 is Queensland's biggest athlete talent search, designed to uncover young Queenslanders with the raw ability to shine on the world stage. Whether you've got speed, power, endurance, or strength, the QAS wants you to put your potential to the test.

Led by the Queensland Academy of Sport, YouFor2032 connects emerging athletes with expert coaches, high performance pathways, and the support needed to succeed. No matter where you live – city, regional, or remote – this program could be the beginning of your journey to represent Australia.

If you're aged 13 to 23 for Olympic sports, or 13-plus for Paralympic sports, download the new app, driven by RACQ, at [qasport.com.au](http://qasport.com.au)

You can also register for a local testing event here by scanning the QR code.

Dates for local testing events are:

- Thursday 6th August – Logan
- Friday 7th August – North Brisbane
- Saturday 8th August – Brisbane
- Sunday 9th August – Brisbane



Photo: Supplied.

# CAMERATA PRESENTS SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW...

"The crux of good music programming is having the audience at the centre of your thinking, having them involved in the music; ask yourself, how would I respond to this?"

Violinist Brendan Joyce knows what he's talking about. As orchestra leader of Camerata, in the last 15 years he has earned national acclaim – and an impressive number of awards – for the group. Brendan embraces the old and the new, but says that making programming choices that will satisfy already committed and newly interested audiences is a challenge.

"Contrast is an effective tool," he says. "In Bach's time they were only playing music of their time, as it was being written. Now we play everything from Bach's time, and everything that's been written since then. I'm a committed believer in the ongoing trajectory of the art form, and that means addressing the new – but sometimes new music can be a bit confronting!"

"We always try to do everything really well with great enthusiasm and full commitment. Even if some members of the audience don't like the piece you're playing, they'll appreciate the musicians' enthusiasm. Camerata is an unconduted orchestra; reduced leadership empowers players so that

we can better inspire audiences. It's like a family – occasional arguments and a lot of joyful times."

Brendan has a storehouse of musical gems waiting to be included in the right program.

"I have lists," he says, "lots of backs of envelopes floating around the house and the office and the back of the car and on my 'phone – and I'm often prey to the 'driveway moment', when you're listening to the radio and you just have to pull over into a driveway to find out what an amazing piece of music is called."

Brendan has degrees from both Australia and America and has studied both styles of music.

"My own musical upbringing was in north Queensland, where I was – so to say – the only violinist in the village."

Camerata's performance at RPAC will be held on August 21, featuring guest keyboardist Anthony Romaniuk with a mixed program ranging from Bach to Brubeck. For tickets, go to [rpac.com.au](http://rpac.com.au).

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# WILLARD’S FARM: A LOT OF LOCAL HISTORY IN A SMALL PROPERTY

BY JAN NARY

**Little did James and Margaret Willard imagine that their small bark hut in the Birkdale bush would one day become a significant historic landmark. Settlers on land that had been lived on and utilised for centuries by the Quandamooka people, the Willards were granted full title in 1863, the first written evidence of that portion of the farm being allocated to a European settler.**

Kristianne Bucknell, Local History Advisor for Redland City Council, says that putting together the history of early white settlement is an exciting challenge.

“The next step for James Willard and his brother was a license to clear timber from the land, which they intended to use as a dairy farm. They had a sawpit on the land so they could fell and trim the timber, then send it down by bullock drag to the sawmill to be sold.

“South Sea Islanders were often brought to Australia under deceptive contracts, and we know that James Willard, who employed South Sea Islanders, was actually taken to court over such a pay dispute. There’s a lot of research still to be done, and it’s exciting to see that story unfold. There’s a potential local history research project for a university student!”

James and Margaret had 11 children. Family deaths, including James’, resulted in Margaret having to care for orphaned nieces and nephews, and in 1927 she converted the property to a share farm basis. The property changed hands in 1938 and again in 1941.

One of the notable people to live on the property – probably as an accepted squatter – was Isabella Alcock. Known locally as the Goat Lady, she was skilled in animal husbandry, and she and her mother ran a small dairy of goats and cows on the northern part of the land from about 1953. Kristianne says that Cleveland Library would love to hear from anyone with anecdotes, artefacts, or photos about the Goat Lady.

It gained distinction in WW2 as General MacArthur’s Radio Receiving Station, where the news was received that the Japanese Imperial forces had surrendered.

Council purchased the property in 2016, and after years of community advocacy, it was entered into the heritage register in 2022 and is now gradually being opened to the public.

The library’s local history team will give a presentation on this



Photo: Supplied.

fascinating site, with behind-the-scenes images and a special video walk-through of the property, on Saturday, 1 August, from 9:30am to 11:00am at Cleveland Library. The event is free; however, bookings are required.

# I DON’T WANT TO DIE IN MELBOURNE – A DOMESTIC CLASSIC REVIVED

**They’ve been friends for life. They’ve lived side-by-side in a suburban semi-detached since they were both newlyweds, shared the joys and sorrows of babies born and husbands lost, supported each other and shared secrets – but now things are changing. Nette’s mind is failing, Shirf’s health is in rapid decline, and while their families strive to “do what’s best,” the two women devise their own solution to the looming problem.**

Lorna Bol’s classic *I Don’t Want to Die in Melbourne* will be staged in her honour as a rehearsed reading by Theatre Redlands at Redlands Performing Arts Centre. It will honour Lorna, who died this year aged 102, and her canon of work for the stage. It will also celebrate the ongoing work of two actors who have devoted their professional lives to theatre, Penny Everingham and Kaye Stevenson. They have both been in previous productions of Lorna’s work and are delighted to be working together again.

“I’ve been in full productions of three of her plays since the 1970s: *Treadmill*, *But I’m Still Here*, and *I Don’t Want to Die in Melbourne*. Her ability as a playwright is to write about real people – usually women – in real situations, in a seemingly simple way. When you actually start working on her pieces, it strikes you that they speak the absolute truth about women being trapped in domestic situations beyond their control,” Kaye says, “and the strength of these women who in later decades could have fulfilled their potential in other ways.

“For an actor, the truth of Lorna’s writing, the opportunity to tell real stories about real people that you can identify with, their predicaments and commitment to family, the limits on women in the 1950s to the 1980s, is an absolute joy.”

Penny Everingham remembers meeting Lorna Bol in 2006.



Photos: Supplied.



“I’d suggested forming a collective of older actors; Erroll O’Neill christened it *The Forgetting of Wisdom*. Lorna was present at one of our early meetings when we were trying to co-write a script – with little success. Lorna disappeared and came back in no time at all with the script of *I Don’t Want to Die in Melbourne*. It was wonderful, written especially for us.

“I love doing Lorna’s plays; there are some very funny lines and the characters are real, individual people, not caricatures.”

As part of its ongoing partnership with RPAC, Theatre Redlands will present a rehearsed play reading of Lorna Bol’s *I Don’t Want to Die in Melbourne* on Friday, August 7 at 7:00pm. Entry is free; bookings are recommended.



REAL ESTATE NEWS & VIEWS

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| STATS FOR MARKET REPORT - AS AT 02.07.26 |          |                   |      |                   |        |                    |                   |
|------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|------|-------------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------|
| SUBURB                                   | FOR SALE | LAST MTH VARIANCE | SOLD | LAST MTH VARIANCE | % SOLD | AV. DAYS ON MARKET | MEDIAN SALE PRICE |
| VICTORIA POINT                           | 132      | 18                | 16   | 2                 | 12.12  | 18                 | \$1,174,500       |
| REDLAND BAY                              | 186      | 39                | 19   | -12               | 10.22  | 17                 | \$1,215,750       |
| THORNLANDS                               | 107      | 10                | 19   | 3                 | 17.76  | 14                 | \$1,237,500       |
| MOUNT COTTON                             | 18       | 1                 | 4    | 2                 | 22.22  | 20                 | \$1,244,500       |
| CLEVELAND                                | 112      | 13                | 16   | 0                 | 14.29  | 22                 | \$1,376,000       |
| ALEXANDRA HILLS                          | 43       | 0                 | 8    | 3                 | 18.60  | 11                 | \$1,112,500       |
| CAPALABA                                 | 84       | 22                | 8    | -6                | 9.52   | 9                  | \$1,125,000       |
| WELLINGTON POINT                         | 50       | 3                 | 6    | 1                 | 12.00  | 16                 | \$1,442,500       |
| BIRKDALE                                 | 79       | 21                | 8    | 0                 | 10.13  | 14                 | \$1,397,803       |
| THORNESIDE                               | 8        | 6                 | 2    | -1                | 25.00  | 27                 | \$1,368,750       |
| ORMISTON                                 | 53       | -5                | 8    | 2                 | 15.09  | 23                 | \$1,471,250       |
| SHELDON                                  | 4        | 0                 | 0    | -2                | 0.00   | 25                 | \$1,808,750       |
| REDLAND CITY TOTAL                       | 876      | 128               | 114  | -8                | 13.01  | 18                 | \$1,306,625       |

Stats sourced from realestate.com and Cotality.

