

River Heads Review

Community news



River Heads Progress Association

The River Heads Progress Association acknowledges 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.

Mark Hensel wins John Bridge Memorial Trophy



After a series of competitions throughout the year the final of the second John Bridge Memorial Trophy was held in December. John was a founding member and strong supporter of the social pool night held at the hall each Wednesday. As usual there was some brilliant play on the night with Mark Hensel finally named the 2025 winner.

Rivers Bistro & Bar – Closed until January 23, 2026

Australia Day

At the Reserve

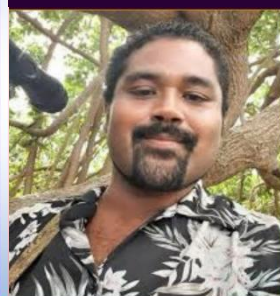
Family Fun Day

January 26 from 9am

More information inside

0487 097 700

Friday night Bistro entertainment



6 FEB

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Music by

Frank Benn

45 Ariadne Street (opposite the shops)



Volunteer coordinator

Good with people and organising?
Help build a volunteer pool, keep a register and organise rosters.

Bistro manager

If you know your way around a working kitchen and hospitality then this is for you.

Ensure the smooth running of the bistro, its people and goods.

Cook or food prep

Love to cook and make people happy?

Definitely talk to us about a job in the kitchen.

Washing up

If you're happy with your hands in the sink and helping out where you can, we need you.

RHPA contact information

Executive committee	President	Keith Morrison	president@riverheads.org.au
	Vice president	Ian Marsden	vicepresident@riverheads.org.au
	Treasurer	Jenny Gordon	treasurer@riverheads.org.au
	Secretary	Jayne Thomson	secretary@riverheads.org.au
Management committee	Assistant treasurer	Geoff Mealing	treasurer@riverheads.org.au
	Assistant secretary	Alison McGarry	secretary@riverheads.org.au
	Membership & key registrar	VACANT	secretary@riverheads.org.au
	Events coordinator	Suzanne Taylor	events@riverheads.org.au
	Bistro manager	VACANT	secretary@riverheads.org.au
	Bar coordinator	Mark Hensel	bar@riverheads.org.au
	Roster coordinator	VACANT	
	Website content manager	Sheree Henley	webmaster@riverheads.org.au
	Website administrator	Total Website Management	
	Emergency coordinator	Mark Hensel	emergency@riverheads.org.au
	Social media coordinator	VACANT	info@riverheads.org.au
	Review editor	Tracey Morton	review@riverheads.org.au
NC positions	Historian	VACANT	
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	Keith Morrison	0487 097 700
River Heads Fishing Club Inc		Ben Flanders	riverheadsclub@gmail.com
Patchwork & quilting	Mon am	Judy Smith	4125 7726/ 0427 000 982
Library	When hall is open		0487 097 700
Community Garden	Together We Grow		0487 097 700 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			
Wildlife carer		Rose Wright	0427 971 020
Wildlife Rescue FC		EC Exotic Haven	0499 453 674
First responders		Matthew Steer	0487 097 700

Advertising in the Review

The Review is published monthly. Print copies are distributed among local businesses, digital copies emailed to RHPA members and available on the RHPA website. A separate digital advertisement is also uploaded to the website.

Costs:	Annual \$ (for 12 ads)	Single \$ (for one ad)
1/8 page	65	-
1/4	135	55
1/2	260	80
Full page	500	120

Advertorial spread (single)

1/4 page ad + 1/4 editorial	70
1/2 page ed + 1/2 editorial	95

Advertising and photographs to be contributed as jpeg. Editorial as a word document, no formatting.

A Heartfelt Thank You
**TO ALL OF OUR
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**
We couldn't do it without you!

Ok, ok so he was promised cake if he took on the job of president but still...

Keith has had his hands full for the last couple of years keeping the River Heads Progress Association, and all of its facets, running smoothly.

Multi talented, Keith is often seen heading up meetings, liaising with councillors and authorities, working at the bar, doing maintenance, washing dishes and yes, serving up cake from time to time.

Occasionally Keith fits in a round of golf.

