



*River Heads Progress Association*

*The River Heads Progress Association acknowledge the Butchulla people - the Traditional Owners of the land we live, work and play on, and pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

# Music and mates at River Heads Hall



Above: Joy Dore, Jacqui Rein and Cherie Fraser enjoying a night out at the hall.

The end of 2024 means the end of another full year for the RHPA committee and volunteers.

Sadly we will be saying goodbye to our president Greg Wood and secretary Susan Wood at this year's Christmas dinner on December 13.

We would all like to thank Greg and Sue very much for the hard work they have put in over the years and wish them every happiness for the future.

Remember that the K'gari day out raffle will be drawn at the Christmas dinner on December 13. You don't need to be there. Good luck everyone.

## Rivers Bistro & Bar – Friday nights @ 5.30pm

January 24

Burger night  
Raffles

January 31

Music by  
Doug Edwards  
Raffles

**January 27**  
(Monday Australia Day Weekend)  
**Cricket match and BBQ**  
at the reserve  
**Further info to come**

0487 097 700

45 Ariadne Street (opposite the shops)



# RHPA contact list

## **Executive committee**

President	Greg Wood	president@riverheads.org.au
Vice president	Keith Morrison	vicepresident@riverheads.org.au
Treasurer	Margaret Horlock	treasurer@riverheads.org.au
Secretary	Susan Wood	secretary@riverheads.org.au

## **Management committee**

Assistant treasurer	Karen Hensel	info@riverheads.org.au
Assistant secretary	Cheryl Morrison	Info@riverheads.org.au
Registrar & key registrar	Susan Wood	secretary@riverheads.org.au
Events coordinator	Liz Stewart	events@riverheads.org.au
Food & beverage manager	Karen Hensel	cafemanager@riverheads.org.au
Bar coordinator	Mark Hensel	bar@riverheads.org.au
Roster coordinator	Cheryl Morrison	roster@riverheads.org.au
Webmaster		Info@riverheads.org.au
Emergency coordinator	Mark Hensel	emergency@riverheads.org.au
Social media coordinator	Coral Albrecht	info@riverheads.org.au
Review editor	Tracey Morton	info@riverheads.org.au
Fishing club delegate	Mark Hensel	info@riverheads.org.au

## **NC positions**

Historian	not filled
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## **Affiliated ass'n**

River Heads Fishing Club Inc	Ben Flanders	riverheadsfishingclub@gmail.com
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## **Sub**

### **committees**

Fraser Radio	Ed Martin	info@fraserradio.com.au
Reserve	Mark Hensel	info@riverheads.org.au

Hall activities & services	Day	Name	Contact
Hall bookings & takeaway	Fri only	Susan Wood	0487 097 700
Patchwork & quilting	Mon AM	Judy Smith	4125 7726/ 0427 000 982
Library	When hall open	Susan Wood	0487 097 700
Garden Club	Tue 9am		0487 097 700 or info@riverheads.org.au
She Shack	Tue 9.30am	Tracey Morton	0434 535 475 or info@riverheads.org.au
Indoor bowls	Wed 1pm	Mike/Robyn Allam	4125 7683 or Michaelallam@hotmail.com
Social pool & bar night	Wed 6pm	Mark Hensel	info@riverheads.org.au
Fire emergencies		RH Kingfisher Fire S	000 or 0499 987 147
Justices of the Peace		Jacquie Rein JP	0419 740 647
Wildlife carer		Rose Wright	0427 971 020
First responders		Matthew Steer	0487 097 700



## **River Heads Progress Association**

We are a pretty small group doing a pretty big job

Bar work - Plate up or Cook - Clean

A couple of hours of your time a month would be a huge help

# Call 0487 097 700

Can you help?



# RHPA – Hardworking committee members say goodbye

What a great year 2024 has been. The committee has spent time looking into the boat ramp pontoon and inviting members of government agencies to investigate when the pontoon will be returned after one section broke off two years ago.

Road transport area managers have reassured us that it will either be replaced or rebuilt elsewhere. Of course we are still waiting for this to happen.

