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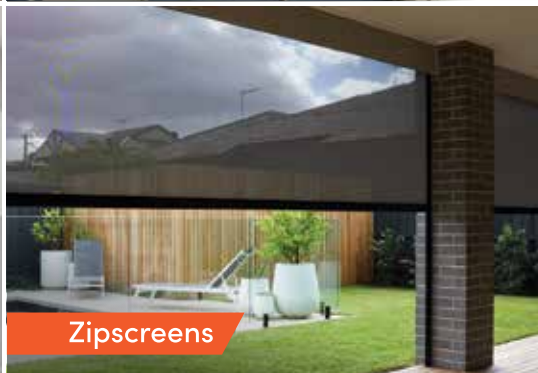
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We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Country across our region. We also acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kabi Kabi, Jinibara and Turrbal Traditional Custodians, and their elders past, present and emerging of the lands, winds and waters where we live, learn and work. We pay our respects and acknowledge the important role of Elders past and present, for they hold the memories of the traditions, cultures and aspirations of Australia's First Nations peoples, and have taken on the responsibility to protect and promote their culture and leave a legacy for future Elders and leaders.



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Dear readers,

Welcome to Edition 273. Spring has arrived, bringing longer days, fresh colour and plenty happening around our community.

The Bribie Island Nature Festival returns from 9–11 October, bringing together local and visiting artists, scientists and

wildlife experts for a weekend celebrating nature, art and community. It is a great chance to get outdoors, discover something new and appreciate the remarkable wildlife and habitats right on our doorstep. There is also an important practical reminder. From 1 January 2027, Queensland's updated smoke alarm rules will apply to all existing private homes, townhouses and units. Whether it is the family home, an investment property or a place you have owned for years, it is worth checking your alarms now rather than leaving it until the deadline.

At my place, the bathrooms are finally finished, and I am very pleased to say we survived the process. Now it is the kitchen's turn. Anyone who has renovated knows the routine: too many decisions, dust in places it should never reach and a growing appreciation for takeaway. Still, it is exciting to see it all coming together.

Inside, you will also find spring beauty tips and great local stories celebrating the people, businesses, volunteers and events that make our region special. Wherever you can, please support local—it keeps our community strong and helps the people behind these businesses and organisations continue doing what they do best.

Settle in with a cuppa and enjoy the read. Thanks, as always, for being part of our community. Take care, Stay safe,

Cherrie

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How Long Does Recovery Take After Laser Eye Surgery?

General note: This article provides general information only and should not replace personalised advice from your eye specialist.

Wondering how long it takes to recover after laser eye surgery? Recovery is a little different for everyone. It can depend on the type of treatment you have, the health of your eyes, and how your eyes respond after the procedure.

Some people notice clearer vision within a day or two, while others find their vision improves more gradually over the next few days.

It is also completely normal to have questions before treatment. Laser eye surgery has been used for many years and modern techniques are designed to be precise, but it is still a medical procedure. Taking time to understand the benefits, limits, and suitability requirements can help you feel more prepared before making a decision.

How Long Does Recovery Usually Take?

For many people, vision starts to improve fairly quickly. Things may look clearer within the first 24 to 48 hours, although it is also normal for vision to feel a little up and down while your eyes settle. If your treatment involves the surface of the eye, the first stage of recovery may take a bit longer and feel more uncomfortable at first.

What Happens During the First 24 to 48 Hours?

In the first day or two, the main thing is to take it easy. Your surgeon will give you instructions to follow, and it is important to stick to them. Your vision may be blurry or hazy at first, and your eyes might feel dry, watery, scratchy, or sensitive to bright light. This can be a normal part of the early healing process.

Try not to rub your eyes, even if they feel irritated. Use your eye drops exactly as directed, wear any protective eyewear you have been given, and rest when you need to.

These small steps can make a big difference to your comfort and recovery.

What Can You Expect During the First Week?

During the first week, your vision may become clearer day by day. It is also normal for your vision to feel sharper at some times than others. Dryness, glare, halos around lights, or sensitivity to screens and sunlight can happen during this stage, so keep using your drops and attend your follow-up appointments.

If you have a surface-based treatment, do not worry if recovery feels slower at the start. These treatments often need a little more time before the eyes feel comfortable and vision becomes clearer. Your eye specialist will guide you based on how your eyes are healing.

When Can You Return to Normal Activities?

Getting back to normal activities depends on how your eyes feel, how well you can see, and what your surgeon recommends. Many people can return to simple daily tasks fairly soon, but it is worth giving your eyes time to heal properly before rushing back into everything.

If you are unsure about an activity, it is always safest to ask your surgeon before restarting it.

- **Work and screens:** Your surgeon will let you know when it is okay to return to work and screen time.
- **Driving:** Wait until your vision is clear enough and your surgeon confirms it is safe.
- **Exercise:** Gentle movement may be fine earlier, but hold off on strenuous or contact exercise until your clinical team gives you the go-ahead.
- **Swimming:** It is usually best to avoid swimming for a while to help lower the risk of infection.

How Long Does Complete Healing Take?

Even if your vision improves quickly, your eyes may still be healing in the background. It can take weeks or even months for vision to fully settle. Dryness, small changes in clarity, or glare at night may gradually improve as your eyes continue to recover.

What Can Affect Your Recovery Time?

A few things can affect your recovery time, including the type of treatment you have, your prescription, your overall eye health, and how closely you follow your aftercare instructions. Everyone heals at their own pace, so try not to compare your recovery with someone else's.

Is Laser Eye Surgery Suitable for Everyone?

Laser eye surgery can help many people reduce their need for glasses or contact lenses, but it is not suitable for everyone. Your eye specialist will usually check your age, prescription stability, corneal thickness and shape, dryness, general eye health, and any medical conditions or medicines that could affect healing. Pregnancy, breastfeeding, certain eye conditions, or an unstable prescription may mean treatment needs to be delayed or may not be recommended.

What Are the Benefits and Limits?

For suitable patients, laser eye surgery may reduce dependence on glasses or contact lenses and can provide long-term vision correction. The procedure itself is usually performed with numbing eye drops, so patients should not feel sharp pain during treatment, although pressure or mild discomfort may be noticed. Results can vary, and some

people may still need glasses for certain tasks, reading glasses as they get older, or further treatment if extra refinement is needed.

Why Does Choosing the Right Specialist Matter?

Although laser eye surgery is commonly performed, it is still a procedure on your eyes. Choosing an experienced eye specialist and having a thorough assessment beforehand can help reduce risks, set realistic expectations, and make sure the treatment plan is right for your eyes.

Why Are Follow-Up Appointments Important?

Your follow-up appointments are there to make sure everything is healing as expected. They also give you a chance to ask questions, talk through any symptoms, and get personalised advice about returning to work, driving, exercise, and other activities.

Conclusion

Recovery after laser eye surgery does not look exactly the same for everyone. Some people notice useful vision within the first few days, while others need a little more time, especially after surface-based treatments. Before treatment, it is also worth understanding the benefits, possible limits, and whether you are a suitable candidate.

The best thing you can do is follow your aftercare instructions, attend your review appointments, and contact your eye specialist if anything feels unusual, painful, or different from what you were told to expect.

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Easy Spring Beauty by the Water

FRESH HAIR, LIGHT MAKEUP AND SIMPLE BEAUTY
IDEAS FOR WARM COASTAL DAYS.



Spring beauty near the water should feel easy, but that does not mean it has to be plain. The weather is warmer, the breeze can pick up without warning, and most days call for something that lasts from morning errands to coffee, a walk by the foreshore or dinner outside. The aim is not to look perfectly done. It is to feel fresh, comfortable and ready for the day, with hair and makeup that can handle a bit of sun, movement and real life.

Hair That Works with the Weather

Coastal hair does not need to be too styled. Wind, warmth and a bit of humidity are all part of spring, so choose styles that still look good if they loosen up during the day. Soft waves, a low bun, a neat ponytail or a simple clip are all easy options. If your hair has natural texture, let it do its thing and keep products light. A small amount of smoothing cream can calm flyaways, while a light salt spray can add shape without making hair stiff. If you know you will be outside for a while, choose a style that can be tucked under a hat or tied back quickly.

Makeup That Feels Light

A light base usually feels best in spring. Start with sunscreen, then use tinted moisturiser or a sheer foundation if you want a little coverage. Add concealer only where you want it, such as under the eyes or around redness, rather than covering the whole face. Brushed brows, mascara, cream blush and a tinted lip balm can be enough for most days. If you prefer more definition, try a soft brown eyeliner or a little bronzer around the cheeks and hairline. The idea is to look fresh, not heavily made up.

Fresh, Not Fussy

A little colour and glow can go a long way. Choose soft peach, rose, coral or warm neutral shades that brighten the face without taking over. Cream products are easy to blend and touch up, while a simple lip balm can be reapplied without a mirror. If your skin gets shiny in the heat, keep glow to the cheeks and lips rather than all over the face.

If your skin is on the drier side, a light cream highlighter or balm on the cheekbones can make everything look fresh without feeling dressed up.

A Small Bag of Basics

For a day out, you do not need much, but a few small things can make a difference. Sunscreen, lip balm, a hair tie, a small brush or comb, and sunglasses will cover most situations. If you like to touch up your skin during the day, add blotting paper or a compact powder. A travel-size hand cream, mini deodorant or small perfume roller can also be handy if your plans stretch into the afternoon. Keep everything in a small pouch so it is easy to move from your everyday bag to a beach tote.

Easy Beauty Ideas

- For a morning out: Loose hair or a soft clip, sunscreen, tinted moisturiser, brushed brows and lip balm.
- For lunch by the water: A low bun, cream blush, mascara, sunglasses and a tinted balm in your bag.
- For a beach walk: Hair tied back or clipped up, sunscreen, bare or very light skin makeup, and a balm you can reapply.
- For dinner outside: Soft waves or a neat ponytail, a little extra blush or bronzer, mascara, and a fresh lip colour that is easy to top up.
- For a busy all-day outing: Simple hair, light base, comfortable lips, a hat, sunglasses and a small pouch with touch-up basics.

Keep the Same Easy Mood

Good spring beauty should suit the way the day really goes. It should handle a little breeze, a little sun and a few changes of plan. Around the coast, with just a small touch of Bribie ease, the best approach is simple: protect your skin, keep hair comfortable, choose colours that make you feel fresh, and carry only what you will actually use. Beauty does not need to be complicated to feel good. Sometimes the best look is the one that lets you get on with the day.

Finding the Blessings

Life has a way of unfolding differently from the plans we make. Sometimes a door closes that we desperately wanted to stay open.

A relationship ends. A job doesn't work out. We face unexpected challenges, disappointment or uncertainty. In those moments, it's easy to focus on everything that seems to be going wrong. I have come to believe that some of life's greatest blessings don't arrive wrapped in beautiful paper. They often arrive disguised as detours, delays or disappointments.

That doesn't mean we ignore our feelings or pretend painful experiences are easy. We need to honour our emotions and allow ourselves time to heal.

Though once we have done that, we can gently begin asking a different question:

"Where might the blessing be hiding?"

Looking for the blessing doesn't change what happened, though it can change how we move through it. It opens our hearts to possibility instead of leaving us stuck in fear or resentment.

Here are three gentle ways to begin.

Trust that everything has a purpose.

Not every chapter is meant to last forever. Sometimes life closes one path because another is waiting for us. Even if we can't understand it today, trust that this season is shaping you in ways you may only recognise later.

Look for the gift, no matter how small.

Blessings aren't always dramatic miracles. Sometimes they're found in unexpected kindness, a new friendship, extra time to slow down, or discovering strength you didn't know you had. Take time to notice the small gifts.

Choose hope over fear.

Fear asks, "What if everything gets worse?" Hope gently asks, "What if something beautiful is unfolding?" We don't need to know the whole journey. We only need the courage to take the next step.

I have often looked back on moments that once broke my heart and realised they quietly redirected my life towards something better. At the time, I couldn't see it. Today, I can see the blessing hidden within the struggle.

If you're walking through an unfavourable time right now, be gentle with yourself. You don't have to have all the answers. Sometimes the blessing isn't in the circumstance itself; it's in who you're becoming because of it. Keep your heart open. Keep trusting. Life has a beautiful way of revealing blessings in its own perfect timing. If this article resonated with you and you are navigating a challenging time, I would love to support you.

Book a session, and together we can gently explore what's happening, reconnect you with hope, and help you move forward with greater clarity and peace.

You can reach me through
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Homeopath & Acupuncturist
Jessica Yung

Life HOMEOPATHY

Homeopathy: Understanding the Whole Person

From September, appointments will be available at Life Homeopathy, a new homeopathy clinic on Bribie Island founded by local acupuncturist Jessica Yung.

While many people have heard of homeopathy, few know what it is, how it differs from other natural therapies, or whether it might be the right approach for them.

Every person has a unique health journey. For some, there was a time when they felt well before something changed.

For others, certain symptoms or struggles have been part of life for as long as they can remember. Understanding how your health has unfolded can provide important clues about the bigger picture.

People often say:
“Ever since that stressful period, my health hasn’t been the same.”
“Everything changed after my surgery.” “I’ve tried so many things, but I still don’t have any real answers.” “I’ve always been like this.”

What is Homeopathy?

Homeopathy is a system of medicine developed more than 200 years ago by German physician Dr Samuel Hahnemann. It takes a highly individualised approach, looking beyond today’s symptoms to understand the person experiencing them. At Life Homeopathy, we’re interested in much more than symptoms alone.

Physical symptoms are important, but so are emotional wellbeing, family history and life experiences. Together, these pieces help build a picture of each person’s individual health pattern.

