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The Community Leader

WE'RE ALL ABOUT GOOD NEWS

Redlands



A WORLD CUP FOR THE AGES COMES TO CLEVELAND THIS OCTOBER!

Cleveland is about to host a soccer World Cup with a twist – one where every athlete has decades of experience under their boots. From October 12 to 16, more than 450 players from Japan, Germany, Wales, Canada, the USA and across Australia will arrive for the 70+ Soccer World Cup, turning Redlands United Football Club into an international hub of sun, sea and spectacular football.

With some competitors well into their 80s, local favourite and Over-75 Australian team member Siggie Nowak proves that passion, grit and a love of the game don't retire – they get better with age.

The tournament is expected to bring a fantastic atmosphere to the Redlands, with players, families and supporters travelling from around the world to cheer on their teams. It's a rare opportunity for locals to watch international football while celebrating the incredible fitness, determination and sportsmanship of these veteran athletes.

Find out more about Siggie and the World Cup teams on page 3. Best of luck to all the teams competing!

Pictured: World Cup players Gerry Stevens, Siggie Nowak, Chris Hwang and Vlad Terkes (standing), and Malcolm Sutherland, David Dancy and Keith Forrest (front row).

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REDLANDS' BIG-HEARTED BUNCH RAISES RECORD TOTAL FOR DAFFODIL DAY

BY ASHLEIGH HOWARTH

The Redlands community has once again shown its generosity by digging deep to support people living with cancer by raising a record-breaking \$16,770 for Daffodil Day across the region.

A dedicated team of volunteers from the Cancer Council Queensland Redlands Branch spent two days out in the community on August 20-21 selling bunches of the iconic yellow flower as well as Daffodil Day merchandise, with this year's total surpassing last year's impressive \$15,000 and setting a new record for the local fundraiser.

Redlands Branch volunteer Jill Watson said she and the other volunteers were deeply moved by the community's goodwill, kindness and the personal stories they shared.

"Even though it's a very busy two days for our volunteers across four sites, it's also our favourite fundraiser for the year," Jill said.

"This year we sold 900 bunches of daffodils and over 200 Daffodil Day cookies, plus many more teddies, pens, keyrings, socks and Lego – there was something for everyone!

"The generosity of our supporters means a lot. Each year we see

many familiar faces, we hear touching stories, and we also meet many new people keen to help."

The team also received a helping hand from staff at Community Bank Victoria Point, who joined the volunteers at two sites on August 20 – Daffodil Day itself – helping out on what was one of the busiest days of the fundraiser.

The money raised will help Cancer Council fund world-class cancer research, support breakthroughs that save lives and provide support services for people affected by cancer.

"With almost one in two Australians facing a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime, every dollar donated helps create hope for people affected by cancer, now and into the future," Jill said.

"For 40 years, Daffodil Day has been growing hope, helping fund cancer research and support services.

"In 1986, five-year cancer survival was around 46 per cent, and today it has reached 72 per cent – which is a wonderful reminder of what we can achieve together."



Photo: Supplied.

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2

WHO'S UP FOR SOME SUN, SEA AND SOCCER...AND A WORLD CUP WIN?

CONTRIBUTED BY SIGGY NOWAK

From 12 to 16 October, Cleveland becomes a centre of the soccer world for the 70+ World Cup. This unique event, the first of its kind in Australia, features 6 countries, 26 teams and 450 players. It's being held at Redlands United Football Club fields and will attract over 1000 visitors and spectators, many hailing from overseas. The most remarkable aspect of the competition is that all the players are over 70 years old. Several players are over 80.

Siggy Nowak, a Cleveland resident and player in the Over-75 Australian team, is part of the organising committee. He emphasises the immense effort required to plan such a successful tournament, ensuring a fantastic experience for players and their families.

"We have buy-in from many local businesses and community members who are freely giving up their time to help make this event a memorable experience for everyone."

Nowak highlights the diverse range of players from various states representing Australia, as well as competing teams from Japan, Germany, Wales, Canada and the USA. He anticipates a soccer feast for fans, especially given the presence of quality veteran players in their twilight years.

Oasis Masters Football president Keith Pierce accepted the international committee's offer to host the event in Australia. He is quick to point out that Oasis stands for 'Old And Still Into Soccer'.

Siggy reveals that 21 Australian players in this competition hail from Queensland. He and Malcolm Sutherland reside in Cleveland, and both express their love of living in this area, describing it as Australia's best-kept secret.

Mark Thig, president of Redlands United Football Club, is thrilled that the club grounds were chosen to host the competition. He, along with Redland City Council's local representatives Peter Mitchell (Economic Development) and Jason Colley (Sport and Recreation), and Suzie Tafolo from the Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce, are fully supportive of this initiative. The Council has generously provided a substantial grant to the organisers. It is distributing brochures and maps to educate visiting players about the area's wide range of eateries, shopping and sightseeing offerings.

At 78, Siggy has never stopped kicking the ball. Siggy assures everyone in his age group that they shouldn't stop playing football, because it keeps bodies active. Malcolm Sutherland, 77, agrees, saying players might be slowing down, but they make the ball do all the running.



Photo: Supplied.

The Oasis committee is encouraging everyone in the Cleveland area to come along and show support for Australia – three Over-70s teams, the two Over-75s teams and the Over-80s oldies – as they strive to win the World Cup in their divisions.

More information about the tournament can be found on the website www.70pluswc2026.com.



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BOOKING & PREPAYMENT ESSENTIAL



HALLOWE'EN – THE PIVOT OF THE YEAR, AND A MARKET TO DEMYSTIFY!

BY JAN NARY

It's hard to eradicate established celebrations – they travel, shift, absorb local customs, and are in turn absorbed by new festivals.

The Romans blended their traditions into Celtic lands, adding references to Feralia, honouring the dead, and Pomona, the orchard goddess whose symbol was the apple. Centuries later, the Christian Church overlaid these older practices with All Hallows' Eve, and modern culture added its own layers – from Victorian ghost lore to the commercial boom of trick or treating.

So does modern-day Hallowe'en trivialise or preserve the essence of an ancient festival? Wayne Pina Roozmond, chairperson of the Queensland Pagan Collective (QPC), says understanding is the key.

"Back in the fourteenth century witches were essentially healers and herbalists. Over time, traditional festivals – including April Fools' Day and Valentine's Day – survived because their dates were deeply rooted in culture, even though their meanings shifted or were trivialised," explained Wayne.

"When we started the collective seven years ago, one of our core aims was to demystify paganism and witchcraft. Education is the only

way to do that. Hence the Witches Markets. We get out there, explain, and give people a good time – plus a chance to dress up in their own version of witchy, wizardy, and weird," he says.

Hallowe'en has always been a shape shifter. Medieval Europe added bonfires and 'guising'. Later centuries embraced ghost stories, fortune telling games, lanterns, and community gatherings. When the festival crossed into North America, it absorbed immigrant folklore and became the playful, spooky celebration recognised today.

Despite the costumes and candy, its core themes – remembrance, mystery, and the turning of the year – still echo through every generation.

The upcoming Witches Markets at Cleveland is a living, breathing celebration of Hallowe'en.

"Imagine Harry Potter's Diagon Alley – a mystical, otherworldly atmosphere, an exciting place to buy witchy wares, spellcraft tools, quirky handmade treasures and curiosities – that's the Witches Market!"

The Witches Markets will be held at Raby Bay Harbour Park on October 17, 2026, from 2:00pm to 8:00pm.



Photos: Supplied.

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REMINISCING ABOUT LOCAL LIFE IN THE '50S & '60S AT SHOW 'N' TELL

CONTRIBUTED BY REDLANDS COAST MUSEUM

Join us for a fascinating floor talk at Redlands Coast Museum, where each Show 'n' Tell explores a different part of the museum's history.

Step back in time for a morning of memories, laughter and conversation as local residents Jan, Nola and Merle share what it was like growing up in the Redlands during the 1950s and '60s.

Hear stories of shopping at the Despot corner store, Saturday movies, swimming adventures and the simple joy of a strawberry float.

Special guest and local author John Dillon, author of *In My Opinion... This Is What I Know. Part 1*, will also share his memories of visiting family in Cleveland during this era, offering another personal perspective on life in a changing Australia.

Whether you grew up in the Redlands or simply love a good trip down memory lane, this engaging Show 'n' Tell is sure to spark memories and conversation. Come along, share your own stories and reminisce about the good old days!

After the presentation, sit back and enjoy a delicious Devonshire tea with freshly brewed tea or coffee. This relaxed time gives you the chance to continue the conversation, reminisce about your own memories of growing up in the Redlands and ask Jan, Nola, Merle and John any questions you may have.

It's the perfect way to finish a morning of stories, laughter and memories, so stay a while and enjoy a cuppa with us!

EVENT SNAPSHOT

Where: Redlands Coast Museum **Time:** 10:00am to 11:30am (doors open at 9:45am)
When: Saturday 24 October 2026 **Tickets:** \$19.50 per person; discounts apply for RCM members



Photo: Supplied.

Inclusions: Morning tea and general admission to look around the museum **Bookings:** www.redlandscostmuseum.org.au/whats-on/ or call 3286 3494

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5



What's On

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

SCAN TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
WHAT'S ON



11 OCT

REDLANDS COAST COLLECTIVE MARKETS — PRELOVED MARKET

Sunday October 11, 9:00am to 1:00pm, Cleveland Showgrounds, Long Street, Cleveland

Redlands Coast Collective Markets' Preloved Market invites shoppers to uncover quality second-hand fashion, accessories, homewares and quirky bric-a-brac, all curated for treasure hunters and sustainable shoppers alike. With vintage finds, kids' items, books, games and plenty of surprises, it's a relaxed, feel good market day celebrating circular fashion and community spirit. Entry is free, and the market is dog-friendly.



17 OCT

WITCHES HALLOWEEN NIGHT MARKETS

Saturday October 17, 2:00pm to 8:00pm, Raby Bay Harbour Park, Cleveland

The Witches Halloween Night Markets return to Raby Bay Harbour Park on 17 October, bringing a twilight celebration of magic, mystery, and witchy creativity. Enjoy free entry, lantern-lit stalls, handmade curiosities, pagan wares, and Halloween delights, all in a welcoming, inclusive space. Celebrate the thinning veil, honour ancient Samhain roots, and gather with a community that embraces all.



22 OCT

STAND-UP COMEDY IN CAPALABA

Thursday October 22, doors open 5:00pm for drinks and meals, show starts 7:00pm, Redlands Coast Distillery, 2 Christine Place, Capalaba

Stand-Up Comedy at Redlands Coast Distillery brings a fresh mix of new and seasoned comedians to Capalaba for a lively night of laughs strictly for adults! Hosted by Straight Up Stand Up, the showcase invites adults to settle in with meals and drinks from 5:00pm before the show kicks off at 7:00pm. Over 90 minutes, audiences can expect variety, fun and plenty of energy as performers deliver a hilarious evening perfect for friends or date night. For tickets, scan the QR code.



24 OCT

REDLANDS COAST MUSEUM'S SPRING SEASON SHOWCASE: FINDING MAGIC

Saturday October 24, 6:00pm to 9:00pm, Redlands Coast Museum, 60 Smith Street, Cleveland

Finding Magic invites audiences into an intimate evening of Irish music, storytelling and song. With Jack O'Leary, Martin Reece, Christian Rizzalli and Sebastian Flynn, the show blends traditional tunes, heartfelt stories and beautiful vocals. Inspired by the charm of an Irish kitchen gathering, it offers a warm, immersive experience that celebrates humour, tradition and connection. For bookings, scan the QR code.



24 OCT

FLEETWOOD MACS

Saturday October 24, 7:30pm, RPAC, Middle Street, Cleveland

Dreams take centre stage as this high-energy tribute celebrates the iconic legacy of Fleetwood Mac. From the band's turbulent early years to their chart topping US era, every hit is brought to life in a two hour concert spectacular. Fleetwood Macs recreates the legendary sound with uncanny precision, delivering an unmissable night of Rumours, drama, and pure musical magic. Fans could Go Their Own Way...but they'll want to be here for this unforgettable celebration of Fleetwood Mac. For tickets, visit rpac.com.au.