The state and local council elections have been run and won. Congratulations to John Weiland our local councillor who has been a very active member of the community this year.

David Lee is our State Government representative who has his office in Scarness. Do not forget that if we want help getting anything done around River Heads then David is the person to contact. [Hervey.Bay@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:Hervey.Bay@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Social media is not the forum for answers to questions and it certainly will not get issues solved.

Since arriving in Hervey Bay in 2021 and in particular Booral where we built our home Sue and I have enjoyed taking time to be part of this vibrant community.

This is our final year in Hervey Bay and once we sell our wonderful home in Booral, we will leave to join one of our sons in Yarrawonga. In doing so we will be only three hours north of Melbourne where we can spend time with family. It was a difficult decision to make but one that serves our best interest as we get older.

To maintain the association as a viable incorporated entity there will need to be a replacement for Sue as secretary.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a safe and healthy new year. Greg and Susan Wood



## John Weiland – councillor for Division 7



As the festive season is rapidly closing in, it's a time to reflect on our year. For myself, there was no choice but to hit the ground running for our region. We have seen the continuation of unprecedented growth, post covid, which has created quite a challenging environment for our city. Fortunately

for us, River Heads remains as beautiful as ever and the lifestyle continues to be unique and relaxed for the residents here. The preservation of this lifestyle and the local environment will continue to be a top priority into the New Year.

So as the holiday season wraps its warmth around us, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the beautiful community of River Heads, a Merry Christmas. This year, as always, it's the kindness of neighbour's, the spirit of togetherness, and the simple joys of our unique rural life that make this place so special. Whether you're gathering with loved ones or enjoying the quiet moments, may your hearts be filled with peace, love, and gratitude. Here's to a joyful Christmas and a Happy and hopeful new year for all River Heads residents.



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# Community news

## Music and winners



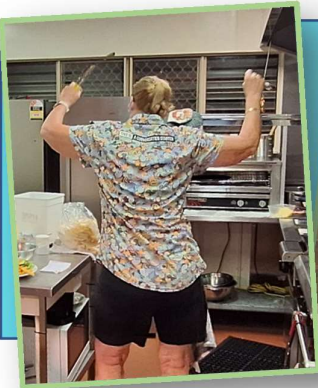
**Above:** Celena, secretary of the River Heads Fishing Club hands over another great prize to a happy winner.



**Above:** Will Ramage and **Left:** Doug Edwards were both live at the hall in November



# Community news



The kitchen couldn't contain Liz once the music started.

Volunteering at the hall can be loads of fun. There's probably a job to suit you.

## Christmas lights up the hall

Thanks to a grant from Fraser Coast Council, River Heads Progress Association volunteers spent a few good hours stringing festive lights around the hall this year.

There were also some elves inside flinging tinsel about to impress the patrons.



## Community news

# The Bone Bus is coming to River Heads

River Heads Family Practice is partnering with Measure Up to have the Bone Bus visit River Heads on January 9 – 10, 2025.

River Heads Family Practice has sent out invitation letters to all existing patients 70 years and above, and have not had any bone density scans for the past two years. The Practice also welcomes those who are eligible but not existing patients to speak to our doctors for a referral. The bone density scan is bulk-billed.

The Bone Bus is a mobile bone densitometry service that is fully set up to perform bone density scans.

Bone density scan, also known as a DEXA scan, measures calcium and other minerals in the bone. The measurement helps show the strength and thickness of the bone, and thus help our doctors diagnose conditions like osteoporosis and osteopenia. With that, our doctors are able to predict a person's risk of future fractures. Prevention is better than cure!

It's reported that more than 193,000 fractures occurred in Australia due to poor bone health (Healthdirect, 2024), many of these cases were preventable.

As soon as you receive the letter in your mail, give our friendly reception a call on 4336 1199 and we are more than happy to assist you.



**New patients are WELCOME!**

Find us on Hotdoc or call us to book an appointment



07 4336 1199



[riverheadsfamilypractice.com.au](http://riverheadsfamilypractice.com.au)



Shop 5, 54 Ariadne Street,  
River Heads 4655

Concession card holders and children below 16 are bulk-billed



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# Fishing club news



It's never a dull moment with the River Heads Fishing Club!

