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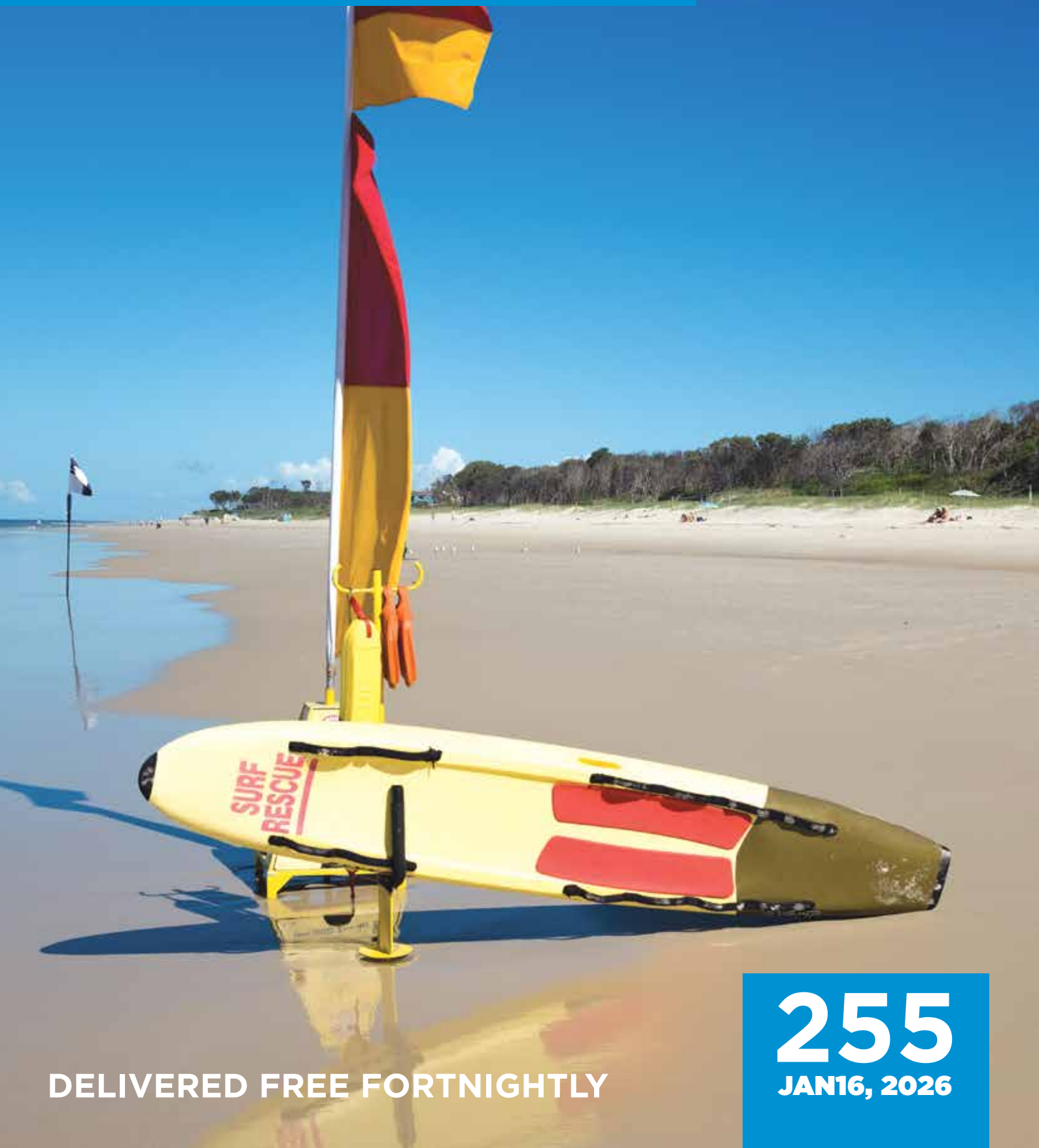

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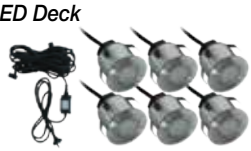

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Welcome

Dear readers,
Welcome to edition 255—our very first for the year! If you're reading this, congratulations: you survived Christmas dinner, dodged at least one rogue cricket ball, and hopefully found some time to relax with your favourite people (and maybe your least favourite relatives, too).

Now, hands up—who made a New Year's resolution? Mine is to squeeze in as much time as possible with the people who matter most, because let's face it, life moves faster than a kid on a slip 'n slide, which, after watching my niece and nephews on theirs at Christmas time, is pretty damn fast!

I keep promising to catch up with friends, but somehow, the laundry always wins. Seriously, I think my washing basket is breeding towels just to keep me busy! But here's a wild idea for 2026—what if we left the vacuuming for another day, ignored the never-ending email notifications, and actually put our phones down for an hour or two?

Imagine: a cuppa with a mate, a quiet fish down the passage, or just a BBQ for no reason in particular. This year let's try to swap a few chores for a few more laughs together. After all, the dust bunnies aren't going anywhere, but the good times might!

Anyway, that's enough of my rambling! I hope you all have a fantastic Australia Day—whether you're firing up the barbie, chilling at the beach, or just enjoying a day off (don't forget the sunscreen!). And let's remember, not everyone celebrates this day, so let's spread a little extra kindness and understanding around. Respect costs nothing.

Until next time,
Take care, stay safe,

Cherrie

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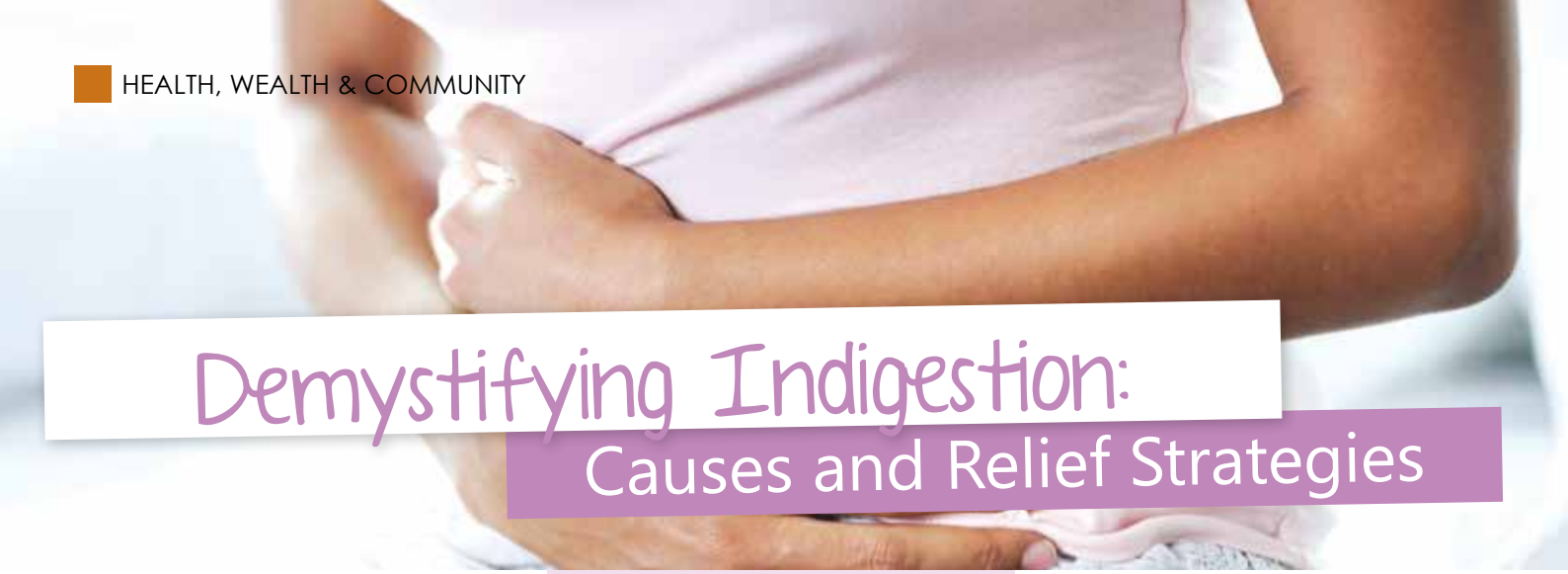

Demystifying Indigestion: Causes and Relief Strategies

Indigestion can pop up unexpectedly—after a rich meal, during moments of stress, or even seemingly out of nowhere. The discomfort, bloating, and that pesky burning sensation can disrupt your day, leaving you longing for relief. However, understanding what causes indigestion and exploring effective relief techniques can truly change your experience.

If you've ever wondered how to quickly ease indigestion, you're in the right place! And don't forget, if symptoms persist or escalate, knowing when to visit a care centre is crucial for prompt and effective treatment.

What Triggers Indigestion?

Indigestion, or dyspepsia, isn't just a minor nuisance; it's a symptom of underlying issues.

Common culprits include:

- Overeating or munching too quickly
- Indulging in greasy, spicy, or acidic foods
- Consuming too much caffeine or alcohol
- Stress and anxiety
- Certain medications, like pain relievers or antibiotics

By pinpointing the cause of your indigestion, you'll be better equipped to find the right solution—whether that's a simple home remedy, a beneficial lifestyle change, or a medical evaluation.

1. Revamp Your Eating Habits

One of the easiest and most effective ways to combat indigestion is to tweak your eating habits!

Helpful Tips:

- Opt for smaller, more frequent meals instead of indulging in large ones.
- Try to avoid lying down right after eating.
- Take your time to chew food thoroughly—it really helps with digestion!
- Steer clear of greasy and fried foods since they can be much harder to digest.

Just these little adjustments can make a big difference in how often you experience indigestion!

2. Explore Natural Home Remedies

Mother Nature has gifted us with wonderful

remedies that can provide instant relief:
Ginger: Loved for its anti-inflammatory properties, ginger is fantastic at easing nausea and promoting smooth digestion.
Apple Cider Vinegar: Mixing a teaspoon with warm water can aid in balancing stomach acid levels.
Baking Soda: A natural antacid that can neutralize stomach acid when used occasionally.
Bananas: Gentle on the stomach, bananas can help alleviate bloating while keeping you feeling satisfied.
Start with small amounts of these remedies and pay attention to how your body reacts.

3. Use Over-the-Counter Remedies Wisely
Over-the-counter options can be a great way to find quick comfort when used correctly:
- Antacidswork by neutralizing stomach acid.
- H2 blockers (like famotidine) help reduce acid production.
- Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are a good choice if you face chronic symptoms.

Be sure to read labels carefully and avoid excessive use, as long-term dependence can lead to unwanted side effects. If symptoms last beyond a day, consulting a healthcare professional is the way to go!

4. When to Seek Urgent Care
On occasion, indigestion might indicate a more serious health issue, such as gallbladder problems, ulcers, or even heart-related conditions. It's important to reach out to urgent care if you experience:
- Severe, persistent pain in the upper abdomen or chest
- Unexplained weight loss
- Shortness of breath or pain that radiates to your arm or jaw

Urgent care centres are equipped to provide immediate evaluations, testing, and treatment, giving you peace of mind and reassurance that your symptoms are not pointing to something severe.

5. Embrace Long-Term Preventative Habits
For lasting digestive health, adopting consistent habits is key:
- Maintain regular mealtimes throughout the day.
- Avoid smoking and keep alcohol consumption in check.
- Stay active and keep a healthy weight through a balanced diet and exercise.
- Consider keeping a food diary to identify and avoid trigger foods.

These healthy habits will not only help manage indigestion but also contribute positively to your overall well-being!

Quick Tips: What to Steer Clear of When Experiencing Indigestion
- Greasy, spicy, and fried foods
- Large meals, especially at night
- Excessive caffeine, chocolate, or alcohol
- Lying flat immediately after meals

Recognising When Indigestion Signals More Serious Issues
Sometimes, indigestion can mimic heart problems, especially in older adults. If you're dealing with persistent discomfort that doesn't improve with lifestyle changes or medications, getting a professional evaluation is essential. Urgent care facilities can rule out cardiac concerns, perform required tests, and guide you to specialists if necessary.

How Environment and Emotions Influence Digestion
While it's easy to view indigestion purely as a physical ailment, our emotions and environment play a significant role too. Stress, anxiety, and the surroundings in which we eat can all affect how our bodies digest food.

When meals are consumed in a rushed or stressful atmosphere, our bodies might respond in a way that slows digestion due to a "fight or flight" response.

Navigating indigestion relief is about more than just temporary fixes; it's about making thoughtful changes to your diet, managing stress, and improving overall lifestyle habits.

While home remedies and over-the-counter options can work wonders for mild cases, don't hesitate to seek professional help for persistent or severe symptoms. By combining prevention with timely care, you can enjoy a healthy digestive system and live life to the fullest—free from discomfort!

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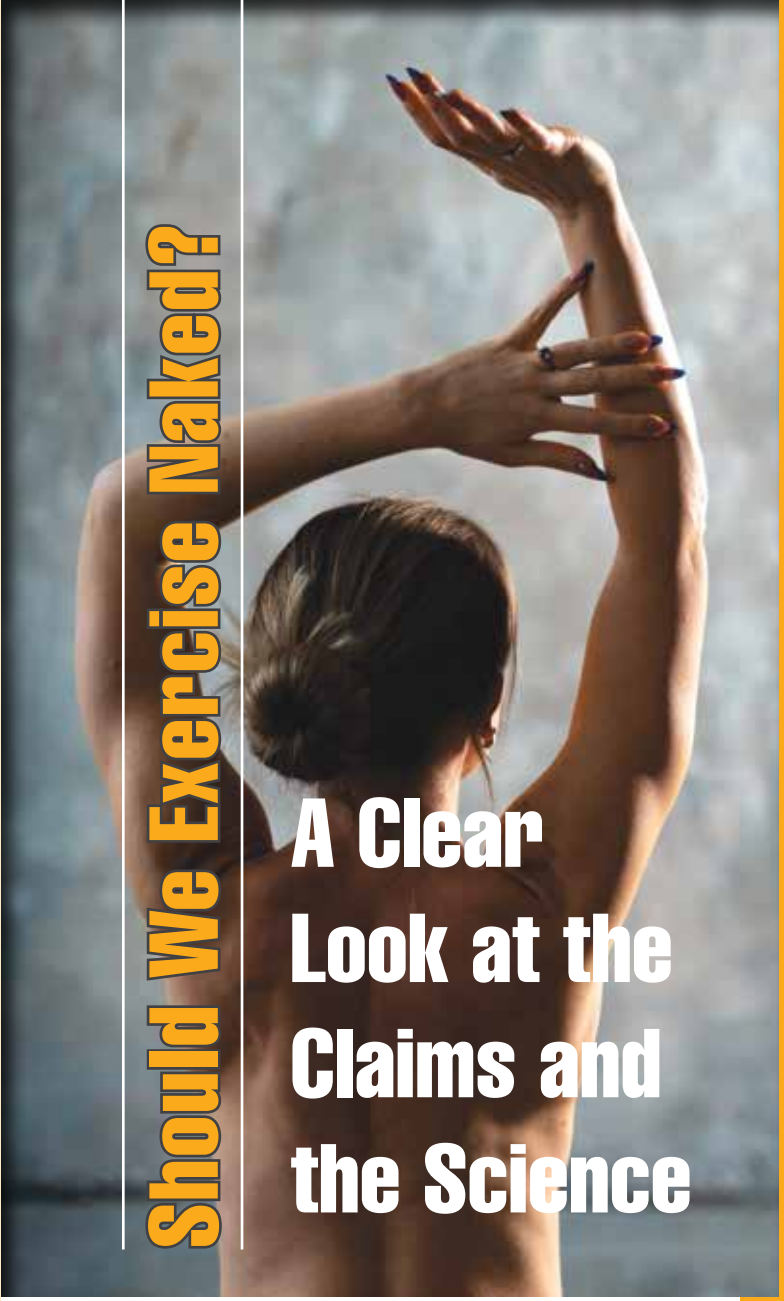

Should We Exercise Naked?

A Clear Look at the Claims and the Science

The idea of exercising naked pops up in wellness circles and the occasional brave social media post. Fans say it can boost your body confidence, improve your movement, and make workouts more comfortable—plus, let's be honest, laundry day gets a lot easier.

On the flip side, critics raise an eyebrow (or two) about the practical and legal complications. So, if you're wondering if working out in your birthday suit is actually a good idea, here's a down-to-earth (and slightly cheeky) look at the benefits, risks, and when it might or might not make sense.

Potential benefits

Body acceptance and confidence: Exercising without clothes can help some people feel less ashamed of their bodies. Watching your bits and bobs move in real time—without a stretchy waistband digging in—might help you accept those so-called "imperfections." Research on body-positive activities shows that more exposure (pun intended) and focusing on your own movement can actually reduce negative body image for some people.

Better proprioception and movement feedback: Without tight workout gear squeezing your every curve, you might notice more feedback from your skin touching surfaces and your joints moving freely. For things like yoga or stretching, some folks say they finally figured out what their hamstrings were up to—no spandex required.

Comfort in heat and sweating: When it's hot or during intense workouts, ditching the layers can help you stay cool and keep your laundry pile from turning into Mount Everest. But if you're exercising outside in the sun, remember sunscreen is your new best mate, because sunburn in awkward places is never fun.

Simplicity and lower laundry load: Let's be honest, nobody ever complained about having less laundry. Fewer clothes mean less time at the washing machine—and more time to wonder if you're supposed to feel this free.

Risks and downsides

Hygiene and infection risk: If you're sharing equipment, bare skin on benches is a fast track to meeting some unwelcome gym germs—think fungus, warts, and bacteria (the kind of friends nobody wants). Clothes and towels are your trusty shields. Plus, nobody wants to sit in someone else's sweat. Ever.

Lack of support and injury risk: For running or high-impact workouts, supportive clothing—especially a good sports bra and shoes—is non-negotiable if you want to avoid turning your exercise session into a slapstick routine. Going barefoot or wearing the wrong shoes at the gym is a recipe for stubbed toes and regret.

Sun exposure: Exercising outside without clothes means all your bits are getting more up close and personal with the Aussie sun. With our UV levels, that's an express pass to sunburn city (and yes, it stings everywhere). Sunscreen and shade aren't just suggestions—they're survival tactics.

Legal, social and safety considerations: Laws about public nudity vary, but let's just say most authorities aren't keen on surprise streakers. Exercising naked in public could land you a fine—or a starring role in someone's awkward group chat. Plus, clothes help keep you visible, and protect you from bugs, prickles, and the odd nosy magpie. Psychological discomfort and boundary issues: Some feel liberated in the nude, while others would rather crawl under a rock.

Where exercising naked might make sense

Private, consenting settings: At home or at private events where everyone agrees, like nudist clubs or nude retreats, taking off your clothes can be a personal choice for comfort and body awareness. Activities focused on body awareness: Doing gentle yoga, stretching, or breathwork in private may help you notice your movement and alignment better without clothes in the way.

Controlled, hygienic practices: If you're exercising naked at home, treat your mat like your toothbrush—don't share it, keep it clean, and for the love of all things sanitary, have a shower afterwards.

When you should keep clothing on

Public spaces and shared facilities: For legal, hygiene, and social reasons, you should wear clothes in public parks, beaches (unless they are clothing-optional), gyms, pools, and studios.

High-impact or contact activities: Activities like running, team sports, or weightlifting usually need proper supportive clothing and shoes.
When teaching or participating in mixed groups: Instructors and participants should keep things professional and respect everyone's comfort. Wearing clothes is usually expected.

Exercising naked isn't a magical fix for all your fitness woes, but it's not as wild as it sounds, either. For some people, it can offer genuine psychological and sensory perks—especially if you're at home or in a group where everyone's on board and nobody gets an unexpected eyeful.

But let's be real: hygiene hiccups, sunburn in places the sun rarely shines, or accidentally making headlines for all the wrong reasons mean it's not ideal for public spaces or every type of workout.

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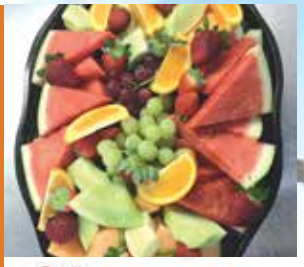

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Living on Bribie Island:

My Slice of Paradise (with a Side of Quirks)

I've been living on Bribie Island for a while now and let me tell you—it's a bit like having a front-row seat to nature's best show, with a community that feels like an extended family (the kind you actually like).

If you're thinking about making the jump, here's what life here really looks like—from my slightly biased, island-loving perspective.

The Good Stuff (Because There's Plenty)
First up, the scenery is unbeatable. I mean, where else can you grab your morning coffee, stroll along the beach, and maybe even spot a pelican or two judging your walking pace?

The beaches are peaceful, the water is calm, and the sunsets? Let's just say Instagram would have a field day.

The community here? Absolutely golden. You don't just live next to people—you actually know their names (and their dog's name).

Local events aren't just stuffy gatherings; they're full of laughter, barbecues, and the occasional embarrassing dance moves at the pub.

It's the kind of place where if you forget your shopping list, your neighbour will probably drop off whatever you need (or at least offer you a cup of sugar).

And don't worry about missing out on the essentials. We've got schools, shops, doctors—you name it. Sure, it's not a big city, but sometimes that's exactly the point.