31 OCT

WYNNUM AMPOL HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL

Saturday October 31, 12:00pm to 8:30pm, George Clayton Park, Wynnum-Manly foreshore

Halloween on the bayside is just so much spooky fun, so don't miss this opportunity to dress up in your scariest costume and join the all-ages party in the park! Bring your family, friends and neighbours and enjoy live entertainment, food trucks, stalls, and a grand parade of ghouls and ghosts at 6:00pm. Stick around until the sun goes down to catch the fireworks display.

BARNESY’S BIGGEST HITS TO ROCK STRADDIE IN TRIBUTE SPECTACULAR

BY ASHLEIGH HOWARTH

Fans of Australian rock will have the chance to relive some of Jimmy Barnes’ biggest hits when tribute act Barnes Storm performs at the Little Ship Club at Straddie on October 31.

Fronted by Scott Bedford, the five-piece band has built its reputation on recreating the raw energy, powerful vocals and unmistakable stage presence that have made Jimmy an Australian rock icon.

“I’ve been a musician for 20 years, and this band has been the most exciting thing to be a part of because we are channelling Australian rock royalty,” he said.

“Audiences can expect hits from Jimmy’s solo career and his years with Cold Chisel – songs that have been part of our lives over many decades.

“Some of our favourite songs to sing are *Driving Wheels*, *Lay Down Your Guns*, *Merry Go Round*, *Bow River*, *Khe Sanh*, *Flame Trees* and *Working Class Man*, but really, we love them all.”

Having met the legendary rocker, as well as Don Walker – who is the keyboardist, principal songwriter, and co-founder of the iconic Australian pub rock band Cold Chisel – Scott said the duo are very supportive of his band.

“They are happy we are keeping their music alive for all generations to enjoy,” he said.

“I’ve met Jimmy a couple of times, and he’s so cool – he’s very down to earth and living life at 110 per cent full throttle.”

Hailing from New South Wales, Scott said the band was excited to return to the Redlands, especially after performing to a sold-out show during their last visit.

“We are super excited and pumped to be playing on beautiful North Stradbroke Island. We have never been there, so it’s going to be great,” he said.

“The last show we performed in the Redlands was a complete sellout, so we are really looking forward to playing for you again.

“If you haven’t seen us play before, come along, let your hair down, live life, reminisce with the music and enjoy the show experience – you will not be disappointed.”

The event starts at 12:00pm on October 31, with support act Kyle Bryant taking to the stage first. Tickets are on sale through TryBooking; search *Bands by the Bay – Barnes Storm Live* at Little Ship Club.



Photo: Supplied.



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

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

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

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

Carolyn Schuwalow, Senior Philanthropy Manager Redland Hospital Fund

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

Email: thankyou@redlandhospitalfund.org.au or phone: 0484 366 041



GETTING READY IN REDLAND CITY



ACTING MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Living on Redlands Coast means our coastline, bushland, businesses and homes are often side-by-side. While this makes our region a wonderful place to live, it also means natural hazards can affect our families, businesses and daily lives.

We can't prevent severe weather, but we can all take steps to be prepared.

Council works year-round with emergency services, community organisations and volunteers to help keep our community informed, prepared and supported. Together, we plan, train and coordinate before emergencies occur, respond when needed, and help our community recover afterwards.

Preparedness, however, is a shared responsibility. People who take steps to prepare are often better placed to cope during and after a disaster.

Many residents have experienced the impacts of these events firsthand - from road closures and power outages, to disrupted transport, supply shortages and communication interruptions.

Being resilient doesn't mean facing emergencies alone. However, the reality is that emergency services cannot be everywhere at once and may not be able to reach you immediately. In some situations, you may need to be your own first responder, or lend a hand to a neighbour.

I encourage everyone to understand their local risks, make an emergency plan and pack a kit of essential supplies. Start somewhere and start today. Small actions taken now can make a significant difference when every minute counts.

By working together, Council, emergency services, community organisations and residents can build a safer, stronger and more resilient Redlands Coast, ready to face whatever the season may bring.



Cr Julie Talty
Deputy Mayor of Redland City
Email: mayor@redland.qld.gov.au



KNOW THY NEIGHBOUR

Local connections can make all the difference during a disaster and in the days, weeks and months that follow – whether it's sharing information, accessing essential supplies, or providing reassurance.

When thinking about local support, do you have:

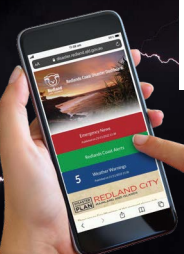
- 1** family or friends who live close by?
- 2** a neighbour you could exchange contact details with?
- 3** people you can connect with who may appreciate extra help (e.g. the elderly, people with disabilities)?
- 4** a community network, group or volunteer agency you could join?

REDLANDS COAST DISASTER DASHBOARD

Up-to-date local emergency information



dashboard.redland.qld.gov.au



BUSHFIRE PREVENTION IN ACTION

In preparation for the annual bushfire season, Council has been slashing Council-owned land, creating fuel free zones (firebreaks), and carrying out controlled burns to reduce fuel loads.

The work is undertaken in cooperation with the Queensland Fire Department (QFD) and other land management authorities.

By lowering the volume of forest litter – such as dead branches and leaves and grasses – burns reduce the fuel that keeps bushfires burning, reducing fire danger and providing access for firefighters and other emergency services.

Do your bit to protect your home, family and community by clearing vegetation, removing fuel hazards and maintaining your property.

Find out more by visiting the Queensland Fire Department website at fire.qld.gov.au



WE'RE GETTING READY

Since 1 January 2026, we've been working hard with emergency agencies to prepare for severe weather season:



8

TRAINING EXERCISES



66

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS



7

PLANNED BURNS



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MYTH!

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TRUTH!

NBN technology won't work without power. That's why a battery-operated radio set to ABC 612 AM is so important.

MYTH!

I don't live next to bush, I don't have to worry about fire

TRUTH!

Fire embers and radiant heat can travel well in advance of a fire front. All homes should be bushfire ready.

MYTH!

SES mostly does rescues and searches

TRUTH!

The most common callout is water damage to roofs. Help our SES volunteers (and your home) by keeping your roof in good condition and gutters clear.

MYTH!

Council isn't involved in disaster response.

TRUTH!

Council brings together more than 40 agencies in the Redland Local Disaster Management Group. We also have a dedicated fulltime Disaster Management Team and more than 120 trained employees who can work in the Local Disaster Coordination Centre.

WHAT'S IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT?

Households will have different needs, but every emergency kit should have **5-7 days** of supplies and include these basics.

DISASTER TIP!

Don't forget the water – enough for everyone in your household.



Maggie's Mates

SPONSORED BY MARKET 2 MARKET



Photo: Supplied.

What is your name? Hi, I am Shlinky. I'm a boy.

Who do you live with? I live with my human family and my best friend Apollo, my cat. He's one year older than me, and we share the same birthday on December 13. This year I will be three and Apollo will be four.

What is your favourite activity? My favourite time of day is whenever I see Mummy – she is my person. I go out in the morning, then someone lets me back inside, then I run straight upstairs, up the ramp to mine and Mummy's bed, onto the blanket box, and I bounce and charge straight under her chin. I also love it when Daddy gets home. I run to the door, paw at his legs and give him a "Hooray for Sausage Dog".

What is your favourite toy? My favourite toys are my humans or Apollo.

What is your favourite food? I love smoked salmon, prawns, sashimi, beef jerky, and whatever is on the humans' table. I love weekends because that is when I get a poached egg.

What is your worst habit? I am partial to doing a revenge poo. Whenever Mummy and Daddy leave me for the weekend, I poop in the children's bathroom.

What is your favourite place to hang out? I love to walk my block and let everyone know I'm there by trying to pee as high as I can so everyone thinks I'm taller than I actually am!

Do you have an embarrassing story to share? When I was a puppy, I peed on Daddy's side of the bed. I felt instant remorse, started whimpering, and tried to fix it by pawing at it and digging it away, but it didn't work. I was so sad.

What do people love most about you? I have long, fluffy, soft ears. I'm a good hugger, and I like to snuggle up to people. I get so excited to see all the people I love, and I cuddle and greet them with great enthusiasm, and it makes them feel happy.

Shlinky's favourite charity is the Animal Welfare League QLD, and we have made a \$50 donation on his behalf.



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



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MISS MAGGIE OF MANLY



PETS AND STORM PHOBIA

BY DR NICKY THOMAS, WYNNUM MANLY VETERINARY HOSPITAL

As we approach the warmer summer months, we often see an increase in storms. Dogs and cats can be very sensitive to environmental changes, with a number of animals developing storm phobia.



WHAT IS STORM PHOBIA?

Storm phobia is a fear of storms and storm-related noises. This phobia can occur in young animals or may develop over time with repeated exposure to frightening stimuli. Storm phobia may be triggered by changes in barometric pressure, wind gusts, rain squalls,

distant sounds and changes in environmental chemicals. Active stormy weather including heavy rainfall, thunder, lightning and hail, may cause ongoing anxious behaviour.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF STORM PHOBIA?

Signs associated with storm phobia may include:

- Escaping (which may result in injury);
- Inappropriate toileting behaviour;
- Vocalising;
- Hiding, pacing, salivating;
- Destructive behaviour which may result in damage to household objects/structures and injury to pets.

HOW IS STORM PHOBIA TREATED?

- Create a safe, secure space for your pets – for dogs this may be a crate or quiet room which shields them from both noise and visual cues such as lightning. Cats should be kept indoors during storms.
- Encourage normal activities during storms – distract pets by playing with them or feeding them.
- Relaxation training may be helpful. Direct dogs to a mat/bed/crate using the “settle” cue and reward calm behaviour with treats and pats.
- Desensitisation with recorded noises played at slowly increasing volume while rewarding calm behaviour may be helpful.

- Thundershirts may benefit some dogs.
- Natural calming products which are available as oral supplements or in collars may be used.
- Anti-anxiety medication may be prescribed by your veterinarian for use in severely affected animals. These medications need to be given at least an hour before storms in order to be effective, so close monitoring of weather forecasts is necessary.

It is essential that pets' microchip details be kept updated as many cases of lost pets occur during stormy weather. Check with your vet to make sure your current details are recorded on the national microchip database.



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QUEEN OF THE WILD WEST: SEE CALAMITY JANE LIVE ON STAGE AT RPAC

“Calamity Jane is the ultimate icon for a lot of women – she’s reconciling femininity and masculinity and where she sits on that spectrum. She has all the bravado required from a woman in a male-dominated environment like Deadwood; she’s tempestuous, emotional, fierce and incredibly brave – yet childlike in a way, a bit like a female Peter Pan. And she displays such vulnerability when she falls in love and gets her heart broken.”

Naomi Price is winning RPAC audience hearts all over again with her irresistible incarnation of Calamity Jane, one of the most impressive and enigmatic characters of the Wild West. The eldest of six children, Jane took on the care of her younger siblings at 14 after they were orphaned, working as a dishwasher, cook, waitress, dance hall girl, nurse, ox team driver, scout, and occasional prostitute. Or so the story goes, though Jane was as lauded for her tall tales as well as her horse riding and sharpshooting skills.



“She’s such a joy to play,” says Naomi; “She was generous and empathetic, and you’re able to bring that side out as well as the legend that everybody knows and loves. There are different versions of her relationship with Wild Bill Hickok; some stories say that when she died, they buried her next to him so she could continue to bother him in the afterlife. There was really hot-blooded competition with them, but I like to think there was a spark between them; they were arch enemies and best friends.”

Naomi says that the role is the most demanding she’s played.

“The role really demands everything from the actor playing Calamity; I feel I’d be doing her a disservice if I didn’t give it everything every night. Post-show is definitely the most tired I’ve ever been.”

That’s hardly surprising, given the amount of buckskin-wearing, banjo-wielding, whip-cracking, emotional energy that floods into the auditorium at every show.

