

Caloundra CHRONICLE

#7: February/March 2026 | Feel-good news

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**Guardians of
the Mountains**

**What's New
in Caloundra**

**CALOUNDRA
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Editor/Designer
Alana Hall

Client Liaison
Claire Polanski

Admin
Lola Hall

Writer
Sue Warren

Photographers
Rebecca Sian
Julie Forster
Bella Jade

Cover image: Val Ross
Glasshouse Mountain Series

Columnists
John & Janice Groves
Anne Wensley
Janice Johansen
Rashida Cottrell
Andrew Champion
John Henderson
Suzanne Wilson

Distributors
Gavin Hall
Rebecca Sian
Ely McBeath
Sue and Geoff Wall

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CONTACT

PHONE: 0411 115 141

EMAIL: connect@caloundrachronicle.com

POST: PO Box 986
Caloundra, 4551

We recognise the Kabi Kabi and Jinibara peoples as the traditional custodians and storytellers of Sunshine Coast.
We honour elders past, present and emerging.

Dear Readers

What a time to be alive on the beautiful Sunshine Coast. There is so much happening across our region, set against the landscapes that make this place so special.

This land with its trees, waterways, vegetation and wildlife, adds richness to everyday life, and having nature at our doorstep offers space to reconnect and replenish.

I'm grateful to every person looking after our environment and to those leading with vision and care considering the collective needs of people and place.

Within Caloundra's village, new businesses, facilities and projects continue to emerge, adding energy and optimism.

In step with this growth, Caloundra Chronicle has exciting plans for 2026, with eight editions scheduled and new projects underway to expand our small business directory, events coverage and dining features.

Our new website will launch soon. Subscribe to receive a digital copy of the magazine in your inbox, along with a monthly e-newsletter sharing feel-good news, events and local reviews.

If you enjoy the magazine, the best way to support us is to subscribe via our website, follow us on social media, and spread the word with family and friends.

We look forward to sharing more local stories, positive news and beautiful imagery, offering a practical guide and trusted source of inspiration for Caloundra.



Alana Hall

Find the Chronicle here:

Mai Secret, Bulcock Street
Kings Beach Surf Club
The Real Grocer, Golden Beach
Kings Beach Convenience Store
Caloundra Indoor Bowls Club
Tooway Bakery, Moffat Beach
Nightowl, Little Mountain
Currimundi News, Marketplace
Caloundra Power Boat Club

IGA Local Grocer, Dicky Beach
The Bellvista Bakery
Caloundra Newsagency
Kerry's Corner, Bulcock Street
Community Bank Caloundra
Caloundra Regional Gallery
The Events Centre
The Chicken Spot, Currimundi
Coco's Currimundi

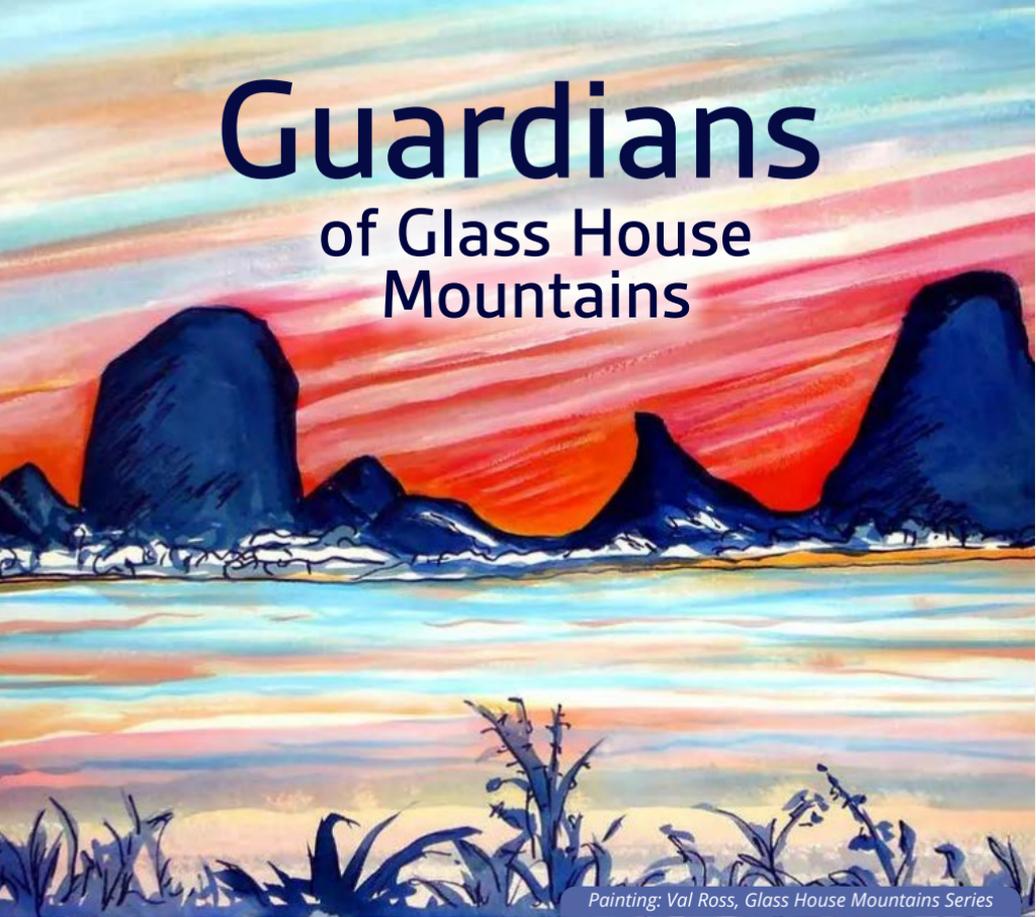
PLUS 130 OTHER LOCAL OUTLETS & TOURIST RESORTS

Next Edition Out Friday 20 March, 2026

Advertising closes Mon 9 March, 2026

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advertising@caloundrachronicle.com or 0411 115 141



Guardians of Glass House Mountains

Painting: Val Ross, Glass House Mountains Series

MOUNTAINS OF STONE (The Glass House Mountains)

We are mountains of stone, standing between the earth and sky,
holding the knowledge and ways of the old people, while
envisioning a world awakening upon new horizons.

We have witnessed many ages and countless seasons, enduring
the rising of floods and storms of fire. Resilient, we are, with a spirit
immovable and indomitable embedded within, flourishing
from our fertile forests to steepest summits.

From us, waters flow, fields breathe and flowers find bloom
with the timeless song of birds summoning every dawn.

Here, the heart of eagle is at home with its expanse of wings.

Come and discover within us the treasured and untamed wilderness
of your own ancient landscape and sacred dreaming.

Standing between the earth and sky, we are living mountains of stone.

~ Gerard Traub ~

Rising from the coastal plain, the Glass House Mountains are far more than a dramatic skyline; they are a place of deep cultural meaning, rare ecology and shared community identity. For decades, quarrying has operated in their shadow, predating the area's recognition as a National Heritage Landscape in 2006 and, more recently, the Sunshine Coast's designation as a UNESCO Biosphere in 2022. Today, a proposal to deepen the Glasshouse quarry marks a new and confronting chapter. While industry argues the need to meet regional growth, many locals are concerned about the environmental, cultural and visual impacts of taking the landscape ever deeper. In a region celebrated globally for balancing people and place, a question now sits with the community: how much is too much? In these pages, community members, Traditional Owners, artists and advocates speak from the heart about what the Glass House Mountains mean to them, and what their future should hold.

Senior Elder Uncle Kenny Murphy

For the Jinibara People, the Glass House Mountains are our ancestral spirits. The mountains are a family, with Tibrogargan the father mountain always looking out to safeguard his family, Beerwah the mother mountain always pregnant, and the other mountains in the group are their children. The mountains have always looked after the Jinibara People, and it is our responsibility to look after them and the land around them as effectively this is where the ancestral spirits have chosen to camp. The Jinibara People who were trained properly by their Elders do not believe the quarry at the base of Coonowrin should be there as it is damaging the mountain and his camping place.

Megan: I am not here to fight. I am here to protect - my home, my children's home, this living landscape, and my fellow neighbours.

This is the intention I carry in my heart. The only way we can do this is in solidarity, as one community, with all of our community. We are human beings connected to these mountains, and these mountains are asking us now to stand up, each in our own way.

There may not be many of us, but every voice matters. If we stay silent, if we do not speak, if we do not act, then nothing changes. And yes, it is frightening. I have never been to court. I have never been an activist. And yet, here I am. Because I love these mountains. They have changed my life. They are worth standing for.

Dean: My name's Dean Reilly and I'm an artist grounded in a deep respect for the land and the stories it holds. Living and creating on the Sunshine Coast, I'm constantly drawn to the quiet power of the Glass House Mountains, not just as subjects of beauty, but as ancient presences that shape who we are. In a region growing faster than ever, it's easy to see these mountains as scenery or resource, but they're so much more. They're sentinels of time, sacred to First Nations people, and central to the identity of this place. What if we chose to see them not through the lens of what they can give us, but what they already are? Not just material assets, but living beings, worthy of reverence, protection, and pause. In a time of rapid change, they offer us something very rare, stillness, memory, and the chance to belong to something greater than ourselves.



Uncle Kenny Murphy



Maree



Megan



Sarah



Dean



Teresa



Lily



Burnice



Gerard



Teresa: The first time I drove past the Glass House Mountains in 1982 was a mystical experience for me. I had only recently immigrated from the United States, yet I felt the strongest sense of connection and belonging to this place. Three years ago, the opportunity to live amongst these mountains arrived, and it felt like a homecoming. Initially, I had no idea the quarry existed nearby. I soon learned the truth however when I experienced a quarry blasting event at home, on a quiet morning. At first, I thought there had been an earthquake, but later my housemate told me about the quarry. I was shocked. It felt so wrong to me that this sort of industry was allowed in such a culturally significant area. Shortly after I learned of the bid to expand the quarry, and about the Save Our Glass House Mountains community. Immediately I knew I wanted to be involved to help protect this special place.

Gerard: I cannot understand why these unique mountains are not already protected from mining, even for their sheer beauty and presence alone? They have been here for many millions of years. If we cannot raise our concerns to preserve something that we consider most beautiful, then what is this saying about our current state of humanity? Multinational mining corporations have a long track record of destroying the environment, along with the richness of habitat and the ancient cultural heritage of the land, for the sake of maximum profit. These Glass House Mountains are sacred to the local Jinibara people, and we must do all that we can to preserve them for our children and future generations to come.

Lily: As part of a younger generation, it's heartbreaking to watch ongoing environmental damage, especially in a place as significant as the Glass House Mountains. Once this land is altered, it cannot be restored, there is no undo button. This isn't just about one place. If a National Heritage listed area can be

damaged, what's stopping the same thing from happening across the country? I struggle to understand why continued extraction from the earth is prioritised when innovation and alternatives exist, we're creating cars that can drive themselves, yet still choose to blast the earth? It is future generations who will live with the consequences, which is why it's our time to stand up and protect what ultimately gives us life.

Burnice: I love these mountains. I grew up at Redcliffe, so I've always been looking over to this landscape. I have been a hiker, and I've hiked around most of them. I've climbed one or two, but I don't do that now. I'm a bird watcher, so my heart breaks when they start blasting. Nobody sends out a memo to the wildlife. Our glossy black cockatoos are a vulnerable bird species and their flyways, nesting trees and food and water sources are getting dusted by quarry blasts. They might not drop dead at that moment, but they could have a heart attack and/or lose their habitat.

Sarah: The Glass House Mountains are approximately 25 million years old. They hold the history of this land, its plants, animals and culture. I understand they are very significant. In a short window of just over 200 years, this land has been all but decimated to a point where any attempt at rehabilitation will be useless. If we allow them to be further destroyed, we are setting a precedent. They are irreplaceable. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. This needs to be stopped.

Maree: I just love the mountains. I'm very much an earth person. I've been driving around Australia for 10 years in a van and I now live on the land here in my van. People ask, what's the reason for standing up to protect them? I just love them. They're important. I can feel their energy. I'm particularly connected with Beerwah. When I was 1000 miles away, I could actually feel her energy.

Heidelberg Materials Australia: As the matter relating to the Glasshouse Quarry expansion is currently before the courts, Heidelberg is unable to comment at this time.

The Club for Love

The Caloundra Power Boat Club has long been a place where memories are made, and increasingly, where love stories begin. This month, that reputation was cemented on the national stage, with the Club taking out First Place – Wedding Venue (Licensed Club) at the Australian Wedding Industry Awards in Sydney.