The Not-So-Glamorous Bits
(Because Let's Be Honest)

Now, the reality check: getting on and off the island can feel like trying to squeeze through rush hour traffic in a clown car. The bridge is our lifeline, but it has its moods—especially on weekends or when there's an event on the mainland.

Patience is definitely a virtue here.Internet speeds? Let's say sometimes it moves at the pace of a sleepy turtle.

If you're used to lightning-fast connections, be prepared for some "buffering" moments—consider it your daily reminder to unplug (whether you want to or not).

And yes, we get our fair share of weather drama. Storms roll in with a flair for the dramatic, and flooding isn't just a news headline—it's a regular conversation starter.

But hey, it keeps things interesting!

Would I Recommend It?

Absolutely. If you want nature on your doorstep, a friendly vibe where people actually talk to each other, and a break from the craziness of city life, Bribie Island is a gem.

Just come with an open mind, a sense of humor, and maybe some patience for traffic jams and slow internet.

Because living here is about embracing the quirks as much as the beauty—and honestly, that's what makes it feel like home.

So yeah, life on Bribie Island? It's pretty great. Just don't be surprised if you end up waving at more pelicans than people on your morning walk.

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A Certified Mental Health First Aider in Australia

A Vital Role in Community Wellbeing

As health and wellbeing continue to change, certified Mental Health First Aiders in Australia are playing a more important role. Like physical first aiders, they are trained to give initial support to people facing mental health problems or crises, such as depression, anxiety, panic attacks, or suicidal thoughts.

Having these trained individuals in workplaces, schools, and communities' shows a proactive approach to mental health that focuses on early help and reducing stigma.

Mental health concerns affect a broad cross-section of the population, and the consequences of unaddressed mental illness can be far-reaching.

By ensuring that more Australians have the knowledge and confidence to respond appropriately in a crisis, certified Mental Health First Aiders are helping to create a more compassionate and resilient society. Their role is pivotal in bridging the gap between

individuals in distress and the professional help they may need. Early intervention, supported by a non-judgmental and empathetic approach, can often prevent a situation from escalating, reducing the risk of long-term harm.

To become a certified Mental Health First Aider, people complete an accredited training program, often run by groups like Mental Health First Aid Australia.

The course usually takes several hours and covers topics such as spotting signs of common mental health issues, responding with empathy and practical advice, and helping people find professional support.

Participants learn about conditions like depression, anxiety, psychosis, substance use disorders, and trauma-related illnesses, and practice real-life scenarios to build their confidence.
Mental Health First Aiders do not diagnose or treat mental illnesses. Instead, they offer reassurance, listen without judgment, and help connect people to the right resources.

They learn how to check for immediate risks, like suicidal thoughts or self-harm, and take steps to keep everyone safe. The training also stresses the importance of confidentiality and respecting privacy, so people feel safe and supported when they seek help.

Certified Mental Health First Aiders make a big difference. In Australia, mental health challenges are common, with one in five people experiencing a mental health disorder each year. Being able to respond quickly and with care can change lives.

More workplaces now see the value of mental health knowledge for staff wellbeing and productivity. Schools and community groups are also adopting this role to create more supportive and welcoming spaces.

Mental Health First Aiders do more than help in a crisis. They also support ongoing mental wellbeing by spotting early warning signs, encouraging open talks about mental health, and helping to reduce stigma. As approachable contacts, they build trust in workplaces and communities, making it easier for people to ask for help early instead of struggling alone.

Becoming a certified Mental Health First Aider is more than just earning a qualification. It means committing to understanding others, fighting stigma, and helping create a culture where mental health is as important as physical health.

As Australia keeps focusing on mental wellbeing, these first aiders will continue to play a key role in making sure support is available, timely, and effective for everyone who needs it.

Expanding Mental Health First Aid training across Australia could greatly improve the nation's overall health.

By giving more people these important skills, we help create a future where mental health is openly talked about, early support is easy to find, and barriers to care are removed.

The journey to better mental health for all Australians continues, with certified Mental Health First Aiders leading the way.

BECOME A CERTIFIED MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDER!

WORKPLACE WELLNESS TRAINING
MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

2-Day Face-to-Face Course

Do you want to build confidence in supporting those experiencing mental health challenges?

What You'll Learn:
- How to identify mental health issues early
- Effective strategies to support someone in crisis
- Reducing stigma and promoting mental well-being
- Practical intervention skills to assist family, friends, colleagues and the community

Feb 3-4th 2026

- Location: Bribie Island Community Arts Centre - Boardroom
  191 Sunderland Drive, Banksia Beach, Bribie Island
- Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm each day
- Includes:
- Tea, coffee and light snacks
- Access to an onsite café
- Accredited Mental Health First Aid training
- Course manual and certificate

$330 p.p

MENTAL HEALTH

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Licensed Instructor

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Contact Liv Walford to register:
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bribie acupuncture

Receptionist Katherine (left) and Acupuncturists Jessica (centre) and Wendy (right).

Happy New Year!

As we move into the year ahead, we've enjoyed reflecting on what has been a very full and rewarding 2025 at Bribie Acupuncture. Thanks to the continued support of our wonderful clients from Bribie Island and surrounding areas, it has been a busy and fulfilling year.

We are grateful to our local community for the many word-of-mouth referrals we've received, and for the strong connections we've built with other health practitioners on the island.

In 2025, we:
- Provided over 2,000 acupuncture treatments
- Welcomed more than 340 new clients to our clinic
- Became approved providers for six additional home care organisations
- Received 47% of new clients through personal recommendations
- Were finalists in the Pumicestone Business Excellence Awards for the third year in a row
- Celebrated our fifth anniversary, having opened in January 2020

Who is Bribie Acupuncture?

Bribie Acupuncture is led by acupuncturists Jessica and Wendy, supported by our clinic coordinator Katherine. We feel incredibly fortunate to live and work on Bribie Island and to be part of such a supportive and connected community. Our mission is simple: to help people achieve the best possible quality of life.

Why acupuncture?

Acupuncture and Chinese medicine have become increasingly popular in Australia. People seek acupuncture for many reasons, but most of our clients come to us because:

- They are looking for a holistic approach that addresses the underlying cause of their health concerns, not just the symptoms
- They prefer a natural, drug-free option to support their health and wellbeing
- They are seeking answers when conventional medicine has not yet provided relief
- They have been referred by other health professionals, such as doctors, physiotherapists, or midwives, for supportive care

Chinese medicine considers your health history, symptoms, diet, and lifestyle from a broader perspective. This approach can often help uncover missing pieces of the health picture.

Who can have acupuncture?

People of all ages and backgrounds. At our clinic, we treat a wide range of conditions, with clients ranging from four years old through to 92.

How does acupuncture work?

Chinese medicine works with the body's natural ability to heal itself. Acupuncture helps improve blood flow and directs it to areas that need support. Blood carries vital substances such as oxygen, nutrients, hormones, and immune cells, all of which are essential for healing.

By carefully selecting acupuncture points, we can encourage circulation in specific areas of the body, helping to reduce inflammation and promote repair. Many people describe acupuncture as helping to "switch on" the body's own healing processes.

What can acupuncture help with?

While acupuncture is well known for supporting pain conditions such as:

- Back pain, hip pain, sciatica
- Bursitis, frozen shoulder
- Knee osteoarthritis
- Nerve pain, peripheral neuropathy

it is also commonly used to support a wide range of non-pain-related concerns, including:

- Women's health, fertility, pregnancy support, and menopause
- Stress, anxiety, insomnia
- Digestive health, IBS

What happens at your first appointment?

Your first appointment focuses on gaining a thorough understanding of your health concerns including how long it has been present, the severity, and how it affects your daily life. Where appropriate, we may also perform a physical assessment and discuss your personal health goals.

From this information, we develop an initial treatment plan tailored to you. This allows us to observe how your body responds to acupuncture, as some people notice changes quickly, while others require a little more time. This process helps guide the number and frequency of treatments that may be most beneficial.

Where do the needles go?

It depends on your individual needs. Jessica and Wendy have trained in a variety of acupuncture styles, allowing treatments to be customised for each client.

For those with limited mobility, or who prefer not to lie on a treatment table, acupuncture can be performed while seated, with only sleeves or pant legs rolled up. We regularly treat clients with restricted mobility.

In some cases, needles are placed near the area of concern — for example, the back for back pain. In other cases, acupuncture points on the arms or legs may be used to influence other parts of the body via the body's internal pathways.

The needles themselves are extremely fine — about the thickness of two human hairs — and are sterile, single-use needles. Many clients find treatments deeply relaxing, with some even falling asleep during their session.

If you'd like to make a booking or if you'd like to discuss whether acupuncture and Chinese medicine is right for you, please contact us - **Jessica, Wendy, and Katherine** - via our website **www.bribieacupuncture.com.au** or call **0423 160 228**. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram @ bribieacupuncture. HICAPS is available onsite. Pensioner discounts available.

Bribie Acupuncture
4/29 Benabrow Avenue, Bellara (behind the James Moore law office)

Medicare Mental Health Free, Confidential Phone Service

From the Australian Government, delivered by Neami National

You can call if you are:

- An individual seeking support for your mental health.
- An individual concerned about the mental wellbeing of someone you care about.
- A service provider enquiring about potential referral pathways.
- A doctor seeking referral or pathway support for a patient.

The phone service is perfect for those who face barriers to accessing support such as:

- Aversion to in-person support
- Support options local to them (eg. regional and rural areas)
- Long-wait lists

YOU CAN CONTACT THE MMH PHONE SERVICE
ON 1800 595 212 BETWEEN 8:30AM - 5PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY.

A Year of Growth and Gratitude

It's been a year for many of us.

From Mother Nature delivering unexpected weather to navigating personal challenges and life's many twists and turns, this year has asked a lot. Yet here you are—standing, growing, and moving forward. That alone is something to be proud of.

Life doesn't always unfold as planned. We encounter unexpected seas and shifting channels, and as humans, we can be incredibly hard on ourselves while comparing our progress to the achievements or lives of others. But each of us have a different path. No two journeys are the same, and success looks different for everyone.

Take a moment to reflect on how far you've come. The resilience you've shown, the lessons you've learned, and the strength you've built along the way all matter. Be proud of yourself for navigating what you've been given and for continuing to move toward your own goals.

If you're seeking direction for the year ahead, journaling can be a powerful tool. Write down your hopes, aspirations, and small intentions—whether that's building a new garden, scheduling more walks in nature, or simply creating more space for rest and joy. Growth is different to all of us. Sometimes it's found in the quiet, intentional moments.

As we step into a new year, I wish you all well and look forward to what lies ahead. I'm grateful to continue writing for our amazing local magazine and sharing stories that connect and inspire our community.

Here's to a fantastic new year—one filled with purpose, progress, and pride in how far you've already come.

Yours in Health and Wellness,
Tracey Blinco

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Human Rights Advocate
NDIS Psychosocial Recovery Coach
NDIS Support Coordinator
Support Professional
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Dear Pumicestone...

Happy New Year Pumicestone!

2025 was a year of ups and downs. We lost valued members of our community, and we faced extreme weather that tested us all. But through it all, we came together, showing exactly what it means to be Queenslanders: resilient, supportive, and grounded in mateship.

I want to thank the Rotary Club of Bribie Island, of which I'm proud to be a member, for once again delivering a terrific New Year's Eve Carnival for our community.

In particular, I want to acknowledge Lulu Drew for her outstanding leadership and all the work she does behind the scenes to make events like this possible.

If you attended, you may have spotted me dressed as Minnie Mouse and it was an absolute joy to see so many children having fun and welcoming the New Year with smiles on their faces.

My office is open and we're back to work. It's already been a big start to the year with the announcement of $22.8 million for the POLAIR Service on the Sunshine Coast, expanding coverage into the Moreton Bay region. For local families, this means real community safety not short-term fixes. More eyes in the sky, faster response times, and frontline police with the backup they need to do what they do best: keep our community safe.

On the housing front just before Christmas applications for our nation leading home ownership scheme, boost to buy opened. This funding for the scheme was also doubled to $330 million, delivering support for up to 2,000 first home buyers. The boost to buy scheme provides a government equity contribution of up to 30% for existing homes, and to be eligible home buyers need to have saved a minimum 2% deposit for the purchase price of a property up to $1 million. Our government is delivering more Queenslanders a place to call home and a better lifestyle through a stronger economy.

A reminder that registrations of interest are now open for our Business Growth Fund, offering eligible small and family businesses $50,000 to $75,000 to invest in specialised equipment that will take your business to the next stage of growth. A minimum 50% co-contribution is required.

We're putting the small and family businesses that power our economy FIRST, helping to boost productivity, reach new markets and create more opportunities across Queensland you can find out more at business.qld.gov.au/growthfund

We have much to achieve in 2026 so be sure to follow my facebook page to stay up to date with projects and information!

As always, I am here to help you. If there are any issues that I can assist with, please don't hesitate to contact me at pumicestone@parliament.qld.gov.au or 07 3474 2100. Your concerns are my priority, and I am committed to supporting you.

Ariana Doolan

Ariana
DOOLAN MP
MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

1/43 Benabrow Avenue, Bellara
(07) 3474 2100
ArianaDoolanMP
arianadoolan.com.au
ariana4pumicestone
pumicestone@parliament.qld.gov.au

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Authorised by Ariana Doolan MP, 1/43 Benabrow Avenue, Bellara, 4507

Local Dining Guide

STEAKOUT PIZZERIA

Steakout Pizzeria

For delicious pizza, pasta, contorni salads and more, all crafted with love, come and enjoy our waterfront pizzeria. With live music every Sunday and the beautiful Pumicestone Passage right beside you, we offer you a taste you'll love. For deliveries or bookings, please visit us at **www.steakoutpizzeria.au**

9/11 Spinnaker Drive, Sandstone Point - 07 5360 1094
LUNCH Thu to Sun 11:30 - 2:30
DINNER Tue to Sun 4:30 - 8:30

SCOOPYS

Scoopy's FAMILY CAFE

Located by the jetty on beautiful Bribie Island, Scoopy's Family Cafe is all about the family vibes, great food and coffee, fantastic service and all the ice cream you can eat!

Enjoy our friendly hospitality with barista-made coffee, amazing burgers, and a tempting array of ice cream choices to impress the pickiest connoisseurs.

Our massive range of cakes and famous fish and chips make it well worth the hour's drive north of Brisbane.

Shop 2/2 Toorbul Street, Bongaree 07 3410 1791

THE DECK RESTAURANT

the deck

With its spacious, relaxed ambiance, The Deck Restaurant offers casual dining indoors or alfresco on the deck overlooking the golf course, lake and lush gardens. Enjoy modern cuisine with locally sourced ingredients, open 7 days a week for breakfast and lunch, and dinner on Friday and Saturdays. Perfect for any occasion!

Pacific Harbour Golf & Country Club, 141-159 Avon Avenue, Banksia Beach

07 3410 4024

Scan The QR Code To Book Now!

Sunsets On Bribie

Experience our **new menu**, with classics you'll love and the new favourites you'll crave.

We've also added mouth-watering **Gourmet Pizzas**, which are a must-try.

OPEN 7 DAYS
LUNCH: 12PM - 2PM - DINNER: 5PM - 8PM

Call our restaurant on **07 3408 1018** to book

Bribie Island Bowls Club 11-23 Welsby Parade, Bongaree

Why is SAFFRON So EXPENSIVE?

Saffron, often called **"red gold,"** is known as the most expensive spice in the world, and it's easy to see why. This special spice comes from the saffron crocus flower and is loved for its unique taste, bright colour, and impressive health benefits. But why does saffron come with such a high price tag?

HARVESTING IS HARD WORK

One big reason saffron is so costly is that picking it is incredibly labour-intensive. Each saffron crocus flower blooms only for a short time during the fall, and you need thousands of flowers to make just one kilogram of saffron. The delicate red parts of the flower, which are collected as spice, must be carefully picked by hand, usually at dawn when the flowers are fully open. It takes about 150,000 flowers to get just one kilogram of saffron, making the harvesting process take a lot of time and effort, which naturally drives up the price.

WHERE IT GROWS MATTERS

Saffron is very picky about where it can grow. It needs the right climate, good soil, and specific altitude to thrive. Most saffron comes from places like Iran, India (especially Kashmir), and Spain. Because saffron can only be grown in these special areas, there's limited supply, and this can push prices higher as demand increases.

WORRY ABOUT QUALITY AND FAKE PRODUCTS

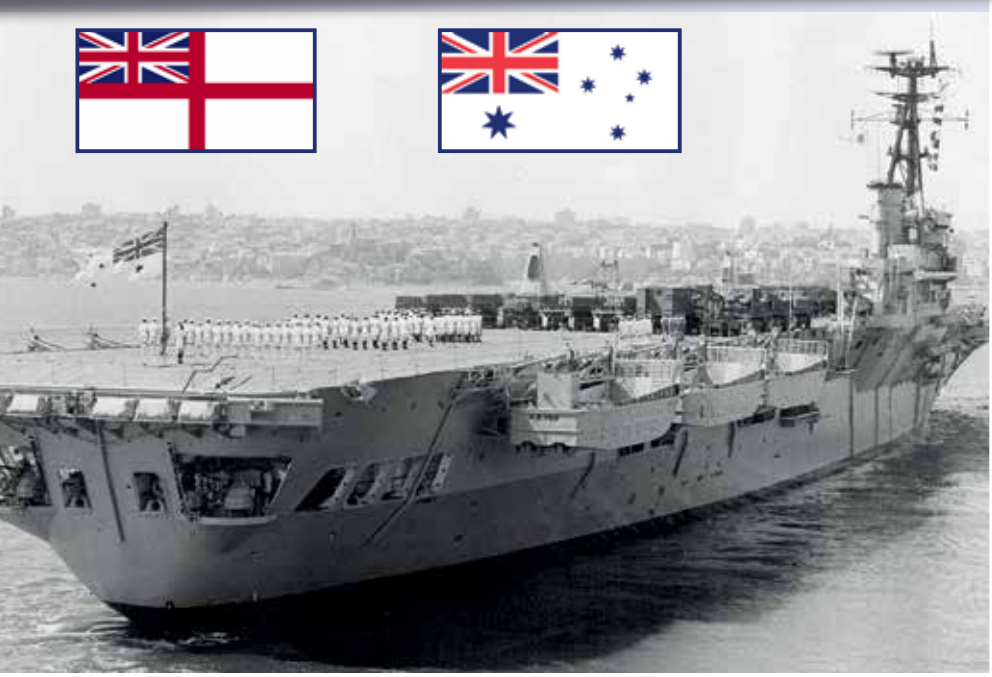
When it comes to saffron, you want the real deal. Because saffron is so valuable, there are many fake products out there that don't have the same taste or benefits. Real saffron can be recognized by its rich red colour and unique smell. People looking for authentic saffron may pay more to ensure they get a quality product, which adds to the overall cost of this spice because it can be expensive to produce and verify genuine saffron.

CULTURAL IMPORTANCE AND CULINARY USE

Saffron has been considered a luxury item for centuries and holds cultural significance in various cuisines. It's used in traditional dishes like Persian rice, Italian risottos, and Indian curries, enhancing the flavour and presentation of many meals. The growing interest in gourmet cooking and traditional wellness practices that utilize saffron increases its appeal and keeps its demand high.

To sum it up, saffron's high price comes from the hard work involved in harvesting it, the specific places it can grow, concerns about achieving quality, and its cultural significance in cooking. As more people learn about saffron's unique qualities and health benefits, its popularity will likely continue to rise, ensuring it remains one of the world's most treasured—and expensive—spices. While the cost might seem high, the rich flavour and health perks make saffron a worthwhile addition to any kitchen or home remedy collection.

UNDER THE WHITE ENSIGN



HMAS Sydney (III)
R17, A214, P214, L134

Type: Majestic class aircraft carrier
Built: Naval Dockyard, England
Sister ships RAN: HMAS Melbourne (II)
Commissioned: Dec 1948 Carrier
April 1955 Training ship
March 1962 Fast troop transport
Displacement: 19,550 full load
Speed: 24.8 knots (45.9 km/hr)
Propulsion: Steam turbines, 2 shafts, 40,000 shaft Hp
Crew: 1,100 (peace), 1,300 (war)
Up to 1,000 (as transport)
Armament:
• 30 x 40/60 Bofors guns
• 18 single,6 twin mounts
Aircraft: Up to 38 aircraft
Battle Honours: Korea 1951-52
Malaysia 1964
Vietnam 1965-72
Fate: Sold for scrap 1975

HMAS Sydney (III) – Vung Tau Ferry

HMAS Sydney (III) began life in 1942 in the RN (Royal Navy) as HMS Terrible. Some, who had served in later RAN ships, may have thought this to be a suitable name for a ship built for war in the North Atlantic, fitted with hammocks, without air-conditioning and using DC electric power supply, but this grand Lady was highly respected for the service she rendered. She was purchased and commissioned by the RAN in 1948 and served as the flagship in the early part of her career.

In late 1951 and early 1952 Sydney operated with distinction during the Korean War. Her Sea Fury and Firefly aircraft ably supported United Nation efforts against the Chinese and North Koreans in very difficult conditions.