Don’t miss the chance to saddle up for Queensland Theatre Company’s all-singing, all-dancing production of Calamity Jane at Redland Performing Arts Centre, playing from Friday 6 November to Sunday 8 November. Final seats have been released, so grab yours before they ride off into the sunset! Book now at rpac.com.au or 3829 8131.



Photos by Morgan Roberts.

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HALLOWEEN FINDS A SPOOK-TACULAR NEW HOME BY THE BAY

FROM WYNNUM COMMERCE INC.

Something wickedly wonderful is brewing on Brisbane’s bayside, with the Wynnum Ampol Halloween Festival and Parade returning on Saturday, 31 October 2026, and this year, the celebrations have a new home at George Clayton Park on the Wynnum-Manly foreshore.

Running from 12 noon until 8:30pm, the free community festival promises a full day of frightful fun for little monsters, grown-up ghouls and everyone in between. Families can expect live entertainment, thrilling rides, market stalls, food trucks and plenty of opportunities to show off their most creative costumes. As daylight fades, the much-loved Halloween Parade will set off at 6:00pm, before the night finishes with a spectacular fireworks display.

The move to George Clayton Park gives the festival room to spread its bat wings. Known to locals as ‘The Lighthouse Park’, the foreshore venue offers sweeping Moreton Bay views, open lawns, picnic facilities and a fully fenced nautical-themed playground, an ideal setting for families to settle in and enjoy the celebrations from afternoon into evening.

The Wynnum parade first crept onto Bay Terrace in 2022, reviving a treasured bayside Halloween tradition. Since then, it has grown into a colourful showcase of local creativity and community spirit. Footage from the 2024 event captures packed streets, marching bands, illuminated vehicles, local businesses welcoming trick-or-treaters and costumes ranging from classic witches and zombies to elaborate family ensembles.

Whether you join the parade, volunteer behind the scenes, browse the stalls or bring a picnic rug and watch the spectacle unfold, this is one Halloween celebration you will not want to ghost.



Pictured: Katie Connolly, Bella Stamanas and Neve Curtin are excited for the upcoming Halloween Festival.

The 2026 festival is proudly presented by Ampol, the event’s naming sponsor, with support from Brisbane City Council and Port of Brisbane. Bendigo Bank and Ocean Realty are also proud sponsors of the festival, helping bring this community celebration to life. The festival also gratefully acknowledges the support of Joan Pease MP, Kara Cook MP and Cr Alex Givney. Follow Wynnum Now for program announcements and registration details.

New residential waste fees and allowances

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

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

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



redland residential waste allowances

3829 8999



12 FREE VISITS*

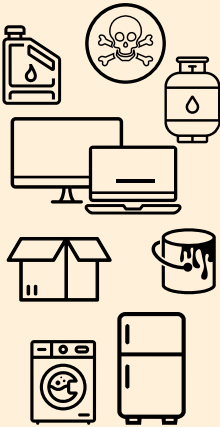
For loads of landfill (mixed waste) and green waste



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

UNLIMITED FREE VISITS

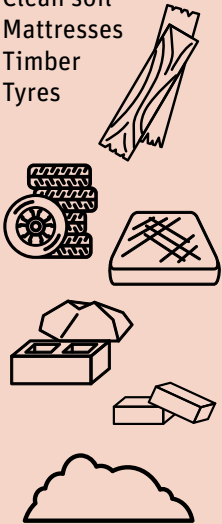
Recyclables, asbestos and hazardous waste**



**Within current limits and disposal requirements

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SAFE WORK IS FOR LIFE: KEEP HAZARDOUS WASTE OUT OF KERBSIDE BINS

FROM REDLAND CITY COUNCIL

National Safe Work Month is a timely reminder that every worker deserves to return home safely at the end of the day. This year's theme, Safe Work Is For Life, carries a simple but powerful message: safety is everyone's responsibility. It doesn't start and end in the workplace. It extends into our homes, our communities and even the way we dispose of our waste.

In recent months, our waste collection crews have experienced several serious incidents caused by hazardous materials being placed in council kerbside waste and recycling bins. These incidents have included a truck fire sparked by a discarded battery, along with significant damage to collection vehicles, private property and roads caused by leaking paint and oil. Fortunately, no one was seriously injured, but these events serve as a stark warning of the risks created when hazardous waste is disposed of incorrectly.

The problem is more common than many people realise. This year alone, Council's waste contractor

has recorded 12 gas bottles and eight oil, paint and chemical incidents in Council's waste trucks. Regional waste audits conducted in 2025 also found that up to 93 out of every 100 collection trucks contained either a loose battery or an item with an embedded battery, highlighting the scale of the issue and the potential risks facing collection crews every day.

Items such as batteries, gas bottles, paint and oil may seem harmless when sitting in a garage, shed or cupboard, but they can become extremely dangerous once they enter the waste collection system. Batteries can ignite when crushed inside collection trucks, causing fires that spread rapidly through waste loads. Gas bottles can explode under pressure, placing drivers, other road users and nearby residents at risk. Paint and oil can leak from containers, creating hazards for workers, damaging roads and infrastructure, and polluting the environment.

Our drivers and collection crews work every day to provide an essential service for the community. They

operate heavy machinery, navigate busy streets and manage tonnes of waste in all conditions. They should never have to face unnecessary dangers because hazardous items have been placed in household bins.

The good news is that everyone can play a role in preventing these incidents. Hazardous waste should never be placed in any kerbside bin, whether it is general waste, recycling or green waste bins. Instead, these materials should be taken to disposal facilities where they can be managed safely and responsibly.

This National Safe Work Month, we are asking our community to make safe disposal a habit for life. By taking a few extra minutes to dispose of hazardous waste correctly, you can help prevent fires, protect our environment, reduce costly damage and, most importantly, help ensure our waste collection crews can do what matters most at the end of every shift: **go home safely to their families.**

Gas bottles, oil and lead acid batteries can be dropped off at most Recycling and Waste Centres.



Photo: Supplied.

Paint and other household hazardous waste can be taken to the Redland Bay Recycling and Waste Centre. For all other battery types, visit bcycle.com.au to find your nearest battery recycling location.

For more information search 'Redland Hazardous Waste'.

DANGER in DISGUISE

There are lots of dangerous household items hiding in plain sight around your home.

Keep our teams safe and learn how to dispose of hazardous waste safely.



 redland hazardous waste

 3829 8999

NOBODY DOES IT BETTER: REDLANDS ORCHID SOCIETY SPRING SHOW

FROM THE REDLANDS ORCHID SOCIETY

The Redlands Orchid Society has long been known as the best kept orchid secret in the Redlands, but that secret is about to bloom in spectacular fashion. With a reputation for excellence and record-breaking crowds, the society is preparing for another standout event that proves nobody does it better.

This year's Spring Charity Orchid Show will be held on Saturday October 31, 2026, from 8:30am to 3:00pm at the Birkdale Sports Club at Judy Holt Park. Last year's opening day drew the highest orchid show attendance in South East Queensland, and organisers expect an even bigger turnout as the venue transforms into a dazzling floral wonderland.

One of the show's most cherished figures is Ugo Belligoi, a local 99-year-old farmer and orchid grower whose passion spans generations. Ugo – now humorously “waiting for his letter from the King” – will be there to share his stories, his wisdom, and his enduring love for orchids.

The Redlands Orchid Society is more than a group of growers; it's a thriving community. The Society offers a socially-driven calendar

of events for anyone orchid curious, from monthly Tuesday night meetings (each beginning with a friendly beginners' class) to educational morning teas that blend learning with social connection. Members also enjoy two festive Christmas parties and two annual charity shows, all designed to bring orchid lovers together in a spirit of generosity and joy.

This year's Spring Show proudly supports the Redlands Hospital Auxiliary. Visitors can enjoy refreshments, browse items for sale, meet friendly vendors (who often sell out before midday), and enter raffles, all while soaking up expert advice and admiring stunning displays. Whether you're a seasoned grower or stepping into the orchid world for the first time, the event promises warmth, knowledge, and community.

Enquiries and vendors are welcome. Visit redlandsorchidsociety.org or find the Society on Facebook.

Come along with Ugo, discover the orchids, and meet the people who nurture them.



Pictured: Local legend Ugo Belligoi. Photo: Supplied.



REDLANDS ORCHID SOCIETY SPRING SHOW

SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER | 8:30AM – 3:00PM
BIRKDALE SPORTS CLUB, JUDY HOLT LANE, BIRKDALE

The Redlands Orchid Society invites the community to its colourful and inspiring **Spring Show**, a perfect outing for orchid enthusiasts, gardeners, families, and anyone who enjoys beautiful blooms.

VISITORS CAN EXPLORE:

- A spectacular showcase of orchids in full autumn glory
- Plant sales featuring quality orchids and growing supplies
 - Raffles and a craft stall with handmade items
 - Potting demonstrations and expert cultivating advice
- A wide range of accessories for growers of all experience levels

Refreshments will be available throughout the day, including tea, coffee, sandwiches, cakes, and scones – ideal for a relaxed break while enjoying the displays.

Proceeds in support of the Redlands Hospital Auxiliary

Enquiries: 0414 738 110 | redlandsorchidsociety@hotmail.com

ADMISSION
Adults \$4.00
Children Free



REDLANDS TOASTMASTERS CELEBRATES 1000TH MEETING WITH 'A GRAND AFFAIR!'

FROM REDLANDS TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Last month, Redlands Toastmasters Club members gathered to celebrate the club's 1000th meeting at Redlands RSL Club, Cleveland.

It was a night of glamour, glitz, reflection and reminiscing! Present and past members, along with Area Director Valu Lale, Eastern Division Director Fawzia Batty and former District Governor Di Riddell, gathered to celebrate 1000 meetings in 41 years since the club's charter in May 1985.

It certainly was 'A Grand Affair', with the RSL's function room decorated with balloons, streamers and a plethora of photographs of members from past to present decking the walls, reflecting our journey. We had spectacular speeches, from warm and humorous to uplifting and encouraging, as well as impromptu table topics in the theme of celebration and reflection.

FDG Di Riddell spoke of our special camaraderie and the strong support and encouragement our members show one another. It is so rewarding to observe a new member grow in confidence and in their speaking skills. Our meetings are fun and educational, and as Toastmasters International founder Dr Ralph C. Smedley said, "We learn best in moments of enjoyment".



Photo: Supplied.

Toastmasters is a perfect place to learn and practice public speaking skills while increasing your confidence, all in a safe and supportive environment.

If you would like to find out more about Redlands Toastmasters Club, you are most welcome to come along as a guest to observe our meeting

format and have any questions answered. Our new meeting place is the Redlands RSL Club in Cleveland on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Mondays of each month, from 7:15pm to 9:30pm.

Contact us at <https://redlands.toastmastersclubs.org>.



Wynnum

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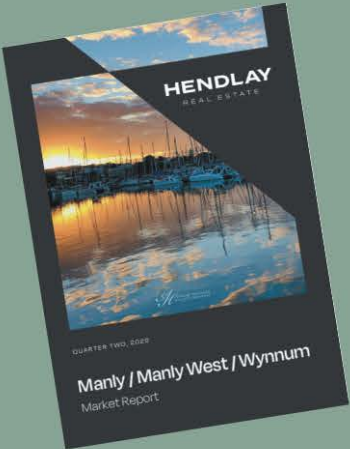
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Property report*



Local Properties For Sale



BAYSIDE
PROPERTY ~ AGENTS

BAYSIDE

Wynnum West

All Offers Considered
53 North Road, Wynnum West 4178

3 1 2 • House

BAYSIDE

Wynnum West

For Sale | Dual Living with City Views
40 Grainger Street, Wynnum West 4178

5 4 2 • House

BAYSIDE

Manly West

All Offers Considered
187 Hargreaves Road, Manly West 4179

4 2 3 • House

Raine & Horne

Raine & Horne

Wynnum West

Reduced Price - \$250,000
19/15 Carmichael Court, Wynnum West 4178

1 1 • Unit

Raine & Horne

Wynnum West

Just Listed!
57/22 Dasyure Place, Wynnum West 4178

3 2 1 • Villa

Raine & Horne

Manly

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4 3 1 • House

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2 2 1 • Apartment

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2 1 1 • Apartment

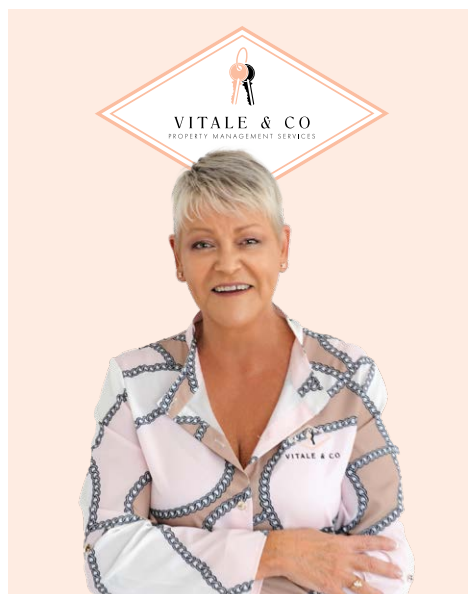
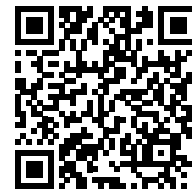
FRASER & CO.