REDLANDS MARKET WRAP - UP

Redland City has recorded 876 properties for sale as we launch into July, up 128 listings from the previous month. While 114 properties have sold, this is down 8 sales month-on-month. Buyer activity remained steady, although the increase in available stock indicates buyers will have more choice. There has also been an increase in listing supply which may contribute to a downward correction in property prices.

Buyer enquiries on listed properties in June declined by an estimated 30% across most property types, with buyer confidence also shifting in the past 4 weeks. This however could be short-lived as actual buyer demand still exists, and it is predicted that buyers will re-engage in purchasing as confidence stabilises.

Redland Bay saw the largest increase in new listings (+39), while Thornlands and Redland Bay recorded the highest number of sales (19 each). Mount Cotton, Thornlands and Alexandra Hills achieved the strongest sell-through rates, indicating relatively strong buyer demand compared to available stock.

The median sale price across Redland City was \$1,306,625, with Ormiston, Wellington Point and Birkdale continuing to command the highest prices.

Written by Dave Tidbold.

NEW GOV'T CHANGES  
- what they mean for you.

As of July 1, 2026, changes to Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006 mean that we now have a legal obligation to verify your identity before we can provide services to you.

- When we provide a service, you may be asked too:
- verify your identity before using our services.
  - explain how our services will be used.
  - verify who owns or controls an account or business.
  - keep your details up to date.
  - provide additional information where required.

- Collecting this information helps us to:
- protect customers and services from criminal abuse
  - support a safe and secure financial system
  - meet our legal obligations

These checks are a standard legal requirement and apply to many customers and services.

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📍 Saunders Beach

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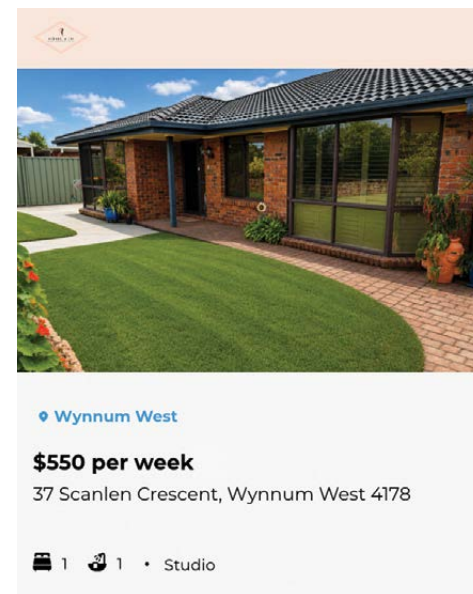
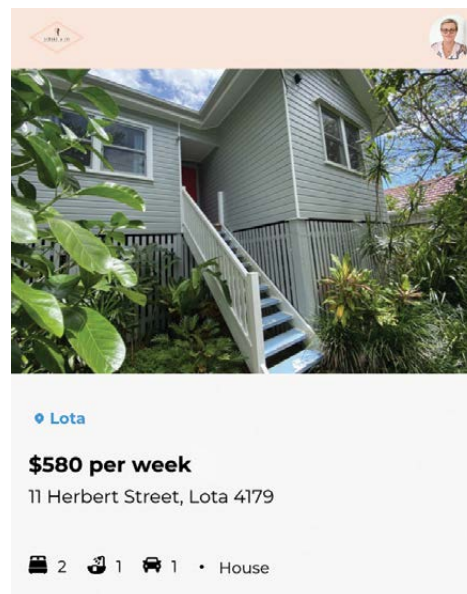
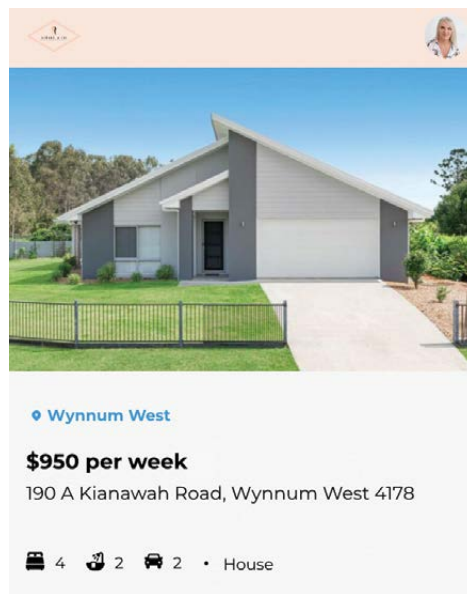
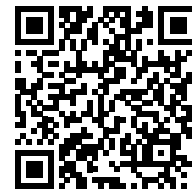
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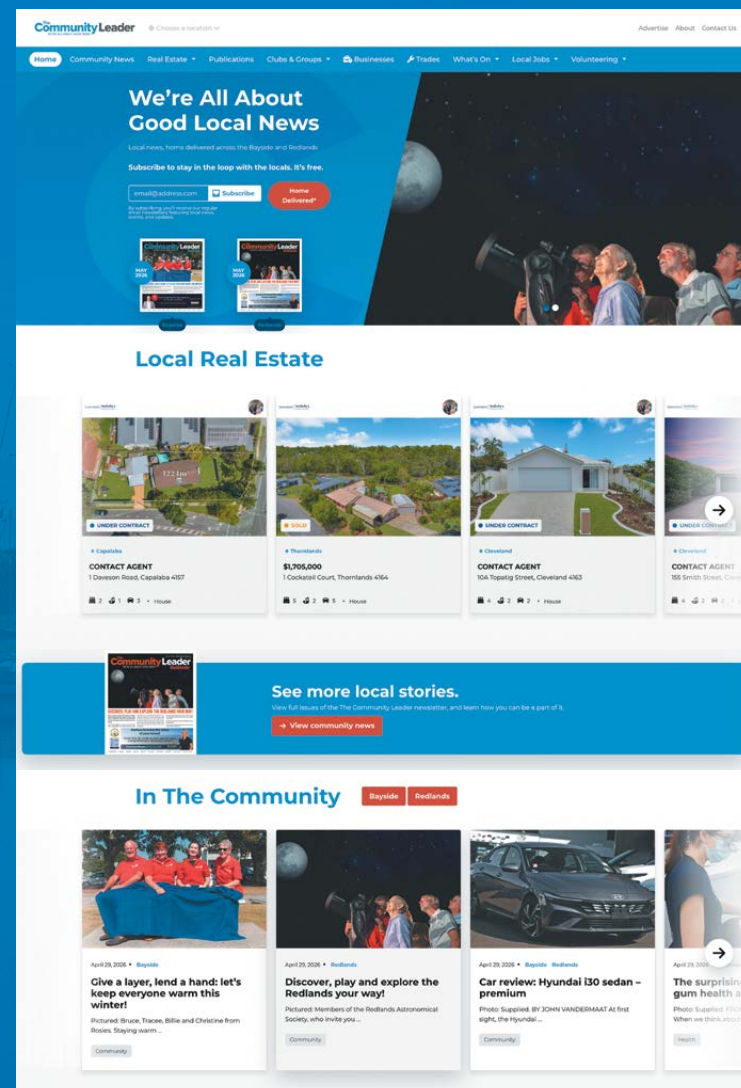
The **Community Leader** is not just another property portal, it's a trusted local hub where people find reliable community information, supported by one of Brisbane's largest print runs and home delivery\*. Our website content is focused on the corridor from **Mt Cotton to Camp Hill**, ensuring locals can easily access news and updates relevant to their area.