On the receipt of the modernised and jet aircraft enabled HMAS Melbourne in 1955, Sydney was retasked as a training ship. She was recommissioned as a Fast Troop Transport in March 1962. Her aircraft handling equipment was removed, armament was reduced to four single-mount 40/60 Bofors guns and her hangar was converted into accommodation and storage.

In May 1964, Sydney's first overseas deployment as a transport was in support for the Malaysian defence against Indonesian aggression.

With Australia's support for the War in Vietnam, Sydney (III) accepted the role as the mainstay of naval logistic support for our forces and earned her title as the 'Vung Tau Ferry'. Between 1965 and 1972 she undertook 25 voyages, transporting 16,094 troops, 5,753 tons of cargo and 2,374 vehicles.

The logistic support to our military forces in Vietnam was also provided by the chartering of Australian National Line (ANL) cargo ships but, because of continuing union disputes, they were commissioned by the RAN and sailed under the White Ensign. On each voyage, Sydney was protected in the war zone by escorts that included HMA Ships Anzac, Derwent, Dutchess, Melbourne, Parramatta, Stuart, Swan, Torrens, Vampire, Vendetta and Yarra. Sydney was built for the war time needs of the RN in the North Atlantic and purchased by the RAN even though she could have been considered 'old technology'.

She served with distinction during the Korean War and became a training ship when replaced with an upgraded carrier. She excelled in her Logistics role for the Vietnam War as a Fast Transport and had the honour of war service under both ensigns.

The distinction with which HMAS Sydney (III) served, demonstrates the effectiveness of the Sailors who served in the RAN.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
BRIBIE ISLAND SUB SECTION

Invites **EX-SHIPMATES** to enjoy that comradeship they experience when they served. Please make contact at our Meet and Greet every **Tuesday evening at the RSL Club from 1600hrs** or contact.

Graham Seymour
Secretary
0411 096 206
secretary.naabi@gmail.com

Rod Devenish-Meares
President
0407 767 653

John Greacen
Membership/Treasurer
0459 026 911

ONCE NAVY ALWAYS NAVY

SOAR INTO HISTORY:

Unleash Your Inner Aviator with an Adventure Flight!

Ever wondered what the world looks like upside down? Now's your chance! Feel the need—the need for speed—as you choose your own aerial adventure: from smooth cruising to heart-racing aerobatics, it's your call. Buckle up and get ready to time-travel into pure, high-octane excitement!

Imagine the roar of a mighty radial engine, the wind rushing past your face, and the thrill of 600Hp or a staggering 1425Hp propelling you skyward. Adventure awaits as you climb aboard the legendary WWII RAAF Wirraway or the awe-inspiring US Navy T-28B—aircraft that ruled the skies and now offer you a front-row seat to aviation history.

Age is just a number when it comes to chasing adventure—whether you're 10 or 93 (and maybe even 99!), you're invited to join the fun. Everyone who's dared to fly has left with a grin and a story to tell!

All you need is a bit of mobility and a sense of adventure—nearly everyone can get in on the action! Suit up like Maverick with a flight suit and noise-cancelling helmet and get ready to look the part (just don't forget your sturdy shoes and your camera—these are the stories you'll want to relive and share!). All that's required? Enough spirit to savour every exhilarating moment!

Before take-off, rally your crew—family and friends—for a photo op with these jaw-dropping warbirds. Snap some pictures, soak in the anticipation, and then cheer as the engines thunder to life. From the comfort of the Caboolture Aero Club's covered seating, your fans can wave you off and welcome you back after an unforgettable flight.

Every flight is a one-of-a-kind experience. Pick your route and soar over Southeast Queensland's most spectacular sights—from the rugged Glasshouse Mountains to the sparkling Sunshine Coast beaches. This isn't just a flight; it's an adventure above it all!

Are you ready to ignite your dreams and seize an adventure you'll never forget? Spots fill up fast—book now to secure your seat in history and let your inspiration soar! This is your chance to break free from the ordinary, chase excitement, and create memories that will last a lifetime. Flights are weather-dependent for your own enjoyment but may be rescheduled.

BRIBIE Pink DRAGONS

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM BRIBIE "PINK"DRAGONS

"A sincere greeting from Bribie Pink Dragons for a Happy and Healthy New 2026 filled with fun, laughter and surmountable challenges.

In 2025, we have had much to be grateful for and to celebrate. We thank our committed community supporters for your generosity throughout 2025.

Among them the BI Arts and Community Centre, Rotary, Terry Young, MHR; Ariana Doolan, MLA; Busy Fingers, Pacific Harbour Country Club, the Bribie Beach Shack and Bunnings Caboolture; to name a few.

Our participation in Trivia with Rotary, Classic Boats and other regattas; the ARTS Tarts at BICAS, Fathers' Day raffle out chatting to the community in "our decorated bras" and competing as the "Piranhas" for the fundraiser for the Croquet club were all fun activities.

Come & Try was a successful day, and our wonderful weekend of camaraderie with 10 members from Melbourne's DamBusters, whom we had previously joined in 2023 to team paddle as the "Dam Dragons", in the IBCPC in NZ was equally successful.

Further to that, our access to our dragon boats was increased with a purpose built, very precise addition to our driveway by Paul from Decorative Concrete and has facilitated our boat washing and storing ability more easily, thanks to a generous grant from Terry Young.

Christmas celebrations at the Dragons' Lair, better known as the Bribie Beach Shack, was a great evening to introduce our new members to the camaraderie and general bonhomie.

Complete with a beautifully decorated Yuletide cake by Ros Adams, a Driftwood Dragon boat carving created by the Dulhuntys, and loads of green, red and white rather than pink for a change!!

This year, we will be resuming paddling 10th January, preparing for our February trip to Tasmania, to compete on Lake Barrington, with "Nipples on Ripples"!

The "Spirit of Bribie" endures and continues. We encourage and welcome all Survivors of Breast Cancer, their supporters and those who share our ethos and would love to paddle, to the uplifting experience and exercise of dragon boating.

Bribie Dragons sends Best Wishes, Strength and Happiness to all our Community Supporters and their families.

We hope you have a Healthy, Safe and Happy New Year.

Further information: -
President 0499 990 352

Serve, Sizzle, Socialise - Free Aussie Open Celebration on Bribie Island

Celebrate the excitement of the Australian Open with us at Bribie Island Tennis Club (BITC)!

Swing by for a free afternoon of tennis—and a sizzling sausage—in a fun, friendly atmosphere. As the 2026 Australian Open draws to a close, we're bringing the action to Cosmos Park, 70 Sunderland Drive, Banksia Beach, on Saturday, 31 January 2026. No RSVP required—grab your family, gather your friends, and join the festivities!

Experience an afternoon packed with tennis, laughter, and great company. Whether you're a seasoned player or picking up a racquet for the first time, we'll provide all the equipment and encouragement you need. Enjoy tasty sausages hot off the grill from 3pm to 5pm, all while making new friends on and off the court.

Tennis is more than just a sport—it's a fantastic way to stay fit, connect, and have fun. At BITC, everyone is welcome, regardless of age, ability, or accessibility needs. We're committed to making every event inclusive, ensuring all community members—including those with disabilities or mobility challenges—feel right at home. Join our vibrant club and discover friendships that last a lifetime.

Over the next five years, we're investing around $450,000 to upgrade lighting, install stronger fences, and resurface our courts.
These improvements mean brighter, safer nights, sturdier boundaries, and smoother play for everyone. We're committed to providing the best facilities for our members, guests, and the entire community.

But BITC isn't just about tennis—we host a variety of off-court events, from private functions to special celebrations. Whether you're

marking a milestone, looking to expand your social circle, or simply unwinding in our welcoming space, there's always something happening at the club. Become a part of our community—BITC membership starts at just $40 per year for adults and $5 for juniors.

Members enjoy a range of benefits: improve your skills, compete in fixtures and tournaments, join regular social days, or book a court for private fun with family and friends. Plus, every member gets complimentary access to our ball machine.

If you join BITC in January, your first visit to a social club session is free (usually $5). For session details, visit our website at bribieislandtennisclub.com.au or our Facebook page @ bribieislandtennisclub. You can also call the club for more information.

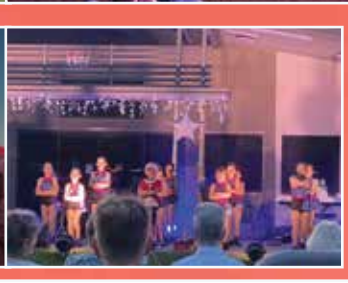
To ask us directly, call **0447 122 328**. For more details, visit **bribieislandtennisclub.com.au.**

Ready to get started? Sign up today!

Mark your calendar—our Aussie Open Social Day kicks off on Saturday, 31 January 2026!

BITC also wishes to acknowledge the support of Moreton Bay Regional Council, which provided a $30,000 grant to support the LED lighting upgrade.

SANDSTONE POINT CAROLS ON THE OVAL



Little yellow lights flickered and danced about as the sky darkened over the Sandstone Point Oval last Saturday 13 December. Accompanied by the laughter of children's voices these lights were the 'candles' waving in the air to the beat of music at the hugely successful Carols on the Oval hosted by Sandstone Community Church. Over 400 Mums, Dads, Kiddies and Seniors from our community joined in celebrating the advent of Christmas, singing along to age old favourite Carols.

With a band of volunteer musicians from Glasshouse Country Baptist Church leading the way, the night of fabulous music kick-started with a pre-event taster from the ever-popular gorgeous girls of Good Company. Their joyful repertoire set the scene as the crowds gathered with their rugs, chairs and snacks, ready for a night of great entertainment. All were given a cheerful welcome to the event, with mozzie spray readily available to add to their evening's comfort.

The Sandstone Point Carols on the Oval community event delivered in spades. Not only did the program include many traditional carols enabling crowd sing-a-long participation but we were treated to first class entertainment – for free!

The beautifully attired local Island Dancers wowed with their obvious enthusiasm and skill, including the crowd-pleaser Daddy/Daughter routines.

Vocalist Tammy Mathieson, a favourite of many years to our Carols, excelled herself with heart-felt deliveries of several well-known carols, topping the night off with a haunting rendition of O Holy Night dedicated to her beloved Nan watching from the front row.

Dan Warlow, guest entertainer, engaged the kids with his little friend Jed (ventriloquist doll) and had them up at the front waving their candles and dancing to catchy tunes.

This free event for our local community was made possible by a City of Moreton Bay Local Community Support Grant and generous support from **IGA Sandstone Point**; **Sandstone Point Community Association; Bribie Island Community Plant Nursery; Sandstone Point Lions; Ariana Doolan, State MP; Terry Young, Federal MP; Victory Press Printing; Bribie District Little Athletics; private donations; Friendly Grocer Sandstone Lakes; HealthSave Pharmacy Pebble Beach; local community magazines; and, the wonderful crews from Nathan Sound and Lighting and Hans Electrical Service** who worked tirelessly through the day to ensure a successful event.

Carols on the Oval once again delivered an evening of fun, entertainment, and presenting the Gospel message of God's greatest gift to the world through the birth of our Saviour,

Jesus. Overwhelmingly positive feedback included: "Amazing night"; "Really enjoyed it"; "Some serious talent tonight"; "thanks for all you do for the community"; "That's how Carols should be. We could sing-a-long". Light 'Em Up Fireworks concluded our evening with what was described as the most "fantastic fireworks", with more people joining just for this amazing display.

The hosts, Sandstone Community Church (SCC) meet each Sunday at 3pm in the Ningi Community Hall on Bribie Island Road. SCC supports the local community in many ways including: Monday mornings Craft Group, and Thursday mornings mainly music for pre-schoolers and their carers, both held in the Sandstone Point Hall; and Tuesday evenings Average Joe's men's group. See: https://sandstone.org.au

RAISE YOUR GLASS - *The Tradition of Toasting*

Champagne fills your glass, bubbles cling to the sides, and a foamy layer forms on top. Soon, everyone in the room comes together. Arms go up, glasses are raised. It's time for a toast; a tradition enjoyed the world over.
Whether it's New Year's Eve, a mate's wedding, or dinner at a fancy restaurant, you've probably raised your glass for a toast. Toasting is a tradition that crosses cultures and time, just as common today as it was long ago.

A toast is just a way to drink in honour of someone or something, like wishing good health. People often say quick phrases like "Cheers!" or sometimes share longer, more poetic toasts, like the traditional Gaelic blessing: "May the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand." Internationally, you might hear 'Salud!' in Spanish-speaking countries or 'Prost!' in Germany, each with its unique cultural significance, yet all conveying warm wishes and fellowship.

Some say the modern toast started by accident in the early 1700s. In 1709, Sir Richard Steele wrote a story for Tatler that sparked discussion. In the story, a man saw a woman swimming in Bath's cold waters, filled a cup with the water, and drank to her health.

The tradition of toasting before drinking goes back even further than stories from the English countryside. For centuries, people have added spiced toast to wine to enhance flavour and balance. The practice comes from the Roman custom of placing a piece of toasted bread in the wine to improve its taste and absorb acidity. This link between spiced bread and wine is how the word 'toast' came to be associated with the celebratory act. Toasts became a way to wish everyone health, honour, and good luck.
In "The Odyssey," Ulysses toasted to Achilles' health. In ancient Rome, people raised their glasses to Emperor Augustus at every meal. Other cultures, including the Egyptians, Hebrews, Huns, Persians, and Saxons, also honoured others by raising a glass. In Japan, the custom of toasting is called 'Kampai', which often precedes a shared drink of sake, not just at celebratory events but also in day-to-day social settings. Similarly, in China, the term 'Ganbei' is used, literally meaning 'dry the cup', symbolising camaraderie and respect. So, when you make a toast, you're joining a tradition that's been around for centuries.

Bribie Arts Centre

BRIBIE U3A MASTERS & APPRENTICES

ART EXHIBITION JANUARY 13 - 26, 2026

A showcase of the work created in 2025 across 20 art classes in a range of mediums.

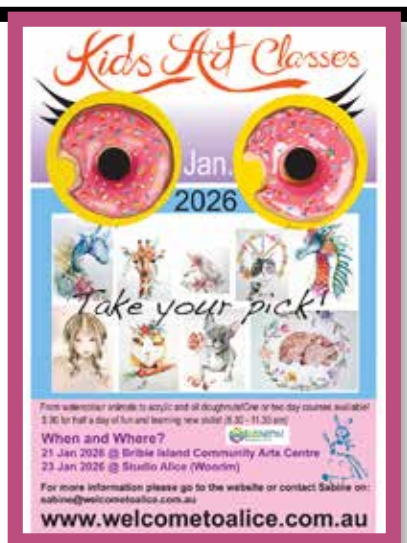
Classes are led by volunteer tutors (Masters) and populated by students (Apprentices) and include the exploration of pen, pencil, acrylic paint, watercolour, mixed media, soft sculpture and silk painting.

With over 200 pieces of art on display, the show includes beginning to advanced groups and most exciting, several students presenting their work for the first time.

The Bribie U3A is a volunteer organisation based on the provision of learning opportunities and offers approximately 150 classes in various subjects each week for members, all tutored by volunteers.

For more information, check online at u3abribie.org.au

WORKSHOPS IN JANUARY



Bribie Island Community Arts Centre, 191 Sunderland Drive Banksia Beach, QLD 4507

Sonnet Wizard

By Ken Fitzgerald

I received an email from Ken Fitzgerald about his effort to write a first Sonnet at the age of 77. The email he wrote was so entertaining that I felt the need to add it as an introduction to his sonnet. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Thanks, Ken, for a great read!

Ken's story is as follows.

I was actually inspired to attempt this after hearing Dame Judi Dench (the well-known actress) beautifully recite Shakespeare's Sonnet 29, off the cuff, on a talk show. It rekindled a dormant interest in the bard's many exceptional works.

I was unaware that he penned more than 150 sonnets before writing any plays.

Having decided to make a first attempt, I diligently set pen to paper (well, actually, finger to keyboard) and proudly sent off the finished product to my younger, more scholarly brother to admire. The reply came back 'I don't wish to denigrate your masterly work, but this seems a more free form of verse than a sonnet!'

I commented that it seemed unfortunate that I had chosen the sole remaining 14-line, 10-syllable, iambic pentameter sonnet purist left in the universe to view my effort ... while hurriedly checking these and the other daunting requirements for potential sonnet writers. A 'volta' line and rhyming couplet?

Three four-line stanzas with different rhyme schemes?

With a new and even more profound admiration for Shakespeare, Milton, Shelley and the like, it was back to the drawing board (well, you know .. keyboard).

Fighting off the urge to follow AI's suggestion re my first attempt 'Would you like me to show you a clean fourteen-line revision that keeps your meaning intact?'

I disdainfully reply, as Shakespeare himself might have 'Oh, mischief, thou art swift to enter in the thoughts of desperate men!' and just manage to reject its entreaties to solve all my sonnet problems for me.

After taxing the few remaining language functions of my cortex and my computer's editing capabilities, a final form emerges. I have used a recent trip for physiotherapy treatment as my inspiration.

The wonderfully kind, personable and attentive woman providing my treatment doesn't realise the impact she has had on my poetic bent, nor that a first sonnet has now been written by an appreciative, if obviously physically disintegrating patient, in her honour.

Sonnet 1:

Kenneth Fitzgerald - October 2025

Quiet Moments

When feeling wan whilst sullen thoughts attest
To loves lost .. ill fate 'pon me abiding
Fortune passed, fame's fleeting call long bereft
Bones, once strong .. beset with pain's bad tiding

Wishing long for sweet voice.. features as your'n
Cursing skin and scars born 'midst trials unseen
And in this state of mind, yet most forlorn
Happily, to chance on thee

Feelings near forgot .. sweet thoughts returning
Bringing such joy and kind disposition
So as to dismiss unfettr'd yearning
For youth begot, dreams most juxt'posit'n'd

Still yet allow quiet moments thou to see
To gather close and hold soft thoughts .. of thee.

BRIBIE ISLAND VIEW CLUB

"Bribie Island VIEW Club held its final lunch for 2025, albeit later than initially planned, thanks to the storm that hit the island on Monday, 24th November.

With short notice, we enjoyed an impromptu lunch at the RSL's Social Cafe, accompanied by much frivolity & laughter.

We extend our appreciation to Louise, Alan and their staff from Serenity Cafe who have been catering our lunches for the last few months.

VIEW Clubs of Australia value education as a priority towards a strong society. As such, we sponsored the Banksia Beach State School's Year 6 PURE Award, which Annakee O'Connor won on Friday, 5th December. Congratulations Annakee.

We will be back again in 2026 in support of The Smith Family and our six Learning For Life students with our first meeting at the Bribie Island Golf Club, Woorim, on Wednesday, 28th January 11:30 for 12 noon.

If you are interested in joining us or coming to one of our lunch meetings to see what we are all about, please get in touch with us via email bribieviewclub@gmail.com or phone Carol **0412 021 697** or Di on **0407 943067**."

Local Poets Shine on the National Stage

The North Pine Bush Poets and Bribie Island Bards are proud to celebrate the recent national successes of Howard Kennedy, whose performances and writing have brought recognition to our vibrant local poetry communities.

At the Australian Bush Poetry Association's Performance Competition, Kennedy gave five solid performances with one that earned him third place in the Yarnspinning Competition affirming his authentic stage presence.

However, it was his writing which gained him the greatest plaudits when he won both the Novice section at the Nationals and the Humour section of the Silver Quill and finished second in the coveted Silver Quill overall.

In a statement Kennedy said he was also pleased to see fellow Queensland poets; Justin Geange and Gerry Mannion from Logan, Peter Frazer from Toowoomba do so well.

Even more pleasing to him was the success of Queensland teenager Ashlyn Krause who won both the junior and novice performance competitions.

To learn more about North Pine Bush Poets or Bribie Poets go to northpinebushpoets.com.au

The Time Detective Christmas

and a forgotten artist

Christmas is full of surprises and sometimes at the Abbey Museum we have our fair share. As we delve deep into the past to discover information and provenance of our various objects, and the stories they can tell, one sometimes stumbles across a heart-warming story of courage and spiritual belief.

Our artefact for this edition is a pen and ink drawing of the Nativity scene, so much a traditional part of Christmas. It comes from an 1863 edition of the Illustrated London News, in the Museum's collection.

The short blurb accompanying the illustration almost dismisses the artist, speaking instead in grandiose terms of the beauties of Renaissance art.

Is this because she is a female artist in a time when it was hard for a woman to aspire to artistic greatness?

The article simply refers to her as the Hon Mrs Richard Boyle, following the usual Victorian period attitude of referring to a lady by her husband's name. But when we went digging to find the artist, a most remarkable person emerged.

Eleanor Vere Gordon Boyle (1925-1916), is best known as an author and book illustrator of extraordinary talent, an artist whose skill won the admiration of the Pre-Raphaelites.

Eleanor was born in Scotland to wealthy parents and began sketching at an early age, although her family made it clear that an artistic career was unsuitable for a lady.

As a result, her drawings, engravings, poems and books are all signed 'EVB' rather than using her own name. At 19 she became engaged to an Anglican minister, the Hon. Richard Boyle, youngest son of the 8th Earl of Cork, and chaplain to Queen Victoria.

Although her marriage was a happy one, and she was a devoted mother, Eleanor lost her husband and all five children before her death, and this brought about a preoccupation – common in Victorian Europe – with spiritualism and the afterlife.