President is a big job with the RHPA and we know how much time it takes to cover all of the bases.

Thanks Keith, we appreciate all you do for us and we are onto that cake.

Thank you

**Keith
Morrison**



David Lee MP



Happy Valley to receive new Fire Emergency Services Tanks

In late 2020, a catastrophic fire burned one half of our world heritage listed Fraser (K'gari) island and came close to destroying the beautiful township of Happy Valley.

The Happy Valley Rural Fire Brigade barely had enough water to extinguish a house fire let alone a fire threatening to engulf Happy Valley, and the entire Fraser (K'gari) Island.

It's critical that the Happy Valley Rural Fire Brigade has access to fit for purpose fire protection services at the right place and at the right time. I am pleased to announce that a permit has been granted for the installation of a 100,000-litre static water supply in Happy Valley. I commend the Happy Valley Community Association and all the other Rural Fire Brigades for their tenacity and courage in protecting our lives, homes and communities.

Scott Bell and Darren Gorlick have worked incredibly hard toward the creation of a Happy Valley emergency precinct, and access to a reliable hydrant and static water supply is a critical step in the process. They have raised the funds to purchase the static water tanks at no cost to

the State Government. It beggars belief that the Happy Valley Rural Fire Brigade would barely have access to enough water to extinguish a house fire let alone defend the entire township.

I acknowledge and thank the Hon Dale Last, Minister for Natural Resources and Hon Anne Leahy, Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers for their advocacy and assistance throughout the application process.



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- Strokes, Seizures & Febrile Convulsions
- CPR & AEDs
- Emergency Equipment
- Wellbeing

Upcoming FREE in-person workshops:

River Heads Community Hall, Ariadne St, QLD, 4655
Date: Tuesday 10th February 2026
Time: 9.00am - 3.00pm



Register here

This workshop is proudly funded by
Evolution Mining



Celebrating River Heads Christmas cheer



Savan from River Heads Spar stayed for dinner after donating all of the cooked chickens on the night. And below that's one amazing hat.



& the happiest of new years to you all



Thanks to our amazing volunteers for a great night



Once again a small team pulled off a big job at the 2025 River Heads Progress Association Christmas dinner.

The night sold out early to another big crowd so work began months ago organising food, prizes and music.

To everyone who helped set up and pack up again, to those who prepared food and served, worked behind the bar, to the dishwashers and the ticket sellers – thanks everyone for another great night.

Community Flights

Every flight tells a story

As another year draws to a close, we're taking a moment to reflect, and to celebrate. In 2025, Community Flights has officially completed 172 flights for patients in need, and we couldn't be prouder of what this represents.

Behind every one of those flights is a person who needed to be where they had to be, for treatment, for care, for hope, and a community that stepped up to make it possible. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the dedication of our volunteer pilots and ground crew, and the unwavering belief that no one should miss vital medical care due to distance or cost, those journeys became a reality.

Every flight tells a story of compassion, teamwork and trust, and together they remind us why Community Flights exists in the first place.

As we look ahead, our hearts are full and our eyes are firmly on the future. We can't wait to see what 2026 brings - more opportunities to help, more patients supported, and more lives touched through the power of community.

We're also excited to kick off the New Year with our next Fundraising Joy Flight event, taking place on January 9, 10 and 11, 2026. These joy flights are