Following our recent AGM, we're excited to announce the reappointment of Ben Flanders as president for the second consecutive year. A passionate and dedicated fisherman who has called River Heads home for 19 years, Ben knows the local river system like the back of his hand. He's always willing to share his expertise, so if you've got any questions about fishing, Ben is your go-to guy.

We're also thrilled to welcome Rick Russell as our new vice president. Rick has been a proud resident of River Heads for 17 years and is our barra and salmon expert. With an in-depth knowledge of catching and releasing these prized species, Rick is always happy to offer advice and share a few tips.

A warm welcome back to Celena Lloyd, as our secretary for the second year in a row. Having lived in the area for just over five years, Celena enjoys fishing with family and friends and loves spending time on the boat. We're lucky to have her on board.

Gary Bateman is a dedicated and longstanding member of the RHFC, whose contributions have been invaluable over the years. As the weigh master, he has been an absolute legend, helping wherever possible to ensure the club runs smoothly. A fantastic fisherman who targets all species, his skill and commitment are reflected in the many plaques that showcase his achievements. Gary's passion for the sport and the club is evident in everything he does, and his continued involvement is a huge asset to the community. The RHFC is fortunate to have someone as dedicated as Gary, and it's no surprise he's staying on to keep supporting the club for many years to come.

Richard Morton is back on the committee, where he's been a dedicated member for years. He's a passionate fisherman, especially with deep-sea fishing, and he recently made waves by catching the biggest Spanish mackerel ever recorded at the club.

His return to the committee shows just how committed he is to the club and its community, and his experience will be a great asset moving forward.

It's great to hear that Simon Warren is back and excited to re-join the RHFC community. After taking some time, he is eager to dive back into the activities we all enjoy. Simon and his beautiful wife Ngarra's commitment to travelling from Maryborough to participate, shows just how much the club and its social atmosphere mean to them. With their eyes set on moving closer to the Heads, it seems like a new chapter is on the horizon for them. Here's to many more fishing trips and good times ahead.

Greg Townsend is indeed a dedicated member of the RHFC, and his involvement with the weigh master role alongside Gary only further highlights his commitment to the club. As a founding member, Greg has played a key role in shaping the community, and his expertise in land-based fishing, particularly with his impressive catches of flathead and salmon, make him a well-respected figure among the club's members. His passion for both the sport and the club is truly commendable.

We're excited to announce that Rob Mills, a dedicated member from the very beginning, is in the process of confirming his position on the committee. Although yet to formally accept, we are confident that he will be a fantastic addition to our team.

His passion for fishing and the camaraderie it brings will undoubtedly benefit the club as we continue to grow and strengthen our ties. We look forward to officially welcoming him on board soon.

At River Heads Fishing Club, we truly value the family-friendly and social atmosphere that brings our community together. It's a space where members of all ages can come together to meet new friends, reconnect with old ones, and celebrate each other's fishing and photography achievements.

The November Fish Meet was a great success. Congratulations to the winners:

Male winner: Kasey Cook 60cm grunter

Female winner: Bianca Henderson 60cm school mackerel

Junior winner: William Sayers  
29cm pikey bream



# Fishing club news

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## Christmas Celebration Announcement

Can you believe it? It's that time of year again – the silly season is upon us. Yes, Christmas is here, and we're so excited to gather with our wonderful families, friends, and the River Heads fishing community to celebrate all the fantastic achievements and memories we've created throughout the year.

Please keep Saturday, December 14 free, as we come together for an afternoon and evening of festive fun, delicious food, and good company. This celebration is all about honouring the spirit of our

## Raffle Night

Another huge success, with our event selling out once again. We are incredibly grateful for the community's continued support. A huge thank you

fishing community, friendship, and the hard work that makes River Heads such a special place.

We can't wait to raise a glass and share some laughs with everyone who has contributed to making this year so memorable. Whether you took part in fishing, photography or simply shared a smile and enjoyed the social atmosphere, you're a part of what makes this community shine.

