

RIVER HEADS

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

Review

Things are happening down by the water

Last month, David Lee MP, delivered the news that State Government funding to upgrade the River Heads pontoon had been secured.

The Pontoon, damaged over four years ago, has struggled to keep up with the ever-growing number of people using it for recreational purposes.

The Government is now calling for community consultation on the proposed plan, with a deadline of October 11.

Also in September, Councillor John Weiland presented a proposal to Fraser Coast Regional Council to list a revised design and upgrade of the whole River Heads boat ramp precinct for budget consideration. Council agreed unanimously.

Cr Weiland stated that, as the number of people who use the area compares to the number using the airport it was time that we appreciate the value of the precinct.



The draft plan, further information and survey link are on page 6.

Above: Boat ramp drone photo by Peter Dore



River Heads Community Hall

First Friday

Bistro with Wendy

Raffles
&
members' draw

Second Friday

Bistro with Liz

River Heads
Fishing Club Raffles
& members' draw

Sunday Sesh

on the Deck

Live music
with
Aaron Westlake

Sunday, Oct 18, 2pm
BYO nibbles & bar open

Fourth Friday

It's BBQ night!

raffles
&
members' draw

0458 731 836 (new number)

45 Ariadne Street (opposite the shops)

Contact list

Executive Committee			Hall Activities and Services		
President	Dinah Hurley	president@riverheads.org.au	Patchwork & quilting	Mon am	41257726/0427 000 982
Vice President	Neil Shardlow	vicepresident@riverheads.org.au	Judy Smith		
Treasurer	Lisa Maynard	treasurer@riverheads.org.au	Social Crochet	Tue 10am-noon	SocialCrochet@RiverHeads
Secretary	Karen Hensel	secretary@riverheads.org.au	Sheree Henley	Sat 10am-noon	CommunityHall FB
Management Committee			Indoor Bowls	Wed 1pm	Michaelallam@hotmail.com
Assistant Treasurer	Geoff Mealing	treasurer@riverheads.org.au	Mike & Robyn Allam		
Assistant Secretary	Ali McGarry	secretary@riverheads.org.au	Heartfulness meditation	2 nd & 4 th Sunday	0404 385 677
Bistro Manager				From 9am	
Bar Manager	Mark Hensel	bar@riverheads.org.au	Social Pool	Wed 6pm	info@riverheads.org.au
M'ship Registrar	Peter Dore		Bookings/takeaway	Friday night	0458 731 836
Key Registrar	Ali McGarry		Library	When hall open	0487 097 700
Roster Coordinator			RH Fishing Club	Ben Flanders	Riverheads fishing club@gmail.com
Events Coordinator	Leesa Crompton		Community Garden	Ali McGarry	
Grants Coordinator	Sheree Henley		Wildlife carer	Rose Wright	0427 971 020
Review Editor	Tracey Morton	review@riverheads.org.au	Fire Emergency	RH Kingfisher	000 or 0499 987 147
Website Co	Trevor Gordon	webmaster@riverheads.org.au			
Website Admin	Total Web Mgt				
Social Media Co.	Leesa Crompton				
Emergency Co.	Mark Hensel	emergency@riverheads.org.au			
Non-Committee Positions					
Historian		Vacant			
Sub Committees					
Fraser Radio	Barry Barwick	info@fraserradio.com.au			
Reserve	Mark Hensel	info@riverheads.org.au			



David BATT MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HINKLER

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A: Shop 3, 63 Torquay Road, Pialba QLD 4655 **P:** 4128 3461 **E:** David.batt.mp@aph.gov.au

W: davidbatt.com.au **F:** DavidBattMP **I:** [davidbattlnp](https://www.facebook.com/davidbattlnp)

Authorised by David Batt MP, LNP, 41B Woongarra St, Bundaberg QLD 4670.

Dinah Hurley - RHPA President



Welcome to this update for the River Heads community. I'd like to acknowledge Ian Marsden for the time, energy and dedication he contributed during his tenure as RHPA President. I wish Ian and Barbara every success in their future adventures.

My name is Dinah Hurley. I was elected RHPA President at the AGM, and I am honoured to lead and serve our community.