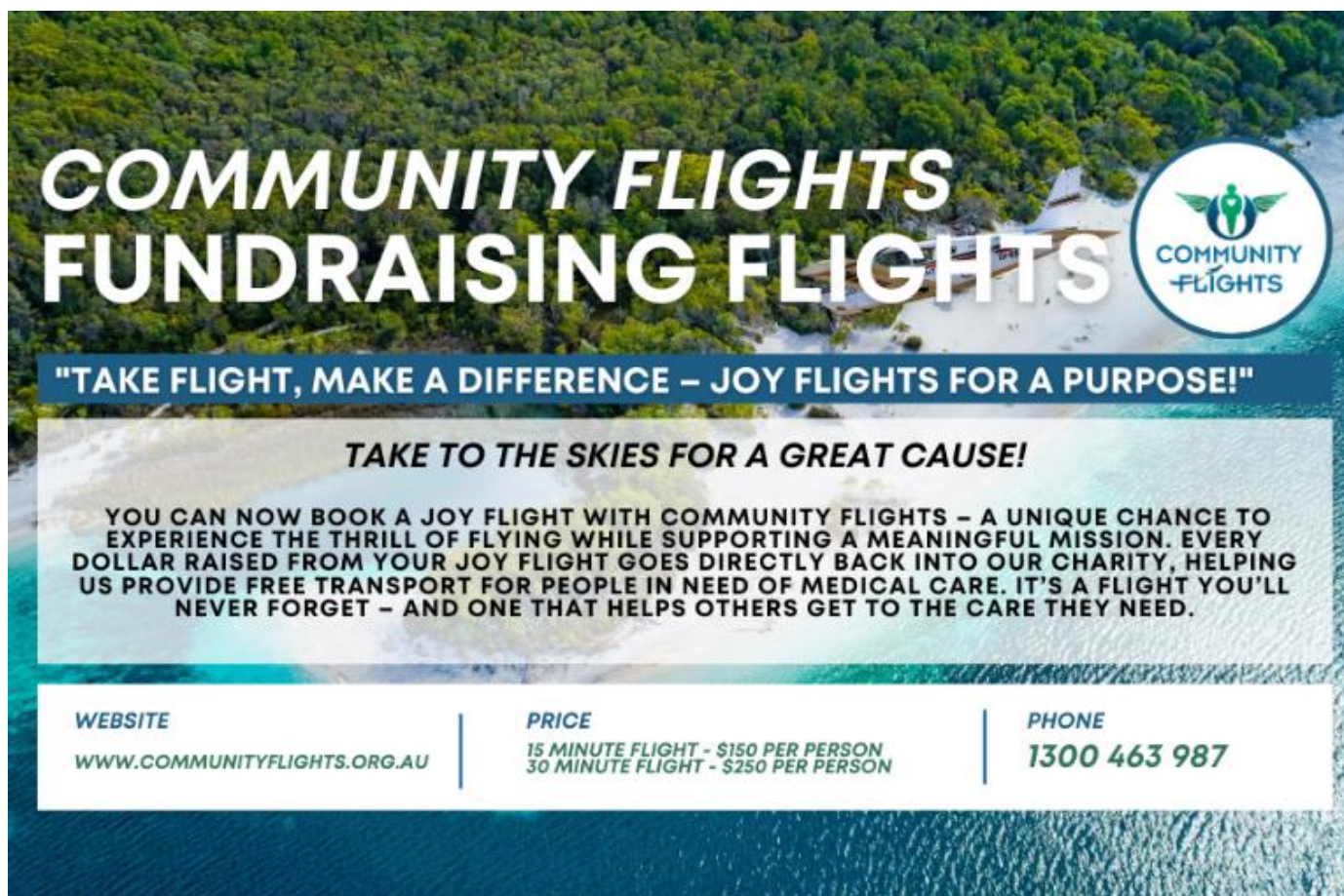


a wonderful way to support Community Flights while experiencing the beauty of our region from the air.


Flights are available to book now via our website:

- 15-minute flights – \$150 per person, taking in scenic views over Hervey Bay
- 30-minute flights – \$250 per person, with longer routes reaching out towards K'gari (Fraser Island)

Every seat booked helps fund future patient flights, keeping our service in the air for those who need it most. Thank you for continuing to support Community Flights and being part of our journey.



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WEBSITE	PRICE	PHONE
WWW.COMMUNITYFLIGHTS.ORG.AU	15 MINUTE FLIGHT - \$150 PER PERSON 30 MINUTE FLIGHT - \$250 PER PERSON	1300 463 987

River Heads Progress Association Events

Australia Day at the Reserve

Our first event for 2026 is the Australia Day River Heads v Booral cricket match and family fun day.

Any one keen for a game of cricket with either team is encouraged to sign up by 8.45am. Councillor John Weiland will be tossing the coin at 9am.

There will be best dressed prizes on offer but make sure you keep that pitching arm free for the thong throwing competition. A monster raffle will be held so be sure to get your tickets.