She became a mystic and visionary, greatly influenced by the Symbolist artist, William Blake. Her later drawings have a Tolkienish feel about them, but she was constrained by the conflict between her conventional Anglican beliefs and a growing interest in the afterlife, exemplified by her anthology A Book of Heavenly Birthdays, a series of poems on the subject of leaving this world and entering the next one.

Into her delightful sentimental pictures of happy children and watchful loving parents creep imaginative figures of idealised heavenly angels and dreamlike scenes of paranormal events, where death and life form a tandem pattern.

Her artworks began to attract attention from poets like Alfred Lord Tennyson, leading Pre-Raphaelite artists John Everett Millais and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and even the ruthless art critic, John Ruskin, who wrote 'I never saw anything in modern art approaching them – except the finest thoughts of Millais and Hunt.

These etchings have also a grace and freshness which their works have not'.

In 1872 she illustrated Hans Christian Anderson's Fairy Tales, which allowed full reign to her imagination, especially for the stories with a darker aspect, and three years later created perhaps her greatest work, a retelling and illustration of the story Beauty and the Beast.

One of her published books was Ros Rosarum Ex Horto Poetarum (1885), which translates to "Dew of the Ever-living Rose, Gathered from the Poets' Gardens of Many Lands."

Major poets sent their work to be included in this volume, for which EVB created her own illustrations and poetry. A series of her essays entitled Seven Gardens and a Palace (1900) about her favourite gardens was given to her friend, Queen Alexandra.

So, despite struggling against her family's restrictions on being able to hold an exhibition or sell her work, EVB became one of the greatest illustrators of her time, and an inspiration to later authors and artists. Eleanor's last work was a drawing for Alfred, Lord Tennyson, completed in 1911 titled "Love Hath Us in the Net."

Eleanor Vere Boyle died in Brighton, England on July 29, 1916.

There is a growing appreciation of this forgotten artist, and her artwork is now held in the British Museum, the National Gallery in London and the Royal Collection.

Our connection comes through a long-forgotten newspaper illustration and a foray back through time.

Chasing an Interstellar Visitor from a Banksia Beach Backyard

By Graham Hunt – Banksia Beach

While most of Bribie Island slept through the early hours of Monday 22 December, one Banksia Beach resident was already up, answering a melodic 2 am alarm. My mission was simple in theory but ambitious in practice: capture a glimpse of 3I/ATLAS, a rare interstellar comet quietly passing through our skies.

I'd prepared the night before — tablet charged, Seestar S50 ready, and the comet pre loaded into the app so I could work in complete darkness. Crawling out of bed, I thought, "I hope this isn't all for nothing." I didn't even bother getting dressed. I stepped onto the patio, set up the Seestar facing east, and connected to its Wi Fi.

By 2:55 am I was settled in a chair, tablet in hand, and instructed the Seestar to locate the comet. I couldn't see anything through my binoculars, and my heart dipped. But the Seestar locked onto the coordinates and began recording.

Usually my targets appear quickly, but this one was stubborn. The humidity sat at 95%, the seeing was only fair, and the temperature a warm 23.5 °C. Meanwhile, the mosquitoes were having a field day with my arms and legs. "Damn it… forgot the insect repellent." Too late now — focus on the sky.

Stars slowly appeared on the screen, but warning icons flashed: "Not enough stars — plate discarded." I denoised the plate, which helped, but still no sign of the comet. After eleven minutes of imaging, nothing obvious appeared on the tablet.

A faint capture of interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS, imaged from Banksia Beach using a Seestar S50.

Disappointed, I switched to an easy win — the Orion Nebula — which popped up instantly. Before long, 4 am arrived and I packed up, tired and unsure whether the whole effort had been worth it.

Later that morning, I processed the data in ASI Studio on my computer. And there it was: a faint smudge, barely visible at first glance. Enlarging the image revealed a delicate tail — the unmistakable signature of 3I/ATLAS.

Against the odds — humidity, mozzies, and a stubbornly faint target — I'd captured an interstellar visitor from my own backyard.

It's a small triumph, but one that reminds us that even on a warm, muggy Bribie morning, the universe still has surprises to offer.

What is 3I/ATLAS?

- Only the third known interstellar object to pass through our solar system.
- "Interstellar" means it originated outside our solar system — a true cosmic traveller.
- Discovered by the ATLAS survey, it is extremely faint and challenging to capture, even with modern backyard equipment.

About the Author: Graham Hunt lives in Banksia Beach and spends his early mornings exploring the night sky with his Seestar S50. A retired police officer, he now enjoys documenting local stories, community moments, and the quiet wonders above Bribie Island.

GAME NIGHTS! ON BRIBIE

MONDAY
EUCHRE
Bribie Bowls Club 12.00pm
Contact Annette on 0414622490
TRIVA
Bribie Island Hotel 6.30pm
Bribie Island R.S.L 7.00pm

TUESDAY
BINGO
Bribie Island R.S.L 10.00am
POKER
Bribie Island Hotel 6.30pm

WEDNESDAY
MUSIC BINGO
Bribie Island Hotel 6.30pm
Bribie Island R.S.L 7.00pm
RAFFLES
Solander Lakes Bowls Club - 6.30pm
(tickets on sale from 5:30pm)

THURSDAY
BINGO
Bribie Island R.S.L 7.30pm
RAFFLES
Bribie Island R.S.L Fishing Club 4.30pm
Every Thursday at the RSL prizes are Meat Vouchers from Avondale Meats and Seafood Vouchers from Saviges.

FRIDAY
MEAT TRAY RAFFLES
Bribie Island Bowls Club 4.30pm
Bribie Island Golf Club 5.30
Blue Pacific Hotel (from) 3.00pm
Solander Lakes Bowls Club - 6.30pm
(tickets on sale from 5:30pm)

Enjoy playing 500 Cards?

Join a like-minded group who meet on Monday afternoons at the RSL Anzac Room from 1-4pm.
$5 which includes raffle prize.
Please arrive 10mins before play starts at 1pm
Further information please ring
Carole **0438 713 663**.

MARKETS

Beachmere District Community
The B.D.M.S. Community Markets are held at the Men's Shed 53 Rogers Street Beachmere, every 1st Saturday of the
month 7.30am - 12pm

Bribie Island BIDCA Markets
The Bribie Island BICA Markets are held at Brennan Park, Bongaree, the 3rd Sunday of each month from 6am -12pm

Bribie Rotary Markets
The Rotary Markets are held at Brennan Park, Bongaree on the second Sunday of each month from 6.30am – 12 noon

Queensland Cancer Council
The Cancer Council Markets are held at Brennan Park, Bongaree on the first Sunday of each month from 7am to 12 noon.

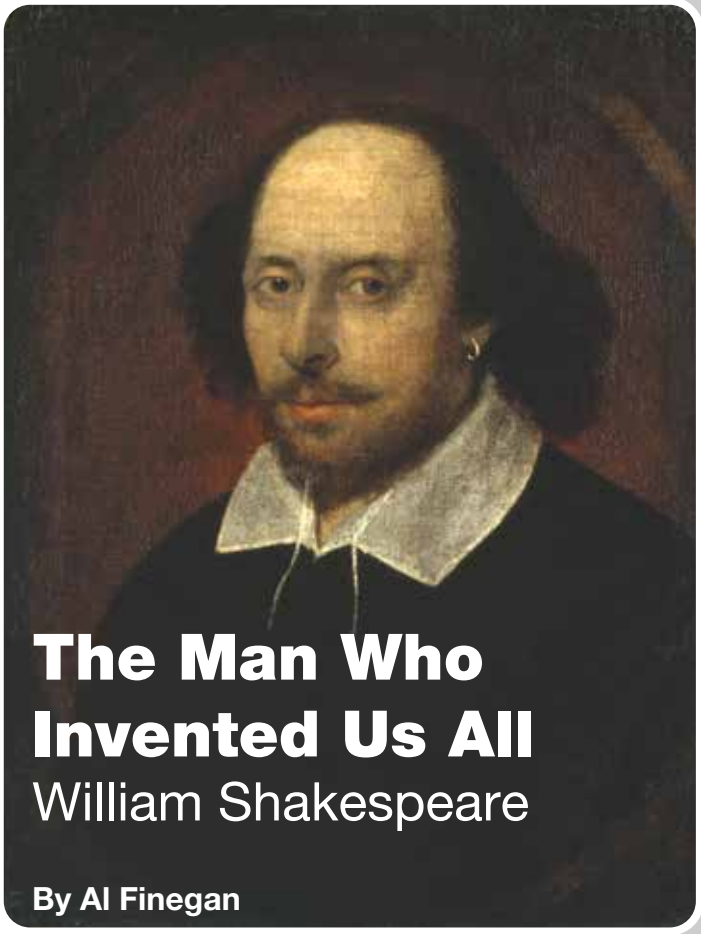
LUNCH MARKETS - Sylvan Beach
(Farmers Market)
First Saturday of each month from 8am to 1pm held in the park opposite the Bribie Island Hotel. Funds raised to E.P.C.S, Ass, 0417629957

Banksia Beach Market
Bribie Harbour Shopping VIllage is held on the last Saturday
of each month 8am to 12pm

The Bribie Island Lions Market
2nd Sat of the month at Tintookie Park Woorim
7am - 1pm.

Bribie Woodcrafters & Bribie Island Gem Club
Open day, Demonstrations & Sales - last Sunday of each month
8am to 12noon Held at Bribie Art Centre
191 Sunderland Dr, Banksia Beach

Mystic Journey Markets change of location
Saturday November 15th ~ 9am ~ 2pm
Saturday December 6th ~ 9am ~ 2 pm
Saturday December 20th ~
9am ~ 2m
4pm ~ 8pm
There is also an outdoor market to run alongside indoor market called This ‘n’ That



The Man Who Invented Us All

William Shakespeare

By Al Finegan

In April 1564, in Stratford-upon-Avon, in a medieval market town in England's West Midlands, a small market town whose timbered houses leaned over narrow lanes, William Shakespeare was born. His father, John Shakespeare, was a glove-maker of some means, a town alderman who knew the scent of tanned leather better than the subtleties of Latin. His mother, Mary Arden, came from sturdy farming stock. William was the third of eight children, a middling start for a man who would end up touching almost every corner of the English-speaking world.

He did indeed touch my senses. In 1961/62, studying in my school years 11 and 12, I had a dear old English teacher who brought Shakespeare to life, and what an experience that was. I can still recall the wonder I felt when studying his plays and sonnets. I can still quote many of his famous lines. Yet in the 1570s, no one could have foreseen greatness in the boy from Stratford. There were no schools of dramatic arts, no obvious stages waiting for him. He was educated at the King's New School, where he learned Latin, and was introduced to the classical tales of Ovid and Seneca - stories of gods, passion, revenge, and fate. These lessons must have fermented quietly inside him, ready to blossom years later into Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, and Macbeth.

We know little about his youth - a mystery that invites speculation. Some believe he was a poacher in nearby Charlecote Park. Others say he worked as a teacher or lawyer's clerk. What is certain is that Shakespeare grew up amid a changing England, an era vibrating with new discovery, trade, and language. At his birth, English was still rough and provincial. By the time he died, it had been stretched, twisted, and sung into the flexible instrument that would carry the works of Dickens, Austen, and even Lennon. Much of that metamorphosis came from the pen of one man.

At just eighteen, Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, a farmer's daughter eight years his senior, already pregnant, and William was likely more terrified than smitten. They had three children - Susanna, then twins Hamnet and Judith. Marriage in the Elizabethan age was practical, not romantic, and it is not known whether William loved Anne deeply or dutifully. Yet the emotional range of his later love of poetry was deeply ingrained with tenderness, jealousy, longing, and remorse. This suggests a man who intimately understood love's complexities.

By the late 1580s, Shakespeare had vanished from the records. These are known as the "lost years," a seven-year silence that historians fill with conjecture. Did he flee Stratford to avoid a lawsuit? Join a travelling troupe? Or, as romantic legend claims, flee after being caught poaching deer from a noble's estate? Whatever the truth, he reappeared in London in the early

1590s as an actor and playwright whose name was beginning to draw attention.
It was there that he met the city's intellectual elite, the poets, players, and patrons of a society hungry for entertainment. His Sonnets, 154 in all, expose a Shakespeare rarely glimpsed in public life - passionate toward a "fair youth," tortured by desire for a "dark lady," and torn between lust, loyalty, and guilt. Some scholars suggest the fair youth was Henry Wriothesley, the Earl of Southampton, his patron and perhaps more. The dark lady, with her "raven black eyes" and "breath reeking of foulness," may have been a real woman of London's underbelly, or has been suggested, merely the embodiment of temptation.

Through his poems we glimpse a Shakespeare who knew both the ecstasy and anguish of love. He wrote of its purity and corruption, its capacity to elevate and destroy, themes that would spill magnificently into Othello, Antony and Cleopatra, and Romeo and Juliet.

By 1592, Shakespeare had made his mark on London's bustling theatre scene. The playwright Robert Greene sneered at him as, "… an upstart crow, beautified with our feathers - a country boy daring to outshine university-educated dramatists." Greene's insult was proof that Shakespeare had arrived.

London's theatres were rowdy, democratic spaces. Audiences shouted, ate, drank, and hurled orange peels and eggs at bad actors. Plays were performed in open-air venues like The Theatre, The Rose, and later, The Globe. The city teemed with energy, plague, poverty, pickpockets, and brilliance. Amid this chaos, Shakespeare joined the Lord Chamberlain's Men, a company that would become the era's most celebrated troupe.

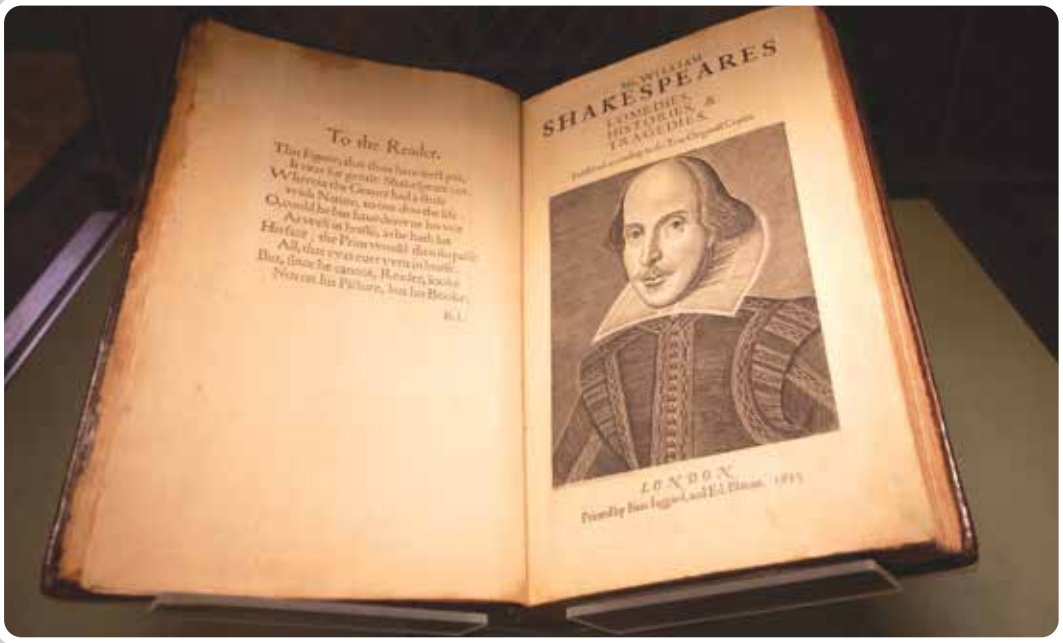
He became not just a writer but an actor and part-owner, a rare combination that gave him both creative control and financial stability. His fellow shareholders, including the great actor Richard Burbage, performed before peasants and queens alike. It was a time when the English stage was the beating heart of public life, and Shakespeare's words became the pulse.

His productivity was astonishing. Between roughly 1590 and 1613, he wrote thirty-seven plays and two long poems. The early histories, Henry VI, Richard III, celebrated England's past and pleased patriotic crowds.

The comedies, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Much Ado About Nothing , all danced with wit and mistaken identity. The tragedies, Hamlet, Othello, King Lear, and Macbeth, plumbed the depths of human despair.

The late romances, The Tempest, Cymbeline, and The Winter's Tale, glowed with forgiveness and faith in renewal. Each period mirrors Shakespeare's own life stages of youthful exuberance, middle-aged cynicism, and finally serene wisdom.

Shakespeare's characters are not merely figures on a page, they are mirrors of ourselves, bursting with contradictions, fears, and desires. Hamlet, perhaps his greatest creation, is the eternal doubter. He questions life, death, morality, and action, the restless intellect that cannot find peace. Through Hamlet, Shakespeare captured the modern condition centuries before modernity existed. "To be, or not to be" is not simply a line, it is the perpetual human riddle.



Falstaff, that corpulent rogue of Henry IV and The Merry Wives of Windsor, is joy embodied, witty, cowardly, self-deluded, and irresistibly alive. He teaches us that folly can be wisdom in disguise, and that laughter is sometimes the only rebellion against decay.

Juliet is youth's purity and impulsive love, Othello, honour twisted by jealousy, Lady Macbeth, ambition unchained, Lear, the tragic blindness of age, and Prospero, the aging magician, Shakespeare's own farewell to the world of illusion.

Each character speaks across centuries because they are not bound by their times. When Lear howls over the dead Cordelia, every parent who has lost a child feels it. When Iago whispers deceit, we recognise the office schemer or the politician's spin. When Viola cross-dresses and finds freedom, we glimpse the ongoing struggle for identity.

In his hands, humanity expanded. Before Shakespeare, kings and clowns spoke as types. After him, they spoke as people.

Perhaps Shakespeare's greatest legacy is not his plots or characters but his transformation of the English language. Before him, English was a mongrel language, part Saxon, part French, part Latin, still finding its rhythm. He took that rough tongue and moulded it into poetry capable of expressing the full range of human emotion.

He coined or popularised more than 1,700 words including assassination, lonely, swagger, majestic, obscene, bedazzled, cold-blooded, eyeball, and eventful. His phrases became idioms: "foregone conclusion," "break the ice," "wild-goose chase," "love is blind," "the world's my oyster." His linguistic daring gave English a flexibility unmatched by any other language.

He understood sound and rhythm instinctively. Consider the powerful beat of Macbeth: "Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, Creeps in this petty pace from day to day." The repetition, the trudging metre, mirror despair itself. In Julius Caesar, he captured ambition and guilt in a single sentence, "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves." Through such lines, Shakespeare taught us to speak our inner feelings.

Even more remarkable was his ability to elevate ordinary speech. He wrote for everyone, from the groundlings who paid a penny to stand in the mud, to the nobles who watched from cushioned seats. His language swung between the bawdy and the sublime, often in the same breath. That democratic music remains the lifeblood of English.

Despite his fame, Shakespeare the person remains elusive. He left no diaries, few letters, and only a handful of signatures. His contemporaries speak of him warmly but vaguely, "gentle Shakespeare," "of open and free nature." The lack of detail has spawned conspiracy theories. Perhaps he was Francis Bacon, Christopher Marlowe, or even Queen Elizabeth herself in disguise. But the simplest explanation is often the truest. He was a working playwright, too busy writing to chronicle his life. His plays are his autobiography, written not in confession but in observation.

He retired to Stratford around 1613, having made a comfortable fortune. His grand house, New Place, became his refuge. There he watched his daughters marry, his fortunes grow, and perhaps his health decline. In 1616, at the age of fifty-two, Shakespeare died. The cause remains unknown. His epitaph, carved on his tomb in Holy Trinity Church, warns grave-robbers away: "Good friend, for Jesus' sake forbear, To dig the dust enclosed here. Blest be the man that spares these stones, And cursed be he that moves my bones." It worked, his bones have never been disturbed.

Four centuries on, Shakespeare's influence is inescapable. He is quoted more than any other writer in English, his stories retold endlessly, from West Side Story (Romeo and Juliet) to The Lion King (Hamlet), from Kurosawa's Throne of Blood (Macbeth) to 10 Things I Hate About You (The Taming of the Shrew).

His characters populate every culture. Each generation remakes him. Victorian moralists turned him into a national saint, Romantic poets saw him as divine inspiration, modern directors discover in him feminism, psychology, and politics. He belongs to everyone … and to no one.

Shakespeare's greatest magic may be that he vanishes behind his work. We never quite see the man, only his reflection in countless mirrors: Hamlet's doubt, Lear's folly, Rosalind's wit, Prospero's resignation. Each reveals a facet of him, and through him, of us.

It is sometimes said that before Shakespeare, characters in plays spoke for humanity. After him, they spoke as humanity. He gave us permission to be complex, contradictory, and unfinished.

When we read his sonnets today, the language still stirs like warm blood, "Love is not love Which alters when it alteration finds."