Jenny Gordon resigned from all of her RHPA positions on September 8, 2026. I thank Jenny for her unwavering commitment and for the support she provided as Secretary, Treasurer and RHPA Facebook social media person.

Appreciation and Connection

My sincere thanks to our new committee members and volunteer champions for stepping forward. I plan to host a dinner so we can meet, connect and celebrate everyone's contributions.

Recent additions include:

Secretary - Karen Hansel

Assistant Treasurer - Geoff Mealing

Events & Social Media – Leesa Crompton

Grants Coordinator - Sheree Henley

Community Gardens Project M'ger - Ali McGarry

Culinary Commanders –

Liz Stewart - Fishing Club night & Christmas dinner.

Wendy Burton - Foodie Friday & BBQ evenings

Library Assistant - David Sheldrick

Following a period of change, I am pleased to report that the RHPA is moving forward with a united team ready to serve the community.

Upcoming Events

Events Coordinator Leesa Crompton is preparing our Halloween and Melbourne Cup activities. Please stay tuned to your local radio 88.0FM, RHPA facebook, website and your Review for updates.

Contact Information

All current contact details are on page 2 of the Review and will be available on the webpage.

Thank you for your continued support. Please be kind and look after each another.



Councillor John Weiland Division 7



Some exciting news has come to River Heads - the Pontoon replacement is locked into the State budget, and community consultation is underway. Please take the time to

give feedback to ensure we get a build that works for the community. Head to David Lee's Facebook page or the Maritime Safe Qld Facebook page for the link to the consultation feedback.

I'd also like to give my thanks to David Lee and the state government for investing in this. This is a vital,

non-negotiable piece of highly valued infrastructure for the community and region.

Further to this investment, this month I took a motion to the council meeting to list a new, improved design for the whole precinct, for budget consideration. This was unanimously supported. What this means is that in the next budget process, I will be competing with other projects for funding to deliver this updated design. The goal is for a better experience for both our residents and the tourism that helps support our businesses in River Heads.

David Batt MP Federal member for Hinkler



David Batt MP has announced the opening of the Stronger Communities Program – Round 10 for the Hinkler.

Eligible local community and sporting groups are encouraged to submit an expression of interest for grants of between \$2,500 and \$20,000.

"The successful projects will provide social benefits and help Hinkler become a more vibrant and viable community," said Mr Batt.

"Round 10 has new objectives relating to climate resilience, native flora and fauna, positive mental and physical health, and community participation to promote tolerance and social cohesion."

Mr Batt said incorporated not-for-profits, local councils, state government agencies & incorporated trustees managing community assets can apply.

You can visit David's website Stronger Communities Applications Open Now 10 - David

Community news – Community Flights

A new chapter for Mark

After many years serving the River Heads community through the River Heads Pharmacy, Mark McMurtrie has officially handed over the reins and begun an exciting new chapter.

Mark has been a familiar face in our community for many years, and while saying goodbye to the pharmacy has been bittersweet, he is looking forward to having more time to focus on some of the other projects close to his heart.

One of those is **Community Flights**, the local charity Mark founded to help close the gap to healthcare access for people in regional communities. Community Flights provides free flights for eligible patients and their carers travelling from the Fraser Coast to medical appointments in South East Queensland.

With the pharmacy chapter now coming to a close, Mark will be dedicating more time to Community Flights and working towards the



organisation's five-year vision, while continuing to be involved in the River Heads community.

We wish Mark all the very best for this exciting new chapter and thank him for everything he has contributed to our community through the pharmacy over the years. We look forward to seeing where this next chapter takes him!

**COMMUNITY FLIGHTS**
Connecting people to care
CLOSING THE GAP TO HEALTHCARE ACCESS



JOIN US AT BUNNINGS
THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 5PM - 7PM
TIMBER YARD BUNNINGS HERVEY BAY
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Buy a ticket and support a great cause while going in the draw to **WIN!**

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We'll see you at **WINGS OVER MARY** SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER
A FREE FAMILY DAY OF AVIATION, DISPLAYS, FOOD & FUN FOR EVERYONE!
Bring the whole family down - it's going to be an awesome day!