The kids will be kept busy on the treasure hunt then the fun continues with competitions in hula hoop, dancing, balloon blowing and chalk drawing. There will also be face painting between 11am and 1pm.

The Channel 7 marquee will be set up to showcase local businesses and we invite those business owners to bring their cards and brochures to display to the local community.

Live music with Hervey Bay City Musicians starts at 11am to 1pm so make sure you bring a comfy camp chair and sunscreen.

The River Heads Progress Association will be busy from 12noon cooking up the free sausage sizzle.

BYO drinks, shade, chairs and remember council has a "no glass in the parks" policy at the Reserve, 55 Seafarer Drive, River Heads.

For more updates please go to the River Heads Progress Association website and facebook page or send your enquiries to events@riverheads.org.au.

We look forward to a great day sharing laughter and fun as a community.

This event is brought to you by the Fraser Coast Regional Council, Fraser Coast Events and the RHPA. We look forward to many more such events in the future.

We are always keen to hear from anyone who wants to volunteer for the RHPA. There are so many different roles you don't need experience, just a love of community and involvement.

Our interim event calendar for 2026 can only go ahead if we have the volunteers to make it happen. So please put your hand up, big or small jobs, every little bit helps and very much appreciated.

Check out our website for more information and please support the association that supports locals.



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River Heads Reserve

River Heads v Booral
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**AUSTRALIA DAY
FAMILY FUN DAY +
CRICKET MATCH**

26 JAN 9am to 3pm

Thanks to Fraser Coast Regional Council no glass in parks

Fraser Coast Tourism & Events

PRIZES FOR BEST DRESSED

Thong Throwing Competition
Hoola Hoop Competition
Balloon blowing, Chalk drawing competition - Treasure Hunt

Live Music Hervey Bay City Musicians

Raffles

Family Friendly Activities

TICKET

Fishing Club news



We had a gorgeous weather window and thumping tides for our last meet of the year. Our anglers worked hard for their fish – and it showed.

December winners



Men's: Kasey with a cracking 51cm tuskie

Ladies: Nikki with a chunky 48cm cod

Junior: Jack with a 49cm cod – edging out mum in a nail biter

Secret length: Peter Ferris with a 61cm salmon

Members draw: Gary and code word: Wendy (you know or you weren't listening)



Meat trays galore

\$50 breakky tray The Meat Station – Bobby and Bianca

\$50 meat tray Kawungan Quality Meats – Richard and Tracey

\$25 meat trays Kawungan Quality Meats – Kip and Marleigh, Mark and Karen.



Massive shout out to The Meat Station for keeping our anglers fed and Bakehouse 13 for the freshest bread on the planet. You absolute champions

Our monthly fish meets wouldn't be complete without the ongoing generosity of FISHO'S Tackle World Hervey Bay, Daiwa Australi, BCF and Anaconda Stores.

Month after month, these guys spoil our members with epic prizes like fishing rods, lures, gift vouchers and more.

We are extremely grateful for their support so please make sure to send the love back at them, the next time you're on a fishing shopping spree.

As always a huge thanks to our mighty RHFC crew for all their hard work behind the scenes, compiling our fish for the weigh in on the big screen, running the BBQ, bar, raffles and putting on another fabulously fun meet. You legends keep this club pumping.

Save the date

Want to join the number 1 fishing club in Hervey Bay? Sign on day for the 2026 season is: Sunday, January 18, 2-5pm. River Heads Community Hall

Bring the family, bring your mates, and bring your competitive spirit to the River Heads Fishing Club – where every meet is a crackin' good time.

Until next time, tight lines.



Fishing Club Christmas and Presentation



2025 RHFC Club Champion Richard Morton took out the RHFC shield, biggest mackerel, biggest tuna and guru for grunter, mackerel, trevally and tuna

2025 winning fish species champions

Awards for the biggest catch plus the guru who consistently caught the same species.