Cleveland

Contact Agent
5402/219 - 221 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland 4163

3 2 2 • Apartment

Local Properties For Rent



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\$540 per week

204/32 Glenora Street, Wynnum 4178

1 bed 1 bath 1 car • Unit

Lota

\$1,100 per week

27 Richard Street, Lota 4179

5 bed 2 bath 2 car • House

Wynnum West

\$550 per week

2/73 Sibley Road, Wynnum West 4178

2 bed 1 bath 1 car • Unit

The Local Community Online

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

- ✓ LOCAL CLUBS
- ✓ LOCAL EVENTS
- ✓ LOCAL BUSINESSES
- ✓ LOCAL PROPERTIES
- ✓ LOCAL VOLUNTEERS
- ✓ LOCAL TRADIES

Ask your local agent about having your property featured on The Community Leader online.

* Delivery suburbs and streets are subject to change, however the total number of copies delivered each month remains constant. Houses on acreage and 'Australia Post Mail/No Junk Mail' signs cannot be delivered to. For full terms and conditions relating to home delivery, please visit the website of our distribution partner, Ive, here: <https://www.ivehub.com.au/public/legal/ive-distribution-general-terms.pdf>

www.thecommunityleader.com.au

The screenshot displays the homepage of The Community Leader website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like Home, Community News, Real Estate, Publications, Clubs & Groups, Businesses, Trades, What's On, Local Jobs, and Volunteering. The main headline reads 'We're All About Good Local News'. Below this, there's a section for 'Local Real Estate' featuring several property listings with photos and details like 'UNDER CONTRACT' and 'CONTACT AGENT'. Further down, a section titled 'In The Community' showcases various local stories and events, including a car review of a Hyundai i30 and a mention of the Redlands Astronomical Society.



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future buyers enjoy: functional pull-through garage storage for bayside living toys and work trailers, etc and second living MPR’s to all homes to enable calm, functional living outcomes,” explained Urban Solace Director Damian McIntosh.

“We are really pleased to deliver another project in the Bayside, contributing to the Bayside in what we feel is a good example of considered infill housing. We want to take this opportunity to thank our trades, staff, builders,

suppliers, consultants, and neighbours for their hard work, patience and expertise in assisting this project coming to life”.

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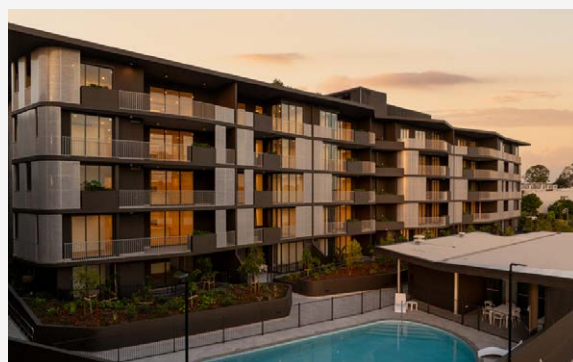
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THE ONLINE PILE-ON: A HOBBY TURNED BLOODSPORT

A pile-on. It starts as a targeted snipe at someone in an online post. If it remains a solitary snipe, that might be the end of it. But if it's the opening volley in an orchestrated attack, it can signal the beginning of a socially destructive campaign that can damage individuals, warp public perceptions of reality and shift our concept of what's acceptable. A single attack can be ignored, but the more we hear something repeated, the more likely we are to believe it, even if our logic initially dismissed it. Even if it's not true. Even if the attacks are anonymous. Even if they're driven by nothing more than boredom.

Pile-on. Repetition. Like a hall of mirrors at an amusement park, the same distorted image is reflected ad infinitum. Nazi Joseph Goebbels is credited with saying, "Repeat a lie often enough, and it becomes the truth". One person's lie becomes another person's truth.

Online pile-ons are one of the most corrosive forms of modern harassment – and because they can be nameless, they are often hard to source and therefore hard to refute. The sheer volume of a strategically planned attack can swamp any attempts at meaningful debate or denial, give a false impression of universal consensus and dissuade dissenting individuals from joining the melée.

The effects on a targeted individual can be significant, particularly for a public figure. Mental exhaustion, hypervigilance and a sense of isolation are possible symptoms, as well as effects on families. On a broader social level, the impact is alarming.

Society's view on what is acceptable is a constant work in progress; social practices and attitudes once regarded as radical – women's suffrage, the right to education – have become the norm. Those changes have a profound effect on politics and government policies.

Conversely, practices like pile-ons can, over time, lead to harassment becoming a form of entertainment, empathy being perceived as weakness, erosion of trust and cynicism about the value of community involvement. This reduces the pool of skilled and well-intentioned community members willing to consider



front-line public roles. Robust debate can devolve into a pecking party; once blood has been drawn, the victim is fair game for all attackers.

Vigilance, fact-checking and pondering the possible source and outcome of a pile-on is possibly the best defence against letting the noise overwhelm the facts and allowing the community to become divided by disinformation. Democracy is too valuable to allow one person's lie to become another person's truth.

A side note: Hobbylos (hobbyless behavior) is a German insult for people who waste time trolling or bothering others online and offline.

ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES EMBRACE LIVE CAPTIONING

FROM OWN CAPALABA

The Older Women's Network (OWN) at Capalaba has welcomed Shirley Edwards as a new member.

Shirley is a hearing loss advocate and has enlightened us about the life-changing impact of real-time captioning. She wore hearing aids throughout school until losing her hearing as an adult. After living with total deafness for 10 years, Shirley was fitted with cochlear implants and has experienced a return to the hearing world in every way she can.

Live captioning, also known as real-time captioning, has been introduced to our branch. Captioners use a stenotype machine, which has only 22 keys and operates using chord-based combinations rather than individual letters. The machine translates steno keystrokes into readable text in real time and outputs to screens, projectors, Zoom, or broadcast feeds. It's not unknown for captioners to reach an astounding 360 wpm.

It is a powerful reminder that disability is shaped not only by individual circumstances, but also by how accessible and inclusive our communities are. This has been a useful experience for our members in several ways. Captions can also benefit a wide community, including hearing persons, as speakers can sometimes be hard to hear.

If you would like to find out more about the group, please get in touch with Bev on 0413 714 260 or email Own.Capalaba@hotmail.com. OWN Capalaba meets on the first Wednesday of each month from 9:00am to 11:30am at the Uniting Church, corner of Ney Rd and Zandra Street, Capalaba.

From February 2027, OWN Capalaba will be meeting at a new venue at the Bayside Salvos, 1-9 Macarthur Street, Alexandra Hills, from 9:00am to 11:00am.



OWN Capalaba member Shirley Edwards. Photo: Supplied.

STRONG START FOR NEW RAMSAY SURGICAL CENTRE CLEVELAND

FROM RAMSAY HEALTH

Ramsay Health Care’s new \$16 million day hospital in Cleveland has made a strong debut, performing 15 procedures on its first day and expanding access to specialist surgical care for the growing Redlands community.

The Ramsay Surgical Centre Cleveland, which opened on 17 August, offers endoscopy, orthopaedics, plastic surgery, urology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and gynaecology. The purpose built facility allows Redlands residents to receive high quality surgical care locally, reducing travel time and improving convenience for patients and families.

Chief Executive Officer Justin Greenwell said the early response had reinforced the need for the new centre.

“We’ve had an incredibly positive start, with so many happy patients already receiving their care at the new hospital,” Mr Greenwell said. “The response from specialists and patients has been fantastic and reinforces why Ramsay invested in this new facility – there is strong demand for high quality surgical care here in the Redlands.”

More than 25 specialists who also practise at Greenslopes Private Hospital are consulting and operating at the Cleveland site, broadening access to experienced clinicians across the bayside.

The hospital features three operating theatres, with capacity for a fourth, and includes onsite pathology, radiology and a general practice clinic. It has also introduced AI enabled endoscopy technology to the Redlands through the Olympus EVIS X1 system, which assists specialists in detecting lesions during procedures. Next generation Mindray anaesthesia machines provide advanced monitoring during surgery.



Photo: Supplied.

Mr Greenwell said the centre had been designed to grow alongside the community.

“We’re only at the beginning. As more specialists begin operating here and demand continues to build, we have the capacity to expand the services available to patients across the Redlands and Brisbane bayside.”

Ramsay Surgical Centre Cleveland is located at 19–21 Middle Street, Cleveland.

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COMMUNITY GROUPS SAY REDLANDS IS AT AN ENVIRONMENTAL CROSSROADS

BY JULIA HOLLAND

On 12 August, around 300 people of all ages rallied in Cleveland to call on our State and Local government representatives to protect the wildlife and nature of the Redlands.

The march involved an alliance of local community groups and was more than just a plea to protect our endangered koalas (now down to around 400 in the region from 4000 in the 1990s). It was also a wake-up call about the major developments that are in the pipeline.

Do we want to be part of an urban sprawl from Brisbane to Logan, or do we want a Redlands with its own character and rich natural environment?

Paradise soon to be lost?

Redlands has always been something of a paradise – close enough to Brisbane to allow connection to the city’s facilities but a separate world where there are still decades-old gum trees, peaceful creeks, agricultural vistas and relatively quiet bayside suburbs. There are wetlands full of birdlife, places where you can see koalas in the wild and a chance to enjoy the well-being of living with nature on the doorstep.

Although significant areas of importance have already been lost to development, there is still a great deal of natural beauty and wildlife remaining.

All that may be about to change, and many local groups fear we will lose what makes this place special. Once destroyed, it will be gone forever.

What are the threats to Redlands’ nature and character?

In simple terms, the threat is the development and land-use changes being thrust upon us without proper consideration of what they will mean for residents, the local environment, and wildlife. Some of these developments are being fast-tracked by the State government.

“We understand the need for more housing,” ACF Community Bayside spokesperson Vicki Salisbury said, “but the amount proposed and the razing of wildlife habitat threatens to overwhelm us and destroy the things we love most about the region”.

Of major concern is the Southern Thornlands Priority Development Area (PDA), which will accommodate 8,000 new homes and 24,000 people within an urban footprint just seven kilometres from the bay and bordering Eprapah Creek. Around 900 hectares of farmland and bushland will be lost under concrete. Thousands of koala food trees will be bulldozed, and thousands of extra vehicles will pour into a road system that already crawls nose-to-tail during extended peak hours.

Death by 1000 cuts

Another development that is close to getting the green light, despite its threat to an important natural habitat, is the proposed Olympic 2032 Redland Whitewater Centre within the Birkdale Community Precinct.

Lavinia Wood, spokesperson for Community Alliance for Responsible Planning (CARP), says the shallow groundwater table there extends beneath the proposed Whitewater site and into the surrounding protected conservation land, including core koala habitat.

“We recently asked the Federal Environment Minister to reconsider his decision that the Whitewater development does not need to be a Controlled Action under national environmental law,” Ms Wood said.

“We did this because we know many of the Core Koala Habitat trees depend on the groundwater that will likely be disturbed if the Whitewater Centre is built.