Milestone!
200 FLIGHTS COMPLETED!
FLIGHT 200 COMPLETED ON 30 JULY 2024!
A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers, pilots, supporters and partners.
We are so proud of how far we've come and are continuing to grow!

JOIN OUR TEAM!
We're always on the lookout for new volunteers - both ground crew and pilots.
Every role makes a difference.
We'd love to hear from you!
Register your interest on our website.



THANK YOU FOR HELPING US CONTINUE *closing the gap to healthcare access.*

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Community news – Time is running out

Community consultation for boating facility upgrade

Community consultation is now open regarding repairs and upgrades to the current pontoon and boat ramp at River Heads. Locals and boaties are invited to review the concept design (below) and complete a short online survey.

Maritime Safety Queensland has proposed that the project will improve facilities at the important gateway to the Great Sandy Strait and K'gari.

With the existing floating walkway reaching the end of its service life, the upgrade will provide renewed infrastructure to improve safety, accessibility and functionality.

The concept design includes:

- Replacing the existing floating walkway with a new modern structure
- New pontoon at the outer end of the floating walkway
- Extended rock wall protection
- Boat ramp repairs and improvement

The form stated that feedback received during the consultation will help ensure the project meets community needs and priorities before the design is finalised.

Construction is expected to be completed by mid 2027, weather and marine conditions permitting.

Timing, final design and key milestones will be updated along the way.



Locals and boaties are encouraged to have their say before the October 11 deadline.

Scan the QR code above or visit: yoursay-projects.tmr.qld.gov.au/river-heads-boating-facilities-upgrade

Call: (07) 4194 9600 (business hours)

Email: Boatinginfrastructure@msq.qld.gov.au



Community news – Have your say

The River Heads Progress Association Community Priorities Survey deadline is October 31.

This survey helps the RHPA gather information for grants and funding, ideas for the hall, volunteering, events and long-term goals.

How to take part

- Online: Use the QR code below to open the survey. No sign in, no app to download and no account required. Or go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/63jtUJLtjn?origin=lpr>
- On paper: Fill in the printed forms on the front desk at the hall and place in the survey box provided.

One survey per adult, takes five minutes, your answers are anonymous unless you choose to leave details.



Spots filled for pool final

We have a fourth finalist for The John Bridge Memorial Trophy for pool 2026 River Heads Hall.

Nick will join Pete, Morty, and Wally in the November final which should be a nail biter.



Photo by: Mark Hensel

New seats at the reserve shed

Many thanks to Mark Hensel, Barry Goode and Cameron Higgins for setting up the new RHPA seats at the reserve shed.

Photos by: Mark Hensel



Thanks to the BBQ Team

The troops keeping the food coming at the August BBQ night were all smiles.

Photo by: Neil Shardlow





Sunday Mornings
at
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2nd & 4th Sundays
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Feel Different

Community news - Foodie Friday goes Greek



Fishing Club news

Another fantastic month on the water at River Heads Fishing Club, with plenty of fish, friendly competition and some great prizes up for grabs.

Many thanks to proud sponsor, Fishos Tackleworld, your continued support makes our monthly competitions even more enjoyable for everyone.

September Fish Meet Winners



Congratulations:

Men's: Rick

Ladies': Ngarra

Junior: William Sayers

First Fish: Indy Sayers, who won a Daiwa combo, a fantastic reward for her first fish.

Secret Length: Kristin

Well done to everyone who got out on the water and had a fish. Whether you brought home a trophy fish or simply enjoyed a day out with family and mates, that's what our club is all about.

A special congratulations to our junior anglers — it's fantastic to see the next generation getting involved and enjoying the fishing.

Junior Lure Painting and Catching Competition



The juniors have been busy getting creative, putting their own personal touches onto lures. Now the exciting part — getting those freshly painted lures into the water.

We're looking forward to judging the best-painted lure as well as seeing who can catch a fish using their very own creation. Good luck to all — we can't wait to see the colourful creations and, hopefully, plenty of fish caught on them.

Member's Draw

Congratulations to Marleigh Sayers, who took out this month's Member's Draw!

Marleigh also had an extra reason to celebrate, taking home the "Guess Their Catch – 369" special prize for the 366 fish caught during the recent Swains trip. Talk about a lucky run.