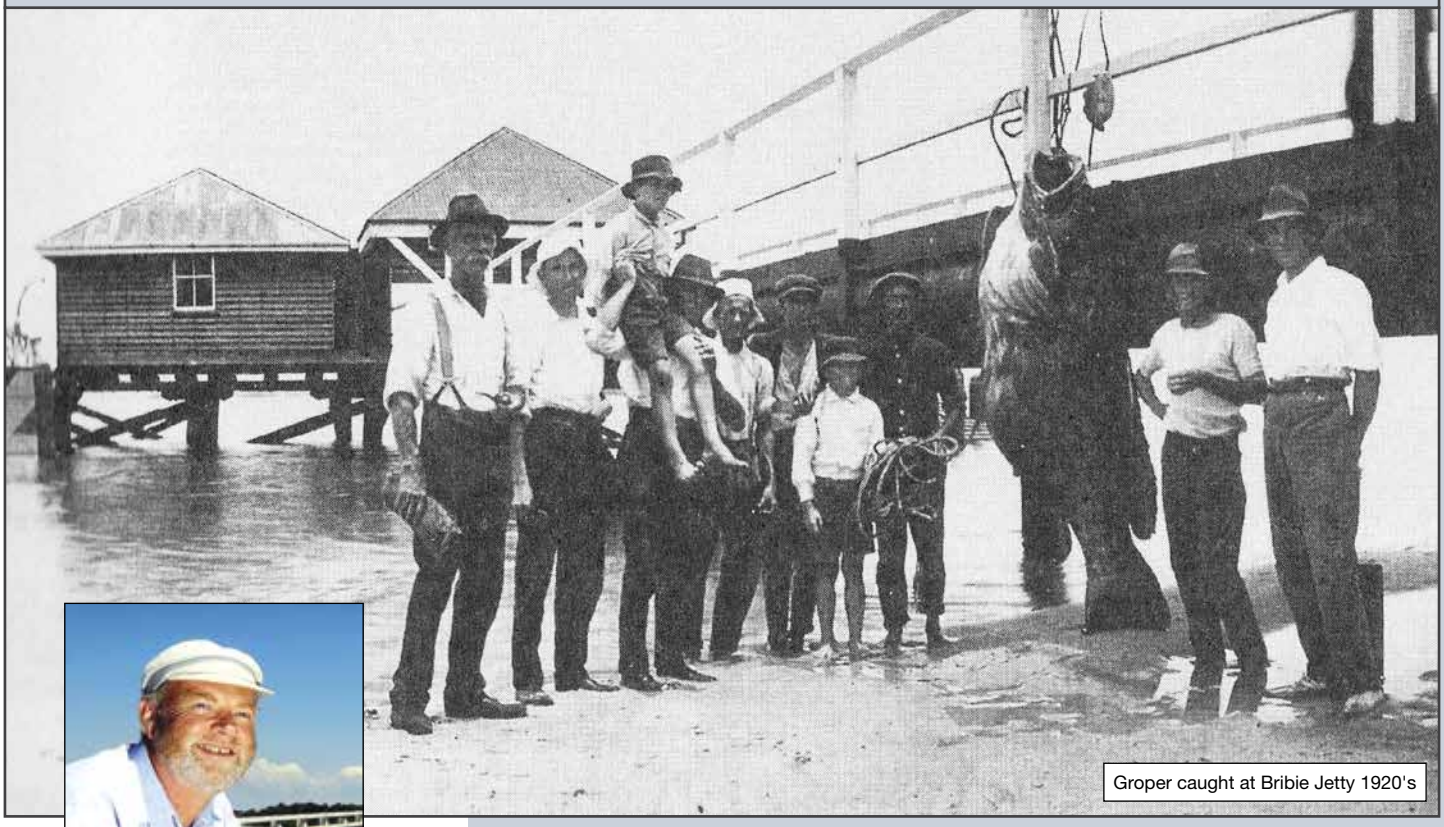
These lines remind us that love, like art, endures through change. Perhaps Shakespeare wrote them for a fair youth or dark lady, or perhaps he wrote them for all of us, for the enduring power of creation itself.

He lived in an age when plague closed the theatres, yet he kept writing. He saw monarchs fall and friends die, yet his words reached beyond death. He understood the fragile beauty of human existence and preserved it in rhythm and rhyme. Every English speaker, knowingly or not, lives in Shakespeare's linguistic shadow. We use his turns of phrase daily, often without realising it. He shaped not only our language but the very way we think and feel.

Four hundred years after his death, the boy from Stratford still speaks to the world with undiminished force. He invites us to laugh, to weep, to wonder, and above all, to understand ourselves. As Ben Jonson, his rival and friend, wrote in tribute, "He was not of an age, but for all time."

And so the curtain never truly falls. The stage lights remain, the audience leans forward, and somewhere, deep in the human voice that seeks expression, Shakespeare still whispers, "All the world's a stage."

FASCINATING BRIBIE HISTORY



Groper caught at Bribie Jetty 1920's

Barry Clark - Bribie Island Historical Society

Bribie experienced the devastating impact of a violent storm last November, from which we are still cleaning up. People asked me about previous extreme weather events, so this article reflects on some historical climatic events.

In 1954 the devastating Gold Coast Cyclone hit Bribie Island causing immense sand erosion, flooding and damage with ferocious winds and high storm surges that reshaped the island, The resident population of Bribie was less than 200 in 1954, so few written accounts or Photos exist.

It created widespread destruction and blew the two wooden buildings off the end of Bongaree jetty, that you can see in the 1920's title header photo. Caching huge Groper off the jetty was a regular occurrence in the 1920's.

RECORD RAINFALL

The greatest daily rainfall ever recorded in Australia was 133 years ago in February 1893 over this whole area, resulting in destruction and flooding in Brisbane and SE Queensland.

The record was officially measured as 907mm of rain in one 24-hour period by Inigo Jones, Government weather forecaster, at his family home at Crohamhurst near Peachester on 3rd February 1893. After several days of rain, he measured almost a meter of rain falling in just that one day. The many creeks that run into Pumicestone Passage carried vast quantities of soil that silted it up to the shallow waterway that it is today.

Prior to that the Passage was a busy waterway for ships travelling to and from Caloundra and a large timber mill at Campbellville on Coochin creek.

There was nobody on Bribie to record that rainfall in 1893, but it had a big impact on the many Oyster leases along the Passage leading to a Mud Worm infestation that destroyed the significant commercial Oyster operations.

CHANGES OVER TIME

Bribie has only been an island for a few thousand years, and 12,000 years the whole of Moreton Bay was dry land with the coastline east of Moreton Island.

Over a period of 8000 years the sea level rose by 140 metres, slowly creating Moreton Bay and the many islands. All around Australia indigenous people adapted to constant climate change.

In last 100 years ocean beaches and sand dunes on Bribie have receded up to 150 metres resulting in several recent breaches in the sand spit of north Bribie.

Cyclones were given names by Clement Wragge, a weather forecaster from late 1890's, who had the nickname "WET", but this lapsed when he died in 1902, and giving Cyclones alphabetically female names was reintroduced by BOM in 1963.

Several Oyster leases and Fish canneries operated on Bribie around 1900, but permanent residents did not come until the Jetty was built in 1912.

This was the start of a major tourism business for Bribie when thousands of visitors came by Steamship from Brisbane, via Redcliffe, for camping and fishing holidays. The first car was floated to Bribie in 1918, long before the first road was built in 1924.

If you enjoy reading my regular articles about Bribie History, I extend an invitation to join me for 10 weekly sessions about Fascinating Bribie History on Thursday mornings at U3A.

See the Poster on this page and you can enrol ONLY on **January 22 and 23** at U3A centre for Weekly classes on Thursday morning for 10 weeks of Term 1 from 10;30am to noon for just $15.

I present different periods of Bribie History each week for discussion as there is so much fascinating history here, both long ago and more recently.

MORE BRIBIE HISTORY

Historical Society meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at 6;30pm at the RSL Club and visitors are always welcome. See more stories & photos of Bribie history on Web site **Bribiehistoricalsociety.org.au** and Blog **http://bribieislandhistory.blogspot.com** or contact us on **bribiehistoricalsociety@gmail.**com

FASCINATING
BRIBIE HISTORY

Thursday morning classes for Term 1 at Bribie U3A
by Local Historian, Author & U3A Tutor

BARRY CLARK

"Bibie Island and Pumicestone Passage has more History, written and unwritten than any other place in Queensland" (Stan Tutt)

Anyone who loves Bribie will be amazed to learn about some of the remarkable people and events that happened here over the years.

NEW MEMBER ENROLMENT AT U3A CENTRE
RECREATION HALL . FIRST AVENUE
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Weekly classes from Jan 29 to April 2

SPORTS PAGES

BRIBIE ISLAND BOWLS CLUB

Self Select Pairs Results Friday AM 12 December 2025
Winners: M Gittins, V McDermott
Runners up: M James, N Gray
Winning draw: C Smith, J Buckmaster
Encouragement award: T Turnbull, B Turnbull

Self Select Pairs Results Friday PM 12 December 2025
Winners: K Ford, D Kaatz
Runners up: B Svensson, G Hartley
Winning draw: K Thornton, B Ferguson
Winning draw: W Kelly, G Olsen
Encouragement draw: W Ebert, G Duncan

Self Select Random Fours Results Saturday 13 December 2025
Winners: L Williams, I Smith, P Bennett, C Cross
Runners up: D Charlwood, M Aubin, Y McDonald, R Cross
Winning draw: G Frew, L Savige, L Hackwood, A Riseham
Winning draw: W Manson, S Brown, S Barringhaus, G Winter

Self select Open Triples Results Tuesday 16 December 2025
Winners: C Christiansen, M Cole, C Ormerod
Runners up: J Oliver, K Piva, N Piva
Winning draw: J Bell, D Vaughan, C McMillan
Winning draw: L De-Roule, G Hull, B Castle
Winning draw: T Turnbull, S Mitchell, B Turnbull
Encouragement: I McLaren, L Wright, D McDougall

Scroungers Results Wednesday 17 December 2025
1st: D Heath
2nd: J Muller
3rd: M Cole

Self Select Pairs Results Wednesday AM 17th December 2025
Winners: J Teakle, I Teakle
Runners up: L Murphy, J Oliver
Lucky draw: K Mulpeter, G Mulpeter

Self Select Pairs Results Wednesday PM 17th December 2025
Winners: G Kirby, A Buckmaster
Runners up: K Piva, M Prewett
Winning draw: S Hosie, N Gray
Winning draw: D McDougall, W McDougal
Winning draw: G Riley, F Crocket
Encouragement: T Ridley, W Broad

Self Select Triples Results Thursday 18th December 2025
Winners: G Frew, R Leth, L Stanford
Runners up: P Conn, K Muller, E Polloni
Winning draw: D Draper, B Hamer, B Ward
Encouragement: I Smith, K Brown, N Jordin
Self Select Open Pairs Results Friday AM 19th December 2025
Winners: M Brenner, M Bonollo
Runners up: M Gittens, V McDermott
Winning draw: B Smith, S Telfer
Encouragement: S O'Neill, J Colman

Self Select Open Pairs Results Friday PM 19th December 2025
Winners: D Ackroyd, W McDougall
Runners up: G Gunter, J Prowle
Winning draw: K Ford, D Kaatz
Winning draw: K Thornton, B Ferguson
Winning draw: G Denkel, R Avern
Encouragement: R Hicks, C Fowler

Random Select Open Fours Results Saturday 20th December 2025
Winners: G Coleman, P Barringhaus, P Bennett
Runners up: P Gee, W Ogrodniczek , R Follett, S Barringhaus
Winning draw: I Smith, K Muller, J Adams, D Gilbert

Self Select Triples Results Tuesday 23rd December 2025
Winners: L Tweddle, G McEniery, F Crockett, G Riley
Runners up: P Mann, L Murphy, A Sturm
Winning draw: B Turnbull, T Turnbull, S Mitchell
Winning draw: W McDougal, D McDougal, L Wright
Encouragement: P McQueen, R McDermott, B Thirlwell, G Pincott

SOLANDER LAKE BOWLS RESULTS

Tuesday 23 December 2025 - Club Select Triples -
Winners - Grant Riley, Stephen O'Grady, Leonie Schmidt
2nd - Martin Jones, Brad Storey, John Sly
3rd - Des Stewart, Stan Hillen, Graham Hubbard
Wednesday 24 December 2025 - Self Select Pairs
Winners - Ian James, Rob Horsfall
2nd - Wayne Mitchell, Raie Stuart
3rd - Wally Schmidt, Rob Henshaw
Thursday 25 December 2025 - No games
Friday 26 December 2025 - No games
Saturday 27 December 2025 - No games
Tuesday 30 December 2025 - Club Select Triples / Fours
Winners - Mike Jones, Paul Bavage, Beryl Moor, Graham Hubbard
2nd - Gavin Dunlop, Ann Larsen, Beryl Cowperthwaite, Gary Pincott
3rd - Trevor Rennick, Dianne Nock, Steve Jameson
Wednesday 31 December 2025 - Club Select Pairs / Triples
Winners - Paul Dixon, Tony Grimmond, Chris Jenkins
2nd - Pete Neilson, Eric Holliday
Thursday 1 January 2026 - Self Select Fours -
Winners - Jenny Jameson, Keith Reithmuller, Andy Ives, Steve Jameson
2nd - Julie Watson, Paul Bavage, Anne Ager, Stuart Ager
Friday 2 January 2026 - No games
Saturday 3 January 2026 - Club Select Triples -
Winners - Vanessa Smith, Beryl Cowperthwaite, Ricci Harris
2nd - Sheron Strasser, Brad Storey, Jenni Cummins

Play On! Sports Vouchers: Opening Doors for Queensland Kids

Queensland families, get ready: Round 2 of the Play On! The Sports Vouchers program opens on 29 January 2026, offering another chance for children to get moving, connect with their peers, and discover new passions.

Imagine your child lacing up their shoes for the first time, joining a local club, or finally getting the chance to try a sport they've always wanted to play. Programs like Play On! don't just help kids stay healthy—they help them build confidence, make lifelong friends, and feel a sense of belonging.

Whether your child is new to organised sport or a seasoned participant, these vouchers can open doors. The benefits go beyond the field or court; they're about supporting family budgets, strengthening communities, and encouraging the next generation to embrace active, social lifestyles.

The Play On! Sports Vouchers program is all about breaking down barriers to participation. By easing the financial burden, these vouchers empower families to help their kids join local clubs, discover new sports, and stay active in their communities. It's a win for health, fun, and community spirit.

Every Queensland child aged 5 to 17 is eligible for one voucher each financial year. However, if your child already scored a voucher in Round 1 (August/September 2025), they'll have to sit this round out. For everyone else, mark your calendars and be ready to apply when applications go live.

Here's what you need to know:

- **Each voucher is worth up to $200.**
- **Vouchers are released in two rounds—perfect for both summer and winter sports.**
- **Only one voucher per child, per financial year.**
- **Special allocations are set aside for children living in regional and remote Queensland.**
- **More accessible sports are included, ensuring that children of all abilities have the chance to play.**

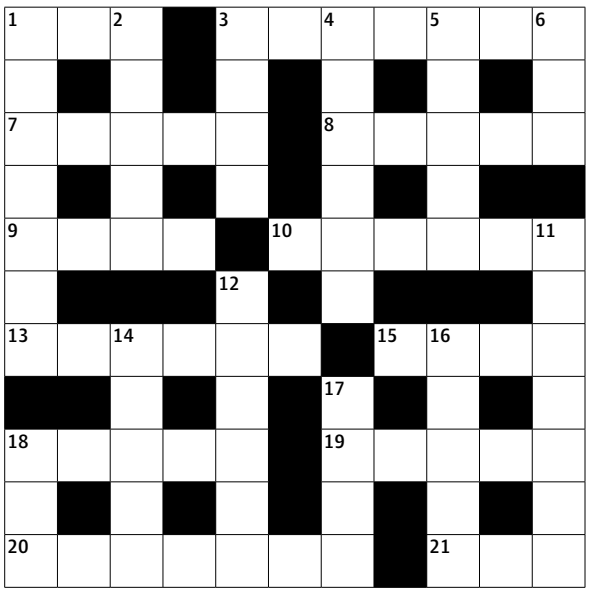
How can you use your voucher?

You can put the Play On! Sports Voucher towards membership or participation costs—think weekly game fees, coaching, facility access, or even special events. It's designed to make getting involved more affordable for every family.

So, as the new round opens, don't let this opportunity pass you by. Take advantage of the Play On! Sports Vouchers to help your child find their passion, boost their confidence, and build lifelong connections.

With a little support, every Queensland child can step onto the field, the court, or the track—and start their own story of fun, friendship, and achievement.

Crosswords - QUICK & CRYPTIC



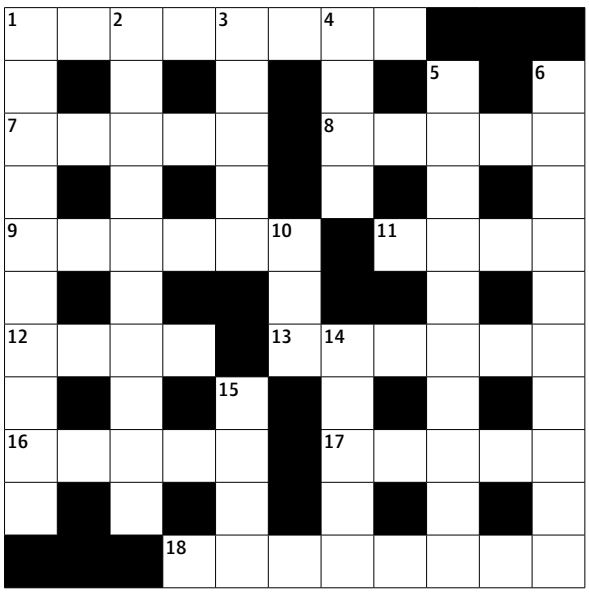
Across

1 In conclusion, saga – historical novel – showing everything (3)
3 Hopeless has-been, I'm prone to wail (7)
7 Some income taxed: it whizzes by (5)
8 Leaders of republics allied; trade is orchestrated in proportion (5)
9 Playing actor's role that's primarily ... this? (4)
10 Composer of Harlem Renaissance? (6)
13 Taking finals, skip a class, set to anger one reading lessons? (6)
15 Partially depict vast tale (4)
18 Wrongdoer – but lifelong? Not entirely (5)
19 Partly reduced 'budget items': that's a joke (3,2)
20 Silly magenta label (4,3)
21 Raptor on wing, lethal principally (3)

Down

1 Coppola mixed a drink (7)
2 Cathedral quite grim: au revoir finally, Primate (5)
3 Bought up The Times at the outset – or in the end? (4)
4 Somewhat inhuman (or maniacal) invader (6)
5 At last, rush to resort like hell to find holiday accommodation (5)
6 Intros in esoteric grandiloquent opera displaying self-importance (3)
11 Show rewritten article (7)
12 Bent on mending headgear (6)
14 In the end, there's a moral tale from American city (5)
16 Factor in anticipation of garden feature (5)
17 Diva, soloing: so thrilling – ultimately excited (4)
18 Frolic, ecstatically naked to begin with, in bog (3)

CRYPTIC



Across

1 Travel document in father's Golf, maybe (8)
7 Memorise line to get paid (5)
8 Already arranged introductions to plumbers regarding iron oxide's reappearance (5)
9 Broken hinges making horse-like noises (6)
11 Dictator's to obstruct united countries (4)
12 Organised Germany's currency (4)
13 Filter liquid dessert (6)
16 Spread misinformation around regarding Greenland's economy, primarily (5)
17 I tear around, furious (5)
18 Logical and firm, that man gets payment from lodger (8)

Down

1 Friend in Dutch capital city is deified, perhaps (10)
2 Writing materials still to be picked up (10)
3 Quietly shuffle a little bit (5)
4 Mature heads to run international peace event (4)
5 William, from town in Greater Manchester, provides deed transferring property (4,2,4)
6 Monitor steady temperature in 10,000m race, for example (5,5)
10 Drunk initially slags off Trump (3)
14 Move up level, reportedly (5)
15 Damaged dome in protest (4)

SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC SOLUTION

QUICK SOLUTION

KIDS'

SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES

Sudoku

1		3		4	
	6		2		3
	4	6	3		1
3		2	4	6	
2		1		5	
	5		1		2

FIND A WORD

T V O B M S O B S S
R Z R Y O N S E N S
O Y S G J O C R A A
B L S I E T C B E L
B O B C C E D U J C
I O X R Y R E S Z L
E H Y U O W S R K B
J C Z L O F K B D E
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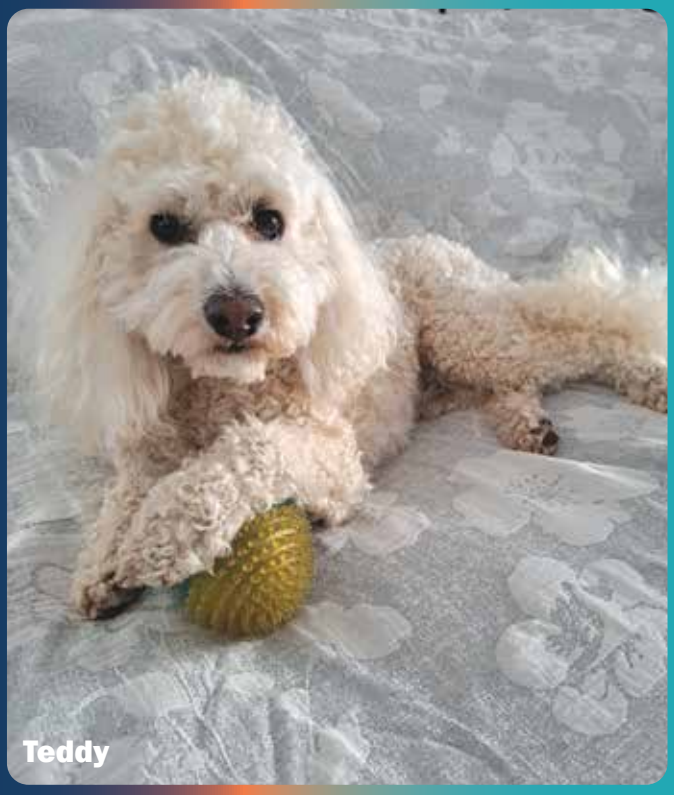

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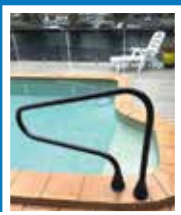

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Do you need renters' insurance?