Barramundi: Greg Townshend 75cm. Guru Rick Russell

Blackall: Gary Bateman 74cm. Guru Huxley Althaus

Bream: Amanda Althaus and Rick Russell 37cm. Guru Bert Flierman

Cod: Amanda Althaus and Rick Russell 78cm. Guru Huxley Althaus

Flathead: Darryl Smith 80cm. Guru Rick Russell

Grassy Sweetlip: Peter Ferris and Amanda Althaus 45cm. Guru Huxley Althaus

Grunter: Richard Morton 53cm. Guru Richard Morton

Mackerel: Richard Morton and Amanda Althaus 77cm. Guru Richard Morton

Blue Salmon: Rick Russell 96cm. Guru Rick Russell

Snapper: Gary Bateman 47cm. Guru Peter Ferris

Tusk Fish: Kasey Cook 51cm. Guru Huxley Althaus

Whiting: Bert Flierman 32cm. Guru Bert Flierman

Trevally: Kasey Cook 103cm. Guru Richard Morton

Tuna: Richard Morton 83cm. Guru Richard Morton
Coral Trout: Kasey Cook 60cm. Guru Kasey Cook

Club Champions

River Heads Fishing Club Champion shield: Richard Morton

Men's Champion: Richard Morton

Ladies Champion: Amanda Althaus

Junior Champion: Zane Stowers

Most outstanding fish: Bert Flierman 87cm Blue Salmon (2025)

Runners up

Men's: Huxley Althaus

Ladies: Bianca Henderson

Juniors: Will Sayers

Club Records broken

Rick Russell - Bartail flathead 53cm (June)

Kip Sayers - Cobia (black kingfish) 145cm (September)

Bert Flierman - Blue Salmon 87cm (October)

Will Sayers - Tuna 79cm (April)

Jack Yetman (junior) - Cod 49cm (December)

Fishing Club Christmas and Presentation



Ladies Champion Amanda Althaus also took out biggest bream, cod, grassy sweetlip, and mackerel.



Above: Men's runner up Huxley Althaus. Most outstanding fish winner Bert Flierman.

Below: Ladies runner up Bianca Henderson. Junior champion Zane Stowers



Fishing Club Christmas and Presentation



Fishing Club Christmas and Presentation



Our Christmas feast was next level: cooked hams, chickens, prawns, cheese platters along with salads and desserts from members. A special thanks to Nic and the crew for the hours of cooking.

A huge thank you to our committee and helpers who worked tirelessly to make sure every member felt celebrated, your massive effort did not go unnoticed.

Even two award winning anglers who couldn't attend were still technically present thanks to stunt doubles!

Congrats to Ari for winning the scenic photo of the year, courtesy of photographer and judge Peter Dore.

Congrats to Celena, on taking home a 50L fridge/freezer in the reindeer hoop toss.

Massive thanks to Franky Busta Music for live acoustic vibes and entertainment. We highly recommend him for any event.

That's a year for the history books for River Heads Fishing Club





To all of the amazing sponsors
of the River Heads Progress
Association during 2025

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support your community*

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To everyone who helped out

Councillor John Weiland

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To all of the advertisers and
contributors

A huge thank you to the River Heads community.

*Thanks for the help, getting involved, coming together and for
welcoming others to our great community.*

And thanks for reading your River Heads Review!

Fraser Radio – your local tourist information and entertainment

By Ed Martin, station manager

Welcome to 2026, we wish our listeners, supporters and advertisers a happy and prosperous 2026.

We welcome the many visitors to our region, returning or new and trust you enjoy your stay.

Fraser Radio provides a mix of entertainment and information promoting tourism in the region. Our briefs cover venues, events, places to visit and local history, so you can learn more about our local area.

Local attractions include: K'Gari (Fraser Is), whale watching, Urangan Pier, botanic gardens, Water Park, Z-PAC Theatre, historical museum and more.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday period during your stay and remember to take care on the roads, in the water and in the sun.

We are expanding our content with new stories and information with a focus on tourism.

With more historical segments planned we are keen to hear stories and information from our readers.

Previous segments have included the history of Urangan Pier and Maryborough along with tourism destinations of local Islands, venues and events.