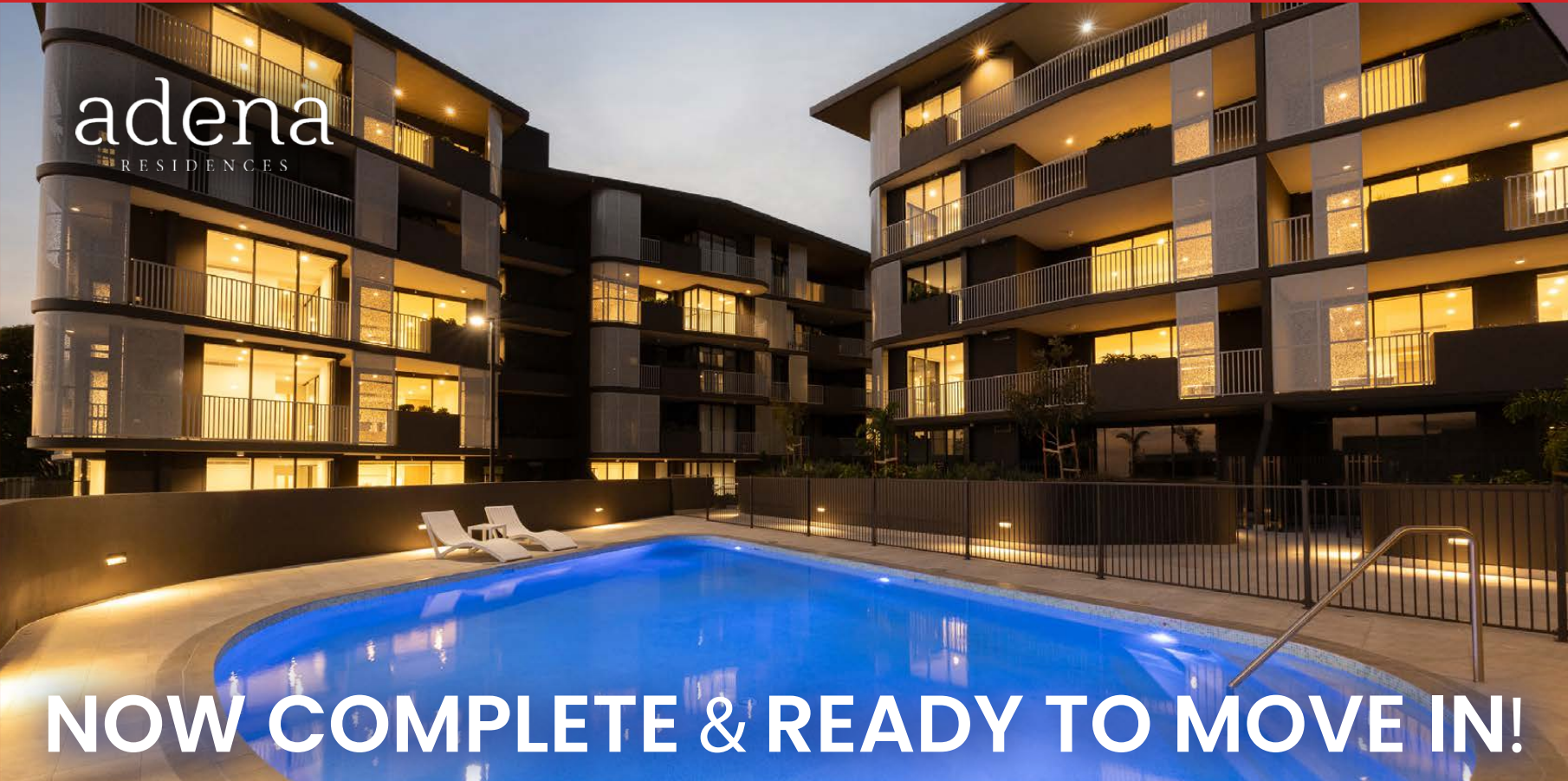
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# CORVETTES SET TO REV UP THE BAY FOR ANNUAL CAR SHOW

BY ASHLEIGH HOWARTH

**Car enthusiasts of all ages can expect a spectacular showcase of automotive history when some of the state's finest machines roll into Manly for the annual Corvettes on the Bay event.**

Hosted by the Queensland Corvette Club, around 65 vehicles are expected to fill George Clayton Park from 8:00am to 1:00pm on Sunday, August 23, giving the community the chance to admire everything from beautifully restored classics to modern performance cars.

On display will be an impressive lineup of Corvettes spanning decades – from the legendary C1, produced by Chevrolet between 1953 and 1962, through to the latest C8, which has been in production since 2020 – representing the eighth generation of the iconic model.

Queensland Corvette Club Secretary Mark Hall said the event will be a fun morning out for families.

“Whether you’re a lifelong enthusiast or just enjoy admiring beautiful cars, there’s something for everyone,” he said.

“Our members really enjoy events like this because it gives them a chance to show off their prized possessions and share the stories of their machines with fellow car lovers.

“This will be the fourth time we have held the event in Manly, and we look forward to it every year.”

Also joining the lineup will be a selection of muscle cars, including Mustangs and Pontiacs, courtesy of several invited car clubs.



Photos: Supplied.



The event also serves as a fundraiser for two worthy causes, with the club supporting Camp Quality and Rosies.

“These are two organisations we have supported for a number of years, and we are glad we can help them continue the great work they do,” Mark said.

“Rosies will be there on the day supporting the event and will have collection buckets available for anyone wishing to make a donation.”

Entry is free for spectators who would like to wander through the displays.

You can find George Clayton Park at 55 Upper Esplanade, Manly.

# ON TRACK: THE SHELDON LOGGERS’ CROSSING ACCIDENTAL FIND

CONTRIBUTED BY ADELIA BERRIDGE

**When a Redland City Council Biosecurity Officer came across what appeared to be an old log crossing on the upper reaches of Tingalpa Creek at the end of March 2021, he thought he’d come across an old timber-cutters’ crossing. He was right, and a 2002 aerial map showed a track through the thick bush east of the crossing, leading out to Avalon Road.**

In 1842, surveyors produced a map of the Moreton region, showing a track that led from Raby Bay in the east and west to Cowpers [Coopers] Plains and Ipswich. The track crossed Tunim [Tingalpa] Creek just north of a large waterhole, now thought to be part of the Leslie Harrison Reservoir.

A Mount Cotton Road Capalaba resident since the early 1900s, Iris Daley described the region in a 1994 oral history interview:

“Well, we were told that the Aboriginals used to come right up from way up Ipswich and further on, Beaudesert and that, because those lagoons never went dry. They were very deep. We used to swim in them, and you could be swimming along when, all of a sudden, it would get icy cold, which would indicate how deep it was.