Adding to the celebration, the Club's highly regarded Functions Manager, Priscilla Wilcox, was recognised as Australia's top Wedding Venue Coordinator, standing out among 45 finalists nationwide. For couples who have celebrated their big day at the Golden Beach venue, the accolades come as no surprise.

Renowned for its sweeping waterfront views across Pumicestone Passage, and its personalised approach, the Caloundra Power Boat Club has become one of the Sunshine Coast's most sought-after wedding destinations. From intimate ceremonies to grand receptions, each celebration is delivered with care, attention to detail and a genuine commitment to making every couple feel at home.

Club President Les Broughton said the awards reflect the dedication of the entire team and the strong support of the local community.

"We're incredibly proud to be recognised on a national stage and grateful to the couples who trust us with such an important day in their lives," he said.

It's this blend of professionalism, warmth and setting that continues to draw couples back, not just for weddings, but for anniversaries, milestone celebrations and romantic evenings by the water.

And with love well and truly in the air, the Club is extending the celebration beyond weddings. On Saturday 14 February, the Caloundra Power Boat Club will host a special Valentine's Day dinner, featuring a stunning seafood tower paired with a bottle of wine, a relaxing, elegant way to celebrate romance by the water.

At Caloundra Power Boat Club, love is always worth celebrating.

Bookings essential. Call (07) 5492 1444 or visit caloundrapowerboat.com.au.





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at Golden Beach

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BAR, BISTRO & GAMING - FROM 10AM DAILY
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*Celebrate love at the Club this
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*Surf Girl Competition
Kings Beach 1950s.*

Caloundra's History of Friendly Competition

Caloundra has always had a playful, competitive spirit. Long before instant entertainment, locals created quirky, homegrown contests that brought the community together through simple fun.

From sandcastle competitions in the 1940s to Tiny Tots and Surf Girl contests in the 1950s, the town embraced spectacle. The 1960s delivered crab races along Bulcock Street and powerboat marathons to Golden Beach, while the 1970s saw bathtub derbies, bed races and festive street parades.

Together, these events reveal a town rich in creativity and friendly rivalry.



*Power Boat Race from Brisbane to Golden Beach,
and the crowning of the Marathon Princess.*



Bed Racer, Bulcock St 1970s.



Sand Castle Competition 1940s.



Tiny Tots competition 1950s.



Crab Races Bulcock St 1960s.



Bath Tub Derby, Bulcock Beach 1970s.



Christmas & Easter Street Parades 1970s.

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68 Past Tourist Attractions

Local Historians, Anne Wensley, and John and Janice Groves have written many books about Caloundra's past. Find them at the Moffat Beach Post Office, The Book Shop at Caloundra or directly from John and Janice Groves at 0434 680 312.



Win the Pelican Waters Vista!

Coastal luxury. Waterfront living. Purpose with every ticket.

Nestled within one of the Sunshine Coast's most sought-after waterfront communities of Pelican Waters, the Surf Life Saving Lottery prize home captures everything locals love about coastal living – space, style and a laid-back lifestyle by the water.

Architect-designed and beautifully appointed, this contemporary residence invites you to step inside and picture life unfolding here. Inside, light-filled interiors and generous proportions set the tone for relaxed everyday living and easy entertaining.

The home features four spacious bedrooms, multiple living zones and a seamless indoor-outdoor layout that makes the most of the Queensland climate. Open-plan living flows to a private pool and designer outdoor kitchen – perfect for weekend gatherings, long lunches and balmy evenings spent with friends and family.

Set moments from the Pelican Waters Marina, shopping precincts, cafés and walking trails, the home offers the best of both worlds – peaceful canal-side surrounds with everything you need close at hand. With beaches, waterways and local favourites all within easy reach, this is Sunshine Coast living done right.



Valued at over \$2.7 million, the first prize includes:

- The stunning Pelican Waters waterfront home
- Professionally styled interiors and a full furniture package valued at \$317,207
- Plus \$10,000 in gold bullion

Every ticket sold also supports Surf Life Saving, helping protect the beaches that locals and visitors enjoy year-round.

We look forward to welcoming you at the Pelican Waters Vista – come and experience it for yourself!

The Pelican Waters prize home is open for inspection Wednesday to Sunday, 10am–4pm. Visit surflottery.com.au for full details, to explore online and secure your tickets.



Lotteries

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**PELICAN
WATERS**
Vista

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Visit Us!

WED TO SUN | 10AM - 4PM
2 ARLINGTON DRIVE
PELICAN WATERS

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IN PERSON?

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Virtual
TOUR



  
@surflottery

~NEW TO~

Caloundra

22 Cribb St

Inspired by the timeless flavours of Paris, boutique café, 22 Cribb St, is now delighting visitors on Bulcock Street.

After finding success in Landsborough, Pastry Chef Dhanushka Manjula and business partner Robyn McIntyre have brought their French pâtisserie to Caloundra, offering the same handcrafted pastries, mouthwatering cakes, and good coffee that made the original a local favourite.

The pâtisserie celebrates classic French baking techniques with wholesome pastries, desserts, and breads made from quality ingredients without artificial ingredients or colours.

Reasonably priced, crafted with authenticity, and located in Caloundra's bustling hub, it's an easy go-to for a quality coffee, a fresh loaf of sourdough or a cheeky Parisian delicacy.

90 Bulcock St, Caloundra

Bunker Espresso

Bunker Espresso has sashayed into Caloundra, bringing a taste of Melbourne coffee culture to Bulcock Beach. Founded by Kate and Ben Saultry, with more than 20 years in hospitality, the café presents bespoke, art-gallery styling alongside exceptional hospitality, and welcomes people of all walks of life.

As the Sunshine Coast's exclusive wholesaler of Veneziano Coffee Roasters, Bunker serves speciality coffee, backed by expert barista training and a highly valued local team.

Open daily from 6am beneath the Bianco Building, enjoy house-made food, dog-friendly vibes, and a playful ethos: we take coffee seriously, not ourselves.

Shop 5/5 Tay Ave, Caloundra





Image: Creative Earth Studio



Jericho

Just steps from the sand at Moffat Beach, a vibrant new venue has taken root: Jericho. A turquoise-green oasis, it sports shady umbrellas outside and raftered ceilings within, offering modern Australian bistro fare with Mediterranean influences, cold drinks, and a welcoming team.

More than just a pretty façade, Jericho is the embodiment of a dream and a quiet rebellion against soulless hospitality. It's the shared project of three directors: Wes, a hospitality veteran; Jo, a former teacher; and Darrian, an ex-chippie.

Their practical, hands-on approach defines the space, and in line with their inclusive ethos, they empower their front-line team to share the Jericho joy.

In the kitchen, Head Chef George brings a world of flavour to Caloundra. With a background in the UK and a passion for travel, he imbues classic pub dishes with global flair. This is clear in creations like the Spicy Meat Balls, where the fiery kick of Calabrian nduja meets a rich Napoli sauce, and in the smoky-sweet homage of his New Orleans Pulled Pork Sliders. "It's about keeping our kitchen team inspired and our locals excited to come back," George explains.

Perhaps the most compelling part of Jericho's story is its unwavering focus on team culture. In an industry plagued by

burnout, the management's mantra is simple: happy staff create happy guests. They foster an environment where every team member is encouraged to take pride and treat the venue as their own. This philosophy resonates with patrons, who consistently praise not just the food and coffee, but the genuine sense of welcome.

As Paige, lead front-of-house, notes, the day here unfolds through its rituals. The coffee—a selection of thoughtful blends—is a serious morning attraction. As the sun climbs, vibrant cocktails take centre stage, with the margarita a popular request. And when the late afternoon light gilds the umbrellas, happy hour beckons with discounted oysters, house wines, beers, and spritzers.

At Jericho, the focus is refreshingly simple: good food, cold drinks, and a team that genuinely cares. The result is a place that feels both fresh and familiar, warmly inviting every patron to become part of its story.

23 Roderick Street, Moffat Beach.

Bianco Italian

Bianco Italian Cuisine & Bar couldn't have timed it better. Opening right in the midst of the bustling holiday season, established restaurateur Ibrahim Haddad unveiled his latest refined dining and bar experience to downtown Caloundra.

The stylish Mediterranean-inspired interior and high-end dining offerings, has attracted a steady stream of eager patrons.

Ibrahim (or Bob as he is known) of the much-loved Il Vento in Mooloolaba and Brisbane's Il Verde, has roots in Lebanon and more than two decades of Italian culinary experience. He brings a deep passion for the flavours that unite the Mediterranean: simple ingredients and fresh seasonal produce.

After honing his craft in Italian kitchens and developing recipes alongside Italian flour technicians, he's created a menu that blends Italian tradition with what Australians love most about dining out: great food, warm service and a sense of escape.

The open-kitchen restaurant, with its curved banquette seating and café curtains serves refined classics including handmade pasta, pizza and other Mediterranean mouthwaterers.

Meanwhile, the chocolate-toned wine bar, with its swivel bar stools, recessed lighting and booth seating, offers seasonal small plates paired with signature cocktails and a curated selection of fine wines you can browse straight from the shelf.

For Bob, life is built on five essentials: family, friendship, food, finance and fitness. These pillars inform everything at Bianco, where the goal is simple - to connect emotionally with customers, making them feel at home and valued.

Located below Bianco Apartments, corner of Bulcock and Tay, Bob and his hospitable team have brought fresh Mediterranean soul to Caloundra, elevating the dining scene and giving us another great reason to style up and step out.

biancoitalian.com.au





Beyond the Scones...

BY SUE WARREN

Founded in 1922 to improve conditions for women and children in rural communities, the Country Women's Association has grown into one of the most respected and enduring organisations in Australian society. The QCWA Caloundra City branch, now approaching its 90th year, proudly continues this legacy, carrying the same values and purpose into a contemporary urban setting.

Member Leisa Hardess outlines some of the activities the local group offers which include sewing classes for children and adults, cookery lessons, craft group, cards and simple chat and cuppa sessions.

Special events like Sconetime are regular in the schedule as well as use of the hall for many community groups, classes and churches including the U3A and Travel Talk sessions.

There are nominal costs for hall hire and classes (some of which have waiting lists) while annual membership is officially \$90 per year. This branch offers subsidies, so don't be put off if your budget is a little tight.

A lack of transport shouldn't deter you either. The members operate a 'buddy' system so that if someone has no way

of getting to a meeting or function, there is always a volunteer to do the driving.

The best way to keep abreast of what's happening is to check in fortnightly on Sunshine Coast Mornings with Sarah Howells (ABC Radio 95.3 FM) or via the group's Facebook page.

The QCWA is a marvellous way to create community connections, forge friendships and explore new interests, which often expand beyond the branch meetings.

Why not find your tribe in the organisation that has been bonding women of all ages together for a century. The next Sconetime is 28th February so mark your calendar!

17 Kalinga St, Caloundra
[facebook.com/QCWACaloundraBranch](https://www.facebook.com/QCWACaloundraBranch)

Hunt and Win with Century 21

BY SUE WARREN



Our local businesses need our ongoing support and property experts Century 21 have just the incentive for you to give it; Caloundra's ultimate 'Hunt of the Century' offers prizes galore.

The team at Century 21 Caloundra love where they live, and this is just another way they are giving back.

Two simple goals drive this initiative: encouraging our community to support local businesses and helping them discover ones they may not have experienced before.

Here's how it works: each week, Century 21 Caloundra, interviews a local business on their social media stories, then drops clues about where to find a voucher to spend with that business.

The brainchild of bright and bubbly Marketing Manager, Katie Lennox, The Hunt is Century 21's year-long project to support local business owners - including small and independent operators.

Businesses are jumping on board, and there's genuinely something for everyone. From the Caloundra Rollerdrome to iLandscape Nursery and Garden Centre, from local mechanics to travel agents, every demographic is covered.

The buzz has been building, with eager treasure hunters already scoring some great prizes from businesses featured on the adjacent page. And,

they're now waiting eagerly for the next set of clues.

Missed out on a voucher? No dramas. Snap a selfie at any of the locations where a gold envelope has been dropped and enter the second-chance draw for an end-of-year prize that could make your next holidays seriously memorable.

So, what are you waiting for? Follow Century 21 Caloundra on Facebook and Instagram, rope in your mates, and start cracking those clues. Or scan the QR code below to find out more.



Century 21 Marketing Manager Katie Lennox has been hiding local business vouchers all over town.



Hunt of the
CENTURY 21
Lifestyle

CALOUNDRA FISHING WORLD

Manned by old-school fishing mates Granny and Orry, Caloundra Fishing World is Caloundra's ultimate drop in for all your fishing needs and local knowledge.