Sometimes health changes following an illness, surgery, grief, burnout or emotional shock. At other times, certain tendencies may have been present since childhood or may reflect inherited susceptibilities.

Sometimes the influences affecting our health may even have begun before us. When we experience

stress or trauma, the mind and body naturally adapt to help us cope. These adaptations can be helpful at the time, but years later they may no longer serve us. They might appear as perfectionism, people-pleasing, difficulty saying no, feeling constantly on edge, or physical symptoms that never seem to fully resolve.

Homeopathy looks for the broader pattern connecting symptoms — sometimes referred to in homeopathy as the “red thread.” The aim is to select a remedy that closely matches this individual pattern and supports the body’s natural capacity to restore balance.

Rather than simply turning off the smoke alarm (i.e. suppressing symptoms) while the fire is still burning, homeopathy seeks to understand the deeper pattern behind a person’s health concerns to allow healing.

How is Homeopathy Different?

Although homeopathy is often grouped together with other natural therapies, it is a distinct system of medicine with its own philosophy and method of prescribing.

Homeopathy uses remedies prepared from substances of natural origin. They are prescribed according to each person’s unique combination of symptoms, health history and individual characteristics. Because of this, two people with the same condition may receive completely different remedies. The treatment is tailored to the individual, rather than simply to the diagnosis.

Homeopathic remedies are taken orally and can be used alongside conventional healthcare and other complementary therapies.

What to Expect from a Homeopathy Consultation

A homeopathy consultation is very different from a typical appointment. The initial consultation takes around 90 minutes and is an opportunity to explore your health in depth.

You’ll be asked about your current concerns, but also about your general wellbeing, sleep, energy, digestion, emotional patterns, past illnesses, significant life events and other characteristics that make your experience unique.

The consultation is guided by questions designed to uncover the individual pattern behind your symptoms. From this information, one or more personalised homeopathic remedies are selected. Follow-up

consultations are typically scheduled 6–8 weeks later and focus on how you have responded, what has happened and the next steps.

Recently we’ve supported clients with a range of concerns, including:

- Insomnia
- Male and female fertility
- Endometriosis and painful periods
- Perimenopausal symptoms
- Hormonal migraines
- Low self-esteem and anxiety

Who is Homeopathy For?

Homeopathy is suitable for people of all ages and may be effective for a wide range of concerns, including allergies, eczema, asthma, digestive complaints, hormonal changes, autoimmune conditions, fatigue, anxiety, sleep difficulties and many other ongoing health concerns.

It may be particularly beneficial to people who feel there is more to their health story than a diagnosis alone, or who want to explore the patterns and influences that may be contributing to their overall wellbeing.

Why Life Homeopathy?

Many local residents already know Jess as the owner and practitioner at **Bribie Acupuncture**.

After many years supporting people through acupuncture and Chinese medicine, she became increasingly interested in how emotional wellbeing, life experiences and family history can influence health challenges. Homeopathy became a natural extension of her practice.

Before entering natural healthcare, Jess spent more than a decade working in project management in the corporate world. With a practical, analytical mindset and a lifelong interest in natural medicine, she brings both curiosity and compassion to her consultations.

Acupuncture and homeopathy can complement each other, but they can also be used independently.

Homeopathy is also well suited to telehealth, making consultations accessible throughout Australia and internationally.

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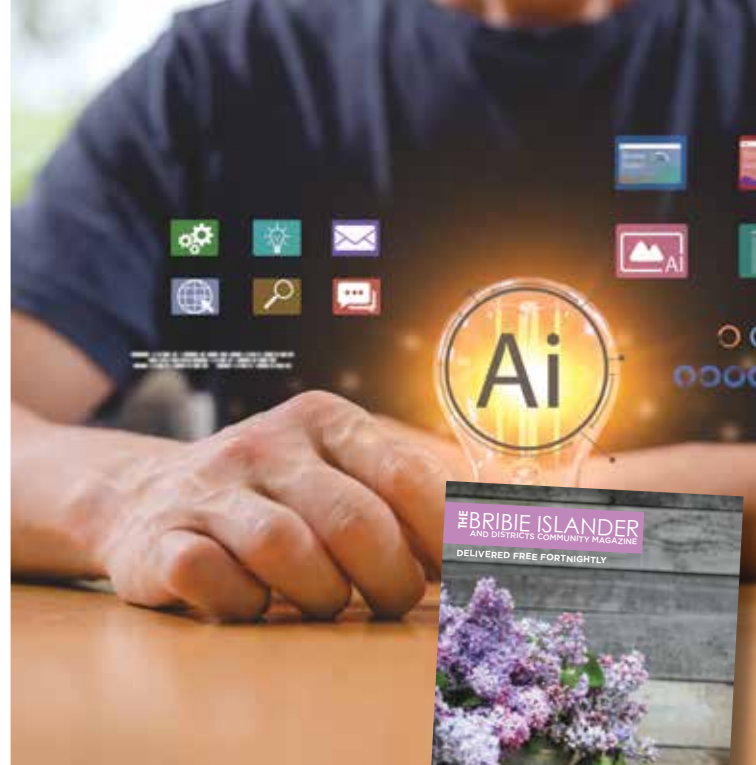
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EXPLAINING **Ai** IN THE BRIBIE ISLANDER MAGAZINE

As the world moves into an era of AI usage, we are being presented more frequently with advertisements for inclusion in The Bribie Islander magazine, which have been created on various AI platforms.

Unfortunately, most of these advertisements cannot be used, as the Bribie Islander magazine is printed on a 4-colour plate separation roll press machine, not printed on Digital Format. All images and text for every page are separated into CMYK for plate processing.

When the magazine is submitted to our printer for pre-flight separation, most AI generated product is rejected as separation fails for one or more of the below-

- **Most AI generated images are insufficient resolution for the intended print size as most AI generators create for Digital output not 4-colour plate separation.**
- **Most AI generated images are missing bleed and safe area allowances**
- **Most AI generated images are processed as RGB rather than print-ready CMYK colour profiles**
- **Most AI generators create flattened or rasterised text and graphic elements which cannot be edited or reproduced cleanly**
- **Most files are presented as Bit Mapped images in PDF format which are fine for Digital print medium but are not re-produceable to a quality product which our clients deserve and expect.**

This is especially true where fine type such as phone numbers or email addresses is included in logos. In most cases, these fine text articles disappear because of

registration issues caused by the creation process itself and the lack of crisp delineation of line.

AI is an emerging technology and has many benefits for companies and it can make a tremendous difference where standard tasks could be undertaken by such technology, saving considerable time for every small business owner.

It has tremendous potential in the digital space, however, in the large, roll press, 4-colour plate separation space, it is not yet a reliable option and full feature, print design software is still the standard of choice.

We understand our clients' desire to create their advertisement for inclusion; however, AI products remain an issue.

Our Design Team are happy to assist in creating clear, meaningful, eye-catching advertising for you and, to this end, we have set out below some possible options for you.

1. **If you design a logo, present it separately, if possible, with a transparent background in PDF, TIFF, PSD, EPS format**
2. **If you have wording required, present it separately in word or text file document format**
3. **If you have an idea but are unable to separate as required, our Design Team can work with you to bring your ideas to life.**

Please do not hesitate to contact our team.

Arthritis:

The Pain Modern Medicine Still Cannot Cure

©Anne Matthews

For all the triumphs of modern medicine, arthritis remains one of its most stubborn disappointments. Arthritis has been with us for a long time. Signs of it have been found in bodies from the 5th Century BC. And yet today, all we can still do to alleviate the pain is to deaden ourselves with analgesics.

We can replace hips, transplant organs, map the human genome and design drugs that target tiny parts of the immune system. Yet for the millions who wake each morning with swollen fingers, stiff knees or burning joints, there is still no simple cure. The best many patients can hope for is control: less pain, slower damage and enough mobility to keep working, caring, walking and sleeping. From Michelangelo to Renoir, Ben Franklin to Shaquille O'Neal, this affliction does not spare anyone. It is not a disease as such – rather a condition.

Public frustration is understandable. Arthritis is often spoken of as though it were a single complaint, a nuisance of old age that should surely have been solved by now. In reality, it is a family of more than 100 conditions. Osteoarthritis is linked to the breakdown of cartilage and changes in the whole joint. Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disease, in which the body's defence system attacks its own tissues. Gout is driven by uric acid crystals. Psoriatic arthritis follows yet another immune pathway. To ask why there is no cure for arthritis is, in effect, to ask why there is no cure for a crowd of different diseases wearing the same name.

Osteoarthritis, the most common form, illustrates the problem. Cartilage is not like skin. It does not heal easily after damage, partly because it has little blood supply to deliver the cells and nutrients needed for repair. Once the joint surface is worn, the surrounding bone, ligaments and soft tissues can also change. Pain then becomes not just a sign of missing cartilage, but of an entire joint system under mechanical and inflammatory stress. Scientists are studying stem cells, tissue engineering and regenerative medicine, but rebuilding a durable, living joint surface is still far harder than treating a cut or mending a broken bone.

Rheumatoid arthritis tells a different but equally difficult story. Here, medicine is not battling wear and tear alone; it is trying to restrain an immune system that has turned on the body. Disease-modifying drugs and biologic treatments have changed lives, helping many patients avoid the severe deformity once associated with the condition. Some achieve remission. But remission is not a cure. Stop the medicine, and the disease may return. Suppress the immune system too strongly, and the patient may face a higher risk of infection. The task is delicate: turn down the dangerous immune response without turning off protection altogether.

This is why the word “cure” is so demanding. A true cure would need to stop the cause; repair damage already done and prevent the disease from returning. Arthritis rarely offers such a neat target. Age, genes, previous injury, body weight, hormones, infection, metabolism and environmental triggers can all play a part. Two people with the same diagnosis may have different pathways to pain. One patient may respond well to a cheap, established medicine; another may need an expensive biologic drug; another may find that nothing works well enough.

Also, we all have different “pain levels” – ie where-as one of us might say something is level nine– another may only rate the pain as Level four. The available treatments are important, but they are not harmless. Anti-inflammatory tablets may settle swelling, but prolonged use can affect the stomach, kidneys or heart in some patients.

Steroids can bring rapid relief, yet repeated use may contribute to weight gain, thinning bones, raised blood pressure or changes in blood sugar. Immune-suppressing drugs can protect joints but require monitoring and caution.

For many sufferers, relief comes with a bargain they did not choose: less pain today, complications tomorrow. That bargain is paid in ordinary moments. Arthritis is not just a medical diagnosis; it is the jar that will not

open, the staircase that feels like a hill, the pen that hurts to hold, the night broken by pain. It steals time, confidence and independence. It affects work, family life and mental health. That is why describing arthritis as merely “managed” can sound cold to those who live with it and may mean many things to sufferers. Management may be the clinical goal, but patients naturally want something more final. The hardest part of living with arthritis is that others do not realise the pain you are experiencing.

The truth is not that medicine has failed to care. It is that arthritis sits at a difficult crossroads of ageing, immunity, inflammation, pain and physical damage. Doctors can block signals, reduce swelling, replace destroyed joints and help patients stay active. What they cannot yet do, reliably and safely, is reverse years of structural wear or permanently reset a faulty immune system in every patient. That is the gap between treatment and cure.

There is, however, reason for cautious hope. Earlier diagnosis, better imaging, joint replacement, targeted immune therapies, rehabilitation and research into personalised and regenerative medicine have all improved the outlook. But hope should not obscure the need for more investment, more understanding and safer long-term options.

Thousands of people across the world are still living on a difficult edge between pain and side effects. They deserve treatments that do more than help them endure.

They deserve science that keeps pressing toward the cure that has, for too long, remained out of reach. Perhaps the development of robotics may provide part of the answer in years to come.

(This article is not meant as a scientific/medical text. It is a general comment on arthritis today as experienced by someone who suffers from it. If anyone has medical issues, they should always consult their doctor before starting any new therapy or drug).

It has been another busy period across Pumicestone, with a strong focus on keeping our community safe, supporting our schools and celebrating the people and organisations that make our electorate such a wonderful place to live.

Keeping Queenslanders safe remains a key priority for the Crisafulli Government.

Attorney-General Deb Frecklington has introduced new Breach Bail, Go to Jail laws into Queensland Parliament, strengthening the consequences for serious offences committed while on bail.

The Government is also introducing reforms to Queensland's parole laws to close loopholes and keep the most serious offenders behind bars for longer.

Closer to home, we are continuing to deliver for local schools. Pumicestone State School now has a new FlexiSpace, while Bribie Island State School has received new senior bathrooms and Bribie Island State High School has a new FlexiSpace.

Banksia Beach State School is also among 17 Queensland schools receiving new playground shade structures, helping students stay active while being sun-safe.

Our commitment to local sport is also being delivered, with the \$153,000 election commitment to upgrade the lights at the Beachmere Sports Club Complex now complete. Better lighting means more opportunities for training, games and the next generation of Beachmere athletes.

It has also been wonderful to get out and about across our community. I was proud to celebrate Onam with the Caboolture Malayalee Association, bringing generations together to celebrate Kerala's culture and traditions.

I also had the pleasure of presenting the State MP Award to nine-year-old Joy Phillips at the Next Generation Art

Prize for her beautiful artwork, A Place Between. Bribie has also been buzzing, from the music, food and activities at Bribie Big Arvo to DragonFest at Sylvan Beach.

I enjoyed celebrating the first birthday of Beachmere Probus Club, attending the Ducks & Dollars fundraiser supporting Bribie Island Kids Educational Support (BIKES) and joining the Mini Trains team at Melsa Park to recognise more than 40 years of volunteering and community service.