Many people in Australia are unsure about how renting and insurance work. A lot of renters think that because the landlord has insurance, their own belongings are protected too. But if there's a fire, the landlord's policy usually only covers the building and fixtures.

Your furniture, electronics, books, and other personal items are not included. Simply put, if you brought it with you, it's up to you to insure it.

Only about one in three renters in Australia have insurance. This is partly because many people don't fully understand their responsibilities, and also because of the cost. Students and families on lower incomes often rent, and when money is tight, insurance can seem less important.

The good news is that renter's insurance is usually quite affordable in Australia. For example, you can often get about $30,000 of contents cover for a two-bedroom apartment for around $250 a year, which is less than the cost of a monthly takeaway meal.

Before you choose a renters insurance policy, here are a few important things to keep in mind:

Depreciated value or replacement cost: The cheapest policies pay out what your lost, damaged, or stolen items are worth now, which is called depreciated value.

So, if you have an old TV, you might only get a small amount. Policies that cost a bit more—usually about 10% higher premiums—cover the replacement cost. That means if your sofa is ruined by a burst pipe, you'll get enough to buy a new one at today's prices.

Per item limits: Make a list of your belongings and know their value before you get insurance. Policies often set limits for individual items like jewellery. If you own something valuable, like a family heirloom or an engagement ring, you might want to add extra coverage.

Pick your peril: There are two main types of cover for your belongings. A defined events policy lists the specific things you're protected against, like theft or fire. An accidental damage policy covers most things unless they are specifically excluded. If you have any unusual risks, check your policy to see what's included.

Personal liability: Many renters insurance policies in Australia include personal liability cover. Contents insurance protects your things, while personal liability insurance helps if you're found legally responsible for injuring someone or damaging their property, even outside your home.

For example, if someone trips and gets hurt in your apartment, liability cover can help pay for their medical bills or legal costs.

Choose an excess: Just like with car or health insurance, renters' contents insurance has an excess. This is the amount you pay towards a claim before your insurer covers the rest. A higher excess usually means you'll pay lower premiums, and a lower excess means higher premiums.

If you already have insurance, like car insurance, think about bundling your policies with the same company. Many insurers offer discounts to existing customers. You can also lower your premiums by adding safety features to your rental, such as deadlocks, security screens, or smoke alarms.

If you're renting a home or apartment in Australia, renters' insurance is a smart way to protect your belongings. Make a list of your belongings and compare policies from different insurers. You may find it's easier and more affordable than you think.

The Allure of Luxury:

EXPLORING THE WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE FLOWERS

In today's world, giving a bouquet has become much more than just a simple gesture—it's an expression of art, emotions, and social status. While beautiful flowers can be found in even the tiniest gardens, some blooms come with hefty price tags, making them symbols of luxury and prestige.

One of the most famous high-priced flowers is the "Kadupul Flower," native to Sri Lanka. This rare flower is special because it only blooms at night and wilts before the sun rises, making it almost mythical. Because it can't be cultivated or sold commercially, its scarcity adds to its magical appeal.

Another flower that has garnered attention for its extraordinary cost is the "Shenzhen Nongke Orchid." This flower was specially developed by scientists in China and took eight years to grow. When it was finally sold at auction in 2005, it fetched an astonishing $200,000!

Owning this orchid not only showcases financial wealth but also reflects a deep appreciation for the hard work and creativity behind its cultivation. The "Liu Ying" flower, a type of blue rose, is also highly sought after for its unique appearance. Blue roses don't occur naturally, making them rare and valuable. They represent what many aspire to achieve and highlight the desire for something truly special.

In the realm of luxury floral design, there's the "Franchise Flower," which can cost over $15,000 for a single arrangement.

These flowers are often used in lavish events and weddings, showcasing extravagance and the lengths people will go to create unforgettable experiences.

The desire for such luxurious flowers often reflects a wish to display wealth and sophistication, reinforcing the idea that flowers can symbolise status as much as they represent beauty.

While it might be easy to view these pricey flowers as mere luxuries for the wealthy, they raise interesting questions about art, nature, and human desire. Why do we assign such high value to these fleeting treasures?

Perhaps it's because they not only represent beauty but also highlight our complex desires. In a world that constantly seeks to elevate the ordinary, these flowers remind us of our longing for the extraordinary.

As we explore the themes of luxury and desire, it becomes clear that the most expensive flowers are more than just pretty arrangements; they carry stories of hard work, creativity, and our never-ending quest for something exceptional.

Though many of us may never own these rare blossoms, their stories inspire us to appreciate the beauty in the flowers we do have.

After all, you don't need to spend a fortune to enjoy nature—sometimes, the simplest flowers can hold the deepest meanings.

Why Your Bathroom Needs a Plant (or two)

Let's be honest: most bathrooms aren't exactly the most exciting rooms in the house. But there's an easy way to change that—just add a plant. Or even a couple! Suddenly, your bathroom goes from bland and basic to a little oasis you actually look forward to spending time in.

Here's the thing: plants don't just look good. They help freshen the air, keep things feeling less stuffy, and add a splash of colour where you'd least expect it. Got a steamy, low-light bathroom?

Perfect! Ferns, pothos, and even orchids actually love those conditions. Not a plant expert? No worries. Even a simple succulent or a vase of fresh flowers on the counter can make a big difference, no green thumb required.

Beyond making your bathroom prettier, having something alive and green in there can actually boost your mood. It's like a tiny reminder to slow down, breathe, and enjoy the space—even if you're just brushing your teeth or jumping in the shower. In a world where we're always rushing, a little bit of nature in the bathroom is a welcome pause.

And let's be real: it's fun to get a little creative. Try hanging a plant from the shower rod or let a vine trail along a shelf. If you're short on space, a mini cactus or a little air plant can fit just about anywhere. For those with more room, a big leafy monstera or snake plant can give your bathroom a spa-like vibe with hardly any effort.

Don't worry about being perfect — plants are surprisingly forgiving, especially in the bathroom. If you forget to water them, the humidity might help them out. And if a leaf or two goes brown, just trim it back and let the rest do its thing. It's all about adding a little life and cheer to a space we use every day.

So next time you're at the store, grab a small plant or a bunch of flowers for your bathroom. You'll be surprised at how much it brightens your day (and your space). And hey, your bathroom deserves it!

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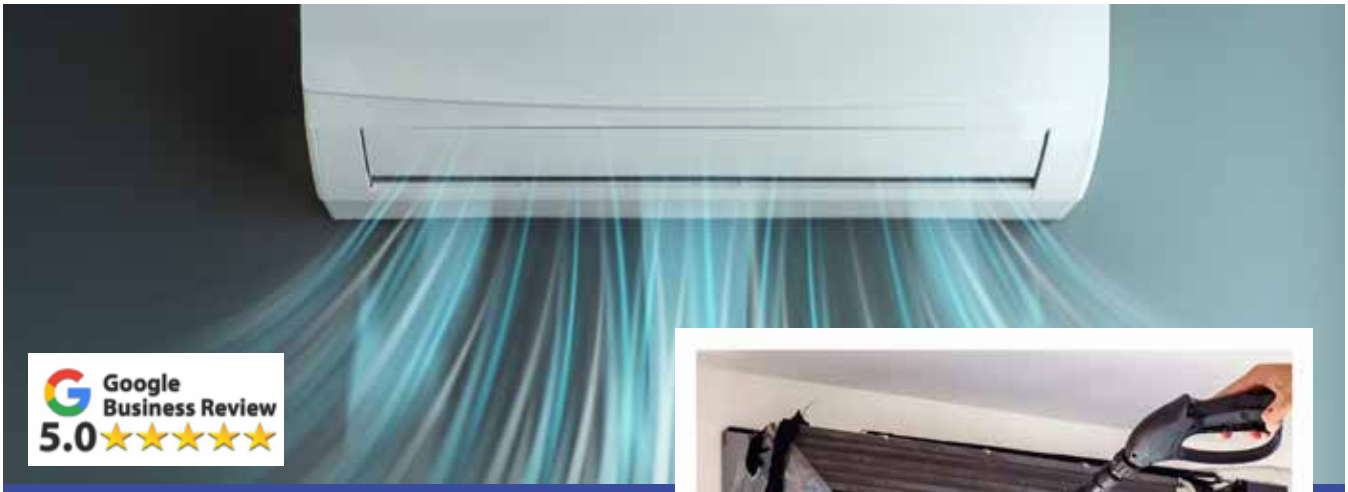

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Have you ever wondered what your house smells say about you?

Does the way your home smells make guests want to come in or stay outside?

When someone visits your home, what do you think they notice first? Maybe your favourite sideboard, the entryway, or your clean wood floors? Unfortunately, these details can be overshadowed if your house smells musty or like a wet dog.

Smell is a powerful sense and can easily take over if something unpleasant is in the air. The way your home smells leaves a lasting impression, so scent matters just as much as appearance. And of course, you're the one living there every day.

If you want your home to smell pleasant, there are plenty of choices. Some people prefer citrus scents, while others go for incense or patchouli. Vanilla is known for its relaxing effect, and studies show it's actually the most popular air freshener scent.

Lavender is a nice floral option, and if you like something fresher, lemon or orange works well. Where you live can also influence the scent of your home. Citrus often brings to mind sunny, breezy places, while earthy smells like pine are common in mountain cabins.from your own garden. Bringing these scents indoors adds a fresh touch and looks great, too.

Try placing magnolia or honeysuckle on your kitchen or dining table for a lovely aroma. For a more earthy scent, fresh pine needles, rosemary, or cedar also work well.

Ways to Add Scent to Your Home

After you choose a scent you like, there are several ways to make your home smell great. If you enjoy strong, fresh, or floral aromas, you can use air fresheners.

Some come as jelly discs in decorative holders, while others plug into the wall and warm scented oils. You might also try scented candles, sprays, oil diffusers, or even home air cleaners if you want to invest a bit more.

If you prefer a natural approach, there are many options. Incense can fill your home with a specific scent, though some people avoid it because of the smoke. Essential oils, made from plants, offer a way to add fragrance without artificial ingredients.

Soy candles burn cleaner than regular candles and often use essential oils for their scent. You can also mix essential oils with water to create a simple, natural spray.

One of the nicest ways to bring natural scent into your home is with flowers. You can buy arrangements or cut flowers from a shop or pick some from your own garden. Bringing these scents indoors adds a fresh touch and looks great, too.

Try placing magnolia or honeysuckle on your kitchen or dining table for a lovely aroma. For a more earthy scent, fresh pine needles, rosemary, or cedar also work well.

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BENCHTOP CLEANING TIPS

FOR AUSSIE KITCHENS

There's no single way to clean every benchtop. Granite, timber, laminate, and other surfaces all need different care to stay looking great.

Before you clean a spill, check what your benchtop needs. These tips will help keep your surfaces in top shape.

Granite

Granite is a tough, stylish stone. Avoid acidic cleaners or vinegar—use warm water, a little detergent, and a soft sponge. Make sure it's sealed well to prevent stains and ask your supplier about special cleaning kits.

Don't use acidic cleaners or vinegar on granite, as they can damage the surface. Use warm water, a bit of detergent, and a soft sponge or cloth instead.

Granite can be porous if it's not sealed well, so make sure it's cleaned and sealed before installation. Some companies sell cleaning kits with sealant, so ask your supplier or installer about special products.

Timber

Timber needs gentle care. Wipe spills quickly, keep it dry, and oil monthly to protect against moisture. For stains, use a diluted bleach solution, rinse, dry, and oil. To remove odours, rub with a lemon slice.

Remove stains with a solution of 1/4 cup chlorine bleach in 1-quart warm water. Rinse, dry, and coat with oil. To banish odours from timber benchtops, rub the surface with a slice of lemon.

To clean wooden countertops, mix 1/2 cup of baking soda in 1 quart of warm water. Rub the paste into the wood using a synthetic scouring pad. Rinse well and blot up excess moisture.

When dry, restore the finish with boiled linseed oil, rubbed in with a fine steel wool pad. Treat the countertop with two coats of oil, applied 24 hours apart, blotting up excess moisture after each application.

Stainless Steel

Stainless steel is modern and easy to clean, but it shows fingerprints and water spots.

Avoid harsh chemicals and keep the surface dry. Clean with warm water and baking soda, then dry well. Use a little vinegar for mineral deposits, but don't use steel wool or abrasive pads.

To clean stainless steel, wash it often with warm water and a little baking soda. Dry the surface well to prevent water spots.

If you see mineral deposits, use a bit of vinegar and then rinse with water. Don't use abrasive materials like steel wool, as they can scratch the finish.

Formica

Formica is affordable and low maintenance. It comes in lots of colours and patterns and can be installed over old laminate.

Clean with mild detergent and warm water and avoid abrasives. Wipe up spills straight away to avoid stains. Glass cleaner can remove streaks.

Silestone

Silestone is a polished quartz that resists stains, scratches, and heat. Wipe spills quickly, use mild cleaners, and a non-abrasive sponge. For tough stains, soak and wipe gently.

Concrete & Ceramic Tile

Concrete is durable and customisable. Clean with warm soapy water and a soft cloth. Avoid harsh cleaners.

Ceramic tiles are also popular and heat-resistant, but grout is prone to stains and cracking. Scrub grout with a brush, and don't use harsh abrasives on tiles. Use a toothbrush or nail brush to scrub grout. To remove mildew, dip the brush in household bleach. When you clean grout, don't use harsh abrasive cleaners, which might scratch the glaze on ceramic tile.

Many foam and spray tile and grout cleaners are available. Follow the manufacturer's instructions and rinse with water to finish the job. Be sure to wear rubber gloves, and don't inhale the mist from spray cleaners.

Acrylic

Acrylic benchtops are tough but don't handle direct heat. Use mild abrasive cleaners for stains but avoid very hot items on the surface.

For routine cleaning:

Use a mild abrasive cleanser applied directly to the wet countertop.

- Rinse well.
- Buff dry with a soft cloth.

Marble

Marble is porous and stains easily. Seal regularly and clean up acidic spills quickly. Avoid abrasive cleaners and oil polishes.

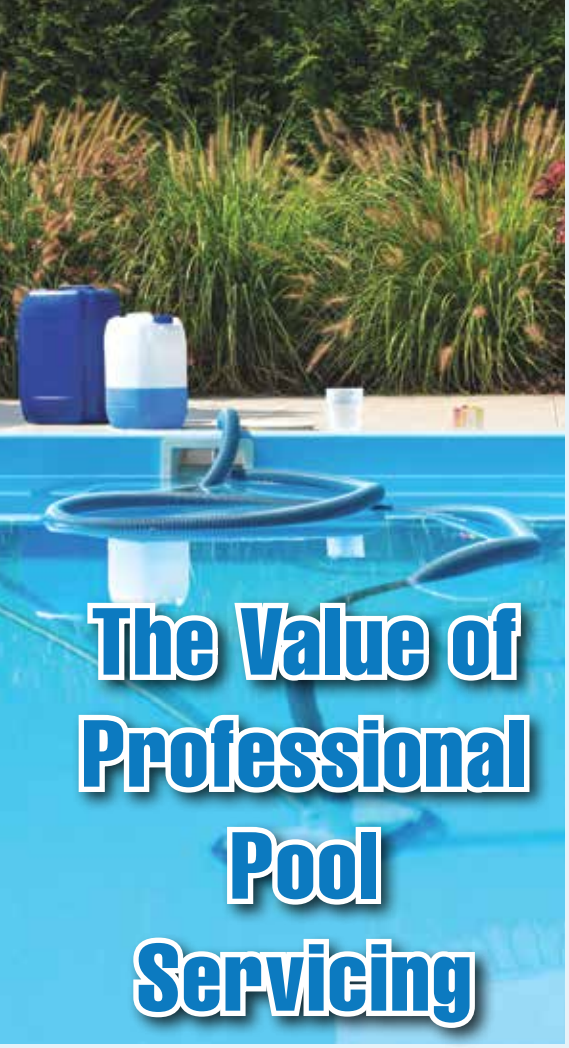
Use a special stone sealer on marble to make it less porous. Clean up wine, fruit juice, and other acidic spills immediately to prevent permanent stains. Don't use abrasive cleaners, oil polish, or soft waxes, as these can damage or discolour the surface.

While many commercial cleaners are available, borax rubbed into the surface with a moistened cloth will also clean marble. Rinse with warm water, and buff dry with a soft cloth.

Plastic Laminate

Plastic laminate is easy to clean but can scratch and stain. Never use abrasive cleaners or scouring pads. Use a soft sponge and mild detergent.

For general cleaning, a two-sided scrubbing pad with fibre on one side and a sponge on the other works particularly well. Moistened slightly with water, the fibre side is just abrasive enough to loosen greasy buildup and scorched food spills.



The Value of Professional Pool Servicing

Imagine a working parent arriving home after a long day, stepping into the backyard to find a crystal-clear pool waiting for them.

The sun-drenched afternoon bathes everything in a golden glow, the sound of water gently lapping against the poolside carries the distinct smell of chlorine – a reminder that the pool is clean and safe, even if it's not everyone's favourite scent.

Of course, many Aussie pools these days use saltwater chlorinators or mineral systems instead of traditional chlorine.

Saltwater and mineral pools have a much milder scent and are often gentler on the skin and eyes, offering a more inviting swimming experience.

It's a scene that promises relaxation and quality time with family and friends. However, the pristine condition of this pool is not a stroke of luck; it is the result of regular professional pool servicing.

Consider this: what if the owner had been greeted by a pool that suddenly turned green due to an algae outbreak?

A pool professional would quickly assess the problem, adjust the water chemistry, and shock the pool to restore its clear, inviting appearance.

Swimming pools are wonderful for cooling off in the summer, staying active, and gathering with loved ones, but they do come with significant maintenance demands. That's where professional pool servicing steps in. So, what exactly do these experts do, and is it truly worth the investment?

What Do Pool Servicing Professionals Do?

At the most basic level, pool service professionals handle routine cleaning and technical maintenance of swimming pools.

Their services typically include skimming debris from the water's surface, vacuuming the pool floor, brushing pool walls, and emptying skimmer baskets. But their expertise goes far beyond basic cleaning:

• **Water Chemistry Management:** Professionals regularly test and balance the pool's water. They make sure chlorine, pH, alkalinity, and calcium levels are safe.

This keeps the water clear and helps prevent skin irritation and equipment problems.

• **Equipment Inspection and Repair:** Pool service pros check and maintain all the pool's equipment, like pumps, filters, heaters, and automated systems.

Finding and fixing problems early can help owners avoid expensive repairs.

• **Seasonal Servicing:** Because Australia's climate varies, pools in the

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north may be used year-round, while those in the south require extra care before summer and during winter.

Neglecting this seasonal care can lead to costly damage such as cracked tiles or algae blooms, which not only spoil the pool's appearance but also require expensive repairs.

For northern pool owners, it's crucial to check chemical levels more frequently during the wet season to prevent algae infestations.

In the south, winterising the pool, including lowering the water level and covering the pool to prevent debris accumulation, is essential to protect against harsh winter conditions.

Professionals know how to prepare pools for the season and can effectively protect them when they're not in use, helping you avoid these potential pitfalls.

• **Expert Troubleshooting:**
Pool pros handle issues like cloudy water, algae, and leaks every day. Their experience helps them identify and fix problems quickly, saving homeowners time and stress.

Is Professional Pool Servicing Worth It?

Choosing to hire a pool service professional is about saving time, getting expert help, and having peace of mind.

Taking care of a pool takes a lot of work and know-how. Mistakes, like unbalanced water, can damage the pool and its equipment, and small problems can turn into big, expensive repairs.

Australian laws require pool owners to always maintain a pool fence or barrier in good condition, which adds significant maintenance and safety responsibilities.

Following these rules not only ensures compliance with regulations but also fits with what most pool owners do.

For many pool owners, the benefits of professional service are worth the cost. Regular expert care can make pools last longer, keep the water clean, and let owners enjoy their pool without the hassle.

For people who are busy or don't know much about pool care, hiring a pro turns pool ownership from a chore into something enjoyable, especially in a country where a sparkling pool is a must in summer.

On average, professional pool servicing in Australia can cost between $100 and $200 per visit, depending on the work required and the size of the pool.

This can save money in the long run by helping you avoid pricey repairs and keeping your pool in good shape for years.

The Bottom Line

It helps protect the pool and the property's value, and it keeps the backyard safe and inviting all year, even with Australia's tough weather.