With decades of experience between them, this dynamic duo has created a welcoming haven where anglers of all skill levels feel right at home.

Stocking all major brands including Shimano, Daiwa, and Alvey, CFW offers a comprehensive selection of premium fishing equipment, tackle, accessories, and the freshest bait on the coast.

Granny and Orry's expert advice and passion for fishing make every visit worthwhile. Stock up for your next fishing adventure.

7-9 Tay Avenue, Caloundra. Phone

JERICHO

Vibrant new gathering place, Jericho, presents Modern Australian pub fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

UK-trained Chef George delivers exceptional grill and steak mastery, while lead barista Suman serves up the coffee. Paige, Ashley and the welcoming team create an inviting atmosphere, where locals gather over cold craft beers, spirits and wines.

Standout dishes include handpicked oysters, Buffalo Burrata with seared kiwi, inventive Street Corn Ribs, and the Traditional English Sunday Roast featuring grass-fed Wagyu.

Fresh local produce and genuine hospitality make Jericho the go-to spot for quality refreshments and good times.

23 Roderick Street, Moffat Beach

BOCCA ITALIAN

Bocca Italian, located in the beautiful Bokarina Beach is an Italian restaurant that offers a fresh take on the Italian classics. Their menu is designed for sharing with a selection of antipasti, pizza and pasta.

With an Italian background Chef Harry Lilai's food is all about giving. His experience as a boy growing up with six siblings, Italian mother, Albanian father and an enormous extended family have influenced the professional side of his cookery and shows through with generosity and depth of flavours.

Corner Bokarina Boulevard & Longboard Parade, Bokarina

iLANDSCAPE NURSERY & GARDEN CENTRE

Your garden's best friend on the Sunshine Coast, iLandscape specialises in locally grown native plants perfectly suited to our coastal conditions, available in all sizes, shapes, and forms.

From thriving plants to stunning pots, they stock everything you need to create a beautiful native garden that welcomes bees and birds year-round.

Browse steel garden edging, premium garden care products, and weekly arrivals of pots in diverse styles, sizes, and colours, perfect for indoor staging, outdoor planting, or water features.

49 Caloundra Road, Caloundra



Amanda and Puggles at Jericho, Moffat Beach



Marcus, Alfie and Archie at Diamond Head



Pepper & Bella at Beachtree Distilling Co.

Dog's best FRIEND



Photos by
Bella Jade

Keep an eye out around town for our junior photographer snapping local dogs with their BFF's. You could be next!



Rachelle and Marvin at Jericho



Finn, Gail, Bunny and Harley at Jericho, Moffat Beach





Welcome to
the friendliest
club on the coast!



TRY INDOOR BOWLS

MONDAY / TUESDAY / THURSDAY

NAMES IN BY 12:45PM - PLAY STARTS AT 1PM

TUESDAY NIGHTS

NAMES IN BY 6:45PM - PLAY STARTS AT 7PM



TUESDAY

EYES DOWN 10AM

WEDNESDAY

EYES DOWN 7:30PM

THURSDAY

EYES DOWN 10PM

SATURDAY

EYES DOWN 7:30PM

SUNDAY

EYES DOWN 1:30PM

SCAN
ME!

Cash Only | Local Courtesy Bus - 0407 578 132



Caloundra District Indoor Bowls Association
55 Burke St, Golden Beach | 0407 578 132

SPOT THE COCKATOOS TO WIN

Galactic Donuts

Thanks to Galactic Donuts, we've got 5 boxes of donuts to give away. To be in the running, simply tell us how many black cockatoos you find swooping across the pages of this edition (count the ones on this page too).



The first 5 correct entries win a box of donuts. Email your answer to: goguide@caloundrachronicle.com

AMAZING AUSSIES

Australia isn't just beaches and barbecues, we're a nation of problem solvers. But how clever are you when it comes to just how clever us Aussies really are? Test your knowledge of some of the most amazing inventions created by our very own backyard legends.

1: In the 1990s, a team of CSIRO scientists led by John O'Sullivan solved a problem called "signal echo," allowing wireless signals to travel clearly indoors. What global technology did their work help make possible?

2: Invented in Adelaide in 1945, this rotating backyard device became a symbol of suburban Australia and is still found in many homes today. What is the name of this invention?

3: After investigating mysterious plane crashes in the 1950s, Dr David Warren invented a device that records cockpit conversations and flight data, now required on commercial aircraft worldwide. What is this device commonly called?

4: Professor Fiona Wood pioneered a medical treatment that uses a patient's own skin cells to rapidly grow new skin, transforming survival rates for people with catastrophic injuries. What is this treatment known as?

5: Australia became the first country to introduce a new type of banknote made from a synthetic material that is waterproof, durable, and difficult to counterfeit. What material are these banknotes made from?

6: In 1934, Ford Australia designer Lew Bandt responded to a farmer's wife who wanted a vehicle suitable for both farm work and Sunday church. What type of vehicle did he design that became an Australian icon?

Amazing Aussie Answers: 1: Wi-Fi / 2: Hills Hoist / 3: Black box flight recorder / 4: Spray-on skin / 5: Polymer (plastic) / 6: The ute.



WORD FIND... SUNSHINE COAST

M	A	Z	F	G	C	O	O	N	O	W	R	I	N	B
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Beerburrum
 Beerwah
 Bulcock Beach
 Coonowrin
 Currimundi
 Diamond Head
 Dicky Beach
 Golden Beach
 Kings Beach
 Moffat Beach
 Ngungun
 Shelly Beach
 Tibrogargan

THERE'S A WORD FOR THAT?!

Did you know a group of black cockatoos, like other cockatoos, is called a crackle, a fun name reflecting their noisy gatherings.

CRACKLE



Compiled by Diz Jones

Alana Hall shares

a cuppa with Uncle Alan Parsons



Who is Caring for Country and Community?

Uncle Alan Parsons is an artist, storyteller and passionate connector. Always ready with a yarn, he is a fearless voice for Country and community, travelling Australia to build meaningful relationships and advocate for positive change wherever he goes.

Behind his happy-go-lucky demeanour is a man deeply connected to Country and guided by a clear sense of purpose. He is dedicated to truth-telling, rewriting history with honesty, and bringing people together in solidarity to care for the land we share.

When Uncle Alan speaks, there is a sparkle in his eye that draws people in. His stories leave you feeling uplifted, inspired by his unwavering faith in humanity and the quiet power that lives within community.

Though his growth was restricted by brittle bone disease in childhood, Uncle Alan is living proof that stature has little to do with standing tall in matters of the heart. One cause especially close

to him is connecting men and women, First Nations and non-Indigenous alike, who share a commitment to caring for Country.

A respected First Nations Elder of the Bidjara and Yiman peoples from Carnarvon Gorge in Central Queensland, Uncle Alan's presence is both grounding and galvanising, reminding all who cross his path that caring for Country is everyone's responsibility.

Now a resident of Caboolture, the Sunshine Coast has become an extension of home for Uncle Alan, and advocacy for its trees and landscapes is something he knows well. In 2022, he played an active role in a powerful community campaign to halt the planned selective logging of Ferny Forest by the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. As part of that campaign the community found a strong ally in MP Jason Hunt who represented the community's concerns

in parliament, resulting in a hard-won victory for native plants, wildlife and future generations.

When an upgrade to the intersection of Steve Irwin Way, the Bruce Highway, and Caloundra Road threatened a major tract of forest—including culturally significant ancient trees—Uncle Alan and other community campaigners successfully intervened. By appealing to the Ministers for Main Roads and the Environment, they halted the destructive plan and secured a less damaging alternative route. As a result, the remaining 745 hectares of Mooloolah Forest was ultimately gazetted as National Park.

Once again, the call to action has emerged. Uncle Alan has added his voice to growing concerns about the proposed expansion of the Glasshouse Quarry at the Glass House Mountains—a nationally heritage-listed landscape with deep cultural and environmental significance.

The quarry at the base of Mt Coonowrin has operated within the Glass House Mountains region for over forty years. Situated on Mount Beerwah Road and operated by Heidelberg Materials Australia since 2003, the current proposal marks a significant shift in scale with plans to double annual output, excavate deeper and increase blasting and truck movements through the Glass House Mountains town.

For residents and environmentalists, these proposed changes raised important questions. Community members reached out to the state government and Sunshine Coast Council, hoping for stronger protections. As those conversations continued, it became clear that responsibility would fall to the community to act. Uncle Alan shares:

“We were at a loss about what to do, so we turned to a cultural practice called Dadirri, which means deep listening. One Sunday morning, around 9am, we gathered and sat out the front of the quarry. Dadirri isn’t meditation. It’s about stillness and listening — to Country, to spirit, to what needs to be heard. If there’s an issue, Country will speak to it. You don’t impose; you listen. We sat in Dadirri for about an hour, and it was powerful.

“About three weeks later, we received a call from Arnhem Land elders asking what was happening. They said they had heard the songlines. We explained that senior lore people had gathered on Country and had been practising Dadirri.

“From there, we organised a Zoom meeting to explain further, realising it would be more beneficial if people were to visit Country physically, to care for and defend Country properly. That led to a community event under the towering presence of Coonowrin.

“Although invitations were extended, there was no corporate presence and no government presence, which really highlighted the level of disconnect. But the Elders were there, alongside local people, and it was powerful. The energy was strong and undeniable.

“What became clear is that local people often have the least say, and that’s deeply disappointing. But it exposed the disconnect and raised the real question: who is truly caring for Country?”

Under the banner of Save Our Glass House Mountains, concerned residents, local community members and Traditional Custodians like Uncle Alan are united by a common mission: to protect this sacred land and advocate for its formal recognition as a World Heritage site.



Mate-Shed Opens at Pelican Waters Marina

Mate-Shed is here, and the community is invited. Our Mate-Ship Limited is proud to introduce Mate-Shed, a new Sunshine Coast initiative supporting the mental wellbeing of veterans, emergency services personnel, and their loved ones. Mate-Shed is a friendly, inclusive space where people can connect, decompress, and build genuine friendships through shared experiences, practical activities, and support networks. It's a place to feel understood, valued, and part of a team again, helping strengthen healthier communities, together.

www.mate-ship.org

Aura Town Centre Takes Shape

Stockland has appointed FDC Construction & Fitout to deliver the first stage of Aura Town Centre, a major new shopping and lifestyle hub for the growing Aura community.

Covering around 16,300 square metres, the centre will include major supermarkets, two mini-majors, 55 specialty stores and kiosks, plus non-retail spaces for health and wellbeing services. Around 680 car parks will be provided across street-level and basement parking.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2026, with the town centre set to open in late 2027 and connect directly to the 5.3-hectare Aura Parklands.

Lifesaving Legends Honoured

Long-time Ithaca-Caloundra City Life Saving Club volunteers Lynda Jane Barry OAM and Patricia Barry OAM have been recognised for their extraordinary service to community safety and surf lifesaving.

Lynda has contributed more than 37 years of leadership, training and operational service, logging over 5,800 patrol hours and continuing to serve as Club Captain and active lifesaver.

Patricia has dedicated more than four decades to the club, with over 4,300 patrol hours, leading administration, fundraising and public education initiatives.

The Agile Graduate Programme

Caloundra City Private School is reimagining senior education with The Agile Graduate Programme — an innovative approach designed to prepare students for life beyond exams. Built around flexibility, personalised pathways and real-world learning, the programme gives students greater voice and choice in how they learn. With guidance from dedicated teachers, mentors and coaches, students can blend academic studies with work experience, external courses or enrichment opportunities, including up to 30 days of career immersion. The Agile Graduate ensures graduates are ready for further study, work and an ever-changing world.

Visit ccps.qld.edu.au to book a tour.



Moffat Beach Seawall: Progress, Access and Local Impact

The Moffat Beach seawall project continues. This has been a challenging project due to accessibility and tidal conditions, with Councillor Terry Landsberg saying the upgrade will deliver a safer, more open foreshore with long-term community benefits. Council says local businesses remain open and that it has supported the precinct through marketing and promotion during construction. Council has declined applications from food vendors to operate on nearby grassed areas, citing potential impacts on existing traders.

Despite this, some retailers report significant hardship. Sugar Mama owner-operators Katarina Langois and Timmy Kaye say the business is losing between \$6,000 and \$10,000 per month, with up to 100 fewer customers per day while rates and overheads continue. Meetings with Cr Landsberg have occurred, but no resolution has been reached.