More details will be shared soon, but for now, mark your calendars – it's going to be a celebration to remember.

A big thank you to the sponsors, Tackle World Hervey Bay, McDonald's Hervey Bay, and Anaconda & Wild Bear & Co, for supporting the event. Looking forward to next month's meet.

## Mediterranean over roasted Spanish mackerel recipe

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### Ingredients

3 large garlic cloves  
1tsp salt, more for later  
1 tsp ground coriander  
½ tsp ground cumin  
¼ cup finely chopped fresh parsley  
¼ cup finely chopped fresh dill  
1 ½ lb whole Spanish mackerel cleaned and gutted (but with head)  
1 lemon, thinly sliced  
Extra virgin olive oil  
2-3 tbsps lemon juice

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F and set a roasting sheet pan inside to warm
2. Using a mortar and pestle, crush garlic with salt until smooth. Add coriander and cumin and continue crushing. Mix in parsley and dill.
3. Pat the fish dry, inside and out. Remove the dark vein that runs along the back of the cavity, if it's still there. And if needed, run your knife along the cavity to open it up some more. Salt generously inside and on both sides outside, then place on a



lightly oiled piece of foil that is large enough to enclose the fish.

4. Stuff the fish cavity with lemon slices and the garlic and herb mix. Drizzle with olive oil.
5. Fold the foil over the fish lengthwise, tightly closing the top seam to trap the steam. Place the foiled fish on top of the hot sheet pan and bake for 30-40 minutes depending on the thickness of the fish.
6. Remove from heat and add the lemon juice. Serve immediately with sides and salad.



# VMRHB transition to Marine Rescue Queensland

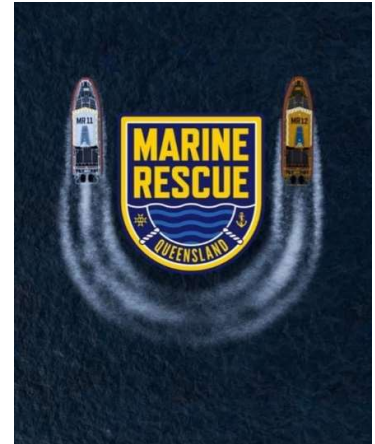
Volunteer Marine Rescue Hervey Bay (VMRHB), in their 52nd year of service to the community, will transition to Marine Rescue Queensland (MRQ) in December. MRQ, which was formed on 1 July 2024, is Queensland's first state-wide, State Government-funded volunteer marine rescue service dedicated to saving lives at sea and supporting those on or near the water.

Just as VMRHB always has done, MRQ will provide marine search and rescue and assistance to persons or vessels in difficulty or distress. The difference, once other VMR squadrons and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard flotillas have also transitioned, is that this will now be a unified state-wide service. This will make it easier for both boaties and volunteers.

VMRHB conduct hundreds of activations each year to render assistance to vessels of all shapes and sizes that are encountering difficulties on our (approx.) 5,000 square kilometres of Hervey Bay waters. When those on recreational vessels are heading back to shore due to rough conditions, the rescue vessel crews are often called upon to head out into those conditions, day and night, to assist people who are experiencing their worst day on the water. Additionally, VMRHB also conduct medical evacuations from K'Gari on behalf of the Queensland Ambulance Service.

While the most visible aspects of VMRHB's presence might be the rescue vessels, the true

rescue capability comes from the volunteers. It takes an effective team to be successful, and that team isn't just the crews. Radio Operators maintain the base radio room 12 hours/day every day of the year, the Admin Team keep the back-of-house organised and the Maintenance Team keep vessels and the base ship-shape. This team spirit and volunteerism will be transitioned to MRQ in December to ensure the spirit and service of VMRHB continue into the future.



VMRHB volunteers are proud of the service they have provided to the Fraser Coast community over the past 52 years and look forward to continuing that valuable service as Marine Rescue Queensland Hervey Bay.