Another important local story is the incredible work of Whittaker's Wings Foundation.

Following the loss of their daughter Whittaker in 2021, Crystal and Ryan Zeeman have provided more than 300 care packs to Queensland hospitals, supporting families experiencing pregnancy and infant loss.

Their inaugural Brisbane fundraiser gala will be held on 15 October, alongside the International Wave of Light, remembering babies who never got to stay and the families who carry their memory.

From our schools and sporting clubs to our volunteers, artists and community organisations, Pumicestone continues to show what can be achieved when we work together.

There is more work to do, but the Crisafulli Government is continuing to deliver its fresh start for Queensland with safety where you live, health services when you need them, a stronger economy and a plan for Queensland's future.

As always, I am here to represent and assist you. Please contact my office on (07) 3474 2100 or email pumicestone@parliament.qld.gov.au if I can be of assistance.

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The Status of Grief and Loss Education in Australian Schools

By Terry Skidmore

Introduction

Grief and loss affect many young people, yet schools often struggle to address these topics directly. In Australia, students can experience the death of a loved one, family separation, serious illness, or other major losses during their schooling years.

Because students spend so much time at school, teachers and wellbeing staff can play a vital role in recognising grief, responding early, and keeping students connected to learning and peers. Australian schools provide some support, but grief and loss education remains inconsistent nationwide.

How Common Is Grief for Australian Students?

Statistics show why schools need grief-aware practice:

- One in 20 Australian children loses a parent before turning 18 (National Centre for Childhood Grief, n.d.).
- Many more children go through the death of a grandparent, sibling, extended family member, or close friend during childhood or adolescence (National Centre for Childhood Grief, n.d.).
- In 2022, 1,605 children aged 0–17 died across Australia, a rate of 28.2 per 100,000 children. This national child-mortality figure shows that many school communities encounter bereavement, although it does not directly count students who lost a peer or sibling (Queensland Family and Child Commission, 2025).

These figures show that grief touches many Australian school communities. Schools therefore need every day wellbeing practices that support bereaved students, not only crisis responses after major tragedies.

Grief and Loss in the Australian Curriculum

The Australian Curriculum does not include a subject titled “grief and loss.” Instead, teachers address related knowledge and skills through Health and Physical Education and mental health and wellbeing education. These learning areas help students build emotional awareness, coping strategies, and help-seeking skills (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority, n.d.).

Because the curriculum does not require direct grief education, schools handle the topic in different ways. Some schools discuss grief and loss openly; others respond only when a crisis occurs.

School Wellbeing Frameworks and Support

The Australian Student Wellbeing Framework encourages schools to create safe, inclusive and supportive environments where students feel connected and valued (Australian Government Department of Education, 2023). Most schools also write policies for critical incidents such as the death of a student or staff member. However, many schools focus on short-term crisis response rather than long-term grief education. Research on bereavement support in education shows that teaching staff can feel unsure about their role when schools do not provide clear structures, time, support and training (Lytje & Dyregrov, 2025).

Student Case Examples

Case Example 1: Loss of a Parent

A Year 9 student loses their father to a sudden illness. When the student returns to school, they withdraw socially, struggle to concentrate, and fall behind in schoolwork. Australian research links student grief with sleep difficulties, emotional distress and poor focus, all of which can affect academic performance (ReachOut Schools, 2024).

Schools with grief-informed staff can respond through counselling, flexible deadlines and regular check-ins. Schools without this training may mistake grief for disengagement.

Case Example 2: Death Within the School Community

When a student dies, the loss can affect close friends and the broader school community. One death can reach hundreds of students and staff. Australian school guidance notes that students may respond with shock, fear, anger, guilt or emotional numbness (ReachOut Schools, 2024). Schools support students more effectively when they acknowledge the death, create safe spaces for discussion and offer ongoing counselling.

Grief and Loss Programs in Australian Schools

Although grief education remains optional, some Australian schools use structured programs.

- **Seasons for Life** helps students understand loss, strengthen coping skills and build supportive relationships. The Australian Government funds the program for eligible high schools at no cost (MacKillop Seasons, n.d.).
- **Grief Australia and Learning Through Loss** train teachers and school wellbeing staff to build grief literacy and confidence when supporting grieving students (Grief Australia, n.d.; Learning Through Loss, n.d.).

However, school leadership, funding and awareness shape access to these programs, so support remains uneven.

Challenges and Gaps

Australian schools still face several gaps:

- Schools do not require grief and loss education, which creates inconsistent support.
- Many teachers receive little or no training in grief support.
- Discomfort around death leads some schools to avoid the topic altogether.

Bereavement can affect students’ learning, friendships and wellbeing, and unclear school support structures can leave staff unsure how to respond (Lytje & Dyregrov, 2025).

Conclusion

Australian statistics show that grief and loss affect many students. Schools can help young people manage these experiences when they treat grief support as part of everyday wellbeing, not only as a crisis response.

Wellbeing frameworks and optional programs already offer useful pathways, but schools still deliver grief and loss education inconsistently across Australia. By improving teacher training and embedding grief education more deliberately into wellbeing programs, schools can give bereaved students clearer, kinder and more reliable support.

Cyn's Corner

MAKING SPACE FOR SPRING: THE LOST ART OF LAMENT

Spring has a wonderful way of making us want to clear things out.

Cupboards get opened, gardens tidied and windows thrown wide to let the fresh air in. We decide what we need to keep, what has served its purpose and what we are finally ready to let go. But some things aren't quite so easy to put in the wheelie bin.

Disappointment. Grief. Anger. Betrayal. Fear. That conversation we keep replaying. The situation we cannot fix. The injustice that makes absolutely no sense. What do we do with those?

One ancient practice I have been exploring recently is **lament**.

Lament isn't simply complaining, and it certainly isn't sitting in the valley feeling miserable indefinitely. In fact, I've come to see it almost as the opposite.

Lament gives us permission to enter the valley honestly, so that we can eventually move through it.

Many ancient laments, including those found in the Psalms, are remarkably unguarded. Their writers don't tidy up their emotions before putting them onto the page. There is frustration, bewilderment, anger, grief and sometimes even accusation. There is something wonderfully freeing about that.

We spend an enormous amount of energy trying to be okay.

"I'm fine."

"It could be worse."

"Other people have bigger problems."

Perhaps. But none of those statements actually makes the thing we are carrying disappear.

A lament begins somewhere else: **This hurts.**

And then we write.

It doesn't have to be beautiful. Nobody is marking your grammar. You don't even need to show it to another person. I find it helpful to give a lament a simple movement.

Name it. Pour it out. Recognise what you cannot control. Release it. Look for hope.

It might sound something like this:

I am tired of carrying this.

I am frustrated that nothing seems to change. I have tried to solve it, understand it and make it right. And I can't. This is bigger than me. I cannot control another person, rewrite yesterday or guarantee tomorrow. So I release what isn't mine to control. I will carry what is mine, and put down what isn't.

I don't know what happens next. But today I noticed the sun was warm. Someone made me laugh. Something is still growing.

Perhaps that is enough hope for today.

For me, the place I hand things over to is God. For someone else, that language might be different. The important part of the practice is recognising that **I am not required to solve everything before I am allowed to move forward.**

And this is where lament becomes quite different from simply stewing over something. A healthy lament moves.

Not necessarily quickly. Certainly not neatly. And sometimes we need to return to the same lament more than once.

But somewhere within lament there is a turning.

Not necessarily from sadness to happiness, but perhaps from despair towards possibility; from control towards acceptance; from isolation towards connection; from *"I can't bear this"* towards *"I don't have to carry all of this alone."*

Hope doesn't arrive at the end as a

compulsory happy ending. **It is often quietly intertwined through the lament itself.**

Perhaps that is why this practice feels particularly appropriate for Spring.

Nature doesn't pretend winter didn't happen. The bare branches, fallen leaves and cold mornings were real. But winter isn't the whole story.

Something new can grow alongside what has been lost. So this Spring, perhaps don't just clean a cupboard. Take a blank page and write a lament.

Be completely unguarded. Nobody else needs to read it.

And if you would like to explore the practice of writing a lament with others, I would love to facilitate a simple community workshop here on Bribie.

No literary ability required, no particular religious belief required either — just a willingness to bring a pen, a piece of paper and something you are ready to give some words to.

Because sometimes **hope begins not by pretending everything is okay, but by finally telling the truth that it isn't.**

Grace and peace, Cyn

Disclaimer

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Finding Our Place in the Bribie Island Community

By Tracey Brittingham, Service Leader, The Lemonade Stand Early Education

When I recently stepped into my new role as Service Leader at The Lemonade Stand Early Education on First Avenue, Bribie Island, one of the first things I wanted to do was understand the community I had become part of. I quickly discovered that Bribie Island isn't just a place where people live — it is a community in every sense of the word.

There is something incredibly special about the way people here come together. Through the good times and the challenging ones, people step up, lend a hand, support one another and, perhaps most importantly, genuinely care about the place they call home.

And I wanted The Lemonade Stand to be part of that.

Our beautiful boutique early education service is incredibly fortunate to be located in such a unique part of the world. Being surrounded by beaches, bushland, local businesses and community spaces gives our children opportunities that extend far beyond the walls of our service.

Our learning regularly takes us out into the community, with beach kindy, bush kindy and visits to the local library becoming part of our experiences.

We also welcome a wonderful range of community connections into our service, including weekly incursions from Inspire Wellness Sports, Musical Mates music lessons and experiences with Lab Kids.

For our children, these aren't simply excursions or activities. They are opportunities to discover their community, build relationships, develop confidence and understand that they have a place within something much bigger than themselves.

A Little Lemon Goes a Long Way
Recently, I discovered that Bribie has a wonderfully active rock-painting community — and I immediately thought, we need to be part of this!

So, naturally, we put our own Lemonade Stand spin on it. Together, we painted more than 20 lemon-themed rocks and hid them around Bribie Island for members of the community to discover.

But we wanted to take the idea one step further.

I approached several local cafés and businesses to see whether they would be interested in getting involved by offering a small pay-it-forward gesture or gift card for people who found one of our rocks and shared their discovery on social media.

Importantly, these weren't donations we were asking local businesses to provide — I purchased the gift cards myself. What I was really hoping to create was an opportunity for local businesses and our early learning service to collaborate, connect and introduce ourselves to one another.

And it was wonderful to see the response.

Local businesses were willing to jump on board, helping us create something that was fun for families while also shining a light on some of the fantastic businesses that make up our community.

For me, that is what community is about — finding little ways to support one another and creating connections where everyone can benefit.

Caring for Our Island
Our commitment to Bribie doesn't stop with community connections.

We have also joined several local environmental groups because we want our children to understand the importance of caring for the incredible environment right on our doorstep.

When children grow up surrounded by beaches, bushland and wildlife, they have an incredible opportunity to develop a genuine connection with the natural world. We want to nurture that connection from the very beginning.

There is something powerful about children learning not only about their community but learning that they have a role in caring for it.

Looking Ahead

As the weather warms up, we're also looking forward to getting involved in some of the local markets and finding even more ways to connect with the people and organisations around us.

Taking on this role has reminded me that an early learning service can be so much more than a place where children spend their days.

It can be a meeting place.
A contributor.
A neighbour.
A supporter of local businesses.

And a place where children begin to understand what it means to belong to a community.

At The Lemonade Stand Early Education, we're still finding our feet in this wonderful community — but if my first few months are anything to go by, we're very excited about the journey ahead.

After all, it takes a community to raise children — and we're pretty lucky to have found ours on Bribie Island.

Three Years Undefeated:

Celebrating Bribie Island Tigers Under 9s White

There is something special happening on the fields of Bribie Island, and it deserves to be celebrated.

The Bribie Island Tigers Under 9s White team has achieved an extraordinary milestone, completing three consecutive years undefeated. For any junior sporting team, that is an impressive achievement. For a group of young players who have stayed together, grown together and continued to support one another season after season, it is remarkable.

What makes this team stand out is not only the scoreboard. It is the way the children play the game. They share the ball generously, encourage their teammates and celebrate each goal together — often with a little dance that says as much about their spirit as their skill.

The team is made up of players with different levels of experience and ability, and that may be one of the reasons they have become so strong. Every child brings something



valuable to the group, and together they have built trust, confidence and a genuine love of playing as a team.

Behind them are two dedicated coaches who have been with the team for all three years. Their commitment goes well beyond training sessions and game days.

They help children get to training, recognise each player's strengths, celebrate every small win and give their time generously as volunteers.

Their belief in every player has helped create a team culture where every child feels valued.

This undefeated run is more than a sporting statistic. It is a story of friendship, teamwork, encouragement and outstanding community spirit. The Bribie Island Tigers Under 9s White team, their coaches and their families should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved. They are a wonderful example of what junior sport can be at its best.



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More Than a Boat:

The Legacy and Legend of Bribie Pink Dragons

If you have ever stood on the banks of the Pumicestone Passage, you have likely seen a dragon boat or two gliding smoothly across the water. That is the Bribie Pink Dragons, our local breast cancer survivor and supporter dragon boat club. To the casual observer, it is a beautiful, synchronized spectacle. But underneath the rhythmic splashing lies a sport of serious engineering, incredible physical numbers, and deep historical roots.

Let's take a look at the fascinating facts, figures, and fierce spirit that make dragon boating what it is.

The Anatomy of a Dragon Boat

A standard international racing dragon boat is a substantial piece of marine architecture.

The Dimensions: Built to strict specifications, a standard 20-paddler boat measures approximately 12.4 metres in length (stretching to over 14 metres once the ornate dragon head and tail are attached for festivals).