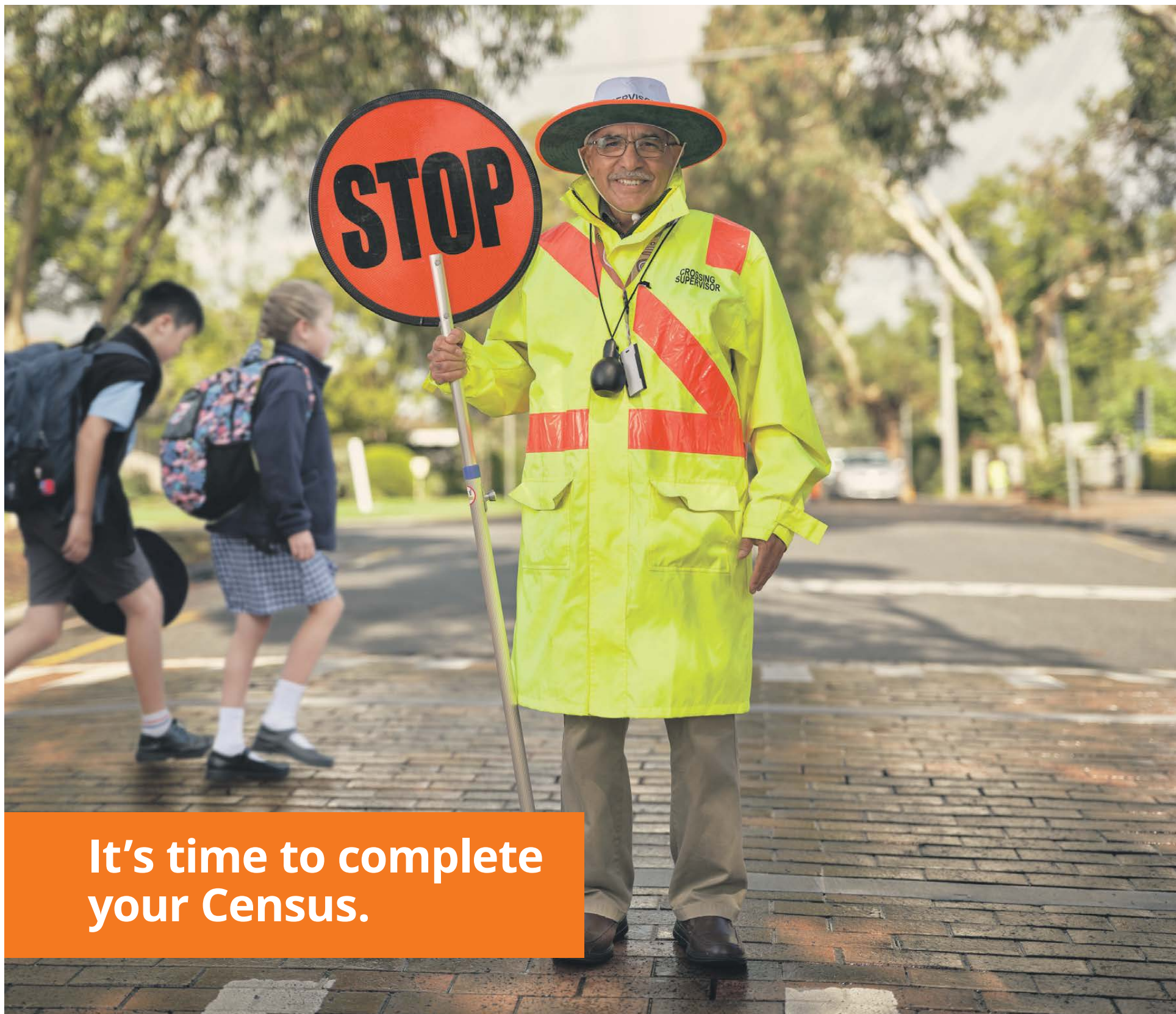
“We were told that Capalaba to the Aboriginals meant place of many waters. There were fish, mullet and perch; there were platypus. It was running water. Running creeks would run into the big lagoons and continue down to Tingalpa Creek eventually. Most of it is now underwater – there might be a little bit of it on the hillside, further up towards the Mt Gravatt/Capalaba Road, but most of it is now under water.”

The rediscovered crossing appears to be too far south to have been the early track crossing, and more likely to have been a timber-cutters’ crossing. The old track crossing is believed to have been near Allambie Crescent and Geldart Road.



James Campbell set up his first sawmill in 1876 on a 640-acre property that wrapped around land owned by McCaffrey. The road was known as Sawmill Road for almost a century, and in 1964 it was renamed Avalon Road. The sawmill on Wallaby Creek provided employment in the district.

In 1878, timber licences were issued to six local men. Timber milled at Campbell's was predominantly hardwood, and the sawn timber was taken by bullock wagon to the lower reaches of Tingalpa Creek, where it was loaded into cutters for delivery. Some of the timber from Campbell's mill was used in the construction of the penal colony at St Helena Island.



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# LOCAL RIDE HELPS EDUCATE ZAMBIA'S MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN

BY ASHLEIGH HOWARTH



Money raised from the Flip Flop 50 will help support children in Zambia have access to a quality education. Photos: Supplied.

**A new cycling event across Cleveland and North Stradbroke Island is aiming to turn pedal power into educational opportunities for vulnerable children in southern Africa, with organisers hoping to raise \$10,000.**

The inaugural Flip Flop 50 will see participants enjoy a scenic 50km ride from the Cleveland Train Station to the ferry terminal, where after arriving on Straddie, they will then ride to Point Lookout before swapping their cycling shoes for flip-flops to walk the scenic 1.2km boardwalk along the cliffs. After a sausage sizzle lunch, the group will then return to the mainland.

Hosted by the not-for-profit organisation Eagles Wings, volunteer Tiffany Sharp said the event was a fun and easy way for people to support quality education for kids in one of Zambia's poorest communities.

"The school we support was founded 20 years ago and is run by Zambians in Zambia, but with funding and guidance from a volunteer board in Australia," she said.

"The school is in a very poor area where families are unlikely to earn over \$2 a day, so for families to be able to send a child to school is nearly impossible without this funding.

"To support one child per month in school is around \$25, so with the goal of raising \$10,000, we will be able to cover the schooling fees for the new grade one class of 2027."

Through the generosity of others, Tiffany said the school is already seeing positive changes in the community.

"Children who attend school are more likely to avoid teenage pregnancies and be able to find work, which means they can then support their families as they grow older," she said.

"We're now seeing generational change where past students have graduated from university and are back in the community as teachers, nurses and administrators, keen to influence the next generation."



While the organisation hosts multiple events across the country, starting a new fundraising day in The Redlands was important to the organisation.

"North Stradbroke Island is an absolutely stunning place to run an event, and since our postal address is based in the Redlands area, it made sense to host an event here," she said.

Entry is \$50 per person, which covers insurance, a ride leader and the sausage sizzle, with each participant also encouraged to raise or donate \$50, which is tax deductible.

The day will begin at the Cleveland Train Station at 7:00am and finish at 5:30pm.

To register, visit <https://ew.org.au/adventure/flip-flop-50/>

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# LOCAL FISHING WITH SPERO

## WINTER’S BEST BITES ARE HERE, BUT WATCH THOSE WESTERLIES!

BY SPERO KARTANOS

August is a great month for fishing, but it’s just damn cold!

The sad news is that the closure for snapper is in place until August 15, which means it’s off the menu for most of this month. But no problem – the whiting, school mackerel, flathead, cuttlefish and arrows will be in good numbers in the bay, so getting a fresh feed should be easy.

The whiting will be in close from Darcy Light, north and west of St Helena and Fisherman’s Gutter, and also in the Banana Banks and in the small ships passage. For bait, worms and prawns will work best.

School mackerel will be around the Hope Banks, Naval Banks, and closer in to shore. I usually have to fight off all the little ones, but the bigger mackerel will be there as well.

There will be plenty of flathead in close on the western side of the bay, and Tingalpa Creek should have some monsters lurking in the shallows.

The cuttlefish and arrows will be slowing down, but try fishing east of Ormiston, all the way east of Mud Island, at 25- to 40-ft depth.

And remember, please, that the big westerlies are not good for small boats, especially on the way back in, and nearly all of our tragedies in the bay in the past have occurred in westerly winds. It’s better to cancel a trip than drown.



Photos: Spero Kartanos.

# NATURALLY WONDERFUL ... WITH RANGER STACEY

RANGER STACEY THOMSON IS PRINCIPAL ADVISER – COMMUNITY EDUCATION (REDLAND CITY COUNCIL)

**I recently had the pleasure of guiding a group of curious community members on an early morning walk to King Island from Wellington Point Reserve. It was such a fantastic bunch of people that included a lady celebrating her birthday with family, an eager squad of homeschoolers, a couple of keen birdwatchers, a lady new to Australia, plus local residents who hadn’t yet seized the opportunity – until now!**

The walk to King Island is a unique adventure that must be experienced at low tide, when the one-kilometre sand bridge becomes exposed. On the day of our walk, we hadn’t even set foot on the sand, when one of the bird enthusiasts spotted an Australian hobby. This medium-sized falcon is not only striking in appearance but a skilled and speedy hunter. In fact, this handsome hobby is often perched in the same tree, scoping out the landscape below.

People have strolled out to King Island since at least the early 1900s, when promenading was a popular pastime. Then and now, the natural beauty of the marine environment continues to attract visitors. King Island – along with Green, St Helena, and Mud Islands – is part of a chain of islands that extend into central Moreton Bay.

Along the walk, shorebirds feast on a smorgasbord of seafood, such as crustaceans and beachworms, while crabs quickly disappear down tiny holes in the soft sand. This is more than a visual escapade, it’s a multi-sensory experience, from the gentle salty breeze on your skin to the distinctive clicking sounds of snapping shrimp hiding beneath the sand’s surface.