Boaties can assist MRQ Hervey Bay by logging on with them when they head out onto the water. By calling MRQ on VHF channel 73 or by phone on 07 4128 9666, this ensures they know you're out there. An important message that will also transition over to MRQ is the need for vessels to have all appropriate safety equipment on board and ready to use; life jackets save lives when worn.

## A couple of nights out on a big boat

A few fishing club members enjoyed their annual fishing charter off Tin Can Bay again in November.

A good range of species were caught, although one comment was "I never want to see another mac tuna!"

Please be on the lookout for a set of teeth 25 kilometres off the coast of K'Gari (Fraser Island).



# Wildlife matters – Lake Lenthall walk

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by Frank Ekin



The Wildlife Preservation Society members celebrated the end of this year's walks at Lake Lenthall. The WPSQ has had monthly walks from March to November during cooler weather. On this last walk blue skies with scattered clouds and gentle wind made for pleasant walking. The walkers sought shade trees in the lovely Lake Lenthall Reserve.

Among our number was a strong botany contingent and several experienced bird enthusiasts. The different environments supported 40 bird species and also many plant, fungal and orchid species.

Each of this year's walks highlighted the objectives of the WPSQ to preserve the fauna and flora of Australia, educate by all means, to discourage destructive exploitation of the natural environment and to encourage rational land use.

Each of the three Takura Walks (Environmental Reserve, Takura Trails and Vernon State Forest), has several different natural environments and its place in rational development and recreational land use. For example, one supports microwave towers but also has deep rocky gullies revealing ancient erosion and fossils. The second has bike tracks through emergent rainforest and mature sclerophyll forest. The third has preserved rainforest and former horse stud. All three have an extensive natural environment, some history and available for walkers and cyclists to enjoy.

Early in the year the WPSQ walked the Colliery Circuit which joins remnants of the former coal mines off Churchill Mine Road. This circuit has several natural environments, one of which is part of the water catchment which we saw running following recent rains. The circuit integrates the economic history, the natural environment and complements the efforts of the Bicycle Users Group and the Maryborough to Bay Rail Trail (M2BRT). This walk

exemplifies well the objectives of WPSQ, that is: preservation of the fauna and flora, education, discouragement of willful environmental destruction, rational use of the land and encouragement of good planning. Bob, Shane and Dr. Max deserve our great appreciation for their initiative, imagination and work. They have added immensely to promoting local history as an historical value to WPSQ walks.

The Tandora walk illustrated that cattle raising and the natural environment can coexist and to each other's advantage. The highly successful Poona Spring Flower outing illustrated how necessary infrastructure [being powerline easements], can coexist with the natural environment, though could be better managed environmentally while still supplying an essential utility.

Steep hills and severe erosion characterised the Fairlie's Knob Walk. It is a site where the natural environment, commercial logging and local and milling history come together. Max presented his historical findings on the Fairlie forebears' contribution to the local timber business and joinery industry. Indeed, after the WPSQ walk, Max explored the Knob and ridge line again to locate a significant artifact. Now, following more research he intends another exploration of Fairlie's Knob and the ridge very soon.

The last walk of the series at Lake Lenthall was chosen as it is easy but rewarding for birding and botany. It is a most attractive council reserve as well. Lake Lenthall is the storage of the drinking water for Hervey Bay. Max has studied the history and workings of the dam and has led explorations of the water catchment, particularly around the former Duckinwilla School in the lake's catchment.

It is remarkable that there are so many different habitats in this region. In all, WPSQ has forty-one different walks explored and trodden. For curiosity, interest and enquiry, the Fraser Coast Region has a bonanza of fascinating walks for those who enjoy the outdoors. All the examples mentioned illustrate that many recreation activities do take advantage of our natural environment in keeping with the objectives of the Wildlife Preservation Society.

*\*correction from last month: "Woocoo should have read Wongi Forest walk.*

## Community groups

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### Patchwork and Quilting

Held Mondays, February through to December, 9.30am-2pm. BYO Lunch and drinks please. Projects to suit all types of sewing machines.