“The Christmas period and a call-out to the community via social media provided a welcome boost,” Ms Langois says. “However, since the second car park closed, trade has slowed again. With quieter months ahead, we’re concerned about what’s coming.”

As works move east toward the headland, temporary changes to surf access may occur, with council working to maintain access. **Updates are available via council social channels.**

Caloundra Information Centre

Update from Volunteers



The Caloundra Information Centre in Felicity Park closed permanently on January 30. The former council building is being demolished as part of the Caloundra Centre Master Plan and will make way for the new Town Square.

Despite extensive planning, no replacement location for the Information Centre has been identified. Division 2 Councillor Terry Landsberg has actively sought a solution, presenting a petition to Council and working closely with Council officers. While several alternative locations have been investigated, none have proven practical.

With the closure, more than 25 volunteers are no longer able to provide friendly, informed advice on local businesses, day trips, transport, activities and events across Caloundra and the wider Sunshine Coast. As seen during the 2019–2021 closure, visitor enquiries are now expected to fall largely on local businesses.

The Centre’s closure also marks the end of generous community contributions. For many years, Maps4U and My Caloundra supplied free local and regional maps, highly valued by visitors. The Centre also offered printed bus timetables not available elsewhere; remaining copies will now be stocked at Council Customer Service in Library+.

Volunteers have given their time generously and have appreciated the many messages of support from community members saddened by the closure.

It is hoped a new home can be found, ensuring Queensland’s Top Tourism Town (2023) once again has an Information Centre.

To express your support for reopening, contact Cr. Terry Landsberg at terry.landsberg@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

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Austserve IT

Austserve has been helping South East Queensland businesses for years, providing dependable IT services backed by real expertise. The company has now extended that experience by becoming a local Internet Service Provider, delivering high-quality connectivity to Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast.

They combine business-grade NBN with on-site IT support, so clients get faster problem-solving, clear



accountability, and one team managing their internet, network, and phone systems.

Austserve also helps businesses and households

upgrade to fibre NBN, unlocking faster, more reliable internet where fibre is available and boosting productivity.

For businesses, their fibre-based NBN plans start from \$109, offering fast upload speeds for cloud services, video conferencing, backups, and VoIP phones. Their business phone solutions integrate seamlessly, giving modern, flexible communication without unnecessary complexity.

Home users can get reliable NBN plans from \$65 per month, supported by a responsive Australian-based team.

Austserve delivers straightforward internet, professional support, and service built on decades of IT experience. Businesses and residents are encouraged to stop chasing telcos and talk to a real, local Aussie on 07 3040 5191. Chat to the team about fibre upgrades, business internet, or phone systems.

austserve.com.au

Rite Choice Property Management



Choosing the right agency to manage an investment property is one of the most important decisions a landlord will make. Rite Choice Property Management delivers specialised real estate services to investors from Pelican Waters to Maroochydore and the hinterland, combining over 30 years of experience with genuinely personalised service.

Managing Director Sue Wilson and her daughter Lauren provide the ideal combination of professionalism, experience, and commitment. As a family-run business, they treat client investments like their own, aware of what's at stake.

Property management can be daunting. The industry is tightly controlled by legal processes, and Rite Choice's deep legislative knowledge is key to safeguarding investments.

With more than 22 years in property management, Sue has built a reputation for raising the benchmark on the Sunshine Coast. As a successful property investor, she knows what the market demands: optimised rent returns, quality tenants, and properties maintained in first-class

condition.

Lauren brings over 10 years of real estate experience and a background as a school teacher. Her communication skills and attention to detail ensure clients receive the personalised attention their investment deserves.

Sue's vision of premium service has attracted strong referral relationships with investment groups, builders, finance brokers, and private investors throughout the region. Clients stay with Rite Choice because the team focuses on what matters: protecting assets, maximising returns, and providing the professional dedication investors deserve.

ritechoiceproperty.com.au

rite
choice
property management

Sue Wilson
0412 945 538

Lauren Boyle
0421 164 451

Caring for Your Investment

Sunshine Coast

ritechoiceproperty.com.au

Community Bank Caloundra

As we step into 2026, smart financial planning includes choosing banking partners that align with your goals and your values. If you've been considering switching banks, exploring new loan options, or reviewing your financial strategy, it's worth exploring what sets Community Bank Caloundra apart.

Branch Manager Pip Fawcett, who brings over two decades of banking experience, emphasises that banking success isn't just about competitive rates, it's about relationships.

"It's never just been about transactions," she says. "When somebody new comes in to open an account with us, we have a conversation, we ask questions and learn about their life and needs."

With 22 years of commitment to community banking through Bendigo Bank, Community Bank Caloundra has proven that personalised service and local impact aren't just marketing promises.



Image: Creative Earth Studio

In an industry where branch closures and automated services have become the norm, Community Bank Caloundra has taken the opposite approach. They've purchased their building and are committed to long-term local presence, offering the stability and face-to-face guidance that many customers still value.

Board Director Brady Sullivan highlights a compelling value proposition: "Customers benefit from competitive products and services while also knowing their banking choices make a real difference locally." Through their profit-sharing model, customer deposits and loans directly fund community initiatives - from local sports clubs to critical infrastructure.

For professionals and families evaluating their banking options this year, this creates a meaningful differentiator. Your home loan, business account, or everyday banking doesn't just serve your financial needs, it actively contributes to the community you live in.

As Caloundra experiences rapid growth, having a banking partner invested in the region's future offers tangible benefits: local decision-making, personalised service, and a genuine understanding of the market you're operating in.

**89b Bulcock Street, Caloundra
(07) 5492 5267**



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bendigobank.com.au

B Bendigo Bank

Beachside Business Group

Founded in 2022 by Bryan Meri, Beachside Business Group (BBG) is a networking collective for small business owners across the Sunshine Coast. It brings together a diverse mix of self-employed operators who support and uplift the local community.

The group meets weekly for a relaxed Wednesday morning breakfast, creating space for genuine conversations about business, the sharing of insights, and the building of meaningful professional relationships—without hype or pressure for referrals.

BBG fosters a collaborative, supportive environment where local businesses can connect, learn and grow together.



Reflecting its strong community focus, meetings rotate through cafés within the 4551 postcode, actively supporting local hospitality venues along the way.

To find out more email:
bryan@completefinance.net

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Complete Finance



The finance and property journey can be daunting at any stage of life - purchasing your first home, upgrading to suit a growing family, planning a downsizer move, or balancing the demands of running a business. At Complete Finance, Bryan Meri brings invaluable industry knowledge and practical insight to every step of the decision-making process.

With more than 30 years' experience in the Financial Services sector across Australia and overseas, Bryan offers clients expertise backed by real-world understanding. Having personally transacted across a wide range of residential properties locally and internationally, he understands the pressures and opportunities that come with property ownership.

This experience enables Bryan to support first home buyers navigate through current government grants and incentives, and to guide owner-occupiers as they upgrade or downsize. He also assists investors focused on long-term wealth creation and self-employed clients who require more tailored lending solutions, including

self-managed superannuation fund (SMSF) property purchases.

Based on the Sunshine Coast, Bryan is particularly enthusiastic about supporting local individuals and small business owners. Coming from a family of small business operators, he understands the unique challenges faced by the self-employed and works closely with clients to strengthen their position through smarter asset acquisition and effective cashflow management.

Outside of the office, Bryan is a resident Caloundra local, founder of Beachside Business Group (BBG) - a networking collective for small business owners, and a passionate All Blacks fan. completefinance.com.au



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Happy Days

With Andrew Champion

Growing Caloundra's Community Capital

Community Capital is the social wealth of a place and its people. It includes resilience, well-being and the shared assets we use to create lasting prosperity and cultural pride.

Perhaps the greatest reward from community involvement is simply, feeling valued and included. The personal satisfaction almost always exceeds the effort. Many already contribute significantly, but there's room for everyone. Let's explore how to grow our collective value.

Communicate

Spot something that needs fixing? Unhappy about a local proposal or decision? Speak up! Our local representatives—Councillor Terry, State MPs Kendall or JB, or Federal MP Andrew Wallace—want to help but can't if they don't know. Skip the anonymous keyboard warrior approach and send an email, request a callback, or arrange a face-to-face meeting. Constructive dialogue creates real change.

Support Local

Supporting local businesses keeps dollars circulating in Caloundra, creating jobs and strengthening our economy. When you choose local suppliers and services, you're investing in your neighbours' dreams and building relationships that matter.

Every purchase from a Caloundra business is a vote for our community's prosperity and future.

Volunteer

Volunteering opens countless doors: become a radio operator at Ithaca, Kings, Dicky, or Kawana Lifesavers; help coach a local team in a sport you once

enjoyed; or start a new club at Baringa or Bokarina.

Participate in Events

From major annual celebrations like Beachfest and the Caloundra City Cup to intimate monthly gatherings like choral concerts at St Andrew's Church, events build community capital. Volunteer, participate, or attend as a spectator. Events create opportunities to meet people, discover entertainment, support fundraising, and generate cashflow for local suppliers.

Exciting News for 2026

Drawing on my past experience in community engagement, I'll be collaborating with the Caloundra Chronicle to launch innovative promotions and initiatives. One area of focus is to build the Caloundra Go Guide, to further support and share local event information. We will also be growing the local business directory and the subscriber database. We are inviting local groups and businesses to join us in this exciting journey as we investigate that which makes our community thrive.



Call me on
0428 714 357
to learn more
or share ideas.





Caring for Caloundra

With Kendall Morton MP



New Year Brings New Funding Opportunities

Now that the new year is in full swing State Government grant opportunities are now being released to support community groups, not for profit organisations, sporting clubs, schools and youth groups.

Round 126 of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund has now opened and is offering applicants the opportunity to apply for up to \$35,000. Submit your application by 28 February and help your community thrive. For further information you can go to: www.justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/community-grants

I am also encouraging all young individuals between 12-25 to apply for up to \$10,000 in grant funding to create and deliver an impactful community event during Youth Week (11-19 April 2026). I am always eager to encourage and empower young individuals to showcase their skills and make a contribution to your community, so get brainstorming for some great ways to celebrate Youth Week 2026.

If you would like a letter of support to strengthen your grant application, contact me on caloundra@parliament.qld.gov.au or call 5329 4100.

Grants to Support Projects, Events and Infrastructure

The Sunshine Coast Council Major Grant's Program is now open. Apply for up to \$15,000 for one-off projects, events, or activities, or up to \$30,000 for infrastructure projects.

Submit your application online before 9 March 2026.

To find additional grants you may be eligible for and further information you can also visit:

www.grants.services.qld.gov.au/

www.grants.gov.au/go/list

www.smartygrants.com.au/

The Sunshine Coast Council Grant Support Drop In Sessions

Thursday 29 January 10am-12pm Kawana Library, Nanyima St, Buddina

Monday 23 February 10am-12pm Maleny Library, Coral St, Maleny

Thursday 26 February 10am-12pm Library+ Caloundra, Omrah Ave, Caloundra

Thursday 5 March 9am-12pm City Hall, 54 First Ave, Maroochydore

Visit www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au for more information



The Vertical Village

with Clive & Debbie Pickering

Social Life, Elevated!

Life in Pumicestone Blue's Vertical Village just keeps getting tastier and more social by the week. We're genuinely excited to see Bianco Restaurant opening its doors, with freshly made pizza and pasta that look every bit as spectacular as they taste. It's already shaping up to be a go-to for relaxed, high-quality dining right on our doorstep.

Just along the street, Phoklore continues to draw what seems like a perpetual queue – and that's always a very good sign. The buzz, the aromas and the happy diners spilling out the door add real energy to our end of Bulcock Street.

Down on our own ground floor, Sokuri remains a firm favourite, serving beautifully presented sushi and rice bowls that deliver outstanding flavour and great value, day in and day out.

Add to this a wonderful selection of nearby takeaway options and it's easy to see why our residents often head upstairs with dinner in hand. The 12th-floor rooftop at Pumicestone Blue has become our very own village green – a place to have a yarn, share a laugh and soak up the spectacular views. Honestly, it has to be the most sensational village green anywhere.

www.pumicestoneblue.com

Caloundra Men's Shed Measuring Up for the Next Build

The Caloundra Men's Shed is a highly valued community organisation established in 2014. With the support of Federal Government, the group was able to construct its current premises at 112 Grigor Street, Moffat Beach in 2021.

Today, the Men's Shed supports more than 80 members from across Caloundra, Aura and surrounding communities. It provides a welcoming space where men can socialise, build connections and use their skills for the greater good - repairing and repurposing local goods and furniture, while sharing knowledge with fellow members and the broader community.