The ambience changes as you arrive on the tiny island. Precious mangroves hug the edges, while cotton trees (*Hibiscus tiliaceus*) and swamp oaks (*Casuarina glauca*) provide shelter and food for wildlife.

Surprisingly, King Island was home for the Phillips family for 16 months from December 1904. The family relocated from Hamilton after their daughter Jo contracted infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis), for which there was no treatment at the time. However, bathing daily in warm salty water was thought to be beneficial, so the family of nine, plus a maid, lived a simple island life. Mr. Phillips, a bank manager, commuted to Brisbane City each day while the three older children attended Wellington Point State School.



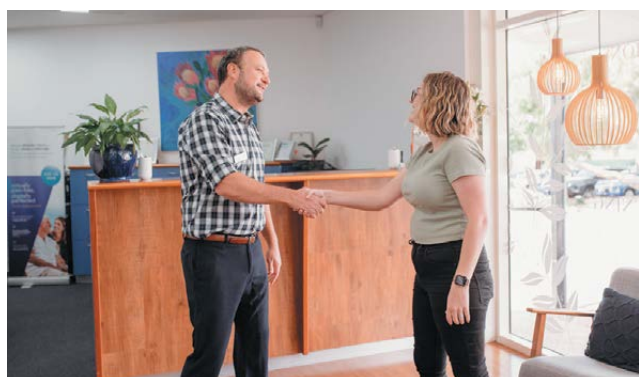
Photo: Supplied.

King Island is a treasure-trove of natural wonder and fascinating history.

If you haven’t ventured out to this Redlands Coast gem, start planning your visit today!

Until next time ... Stay Wild!

*Ranger Stacey*



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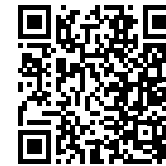
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**Residents wanting to learn more about aged care, home support and retirement services will have the opportunity to access expert advice at a free expo in Victoria Point.**

The inaugural Redlands Aged Care Expo, organised by the Aged Care Events Community (ACEC), will be held at the Sharks Sporting Club on August 11, bringing together around 30 services under the one roof.

Visitors will be able to learn about local services that cover everything from in-home and residential aged care to allied health, mobility aids, funeral planning, financial planning, travel and more.

Some of the exhibitors who will be in attendance include Carinity Home Care, BlueCare, Hearing Australia, Australian Audiology, Empower Healthcare, Joya Medical Supplies, BOQ Victoria Point, ADA Australia, Talk Health Therapy, the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, George Hartnett Metropolitan Funerals Cleveland, McCartney Family Funerals, and Great Southern Memorial Park.

ACEC engagement specialist Micharla Russell said many people struggle to navigate the aged care system because they were unaware of the services available or where to seek advice.

“Too often, people miss out on essential support simply because they don’t know what’s available, where to start or who to talk to,” she said.

“This free expo brings together local residents, families, carers, community organisations and service providers to create opportunities for face-to-face conversations, practical guidance and genuine community connection.

“Providers across the region want to connect more deeply with local residents, and this event gives people the chance to ask questions and access information in one place.”



A number of local aged care and health care providers will be on hand to answer any questions at the Redlands Aged Care Expo on August 11. Photos: Supplied.



ACEC, which has hosted similar events across Australia, describes itself as an independent organisation that delivers community-focused expos free from competing service interests.

The expo will be held from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

While it is free to attend, registrations are required. Visit Humantix and search Redlands Community Aged Care Expo to secure your tickets.

# TALK TO ME, TALK TO ME...AND KEEP IT NICE!

BY JAN NARY

Communications have come a long way since we sniffed and circled each other, then either threw rocks or got friendly. Now we can have conversations with people who aren’t even in the same country or on the same planet, without even knowing what they look like, much less what they smell like. The little indicators of facial expressions, body language, and vocal inflection are lost when we’re communicating online. The behaviour-limiting factors of knowing who you’re talking to and being able to identify them no longer come into play with many messaging apps, social media and community forums – and our interpersonal cyber-behaviour can suffer as a result.

Anecdotally, trolls lived under Scandinavian bridges and attacked passers-by, particularly the Billygoats Gruff. Today, trolls also live in cyberspace, lurking in corners of social media, faceless and nameless, attacking whoever they like – and their bullying can have disastrous results. Anonymity offers protection to say things that they probably wouldn’t say in a live, face-to-face confrontation. Fake profiles are easy to set up and an ideal way to attack others and spread false, malicious and divisive arguments.

The best way to manage online trolls and bullies is to give them no oxygen; don’t engage, don’t supply the snipers with another target to aim at. And don’t let them get under your skin; your mental health

deserves protection. The pen – or the keyboard – is mightier than the sword. Words have real power (which is why uprisings and takeovers always make an early move on the media).

Apart from the deliberate cyber-space nasties, we can all fall foul of accidental breaches of courtesy. What might have left your head as a witty, ironic, or just frank comment can land on the page as sarcastic, hyper-critical or patronising. This is where we miss out on the little modulators that we’ve developed over millennia of evolution: the smile, the raised eyebrow, the inflection or hand gesture that conveys that we’re being clever or funny and asking them to share the joke. The instinctive body language made the difference between rock-throwing and friendliness. Re-read the post; if it’s sarcastic, hyper-critical or patronising and that isn’t what you intended, rephrase it. If it is what you intended, maybe we’re back to rock-throwing.

Good online etiquette isn’t about being perfect; it’s about being accountable, respectful, and aware of the impact your words have. POSTING IN CAPITAL LETTERS IS THE CYBER-EQUIVALENT OF SHOUTING AT SOMEONE. A bit like driving a car, a lot of nasty bingles can be avoided with good old-fashioned courtesy. Online communication has huge potential for good: keeping in touch, especially for those of us who can’t do it in person; building



communities; helping in crises; sharing knowledge and opinions; and effecting change. Debasing it to divide, inflame, and harm is social vandalism. And it will never replace live conversations, the face-to-face contact we’ve evolved to use.

Maybe we could all benefit from turning off the devices and seeking a bit more personal contact. Hearing live voices, talking to each other’s faces. Sniffing optional.

# LOCAL READERS – A BOOK REVIEW

## CREATION LAKE BY RACHEL KUSHNER

BY ANNE CROWLEY

### WHAT THE EXPERTS SAID

“*Creation Lake* is about a secret agent, a thirty-four-year-old American woman of ruthless tactics and clean beauty who is sent to do dirty work in France. ‘Sadie Smith’ is how the narrator introduces herself to the rural commune of French subversives on whom she is keeping tabs, and to her lover, Lucien, a young and well-born Parisian she has met by ‘cold bump’ – making him believe the encounter was accidental. Like everyone she targets, Lucien is useful to her and used by her. Sadie operates by strategy and dissimulation, based on what her ‘contacts’ – shadowy figures in business and government – instruct. First, these contacts want her to incite provocation. Then they want more.” *Source: Goodreads.*

### MY THOUGHTS

Sadie Smith’s character is unlikeable but somewhat entertaining: a spy, imposter and con artist with a dry wit and wry humour. Opinionated, judgemental and often disparaging, she narrates events through blunt inner asides such as, ‘You’re headed for portable oxygen, I didn’t say,’ and ‘Good for you, I thought at Rene, for reducing me to those who wait. But also, go to hell.’

Sadie is multilingual, resourceful and acutely observant, and occasionally philosophical: ‘the truth of a person under all the

layers and guises... is a substance that is pure and stubborn and consistent. It is hard white salt ... the 4.00 am reality of being.’ Yet the same insight feeds her manipulateness: ‘Nadia was hurt and angry. Her salt was bitter. I might want to see about mining it.’

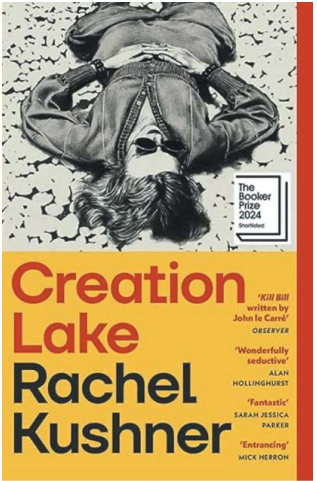
She shifts between amorality and outright immorality. She treats borrowed homes with contempt – ‘My years of living lives that weren’t mine had conditioned me not to concern myself with domestic spaces that were also not mine. I never took care of other people’s things, and I didn’t see why I should.’ She steals to hone her observation skills, and lies to keep people at a distance. And she has no limiting boundaries: ‘This drive to prove that eco-activists were terrorists was so strong and so relentless that I began to feel I had no choice but to plant the idea of violence in the boy’s head, since he was doing a poor job of coming to it on his own.’