Advertising is our primary source of revenue to cover operating costs. If you have a service, product or event consider advertising with Fraser Radio to support us while promoting your own enterprise like so many others. View our Advertisers Index on our website

<https://www.fraserradio.com.au/Advertisers%20Index.html>

Packages include: starter, annual, interview and special event packages for local business and organisations. They include basic production works to get your message on air and streamed.

Our regularly updated website offers a range of information including the stream link. We provide a mix of music from the 60's through to the present. We look forward to informing and entertaining our listeners through our content, don't forget to like our Facebook page.

Tune into Fraser Radio on 88.0 FM River Heads or 87.8 FM Booral or stream using this link <https://webplayer.fastcast4u/touristf/>.

We wish to thank our supporters for their highly valued assistance and contributions including, Urangan Fisheries, FCRC, Hervey Bay RSL, and RHPA. We also wish to thank our advertisers for their continued support and you our listeners.

Happy New Year from our team, we look forward to supporting local tourism in 2026.


Fraser Radio is a non-profit, volunteer operated enterprise, our team including members of RHPA Management provide the labour and resources to maintain the service, my sincere thanks to all involved for your tireless efforts.



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2026



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Enjoy your stay!



Community news

Goodbye Santa, hello 2026

River Heads' Christmas lights have become a popular tradition, even Santa stopped by for a rest stop before heading north.

Well done everyone who lit up their homes in 2025.





**RIVER HEADS
EXCAVATIONS**



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Council news

Council backs vital emergency services on Fraser Coast

Fraser Coast Regional Council has renewed and expanded its support for three key emergency services – the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), LifeFlight, and local Rural Fire Brigades.

Mayor George Seymour said the decision recognised the vital role these services play in keeping Fraser Coast residents safe.

“From bushfires to medical emergencies, these organisations are there for our community on some of the toughest days people will ever face,” he said.

Under the resolutions passed, Council will:

- Provide a one-year contribution of \$265,000 to the Rural Fire Service Qld to support Rural Fire Brigades on the Fraser Coast.
- Three-year agreements with the RFDS and LifeFlight, including waiving airport landing fees and an annual contribution of \$30,000 to each.

Council welcomes the State Government’s increased funding for Rural Fire Service Qld, with Council’s future contributions to Rural Fire Brigades reviewed each year as part of the annual budget.

Cr Seymour said the support is fully funded through Council’s Disaster Management and Resilience Levy on all rateable properties.

“This levy is one of the practical ways our community invests in its own safety and resilience,” he said.

“Our support for RFDS, LifeFlight and the Rural Fire Brigades reflects Council’s deep appreciation for their tireless work and our ongoing commitment to building a safer, more resilient Fraser Coast.”



New Fraser Coast bus stop signs helping passengers

Bus passengers across the Fraser Coast will see new poles and signs going up at local bus stops over the coming months.

FCRC Roads and Transport spokesperson Cr Denis Chapman said the changes were about making it easier for people to find their stop and understand where they are along the route.

“Public transport works best when it’s simple and clear,” Cr Chapman said.

“These new bus stop signs will be easier to see, easier to read and easier to match with the information on the Translink website and app.

“For regular bus users, it means more consistent information at every stop. For visitors and people who don’t catch the bus often, it should be easier to know where to get on and off.”

The upgrades include:

- replacing old poles with new, easy-to-see poles
- signs clearly showing updated bus stop name
- new case for timetable or bus route information.

Bus stop names on the signs are also being updated. Instead of only using the road name, many

stops will now use nearby cross streets or well-known places, such as a shopping centre, school or park.

“This naming system is already used in many parts of Qld and is designed to avoid bus stops having the same name at multiple locations along the same road. This will also help people match what they see at the bus stop with what they see on Translink’s website and app,” Cr Chapman said.

The work is being delivered by Council and is funded by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, through its Bus Stop Signage Improvements - Regional Refresh Program.

Works have started and are expected to be finished by the end of April 2026. Work will be done in stages across the region, and any short-term impacts at individual stops will be kept to a minimum.

Council encourages passengers to keep using their usual stops and to check the Translink website or Translink app for the latest service, stop and timetable information. A major upgrade is underway to make Denmans Camp Road and Totness Street safer, smoother and easier to use.