For more information contact Judy on 4125 7726 or 0427 000 982

### The She Shack

For women of all ages, the She Shack is an informal group that meets most Tuesdays 9.30 to 11.30am sometimes in the hall. If you want to meet other local women and forge friendships, plan workshops, adventures or projects you're most welcome to join in. Bring your enthusiasm. Bring your friends. This group can grow into what you and its members want it to be. Contact Tracey on 0434 535 475 for further information.



### Social Indoor Bowls

Formed in 2003, the first group invented a game part indoor, part outdoor bowls. The rules are slightly different to other indoor bowls groups - more social and fun! Presently we have between eight and 16 players.

A fun, social game held every Wednesday 1.30-3.30pm with a break for a cuppa. Anyone is welcome, you don't need experience. Call Mike or Robyn Allam on 07 41257683 for more information.

### Wednesday night pool

Pool night has become a tradition at the River Heads hall. With a good mix of experienced and beginner players, everyone has a good time with occasional flashes of brilliance that make for good entertainment.

Games start at 6pm and the bar is open. For further information contact Mark Hensel on 0438 882 537.

*"Make every easy shot, and make every shot easy"*



## Volunteering at the hall

**There are lots of ways you can get involved at the River Heads Hall**

Bar work (RSA required) - Plate up on a Friday night – Front desk meet and greet – Sell raffle tickets - Cleaning

Volunteers' registration forms available at the hall on Friday night

**Call 0487 097 700 or grab a registration form on Friday**

# Fraser Radio – your local tourist information radio station

By Ed Martin, station manager



Welcome to our November 2024 update for Fraser Radio, a sub-committee of River Heads Progress Association. We are purely operated by volunteers who are passionate about our local region. Thank you to the Fraser Coast Regional Council's community grants program for providing the funds of \$4886 to Fraser Radio (RHPA.) to purchase two new computers. These will replace the current computers which have become unreliable, enabling Fraser Radio to maintain our on-air local tourism information service into the future.

After careful consideration the Fraser Radio Committee decided not to continue transmitting from the Sunshine Acres site due to a number of issues primarily technical and the cost of upgrades to remedy this. Meantime we are continuing transmitting from our River Heads and Booral Sites. This month, work has commenced on concreting at the Booral Site to facilitate a larger shed for the equipment located there. Taking this opportunity of thanking Nick Shultz (Urangan Fisheries) for his continued support which is highly appreciated. Also acknowledging Des, Barry and Alan for their contributions to the concreting foundation works.

Currently Fraser Radio is operating LPON (Low Power Open Narrowcaster) transmitters at River Heads on (88.0 MHz) and Booral (87.8 MHz) on the FM Band.

Our focus is on providing listeners with general information about Tourism in the local region. We also provide support for local sponsors through advertising and event information. If you want entertainment we provide a mix of music offerings.

Are you looking at advertising your business or activity? Why not consider Fraser Radio! We offer two basic packages, 6 Month (\$200) or 12 Month (\$360). These include a basic script and audio production at no additional fee! If you are a local business why not consider us!

Fraser Radio is always keen to promote information about the Fraser Coast that will be of potential interest to Tourists, Visitors and Locals. If you have something of interest to communicate, please email at [info@fraserradio.com.au](mailto:info@fraserradio.com.au)

We look forward to informing and entertaining our listeners through our FM radio broadcasts.

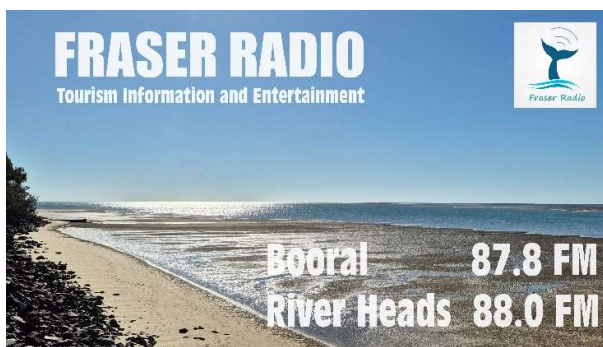
Fraser Radio wishes to thank our major sponsors for their highly valued assistance and contributions



**Photo from B Barwick:** Work progressing at the Booral Site, the formwork and the new concrete slab which will form the floor of a larger shed in the future.

including FCRC, Urangan Fisheries, Hervey Bay RSL and RHPA.