Caloundra Men's Shed President, Alex Howell, captured the spirit of the Shed perfectly when he said, "The heart of the Caloundra Men's Shed is found each morning around the 'table of knowledge' - over a cup of tea or coffee, where stories are shared, friendships are strengthened, and the simple act of connection helps ensure the world keeps turning, one conversation at a time."

Due to growing membership and increasing community demand, the Caloundra Men's Shed is now looking to expand its premises by adding an additional shed. This expansion will allow the group to continue supporting member wellbeing while offering further opportunities for learning, growth and connection.

Achieving this goal will require significant funding. If you can assist, please consider reaching out to the Caloundra Men's Shed team at

info@caloundramenshed.com.au.



Open Your Home to the World with Caloundra State High Homestays

Caloundra is known for its welcoming community, relaxed coastal lifestyle, local connections and beautiful beaches. These qualities make our region an ideal home away from home for international students studying at Caloundra State High School.

The school's International Student Program welcomes students from across Europe, Asia and South America. Students are drawn to the school's strong academic offerings, signature sporting pathways and supportive culture. While education is important, the experience of living with a local family truly shapes an international student's time in Australia.

Homestay families play a vital role by opening their homes and providing a safe, supportive and caring environment. As the program continues to grow, CSHS is seeking new homestay families. Hosting is about including a student in everyday family life, sharing meals, routines and conversations, and helping them feel a sense of belonging while far from home.

Families from all walks of life are encouraged to apply. Hosts do not need children enrolled at the school, and both families and individuals can

participate. Homes should be within reasonable travelling distance of the school, ideally close to public transport or a 10–15 minute drive. Hosts provide a private bedroom, study desk, internet access, meals, snacks and a welcoming environment. Students attend school independently and take part in school and community life, just like locals.

Many families describe hosting as a rewarding cultural exchange. It is an opportunity to learn about another culture, see the world through fresh eyes and form lasting connections. In many cases, homestay families remain in contact with their students long after they return home.

Homestay families receive a generous reimbursement for food and household costs. All arrangements are supported by the school and the Department of Education, with screening, training and ongoing support provided.

By opening your home, you can make a meaningful difference in a young person's life while strengthening Caloundra's reputation as a welcoming, globally connected community.

Learn more here:
caloundrashs.eq.edu.au/international/homestay





Bucki's Journey

With Kabi Kabi Elder, Aunty Bucki



A Roof of Kindness

My journey through homelessness began in early November 2025, not with a plan but with necessity. What has unfolded since has been a masterclass in human kindness, a lesson in what we call home, and a quiet reshaping of my understanding of security.

From the first night, there were challenges. As we took our final load to storage, Rebecca's car broke down in the middle of the road. I pulled up behind her and saw the devastation on her face. With her car full of camping gear, leaving it wasn't an option. We turned to our next-door neighbour, Bruce, who not only towed the car to a service station but offered us a place to stay for the night. It was the first reminder that help can arrive when least expected.

Once the car reached the mechanic, we were led to the outdoors. Campsites followed—hail, storms, two people and two dogs squeezed into one vehicle, with the snoring always blamed on Jedda the pug. We moved on from mozzie-infested spots, tried sneaking the dogs into a motel room (too much

anxiety to repeat), and kept smiling through it all—a small act of defiance.

Then came Mel. Amid her own challenges, caring for a father navigating dementia, she opened her door and gave us a bed. In her home we found not just shelter, but music. Her father played the mouth organ, we sang together, and for a while, life felt lighter.

The landscape shifted again with the generosity of a near-stranger who offered us the use of a shed. By mid-January 2026, we were houseless but under a roof—and feeling blessed. This shed has no electricity. We built an outhouse and a shower ourselves. Slowly, piece by piece, it is feeling more like a home every day.

The security it offers has given us patience. We are still looking for a house, but no longer desperate. Most of all, I've learned that home is not just an address—it's the kindness you receive, the dignity you build, and the people who make sure you're not alone.

Email: dhayarngathering@proton.me

Community Care Packs

Community Care Packs is a registered not-for-profit supporting vulnerable individuals and families across the Sunshine Coast and Queensland. The organisation provides practical care packs with essential, hygiene and comfort items for people experiencing homelessness, domestic violence, financial hardship or crisis. Working closely with local services and community groups, Community Care Packs delivers timely, dignified support. Family-run and community-driven, demand for its services continues to grow across the region.

If you'd like to donate non-perishable food or hygiene items, phone 0412 100 224.

Honouring Maggie and Meredith

In December 2025, The Hope Dreaming Information Centre hosted a morning tea to honour two remarkable women who's quiet, determined service has helped shape reconciliation and community connection on the Sunshine Coast: Meredith Walker and Maggie Ross.

Both women were long-time contributors to the Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Group, working closely alongside the group's late patron, Aunty Betty McMahon. Through their leadership, they brought together people from diverse backgrounds and created initiatives that left a lasting local impact grounded in respect, shared learning and genuine relationship-building.

Maggie Ross served for many years as Secretary and Treasurer of the Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Group, guiding the organisation through periods of growth and challenge. Meredith Walker was instrumental in founding the group's Shared History Events, which became an important platform for truth-telling and cultural exchange. Together, as convenors and organisers, they intentionally created safe, inclusive spaces where First Nations, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous community members could meet, listen, perform and learn together.

Speakers at the morning tea recalled Meredith's deep care for cultural materials, language and heritage, including her early work engaging with artefacts and community stories. Maggie

was remembered for her ability to think big and bring people together, including staging major community gatherings such as the ambitious Festive Feast at Caloundra's Events Centre.

These events mixed First Nations, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous performers, helping launch careers, increase visibility for Indigenous artists and foster shared celebration.

When the Reconciliation Group faced incorporation and insurance challenges, Maggie helped drive the process to formally incorporate and raise essential funds,

ensuring programs could continue. Together, Maggie and Meredith mobilised volunteers through churches and civic networks, connected schools and institutions, mentored emerging artists, and supported education that encouraged understanding beyond guilt towards shared responsibility and custodianship of Country.

Well-known artist and author Aunty Hope O'Chin, alongside Triballink Director Kerry Neill, presented Maggie and Meredith with framed appreciation awards and a print of Aunty Hope's artwork. In accepting her award, Maggie emphasised that the recognition belonged to the entire Sunshine Coast Reconciliation Group and all those who contributed to its legacy — a sentiment that reflected the generous, collective spirit of both women's service.



CULTURE

Learn to Braid Workshop

**CALOUNDRALIBRARY
SATURDAY 8 FEBRUARY AND
SATURDAY 15 MARCH**

Ever wanted to confidently braid hair for everyday wear or special occasions? This hands-on Learn to Braid Workshop is perfect for adults wanting to braid their children's hair, as well as teens aged 10+ keen to learn a new skill, braid their friends' hair and even earn some pocket money.

Participants will learn about essential tools and products, master classic Dutch and French braiding techniques, and practise one to two easy, go-to hairstyles.

With step-by-step guidance in a relaxed, supportive setting, this workshop is suitable for beginners with no prior experience required. Morning tea is included.

wowbraids.com.au



The Keeper Project Zartisha Davis

**THE STRAND
THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY**

Zartisha will be in an empty shop front in The Strand building with her project 'The Modern Midden'. Zartisha's art often reflects the Shell Middens left by her Ancestors along the Kabi Kabi shores. These remnants, consisting of shells from seafood, represent a time of community, abundance, gathering, and ancient practices.

You're invited to contribute something to the pile in the creation of a 'Modern Midden'. What object would you discard that reflects this time? The Modern Midden will be added to over three weeks, culminating in an installation reflecting this moment in time.

Drop by on the following dates during February: 3rd / 4th / 6th / 9th / 12th / 13th / 16th / 18th / 19th or other days by appointment.

Book in a time to yarn via instagram @chilly_alma or on 0497 341 278.

Beyond Reality

CALOUNDRA POWER BOAT CLUB
SAT 14 FEBRUARY – 8.00PM

Jaden Boon's unique comedy hypnosis show is back. Expectations will be defied and laughs guaranteed!

Bookings: jadenboonevents.com

High Voltage – The AC/DC Show

CALOUNDRA POWER BOAT CLUB
SATURDAY 28 MARCH – 7.30PM

A high-energy tribute to AC/DC and classic rock favourites. Dinner & Show: \$60.

Bookings: (07) 5492 1444
caloundrapowerboat.com.au

Neil Young's Harvest By The Honey Sliders

THE EVENTS CENTRE
FRI 13 FEB | 7.30PM

Experience Neil Young's iconic album Harvest performed in its entirety by The Honey Sliders. Featuring Danny Widdicombe, Bos Borley, Dan Mansfield, and Ben Carstens. Tickets from \$69.90*.

theeventscentre.com.au

The Rock Orchestra By Candlelight

THE EVENTS CENTRE
SAT 14 FEB & SUN 15 FEB

The raw power of rock and metal meets the elegance of classical music. Imagine anthems from Metallica and AC/DC reimagined with soaring strings, thunderous percussion, and spine-tingling harmonies, performed in a breathtaking candlelit setting. Tickets from \$100*.

theeventscentre.com.au



Where is the Green Sheep?

THE EVENTS CENTRE
TUE 24 MAR, 4.30PM
WED 25 MAR, 10AM & 12.30PM

Where is the Green Sheep? invites young audiences on a joyful, immersive adventure as three farmers search for the elusive Green Sheep. With colourful characters, playful puppetry and charming animation, this delightful production brings Mem Fox and Judy Horacek's beloved book to life in a magical, engaging stage experience.

All tickets are \$32 + booking fee
Book now: 07 5491 4240
theeventscentre.com.au

Legends of Motown

THE EVENTS CENTRE
FRI 20 FEB | 8PM

Experience the magic of Motown as eight sensational singers and dancers, backed by a powerhouse live band, bring to life classics from The Jacksons, Marvin Gaye, The Supremes, The Temptations, Gladys Knight & The Pips, and more. With dazzling choreography, stunning costumes, and timeless hits like Ain't No Mountain High Enough, I Want You Back, and My Girl, this is Motown at its finest. Tickets from \$49.90*.

theeventscentre.com.au

SPECIAL EVENT

Valentine's Day at the Club!



CALOUNDRRA POWER BOAT CLUB
SAT14 FEBRUARY – 5.30PM

Celebrate with a stunning seafood tower and a bottle of wine - the perfect Valentine's experience.
Tickets: \$130 per couple

Bookings: (07) 5492 1444
caloundrapowerboat.com.au

CONCERT



Back to the Sixties

CCTC THEATRE
FRI 20 / 21 / 22 & 28 FEB

Get ready to groove as Vintage Harmony from the Caloundra Chorale and Theatre Company presents a high-energy tribute to the sizzling sixties. Dust off your bell-bottoms and revisit the decade that changed music forever, from the British Invasion and Motown classics to the iconic anthems of Woodstock. This lively concert is a non-stop journey through the rock, soul and pop hits that defined a generation and inspired a cultural revolution.

CCTC Theatre is located at 3 Piringa St, Wurtulla.

**Book now via trybooking.com/
DHOZN or call 0490 329 912.**



Conscious Life Festival

VENUE 114, BOKARINA
SAT 14 & SUN 15 MARCH

Celebrate 15 years of conscious living at the 2026 Conscious Life Festival, one of Australia's leading holistic wellness events. Held on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 March at Bokarina, this milestone festival brings together over 90 exhibitors, inspiring seminars, transformational workshops, meditations, sound healings, live music, breathwork, hands-on therapies, intuitive readers, a dedicated kids area, and nourishing food and drink. Since 2011, the festival has connected seekers, teachers and healers in a vibrant space focused on wellbeing, mindfulness, spirituality and sustainable living.

consciouslife.com.au

TICKET GIVEAWAY:

Caloundra Chronicle has two weekend passes to give away. Email goguide@caloundrachronicle.com and share one way you practise conscious living in everyday life.



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EVENT LISTINGS TO

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A Red Leap production

Based on the original book by Philip Ridley

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"It was absolutely incredible, most creative and unique show I have ever seen. I loved every single character." - **17 years old Audience Member**

Tue 26 May, 7pm & Wed 27 May, 10am

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The Events Centre presents

KOAL

Co-created by Jacinta Yelland & Trey Lyford

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KOAL brings audiences face to face with the 2019 Australian bushfires through the voices of a baby koala, a coal miner, and an Indigenous girl. **KOAL** highlights the resilience, humour, and humanity that defines who we are.