In the end, the real value of a pool service professional lies in the extra hours of enjoyment they bring to pool owners, one clean swim at a time.

Let your summer be about more laps and less labour – a simple choice that lets you enjoy your pool with less worry.

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Don't brush battery disposal after Christmas

Beat up batteries carelessly tossed in the bin are causing headaches for City of Moreton Bay's waste facility workers who have already had to deal with two fires in the past week alone at Bunya.

With a furious flurry of electronic toys and devices switched on over Christmas, Council is calling on residents to dispose of old batteries the right way as it faces an average of 12 battery-related fires a month at its waste facilities due to incorrect disposal by residents.

- Council's waste facilities are averaging 12 battery-related fires a month as incidents continue to rise across Queensland, putting waste trucks, facilities, workers, and communities at risk.
- It comes as City of Moreton Bay has announced all of its waste facilities can now accept batteries to be safely disposed of.
- A new 'Don't Bin your Batteries' campaign will encourage correct battery disposal practices.

Used general household and rechargeable batteries – including lithium batteries - can now be dropped off at any one of City of Moreton Bay's waste facilities, making safe disposal even easier over the festive season.

City of Moreton Bay Mayor Peter Flannery said batteries were not a simple throwaway item and should be treated as hazardous.

"First and foremost, batteries and Christmas waste don't mix. When thrown into household or recycling bins, they pose serious fire risks during collection and processing which has led to more than 200 fires across Queensland in the past year alone," he said.
"In Moreton Bay, our contracted trucks have dealt with some 17

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‘hot load’ events between November 2023 and November 2025 which have resulted in either fire, smoke or chemical incidents.

We’ve also seen dangerous spot fires erupt at our waste facilities, which are caused by batteries hiding in general waste being compacted during the landfill process.

“By taking your batteries to one of our waste facilities or a designated drop off point, you can do your part to reduce the risk of fires and keep our staff safe.”

Helping to drive home the safe battery disposal message will be Council’s new ‘Don’t Bin your Batteries’ campaign.

“There’s any number of e-scooters, kids’ toys, power tools and phones that contain lithium batteries which can become a ticking time bomb if they are just thrown into your bin,” Mayor Flannery said.

“They can spark fires, cause toxic gas emissions and lead to environmental harm.

“Ultimately, we want people to remember to bin smart and stay safe. With all of our waste facilities now accepting batteries and a number of local disposal points offered throughout Moreton Bay, let’s do the right thing.”

In addition to Council’s waste facilities, residents can also take loose batteries to local disposal points, including Coles, Woolworths, Aldi and Bunnings. Battery terminals should be taped over to prevent sparking prior to disposal.

For more information on a battery disposal location near you, head to https://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/Services/Waste-Recycling/DisposalBatteries-Household or visit www.bcycle.com.au/drop-off/

Apply to opt-in to the GO service or order additional bins.

CITY OF MORETON BAY

This initiative is supported by the **Queensland Government’s Recycling and Jobs Fund**

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Why Taking a Holiday Is

Today, we often see busyness and constant productivity as something to be proud of, so taking a holiday can feel like a luxury instead of a necessity. Many people measure their worth by how much they get done and feel guilty for even thinking about taking time off.

Our culture tends to praise those who keep working, even when they are exhausted. But taking a break from work and daily routines is not just helpful—it is essential for our well-being. When we give ourselves time to rest and recharge, we come back to our responsibilities feeling refreshed, energized, and better able to handle challenges.

Holidays give us a real chance to rest and recharge. Taking time off lets our bodies and minds recover from daily stress, which can improve our mood, help us sleep better, and boost our energy. Research shows that people who take regular breaks are less likely to burn out and are more productive over time.

Chronic stress from nonstop work can harm our physical and mental health, leading to a weaker immune system, higher risk of heart disease, anxiety, and depression. Taking a holiday break this pattern, lowers stress hormones, and gives our bodies time to heal.

Even a short break can make a difference. Many people feel happier, more hopeful, and more motivated after some time away, whether it's a big trip or a few days at home.

Holidays are also a great time to reconnect with loved ones, see new places, and look at life from a new angle. Our busy routines can make it hard to stay close to family and friends.

Taking time off gives us space for real conversations, shared activities, and stronger bonds. Whether it's a family trip, meeting up with old friends, or just enjoying quiet time at home, these moments help us build and maintain our relationships.

Travel, especially, helps us learn about new cultures, languages, and ways of living. Being in a new place can challenge what we think and help us grow. Even if we can't travel far, spending a holiday exploring local spots or trying something new can feel like an adventure. These experiences make us more flexible, understanding, and creative, which is good for both our personal and work lives.

In our busy world, making time for a holiday is an important way to take care of ourselves. It's easy to think that taking time off is selfish or a sign of weakness, but that's not true. Giving ourselves a break shows we respect ourselves and know our limits.

Good for You

It reminds us that our worth isn't just about how much we do, but also about living well and enjoying life. When we make holidays a regular part of our lives, we set a good example for our families, friends, and coworkers, and help create a culture that values balance.

Employers and workplaces also gain when employees take regular holidays. Research shows that companies that support time off have lower staff turnover, higher job satisfaction, and better productivity. After a break, people often come back with new ideas and more energy.

This helps create a healthier and more positive work environment for everyone. In the end, taking a holiday isn't about running away from your duties. It's about enjoying life.

Holidays give us time to enjoy hobbies, simple pleasures, and think about what matters most. Whether you go on a big trip or just relax at home, a holiday gives you space to dream, grow, and come back to daily life with more purpose and gratitude.

So next time you think about skipping a holiday, remember that taking a break now can help you feel healthier and happier in the future. Allow yourself to take time off. You deserve it.

Creative Interiors with Ivory T - fabric & wallpaper

Top Interior Design Trends for 2026

I am not always one to follow a trend. But it is nice to know what the forecast holds, and what maybe new in the world of Interior Decorating. The Colour Choice 2026 for example with Pantone is Cloud Dancer, which has brought some controversy. Many saying it's not a colour.

For me I think it's lovely. Cloud Dancer will make for a beautiful colour choice in client homes. Very easy to work with and back to basics. Allowing you to work along with earthy tones which are still so popular.

You will be able to incorporate soft terracotta and muted greens to create a feeling of calmness and harmony. Along with creamy beiges for relaxation.

More fun colours to bring into your home are the neutral pastels like soft pink and green.

Dulux's Colour Choices are Coffee Dust, Misty Grape, Baked Clay and Deep Aqua. I would consider using them in moderation such as colour in feature furniture pieces or feature wallpaper. But Dulux believe their blended creams, warm earthy tones and golden browns will still feature in 2026.

2026 is encouraging people to be bolder with patterns and layering. Something I thought had passed, but they seem to be bringing back the look of Laura Ashley and Biggie Best. Layering Stripes with Florals, a lot or mixing and matching, Tablecloths, Cushions, Lampshades, Throws.

It's about Fabric and Wallpaper. Again, I wouldn't want you to overwhelm your space and home, so consider moderation. I know moderation is not the look but not everyone can go back to a lot of trims, frills, floral on top of floral. Remember it's a trend and it will pass.

Layering colours and patterns is not the only interior idea being layered. Designers and Decorators for on trend are encouraging you to bring your vintage furniture pieces into the room. It's about bringing your personality back into the home and not have an overly curated designer living space. It's about comfortable and inviting living.

I noticed last year that there was a movement away from open plan living and move towards individual spaces again. Living rooms are becoming their own spaces again, rather than an extension of the kitchen. If you are unable to use a builder to build those walls, you can be creative using Curtains and Furniture to bring back the individuality of individual spaces.

There are more new rooms within the home now i.e. Media Rooms,

Sewing - Craft Rooms, Study - Office, Reading - Libraries, Wellness - Gyms and also Mud Rooms - Laundry - Dog Baths. Homes are evolving and adapting.

As we know Engineered Stone is a no. But there are alternatives for your bench tops such as Laminex, Stainless Steel and Wood. You will see a lot more of Stainless Steel and Wood this year.

Boucle and Linens are still here. But not to be used just by themselves.

Remember if you want to be on trend for 2026 “Layering” is key. Mix and Match with other textiles, colours and patterns. Use Throws and Cushions to help.

Lastly, as we move forward, Sustainable Practices are here to stay. You don’t always have to buy that environmentally vegan-friendly couch. Consider re upholstering your existing couch. If it has good bones and the style still suits you and your home, recover it.

Focus on pieces that mean something to you and work around them. You will be on trend for 2026.

Images from Pantone, Kaboodle, Thibaut

Ivory T - fabric & wallpaper
0422 599 084

FISHING REPORT

January

Richard and his jack, on a morning fishing session

As the waters of Pumicestone Passage have warmed up this summer, there have been great fishing opportunities for estuary cod and mangrove jacks, as well as some good flathead, in the creeks and around the mangroves and oyster leases.

The estuary cod are usually too small to keep but great for a phot before they go back in. The best baits for flathead have been prawns and pilchards. A word of warning – it is illegal to use supermarket prawns as bait. You must buy local raw prawns from a bait shop – to protect our local crustaceans from introduced disease.

Near the oyster leases inside Ningi Creek, silver bream, grunters and tarwhine have all been caught in good numbers and sizes but be careful near the dredge pipe which crosses the entrance of Ningi Creek.

There is currently a program to dredge Pacific Harbour, and a pipe to carry away the spoil has been installed from the mouth of the canal system, across the Passage and up Ningi Creek. There are temporary red and green markers, to indicate the two routes to safely cross the pipe - to go into Ningi Creek or to travel further north towards White Patch.

Travel slowly between the green and red floats and you'll be fine. Steve had a good time there recently, bringing home a few bream; he said that prawns were the best bait. Amit also used prawns to catch three bream (26-29cm) a little further north, near Shag Island – pretty good for a first-timer! Squid has been handy for grunter bream and tarwhine, and over the past week has brought in beautiful catches of all kinds.

White Patch has been nicely protected from the northeast/easterlies we've been having over summer. There have been plenty of flathead, being caught near the north end of White Patch.

The northern end of the White Patch gutter narrows and drops out quickly, so be careful of the tide, but there are good catches possible from this area. Bream, moses perch and some lovely grassy sweetlip are being caught between Kakadu Beach and Wright's Creek, but the young snapper have been quite hungry and keen to take the bait before any other fish get near it.

These beauties were both caught at the Kunde Street lake at Beachmere. I'm told you can be just as lucky there, late at night, using fresh mullet strips on the turn of tide.

Bob and Paul had a big snapper to show us when they came in from the Ripples, 62cm, caught right on the low tide. Bob always prefers pilchard bait, and this time they also brought in a big sweetlip.

The Pumicestone Passage's mudflats and protected wetlands support many species of wading birds. During summer, huge numbers of migratory birds use Bribie Island and the Pumicestone Passage as their nesting-place; others use the area to rest during their migration.

Be aware that there is a no-go zone known as Kakadu bird-roost, on the north side of Pacific Harbour – we all need to help protect these birds after their long-haul flights from the northern hemisphere. Don't anchor on or near the beach at this legally protected sanctuary. North and south of the bridge have both been fishing well.

Try drifting from the 1st green marker south of the bridge, through to the 2nd marker on the falling tide, using prawns or squid, or using the rising tide to sneak closer to the mangroves there – that's where Richard's mangrove jack came from – 45cm, rising tide. Max was having a birthday fish just south of the Sandstone Point Hotel jetty, when he and his brother each landed a big flathead.

Max used prawn, Marley used a pilly. They got about 10 legal bream too but the flathead was big enough to feed the family. James got onto a few fish as well on the south side, but the best catch was his 6ocm flathead, caught just off the Pacific Blue Apartments near the bridge.

Max caught the biggest flathead of the two, which is only right, seeing it was his birthday!

FISHABILITY QLD PRESENTATION DAY

The final fishing day for 2025 and the trophy presentation for Fishability Qld was held at the end of November, at Kalmakuta Park. Wandering among the participants, we were able to chat with them and understand the meaningful opportunities which are offered by this local not-for-profit charity.

Fishability began in 2013, and one of the young men we spoke with has been enjoying days out since then! Pat told me he has obtained a Marine Driver's licence with the support of Fishability Qld. He is usually the skipper on board one of the weekly fishing trips now, so has a valuable role among his fishing mates.

Steve also got his boat licence through Fishability Qld. He is pleased to be able to enhance his boating skills through regular practice. Steve helps with the anchor, teaches fishing tips to other participants and is always keen to catch a keeper!

Sarah said, "Fishability means everything to me. Feeding the family is important to me, being out with friends feels good and I love getting a trophy! I put all my effort into it. Fishability is like a family to me."

BJ and brother Kirk are regular participants. BJ said Pumicestone Passage "is a good place for fishing and Fishability Qld is the best team. I can go out with my friends and on a good day I can catch fish for my family."

Being blind, Alan appreciates the chance to get out on the water and receive some assistance with fishing. To him, Fishability Qld is about looking after his mental health – "it gets me out of the house and chatting with people."

Fishability has "helped us get out of our homes, enjoying the outdoor environment and connecting with all sorts of people", said Aunty Elaine.

"Every week is fun", said Dan, "because I'm out with my mates!" Bodie is a support worker with Fishability Qld. He feels that its value lies in "eliminating social isolation; helping participants make real and lasting connections"

Chris looks forward to his weekly outings, because otherwise he wouldn't have the chance to meet and make friends.

Emma, the woman at the helm of Fishability Qld itself, feels blessed that Fishability Qld has been able to continue for so long. This is only possible because of support from and engagement with locals and local organisations. Look up a recent video on Fishability Qld's Facebook page, to see all the action! (Nov 22, 2025).

2026 looks like a busy year ahead for Fishability Qld. Anyone who thinks they might like to be involved (as either volunteer or participant) can contact Emma through the Fishability Qld website or call **0435778510.**

TIDE TIMES

Bribie Island AND Moreton Bay

Fri 16 Jan	Sat 17 Jan	Sun 18 Jan	Mon 19 Jan	Tue 20 Jan	Wed 21 Jan	Thu 22 Jan
1:36 am	2:20 am	2:58 am	3:33 am	4:07 am	4:44 am	5:21 am
0.45m	0.4m	0.35m	0.31m	0.28m	0.27m	0.29m
8:46 am	9:22 am	9:53 am	10:23 am	10:53 am	11:25 am	11:59 am
1.91m	1.96m	2m	2.04m	2.07m	2.08m	2.05m
3:23 pm	3:54 pm	4:23 pm	4:52 pm	5:22 pm	5:55 pm	6:28 pm
0.6m	0.56m	0.52m	0.49m	0.45m	0.41m	0.38m
8:39 pm	9:15 pm	9:48 pm	10:22 pm	10:58 pm	11:37 pm	
1.31m	1.36m	1.41m	1.46m	1.5m	1.54m	

Fri 23 Jan	Sat 24 Jan	Sun 25 Jan	Mon 26 Jan	Tue 27 Jan	Wed 28 Jan	Thu 29 Jan
12:18 am	1:03 am	1:54 am	2:51 am	4:00 am	5:17 am	6:34 am
1.58m	1.61m	1.65m	1.68m	1.73m	1.8m	1.91m
6:02 am	6:47 am	7:39 am	8:45 am	10:14 am	11:48 am	1:15 pm
0.35m	0.44m	0.55m	0.66m	0.74m	0.74m	0.66m
12:34 pm	1:12 pm	1:54 pm	2:45 pm	3:50 pm	5:14 pm	6:43 pm
1.99m	1.87m	1.72m	1.55m	1.4m	1.3m	1.3m
7:02 pm	7:37 pm	8:16 pm	9:04 pm	10:07 pm	11:20 pm	
0.36m	0.35m	0.37m	0.4m	0.42m	0.42m	

NEW UNIT COMMANDER

Gary Voss has been appointed as the new Unit Commander of Marine Rescue Bribie Island. Gary is a longstanding member of VMR Bribie, working as a rescue vessel skipper and crew trainer, as well as serving as the secretary of VMR Bribie for many years.

In his role as Unit Commander, Gary will be responsible for the operational side of Marine Rescue Bribie – the rescue vessels, the radio room, and our hard working and dedicated operational volunteers.

Gary's message to the community is that *"While our governance and operating arrangements have changed, our mission remains the same: to provide a professional, reliable, and safe marine rescue service to our local boating community, and a rewarding environment for our volunteers."*

Gary will work in partnership with Supporters Association president Kelly Langworthy to continue to deliver outstanding services to the Bribie Island community.

MEDEVAC, ASSIST AND SAR

Thursday 18 December 2025 – what a busy day!

0700: Bribie 1 was tasked by QAS to medevac a patient from cruise ship Seabourn Quest off Tangalooma leaving the pontoon at 0744 hrs.

0800: Senior Coxswain Liz Radajewski was called to assist a Houseboat off a sandbar at Toorbul with Bribie 2, it was successfully towed to deeper water.

0900: With the patient on board from the cruise ship, Bribie 1 was tasked by the Water Police to check out the report from a dredge of a unmanned vessel floating in the Pearl Channel. Crew spotted the vessel, it was retrieved and towed back, disembarking the patient by 1055 hrs and storing the vessel for later pick up by the Water Police.

1200: Bribie 1 and Bribie 2 refuelled and were tasked by Water Police to perform a SAR in Moreton Bay between Woorim and Comboyuro Point in conjunction with Coast Guard Redcliffe. The SAR was called off at 1350 hrs with Bribie 1 and Bribie 2 arriving back at base around 1410 hrs.

Bribie 1 tows the unmanned vessel back to base.

UNIT COMMANDER GARY'S SAFETY MESSAGE:

"With the weather improving and the holidays in full swing, it is important that we all stay safe on the water. Before you go out, make sure that your boat is in good order – it may not have been used for a while! Check that the fuel is all OK and the battery is fully charged. Check that you have all your 'up to date' safety gear, and everyone on board knows its location. Wear your lifejackets all the time, or at least while underway. (Check out the new rules about lifejackets for solo boaters and kids.)

Make sure you let someone know your plans – specially where you are going and what time to expect you back. Make sure you have a fully charged mobile phone, and ideally a working VHF radio on board.

Ideally log on with Marine Rescue Bribie – that is what we are here for."

"To the boaties moored in the passage – remember we are in the middle of storm season. Make sure you check your moorings and anchors regularly. You only have to walk along the passage foreshore right now to see what happens when moorings and anchors let go."

"To people enjoying jetskis in the passage – have fun but make sure you stick to the channels, and use a GPS to avoid getting stuck in the mud."

"PLEASE WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKETS!"

"In closing I have to mention our statistics for 2025, which you can find below. Over 16,000 calls to the radio room, and over 600 people helped to safety. That is an absolute credit to all our extraordinary volunteers."

DECEMBER ASSISTS

WED 03/12 2115PM - Tasked by QAS to transport two Ambulance Officers to Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.

THU 04/12 1939PM – 18.3m Yacht 2 POB out of fuel at North Banks required a tow to Pumicestone Passage.

FRI 05/12 1740PM – 12m Cruiser drifting at Turners Camp, investigate and re-anchor safely.

SAT 06/12 0635AM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Ambulance Officers to cruise ship Carnival Splendor at Tangalooma and medevac a young patient & parent to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.

SAT 06/12 1308PM – 5m Runabout 1POB with motor issues at Skirmish Point required a tow to Bellara boat ramp.

SAT 06/12 1323PM – 10m Cruiser unoccupied drifting North of Bribie Bridge.

SAT 06/12 1644PM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Ambulance Officers to Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.

MON 08/12 1023AM – 3.9m Tinny 2POB out of fuel at entrance to Pacific Harbour required a tow to Bellara ramp.

WED 10/12 0519AM – Jet Ski 2POB stuck in mud near Poverty Point, unable to retrieve ski until high tide, Ranger retrieved owner and son.

WED 10/12 1408PM – Jet Ski retrieved from Poverty Point from morning's assist.

WED 10/12 1622PM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Ambulance Officers to Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.

THU 11/12 0907AM – 4.2m Tinny 3POB with gearbox issues, required a tow from Donnybrook to Spinnaker Sound Marina.