The Weight: Empty, the fiberglass hull weighs a massive 250 kilograms.

The Heavy Payload: When you pack the boat with its full crew—averaging 50 to 80 kilograms per person—the total weight of a fully loaded vessel moving through the water easily pushes between 1.5 to 2 tonnes. Moving that much weight requires immense, unified power.

Who is in the Boat?

A full standard crew consists of a team people working in absolute, flawless synchronization:

18-20 Paddlers: Seated side-by-side in pairs across 10 benches. The front pairs are the "strokes" who set the physical pace, the middle rows form the heavy-hitting "engine room", and the back rows push the displaced water away to keep the boat moving fast.
One Sweep (The Steerer): Standing tall at the back of the

boat, the sweep wields a long steering oar. The sweep is legally responsible for the safety and navigation of the craft, executing tight turns and keeping the boat perfectly straight during intense crosswinds.

One Drummer (The Heartbeat): Perched at the front facing the crew, the drummer is the emotional and rhythmic pulse of the boat. They beat a large drum in time with the lead paddlers' strokes, acting as a tactical caller to motivate the team and signal changes in race strategy.

The Speed and Stamina of a Sprint

Dragon boat racing is an anaerobic challenge that demands explosive power. One of the most popular racing categories is the 200-metre sprint.

To cover 200 metres, a competitive crew will maintain an intense stroke rate of 70 to 85 strokes per minute. During a high-speed sprint, a crew will churn through roughly 60 to 75 total strokes from the start line to the finish line. The whole race is over in a flash—often clocked anywhere between 50 seconds to just over a minute, meaning races are regularly decided by fractions of a second!

From Ancient Roots to Modern Healing

While it is a thriving modern sport, dragon boating boasts a history stretching back over 2,000 years to ancient China. Its origins are tied to folk rituals for summer rice planting, as well as the legend of the patriotic poet Qu Yuan. When Qu Yuan drowned in the Miluo River, local villagers frantically paddled out in their boats, beating drums and splashing the water to ward off fish and evil spirits from his body—a tradition that birthed the annual Dragon Boat Festival.

In modern history, the sport took on a brand-new, life-changing purpose. For decades, breast cancer patients were medically advised to avoid rigorous upper-body exercise out of fear it would cause lymphedema (severe arm swelling).

In 1996, Canadian sports medicine specialist Dr. Don McKenzie challenged this myth. He formed the world's first all-breast-cancer-survivor dragon boat team to test the effects of strenuous, repetitive upper-body training. The results were groundbreaking: the physical movement actually promoted healing, built up strength, and significantly reduced the risk of lymphedema.

Beyond the clinical benefits, the sport provided something just as vital—camaraderie, empowerment, and a shared "tribe" of women reclaiming their bodies and their lives.

Join the Bribie Pink Dragons!

Today, that international movement is alive and well right here on Bribie Island. The Bribie Pink Dragons offer an unconditional, loving, and highly motivated community for breast cancer survivors and supporters alike.

We take to the water three times a week, paddling on Monday and Saturday mornings, as well as Thursday afternoons.

Whether you want to experience the thrill of pushing a 250kg boat to its absolute limits, or you simply want to find fitness, support, and friendship on our beautiful local waters, there is a seat on the bench waiting for you.

For further information, please contact Marie Smith on 0499 990 352.

HOORAY FOR HERVEY BAY

by Kathy Vincent

Croquet on the Bay Brings Success and Fun for Bribie Team!

Bribie Island Croquet Club players enjoyed another successful trip away, this time travelling to Hervey Bay for the annual Croquet on the Bay competition.

The team returned with a doubles win, strong singles performances and plenty of good memories from a well-run week of croquet. The week-long event featured Association, Ricochet and Golf Croquet, with the Bribie team entering the Golf Croquet events.

Bribie has supported this competition every year, enjoying the chance to play on different courts, meet other players and enjoy a change of scene.

Competition was strong, with players from Toowoomba, Eildon, Maryborough, Ipswich, Sunnyside and Hervey Bay taking part.

Two blocks of singles were played on Wednesday and Thursday, followed by the doubles competition on Friday. Don Baily from Bribie performed well, reaching the semi-finals in his singles block.

The doubles event was a great success for Bribie, with Joan Gleeson and Jan Rees taking first place, and Dolly Taylor and Lyn Kruger finishing as runners-up.

Croquet on the Bay is always a well-organised and enjoyable event, and everyone had a great time. If you would like to join in the fun, come along and give croquet a try.

Phone Joan on 0429 165 643 – you won't regret it.





Please Welcome
**OUR NEW CLUB
TENNIS COACH**

Bribie Island Tennis Club
welcomes **Dan Swords** –
our new Club Coach.
For coaching solutions,




 **PRIVATE LESSONS**
One-on-one coaching tailored to you.

 **SEMI-PRIVATE LESSONS**
Train with a friend and improve together.

 **GROUP LESSONS**
Coming soon once all courts are up and running.

Bribie invited to share views on belonging and community life

Bribie residents are being invited to take part in a relaxed community conversation about belonging, connection and the role local groups play in bringing people together.

The event, titled **Faith & Community**, will provide an open, informal space for people to speak, listen and reflect on what helps residents feel included in community life today.

Organisers say all perspectives are welcome, whether people identify with a faith tradition, have no religious background, or simply have an interest in what makes communities stronger and more welcoming.

The discussion will explore questions such as what helps people feel they belong, how local organisations can better support connection, and what community groups could do differently to listen and respond to local needs.

Rather than a formal meeting or presentation, the afternoon is intended to be a friendly opportunity for residents to share their thoughts over coffee or simply come along and listen.

Faith & Community will be held on Friday 2 October, from 2.00–4.00 pm, in the Boardroom at the Bribie Island Community Arts Centre.

Attendees are invited to **arrive from 1.30 pm** and check in with Cyn.

The first 50 participants will receive a free Café 191 coffee voucher on arrival.

Residents are encouraged to come for a coffee, share their views, meet others, or take part by listening.

VOICES CHORAL GROUP

presents

CONCERT FOR A CAUSE

"Together in Harmony"



**Bribie
Respite**

& Support Services

**All profits go to support
NDIS participants unit**

Sat 26th & Sun 27th September

Bribie Community Hall
Arcadia Ave Woorim

1.30 pm

(afternoon tea incl'd)

Tickets Available online @ www.voicesbribie.com.au

\$22.00

33 Gidya St, Bellara

(opposite Lumus) (cash only)

**BRIBIE ISLAND
COMMUNITY KINDY**

Market Day

FUNDRAISER EVENT

**7 - 11 AM
SAT 24TH OCT**

SAUSAGE SIZZLE, FAMILY BAKED TREATS, BRIC-A-BRAC, LIVE MUSIC, KID-RUN LEMONADE STAND, FACE PAINTING, FRESH COFFEE, FOSSICKING & MORE

COTTERILL AVENUE, BONGAREE
(Next to Busy Fingers)

Psst!

Spread It Around!

Guys of all ages are having too much fun at the Bribie Gleemen Male Chorus rehearsals every Monday afternoon!

But hey — what's wrong with that?

Wives, park your partners with us every Monday afternoon from 3.30 to 5.00 pm and have them come home happily humming a melody!

If you have always wanted to perform in public, we can show you how. While reading a music score is an advantage, it is not essential.

The Bribie Gleemen is Bribie's popular singing group for men and has performed more than 400 public concerts all over Moreton Bay, raising funds for charities such as the Toorbul Volunteer Fire Brigade, Drought Relief, Bribie Island Hospice, and many others.

The Gleemen perform two to three big concerts each year, as well as singouts at many venues.

All men interested in joining this fun group are welcome to come along to the Bribie Island Retirement Village Community Hall in Foley Street, Bongaree, any Monday at 3.30 pm. The hall is around the back of the village by the duck pond.

You will be made most welcome.

Call Shane on 0493 215 823 to find out more.



Semi Retired or Retired? Stay Curious, Stay Connected — Probos Bribie Island Offers Learning, New Adventures, Laughter, and Friendship.

Retirement should be the beginning of something enjoyable — new friends, new interests and new adventures. At Probos Bribie Island, members are embracing exactly that. This year's Real Outback Tour took members deep into the heart of Longreach and Winton, while others shared laughs and camel themed surprises at the Summerland Camel Farm.

Our monthly meetings held at the RSL are just as lively, with guest speakers on interesting topics such as Recycling and Fire Ants, and memorable performances like The Blue Water Trio, whose mix of classical, jazz and rock filled the room.

For semi retired and retired locals looking for connection, learning and fun, Bribie Island Probos is the place to be. If you would like to know more, simply Google "Probos Bribie" to find our website, or **contact Gabrielle on 0407 341 074 or Don on 0455 968 388.**

BRIBIE ISLAND NATIONAL SERVICE ASSOCIATION INC

UPCOMING EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Friday 2 Oct 26

Veteran Wellbeing Foundation Race Night @ Sunshine Coast Turf Club

Wednesday 7 Oct 26

Veteran Health Week – BBQ Boats

Thursday 22 Oct 2026

Sunshine Coast Veterans' Day @ Australia Zoo

Wednesday 11 Nov 2026

Remembrance Day Service, Bluey and Jean Piva Park, Woorim commencing at 10.30am

ALL VETERANS WELCOME

Our activities are kindly supported by Busy Fingers Fundraisers

PLEASE JOIN US

Membership is open to all current serving and ex-serving ADF members, their spouse, and family members.

Email: veteransbribie@gmail.com for further information.



Appropriate Exhibition by Bribie Printmakers

Bribie Arts Centre

September 29 - October 11

Bribie Printmakers pay tribute to Master Printmaker Jim Aitkenhead

"Appropriate"

September 29 - October 11

Appropriate is so titled because it appropriates, ie borrows or copies from existing images.

It's a practice that's been used for ages. However, it took on new significance in the mid 20th century with the rise of consumerism and proliferation of images through mass media outlets, from magazines to television.

In this exhibition, **Bribie Printmakers** have copied and altered images by master Queensland printmaker **Jim Aitkenhead**, bringing his works back to life, paying tribute to and honouring his talent, while challenging themselves. Jim spent many years teaching relief

printing and other printing techniques to emerging visual artists at what is now the Queensland University of Technology, Kelvin Grove.

His influence inspired whole generations of artists. In 2019, Jim visited the Bribie Printmakers at the Community Arts Centre, where he discussed his work.

When he died that same year, the group inherited some of his printing blocks. In tribute, they have used these in experiments in appropriation.

Meet the **artists** in the Gallery at the Arts Centre during the **Appropriate** exhibition.

Exhibition is FREE.

Ars Centre open Tuesday to Saturday 9am - 4pm; Sundays 9am - 1pm. Closed Mondays.

On-site Cafe 191 Open seven days; Tuesday to Saturday, 9am - 2pm; Sundays and Mondays 9am - 1pm.



CLASSES TO CAPTURE YOU AT THE ARTS CENTRE

Kids Art Course
Acrylic and Oil
Bribie Island Community Arts Centre
26 Sept. - 2nd of Oct. 10am - 11.30am/1.30pm

Resin Art Workshop & Classes
with
Resin Ratz

- Learn:
 - Resin pouring basics
 - Colour blending
 - Resin application techniques
 - Working with moulds
 - Creating boards or decorative pieces
 - Understanding timing and curing

Saturday October 3
Morning class 11am - 1pm
Afternoon 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Cost: \$109.09 - \$177.27 - GST

Teachers Martin and Paul have more than 15 years' experience across resin art, acrylic art, mixed media, serving boards, tazy Soames, bench top, river tables, resin floors and timber - focused resin applications.

Suitable for beginners, creative hobbyists, friends and family groups and for children aged 6 and upwards.

See this link for more details:
<https://www.bribiearts.com.au/workshops-classes-2026/>

CARD Making Class
Join us for a fun and creative afternoon!

TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER
1:00-3:00PM
\$25 per person - includes afternoon tea

MATERIALS SUPPLIED
INCLUDES DETAILED PROJECT SHEETS
LEARN NEW TECHNIQUES, TIPS AND TRICKS
ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME

WHERE: Bribie Island Community Arts Centre

Spaces are limited...
Book early to secure your place! To book phone Ann on 0450 782 189 or Wendy on 0422 689 336

Learn to make a Fused Glass Beehive Sun Catcher
with
Shirley Heapy
Sunday 18th October, 2026
10am - 2pm

Join Shirley for a fun workshop creating a bee hive sun catcher.

You'll learn glass cutting, layering and incorporating decorative elements.

Price \$185.00; includes all art supplies & use of tools
Book with Shirley on shirbie@yahoo.com.au
Suitable for adult beginners

DOUBLE NEEDLE COPTIC BOOKBINDING WORKSHOP
by Robin Inman
10am - 3pm SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER at Bribie Island Community Arts Centre

Create your own unique handmade journal including the covers & pages, and use the ancient traditional method of bookbinding called Double Needle Coptic Binding.

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:
• How to use the project and decorative paper for the inside of the book
• Book binding for covers
• How to use the stitching
• How to use the stitching
• How to use the stitching

Cost \$25 - Cash or credit, pay on the day
Bookings: Robin Inman
The bookbinding shop, 10/10/2026

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



BRIBIE ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ASSOCIATION EST. 1977

Community Chest Raffle Winners

The Community Chest publicly acknowledges our sponsors, partners, and — most importantly — the ticket buyers who made this raffle possible.