Interwoven with Sadie’s narrative is Bruno’s anthropological treatise on the evolution of Neanderthal to Homo Sapiens. Once the inspiration for the activists, and still attempting to influence them, Bruno has literally buried himself (living many years in a cave) in historical, philosophical, and mystical speculations about how we ended up in the collapse of humanity, as he sees it. The activists dream of an end to capitalism, but Bruno concludes that is impossible to achieve,

so he has withdrawn – and despite their proclamations, largely so too has the small commune of activists that Sadie is trying to incite and ultimately destroy.

I hope this synopsis makes some sense, because it is really difficult to connect the disparate plot lines and characters. Most of my book club mates were less charitable than me (at least

I enjoyed the dry humour) with comments like ‘ridiculous, contrived, over the top, incoherent, what’s the point?’ One determined member mined a theme that had escaped the rest of us, but it was hard work, and most of us decided that life is too short to work that hard reading, and there are plenty of other books in the library!



## LOCAL POETRY

# CALL OF THE PAST

BY GEOFF SMILEY

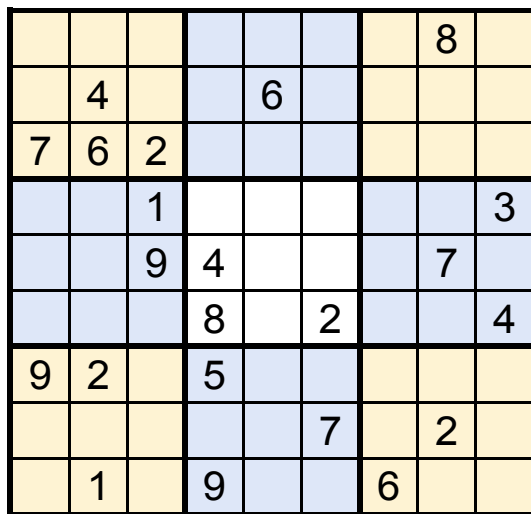
Jacarandas do not lament  
last year’s flowering.  
They just wait.  
Cycle of its appearing  
will come at last.

Sometimes the past hammers,  
knocking on the now.  
History lingers,  
regrets intrude; how  
can we answer those demands?

Jacarandas celebrate when  
the time is right, when  
flower, leaf and bareness happen.  
The past, present and future  
just come, in their season.  
© Geoff Smiley

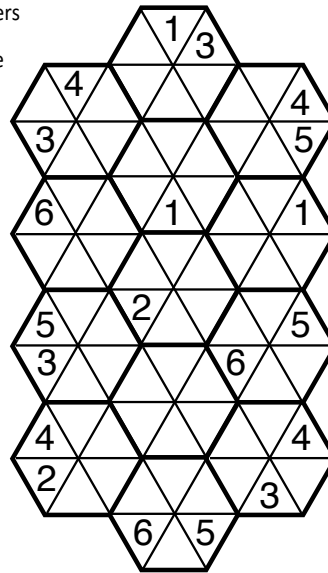
# Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block.

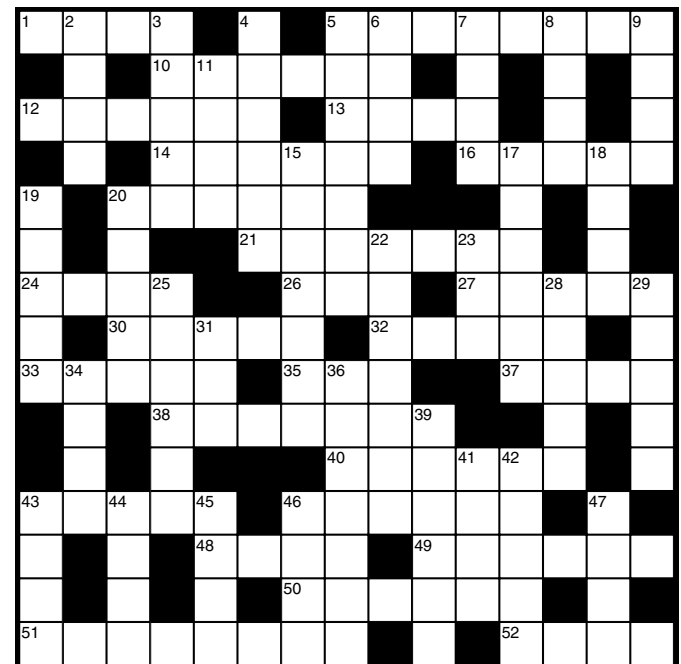


## Quick Workout

Fit the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 into the hexagons so that where the hexagons touch, the numbers will be the same. No number is repeated in any hexagon.



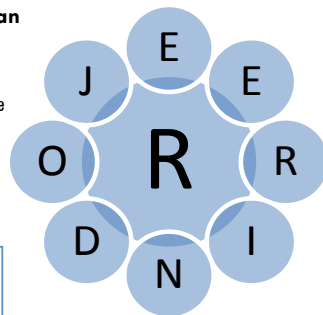
## Crossword



## Focus

## An All Australian Word Game

- \* Each word must contain the centre **'Focus'** letter and each letter may be used only once
- \* Each word must be four letters or more
- \* Find at least one nine letter word
- \* No swear words
- \* No verb forms or plurals ending in 's'
- \* No proper nouns and no hyphenated words



**TODAY'S FOCUS** Good: 14 words  
Very good: 22 words  
Excellent: 37 words

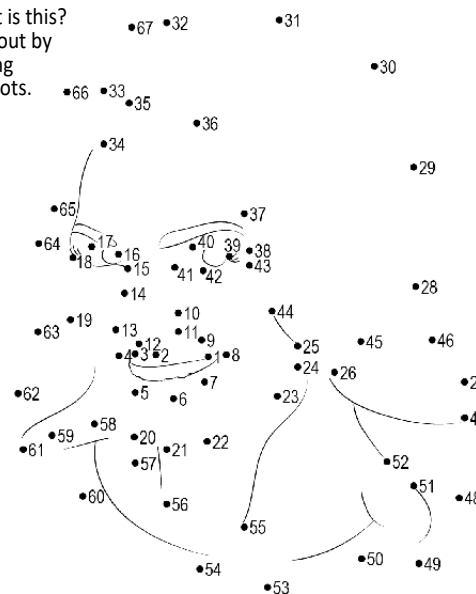
**Reference: Macquarie Concise Dictionary**  
Focus No. 3909

## Spot the 5 Differences



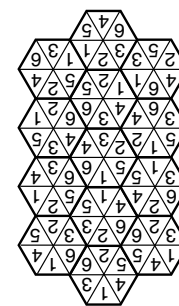
## Join the Dots

What is this?  
Find out by  
joining  
the dots. •



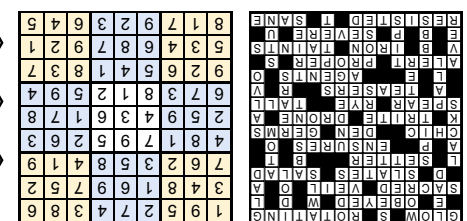
## Solutions

Puzzles and pagination  
supplied by Auspac Media



**FOCUS:** deer denier dero derro diner dire direr doer drier  
drone eider ender erode erred iron ironed ironer jeer  
joinder joiner nerd nereid noir or der reed rein reined rejoin  
REJOINDER rejoined rend render ride rider rind rode roid

**SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES:** Cap moved, holes in cap reversed, extra dot top right, missing dot bottom left, swirl thinner.



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# PROTEIN: MORE THAN A FITNESS TREND

BY CHEREE SHELDON, QUALIFIED NATUROPATH, FLANNERY'S ORGANIC WHOLEFOOD MARKET, VICTORIA POINT TOWN CENTRE HOME CO.

When you hear the word protein, it is easy to think of gym enthusiasts, bodybuilders and post-workout shakes. But the truth is that protein is one of the most important nutrients for everybody, at every stage of life. Adequate protein intake is essential for maintaining and repairing cells and muscles, weight management, hormone production, nutrient transport, optimal energy levels, and a strong immune system. It plays a vital role in everyday wellbeing and is essential to ageing well.