“The Minister agreed and is now taking public comments. The people of the Redlands have a genuine opportunity to influence local outcomes by making their views known.”



In addition to all this, Redland City Council is proposing to include an area of rural Mount Cotton within the urban footprint of the South East Queensland Regional Plan. This will likely displace productive agricultural areas and destroy more bushland in favour of industrial and other uses.

There are more: Redland Bay housing estates and the Heinemann Road sports precinct, and potentially Toondah Harbour 2.0.

What can be done?

Unravelling the planning and environment Acts and their loopholes is a daunting task. Still, all Redlanders who care about the nature and lifestyle of the Redlands should take an immediate interest in what is going on and make their opinions known to our local councillors and MPs, to Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie and Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt.

By making contact with some of the local groups working to oppose the developments, you can stay informed and learn what opportunities there are to have your say on the different plans, some of which are state projects and some Redland City Council responsibility.

The community groups are urging more people to take action to protect our local quality of life from further destruction. They want to ensure Redlands retains its unique character, its attraction as a nature destination and its viability as a home for wildlife.

GOING FULL CIRCLE – CHRIS HAMMER STRIKES AGAIN

Award-winning Chris Hammer is a leading Australian crime fiction novelist. His distinctive style and the wealth of experience he brings to his stories have propelled his book sales to over 1.5 million copies worldwide.

Chris has worked nationally and internationally as a journalist and foreign correspondent in 30 countries and six continents, including working with SBS on the esteemed current affairs program *Dateline*.

“I was never a war correspondent, but I have worked in conflict zones: Cambodia towards the end of the Khmer Rouge regime, in Bosnia in the aftermath of the war and in Gaza after Hamas took over. The Israelis at that time were shelling, and there were some F-14 strikes, but nothing like what’s been happening in the last couple of years.”

Chris says that while he has been lucky to escape post-traumatic stress, he has journalistic friends who live with symptoms of it.

“Martin Scarsden, one of my main characters from my first crime series *Scrublands*, is loosely based on some of those journalists and photographers. A bit like some of our special forces in Afghanistan, after a few tours of duty some war correspondents find it really hard to reintegrate into a peaceful society; they’re addicted to the rush so they sign up for another tour. I was never that character, but my books tap into those experiences.”

Appropriately for a former environmental journalist and writer, weather and environment play a central role in Chris’ narratives, like silent, unlisted actors or an orchestral basso continuo. Chris exhibits masterly control of complex, multi-layered plots, weaving together the concomitant impacts of history, environment, the politics of power, self-interest and status. But it would be a mistake to assume that the story is micro-managed from the beginning.



Photos: Supplied.

“I don’t plot the books out. I’ve tried doing that, and it doesn’t work; the characters may take me somewhere else, or I may get a better idea. Until the first draft is done, I really don’t know where it’s going. Crime writers are either plotters or ‘pantsers’; plotters plan everything out so they know exactly where they’re going, ‘pantsers’ write by the seat of their pants.”



Chris will be promoting his latest book, *Full Circle*, in October in the Redlands. As well as events at the Lamb Island Storyteller Festival on the October long weekend, Chris will give an author talk at Cleveland Library at 10:00am on Wednesday, October 7.

“*Full Circle* is a stand-alone story with new characters, set in the very wealthy Victorian enclave of Sorrento; the crimes are related to wealthy people and succession issues, financial malfeasance and stock market manipulation. I think my readers will enjoy it.” Based on past experience, that’s very likely.





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SWIM, CYCLE, RUN: PHO3NIX RISING IN THE REDLANDS

BY JAN NARY

Swimming, cycling and running – triathlon has found a welcoming home in the Redlands. Pho3nix Qld Triathlon Series (QTS) runs three of its seven major triathlon events in the Redlands and is gearing up for its October 11 event in Raby Bay. Monica Cameron is the partnerships manager for the Event Crew, which runs the program.

“The events are different distances, so there’s something for every ability,” says Monica.

“We have youngsters, first-timers and newbies as well as keen triathletes and professionals. Our QTS events are very important on the racing calendar; there aren’t many triathlons in Southeast Queensland and the Series is especially important for professionals in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics.”

Monica says that triathlon clubs use the series as racing opportunities, where they can gain club points, but it’s open to everyone in the community. “You don’t have to be auspiced by a school or by a club; the main purpose is to keep the sport alive so that people can stay active and healthy in a racing environment.”

There is a high cost to presenting triathlons: road closures, permits, sanctioning fees, and professional officials to ensure safety and compliance, so the Events Crew seeks appropriate funding and support, such as that provided by the Redlands City Council.

“Pho3nix, a charity organisation and our naming rights partner, supports a lot of young athletes and is passionate about getting kids into sport, supporting them and keeping them active.”

Each event usually attracts about 800 to 1,000 participants and twice as many spectators.

Monica says that while it’s very popular with the local community, it also attracts a lot of visitors who make it a weekend visit to the Redlands.

If you’re a keen athlete or you’d just like to give it a try – or if you have a young athlete with aspirations – there’s more information at <https://www.theeventcrew.com.au/event/queensland-tri-series/>



Photo: Supplied.

NATURALLY WONDERFUL ... WITH RANGER STACEY

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

Koalas are looking for love, and they’re bellowing from the treetops!

Breeding season in south-east Queensland (September to December) is an exciting time for our bulbous-nosed marsupial friends. They are more active than usual, on the move, searching for mates.

At this time of year, expect the unexpected!...strange nocturnal sounds and koalas in unusual places such as street trees, parks, and suburban yards.

Male koalas are sexually mature at three to four years old. They are bigger than females and easily distinguished by a dark scent gland on their chest. The gland produces an oily, musky secretion that he rubs onto the trunks of trees. This informs other koalas that, “This is my territory!” The pheromone-filled fragrance is also an invitation to interested ladies of the species.

But it’s the loud bellows of eager males that capture everyone’s attention. Each fluffy fella has a distinctive call that announces his presence to other koalas and attracts females.

After mating, the female has a short gestation period of about 35 days.

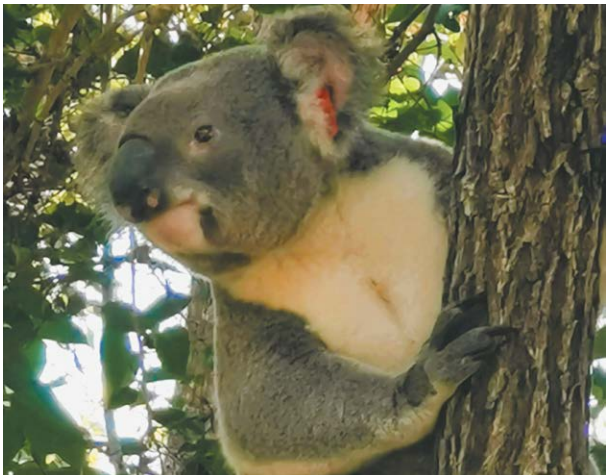
She gives birth to a jellybean-sized joey, underdeveloped, weighing less than a gram. The tiny newborn uses smell and touch to locate mum’s pouch, crawl inside, and attach to one of two teats. That warm, safe environment is home for about the next six months, the perfect place to develop and grow.

Every aspect of a koala’s life is wildly fascinating. A tree dweller with two opposable thumbs for gripping and climbing, adaptations to dine on and digest toxic eucalyptus leaves, individual nose patterns (like our fingerprints) that researchers can use for identification, and a hard bottom made of flexible cartilage for sitting in the forks of trees comfortably.

Breeding season is a significant time for koalas. For us, it’s a time to look out for them and do our best to keep them safe.

- Drive carefully, especially between dusk and dawn.
- Keep our dogs secure at night.
- Ensure our yards are wildlife-friendly.

If a koala or other native animal needs help, call Redlands 24-hour Wildlife Rescue Service on 3833 4031.



And finally, if you’re lucky enough to spot a koala looking for love, or simply minding its own business, report it through Koala Watch at redland.qld.gov.au/koalawatch

Until next time ... Stay Wild!

Ranger Stacey

FORGOTTEN NO MORE: HIGH TEA SHINES LIGHT ON HIDDEN HOMELESS

BY ADELIA BERRIDGE

They raised our families and built our communities – now women over 55 are Australia’s fastest-growing group of homeless people.

They are somebody’s mum, aunty, sister or neighbour – and they are Australia’s fastest-growing group of people facing homelessness.

Women over 55 took centre stage at Redlands Sporting Club on Saturday, August 22, when 150 guests packed the Rotary Club of Capalaba’s high tea in support of the Forgotten Women project. The event, the vision of club president Gail Wallace, raised much-needed funds for women over 55 facing housing insecurity, worried they have no safe place to live.

The numbers behind the cause are stark. Homelessness among older women jumped almost 40 per cent between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses, and research estimates 405,000 Australian women over 45 are at risk. The average age of women seeking help through the Forgotten Women Project is 72, and if nothing changes, more than 15,000 Australian women over 55 are projected to be homeless by the 2031 Census.

Master of ceremonies and local business owner Melissa Millar said the crisis was hidden in plain sight. “These women are sleeping in spare rooms, on couches and in cars, not on park benches, so nobody

sees it.”

“They didn’t do anything wrong. They did everything right – for everyone else. Years out of work raising children, caring for parents, the pay gap, and divorce or violence later in life all add up.”

A panel discussion featuring Col Sutcliffe OAM, who chaired Mangrove Housing’s board when the Forgotten Women Project was founded, alongside Mangrove Housing’s Executive Director Dallys Cox and volunteer Mary from Redlands Centre for Women, all raising awareness of connections and services for the proud women in our community who need to seek assistance.

Proceeds will help the project provide safe, secure and affordable homes for older women in the region.

“For many women in this age group, a safe front door is where everything else begins, with limited income and the severe increase in costs of living and rents, they are doing it tough,” Ms Millar said.

Ms Millar, whose grandmother once lived at Wellington Point and was lucky enough to secure a safe housing commission complex, told guests that the generation now at risk once held whole communities together.

“Many women like my grandma and older generations looked after



Photo: Supplied.

my age group and contributed to us becoming independent, educated and fearless women,” she said.

Raffles, lucky door prizes, a good time and a confronting table quiz on homelessness statistics kept the fundraising flowing across the afternoon.

Anyone interested in joining the Rotary Club of Capalaba, or supporting its next community project, can contact President Gail Wallace. The club warmly welcomes new members of all ages and backgrounds.

CRIME STOPPERS QUEENSLAND MARKS CRIME STOPPERS DAY 2026

CONTRIBUTED BY CRIME STOPPERS QUEENSLAND

Crime Stoppers Queensland joined communities across the country to support Crime Stoppers Day 2026, helping raise awareness of anonymous reporting and the important role the public plays in preventing and solving crime.

This year’s national campaign, Your Next Move?, focused on encouraging younger Australians aged 18 to 39 to think about the choices they make when confronted with crime or suspicious behaviour and to understand the value of speaking up anonymously.

To mark the day, Crime Stoppers Queensland CEO David Hansen visited the Queensland Police Service’s Policelink and Crime Stoppers Unit to thank staff for their ongoing commitment to community safety and recognise the strong partnership that helps ensure information from the community reaches the right authorities.

Crime Stoppers Queensland also supported the campaign through targeted social media, digital advertising and stakeholder engagement activities, helping spread the message across Queensland.

Queenslanders can learn more about the campaign and how every tip can make a difference on the Crime Stoppers Australia website.



Pictured: CSQ CEO David Hansen with members of QPS’s Policelink and Crime Stoppers Unit. Photo: Supplied.

QLD BRACES FOR STORM SEASON: RESIDENTS URGED TO PREPARE NOW

With Queensland’s storm season only weeks away, residents are being urged to act now to protect their homes and businesses rather than wait for severe weather to strike.

While storms can happen any time, the season typically runs from November through to April, with the Bureau of Meteorology’s long-range forecast overview indicating below-average rainfall alongside above-average daytime and night-time temperatures this season.