Major prize winners

\$5000 Cash — Ticket 0632 — Raelene
\$3840 Artwork by Sabine von Graz — Ticket 5754 — Janelle
\$990 Steam Punk by Geoff Ginn — Ticket 1184 — Alison
\$800 War Plane Flight Voucher — Ticket 4675 — Gary
\$500 On the Beach Voucher — Ticket 0674 — Takita
\$300 Bespoke Pottery Voucher — Ticket 0899 — Luen

Voucher and sponsor prizes

Southern Fish Marine Voucher / Dozen Oysters plus
\$40 Bribie RSL Voucher — Tickets 0358, 3725
\$50 Fuel Vouchers by Belle Property — Tickets 1876, 5195, 3683, 6048, 4658, 1113, 5542, 5115, 2921, 0583
\$50 Priceline Pharmacy Vouchers — Tickets 0360, 2305, 3439, 2467, 4159, 5451, 4936, 4010, 3103, 3853

\$50 Island Auto Repair Vouchers — Tickets 2257, 5777, 1395, 3879 (Ticket 2257 awaiting call back)

\$50 Bribie Island Bowls Club Voucher — Tickets 4161, 4864, 4485

\$40 Savige's Seafood Voucher — Tickets 4595, 0123, 5237, 5361, 1713 (Ticket 5237 awaiting call back)

\$40 Avondale Meats and Seafood Voucher — Tickets 5181, 1190, 5090, 4043, 6095

\$40 Bribie Island RSL Voucher — Tickets 3563, 4363, 3608, 2785, 0323, 1396, 2475, 0962, 6019, 0743

\$40 Colouring Books by Natalie Hill as April Bansy — Tickets 2527, 2064, 2388, 4531, 3525

\$40 Soft Style Bluey by Rhonda Purtle — Tickets 5147, 1422, 4784, 5868, 2706

\$25 Straight Talk Technology Voucher by Rick Saul — Tickets 4991, 3345, 1022, 2449, 3595, 5437, 1745, 6016, 5042, 3354

\$25 Bribie & District Locksmith by Lee Wuersching — Tickets 2209, 2919, 0077, 2118, 4525, 0459, 0667, 2114, 5139, 0232

2027 BIEPA CALENDAR

BIEPA 2027 Fundraising Calendar featuring photos of Bribie and surrounds is now available

Cost \$10 each, buy 5 get one free

Available from pop up stalls 9am - 12 noon at:

Aussie Meats & Seafoods - 26 September, 10, 24 October, 7, 21, 28 November
Bribie Island Central Shopping Centre - 16 October, 20 November, 18 December
Sunshine Mitre 10 - 4, 18 October, 1, 15, 29 November
BIEPA public meetings - 7pm - 9pm - 28 September, 26 October, 23 November
Plus several local businesses.



**Perfect
Christmas
presents for
family & friends**

The cover features the winning photo taken by Karol Knott.

Bribie Island Nature Festival Welcomes Top Artists and Wildlife Experts for Unforgettable Weekend

The Bribie Island Nature Festival returns from October 9–11, bringing together local and visiting artists, scientists, and wildlife experts for a weekend-long celebration of nature, art, and community.

Opening night kicks off with *Island Sanctuary: Fact or Fiction?* a special panel discussion exploring a key question for the community: Can we really call Bribie Island a sanctuary?

Hosted by local conservationist **Darren Jew**, the event features leading environment and wildlife figures:

- **Professor Hugh Possingham:** Former Queensland Chief Scientist and expert in saving threatened species.
- **Rob Brewster:** Rewilding Manager at the Invasive Species Council, working to restore lost wildlife and keep invasive pests out of natural areas.
- **Dr. Christina N. Zdenek:** Award-winning scientist, reptile and bird expert, and public speaker dedicated to helping people safely share space with local wildlife.
- **Jayda Bruce:** Local wildlife scientist at Nature Nose, using motion-sensing cameras and trained scent-detection dogs to track and protect hidden local species.

Throughout the festival, attendees can look forward to interactive workshops, guided nature walks, art exhibitions, and family-friendly activities designed to highlight Bribie Island's unique environment.

"We want to bring people together to celebrate the

incredible natural beauty of Bribie Island while starting important conversations about how we protect it for the future," said festival Executive Producer Libby Anstis.

Event Details

What: Island Sanctuary: Fact or Fiction?

When: October 9 2026 5pm - 7.30pm

Where: Bribie Island Community Arts Centre

Tickets & Information:

www.bribieislandnaturefestival.com.au



Next Generation of Designers and Artists Take Center Stage at Bribie Island Nature Festival

The Bribie Island Nature Festival is set to host *Yarunyung: The Next Wave*, a captivating event showcasing bold fashion, young creativity, and immersive visuals.

A collaborative project between the Bribie Island Nature Festival and the Pumicestone Indigenous Education and Employment Council, *Yarunyung* features six young designers aged between 12 and 21. Originally created for the 2026 Cairns Indigenous Art Fair, the collection reflects the deep artistic talent and cultural pride of the region's youth.

The runway and creative showcase will feature an exceptional lineup of supporting cultural leaders, musicians, and visual artists:

- **Sandra King OAM (Cultural Director & Producer):** Renowned Indigenous event director, manager, and advocate with over three decades of experience empowering First Nations youth through creative programs and fashion showcases.



FOOD, WINE & ISLAND TIMES

- **Rachel Bywaters (Artistic Lead):** Bribie Island-based multidisciplinary artist with connections to Gamilaroi Country, who served as artistic lead for the development of the *Yarunyung* collection.

- **Talecia Minniecom (MC & Ambassador):** Content creator, storyteller, founder of Mob Made Media, and Ambassador for the Cairns Indigenous Art Fair.

- **Muses Trio (Live Music):** Australia's premier contemporary classical ensemble celebrating music composed by women, delivering live, evocative accompaniment for the runway.

- **Sean Healy (Projection & Visuals):** International video director specializing in real-time projections and multi-screen visual atmospheres.

"This showcase isn't just a runway—it's a groundbreaking fusion of live classical music, multi-screen projection mapping, and young First Nations storytelling that you won't see anywhere else," said Creative Producer of Bribie Island Nature Festival Erica Hart.

Event Details

What: *Yarunyung: The Next Wave*

When: Sunday 11 October 4.30pm

Where: Bribie Island Recreation Hall

Tickets & Information:

www.bribieislandnaturefestival.com

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Festivals Australia program.

BRIBIE ISLAND NATURE FESTIVAL

Reconnect Renew Rediscover Bribie

Three days of nature and culture.

Join us for guided trail walks, interactive art sessions, local wildlife discoveries, and cutting edge music and fashion performances.

Perfect for curious minds, families, and nature lovers of all ages.

Proudly supported by
CITY OF MORETON BAY

Bribie Island Butterfly House

OCTOBER
9|10|11



when Cats walked with the Gods

There are few entrances quite like a cat's. It does not hurry in or check whether anyone is pleased to see it. It simply appears, tail lifted and eyes half interested, as if arriving from a private kingdom.

If it brushes your leg, you feel chosen. If it walks past, you somehow feel judged. This is where the mystery begins: cats live in our homes, yet often seem to have one paw in another world.

That feeling is very old. Long before cats claimed sofas, laptops and sunny patches on the floor, people noticed how strangely powerful they seemed.

A cat could guard grain from rats, stare down a snake, then curl beside a child as if nothing remarkable had happened.

It was hunter and housemate, danger and comfort, wildness and warmth. Those mixed qualities made cats feel mysterious: welcome indoors, but never entirely tame.

Much of the magic came from what cats naturally do, seen through ancient eyes. Cats move almost silently. They hunt at dusk and deep into the night.

Their eyes catch the light in a way that can look glowing or otherworldly. They stare at empty corners, hear tiny sounds people miss and react to movements no one else has noticed.

Today, we can explain much of this through sharp hearing, night vision and sensitive whiskers. But to earlier households, a cat watching the darkness could seem like a creature listening to messages from somewhere else.

Cats also live at thresholds. They slip through doorways, windows, gardens, roofs and alleys as if borders were only suggestions. They are at home by the fire, yet just as comfortable in the dark outside.

That made them easy to imagine as guides between worlds: the safe house and the dangerous night, the living and the dead, the visible and the unseen. A mouse saw

From temple guardians to fireside enigmas, cats have long seemed to move between the everyday world and the unseen.



a hunter. A human saw something stranger: a small animal that seemed to know both sides of the door.

What makes cat gods so appealing is that they do not behave like tidy symbols. They are neither simply good nor bad, neither sweet nor frightening. They are both at once. A cat can purr on your lap and still look capable of keeping ancient secrets. It can be gentle with kittens and ruthless with a moth.

It can accept affection while making full ownership seem out of the question. That mix of closeness and distance gives feline myths their pull: cats feel familiar enough to love, but strange enough to fear just a little.

These days, we like to think we have outgrown such beliefs. We do not build temples to Bastet or leave offerings for lioness goddesses. Instead, we take too many photos of our cats, buy beds they refuse to use and speak to them in voices we would deny under oath.

The worship has changed shape, not disappeared. Every home with a cat contains a small shrine: a favourite chair, a patch of sun and a bowl placed with care.

Perhaps that is why cat gods still make sense to us. They give a name to something we already feel when a cat pauses in a doorway, stares at nothing we can see, then pads silently into the dark.

Cats seem to know secrets we have forgotten, though the secrets may simply be small sounds, scents and movements we are too slow to notice.

Mystery does not always arrive with thunder, wings or blazing light. Sometimes it comes with whiskers and the certainty that the best seat in the house was always meant for the cat.

THE TIME DETECTIVE

Bringing Bastet Home

Michael Strong (Senior Curator)

Many of my readers will know that earlier this year we had a break in at the Museum where several of our Ancient Egyptian artefacts were stolen or damaged. Fortunately, through the dedication of the Queensland Police, we were able to recover them. One object had a more exciting holiday from the Museum than the others.

This is a lovely painted wooden figurine of a cat, most likely representing Bast or Bastet, the cat goddess, and decorated with the Eye of Horus on her chest. Remarkably, our fragile figurine returned with minimal damage after an unexpected journey in a backpack to Russell Island.

For an object that is probably 2,500 years old, and one that has already travelled from Egypt to Britain and then to Australia, it was certainly another unusual chapter in her long history.

I like to hope she is happy to be safely home. Bastet possibly started her incarnation in Nubia at least three thousand years BC as a lion-headed female goddess, a symbolism shared with another powerful goddess, Sekhmet.

Her cult centre of worship became Bubastis in Lower Egypt, but as the daughter of the sun god Ra (Re) and Isis, she became a protector of the pharaoh, a goddess of childbirth and pregnancy, and was also linked to the moon.

However, after nearly two thousand years, during the 22nd Dynasty, Bastet began to be depicted as a cat or a cat-headed woman, perhaps because she became conflated with Sekhmet in the Middle Kingdom around 1500 BC.

Bastet developed a gentler, more cat-like nature and became one of the most popular deities of ancient Egypt, protector of the home and family.

Egypt depended on grain for food and export, and grain attracts vermin such as mice and rats.

Cats were highly revered in ancient Egypt and many examples of mummified cats have been found in tomb burials. More than 300,000 mummified cats were discovered at her temple in Bubastis during excavations.

There is little doubt that cats were highly regarded, and their death led to mourning, and, for wealthier people, they were embalmed and buried in dedicated pet cemeteries.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of men and women (but not children) would flock joyfully to her sanctuary on the day of her festival. The men played flutes and the women sang, danced and played musical instruments, such as sistrums and cymbals.

The amount of wine consumed also seems to indicate an orgiastic nature to the celebrations, which Herodotus describes in graphic detail. Her cult eventually made its



way to Roman Italy, and cult centres have been found at Rome, Ostia and Pompeii, that lasted until superseded by the new religion, Christianity. Our little cat goddess is one of the most delightful and endearing artefacts in the collection, evidence of her enduring popularity.

NOTE: Illustration is by Gunawan Kartapranata - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=18165087>

Local Dining Guide

BONGAREE | BELLARA | BANKSIA BEACH | NINGI | BEACHMERE | WOORIM | SANDSTONE POINT



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



THE DECK RESTAURANT

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 classics you'll love and the new favourites you'll crave!

**NOW OPEN SUNDAY 8AM - 11AM
 FOR BREAKFAST**

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 4507



GAME NIGHTS!