Wishing our listeners, advertisers, supporters and sponsors a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a safe time whether visiting or local to the beautiful Fraser Coast.



### Spreading festive cheer through song and lights

The Fraser Coast is embracing the festive season with Christmas tree light-ups and festive carol events in Hervey Bay and Maryborough.

In coming weeks, residents and visitors can enjoy Fraser Coast's Carols by Candlelight events—ideal for relaxing, singing along to favourite Christmas songs, and celebrating the spirit of the season.

"Carols are so important to our community as they bring people together to share in the joy of the season, creating a sense of connection, tradition and celebration that unites us all," Cr Seymour said.

Community Christmas carol events include:

- Carols in the Country – Tiaro – Saturday, November 30
- Maryborough Christmas Carols – Brolga Theatre (two shows) – Sunday, December 8
- Hervey Bay Carols by Candlelight – Seafont Oval – Saturday, December 14
- Burrum Heads Carols by Candlelight - Burrum Heads Christian Community Church 48 Howard St – Thursday December 19



For the first time, Maryborough's Christmas Carols will take place at the Brolga Theatre on Sunday, December 8, with two showtimes at 4 pm and 7 pm. Fireworks will follow in the Brolga Theatre car park. Darron Hayhoe, Lead Pastor for Reach Church is inviting everyone to join in to celebrate the spirit of togetherness, generosity, and faith.

"We're thrilled to be hosting this year's carols at the Brolga Theatre. Having them indoors ensures we can enjoy the event regardless of the weather. It's a wonderful setting for the community to embrace the joy, hope, and peace that Christmas brings."

Residents are required to reserve a seat, either by visiting the Brolga Theatre in person or booking online at <https://brolgat.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/141959>

The Hervey Bay Carols by Candlelight will take place on December 14 from 5 to 8pm at Seafont Oval, featuring traditional carols, festive songs, a visit from Santa, and a fireworks finale.

There are a range of community Christmas events happening across the region from now until Christmas which you can view at: <https://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/festive-events>

If you are a community group or not-for-profit organisation planning a community event that you'd like to include on our list, please email us at [helpdeskcommunications@frasercoast.qld.gov.au](mailto:helpdeskcommunications@frasercoast.qld.gov.au) with the event date, time, location and details.

"Council encourages everyone to join the holiday spirit by attending one of our many Christmas events in the coming months to celebrate, make joyful memories, and spread cheer throughout our community," Cr Seymour said.

## Council news

### Help shape the Fraser Coast's environmental future

Fraser Coast residents passionate about the environment and sustainability are encouraged to apply to join a new Council advisory committee.

Environment spokesperson Cr Zane O'Keefe said the Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee would provide expert advice and recommendations on environmental and sustainability issues across the Fraser Coast.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for two community representatives to play an active role in shaping our region's environmental future," he said.

"By joining the committee, members can share their insights and expertise, directly influencing initiatives that protect and enhance our natural surroundings."

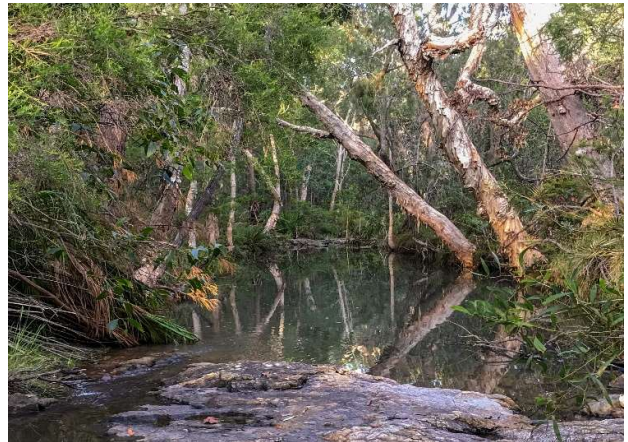
Cr O'Keefe said the voluntary positions were suited to those with personal or professional experience in environmental and sustainability issues.