"I haven't been able to put into words just how moving this show is." - **Audience Member**

Choose your own price \$29*, \$35* or \$42*

Wed 17 Jun, 10am & 7pm

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CALOUNDRA | SUNSHINE COAST



*Booking fees may apply



Summer Serenades | 15 November 2025

As someone who has never truly stepped into the world of orchestral music, I arrived at the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra's Summer Serenades feeling equal parts intrigued and inexperienced. Or, as SCSO publicist and oboist Emma Secomb would say, Orchestrally Curious.

Apart from catching the odd symphonic passage over the radio this was to be my first real introduction to this foreign world.

Invited by a photographer colleague who was shooting the event, I extended the invitation to my aunt, a long-time appreciator of classical music, and together we braved a steady summer rain. Umbrellas in hand, we slipped into the Events Centre foyer, amidst an energised crowd - mostly seniors, but with speckles of children adding a welcome generational spread. A glass of wine helped set the mood before we found our seats.

Emcee Michele Gusman set the tone beautifully, giving a brief emotional

roadmap for each piece. Once the orchestra began, any hesitation melted away. The opening notes drew us instantly into a world of colour, texture and feeling - proof that orchestral music is, at its core, a celebration of human synchronicity.

Local Maestro Mike Fitzpatrick - trombonist, and conductor of both national and international pedigree, led with a balance of precision and ease, his gestures speaking a language the musicians interpreted instinctively.

Vaughan Williams' English Folk Song Suite began the evening with lively seaside charm, followed by the storm-driven drama of Beethoven's Symphony No. 6 (4th movement). Debussy's Clair de Lune cast a serene, moonlit glow, and Tchaikovsky's Capriccio Italien closed the first half with sun-soaked exuberance.

After interval, Peter Warlock's Capriol Suite offered an earthy, renaissance-era slice of pageantry, culminating in an energetic Sword Dance.

Saint-Saëns' Bacchanale erupted with



PHOTOS: GREG BARNETT
WORDS: ALANA HALL

exotic colour- wild, sensual rhythms and a Middle Eastern pulse carried by winds and percussion.

Gershwin's *Summertime* brought a smoky, languid contrast, featuring a standout solo from trumpeter Nelson Oakley in his final performance with the orchestra, played with such accuracy and warmth that even a novice like me recognised its mastery.

Respighi's *Ancient Airs and Dances* showcased both elegance and fire.

A heartfelt moment followed as Concertmaster Genevieve Bignell stepped down after eight years, welcoming rising violinist Melissa Buddle as her successor.

Bizet's *L'Arlésienne Suite No. 2* closed the night with a radiant, high-energy flourish. For someone new to orchestral music, *Summer Serenades* was an awakening. I walked in curious; I left enchanted.

Explore SCSO's 2026 Season at sunshinecoastsymphonyorchestra.com



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Cellist Julia Janiszewski

Otto Nicolai

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of Windsor
(Overture)*

2pm
MARCH
29th



the events centre
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HOME OF THE ORCHESTRA



Hannah Poida: Mural Artist

Hannah Poida is fast becoming a familiar name across Caloundra. Her large-scale mural art transforms everyday walls into bold, joy-filled statements inviting connection and encouraging passers-by to pause, smile and engage. We take a closer look at the detail and dedication behind a mural artist's life.

What is your Caloundra connection?

My family moved here when I was seven, and we've lived here for the past 16 years. I fall more in love with beach life every day. Surfing and relaxing by the water inspires much of my artwork. It's my little escape.

What are you most passionate about?

Besides art, I'm passionate about living fully and having fun! I've always been happy, active, and creative, whether through music, art, dancing, or exercise. If you met me as a child, you'd likely find me dancing in a fairy dress or covered in paint in the backyard. I've always loved creating things myself. It makes me happy to say, "I did that!"

3 core values and essential tools?

My core values are Authenticity, Playfulness, and Connection. My essential tools; if technology weren't an option, are a pencil, a paintbrush, and paint.

How did mural painting begin?

My first mural opportunity came after a school awards night, at which I played guitar and sang. Local MP Jason Hunt was in the audience and approached me afterwards, praising my performance. When I told him that my true passion was art and showed him the work I had been creating, he offered

to sponsor me. He later invited me to the BIG ballet gala at The Events Centre where he introduced me to oil painter Garry Dolan. Garry connected me with a café owner seeking a mural, leading to my first paid

wall mural. Although I had no plans to study after high school, I pushed myself to finish Year 12, and I truly believe that decision shaped where I am today. Four years later, Caloundra State High School has invited me back to paint one of their murals, bringing the journey full circle.

How do you revitalise?

Staying active, eating well, and taking breaks is essential. Painting can be mentally and physically draining, especially in hot weather or when working long hours on intricate details. Surfing most

mornings refreshes me, calms my nervous system, and clears my mind from work overload.

Who/what are you listening to?

While painting, I mostly listen to music, especially 80's classics. I also enjoy motivational podcasts like Jay Shetty and Mel Robbins, or for a laugh, Life Uncut by Brit and Laura.

Where can we find your work?

Instagram @hannahpoidatheartist or Facebook @Hannah Poida.



Image: Creative Earth Studio

2026 at CRG kicks off with The Brothers Gruchy

Caloundra Regional Gallery will open its 2026 exhibitions with *The Brothers Gruchy*, a major digital-first exhibition featuring nine significant works by renowned Australian artists Tim and Mic Gruchy. The exhibition runs from 6 February to 22 March 2026 and marks the first in the Gallery's newly announced annual program, now live on the Gallery's website.

Touring from Bundaberg Regional Galleries in partnership with Museums & Galleries Queensland, *The Brothers Gruchy* brings together key works exploring the intersections of technology, biological form, artificial intelligence, perception and synaesthesia.

The exhibition celebrates the expansive collaborative practice of the Gruchy brothers, who have worked together since the mid-1980s across video, multimedia and performative art. Originally from Bundaberg, Tim and

Mic have established internationally acclaimed careers while maintaining a strong connection to Queensland.

Their works traverse deeply personal themes—such as family memory in *Anamnesis*—alongside broader reflections on environmental change, industrial transformation and Australia's iconic river systems.

Artist Tim Gruchy said it was meaningful to see the exhibition continue its national tour.

"Mic and I have been very fortunate. We grew up in Bundaberg but were inspired by the world of art and the teachers who encouraged us at Bundaberg High School," he said. "In *Anamnesis*, I've used very old slide projectors combined with material from our family archive—our family photographs—to create something that feels both intimate and shared."

The Gallery is open Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 4pm and 10am to 2pm weekends.



Tim Gruchy | *Dissolving World* (still, detail) | 2021 | single-channel video, 00:14:30. Image courtesy of the artist.

See what's on at
gallery.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au
Tues to Fri 10am-4pm, Sat to Sun 10am-2pm
22 Omrah Ave, Caloundra [f](#) [@](#) [v](#)

THE BROTHERS GRUCHY

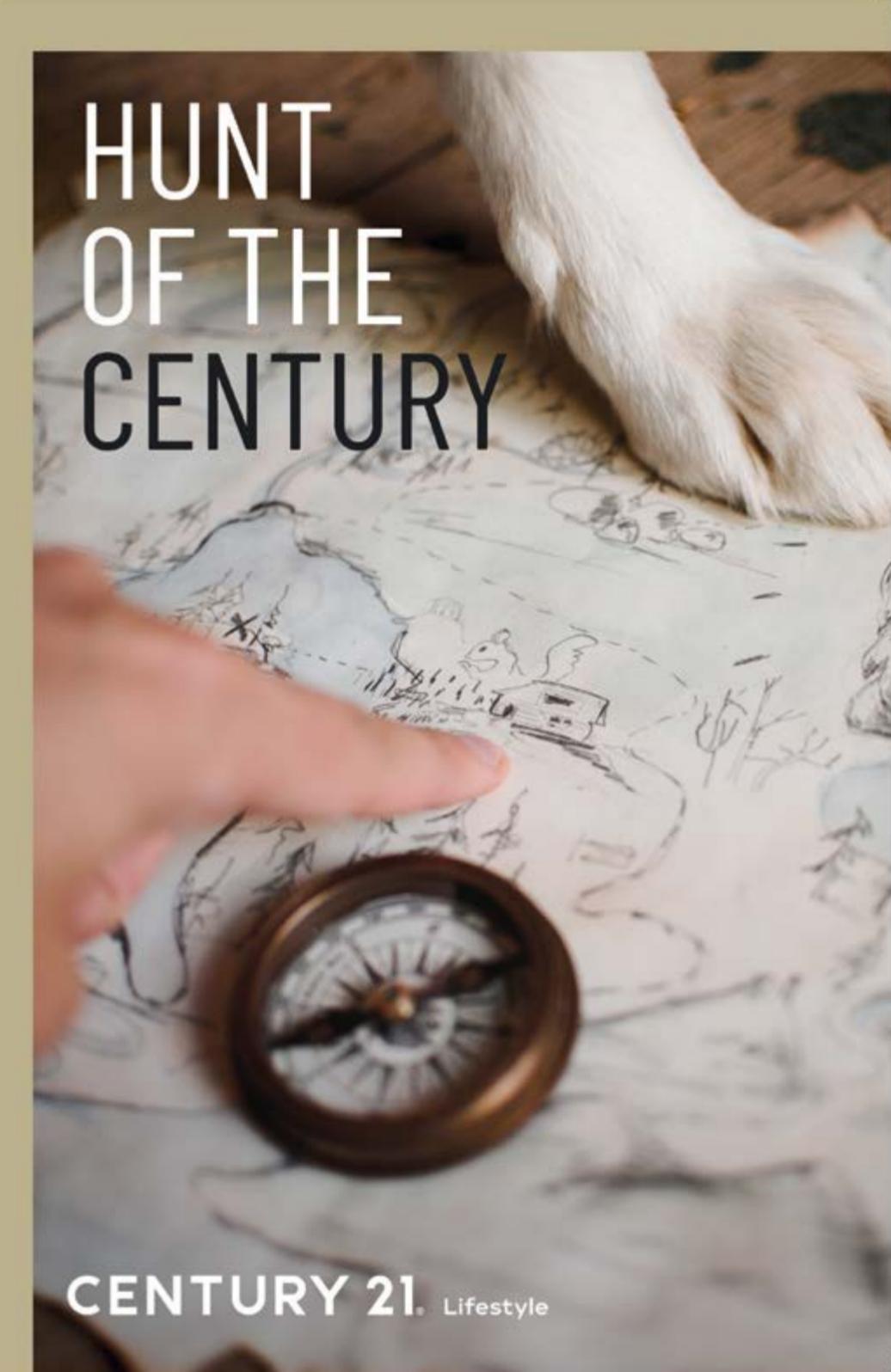
6 February to 22 March 2026

Caloundra Regional Gallery is pleased to present *The Brothers Gruchy*, a touring exhibition curated by Bundaberg Regional Galleries and toured by Museums & Galleries Queensland.

The Brothers Gruchy presents nine key artworks by acclaimed digital artists Tim and Mic Gruchy, which focus on the intersections of technological innovations with biological forms, human perception, artificial intelligence, and synaesthesia.

The Brothers Gruchy is a touring exhibition curated by Bundaberg Regional Galleries and presented in partnership with Museums & Galleries Queensland. This project has been assisted by the Australian Government's Visions of Australia program and is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

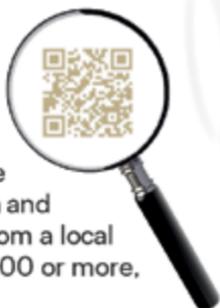
HUNT OF THE CENTURY

A hand-drawn map on a wooden floor. A hand is pointing at a specific location on the map. A dog's paw is visible in the upper right corner. A compass is in the lower foreground.

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Every week throughout 2026, we're hiding a gold envelope somewhere in our community, from Caloundra to Bokarina and out through our beautiful Hinterland. Inside is a voucher from a local business valued at a minimum of \$50, with many worth \$100 or more, and the first person to find it takes it home.

Weekly clues, reels and reveal videos are shared on social media, inviting you, our amazing locals, to explore your own backyard and discover the incredible local businesses that make our community so special.

Our mission is simple: Encourage our community to support local, try somewhere new, and turn a bit of weekly adventure into a genuine win for locals and local businesses alike.

You can join the hunt and be part of the fun by following Century 21 Lifestyle on Facebook or Instagram... because you never know where the next gold envelope might be hiding, or when the next clue will drop.

At Century 21 Lifestyle, we're so proud to be part of this community. Hunt of the Century is our way of giving back, supporting our local businesses that make our area so special, and creating a bit of fun along the way.