Redland City State Emergency Service (SES) Unit Local Controller Alex Johnson – who has been involved with the organisation for 28 years – said it’s better to be proactive rather than reactive.

“Don’t wait until a storm is approaching to start preparing,” he said.

“By then, conditions can change quickly and there may not be enough time to safely complete everything you need to do.

“Simple jobs around the home like clearing leaves from gutters and drains, repairing broken, loose or missing tiles on the roof, trimming overhanging branches, mowing your lawn, removing garden debris and securing outdoor items like trampolines, garden furniture and toys can help reduce the risk of storm damage when a severe storm does hit.

Alex also urges residents to prepare a three-day emergency kit in case of a power outage or other disruption.

“The thing about severe weather is you never think it will happen to you until it does,” he said.

“That’s why it is important every resident has the necessary items on hand, just in case.

“People think packing an emergency kit is expensive, but the way to do it is to grab a few things at a time – one week buy an extra tin of baked beans and the next week a packet of batteries.”

An emergency kit should include essential supplies such as drinking water (10 litres per person), non-perishable food, a can opener, torch, pet food and supplies, a battery-powered radio, spare batteries, a portable phone charger and cable, first aid supplies, protective clothing, toiletries, baby supplies, any necessary medications and extra cash.



Photo courtesy of Redland City SES.

Residents should also consider having gas-powered cooking equipment, sturdy gloves, sunglasses or safety glasses, an emergency whistle, tools such as a wrench, pliers and a screwdriver, tarpaulin and ropes, bedding, and items like books or playing cards to keep the family entertained.

With about 180 volunteers, Redland City’s SES will be on hand to assist the community and surrounding regions when needed.

Residents can also access up-to-date information through council’s disaster dashboard, which will feature important information like live weather warnings, power outages, road conditions and closures, evacuation centre locations, sandbag collection points and emergency contacts.

For non-life-threatening storm damage, contact the SES on 132 500.

In a life-threatening emergency, call Triple Zero (000).

DISABILITY EXPO TO CONNECT FAMILIES WITH VITAL SERVICES

A world of support, services and opportunities will be under one roof for people to explore when the Redlands Community Disability Expo returns this November.

Hosted by Disability Events Community (DEC), the expo will be held at the Alexandra Hills Hotel from 10am to 1pm on November 6, providing an opportunity for visitors to ask questions, meet service providers and discover new avenues of support.

Whether you’re looking to build greater independence, understand your NDIS options or connect with local providers, visitors can explore everything from plan management to mobility aids, assistive technology, therapy, allied health, employment services and local government and council support.

DEC Community Engagement Specialist Micharla Russell said the expo aims to empower people of all abilities.

“Designed as a free community event, the expo brings together people living with disability, their families, carers, guardians, support workers, community organisations and local service providers in one welcoming and accessible space,” she said.

“Visitors will have the opportunity to connect directly with local disability and wellbeing organisations, explore assistive technology and support services, ask questions and discover the range of resources available throughout the Redlands region.

“The event is equally valuable for professionals and providers, offering meaningful opportunities to build local networks and strengthen community connections.”

Beyond connecting people with services, the expo will also focus on reducing social isolation and creating opportunities for people to build relationships.

“While connecting people with services is an important part of the day, our mission reaches beyond information sharing – we are passionate about reducing loneliness and social isolation by creating genuine opportunities for people to meet, talk and build stronger communities,” she said.

“We want to leave a village wherever we go, and create spaces where people feel welcome, connected and part of their local community.”

The expo is free to attend, but registrations are required. Visit the



Photo: Supplied.

Humanitix website and search for the Redlands Community Disability Expo.

It follows the successful Redlands Aged Care Expo in August, also hosted by DEC, which attracted hundreds of locals.



Local Trades

If you're looking for local trades, check out The Community Leader's Trades page here and online.

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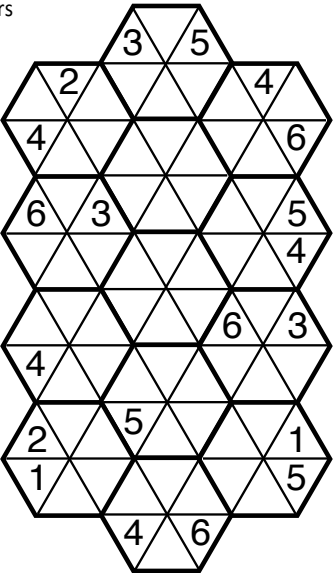
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Fill in the blank cells using numbers from 1 to 9. Each number can only appear once in each row, column and 3x3 block.

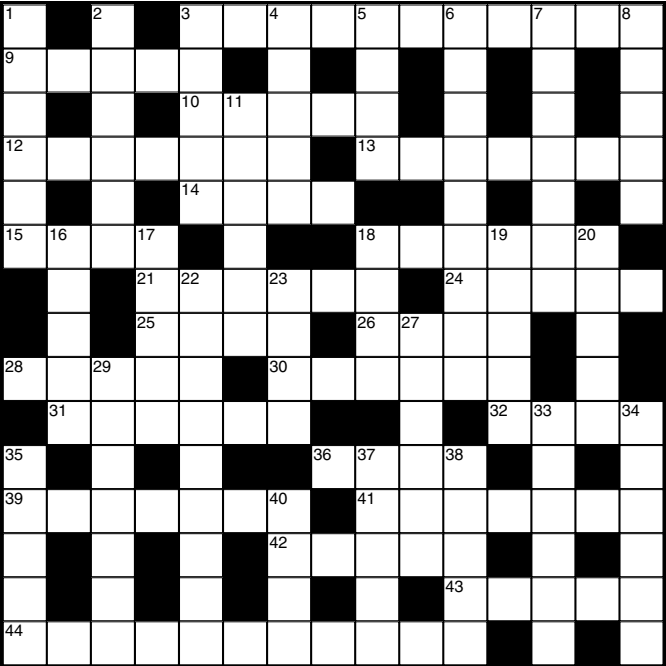
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Quick Workout

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



Crossword



- ACROSS**

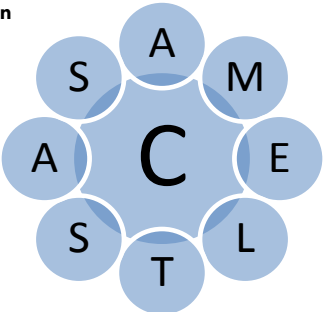
 - 3 Render impure
 - 9 Opposite in character
 - 10 Mistake
 - 12 Passes away
 - 13 Bears witness to
 - 14 Rain heavily
 - 15 Liquor dregs
 - 18 Rue
 - 21 Opposed
 - 24 Helped
 - 25 Vetch
 - 26 Become firm
 - 28 Start
 - 30 Meal course
 - 31 Refusal
 - 32 Is sorry for
 - 36 Agitate
 - 39 Timepieces
 - 41 Give life to
 - 42 Jury
- DOWN**

 - 1 Call for aid
 - 2 Delight
 - 3 Summit
 - 4 Tend the sick
 - 5 Subtle emanation
 - 6 Foment
 - 7 Gathered for oneself
 - 8 Have being
 - 11 Marijuana cigarette
 - 16 Flowed back
 - 17 Glossy fabric
 - 18 Repose
 - 19 Stair step's vertical face
 - 20 Concise
 - 22 Disappearing
 - 23 Stagger
- 27 Prized fur
 - 29 Well-bred
 - 33 Planet
 - 34 Country
 - 35 Presentation
 - 37 Dance
 - 38 Annoys
 - 40 Petty quarrel

Focus

An All Australian Word Game

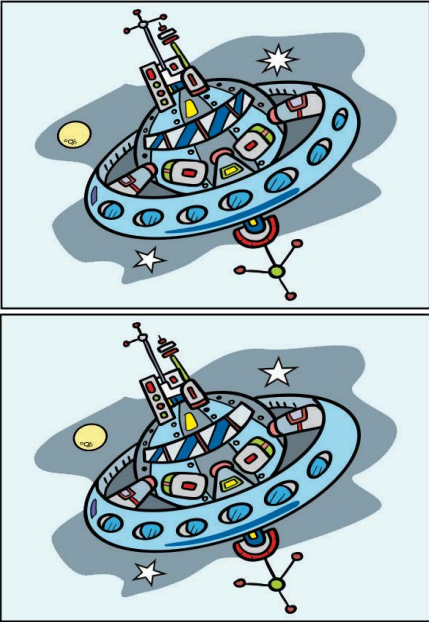
- * Each word must contain the centre 'Focus' letter and each letter may be used only once
- * Each word must be four letters or more
- * Find at least one nine letter word
- * No swear words
- * No verb forms or plurals ending in 's'
- * No proper nouns and no hyphenated words



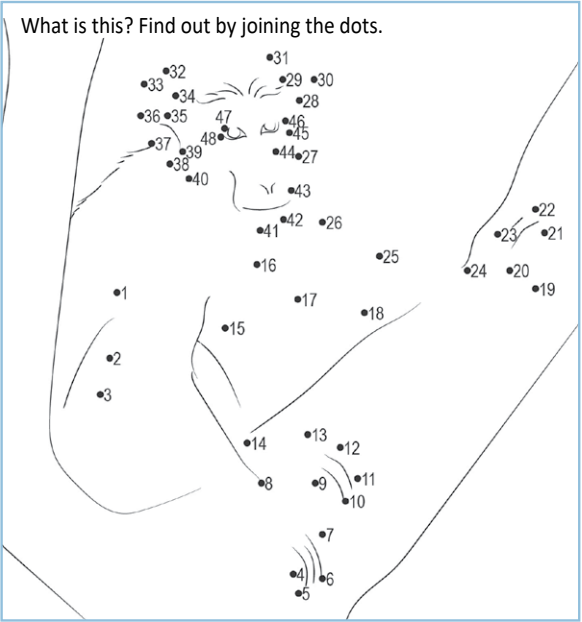
TODAY'S FOCUS Good: 12 words
Very good: 18 words
Excellent: 24 words

Reference: Macquarie Concise Dictionary
Focus No. 3911

Spot the 5 Differences



Join the Dots



Solutions

Puzzles and pagination supplied by Auspact Media

FOCUS: acme calm camel came camel case cast
caste castle clam class CLASSMATE cleat cleat lace lace
made mesal scale scam scat sect sect tale

SPOT THE 5 DIFFERENCES: Moon moved, star changed
shape, antenna changed, missing porthole, reflection in
window missing.

Join the Dots: Australia

Crossword Solutions:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9							
12				10	11		
15	16		17			18	19
21	22		23			24	
28	29						
31							
35							
39							
44							



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EAT THE RAINBOW: WHY POLYPHENOL-RICH FOODS DESERVE A PLACE ON YOUR PLATE

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

Have you ever noticed how some of the most vibrant foods in nature are deep red, purple, blue, and pink? Think cherries, blueberries, cranberries, beetroot, and purple cabbage. These rich colours aren't just visually appealing – they're a sign that these foods contain beneficial plant compounds known as polyphenols.

Polyphenols are naturally occurring plant chemicals that help protect plants from environmental stress. When we eat a wide variety of polyphenol-rich foods, we're also increasing the diversity of plant compounds in our diet. They contribute to the colour, flavour, and nutritional value of fruits and vegetables and form an important part of a varied, plant-rich eating pattern.

Could You Benefit from More Polyphenols?

Take a moment to think about your current diet.

Do you:

- Eat the same foods most days?
- Struggle to fit enough fruits and vegetables into your meals?
- Rarely eat berries, cherries, beetroot, or colourful vegetables?
- Want to add more variety and plant diversity to your diet?

- Feel like your meals could use a little more colour?

If so, increasing your intake of polyphenol-rich foods may be a simple and delicious place to start.

Tart Cherries: Nature's Evening Favourite

If you find it difficult to unwind at the end of a busy day or you're looking to support your evening routine, tart cherry juice is a popular option. Rich in anthocyanins, the compounds responsible for their deep red colour, tart cherries also contain small amounts of naturally occurring melatonin, a hormone involved in regulating the body's sleep-wake cycle.

Tart cherries can also help exercise recovery and post-exercise wellbeing.