Dietary protein is essential for optimal cognitive function. The brain relies on amino acids from protein to synthesise vital neurotransmitters – like dopamine and serotonin – that regulate mood, memory, and focus. Consuming protein-rich foods consistently can also assist with age-related cognitive decline.

If you or someone you love experiences regular mood swings, try adding more protein – especially first thing in the morning. This helps slow the digestion of carbohydrates, which stabilises blood sugar and prevents the irritability and fatigue associated with moodiness.

Protein is made up of amino acids, often referred to as the building blocks of life. These amino acids are used throughout the body to repair tissues, build and maintain muscle, support healthy skin, hair and nails, produce enzymes and hormones, and contribute to normal immune function. Some amino acids are known as “essential” because our bodies cannot make them on their own. This means we must regularly obtain them through the foods we eat. If you don't get a lot of protein from your daily food intake, protein powder may be a good choice to maintain optimal levels.

And it is not just about hitting a daily target; it is also about consistency. Rather than consuming most of your protein in the evening meal, spreading intake across breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks can help support muscle maintenance, recovery and sustained energy levels throughout the day.

For many adults, protein needs range from approximately 80 to 120 grams per day, depending on age, body size, activity levels, and individual circumstances. One practical approach is to aim for around 20 to 30 grams of protein at each main meal. This can help make daily targets more

achievable while encouraging a balanced eating pattern.

Fortunately, there are plenty of nutritious foods that naturally provide protein, such as:

- Eggs are a versatile and affordable choice, containing approximately 6 to 7 grams of protein each.
- Greek yoghurt provides around 10 grams of protein per 100 grams.
- Chicken, fish and lean meats are also valuable sources.
- Plant-based options such as legumes, lentils, beans, nuts and seeds can make meaningful contributions to protein intake while also providing fibre and other beneficial nutrients.

Supplements and protein powders are designed to complement a healthy diet – not replace whole foods. They're convenient and help with fussy eaters or when time is limited.

One of the greatest advantages of protein powders is their versatility. While smoothies remain a popular option, protein can be incorporated into many everyday foods and recipes, including:

- Stir protein into porridge.
- Blend it into smoothie bowls.
- Add it to chia puddings.
- Use it when making pancakes and bliss balls.
- Collagen powders can also be added to soups, stews, yoghurt, custards or even a morning coffee, providing another simple way to increase intake.

Ultimately, protein is not about pursuing athletic performance or following the latest wellness trend. It is a foundational nutrient that supports strength, resilience and overall wellbeing throughout life. By prioritising quality protein sources and incorporating them regularly into meals and snacks, you can help nourish your body and support your health for years to come.

Healthy ageing, sustained energy and everyday vitality all start with a strong nutritional foundation, and protein is an important part of that picture.

*It's important to consult a qualified health professional before taking or changing your supplements.*



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*\*For members only, it's free to join in store. Not in conjunction with other offers.*

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# WINTER LAWN TIPS

FROM COOCHIE LAWN SERVICES

**Did you know that many lawn problems start during winter but don't become visible until spring?**

While your lawn may not be growing as quickly in winter as it does in spring and summer, it still needs ongoing care to stay healthy and strong, as well as to help it prepare for the warmer months ahead.

We know that great spring and summer lawns are built now during winter. By focusing on controlling winter weeds like bindis and wintergrass and continuing to remove persistent perennial weeds, you are setting the grass up for less competition and healthier growth.

It is essential to be looking for and treating fungal diseases now, as these have exploded over the past two months due to the wet autumn and start of winter we had, and I'm seeing diseased lawns everywhere around your suburb at the moment.

Now is a great time to provide essential nutrients to the soil, as winter is an important time to strengthen lawn roots specifically. And don't forget to apply the right amount of fertiliser now to help encourage greening and maintain a lush, healthy lawn.

Skipping lawn care during winter can lead to:

- More weeds taking hold
- Increased pest activity going unnoticed
- Greater risk of diseases
- Weaker root systems
- A slower recovery when spring arrives

A little attention now can make a huge difference when the warmer weather returns.



Photos: Supplied.



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# LOCAL GARDENING WITH KAT

## COMPOST: TURNING WASTE INTO WOW

BY KAT PEARSON, *GIRL IN THE GREEN*

One of the milestones of being seen as a ‘good gardener’ is having a functioning compost heap. You hear basically two views on composting. A: That it’s easy, uncomplicated, no specific ratios needed – just a good mix of brown (carbon) and green (nitrogen) and off you go. B: You need a specific ratio of brown and green, layered correctly, mixed, flipped, watered, covered when it rains, protected from rats, internal temperature monitored, etc., etc.

In my opinion, you can choose either option, and what you get out reflects what you put in! I admit, I don’t put a lot of effort into mine. It’s an open heap that I randomly pile all my garden clippings on. I try to chop things up and run larger branches through my chipper because smaller pieces break down more quickly, but I have also been known to just dump an armful of green waste on top and smash it with a spade (ok, so I delegate the smashing to my husband...). Eventually, the bottom of the pile breaks down, and I get some beautiful compost. But it is far from an efficient process, and I hardly get a regular supply.

Introducing The WasteWorks, a small Brisbane-based company, making top-quality compost, which is as good, if not better, than the home-made variety (especially if you make it like me). On top

of making a brilliant product, they are keeping commercial organic waste (food scraps and garden waste) out of landfill. Their equipment basically just manages, standardises, and somewhat speeds up the process of making normal compost, but it is still completely natural.

They also have a special fungal heap that produces even better fungi-enriched compost, perfect for trees and shrubs. No tricks, no gimmicks. Just compost. Proper compost. (Not to speak poorly of anyone, but most commercial composts you can buy are chipped-up green waste that hasn’t decomposed fully yet).

If you already make excellent compost at home, I applaud you. If, like me, you attempt to make compost at home and the results are a little hit-and-miss, I also applaud you (any organics saved from landfill is a win). If you ever need to buy a bag of good compost (or their easy peasy pelleted Compost Confetti), check out these guys and support a local company working to create a more sustainable world.

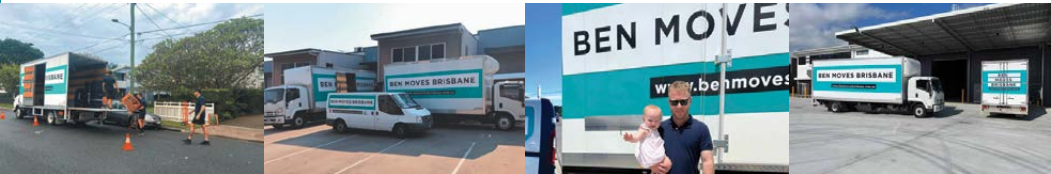


Photo by Kat Pearson.

The WasteWorks holds a Compost Market Day on the first Saturday of each month (8:00am-12:00pm, 62D Blunder Road, Oxley). Follow them on Instagram or Facebook, or visit [wasteworks.shop](http://wasteworks.shop)



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# OH-SO-CREAMY WINTER MUSHROOM SOUP RECIPE

Ah yes, a humble soup – we admit that we’re serial offenders when it comes to making soup, but it’s easy, nutritious, and the window for cold-weather comfort food here in the sub-tropics is so short! So, here’s a delicious mushroom soup recipe that’s filling and fabulous, and we think you’ll love it – not just because cooking in butter smells incredible!

## INGREDIENTS

- 500g mushrooms, sliced (the button kind, Swiss brown, or a mix of both)
- 1 white onion, finely diced
- 1 big clove of garlic, chopped
- 2 tbsp butter
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 4 cups of vegetable or chicken stock; either works
- 1 cup of heavy cream
- 1 tbsp fresh thyme leaves
- Salt and freshly cracked pepper
- Fresh flat leaf parsley, chopped, to serve
- Fresh, crusty bread, to serve

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat the butter and olive oil in a large saucepan on the stove top over medium heat.
2. Add the onion and cook for about 5 minutes, until it’s soft, then add the garlic and thyme and gently cook for another 30 seconds (don’t burn the garlic; it will taste horrid and your friends will pull ugly faces!).
3. Add the mushrooms to the pan and cook for about 10 minutes, until they’re nice and golden.
4. Sprinkle the flour over the mushroom mix and let it cook for about 20-30 seconds to combine it.
5. Gradually pour in the stock, stirring continuously to keep it smooth, because lumps are not fun to eat.
6. Bring your soup to the boil, then reduce the heat and gently simmer it on low for about 10 to 15 minutes.