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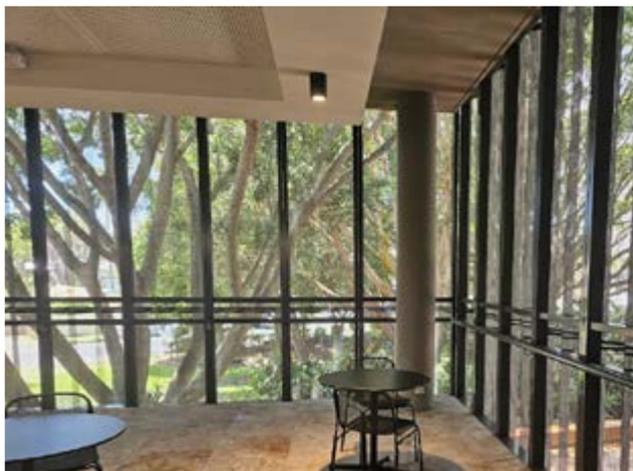
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Never Mind the Shushing

Meet Our New Look Library

BY SUE WARREN



The first impression walking into the foyer of the new Caloundra Library is one of light, space, style, and serenity. A warm sense of welcome greets visitors, with liaison staff only too ready to assist newcomers.

The second impression is just how full of life and movement the spaces are: young mums with coffees in hand and toddlers at their feet, grandparents cosied up with a grandchild, a father busily helping his little one with a construction, and children curled up in cubby holes reading.

This is one amazing asset for the citizens of Caloundra, showcasing library architecture and facilities that are state-of-the-art, and that cater to the needs of a multitude of patrons.

My guides, Karen and Fran, are clearly as enthusiastic about their new workplace as the clients are about the offerings. Students gather in smaller spaces to collaborate on assessments, while individuals focus on projects in quiet alcoves. Community groups and corporate teams make use of high-

tech conference rooms, and emerging creatives take advantage of the green room or music studio. It's no wonder memberships are skyrocketing, with patrons from across the coast signing up.

As many as 1,500 loans are transacted in a single day, and bookings for spaces, meeting rooms, and event areas are booming. The cost of hiring these spaces is so modest it's a bargain, meaning any group, no matter how small, can host an AGM, monthly writing critique, or knitting circle within these impressive walls.

Certainly, one thing that was obvious in just this one visit was the joy people are finding - meeting friends, spending time with family, or pursuing their passions in one of the many spaces.

While busy, there is a pervading sense of calm and purpose wherever one looks. Staff are scattered throughout ready to



Images: Sunshine Coast Council / Sue Warren

help, inform, direct or explain.

There are services and facilities aimed squarely at community support such as a JP onsite daily and a dedicated genealogy area for those seeking answers to family history mysteries.

The tiered seating leading up from the foyer, now a feature in many modern libraries, is ready to host movie events, complete with a large drop-down screen and built-in speakers.

The original doors from the old council chambers have been repurposed as the entryway to an impressive conference-sized room. Along with the naming of spaces and rooms after local landmarks, these thoughtful touches reinforce that this is very much a place for the community.

Local patron, Albert Johnson of Currimundi, happily gave his verdict on the new premises: 100% better than the old library! That seems like a top recommendation to me.

1 Omrah Avenue, Caloundra

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ARTIST IMPRESSION

Reflections from my Heart

with Rashida Cottrell



Image: Lindy, Seed Media

Can You Enter the New Year Gently?

Entering the new year gently is an act of devotion to yourself.
It is choosing tenderness over tension and listening over striving.
It is remembering that life does not need to be rushed into meaning.
Meaning reveals itself when we soften enough to receive it.

A gentle beginning does not mean the absence of intention.
It means your intentions are rooted rather than pushed.
They rise from honesty, from what the body has known and the heart has felt.
You do not pull the past behind you, nor do you reject it.
You thank it for its wisdom and allow it to settle.

To enter the year gently is to move like breath.
Attuned, responsive, trusting the pace without losing yourself.
Some days will invite movement, others will ask for rest.
Wisdom lives in honouring both.

You no longer measure your worth by productivity, achievement, or how much you hold alone.

Gentleness is strength that no longer needs to prove itself.
It is the courage to begin without certainty.
To take one true step rather than many performative ones.
To tend to your nervous system, your breath, your inner world.
To nourish before you grow.

This kind of beginning respects cycles rather than deadlines.
It allows grief and gratitude to sit side by side.
For joy to arrive quietly.
For clarity to unfold with time.

As you step into this year, may you do so with love.
Not rushing to become someone different, but remembering who you already are.
Whole, enough, and deeply supported by life itself...



Spread your Wellness Wings

With Janice Johansen

Reawaken Your Inner Child

By the time February arrives, the glow of the New Year has begun to fade. The fireworks are over, routines have returned and life feels much the same as it did before.

You may have made resolutions around your health, habits, or mindset. Or maybe you chose not to make any changes at all. Either way - imagine if we all made a simple, meaningful commitment to live our lives with more joy, reconnecting with a part of ourselves that we may have forgotten - our inner child.

It's easy to lose touch with the part of ourselves that once felt curious, playful, and free. Responsibilities, routines, and expectations often take priority, while creativity and joy quietly slip into the background. Joy begins by reconnecting with the things we genuinely love to do, the activities that lift our spirits and make us feel more alive. It may mean travelling back to memories to help recall what once brought us joy.

Taking time to do the things you love, is reclaiming a way of living that nurtures creativity, positivity, and emotional wellbeing. Reawakening your inner child is not about escaping adulthood; it is about reclaiming a joyful way of being.



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Life in the Fast Lane

Age is just a number, and vitality comes with discipline. For 78-year-old Brian Garnett and his 47-year-old son, Stu, the journey to optimal health is a shared one. Motivating each other along their personal paths, they have both found a powerful anchor in the ancient practice of fasting. Here they share their stories.



Stu's Story

My name is Stu. I'm a photographer living on the Sunshine Coast. Five years ago, my dad emailed me about Wim Hof, a guy known for extreme breathing techniques and ice baths. I started doing ice baths daily, diving into videos about the method, and that's when I stumbled onto fasting.

I'd never tried anything like it, but I was intrigued. I started skipping breakfast, curious how it would affect my body and mind. Within weeks, I had twice as much energy. One morning, I looked in the mirror and noticed my stomach was flat, I hadn't even known there were muscles under there!

After months of researching fasting and autophagy, I joined a two-day Buddhist fasting retreat. Day one was fine. Day two tested me. I decided to do a third day, and something shifted—I felt like the best version of myself, inside and out. It was incredible.

These days, I practice intermittent fasting every day: I finish eating by 6pm and don't eat again until noon. I've cut out sugar, carbs, and anything processed. My diet is clean consisting of natural produce and meat, and I wake up happy, energised, and grateful. My skin is smoother, my eyesight is sharper, and I never get sick.

If my story inspires you to explore fasting, please talk to your doctor first. I'm not a health professional, just a guy on a journey toward feeling happy, healthy, and fully alive.

Brian's Story

This year, I turn 78. According to my doctor, my health is "excellent." I take no medications, wear no glasses, and have no chronic conditions. All my vitals are where they should be. He tells me my biological age is closer to late sixties.

It wasn't always this way. I've had multiple surgeries and survived sepsis three times—one episode nearly took my life. After my last operation, I had to go dairy-free, and I've stayed that way. It was a turning point: I've since lost 7 kilos, about 9% of my body weight.

Inspired and guided by my son Stu, I built what I call my three-pronged health platform:

1. Exercise – I play golf three times a week, walking 27 holes, and swim a kilometre weekly.

2. Planned Eating – I avoid sugar, excess salt, and saturated fats. Lunch is always a salad wrap with protein. I skip soft drinks, ice cream, milk, potatoes, and cakes, and enjoy alcohol in moderation.

3. The "Secret Sauce" – Intermittent Fasting – This depletes sugar stores and trains your body to burn fat. I follow the 18/6 plan: fasting for 18 hours, eating within a 6-hour window. Most days, I stop eating at 6pm and break my fast at noon. I only consume water during the fast.

The glue that holds it all together? Discipline. And with Stu checking in to keep me on track, that makes all the difference.





With Guest Columnist Kane Rastovac

On the Sunshine Coast, fashion is less about chasing trends and more about curating pieces that move effortlessly with your lifestyle. From long lunches in Caloundra to sunset drinks by the water, our style needs to feel relaxed, intentional and elevated, without trying too hard.

Right now, we're seeing a shift toward small but statement accessories. Bags are no longer just functional; they're the finishing touch that brings an outfit together. Compact shoulder bags are perfect for dinner dates, mini top-handle styles suit special events, and easy crossbody silhouettes work just as well for beach walks as they do for afternoon cocktails. Neutral tones remain timeless, but pops of colour, texture and structure are making waves this season.



Sunshine Coast fashion is all about balance. Think breathable fabrics paired with polished accessories, effortless silhouettes grounded by clean lines, and outfits that transition seamlessly from day to night. Choosing the right bag allows your look to feel considered without sacrificing comfort.

At Tiny Luxe Bags, we believe luxury should be accessible, wearable and sustainable. Our collections are released in limited runs to avoid overproduction and oversaturation, ensuring each piece feels personal and unique.

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Dance Fever

If you're looking for a joyful way to stay active while meeting new people, Dance Fever Sunshine Coast is bringing the fun back into fitness. These adult dance fitness classes are designed for men and women of all ages, with low-impact moves, upbeat routines and plenty of laughter along the way.

Running across the Sunshine Coast for the past seven years, Dance Fever has built a loyal community of dancers who come not just to exercise, but to socialise, sing along and share a love of music. From timeless classics to today's favourites, the playlists keep energy high and spirits lifted.

For many participants, the benefits go far beyond physical fitness. Dancers regularly describe the classes as "the highlight of my week", praising the



welcoming atmosphere and the positive impact on their wellbeing.

Caloundra classes run every Saturday from 9–10am at CCSA Hall, 1 Nutley Street, Caloundra. Casual classes are \$15 per person, with discounted five-class passes available. New dancers are always welcome—just bring a smile and get ready to move.

Phone 0432 980 432 for more info.

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Tiny Luxe Bags

Tiny Luxe Bags is where modern luxury meets playful provocation — a fashion fantasy distilled into miniature form. Founded by creative entrepreneur Kane Rastovac, the Sunshine Coast-based label challenges traditional ideas of luxury, proving that impact isn't measured in size or price tag, but in presence.

Each Tiny Luxe Bag is designed as a collectible statement piece: equal parts art, attitude and elegance. Crafted to spark conversation and elevate even the simplest outfit, these bags have found their way onto runways, into local and international magazines, and onto the arms of style-savvy A-listers who understand that true luxury is a feeling.

Under the House of Rastovac umbrella, Kane's vision extends beyond fashion into immersive creative experiences, photography and empowerment-led modelling concepts - all guided by confidence, self-expression and allure.

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Autumn Reset

After a long, hot Queensland summer, autumn is the season your indoor plants have been waiting for. Growth slows, the light softens, and it is the perfect time to reset your plant care routine and help everything settle in before winter.

Start with a good clean. Summer dust, humidity and open windows can leave leaves dull and blocked. Wipe foliage gently with a damp cloth or give plants a light shower to remove build-up. Clean leaves mean better light absorption and healthier growth going into the cooler months.

Next, take a fresh look at watering. As temperatures drop and daylight shortens, plants simply do not need as much. This is when overwatering becomes the most common issue we see. Let the top layer of soil dry before watering again and focus on fewer, deeper drinks rather than frequent top-ups. If your plant is still drying out quickly, it may be time to refresh the potting mix with something more moisture-retentive and breathable.

Autumn is also a great moment to reassess where your plants live. The sun sits lower in the sky now, which can change light patterns inside your home. A good spot in summer might suddenly be too bright or too dim. Small shifts in placement can make a big difference to how your plant copes over the coming months.

While spring is often seen as repotting season, autumn is about restraint. Only repot if your plant is truly root-bound or struggling. Most plants prefer to stay settled as they head toward winter, focusing energy on maintaining health rather than pushing new growth.

Think of autumn as a pause. A chance to tidy, adjust and let your plants recover from summer before the slower season ahead. A little attention now sets them up for strong, steady growth when warmer days return.

If you are unsure where to start or want help choosing the right soil, nutrients or placement for your plants, we are always happy to help you reset your indoor jungle for the season ahead.

Bespoke Plants is at 26 Bulcock St, Caloundra.