"Committee members will play an important role in helping Council develop policies focused on the natural environment, reviewing current policies, and supporting public education campaigns," he said.

Appointment to the committee is for a maximum of two years with the member eligible for re-selection.

The committee also includes two councillors, a Queensland Government Departmental representative and ten representatives from a wide range of environmental, indigenous and wildlife organisations.

Expressions of interest are now open and close on December 13, 2024. For more information and to access the online application form, visit <https://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/environment-sustainability>



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# Council news

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## Free community movie nights

Fraser Coast residents are invited to join free screenings of *Just a Farmer* in Tiaro and Maryborough, a new Australian film showcasing the heart and hardships of farming life that is backed by Hugh Jackman and features a star-studded cast.

Mayor George Seymour said free barbecue dinners will be provided before each screening.

“Just a Farmer is a powerful Australian story of resilience and connection that addresses the silent struggles within farming communities,” he said.

“This film is inspiring audiences across Australia to discuss the heart and hardships of rural life and the importance of reaching out for support.”

Council is partnering with the Tiaro Chamber of Commerce and the Maryborough Progress Association to deliver the events.

The Just a Farmer movie nights will be held at:  
- Tiaro: December 14, The Royal Hotel, Tiaro, 38 Mayne Street. Free barbecue dinner 5pm, movie screening 6.30pm – 8.15pm.  
- Maryborough: January 11, Maryborough Cricket Club, 46 Ariadne Street. Free barbecue dinner 5pm, movie screening from 6.30–8.15pm.



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## Upgrade of Nikenbah intersection to start in early 2025

Work on a new roundabout at a busy Nikenbah intersection near the Fraser Coast Sports and Recreation Precinct is set to begin in early 2025.

At its meeting today, Fraser Coast Regional Council accepted a tender from local contractor Kirbro to upgrade the intersection of Woods Road, Chapel Road, and Madsen Road for \$4.3 million.

“The Fraser Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia and Nikenbah is one of the fastest growing suburbs on the Fraser Coast,” he said.

“These roads are main links to new developments around Nikenbah, with the popular sports precinct only a few hundred metres from this intersection.

“A roundabout was chosen as the most suitable solution to meet current and future traffic needs.

“The scope of work includes earthworks, road reconstruction with new areas of road pavement, stormwater drainage, kerb and channel, new median islands and line marking.”

The intersection has had four serious traffic accidents recorded in the last four years, and the project has received \$951,000 through the Australian Government’s Black Spot Program.

Cr Chapman said the project was expected to start January 2025 and take six to nine months, depending on construction conditions and weather.

“We recognise and understand that Nikenbah residents have experienced significant disruptions with road works for new developments, and we appreciate their patience as we deliver this intersection upgrade,” he said.

“The short-term inconvenience will bring long-term safety and traffic flow improvements, especially for those accessing the sports precinct.

“Council is committed to delivering resilient infrastructure that supports our region’s growth, and that’s what this project seeks to achieve



## *The Cheeky Home Cook creates – Mini chocolate dipped plum puddings*



### **Ingredients**

- 800 g dark fruit cake
- 150 g dark chocolate melted
- 200 g dark chocolate \*to decorate
- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 180 g white chocolate melted
- 1 red snake
- 6 spearmint leaf lollies

### **Method**

- Process fruit cake until finely crumbled; transfer to a large bowl.
- Stir in dark chocolate. Using hands, mix until combined.
- Roll level tablespoons of the mixture into balls; place on baking-paper lined tray. Refrigerate balls while preparing the coating.
- Place extra dark chocolate and oil in a medium heat-proof bowl over a pan of simmering water; stir until melted (or use microwave).
- Using a fork or skewer, dip balls into chocolate mixture; drain off excess. Return balls to tray. Refrigerate for 15 minutes or until chocolate is set.
- Spoon warm white chocolate over top of puddings; decorate with pieces of red snake and spearmint leaves. Refrigerate until set.

## **Margaret Horlock**

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