Blueberries: Small but Mighty

Wild blueberries are among the richest sources of polyphenols found in commonly eaten fruits. Despite their small size, they provide an impressive range of plant compounds and are often recognised for their antioxidant content.

If you're experiencing mental fatigue during a busy week or find yourself looking for nourishing snack options, adding blueberries to smoothies, yoghurt, porridge, or snacks is a simple way to increase

dietary antioxidants through their rich polyphenol content.

Other berries deserve attention too. Strawberries, raspberries, elderberries, and cranberries all contain their own unique mix of polyphenols.

The key is variety. Different berries provide different beneficial compounds, making it worthwhile to rotate them throughout the week.

Beetroot: More Than Just a Juice Trend

Beetroot has become a favourite among health-conscious consumers, and for good reason. It has proven anti-inflammatory, anti-microbial and antioxidant actions, as well as being excellent for heart and liver health.

If you're looking to bring more variety to your meals, try adding beetroot to salads, roasting it with vegetables, blending it into smoothies, or incorporating it into fresh juices.

Purple Cabbage: An Underrated Superfood

Purple cabbage is one of the most affordable and versatile polyphenol-rich vegetables available. Adding purple cabbage to salads, slaws, stir-fries, or fermented foods such as sauerkraut is an easy way to increase plant diversity on your plate.

Choosing Organic When You Can

Many berries are among the most heavily sprayed conventionally grown crops, with strawberries frequently appearing high on consumer lists of produce monitored for pesticide residues. Choosing organic or spray-free berries and cherries can be a mindful way to reduce exposure to agricultural chemicals while supporting organic farming practices.

Bringing More Colour to Your Day

The simplest way to enjoy the benefits of polyphenol-rich foods is to focus on variety. Add berries to breakfast, include colourful vegetables at lunch and dinner, enjoy tart cherry or elderberry juice, and experiment with foods such as beetroot and purple cabbage throughout the week.

Rather than looking for a single "superfood," think about creating a colourful plate filled with a diverse range of plant foods.

Nature has provided us with an incredible palette of nourishing ingredients. **By eating more colour, we can bring more variety, diversity, and enjoyment to our meals, one vibrant bite at a time.**



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EARLY SPRING LAWN CARE TIPS

FROM COOCHIE LAWN SERVICES

With spring now upon us, now is the time to get your lawn into shape for the coming growing season.

Early spring is a great time to ensure you have looked after any remaining weeds, planned for any lawn renovations, protected against lawn pests, and set the right watering schedule.

By focusing on and controlling weeds now, you are setting the grass up to face less competition and grow more healthily once the weather warms up. Be on the lookout for new spring weeds and foreign grasses and eradicate them early.

I'd start planning any renovations over the coming month or two; this could be anything from dethatching, scarifying, aerating, or coring to even top dressing. Different lawns have different renovation or management needs, and it's critical to get this process right if you want that improved lawn over summer.

Now is a great time to apply the right amount of fertiliser to help encourage greening and maintain a lush, healthy lawn. With the warmer weather, also be on the lookout for pest issues, as those dreaded lawn grubs are only just around the corner.

Finally, ensure you have a watering schedule for the warmer weather, as it dries out soil moisture more quickly than during the past cooler months, and this change in weather can sometimes catch lawn owners out.



Photos: Supplied.



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LOCAL GARDENING WITH KAT

JADE BY THE DOOR

BY KAT PEARSON, *GIRL IN THE GREEN*

“Jade by the door and you’ll never be poor!” or so the saying goes.

Jade plants, or *Crassula ovata*, are also known as ‘money tree’, and in the ancient Chinese practice of ‘Feng shui’ (pronounced ‘fung shway’) they are associated with wealth and prosperity. Put one by your front door and you welcome the wealth!

Luckily, they are easy to care for. Their native habitat is the dry rocky hillsides of South Africa and Mozambique. Their fat, juicy leaves store moisture to use in times of drought, and, like many other succulents, their photosynthesis cycle works slightly differently. Unlike most plants, which open their stomata (pores) to absorb carbon dioxide (CO2) during the day, plants that live in dry, arid conditions open their stomata at night when it is cooler, preventing excess moisture loss during the heat of the day. These succulents then store the CO2 to use during the day for their photosynthesis cycle when the sun is out, just like most regular plants. Pretty smart, huh?

Despite being used to full sun, jade plants will also tolerate part shade. Plants in full sun often develop a blush and red colour on their leaf margins and in cooler weather will produce clusters of

small star-shaped flowers that are pale pink/white. In the shade, their foliage stays a more glossy green, and you are unlikely to get flowers. Too much shade will result in a leggy, weak plant, so if growing one indoors, it needs a very bright spot.

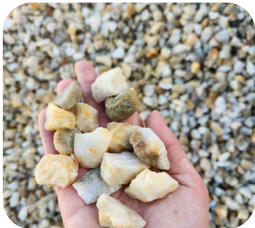
They are great as potted plants and require minimal (but not zero) water. Make sure your potting mix is well-drained and wait for the soil to be dry before watering again.

Jade plants are also super easy to propagate. They will grow from a piece of stem or even a single leaf! Take cuttings and let the cut section heal over and dry out (this prevents rot). Pop the cuttings into some potting mix, and you’ll have plants in no time.

If only money grew on trees...



Photo by Kat Pearson.



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WITCH, PLEASE... PASS THE PUMPKIN, FETA & SAGE GALETTE RECIPE!

October 31 is Halloween (if you hate Halloween and it makes you a cranky hanky, we think you'll still love this recipe!), so we're embracing a pumpkin theme with this classic recipe that is just so tasty and easy to whip up in no time!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 1 sheet of puff pastry
- 500g Kent or Jap pumpkin, cut into thin wedges
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 180g Danish feta, crumbled
- 1 red onion, peeled and very thinly sliced
- 1 tbsp of honey
- A handful of fresh sage leaves
- 1 tsp of thyme leaves, finely chopped
- Salt and freshly cracked black pepper
- 1 egg, lightly beaten with a fork (for glazing the pastry)

HOW TO MAKE IT

1. Cover the pumpkin in olive oil, salt and pepper and give it a massage to make sure it's evenly coated. Place the pumpkin on a lined baking tray and roast it at 200°C for around 25 minutes (time will depend on how thick or thin you've cut your wedges), or until it's just tender, then remove it from the oven.
2. Take your sheet of puff pastry and put it on a lined baking tray, then with a butter knife, lightly and lovingly score a 3-4 cm border around its edges.
3. Put the roasted pumpkin, onion, feta and sage in the centre of the pastry – don't put any ingredients near the border.
4. Drizzle over the honey, scatter the thyme on top, then fold the edges of the pastry around the filling where you created the border in step 2, to create a little barrier or fence around the edges – be careful not to tear the pastry!
5. Brush the pastry edges with egg wash and bake for 30 to 35 minutes at 200°C until it's lovely and golden. Your kitchen should now smell amazing!





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LOCAL READERS – A BOOK REVIEW

PEOPLE LIKE US BY SALLY PIPER

BY ANNE CROWLEY

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAID

“After Tina Lamb loses her family home in a bitter divorce, she finds herself living in a caravan on the city’s fringes. Having raised four children and nursed her dying mum, she was not anticipating making a new start alone or from scratch... When Tina finds work caring for a wealthy elderly woman, it is a welcome break from an ageist, sexist job market. But Mrs Bell is anything but predictable. Highly educated, acerbic and intimidating, she is not the straightforward charge that Tina had hoped for. As the two women form an unlikely friendship, they soon discover that financial security is about more than having money. Topical and absorbing, *People Like Us* celebrates the power of female friendships and the promise of new beginnings found in unexpected places.” Source: *Goodreads*.

MY THOUGHTS

This is a confronting story and, sadly, not an uncommon one. It brings vividly close to home the reality of middle-aged women upended by sudden housing and work insecurity: their vulnerability, shame, frustration, constant anxiety, withering confidence and faltering courage.

‘Exhaustion ... It’s all the energy required each day in reminding myself that I’m not empty of opinion or voice while pretending that I am’. ‘That’s what intimidation and uncertainty does though: it

silences an otherwise knowing mind, stops it from rocking the boat, putting anything at risk. Survival is a terrifying force.’

Tina reflects on the on setbacks and injustices she experiences, and their impacts. ‘There’s no one or right way for a body to express its vulnerability.’ ‘I return, again and again, to the site of my pain like someone unable to stop cutting themselves.’ And in her sense of dislocation – ‘I belong nowhere’ – we can feel her pain.

But it’s not all miserable. She is grateful for the small kindnesses done her amidst the bullying and exploitation, and the friendships she ultimately develops in the caravan park and with the crotchety Mrs Bell. At times, too, she manages to be optimistic. ‘One day’ becomes ‘an expression rich with possibility and home, that suggests a future.’ For Tina, hope is practical and concrete: ‘a roof over my head no one can take from me and secure work to allow for it.’

The fictional story is absorbing and told with humour and pathos – an engaging read – while raising awareness of the reality. The subject is dear to my heart. I believe that having a secure home is foundational to everything else – food security, hygiene, education, paid employment, mental and physical health. My first volunteer role, at age 21, was supporting a group of homeless teens learn life and employability skills in a share house provided by the local council.

Now I have a friend in her mid-sixties awaiting the court determination on her very acrimonious divorce that could well result in her becoming homeless – like many other women of our vintage, who are now among the fastest-growing group of people experiencing homelessness. *People Like Us* is aptly titled.

The book leaves room for optimism as Tina learns of a new innovative co-housing project to provide older women access to a secure, affordable home: ‘Sharing With Friends’. This is an exciting real initiative in Brisbane, discussed in the first 20 minutes of the Podcast, by the not-for-profit’s CEO Susan Davies and Sally Piper (scan the QR code). I recommend listening and sharing, along with the book!



LOCAL POETRY

MY SHADOW

BY GEOFF SMILEY

That photo of myself
at two, facing the sun
with not a shadow behind.
It came later
and has tracked me since.

My shadow came
with awareness.
A familiar
shaped just like me.

Present through
the times of my life.
A companion and witness
to events as they occur.

It was there
when my family
was lost and
stayed in the torrent
to the end.

It celebrated survival
and success.
Not always apparent
when all is well
but warning me
when the bad times come.

As time slows
my shadow changes.
It comforts me
but I need now to

sit more in the sun
to be fully aware.

Everyone has their shadow,
it identifies them –
individual as their name.
Life is really
a sharing game.

© Geoff Smiley

Working past 65: More years working, more years' compounding

BY JANE POWDRELL, FINANCIAL ADVISER, UEM WEALTH, AUTHORISED REPRESENTATIVE, LIFESPAN FINANCIAL PLANNING PTY LTD AFSL 229892

Life expectancy has stretched, work has become more flexible, and the numbers increasingly favour those who keep earning a little longer before retiring permanently.

INCREASED SUPER CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMPOUNDING

Every extra year in the paid workforce is another year of employer contributions for your super, another year for that balance to compound, and another year you are not having to draw down from your super.

The superannuation guarantee rate now sits at 12% of ordinary time earnings, meaning a \$90,000 salary generates over \$10,800 a year in employer contributions alone¹. Add voluntary contributions and the concessional cap of \$32,500 for 2026–27, and a few extra working years can genuinely reshape your retirement balance, not just top it up.

- Remember compounding works hardest on your largest balance, later in your career.
- There's no upper age limit on receiving super guarantee contributions, provided you're still working.
- Extra years also mean fewer years drawing down your balance, so the maths compounds in your favour twice over.

MAKING PART-TIME WORK PAY

Many pre-retirees don't want a hard stop. They want fewer days and less pressure. If you're already on the Age Pension, the Work Bonus lets you earn up to \$300 a fortnight from employment or self-employment without it touching your pension, with unused amounts banking up to \$11,800². That's a meaningful cushion for anyone easing back rather than stopping outright.

WHERE AN ADVISER ADDS REAL VALUE

- Modelling whether continuing to work outperforms an earlier retirement, based on your actual numbers, not assumptions.
- Timing your Age Pension claim against your income and assets to avoid an unnecessary nil or reduced assessment.
- Coordinating part-time income with the Work Bonus and any account-based pension already in place.
- Reviewing whether extra contributions now make sense given your total super balance and the \$2.1 million transfer balance cap³.