Fishing Club News

Father's Day Raffles – Thanks to Anaconda



Congratulations to our winners:

Wendy - Dune Camp Stove, \$25 Anaconda Voucher
Mark - Dune Vacuum Sealer, \$25 Voucher

Kawangan Quality Meats Prize Draw

Congratulations to our winners:

First - Kaitlyn, second – Indy, third - Bert

A massive thank you to Kawangan Quality Meats for supporting the club and our members. It was certainly a pretty good weekend for the Sayers crew!



Tomato Growing Competition

The plants have been growing, the competition has been fierce, and we're almost ready to crown our winner.

The winner will be announced at our October Fish Meet. Good luck to everyone still in the running.

Club Score App

Going forward, we will be using the Club Score App for all fish meets, including the Interclub competition.

If you haven't downloaded the app yet, please follow the link and get set up: Any Issues, please let us know. <https://members.clubscoreos.com/clubs/rhfc>

A big shout out to Greg Townsend for developing this app and allowing our club to be the first official users. Top Work Greggo!

Until Next Time...

That wraps up another busy month for River Heads Fishing Club.

A huge thank you once again to our members, families, volunteers and sponsors who continue to support the Club. From fishing competitions and raffles to family events and a bit of friendly rivalry, there's always something happening at RHFC.

Keep your rods rigged, your reels ready and we'll see you on the water!

River Heads Fishing Club

What's on

October 2-5 - 2026 Interclub Competition

Presentation – 1pm Toogoom District Community Hall. Please note – NO BYO alcohol, the bar will be open to purchase drinks. The bus is now full.

October 9-11 – Fish Meet

Get your gear ready, it's just around the corner

October 16-18 - Monduran Family Fishing Classic

Members will need to organise their own competition entries and camping fees directly. An in-house competition for biggest fish will also run. Entry \$20, winner takes all.

November 6-8 – Fish Meet and AGM

Our November Fish Meet will also include our Annual General Meeting. So please make sure you keep the weekend free.

Wildlife Matters – Library Talk

Our Koalas: protected and on the loved Fraser Coast

The October Wildlife Library talk presented by the Fraser Coast Branch of Wildlife Queensland is an event you cannot afford to miss.

Dr. Jane Gray will be giving a talk on the koalas of the Fraser Coast and what is being done to preserve their numbers. She will be speaking at the Hervey Bay Library on October 16 and at the Maryborough Library on October 23.

Jane explains the local situation. “We live with koalas: but our koalas are struggling. We are determined to utilise the best science to improve our knowledge and implement conservation actions to ensure their survival. Our koalas project aims to provide a better picture of what plants Fraser Coast koalas are eating and using, along with assessing their health, and examining habitat connectivity.” She said.

“At one of our survey sites we collected 115 scat samples. Pictured [right] are some of our scat sample bags. Scats were placed in these bags in a way that ensures the samples are not contaminated. We collected only fresh koala scat, which is dark in

colour and has a shine. We built up the numbers of scat samples to ensure we had quality scat to send away for diet and DNA analysis.

“Science is only one dimension of the saving our koalas. What you do is also very important. Come along to the talk and find out what you can do.”

No bookings necessary. The talks run from 1- 2pm.

Can you find scat in the photo?



**RIVER HEADS
EXCAVATIONS**

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Fraser Radio – your local tourist information and entertainment

By Ed Martin, station manager

It's the end of another successful whale watching season and we'll certainly be looking forward to next year's season.

On October 2-18, Z-PAC Theatre will be presenting its latest production *Blithe Spirit*. Noël Coward's sparkling supernatural comedy sees séances, spirits and sarcasm collide. When a novelist's past comes back to haunt him—literally—chaos ensues in this witty, elegant and delightfully mischievous classic directed by Lesley Reid.

Locals and visitors wanting to experience live theatre can visit www.zpactheatre.com.au for times and booking details.

If you are visiting our Fraser Coast region stay tuned to Fraser Radio for our information briefs covering local history, places and events.

About us:

We are a subcommittee of the River Heads Progress Association Inc. focused on tourist information and entertainment for our local region.