Council news

New Hervey Bay Community Hub takes shape

Work is powering ahead on the Hervey Bay Community Hub, which will be a new place for the whole community to learn, connect and create in the heart of the city.

Fraser Coast Mayor George Seymour said the project had passed several major construction milestones in 2025 and remained on budget ahead of its expected completion next year.

"This is a once-in-a-generation project that will transform the Hervey Bay City Centre," he said.

"More than three-quarters of the building will be community space, including a larger library, creative spaces, meeting rooms and a public plaza.

"By bringing more people into the city centre, it will also help support local businesses and boost our local economy."

This year saw the building's structure reach its full height, followed by the rooftop plant and the library's welcoming entrance staircase.

"From a big hole in the ground to a five-storey building, it's been amazing to watch it rise over the past year," Cr Seymour said.

"The next few months will see further transformation on site, with the removal of the tower crane and scaffolding, installation of an architectural sunscreen and rooftop solar panels, ground-floor landscaping and decking, and large whale sculptures inside the new library.



"Final works will include façade cleaning, internal fit-out, testing and commissioning, with the hub expected to open in the second half of 2026."

The Hervey Bay Community Hub will include:

- Two-level library, more space & modern facilities
- A central customer service and Council administration centre
- Disaster Resilience Centre to help prepare for and respond to natural disasters
- Meeting rooms, creative spaces and flexible areas for public use
- An outdoor public plaza for community events and everyday enjoyment.

The Hervey Bay Library and Council Administration Centre is a commitment under the Hinkler Regional Deal, supported by \$40 million from the Australian Government.

Infrastructure charges discount to boost housing diversity

FCRC has endorsed new incentives to help boost housing supply and encourage a wider mix.

"Our region doesn't just need more houses – it needs more choice," Development and Planning spokesperson Cr Paul Truscott said.

"Smaller homes, units, townhouses, supported accommodation and aged-care style housing all play an important role.

Infrastructure charges help fund services like roads, water, sewerage, stormwater systems and parks.

Under the new Housing Diversity Incentive, eligible townhouses, dual occupancies, community residences, rooming accommodation and residential care facilities in the appropriate residential zones will receive a 75 per cent discount on infrastructure charges.

Lifestyle villages and over-50s relocatable home parks are not eligible as Council considers there is already strong supply in that market.

As part of the same new package, Council has also adopted a targeted discount to help unlock more housing in Maryborough and several rural and coastal towns.

From January, eligible subdivisions will receive an infrastructure charge discount of about 27 per cent.

"The tap is flowing in Hervey Bay, but in the southern part of the region, the tap is running dry.

Cr Truscott said the new incentives would run for two years and be reviewed as part of Council's Investment Attraction Strategy.



The Cheeky Home Cook creates – Chicken Shawarma with garlic sauce

Ingredients

Chicken Shawarma

1kg skinless chicken thighs
3 tbsp olive oil
2 tbsp each of ground cumin and coriander
1 tbsp each of ground paprika, turmeric & cinnamon
1 tsp cayenne pepper (or to taste)
4 cloves garlic minced
Juice of 1 lemon

Garlic sauce

½ cup plain yogurt
¼ cup mayonnaise
3 cloves garlic, minced
Juice of ½ lemon
Salt to taste



Method

- Combine olive oil, cumin, coriander, paprika, turmeric, cinnamon, cayenne pepper, minced garlic, lemon juice, salt and black pepper.
- Add chicken thighs and coat well. Cover and marinate in the fridge for 1 hour or overnight.
- Preheat skillet over medium/high heat. Cook the chicken for 6-7 minutes per side, or until fully cooked and nicely charred.
- Remove from heat and let rest for a few minutes before slicing.
- For the sauce mix the yogurt, mayonnaise, minced garlic, lemon juice and salt.
- Service chicken sliced with pita bread or rice. Drizzle with sauce and garnish with parsley


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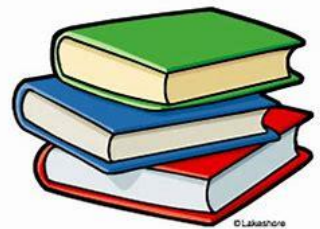
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