THU 11/12 1056AM – 4.9m Cuddy Cabin 2POB with motor issues, required a tow from within Pacific Harbour to home pontoon.
SAT 13/12 1017AM – Jet Ski 1POB run aground near Little Goat Island, required a tow to deeper water.
SAT 13/12 1053AM – Jet Ski 2POB broken down at Ningi Creek, required a tow to Bellara boat ramp.
SAT 13/12 1105AM – 3m Tinny 1POB with motor issues required a tow from Ningi Creek to Bellara boat ramp.
SAT 13/12 1412PM – Tasked by Water Police to assist vessel broken down in Shipping Channel Moreton Island, towed to Scarborough and transferred to MRQ Sandgate for towing to Brisbane River.
SUN 14/12 1331PM – 12m 1POB with medical issue, towed from Woorim to Bongaree Moorings.
SUN 14/12 1505PM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Ambulance Officers to Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
MON 15/12 1224PM – Requested by incapacitated owner to check mooring on Yacht at Bongaree.
MON 15/12 1435PM - Tasked by QAS to transport 3 Paramedics to Tangalooma and medevac a child patient and mother to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
MON 15/12 1741PM – MOP reported 2 anchored vessels off Turner's Camp colliding – investigate and inform owners.
MON 15/12 1911PM – 13m Concrete Dredge 1POB drifting off mooring, investigate & assist.
TUE 16/11 1054AM – MOP reported 2 vessels collided off Turner's Camp can't see POB. Investigated advised owners and secured.
TUE 16/11 1445PM – 12m Cruiser 1POB reported anchor is dragging South of the bridge. Towed to safer anchorage at Turners Camp.
TUE 16/11 1742PM - Tasked by QAS to transport 1 Ambulance Officer to Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
TUE 16/11 1808PM – 12m Cruiser 1POB anchor dragging, relocated Turners Camp to the public jetty at Pacific Harbour.
WED 17/12 1400PM – MOP reported vessel had struck mud bank and couldn't restart near Pacific Harbour, father & 2 kids on board. Investigated nothing found.
THU 18/12 0706AM - Tasked by QAS to transport 3 Ambulance Officers to cruise ship Seabourne Quest at Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
THU 18/12 0743AM – 14m Houseboat 3POB aground at Toorbul required a tow to deeper water.
THU 18/12 1213PM – Tasked by Water Police to conduct SAR between Comboyuro Point and Woorim for possible people in water, from unmanned Tinny located in the Pearl Channel.
THU 18/12 1219PM - Tasked by Water Police for 2nd vessel to conduct SAR between Comboyuro Point and Woorim.
FRI 19/12 0728AM – 9.4m Half Cabin 1POB broken down East of Cape Moreton required a tow to Spinnaker Sound Marina. Job later cancelled as member started vessel and made it back safely.
FRI 19/12 0801AM – 6.5m Centre Console 1POB with new motor issues, required a tow from Bellara Beach to Bellara boat ramp.
FRI 19/12 2141PM – 12m Cruiser 4POB aground near Comboyuro Point. With vessel stuck hard and heavy seas unable to tow to deeper water. Will reassess tomorrow.
FRI 19/12 0749AM – 12m Cruiser 4POB aground near Comboyuro Point, now afloat and later advised he'd returned to Scarborough.
SUN 21/12 1310PM – 4.8m Tinny 4POB with motor issues required a tow from between Donnybrook and Mission Point to Bellara boat ramp.
MON 22/12 1138AM – 5m Tinny 3POB with motor issues required a tow from Avon Wreck to Bellara boat ramp.
MON 22/12 1344PM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Paramedics to Tangalooma and medevac a child patient and parents to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
MON 22/12 2007PM – 4.8m Tinny 1POB with motor issues required a tow from Sandstone Point to Bellara boat ramp.
MON 22/12 2319PM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Paramedics to Tangalooma and medevac a child patient and parents to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
TUE 23/12 0050AM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Paramedics to Tangalooma and medevac a child patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
WED 24/12 0811AM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Paramedics to Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
WED 24/12 1236PM – 5.7 Bowrider 3POB with engine issues required a tow from Tangalooma to Spinnaker Sound Marina.
WED 24/12 1447PM – 5.2m Half Cabin 2POB with gearbox issues required a tow from Woorim to Bellara boat ramp.
WED 24/12 1619PM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Ambulance Officers to Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
WED 24/12 2053PM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Ambulance Officers to Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
THU 25/12 1841PM – 6.7m Half Cabin 1POB out of fuel at Tangalooma required a tow to Bellara boat ramp.
FRI 26/12 0510AM – 11.5m Yacht 2POB has run aground at Skirmish Point. Requires refloating at high tide.
FRI 26/12 0717AM – 12m Cruiser 1POB lost his anchor overnight 500m South of Norfolk Creek (East side of Bribie) and washed ashore. Attended but unable to assist, Water Police advised.
FRI 26/12 1045AM – 6.5m Half Cabin 2POB out of fuel near South Cardinal required a tow to Bongaree boat ramp.
SAT 27/12 0919AM – Member of public advised a small sloop adrift had collided with a moored yacht near IGA – investigated advised all concerned.
SUN 28/12 1142AM – 4.5m Tinny 2POB with contaminated fuel at Lime Pocket required a tow to Toorbul boat ramp.
SUN 28/12 1742PM – 10m Cruiser 6POB with motor issues required a tow from Pumicestone Passage into Pacific Harbour canals.
WED 31/12 0152AM - Tasked by QAS to transport 2 Ambulance Officers to Tangalooma and medevac a patient to their waiting ambulance at MRQ Bribie.
WED 31/12 1049AM – Tasked by Water Police to attend a vessel sinking near Flinders Reef with 3POB, MRQ Bribie were stood down at 1251PM.
WED 31/12 1339PM – 7m Cuddy Cabin 2POB reported a motor explosion at Red Beach. Everyone safe, towed vessel to Spinnaker Marina.

2025 RADIO ROOM STATISTICS

CALLS	16,415
VESSELS LOG ONS	4,805
VESSEL ASSISTS	335
SITREPS	1,674
REQUESTS	1,510
OVERDUE VESSELS	51
VESSEL TRACKING	40
RADIO CHECKS	1,452
WEATHER BROADCASTS	6
SECURITE BROADCASTS	2
PAN PAN CALLS	0
MAYDAY CALLS	0
PERSONS ASSISTED	626
VHF CALLS	56.6%
27MHz CALLS	0.1%
PHONE CALLS	27.4%
GWN CALLS	5.5%

"BUT importantly – Always remember if you are heading out on the water **LOG ON** with your local **MRQ. VMR or Coast Guard,** it's a free service for everyone, so why wouldn't you! **It just may save your life!"**

Strengthening the Fabric of Australian Communities

As cities grow and modern life can sometimes feel isolating, the importance of community stands out more than ever. In Australia, our diverse neighbourhoods are at the heart of our cities and towns, and Neighbourhood Watch programs help keep these communities safe, connected, and strong.

Neighbourhood Watch is a community-based program that helps residents work together to prevent crime, share information, and build a sense of belonging. These programs are especially important as police face limited resources and the challenge of serving growing communities.

Neighbourhood Watch is a strong way to prevent crime. When people know that residents are alert and involved, there is a lower chance of crime. Signs showing a Neighbourhood Watch group tell everyone that this community looks out for each other and does not accept crime.

Studies show that places with active Neighbourhood Watch programs have fewer burglaries, vandalism, and antisocial behaviour.

Neighbourhood Watch offers more than just crime prevention.

Today, when many people do not know their neighbours, these programs give residents a way to meet, talk, and build lasting friendships.

This sense of community is important because it makes life better and helps make sure that people who are vulnerable, like the elderly or those living alone, are not left out. When neighbours are connected, the whole area becomes safer and happier.

Neighbourhood Watch also helps build a sense of shared responsibility. Instead of depending only on the police, residents work together to look after their community. This partnership means information can flow both ways.

Residents can quickly report anything suspicious, and police can share advice, updates, and support with everyone. Working together like this builds trust and helps the police do their job better.

There are many simple ways to get involved in Neighbourhood Watch. You can go to local meetings to stay informed, report anything suspicious to the authorities, and share safety updates with your neighbours.

Joining or starting a community social media group also helps everyone stay in touch and share news quickly. Even small actions like these make a big difference in keeping your neighbourhood safe.

Another strength of Neighbourhood Watch is its flexibility.

Each program can be shaped to fit the needs of its community. In cities, the focus might be on stopping theft and car break-ins, while in rural areas, it could be about preventing stock theft or illegal dumping. This flexibility keeps Neighbourhood Watch useful everywhere.

Technology also helps Neighbourhood Watch reach more people. Email alerts, social media, and messaging apps let residents share information quickly and stay connected, even if they cannot meet face to face.

These tools make it easier for everyone to join in, so the program stays open and welcoming to all. In the end, Neighbourhood Watch is not just about stopping crime. It is about building a stronger and more connected Australia. When trust in big institutions is sometimes low, the relationships between neighbours matter even more.

By joining Neighbourhood Watch, Australians show the values of community, working together, and looking out for each other that have always been important in our society. If you have not joined Neighbourhood Watch yet, now is a great time to start. You can go to a local meeting, join an online group, or just say hello to a neighbour. Every small step helps make the whole community safer and stronger.

To find or start a group, visit the national Neighbourhood Watch website or ask your local council for help. They can connect you with a group or show you how to start one. By getting involved, we make our neighbourhoods safer and better for everyone.

Neighbourhood Watch Queensland
www.nhwq.com.au

Neighbourhood Watch

BRIBIE ONE NHW - NEWSLETTER

JAN 2026

BANKSIA BEACH - BELLARA - WOORIM - BONGAREE - SAND-STONE POINT - NINGI

GRAFFITI

For many years I have been writing about graffiti and the effect it has on neighbourhoods. A recent article in the press gave it a name – "The broken window syndrome".

This just means that if it isn't fixed, more damage happens, no one cares, and there is a gradual deterioration of the locality, leading to more crime, a lowering of property values and a bad reputation.

Increasing amounts of graffiti provide a blot on the visual landscape. There are certain rules about responsibility for graffiti removal. It usually boils down to ownership. Local Councils remove graffiti from property they control.

State and Commonwealth governments are responsible for graffiti on their property, and private owners are responsible for its removal from their premises. All rely on the problem and its location, to be reported. Some owners are quick to act.

Anything offensive is usually removed at short notice. Large agencies tend to have a huge problem – Queensland Rail being a prime example.

Rolling stock are commonly targeted, but noise barriers, adjacent walls and advertising signage along rail tracks are all subject to targeted and indiscriminate graffiti.

The scale of the problem is huge, and the environment is diminished by its existence. Noise barriers and lane dividers on roads – particularly where construction work is under way – are commonly covered.

Sometimes the graffiti is "artistic" – pictorial rather than scribble. Does that make it more acceptable? Graffiti is also accumulative. If a first slogan or tag is not removed or painted over, more happens. A local example is the blue wall on Goodwin Drive.

SMALL SCALE GRAFFITI

such as that on your own fence, or even on NBN and telephone boxes, can be removed by locals. The Council will provide a free graffiti removal kit on application at their front counter. Council – and some agencies – will also paint their transformers, traffic controllers and the like, with an attractive picture.

This deters most graffiti artists, but not all. There are examples of such painted structures on Welsby Parade/Toorbul Street.

They are certainly more attractive than the mindless coverings on some commercial buildings, for example in Morayfield.

Upper floor access allows "artists" to paint at higher levels. It's easy to climb a cantilever verandah and spray the façade or the side walls.

Some large councils provide a "practise space" for graffiti artists! Brisbane City Council is one. That Council also encourages street art in some locations, where walls are covered with an attractive mural. Check out their locations on their website.

The City of Moreton Bay classifies graffiti as a crime, and the tags and slogans that are evident in some localities show that some people are getting away with illegal and indiscriminate spraying.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for 9.30 am on Tuesday, 17th February, in the ANZAC Room of the RSL. We are hopeful that a guest speaker from SEQWA will be available for that meeting

More information on your local Neighbourhood Watch:- Visit the Qld NHW website, Call Peter on 0408 841 306

LETS MAKE CRIME PREVENTION A PRIORITY

DISCLAIMER: the information contained herein has been obtained from sources we deem to be reliable, however we cannot guarantee its accuracy and interested person should rely on their own inquiries. The views in this newsletter are not necessarily these of the Queensland Police Service unless expressly so quoted.

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POLICE LINK 131 444
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SES 132 500
CENTRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE 5498 9533
B.I.D.N.C. 3408 8440

Letters to the editor

The comments and opinions on these pages are not those of The Bribie Islander, but those of our residents.

Dear Editor,

On Saturday night, my husband and I went to the Christmas Carols put on by the Sandstone Community Church and it was truly wonderful.

Dan Warlow entertained us all but particularly the children with his puppet and catchy songs.

The great dancing from Island Dance, the beautiful voice of Tammy Mathieson, the spectacular fireworks display and the terrific band and singers, made this a night to remember. They even gave out Christmas biscuits at the end.

Thank you so much Sandstone Community church for showing our community what Christmas is all about. It was the best Carols I have been to.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Heck

Dear Editor,

Has anyone seen any Christmas beetles this year? When did you last suffer from windscreen splatter when driving out of town?

There are fewer discarded cicada shells recently, so things have changed. Our favourite insects are suffering.

It's not just the European bees, but also alternative pollinators in the form of hover flies. And the famous Bogong moths, which used to terrorise Parliament House. Where are they?

They are a favourite food of mountain pygmy possums, so no wonder the latter are in trouble.

Even in pristine places, well away from pesticides, insect populations have been seen to fall 75% or more in 30-40 years, so it is not just the pesticides that are killing them.

If you treasure the sight of our little birds, or consuming coffee and chocolate, you should do all you can to reduce carbon dioxide levels, or life will get very boring.

H.Beneke

Letter to the Editor,

Planning change threatens environmental risk

A recent change to Queensland's planning regulations has quietly increased the environmental risk facing the Northern Inter-Urban Break (NIUB) in Southeast Queensland.

The NIUB is a vital, legally protected green corridor and non-urban landscape separating the growing urban areas of the Sunshine Coast from Greater Brisbane.

It preserves iconic natural features such as the Glass House Mountains and Pumicestone Passage, supports biodiversity, agriculture, recreation and tourism, and helps maintain the region's liveability by preventing unchecked urban sprawl.

The Planning Amendment Regulation 2025, brought in in November 2025, significantly reduces when the State government must be involved in assessing development proposals in the NIUB.

Previously, a wide range of developments - including community facilities, indoor recreation, residential care, urban and mixed-use projects - triggered state referral because of their potential regional and environmental impacts.

Under the new arrangements, only tourist or sport and recreation developments automatically receive that level of scrutiny.

This change is deeply concerning. The NIUB is not "empty land awaiting development". It contains important wildlife habitat, ecological corridors, wetlands, agricultural land and remnant vegetation that buffer expanding cities and support regional biodiversity.

Once these landscapes are fragmented or cleared, their environmental value cannot be restored. By removing state oversight for most development types, responsibility is shifted largely on to local councils.

This places heavy pressure on local planning schemes, community submissions and costly appeal processes to protect environmental values that were intended to be safeguarded at a regional level.

The real danger lies in cumulative impacts. Individually modest developments can incrementally fragment habitat, degrade waterways, increase noise and traffic and permanently erode biodiversity. Without consistent state-level assessment, these long-term impacts are far less likely to be properly considered.

It is worth recalling that in 2014, under the Newman LNP Government, six state LNP MPs publicly reaffirmed the government's "commitment to protecting the inter-urban break". (This included Andrew Powell and Jarrod Bleijie.) That principle should still apply.

If the NIUB is truly valued as a green buffer, wildlife corridor and safeguard against sprawl, its protection should not depend on vigilant residents and legal challenges after damage is done.

Strong environmental assets require strong, consistent regional protection.

Lyn Rushby

Dear Editor,
Thoughts after Bondi

At risk of inciting a war of words or belief systems … as a person of non-denominational faith, I have asked myself how does any one religion or people deem itself as deserving of more than the next? Be it food, country or protection.

According to many teachings – God (or whatever term is used to identify one's higher source) doesn't make mistakes. God has a plan.

Is God not the beginning and end, and therefore everything in between, the final word, the great unknown, working in mysterious ways. Even 'vengeance is mine'. And so on.

How is it that religion can be so selective that it is the Will or Act of God to smite, desecrate, defile, demean and declare war on their enemies and detractors, and yet when the same is incurred upon them, it is a sin, outrageous or 'not' their God's Will and 'we are innocent'.

Why do we/they doubt when all of it cannot not be God's Will in the grander scheme of thinking? Are we not all 'God's children' – whether human beings, animals, wind or plant?

Was free will not given to us by our God, who made us of him/herself? Where lies the real disconnect? Are we not all in 'this' together?

Seems to me, the point is that we just don't understand what faith and forgiveness really is.

Until we are pushed to use it.

P Robinson

To The Editor
I add my thanks to all the workers who cleared our roads and footpaths of fallen uprooted trees and restored the spaghetti-like tangle of electricity lines.

A few years ago, I attempted to have Moreton Bay Council remove dangerous gum trees and pointed out the potential of massive gum trees falling across power lines on Sunderland Drive. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

How many Bribie people lost food from freezers and refrigerators and the cost involved thanks to Council LACK OF ACTION.

The majority of trees uprooted in the recent storm were GUM trees as seen around the Island. Their leaves and branches still await clearance.

Their shallow root system and the fact that Bribie Island is a SAND Island adds to the danger.

Councilors are encouraged to look up at the power lines; observe which trees have the potential to tear down electricity wires in the next storm and remove the trees.

Dendrologists advise that eucalypts (gum trees) should never be allowed near houses, roads, or places frequented by people.

Persons were injured at the Bongaree markets by fallen gum branches.

Thomas J Mahon JP Bcs

Dear Editor,
We swim in the passage daily with our children and grandchildren. It is a beautiful place.

Is it clean? Where do all the boats put their effluent? Does anybody monitor it?

Can other readers help me on this?

Thank you Robyn Forbes.

To The Editor

Barry Clark's excellent idea
I'm a keen reader of Barry Clark's history pages in 'The Bribie Islander' as they're always full of interesting facts. But his comments in the last issue of the magazine really caught my attention.

Some of his words follow.
'If you are reading this, you have come to Bribie because it is different and not like other Bay or seaside suburbs as it has always been special and unique in many ways.'

'There is no agreed or 'documented' Vision for the future of Bribie Island, to ensure it remains a special place in 100 years' time.'

'Without an agreed strategic plan (for Bribie Island) things could just drift along, largely driven by developers, until Bribie becomes just like any other Moreton Bay suburb.'

Bribie Island needs a clear vision and strategic plan to safeguard the qualities that make it unique - its relaxed coastal character, ecological richness and strong sense of community.

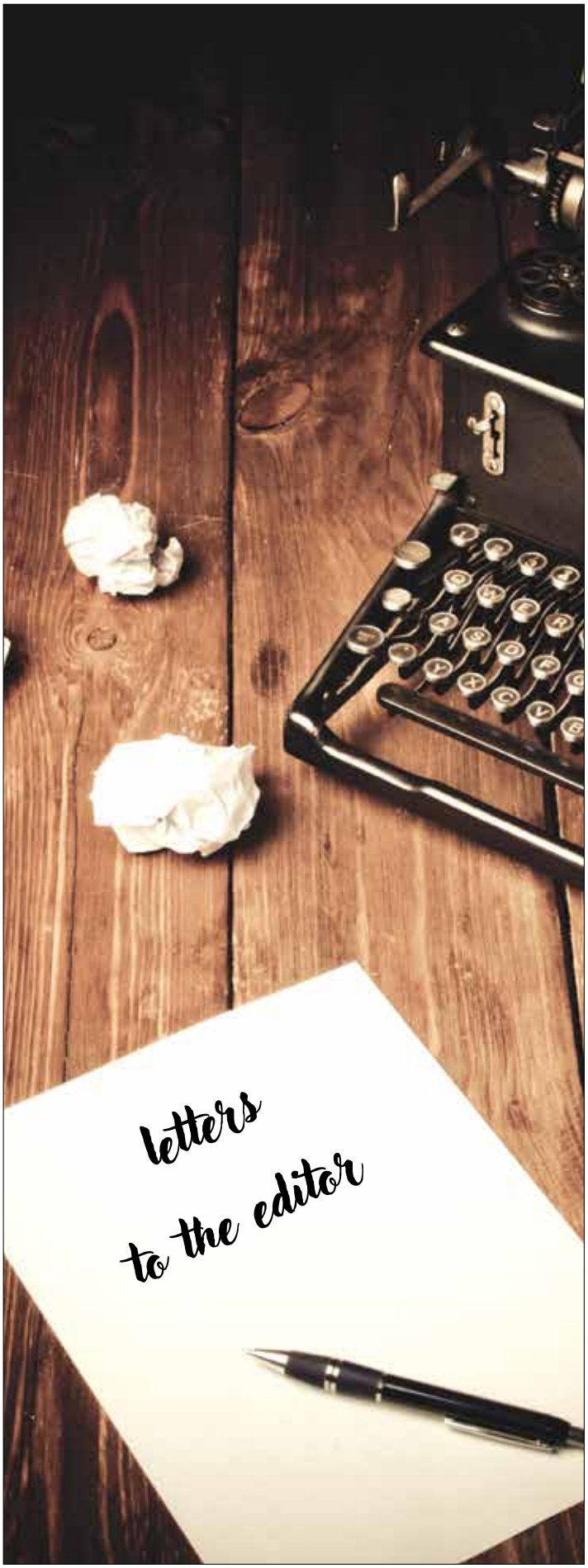
Without a coordinated long-term framework, ad-hoc development risks eroding the island's identity, degrading sensitive environments and placing pressure on infrastructure.

A shared vision helps balance growth with protection, guides council and state decision-making, and ensures the community's expectations are respected.

Strategic planning also strengthens resilience to climate and population pressures, ensuring Bribie remains distinctive, liveable and environmentally secure for future generations.

Come on City of Moreton Bay Council and Division 1 Councillor Brooke Savige. Embrace the task and drive it ahead before it's too late.

Lyn Rushby



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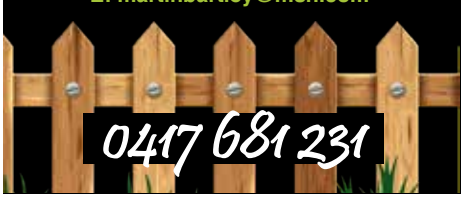
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