ON BRIBIE

MONDAY 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 12.45pm-3.45pm.
\$5 which includes raffle prize.
Please arrive 10mins before play starts at 12.45pm
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

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

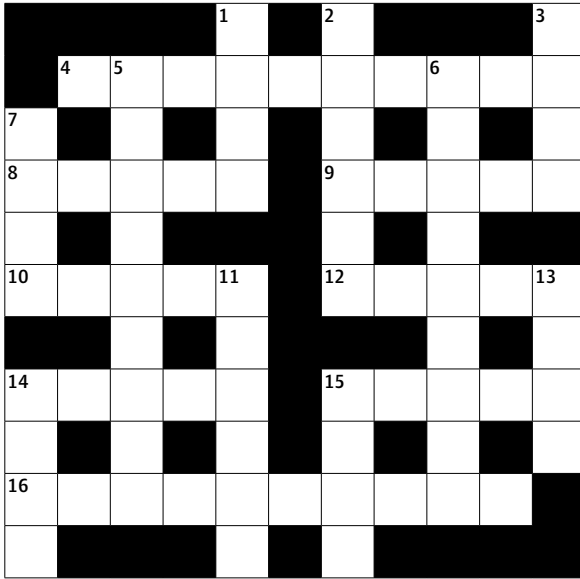
Saturday December 20th ~

9am ~ 2m

4pm ~ 8pm

There is also an outdoor market to run alongside
indoor market called This 'n' That

CROSSWORDS – QUICK & CRYPTIC

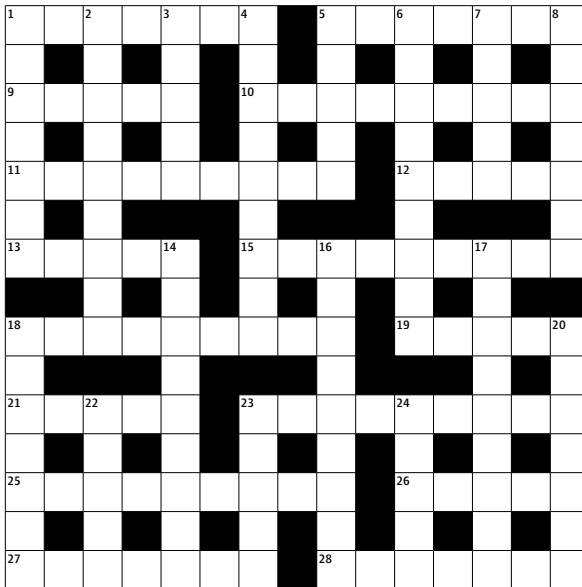
**Across**

- 4 Selfish concierge to (mostly) reform (10)
 8 Versatile umpire that shows some guts (5)
 9 At the beginning, given a second shandy, you're talkative (5)
 10 For the audience, checks pavement edges (5)
 12 What you use to dry fluttering owlets, largely (5)
 14 Sample from calypso, largely describing the sun (5)
 15 Touring Melton, scratching bottom, finding somewhere to stay (5)
 16 Paper, pencils etc not moving, we hear (10)

Down

- 1 Steffi, Chris and Martina, in opening stages, needing racket (4)
 2 One who's honoured after day ends, did you say? (6)
 3 A little pachyderm is feeling uncomfortable (4)
 5 On the radio, ape is member of armed militia (9)
 6 Missing tail, sewer rat on tour in liquid with distinctive smell (4,5)
 7 First of all, sonny, install new kitchen fixture for washing-up (4)
 11 Not finishing braised bananas somewhere in the Balkans (6)
 13 Relax with some icelollies (4)
 14 For starters, serving of salad onions is acceptable (2-2)
 15 Locks, in a stable, chief that can be heard (4)

CRYPTIC

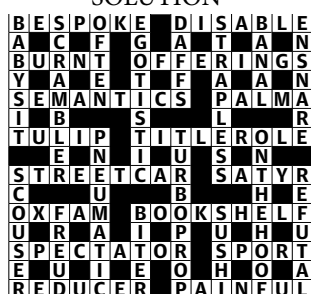
**Across**

- 1 Customized bicycle's hollow wheel feature (7)
 5 Located outside building's entrance, Ladies sadly put out of action (7)
 9/10 Fetches round container with sweets (not drugs) as sacrifices (5,9)
 11 A meaningful area of study (9)
 12 Use sleight of hand with ace? Capital! (5)
 13 Pull it out to eject large bulb (5)
 15 Championship register reportedly taken by lead player? (5,4)
 18 Vehicle gives way, getting around a river (9)
 19 Was an MP your heartless lecher? (5)
 21 Organisation is the essence of paradox, famously (5)
 23 Reserve: quiet little creature's novel resting place (9)
 25/26 Carpets, top sort, woven for Rugby? (9,5)
 27 Casanova gets a new top for chemical solution (7)
 28 Disagreeable one having fun touring in China (7)

Down

- 1 Tabby is sickly – mind the mites (4-3)
 2 Communication made meaningless by this climber (9)
 3 A lot of figure (5)
 4 Foreign cities limiting energy and temperature in vain (9)
 5 Fancy backing with fibrous edges for cut flowers (5)
 6 How disciplinarians show restraint describing a dress? (9)
 7 Stock bar with drink – 1/3 off (5)
 8 Net Tennyson carried regularly (7)
 14 Blown up – impact spread over northern Brussels (9)
 16 Mixed up rotor with BP engine (9)
 17 Moving position of horseshoe? (2,3,4)
 18 Northwesterner has to rummage around Kent etc (7)
 20 Denial of tearful drunk (7)
 22 Dispute about queen's dream interpreter (5)
 23 'Beer time's off!' one snaps (5)
 24 Shut your mouth after ejecting hot Italian starter snack? (5)

SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC
SOLUTIONQUICK
SOLUTION

KIDS ZONE

SPOT THE 10 DIFFERENCES



Sudoku

		8		6	2			
	3		8	4		9		2
9		6					1	4
	1	2			8	6		
3				7	9		2	
	6		1				3	7
		1	7	8		3		
6	8	5	2			7	4	
4				9	6			1

FIND A WORD

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

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CREAM
CORN

CIRCLE
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CHEESE
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The Great Diamond Heist of WW2

By Al Finegan

You may recall my article that I published last year about the bombing of Broome WA in March 1942. I wrote that after the Japanese zeros had bombed and strafed the airfields at Broome, the zeros turned north and began following the now familiar coast to return to their base in Timor.

When roughly halfway along the coastline the Japanese spotted a dark coloured aircraft flying low towards them on a reciprocal course. The aircraft, registration PK-AFV, was named Pelikaan.



At the controls was Captain Ivan Smirnov, a remarkable Russian-born aviator who had already survived one world war and become a decorated fighter ace before

eventually becoming a Dutch citizen and commercial pilot. In my original article I did not mention that this unexpected meeting would trigger an extraordinary series of events that is a fascinating story in itself.

The leader of the high-flying Japanese squadron decided to lead his team down to investigate, and identified a twin engine Douglas transport. Smirnov was unaware of the presence of the zeros until he was under attack. The first burst riddled the fuselage with bullets. Another burst hit the port wing, setting the engine on fire. Smirnov was wounded in the arm and leg, passengers were hit, and the aircraft caught fire. Yet somehow Smirnov remained at the controls. Below him was the lonely coastline of Carnot Bay, about 90 kilometres north of Broome. Luckily for those aboard, they had the services of this extraordinary pilot.

He commenced an almost vertical spiral dive. The three fighters followed the plane down and saw the crippled Douglas pull out of the dive just above the coast. Smirnov knew that attempting a normal wheels-

down landing on soft beach sand could cause the undercarriage to dig in and flip the aircraft onto its back. He kept the wheels up. The crippled DC3 slid along the beach on its belly and finally

came to rest in shallow water. It was an extraordinary piece of flying. But their ordeal was only beginning. The twelve people aboard who had survived the landing leapt out of the wreck and scattered at a run. The Japanese fighters made a final pass and strafed the wreck and its occupants. Several people were badly wounded.



The survivors now found themselves marooned on an isolated Kimberley beach, nursing their wounded, and desperately short of food and water. They felt certain that nobody knew where they were. Among them was Maria van Tuyn and her 18-month-old son Johannes. Both died from their wounds. Mechanic Joop Blaauw and co-pilot Daan Hendriksz also died from their wounds. The following day a Japanese flying boat appeared and attempted to bomb the wreck. The survivors scattered. The bombs missed them and the DC3. Later that day, the survivors solemnly buried their dead in the sand.

Now to the part of original story that I did not mention. Just before departing Java, an airline official approached Smirnov. He handed him a package wrapped in brown paper, only slightly larger than a cigar box, and told him it was valuable and must be delivered safely to a representative of the Commonwealth Bank once he reached Australia. Smirnov did not open it. He had no idea what he had been given to carry. Unbeknownst to him, inside that unremarkable little parcel were thousands of diamonds.

They were being sent to Australia for safekeeping and were valued at more than £300,000. In today's money, estimates put their value in the tens of millions of dollars. Smirnov casually stowed the package aboard the

aircraft and took off for Australia. Had he known what was inside, he might have guarded it rather more carefully.

Smirnov knew he had to make an attempt to recover important items from the aircraft. He detailed a fit young man to wade out to the aeroplane and see if he could recover some important items including the mail bag, the aircraft logbook, and a brown paper parcel about the size of a large cigar box. The tide had been coming in and was now about waist deep with waves rolling to shore. The young man waded out, crawled aboard the aircraft and recovered the items that he had been asked to find. As he climbed from the aircraft, a wave knocked him over. As he struggled to his feet, he scrambled to grab what he thought was the most important items - the mail bag and the logbook. Unfortunately, the brown paper parcel had disappeared beneath the waves. The young man apologised to Smirnov for losing the parcel.

Smirnov casually shrugged it off. He had far more important matters on his mind. People around him were dying.

Smirnov sent two of the stronger survivors away to search for help. A few days passed. Their food dwindled to a few tins of asparagus and pineapple. Water became desperately scarce. They improvised a primitive distilling arrangement in an attempt to turn seawater into something they could drink. Eventually their plight became known when their searchers found an Aboriginal man named Bernard. He alerted people at the Beagle Bay Mission, who notified the military at Broome, then dispatched a team to aid the stranded survivors. The next day an aircraft from Broome dropped food, medicine and messages. A few days later, a Catalina flying boat finally arrived. After spending six days on the beach, the survivors were taken aboard and flown to safety.

And somewhere behind them, apparently forgotten among the wreckage, sand and surf of Carnot Bay, lay a fortune in diamonds. It was only after he arrived in Broome and the authorities began asking awkward questions, that Smirnov learned exactly what had been inside that mysterious package. His jaw dropped when he was told, "Diamonds - Thousands of them."

A search party was sent to the wreck but failed to find them. The officials considered the questions, "Had the parcel been swept into the Indian

Ocean? Had it broken open and scattered its contents through the sand? Had somebody already found it?" Nobody had a clue, neither officials nor locals. It remained a mystery ... a very expensive mystery.

Then along came Jack Palmer.



The investigating party including Jack Palmer

Palmer was the classic Australian larrikin. The sort of bloke who seems to belong naturally in the Australia of another age. He described himself as a beachcomber and mariner living mostly around Broome.



Diamond Jack Palmer is the man in the white singlet

The arrival of the DC3 survivors at Broome attracted a lot of publicity. A few days later the rumours of the missing diamonds spread like wildfire. Jack thought, why not see for myself? So, he sailed his lugger off to Carnot Bay.

Most sensible men might have kept away. The Japanese had recently attacked the area and nobody knew whether they might return. Jack heard that the wreck had been searched but nevertheless he thought he would have a go.

Somewhere around, or in, the aircraft, Jack found the missing parcel. Exactly where depends upon which version of Jack's story you would like to believe. Being the bloke that he was, his stories varied depending on his audience. At one time he said it had washed ashore. Another version had him finding it inside the aircraft. He also claimed that when he picked up the sodden parcel it began falling apart and diamonds spilled into the sand and water. When asked about

how many he was able to recover he just simply smiled a knowing smile, shrugged and said he really didn't count them.

But whatever happened when he located the diamonds, it is almost certain that he managed to retrieve quite a few.

You would think that when he found them he should have immediately rushed to the authorities shouting, "I've found your diamonds!", But Jack being Jack, apparently decided to contemplate his good fortune for a while thinking along the lines of, "finders keepers". He travelled north to Pender Bay and gave some of the smaller stones to friends James Mulgrue and Frank Robinson. This of course could not be kept quiet. Rumours began to circulate that Jack had in fact found the diamonds. But neither Jack nor the diamonds could be located anywhere.

Then, several weeks later, Jack paid an extraordinary visit to Major Gibson, an officer involved in the search for both Jack and the diamonds. With a sly grin, Jack said he wanted to enlist. The Major looked befuddled. Then Jack pulled out a salt shaker. One can only imagine Gibson's expression as Palmer began sprinkling diamonds across his desk. He told Gibson that these were the diamonds that he had recovered.

The problem was that they represented only a tiny proportion of the missing fortune. The authorities wanted to know where the rest were. Jack said, with his famous wry smile, that there weren't any more. Strangely enough, a great many people did not believe him.

Then diamonds began appearing around Broome. Small quantities turned up in the possession of local people, and in nearby Aboriginal communities. The mystery became even stranger in March 1943 when a Broome tailor named Chin Loong Dep arrived in Perth. The police searched his belongings. They found 460 diamonds. The tailor claimed he had received them from an Aboriginal boy. He pleaded guilty to receiving the stolen stones.

By now the authorities had every reason to suspect that the contents of the missing package had been scattered far beyond Carnot Bay.

Eventually attention returned to Palmer and his friends. Jack Palmer, James Mulgrue and Frank Robinson were charged with stealing the diamonds.

The case went before the Supreme Court in Perth. Palmer admitted giving diamonds to his friends but maintained that he had handed over everything he had recovered. The prosecution faced one enormous difficulty. They accused Palmer of being the main thief, yet each time they asked a question about the diamonds, a smiling Palmer told a different story. And despite detailed searches of all of Palmer's possessions, no evidence of any diamonds could be found. They could point to diamonds appearing mysteriously around the Kimberley. But could they actually prove that Jack Palmer had stolen the missing fortune?

The jury decided they could not. After only thirty minutes of deliberation, Palmer, Mulgrue and Robinson were acquitted. The now famous, or was it infamous, Diamond Jack walked free. Then, in a display of magnificent cheek, Palmer reportedly attempted to claim a reward from the Dutch authorities for returning the diamonds he had handed over. You have to admire the man's confidence (or was it gall).

And here lies the enduring mystery. More than 6,000 diamonds, valued at about £20,000, were eventually recovered. But the original consignment was supposedly worth close to £300,000. Most of the fortune had simply disappeared.