Notes from the Native Nursery

with Suzanne Wilson
Mooloolah River Landcare

Frog Gardens

What has green skin, big eyes and eats insects? If you answered green tree frog, you are correct. More often heard than seen, frogs are familiar night-time companions in many backyards. If, however, you have noticed fewer calls lately, there are simple ways to make your garden more welcoming.

Start by creating a frog-friendly garden. Be mindful of chemical use, as frogs depend on healthy insect populations for food.

Rather than draining damp areas, embrace that wet spot in your yard.

Plant sedges and shrubs that thrive in moist conditions. They provide excellent shelter and cooling hideaways for frogs.

Frogs can jump and climb, unlike toads, so placing a shallow water dish or container around 50 centimetres above



Photo: Malika Van Herberghen

the ground can be helpful.

Keeping cats indoors at night is another effective way to protect visiting frogs. Potted plants with water wells or saucers also make ideal hiding places, offering moisture and cover during the day.

If you would like to learn more, Mooloolah River Landcare will be running a Make a Frog Hotel workshop on 21 February. You can also become a citizen scientist by joining the Find a Frog in February project on iNaturalist.org, where you can record your sightings or connect with others through the Facebook group of the same name.

So, get outside this February and see what you can discover—ribbit!

See you in the nursery!



Snake Relocation

For over 20 years, Stuart McKenzie of The Snake Catcher 24/7 has been safely handling reptiles across the Sunshine Coast. With snake activity prevalent at this time of year, this trusted local service is ready to respond.

Passionate about wildlife safety, Stuart's professional team offers all hours emergency removal for homes and businesses from Noosa to North Brisbane, including Caloundra.

If a snake enters your property seeking shelter or warmth, don't panic.



Clear the room, close all windows and doors if possible, and call immediately for free advice or a prompt, safe relocation.

Phone 1800 181 297 or visit sunshinecoast.thesnakecatcher.com.au

Dhil'um-bar Kangaroo Sanctuary

You might have seen the film "Kangaroo" - the story of a television personality and a 12-year-old forging an unlikely partnership to rescue orphaned joeys in the Australian outback. Dhil'um-bar Kangaroo Sanctuary shares that same spirit of hope and determination, but this is no cinematic fantasy. This is real, raw wildlife rescue, unfolding every day in the rolling hinterland of Queensland's Sunshine Coast.



At the heart of Dhil'um-bar is Tabatha Needham. By day, she works full-time in an office. By night - and in every spare moment between - she is a wildlife carer, sanctuary founder and the driving force behind a place where injured and orphaned animals are given a genuine second chance at life.

Her patients are predominantly macropods: eastern grey kangaroos, red-necked wallabies, swamp wallabies and whiptail wallabies. Sharing the paddocks are a handful of unexpected residents — a number of rescue horses, Rodney the rooster that had been abandoned at a childcare centre and even a vigilant guard duck named Quacky. Together, they form a living ecosystem shaped by care, patience and relentless commitment.

The work is unceasing and emotionally demanding. After finishing her nine-to-five, Tabatha criss-crosses the Sunshine Coast collecting injured macropods - animals struck by vehicles, entangled in fencing or displaced by relentless development. Her journeys routinely

span Northlakes to Hervey Bay, and back again, often to Caloundra and out to areas like Jimna, Blackbutt, and Imbil. It's not unusual to also have at least three veterinary visits per week.

She does it all in a car with a cracked cylinder head - a repair she simply cannot afford - underscoring the urgency of her call for community support.

The financial burden is immense. Veterinary treatment, specialised milk formula, feed and infrastructure cost more than \$4,500 each month, all paid out of pocket. Despite repeated grant applications, funding has proven elusive. Macropods, Tabatha notes, are often overlooked in favour of koalas, a disparity that leaves Australia's most visible marsupials without the resources their survival demands.

At present, 69 kangaroos are in her care. Nights and weekends are spent feeding joeys, monitoring injuries, transporting animals to check-ups and responding to emergency calls.

The need is growing. On the Sunshine



Coast, expanding development and rising traffic volumes have devastated local macropod populations. Kangaroos and wallabies rely heavily on complex social structures. When senior members of a mob are killed, younger or weaker animals are frequently unable to survive alone.

Too often, macropods are grouped under the single label of 'kangaroo', masking the reality that Australia is home to many distinct species, each with unique behaviours, dietary needs and social dynamics. Understanding and respecting those differences is central to successful rehabilitation.

Over the years, Tabatha and her small team have raised and released countless macropods using a carefully managed soft-release process. Rehabilitated patients are introduced to foster mobs, where they learn vital social cues and survival skills in a protected environment. Only once they demonstrate strong flight responses and the ability to recognise threats are they reintegrated into wild

populations roaming the sanctuary's grasslands and beyond.

"Our rehabilitated joeys don't just survive - they thrive," Tabatha says. "They learn how to live with their mob and the complexities of the social structures that go with that. Good rehabilitation gives them a genuine second chance, released in the Sunshine Coast hinterland."

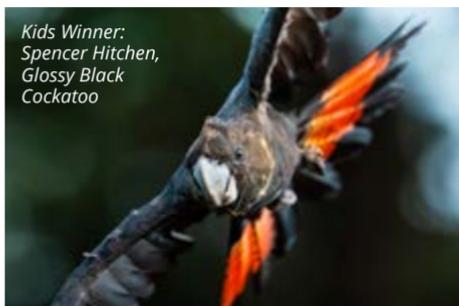
Dhil'um-bar Kangaroo Sanctuary isn't chasing Hollywood endings. Its success is measured not in dramatic rescues, but in quiet, proven outcomes - healthy animals returning into the bush where they belong.

In a landscape under increasing pressure, Dhil'um-bar offers something special - hope grounded in hard work, unwavering commitment, expertise and compassion. Without sanctuaries like this, the future for many Sunshine Coast macropods would be far bleaker.

Dhil'um-bar Kangaroo Sanctuary relies entirely on community support to continue its work. To contribute, visit facebook.com/DhilumbarSanctuary.



Cover Finalist:
John Peters,
Mantis



Kids Winner:
Spencer Hitchen,
Glossy Black
Cockatoo



Kids Highly Commended:
Leo Parry, Whale Tail

Crikey! Magazine Photography Gallery at Australia Zoo

On Saturday 10 January, Robert Irwin unveiled the annual Crikey! Magazine Photography Gallery at Australia Zoo, celebrating the power of photography to inspire conservation and environmental awareness.

For nearly a decade, the Crikey! Magazine Photography Competition has showcased wildlife through the lens of passionate photographers. This year, a record-breaking number of submissions from around the world resulted in an impressive selection of winners.

“We are proud to lead a competition recognised internationally, helping people connect with the natural world,” said Robert. “Our hope is that photography will inspire different generations to protect nature when it needs us most.”

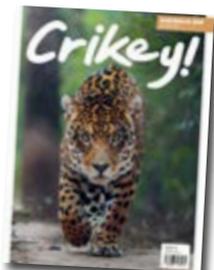
Australia Zoo received entries across categories including Crikey! Magazine Cover, The Natural World, and Crikey! Kids (10–17 years). The 2025 cover winner, by Santiago Arias, features Pora, an endangered jaguar in Argentina’s El Impenetrable National Park—a striking

reminder of wildlife conservation.

Other winners include Ponlawat Thaipinnarong’s Sarus crane with chick (The Natural World); Salahuddin Ahmed’s damselfly through a leaf (Kids 15–17); Panitbhand Paribatra’s humpback whale encounter (Kids 11–14); and 10-year-old Jamie Smart’s close-up of a jumping spider (Kids 10 & under).

Judged by award-winning photographers and conservationists, the competition awarded curated prizes from camera kits to lodge stays.

Visitors can view the finalist images at Australia Zoo until the end of February and in the summer edition of Crikey! Magazine. To subscribe, visit Crikey! Magazine.



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OUR COMMUNITY**



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Facebook: [saveourglasshousemountains](https://www.facebook.com/saveourglasshousemountains)

Salty Sessions

With John Henderson

Surfing Etiquette: Part One

Aloha Crew! If we're all to enjoy this wonderful activity (and stay safe!), every surfer needs to know and follow the rules of Surfing Etiquette.

Surfing Etiquette centres on safety, respect, and patience. Below is part one, with more coming in the next edition.

Pick the right location for your ability. Only surf gentle, safe waves until you improve your confidence and ability to safely handle more challenging conditions.

Before entering the water, watch the ocean first to understand the waves and how other surfers are handling the conditions.

Paddle out wide of the break so you don't get in the way.

Don't paddle straight into the peak or take-off area. Sit wide on your board to gain an understanding of how more experienced surfers are handling the wave.

So be aware of the rules of Surfing Etiquette, spread good vibes in the ocean, and enjoy your journey of becoming a surfer.

And if you want to get into surfing, my best advice is to have a lesson with an experienced surf coach.

Do yourself a favour and talk to Russell at North Caloundra Surf School on 0411 221 730, or John at Caloundra Surf School on 0413 381 010.



PART TWO OF SURFING ETIQUETTE WILL APPEAR IN THE CHRONICLE'S NEXT EDITION.

CALOUNDRA CATCHES



Young Keanu with a ripper whiting caught in the Passage with his dad



Jason got this monster flathead flicking lures off the jetty at Golden Beach



Above: James and his mum with a nice Spanish mackerel caught trolling garfish in their kayak off Caloundra headland



Harvey with a lovely whiting caught on beach worms at Happy Valley



Left: Stephen with a beautiful sunset flathead from Bribie Island



Parry caught this nice cobia off Caloundra during the Xmas holidays

Caloundra Bar Crossing Tuition

Ever wanted to cross the Caloundra Bar with confidence, rather than watching from the ramp as others head offshore?

Salty Fishing Charters is launching a practical, on-water bar crossing tuition experience, backed by more than 30 years of real-world coastal bar crossing expertise.

While the focus is on the Caloundra Bar, the skills taught are applicable to coastal bars across Australia. Participants will learn how to read swell and conditions, select the safest line, time their run, and make sound decisions as conditions change.

This is not classroom-based theory.

Training takes place on the water, in real conditions, under the guidance of a highly experienced charter skipper. You will actively cross the bar, gaining transferable skills that build confidence, judgement and situational awareness offshore.

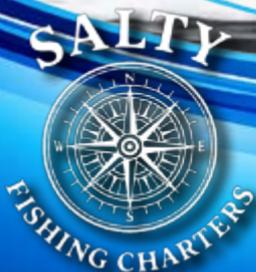
If you fish, dive, or regularly transit coastal bars to access offshore waters, this is practical knowledge that can fundamentally change the way you approach boating.

Pricing and session details will be released shortly with limited spots available.

To register your interest, email saltyfishingcharters@outlook.com.

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An advertisement for 'NightOwl CONVENIENCE' and 'the Lott'. It features the NightOwl logo, a rainbow logo for 'the Lott', and the address 'Parklands Blvd LITTLE MOUNTAIN'. Hours are listed for Mon-Fri (4:30AM-11PM) and Sat-Sun (6:00AM-11PM).

NightOwl
CONVENIENCE

the **Lott**

Parklands Blvd
LITTLE MOUNTAIN

Mon-Fri 4:30AM-11PM
Sat-Sun 6:00AM-11PM

An advertisement for 'PINNELL'S GOURMET MEATS'. It features a blue oval logo with a boat and the text 'PINNELL'S GOURMET MEATS'. Contact information includes a phone number, email, address, and website.

PINNELL'S
GOURMET MEATS

☎ **07 5491 3552**
pinnellsmcats@gmail.com

📍 12b, Caloundra Village
1 Ormuz Avenue, Caloundra
pinnellsgourmetmeats.com.au

An advertisement for 'AUSTRALIAN SERVE' (AUSTSERVE). It features a green map of Australia logo with the text 'AUSTRALIAN SERVE'. Services listed include internet service, fibre upgrades, and phone systems. Contact information includes a phone number and website.

AUSTRALIAN SERVE

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER
FIBRE UPGRADES
HOME & BUSINESS INTERNET
PHONE SYSTEMS

07 3040 5191
austserve.com.au

An advertisement for 'CALOUNDRA PANTHERS AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB'. It features a logo of a yellow and black panther. Contact information includes the address and social media link.

CALOUNDRA PANTHERS
AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL CLUB

NORTH ST, CALOUNDRA

**FACEBOOK.COM/
CALOUNDRAJUNIORAFC**

An advertisement for 'iLicence'. It features the 'iLicence' logo and the text 'CALOUNDRA BOAT & JET SKI TRAINING'. Pricing and contact information are listed.

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