The Fraser Radio team held its annual office nominations in August 2026. The existing team of

Ed Martin
(Station Manager),
Fay Pearson
(Office Manager)
and Barry

Barwick juggling (Technical and Programming Manager) roles will continue.

We look forward to working with our new RHPA Committee with congratulations to Barry Barwick on his appointment as their Fraser Radio delegate.

We are always keen to have more hands on deck, so if you are interested in joining the Fraser Radio team please email a brief summary of yourself and why you would like to join the Team to info@fraserradio.com.au

Please note Fraser Radio does not broadcast live, programming is compiled totally by RHPA volunteers and pre-recorded. We welcome questions and suggestions from our listeners, and will endeavour to respond to all.



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Classical double act at Brolga Theatre



Classical music lovers are in for a double treat next month, with the Fraser Coast Orchestra and Opera Queensland taking to the Brolga Theatre stage.

More than 50 musicians will come together for the Fraser Coast Orchestra's Concert Classics, followed by Opera Queensland's Bravo!.

Fraser Coast Mayor George Seymour said the two performances would showcase both local talent and some of Australia's leading professional performers.

concert Classics will feature works including: The Blue Danube Waltz, Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5, Bizet's Carmen Suite, Grieg's Peer Gynt Suite and the Can Can. Conducted by Barrie Gott, and joined by Australian lyric tenor Paul Tabone.

Mr Tabone has performed internationally, including in London's The Phantom of the Opera.

Opera Queensland will bring Bravo! to the Fraser Coast as part of its 2026 regional tour.

Featuring music by composers: Puccini, Verdi, Mozart and Bizet, performed by current and former Opera Queensland Young Artists Nick Kirkup, Lachlann Lawton and Maddie Stephens, alongside Chelsea Burns and pianist Beverley Kennedy.

Concert Classics will be held at the Brolga Theatre from 7.30pm on Friday October 16.

Bravo! will be held at the Brolga Theatre from 7pm on Saturday October 17.

Tickets: <https://www.ourfrasercoast.com.au/Brolga-Theatre/Whats-On>

Defending the title for the 2026 Garage Sale Trail

Residents are being called on to clear out and cash in for the Garage Sale Trail this November.

The nationwide event with thousands of garage sales and market stalls held across Australia on November 7-8 and 14-15, gives locals the chance to sell unwanted items, pick up a bargain, meet new people while keeping quality goods out of landfill.

Council Resource Recovery spokesperson Cr Michelle Byrne said Fraser Coast was the nation's top-performing council area last year, with 317 registered sales, up from 200 in 2024.

"In 2025, more than 330,000 Australians took part in Garage Sale Trail, helping to reuse almost 740,000 items and avoid more than 2,700 tonnes of carbon emissions," she said.

Sellers made an average of \$500 last year, showing that selling second-hand is as good for the wallet as it is for the planet.



"Participation is free and registered hosts receive access to a range of promotional resources and tools to help make their sale a success."

To find a sale near you on the online map visit: <https://www.garagesaletrail.com.au/fraser-coast>

Four weeks left to turn waste into art

Fraser Coast residents are being encouraged to get creative, with entries for this year's Waste to Art competition closing in a month.

Fraser Coast Regional Council Resource Recovery spokesperson Cr Michelle Byrne said the popular competition challenged people of all ages to transform unwanted materials into artworks and wearable fashion pieces.

"Waste to Art is a fantastic opportunity to give items destined for landfill a second life while showcasing the creativity of our community," she said.

"We've already received some impressive entries, including works made from 11,000 plastic bottle caps, wooden offcuts and recycled match sticks to create a scout's camp.

"School holidays are the perfect time to start collecting materials, visit your local tip shop for inspiration and get creating before entries close 16 October."

"Last year's wearable art entries featured everything from a striking dress made entirely from recycled denim to designs using storage bags, bubble wrap, sponges and reused curtains."

Arts spokesperson Cr Sara Souvlis said the exhibition opening night on 14 November would bring together all entries across the competition.

"The standard of entries we've seen so far has been exceptional and we're looking forward to seeing even more creative works submitted in the coming weeks," she said.

"A prize pool of \$5,000 in Buy Local Gift Cards is on offer thanks to the support of Hyne Timber, Cleanaway, the Reuse & Recycle Group and Nugrow."