There are plenty of theories. Perhaps Palmer was telling the truth. A paper parcel battered by machine-gun fire, seawater and surf could easily have broken apart. Thousands of tiny stones may still lie beneath metres of sand at Carnot Bay or may have been carried into the Indian Ocean.

After the war Palmer appears to have lived rather comfortably. He acquired a fine house, a new luxury boat, a business and a Chevrolet. Was that evidence of a hidden diamond fortune? Not necessarily. But it certainly didn't hurt the legend.

Jack Palmer died in 1958. His grave in Broome Pioneer Cemetery carries the name by which history remembers him: "Diamond Jack Palmer."

In the end, barely 7% of the missing diamonds ever found their way back into Dutch hands. What became of the rest - lost to the sea, scattered across the Kimberley, or quietly transformed into Jack Palmer's comfortable post-war life - nobody has ever been able to prove.

And more than eighty years later, the sands of Carnot Bay are still keeping their secret.

TOORBUL now SANDSTONEWhat's the POINT?



Site of significant Historical importance.

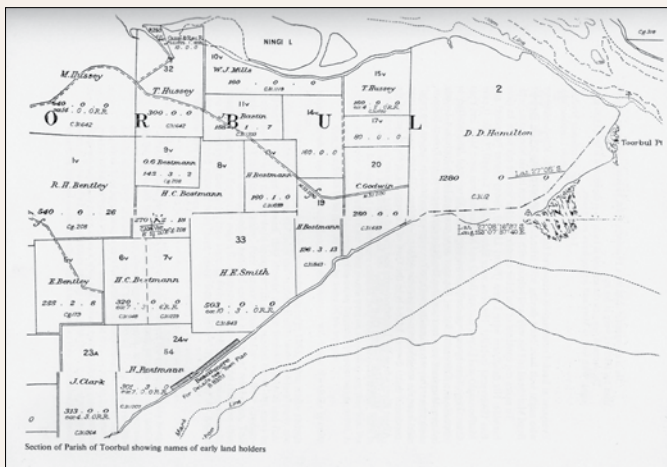
Barry Clarke OAM
Bribie Historical Society

TOORBUL now SANDSTONEWhat's the POINT?

The land on the mainland end of the Bribie Bridge we now call Sandstone Point, was known as Toorbul Point from the earliest days of indigenous settlement. It was the boundary of the indigenous Turrbal people which extended beyond Redcliffe, with evidence of thousands of years of occupation still visible.

A Bora ground and Kippa ring, is still visible on Bestman Road which was the site of ceremonial gatherings for thousands who came from South East Queensland when Pioneers witnessed events and fights in the 1840's.

The first white settler to take interest in land at Toorbul Point was Douglas Hamilton, who leased the entire 1280-acre headland in 1873. At that time pioneer settlers were trying to grow Sugar, Coffee and Cotton along the Caboolture River.



In 1889 George Markwell, a Brisbane solicitor, acquired the land and established an "Oyster farming" partnership with James Clark, who had operated a fleet of pearling luggers at Broome and Torres Strait, before they were lost in a cyclone.

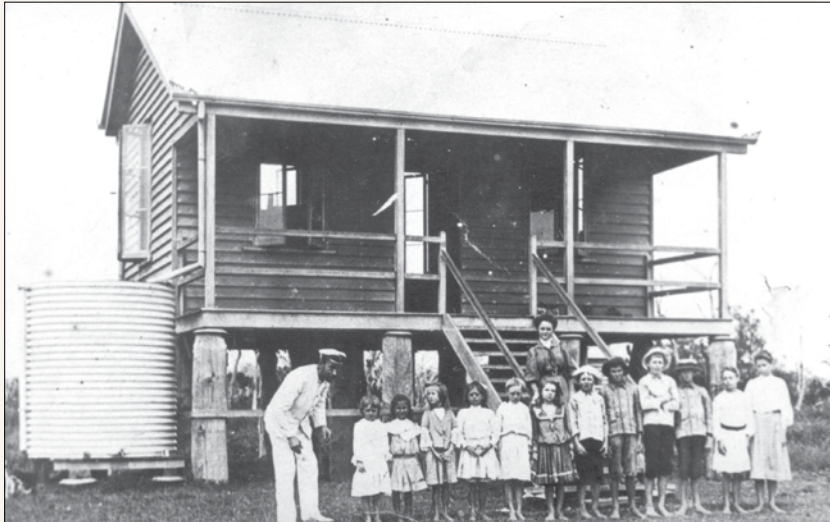
James Clark had worked as a boy for James Campbell, a timber merchant in Brisbane, and in 1900 he bought the entire Toorbul Point property and associated Oyster Leases from George Markwell.

Oyster leases were linked to the Toorbul Point property and extended up Pumicestone Passage, and they were very productive for several years.



By 1905 James Clark was shipping 300 bags of oysters a week, with a bag equal to 5 large kerosene tins.

James Clark built a house on Toorbul Point and some oyster workers lived in wooden shacks and a small school was built where Spinnaker Marina now stands, for the growing number of children whose families worked in the area.

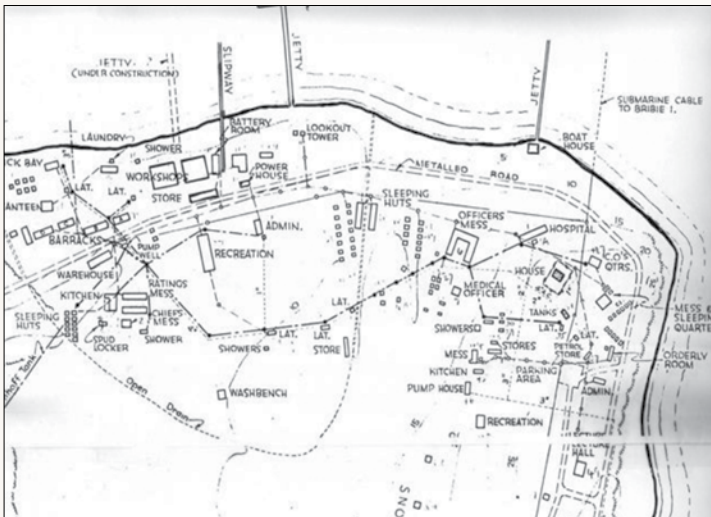


Then came a terrible infestation of "Mud Worm" which devastated the spat and destroyed oyster beds throughout Queensland.

By 1909 the oyster harvesting businesses in Pumicestone Passage was virtually destroyed. Clark scuttled the hulk of an old ship the "Avon" in the passage in an unsuccessful attempt to protect oyster beds. The wreck of the old steamship Avon can still be seen at low tide.

By 1923 James Clark had disposed of his oyster leases, and when he died in 1933 his son Colin inherited the Toorbul Point property. Colin Clark had married Marion in 1915, the daughter of high-profile politician and businessman Thomas Welsby, who had a house on Bribie Island and Welsby Parade later named after him.

During World War 2 in 1939-45 Toorbul point was occupied by the Military as a training camp for tens of thousands of Australian and American troops with a basic military access road running along the shoreline from Godwin Beach.



When Colin Clark died in 1951 his two sons, Arthur and James, both with middle name Welsby, inherited the Toorbul Point property. With the construction of the Bribie Island Bridge in 1963, the new Bribie Island Road was constructed from the highway to Toorbul Point, involving new road reserves and sale of portions of the large property, which were later developed into a Marina and commercial and residential sites.

The 37 hectares of land on the headland, and 218 hectares along Bribie Island and Bestman roads remained in the family owned by Clark's wife Mona and daughter Jan.

This land was bought by the Comiskey Group in 2011 and has been progressively developed over 15 years to become the Sandstone Point Tavern, Hotel and holiday accommodation that we see today.

Various Governments and Councils have been voted in and out over the last 15 years and some of property development acts, laws and limitations have been changed.

The area was renamed Sandstone Point, to avoid confusion with the settlement named Toorbul further up the passage, and the Sandstone Point Tavern now attracts thousands of visitors to regular concerts creating traffic and noise problems for residents with future development proposed to include a Highrise Hotel, commercial shops and holiday attractions.



Another Bribie Bridge is proposed to be constructed in the next few years with extensive road works and further commercial developments around the Marina. The historic significance of Toorbul Point area will soon be lost forever.

Bribie Island Historical Society gave the Hotel many interesting old photos which are on display, reminding patrons of the historical significance of the land.

MORE BRIBIE HISTORY

Bribie Historical Society has public meetings with excellent guest speakers on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at the RSL Club and visitors are always welcome.

You can see more stories & photos on Web site bribiehistoricalsociety.org.au and Blog <http://bribieislandhistory.blogspot.com> or contact us on bribiehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

SPORTS PAGES



BRIBIE ISLAND BOWLS CLUB

Self-Select Pairs Results Friday PM 4 September 2026

Winners: M Beutel, B Sellars
Runners up: C Hayes, T Smith
Winning draw: N Kelly, G Olson
Winning draw: B Meek, M Prewett
Winning draw: N Polish, C Fowler
Encouragement award: A Wells, T Bishop

Random Fours Results Saturday 5 September 2026

Winners: D Draper, T Brain, K Langford, F Moses
Runners up: G Woollett, A Russell, C Draper, W Follett
Lucky draw: F Grimsey, G Hutchison, S Barringhaus, C Davis

Scrounger Results Monday 7 September 2026

1st: D Heath
2nd: S Horn
3rd: R Eaton
4th: G Charters

Self-Select Triples Results Tuesday 8 September 2026

Winners: W Baker, J Warrick, S Horn
Runners up: D Bishop, H Kaatz, D Kaatz
Winning draw: J Hosie, V McDermott, M Gittins
Winning draw: S Jackson, A Wells, S Pomroy
Winning draw: T Paekau, D Brown, B Stuart

Self-Select Pairs Results Wednesday AM 9 September 2026

Winners: G Coleman, J Buckmaster
Runners up: J Oliver, L Murphy
Winning draw: S O'Neill, M O'Neill
Encouragement: P Barringhaus, S Barringhaus

Self-Select Pairs Results Wednesday PM 9 September 2026

Winners: J Gray, N Mephram
Runners up: A Buckmaster, T Whalley
Winning draw: J Oliver, P Gray
Winning draw: M Walter, M Beutell
Winning draw: G Reily, F Crockett
Encouragement: W Kelly, G Olsen

Random Triples Results Thursday 10 September 2026

Winners: P Bennett, J Brown, D Draper
Runners up: P Brinton, T Phillips, C Ormerod
Winning draw: M Hogan, C Draper, G Hutchison
Encouragement: L McNamara, C Hamilton, Y McDonald, B Kelly

Self-Select Pairs Results Friday AM 11 September 2026

Winners: F Grimsey, D Dodd
Runners up: G Skoien, A

Sturm Winning draw: P Mann, L De-Roule
Encouragement: D Jackson, D Handcock

Self-Select Pairs Results Friday PM 11 September 2026

Winners: G Olsen, W Kelly
Runners up: W Gunders, J Perry
Winning draw: G Hazelwood, R Fowler
Winning draw: A Feichter, B Hosie
Winning draw: C Wilkie, S Adams
Encouragement: D Whitehorn, B Kinnear

Random Fours Results Saturday 12 September 2026

Winners: E Poloni, A Wells, R Cross, G Woollett
Runners up: L McNamara, P Bennett, E Hookey, G Mulpeter
Lucky draw: T Brain, A Pinzger, J Dunn, C Draper

Scrounger Results Monday 14 September 2026

1st: M Walters
2nd: M Todd
3rd: D Draper

Self-Select Triples Results Tuesday 15 September 2026

Winners: R Eaton, B.J Adams, F Crockett
Runners up: K Smith, I Smith, M Durham
Winning draw: C Wilkie, C Brayley, T Phillips
Winning draw: M Mills, J Hattie, G Riley
Winning draw: G Coleman, T Comacchio, D Dodd
Encouragement: J Brown, F Bingham, J Downey

Self-Select Pairs Results Wednesday AM 16 September 2026

Winners: G Olson, W Kelly
Runners up: M Garfield, E Bateman
Winning draw: S Cook, M Walters
Winning draw: N Gray, S Hose
Winning draw: T Comacchio, P Lawton
Encouragement: D Dodd, G Mercer

Self-Select Pairs Results Wednesday PM 16 September 2026

Winners: B Snare, M Lowe
Runners up: R Stuart, B Stuart
Winning draw: S Lupi, R McLean

Random Triples Results Thursday 17 September 2026

Winners: C Christianson, R Leth, J Meneven, D Donaldson
Runners up: C Brayley, G Reily, J Stephen
Winning draw: I Smith, J Hillier, E Poloni
Encouragement: S Brown, S Soens, J Dunn

Self-Select Pairs Results Friday AM 18 September 2026

Winners: L Williams, D Dodd
Runners up: P Mann, L De-Roule
Winning draw: D Heath, A Whalley
Winning draw: G Jackson, M Lowe
Encouragement: S Hamblin, T Grimmond

BONGAREE BOWLS RESULTS

Bongaree Bowls Club Results 28/8 - 10/9

Results of Friday 2-4-2 28/8

Winners: Brenda Hutchinson, Sandra Scott
R/up: Narelle Pender, Clare

Results of Saturday

Scroungers 29/8

1st: Noni Jordan, 2nd: Sheena Bath, 3rd: Jim Warwick, 4th: Trevor Mallouk, 5th: John Gambling

Results of Tuesday Paddle Pop Draw Triples 1/9

Winners: Mary Doorley, Dee Morrison, Richie Ferguson
R/Up: Errol Fender, Narelle Pender, Ellen Corrick