The extra years don't have to feel like a sentence. Structured well, they can be some of the most financially rewarding of your working life.



1 Super guarantee | Australian Taxation Office
2 Work Bonus - Services Australia
3 Transfer balance cap | Australian Taxation Office

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LOCAL BUSINESS PROFILE:

GEORGETTES ART

BY GEORGETTE SCHWANTES

I am an artist. Being an artist is so much more than creating sculptures. I am the artist, the teacher, the marketer, the photographer, the bookkeeper, the website manager, the packer, the cleaner, and everything in between.

I work evenings and weekends and wear many hats to build a business around what I love.

The greatest reward isn't the long hours – it's seeing the joy on a student's face when they create something they never thought possible, or watching someone fall in love with a sculpture that now has a place in their home. I wouldn't trade this life for anything.

Every sculpture I create, every class I teach, and every person I inspire reminds me why I chose this path. Art isn't just my profession; it's my passion, my purpose, and my way of giving back.

I have spent 26 years creating a beautiful community around my art. Twenty-six years ago, I bought this worker's cottage and transformed it into a gallery and a studio, and I believe my social and business media have reflected that. My students aren't just learning to sculpt – they're becoming part of a community, making friendships, finding relaxation, and creating something they can be proud of. And I love sharing these little moments, like a student sending me a photograph of their sculpture proudly displayed at home.

Those are the stories that make people feel connected to my studio before they've even walked through the door. I keep sharing them. My art, my students, my gallery, and the stories behind them are what make my business unique.

Discover more at www.georgettesart.com.



Photos: Supplied.

STAYING SAFE: PRACTICAL WAYS TO AVOID DANGEROUS SITUATIONS

CONTRIBUTED BY DANIELLE GODFREY

Personal safety isn't about living in fear or assuming danger is around every corner. It's about developing awareness, trusting your instincts, and knowing you have options when something doesn't feel right.

After 12 years working as a Police Officer and Detective, one of the most important lessons I learned is that dangerous situations don't always begin with an obvious threat. A seemingly safe situation can escalate quickly, and there are often small warning signs beforehand that may go unnoticed.

That's why it's important to pay attention to your surroundings, particularly when you're alone. Put your phone away when walking at night or in unfamiliar areas so that you can utilise all of your senses. If something doesn't look or feel right, take action early: create distance, change direction, or move towards a safer location.

Women in particular can feel pressure to be polite, even when they're uncomfortable. Your safety is more important than worrying about appearing rude and confidently using your voice may deter someone from continuing their behaviour. You are allowed to say no, change your mind, refuse assistance, ignore someone, or cross the road.

Clear boundaries are also important. Use confident body language, maintain distance, and communicate clearly. Simple statements such as "No, thank you", "Please step back" or "I don't need any help" let someone know where your boundary is and that you are not going to be an easy target.



Physical self-defence should always be a last resort. The goal of personal safety isn't to win a fight – it's to recognise danger early, make good decisions and get yourself to safety.

Awareness doesn't mean being afraid or changing your lifestyle. It means understanding potential risks, paying attention to what's happening around you, trusting yourself and knowing when it's time to act.

Danielle Godfrey is a former Police Officer and Detective of 12 years and founder of Girl Aware, delivering personal safety and de-escalation education to women and girls in schools, workplaces and community organisations.



Danielle Godfrey. Photos: Supplied.

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LOCAL FISHING WITH SPERO

WHITING, CRABS AND MACKEREL ARE ON THE MOVE, AND SO AM I!

BY SPERO KARTANOS

October is a great month to be out on Moreton Bay, not just because the fishing's good, but because there are also whales about. These majestic creatures bring their newborn calves in for a little rest, and we get to enjoy the magic.



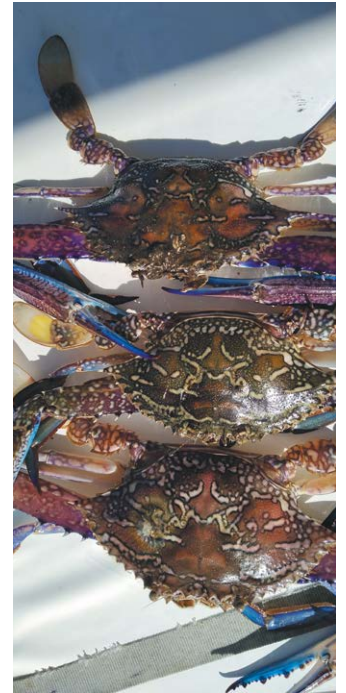
I will be posting regularly on my Facebook page with sightings and reports on where the whales have been spotted in the bay.

On the fishing front, the school mackerel will be in full swing before the 'spotties' (hopefully) come into the bay, and because spring was so hot, we have a good chance of seeing them.

The whiting have been in great numbers on the eastern side of the Blue Hole, Fisherman's, Reeder's Point and Amity Banks, but at this time of the year, they should move into the Rous and Chain Banks. There will still be good fishing around Darcy Light and the banks towards the Port as well.

Crabs are in good numbers, and the snapper and sweet lip are around all the shallow island reefs, and of course around the artificial reefs. I think the cuttlefish will have died off with all this heat, so fishing in the shallow weed banks for tigers will be the way to go.

On a personal note, Martha and I have moved from our home of 50 years on Preston Road at Manly West to Aveo Gardens retirement village, and what a great place for us older folks. It is so friendly; thanks to the staff and neighbours for welcoming us...and fresh fish will be on the menu!



Photos: Spero Kartanos



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1.5L PETROL HYBRID, LEATHER TRIM, 18" ALLOY WHEELS, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE CONTROL, 12.3" TOUCHSCREEN DISPLAY, WIRELESS PHONE CHARGER. SN: 2998461.



Nissan Navara ST

\$49,888 WAS \$62,207
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2.4L TURBO DIESEL, 3500KG TOWING, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, 17" ALL TERRAINS WHEELS, LED HEADLIGHT, SPORTS BAR, SIDE STEPS. SN: 2985837.



Nissan Navara PRO-4X

\$61,888 WAS \$74,995
SAVE \$13,107

2.4L TURBO DIESEL, 3500KG TOWING, TUB LINER, ARCH FLARES, LEATHER INTERIOR, DUAL ZONE CLIMATE, NISSAN INTELLIGENT SAFETY. SN: 2986073.



Nissan Patrol Ti

\$98,888 WAS \$106,588
SAVE \$7,700

5.6L V8 PETROL, 4WD SELECTOR, 3500KG BRAKED TOWING, 12.3" INFOTAINMENT SCREEN, 8 SEATS, LEATHER INTERIOR, 360 CAMERA, GREAT FOR TOWING. SN: 3000398.



Nissan PremCar Patrol Warrior

\$113,888 WAS \$123,659
SAVE \$9,771

5.6L V8 PETROL, 4WD SELECTOR, 18" ALLOY WHEELS, BI-MODUL EX-HAUST, 50MM SUSPENSION LIFT, 523MM GROUND CLEARANCE, WARRIOR BASH PLATE, FENDERS AND GRILLE. SN: 2985004.

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MY25 OUTLANDER ES 7 SEATS

\$38,490

WAS \$48,605
SAVE \$10,115

SN: Z010395A



MY25 OUTLANDER LS 7 SEATER

\$39,490

WAS \$49,816
SAVE \$10,326

SN: Z012786



MY25 ASX ASPIRE

\$35,990

WAS \$47,409
SAVE \$11,419

SN: W007939



MY25 ASX EXCEED

\$38,990

WAS \$51,318
SAVE \$10,292

SN: W007475



MY25 OUTLANDER EXCEED

\$49,490

WAS \$61,814
SAVE \$12,324

SN: Z016280



MY25 TRITON GLS

MINOR DENTS=MASSIVE SAVINGS - LEATHER

\$51,490

WAS \$67,478
SAVE \$15,988

SN: H016543



2024 PAJERO SPORT EXCEED
MINOR DENTS = MASSIVE SAVINGS

\$56,490

WAS \$71,361
SAVE \$14,871

OR \$57,490 WITH TOWBAR

SN: H002074



MY25 TRITON GSR - SPECIAL EDITION

\$56,990

WAS \$69,289
SAVE \$12,299

SN: H002543



2024 MITSUBISHI PAJERO SPORT GLS

\$51,990

WAS \$63,618
SAVE \$11,628

SN: H003631A



LOCAL ARTISTS EMBRACE THE VIBRANT SIDE OF LIFE

Vibrant Side of Life is the title of the October exhibition at the Old Schoolhouse Gallery.

Members Jingle Bird and Kate Stimson are joined by their guests, Tina Horton and Andrea Horton, who are embracing the vibrant side of life through their own creative mediums.

Jingle Bird says that one painting style, one medium, and only one type of scene are not her.

She takes inspiration from everyday life, travel and anything that takes her fancy, using a medium that suits what she is going to paint. This could be oil, soft pastel, coloured pencil, watercolour, and even a little bit of acrylic. Painting makes her happy. She loves to share her work and hopefully make other people happy or at least get them thinking. The next step for her will be to teach what she has learnt over the years.

Kate Stimson believes creativity has never been a choice – it's simply who she is. Her work radiates with colour, energy, and an unmistakable love for the world around her. "My artistic practice is a celebration of life," she explains, "a love letter to the magical wonders around us and to the creative spirit that resides within us

all." That celebration comes alive through her signature style: bold, vibrant colours woven together in thoughtful harmony, then layered with intricate patterns and textures that invite the viewer to slow down and truly feel each piece.

Guest silversmiths, sisters Tina and Andrea Horton of Forge 45, present a collection alive with colour, light and the beauty of the Australian landscape. From their Redlands studio, they blend shimmering silver, richly layered enamels and hand-cut Australian gemstones to create wearable art with a distinctly individual spirit. Each piece is handcrafted using traditional skills alongside contemporary techniques. Both embrace the beautiful unpredictability of working with heat, glass, metal and stone, which makes every creation truly one of a kind. Refined yet playful, their jewellery is designed to capture a little spark of life: something to wear, love and treasure for years to come.

Don't miss this exciting exhibition, which runs from October 1 to November 1 at The Old SchoolHouse Gallery, located at 124/126 Shore St North, Cleveland. There will be an afternoon tea for the official opening of the exhibition from 2:00pm to 4:00pm on Saturday, October 3. The gallery is open from 9:30am to 4:30pm Thursday to Sunday, and on public holidays.



Photo: Supplied.

FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION AT EXPLORE N LEARN FAMILY DAYCARE

FROM EXPLORE N LEARN FAMILY DAYCARE

Explore N Learn Family Daycare was delighted to welcome the Mount Cotton Road Fire and Rescue Service for our Children's Protection Week activities.

Educating children about fire safety from an early age is an important part of helping them understand how to keep themselves and others safe. At Explore N Learn, we believe children learn best through meaningful, hands-on experiences, and having our local firefighters visit gave the children a wonderful opportunity to learn directly from the professionals who help protect our community.

During their visit, the firefighters spoke with the children about fire safety, staying safe during an emergency and the important role firefighters play in helping and protecting people in our community. The children learned more about what firefighters do and why their role matters.

The visit also helped children become familiar with firefighters and understand that they are there to help keep people safe during emergencies. This is particularly valuable for young children, as meeting firefighters and learning about their role can help build confidence and understanding around emergencies.

The children were incredibly excited to meet the firefighters and were engaged throughout the visit, listening and learning about the important work they do.

Local Family Day Care educators and children also joined us, making it a wonderful community experience and allowing everyone to learn and connect.

We sincerely thank the Mount Cotton Road Fire and Rescue Service for taking the time to visit Explore N Learn and share their knowledge with the children. Their visit provided a valuable learning experience



Photo: Supplied.

and reinforced the importance of fire safety, emergency awareness and knowing who is there to help us.

It was a wonderful morning of learning, community connection and safety education that the children thoroughly enjoyed.



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