7. Blend the soup until it’s lovely and smooth – you can use a stick blender or carefully pop it in a benchtop blender. Return it to the pan.
8. Stir in the cream, season with salt and pepper, and then gently heat the soup for a few moments, but don’t spoil it by boiling it!
9. Serve in a big bowl, topped with fresh parsley, with lots of crusty bread on the side.

Optional tip: You can set aside a handful of your cooked mushrooms at step 3 and add them to the soup after you’ve blended it for a little more texture. You can also add a dollop of sour cream to serve, because we think sour cream makes everything taste better.



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# EMERGENCY RESEARCH TO BENEFIT REDLAND HOSPITAL PATIENTS

FROM REDLAND HOSPITAL FUND

Doctors and nurses spend years at university, ensuring they are equipped with all the knowledge to help and care for their patients. But like all professions, health care evolves, and changes, and new training and education is required.

A new research project based at Redland Hospital will aim to do just that for emergency clinicians and has the potential to not only help patients but also save the health system and in turn the taxpayer thousands of dollars each year.

Led by Redland Hospital emergency clinician Dr Henry Tsao, the project entitled: Laboratory stewardship of C-reactive protein in the emergency department, will audit data of emergency presentations to the Redland Hospital emergency department (ED) to assess incidence of whether C-reactive protein tests were ordered for patients unnecessarily.

“As you can imagine, we order a lot of tests, blood tests, imaging et cetera, some of which are

indicated, some of which are not indicated,” Dr Tsao said. “When it’s indicated, it’s great because it informs us in terms of the patient’s diagnosis, their treatment, and also where they’re going to go in the hospital.

“The problem is when it’s not indicated and you get a positive test. Often what we found is that when a test is not indicated and it’s ordered unnecessarily, and it ends up being positive, doctors and clinicians find it difficult to ignore. This often leads to inappropriate medical imaging including X-rays, CT scan, ultrasounds and MRI’s which are associated with risks such as radiation risk.

“There’s also the risk of finding incidental lumps and things that would not have caused any problems but now that you know you need to do something about, which may be associated with harm. For C-reactive protein, it is a non-specific inflammatory marker.

“We use it mainly for sepsis, but when it’s elevated

outside of sepsis, often doctors or clinicians will see that as a sign to prescribe antibiotics.”

The study of the data has the care of patients front of mind and came about as a result of the review of a patient who was cared for by the Redland ED. The study is also as much about reaffirming to doctors or making them more aware of what’s already outlined in existing guidelines but also updating the knowledge of and giving experience to doctors who have come from overseas.

“It’s really hard because in emergency often there’s a view that when we take bloods from a patient, we like to order all the tests straight away as this helps with flow.

“For most people that come through the ED, it’s very rare that they don’t get at least a blood test to look at their full blood count, electrolytes and renal function.

“We do educate doctors about what and when it is necessary to do certain tests but sometimes that slips through the gap.”



Photo: Supplied.

Dr Tsao stressed that in many cases the tests are necessary and useful, but the research, which he hopes to eventually expand to eventually incorporate multiple Metro South Hospitals is about gathering the data to empower staff to make more measured decisions with regards to ordering tests.

You can make important research like Dr Tsao’s study a reality by choosing the Redland Hospital Fund as your place to give via [www.redlandhospitalfund.org.au/donate](http://www.redlandhospitalfund.org.au/donate).





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But it’s only the extraordinary generosity of people like you that makes it possible.

By leaving a gift in your Will to the Redland Hospital, you can help fund world-class research, secure life-saving equipment, and support the kind of patient-first care that makes this hospital so trusted and so loved by our community.

Because care that goes beyond expectation needs support that goes beyond the ordinary.

If the Redland Hospital holds a special place in your story, then thank you. With a gift in your Will, you’ll always be part of ours.

**Carolyn Schuwalow**, Senior Philanthropy Manager Redland Hospital Fund

If you’re interested in leaving a gift in your will to Redland Hospital or in having Carolyn visit your local club or group to speak about gifts in wills please reach out on the contact details below.

Email: [thankyou@redlandhospitalfund.org.au](mailto:thankyou@redlandhospitalfund.org.au) or phone: 0484 366 041



# CHIP IN FOR MEN'S HEALTH AT INAUGURAL GOLF FUNDRAISER

BY ASHLEIGH HOWARTH

**Golfers who enjoy playing a round on the green are invited to tee off for a good cause next month, with registrations now open for the inaugural Redland Prostate Cancer Awareness Golf Day.**

Hosted by the Cancer Council Redland Branch, the event will see players hit the fairways at the Redland Bay Golf Club on September 4, giving them the chance to enjoy some friendly competition while helping to make a difference in the lives of men affected by cancer.

Redlands Branch volunteer Jill Watson said organisers were excited to launch a new fun-filled event focused solely on men's health.

"We wanted to do something a little different and thought a golf day would be a great way to bring people together while supporting an important cause," she said.

"It's a great opportunity for people to enjoy a day on the course while helping to make a real difference for men and families affected by cancer.

"Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just looking for a good day out with your friends or colleagues, we'd love to have you involved."

A community health forum will also run on the day, giving attendees the chance to gain valuable insights into their own health and speak directly with local urologists, radiation oncologists, GPs, allied health professionals and Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia nurses.

"We encourage people to register for the forum as well so we can accommodate everyone who would like to attend."

The event will be a four-player Ambrose competition played over 18 holes.

Players can register as a team of four or sign up individually and be placed in a team.

To help ensure the day is a success, businesses are encouraged to jump on board and help drive change by either entering a team, sponsoring the event, or sponsoring a hole.

The cost is \$90 per person or \$360 per team and includes green fees, buggy hire, breakfast, a sit-down lunch and prizes.

Registration and breakfast will begin at 6.30am, ahead of an 8am shotgun start.



Photo: Supplied.

For those who don't play golf, a non-player morning tea will be held from 9:30am. Tickets are \$15 and include morning tea, coffee and a raffle ticket.

Players have until August 21 to register. To register, visit [www.events.humanitix.com/redland-golf-day](http://www.events.humanitix.com/redland-golf-day)

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CAR REVIEW

SUBARU SOLTERRA

BY JOHN VANDERMAAT



Another experience behind the wheel of an electric vehicle has me seriously considering an EV for my next car. The Subaru Solterra AWD was a pleasure to drive and provided an excellent opportunity to become familiar with the ins and outs of EV ownership.

The combined 252kW power output delivers the instant acceleration you expect from an electric vehicle, while Subaru's renowned Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system ensures excellent road holding and driver confidence in a variety of conditions.

The cabin offers the practicality and thoughtful design Subaru owners have come to expect. There is ample room for four adults, along with generous luggage space. The seats are exceptionally comfortable, with electrically adjustable front seats and heating for all occupants. A large 14-inch infotainment touchscreen provides easy access to a range of features, including satellite navigation, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity, digital radio, and an impressive six-speaker sound system.

Having owned a Subaru Outback for several years, I found many aspects of the Solterra immediately familiar while appreciating the benefits of the latest technology. The cruise control and driver assistance systems are intuitive to use and perform with impressive accuracy. Features such as Road Sign Assist, Lane Departure Alert, Pre-Collision System and Lane Tracing Assist enhance the driving experience without feeling intrusive, providing useful support rather than unnecessary distraction.

Although I didn't have the opportunity to take the Solterra off-road, its 212mm ground clearance and all-wheel-drive capability suggest it would be well suited to unsealed roads and light off-road use. The 18-inch wheels and well-tuned suspension contribute to a smooth, quiet and composed ride.



Photo: Supplied.

Overall, the Subaru Solterra is a capable, comfortable and refined SUV that makes a compelling case for electric motoring. The new 74.7kWh CATL battery, offering a claimed range of more than 517km, helps address many of the concerns traditionally associated with EV ownership. For anyone considering the move to an electric vehicle, the Solterra deserves a place on the shortlist.

Thanks go to Bartons for supplying the Subaru Solterra for review.

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