Entry is free, with six categories available:

18 yrs & over: 1st \$1,500 | 2nd \$500 | 3rd \$350

12 to 17 yrs: 1st \$300 | 2nd \$150 | 3rd \$100

8 to 11 yrs: 1st \$200 | 2nd \$100 | 3rd \$75

Under 8 yrs: 1st \$150 | 2nd \$75 | 3rd \$50

Wearable Art (18 yrs & over): 1st \$500 | 2nd \$250

Wearable Art (under 18 yrs): 1st \$150 | 2nd \$100

People's Choice award 18+: \$300 | Under 18: \$150

First-place winners in the Wearable Art category will also receive two Gallery Tickets to the 2027



Australian Wearable Art Festival on the Sunshine Coast, proudly gifted by Australian Wearable Art.

"The community will also have the opportunity to vote for their favourite piece in the People's Choice Award during the exhibition," she said.

"Entries are open until 16 October, with artworks to be exhibited from 14 November at Gatakers Artspace in Maryborough."

Residents can enter or find out more at www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/waste-to-art

Nominations open for Fraser Coast Australia Day Awards

Nominations are open for the 2027 Fraser Coast Australia Day Awards, giving the community the chance to recognise the people and groups making a difference across the region.

Award categories for 2027 include:

- Citizen of the Year (26 years and over)
- Young Citizen of the Year (under 26 years)
- Sport and Wellbeing Award (all ages)
- Arts and Culture Award (all ages)
- Community Group or Organisation of the Year

Nominations close December 3.

Nominees will be recognised at a special ceremony on January 18, with award winners presented on Australia Day, January 26, 2027.

To nominate someone making a difference, visit www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/australia-day



Ingredients

300g short pasta such as penne, macaroni or rigatoni

200g chorizo roughly diced

1 onion finely diced

1 tsp minced garlic

1 tbsp tomato paste

½ cup sun dried tomatoes finely chopped

1 ½ cups thickened cream

1 cup grated parmesan (plus extra to serve)

Salt and pepper to taste



The Cheeky Home Cook creates – Creamy chorizo pasta

Method

- Cook pasta 1 or 2 minutes less than usual as the pasta will finish cooking in the sauce. Keep ½ cup of the water before you drain.
- Cook chorizo 3-4 minutes to crispy and golden. No need for oil, chorizo will release its own.
- Add onion and garlic, cook for 1-2 minutes
- Stir through the tomato paste and sundried tomatoes for 1 minute.
- Add the cream, bring to a gentle simmer and cook 2-3 minutes. Stir until slightly thickened.
- Stir through parmesan and season.
- Toss through pasta and water 1-2 minutes.
- Sprinkle with extra parmesan to serve.

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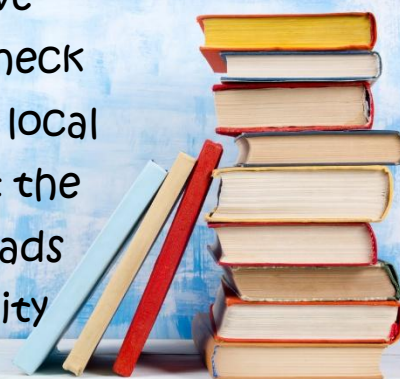
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Advertising in the Review

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.

Breathtaking Water Views

River Heads • Turtle Cove • Booral

We are #1 in River Heads!

For the 3rd year in a row, River Heads Property Sales has remained the #1 agency in River Heads winning the 2025 Rate My Agent "Agency of the year" for River Heads.

Shane Logan also took out the coveted "Agent of the year" for the suburb of River Heads thanks to the amazing support of his agents Mark Holmes and Kaleena Bracken

Nobody knows River Heads like us and we have the stats to prove it. We are desperately looking for more vacant land and homes under the \$1m mark as we have plenty of buyers still wanting to get into the River Heads market.

Pop into our office at the River Heads Shopping Village for a chat!

Visit us today at River Heads Shopping Village

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Contact Us

Kaleena Bracken 0429 405 109

Shane Logan 0409 796 249

Mark Holmes 0417 555 296

River Heads

*The Gateway
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