Results of Wednesday 4's 2/9

Winners: Karen P, Gary Peakau, Wayne Farley, Peter Furlong
R/Up: Ron Carruthers, Terry Keatch, Doreen Pennery, Jim

Results of Thursday Jackpot Pairs 3/9

Winners: David Vaughan, Dave Dixon
R/Up: Ken K, Richie Ferguson

Results of Friday 2-4-2 4/9

Winners: Jaarpung Blundell, Tim Carlton
R/Up: Peter Caruso, Frank Denman

Results of Saturday Scroungers 5/9

1st: Colin Sleat, 2nd: Chris McMillan, 3rd: Rob McLaren, 4th: John Bell, 5th: Bob Cooper

Results of Tuesday Paddle Pop Draw Triples 8/9

Winners: Kathy Gambling, Terry Keatch, Richie Ferguson
Bonus Draw: Jackpot next week \$90

Results of Wednesday 4's 9/9

Winners: Ross Bryant, Dee Morrison, John Morrison, Imelda Valentine
R/Up: Rod Lethborg, JohnBell, Alan Simonic, Dave Dixon

SOLANDER LAKE BOWLS RESULTS

Tuesday 1 September - Club Select Triples:

Winners: Judy Pursehouse, Dave Bentley, Gary Hodgkinson
2nd: Des Stewart, Val Paul, Robert James
3rd: Lane Neilson, Grant Riley, Alan Matheson

Wednesday 2 September - Self Select Pairs:

Winners: Vicki Mitchell, Rob Horsfall
2nd: Ian Boast, John Thiele
3rd: Terry Nash, Manny Regenfelder

Thursday 3 September - Self Select Triples:

Winners: Wayne Shackell, Daryl Wilkins, Ray Zahl
2nd: Jenny Jameson, Steve Jameson, Andy Ives
3rd: Bill Taylor, Neville Graham, John Ferguson

Friday 4 September - Self Select Pairs:

Winners: Ian Boast and John Thiele
2nd: Andy Denhardt and Tony Miguel
3rd: Errol Sharp and Keith Tucker

Saturday 5 September - Club Select Pairs/Triples:

Winners: Brad Storey, Chris Cummins
2nd: Julie Watson, Ann Johnson, Bruce Pursehouse

Tuesday 8 September - Club Select Triples:

Winners: Alan Matheson, Grant Riley, Rufino
2nd: Ann Mehmet, Cheryl Crawford, John Harris
3rd: Bruce Pursehouse, Mardy Brenner, Mitch Magnussen

Wednesday 9 September - Self Select Pairs:

Winners: Steve Ross and Peter Hodgson
2nd: Ron Bull and Rod Reilly
3rd: Mark Wendt and Mike Dance
Jackpot \$186 - Steve Ross and Peter Hodgson

Thursday 10 September - Self Select Triples:

Winners: Ray Zahl, Wayne Shackell, Daryl Wilkins
2nd: Anthony MacGregor, Ralph Chaplin, Doug Brown
3rd: Ian Boast, Andy Wilkie, Jenni Cummins

Friday 11 September - Self Select Pairs:

Winners: Tony Grimmond and Peter Hodgson
2nd: Rob and Krys Henshaw
3rd: Joan Tennant and Mick Tull

Saturday 12 September - Club Select Triples:

Winners: Jan Oakley, Ann Johnson, Michael Whiteside
2nd: Billy Moor, Rosa McLeod, Bruce Pursehouse

BRIBIE ISLAND WOMEN'S GOLF RESULTS

01 Sep to 17 Sep 2026

01/09/26 Single Stableford - Sponsored by The Golf Shop Bribie Island

DIV 1 WINNER Carol McKenzie 37. 2nd Abby Driver 36. 3rd Pauline Grooby 35 c/b.
DIV 2 WINNER Jasmin Carag 37. 2nd Myra Thomsen 36. 3rd Gay Burnham 35. DIV 3 WINNER Sue Lee 41. 2nd Bev Isaksen 39. 3rd Lenore Wilson 38.
NTP. Hole 4 Bev Isaksen. Hole 7 Pauline Grooby. Hole 14 Julie Bell. Hole 16 2nd shot Lenore Wilson. Hole 7 (Div 3 2nd shot) Jody Bedson.



01 Sep. Brayden from the Golf Shop with Myra, Carol, Pauline, Lenore and Sue.

03/09/26 Single Stroke Monthly Medal - Sponsored by Churches of Christ

DIV 1 WINNER Abby Driver 73. 2nd Linda Urquhart 74. 3rd Vicki

Jones 78 c/b. NTP. Hole 4 Di Binghamy. Hole 7 Gwen Clutterbuck. Hole 14 Di Binghamy. BEST GROSS Di Binghamy 85
DIV 2 WINNER Vivi Lloyd 74 c/b. 2nd Tricia Power 75 NTP Hole 4 Maureen Bailey. Hole 7 Maureen Bailey. Hole 14 Val Phinn. Hole 16 2nd shot Val Phinn BEST GROSS Vivi Lloyd 99
DIV 3 WINNER Paula McKenzie 69. 2nd Lulu Drew 70. 3rd Penny Brittain. 72 c/b. NTP. Hole 4 Carol Lobegeiger. Hole 7 Paula McKenzie. Hole 14 Rae Clarke. Hole 16 2nd shot Paula McKenzie BEST GROSS Paula McKenzie 94

08/09/26 SINGLE STABLEFORD

DIV 1 WINNER Kate Wilson 39. 2nd Judy Graham 38. 3rd Linda Urquhart 37.
DIV 2 WINNER Carol Lobegeiger 41. 2nd Jan Jennings 37 c/b. 3rd Judith L'Estrange 37.
NTP. Hole 4 Di Binghamy. Hole 7 Sandra Power. Hole 7 (Div 3 2nd shot) Angela Jordan. Hole 14 Sheena Bath. Hole 16 2nd shot Judy Umlauf.

10/09/26 SINGLE STABLEFORD

WINNER Tanya Zanow 36. 2nd Charmaine Price Small field, no NTP.

15/09/26 BRIBIE CLASSIC

Tuesday was the culmination of our Bribie Women's Classic competition, with both Stroke and Stableford rounds played. We had 142 players over the 3 days, with visitors from 35 clubs from Ayr to Portsea. Many Bribie ladies made the winners list including Ros Gardiner, Debbie Dunn, Judy Graham, Leonie Buxton, Charmaine Price, Gaby Bennett, Linda Urquhart, Marg Bailey, Tanya Zanow, Maureen Bailey, Maureen Driscoll, Wendy Washington and Jane Yacopetti.



17/09/26 SINGLE STABLEFORD

DIV 1 WINNER Tanya Zanow 37. 2nd Barb Newcomb 35 c/b. 3rd Abby Driver 35.
DIV 2 WINNER Gay Burnham 38. 2nd Margaret Peterson 37 c/b. 3rd Jennifer McKay 37. NTP. Hole 7 Lorna Burns. Hole 7 (Div 3 2nd shot) Stina Barnulf. Hole 14 Abby Driver. Hole 16 2nd shot Sandy Smith

MORETON BRIBIE BRIDGE CLUB

Sat 29 Aug 1 H Tyler & L Heap 2 J Reiter & B Connell 3 J Kinross & R Floquet

Sunday 30 Aug Beryl Cramb Trophy 1 L Carr & J Wright 2 R Shadlow & P Gruythysen 3 E Pereira & B Koster

Wed 2 Sept: N/S L Carr & J Wright 2 H Tyler & J Medhurst 3 J Kinross & R Floquet E/W 1 L Heap & B Connell 2 J Lawson & P Morton 3 D Scown & J Borowski

Sat 5 Sept N/S 1 R King & L Groves 2 C Page & J Kennedy 3 L Carr & J Wright E/W 1 D Scown & J Borowski 2 L Gadsby & J Fitzgerald 3 I Best & L Wilson

Wed 9 Sept N/S 1 P Edis & I Best 2 C Browne & P Swan 3 B Connell & L Heap E/W 1 C & R Perrott 2 L Groves & A Fielding 3 J Hays & K Cohen

BICBC: Monday 31 Aug N/S 1 P Edis & L Groves 2 Dawn Quinan & G Colwell 3 C Page & J Kennedy E/W A Fielding & R King 2 P Morton & C Browne 3 J Day & S McCulloch

Mon 7 Sept N/S 1 Dawn Quinan & P Morton 2 Dave Quinan & M Peterson 3 C Page & J Kennedy E/W 1 A Fielding & N Denvir 2 J Lawson & A Bronn 3 C Frankcom & K Strickland

The Club welcomes visitors and new players - contact Ruth 0417 656 693. Lessons and supervised play available - contact Helen 0427 567670

Proud Sponsors of Bribie Island Sports

Bribie Island Bowls Club

11-23 Welsby Parade, Bongaree. www.bribiebowls.com **Phone 3408 1018**

Paw-some Pet Pages



Bruno



The Houndies



Tilly



Trevor



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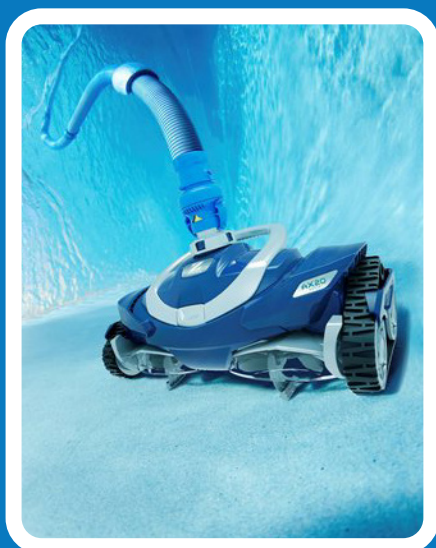
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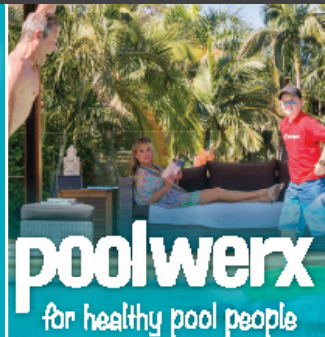
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Things My Mother Taught Me

How to Love Gardening

By Hazel Beneke

Some people hate gardening and would rather be inside watching a screen. I hate cleaning, because it takes hard work to make the house look the same, even if I know it is now cleaner. Gardening takes hard work too, but afterwards, at least it looks different, and they say that it keeps you young.

Gardening can produce something which is beautiful, but it might also produce something tasty for mealtimes. The latter was the only thing my hubby really enjoyed, and that is where my mother started my interest. I have an old photo of her spreading fertiliser round the lettuce in our backyard in Sydney. She put in a lot of effort, while my Pop only grew potatoes because they didn't take much maintenance. I have concluded that men usually like to garden efficiently producing edible results with minimal effort, while women garden for the pure pleasure.

In my teenage years, our front yard was full of weeds, but eventually Mum found time to turn it into a pretty rose garden. I learned the names of all her roses, and by watching her, learned how to prune them. Before coming to Bribie, I grew roses in my own garden and even won Best in Show for one of my David Austin roses. Unfortunately, Bribie is not an easy place to grow them, much to the disappointment of so many of the "Mexicans" who move here.

When I got married, even though we were only renting, gardening was regular weekend activity. Sometimes we were lucky with the fruit trees we inherited - yummy pawpaws, and even avocados. We always had tomatoes, using them once to conceal illegal weeds. And a patch of asparagus went with us to at least four veggie gardens.

Before we owned a house, a visit to friends in Canberra had us learning the names of some beautiful trees, so when we got our own house, we planted them. We made the most of our New England garden to grow Autumn colour in the form of maples, ash and pistacia, plus rare trees like a ginkgo, and dawn redwood (metasequoia). When we moved to Queensland and tried a Wollemi pine, it died, and the only things that did well were native trees. But they attracted interesting birds, like coucals, curlews, honeyeaters, drongos, and musical butcherbirds. Now I have a lemon myrtle for use in the kitchen, and several Lilly Pillies, which provide fruit for a delicious spread, which goes well with roasts.

My son reckons there are only three types of plants: grass, shrubs and trees - nothing really interesting. So, as you can imagine, he hates it when I ask him to help me in the garden. He lives in a unit. Mowing is my least favourite chore, but lawns are cooler than concrete, so I persist with them despite the water they need. Besides, an hour spent mowing is a better form of exercise than running on a treadmill. And if you don't do it too often, you can really



see the difference. Besides, if you replace it with beds, there'll be a lot of extra weeding work.

Growing is what gardening is all about. It is wonderful to see the magical appearance of new leaves, pretty flowers or delicious fruit. Nothing tastes quite like a snow pea, tomato or crisp cucumber straight off the vine. Sometimes the produce is so prolific that you can give it away to friends. And if you grow it yourself, you know that it is free of the nasties that commercial growers use. And some things are just too expensive or never available unless you grow them at home.

Pruning might seem destructive, but if correctly applied it can lead to an increased crop. A pruned stem wants to grow and will produce more leaves and flowers - a source of pleasure. If a shrub is in the way, cut some off, and maybe even try some topiary. I love the sailboats at the bowls club. This is not the only artistic activity a pair of secateurs can achieve - I have managed to keep alive four bonsai pots out of the ones I tried. One of them is now fifteen years old.

Some things refuse to grow, but, as Mum said, it's not their fault - you just chose the wrong thing for that spot. Or you may not have given them enough loving care - like food, water, or kind words. But dead plants are not a sign of being a poor gardener. Death is just part of life. And it may give you a chance to try something even more beautiful or tasty.

Weeding is the thing which drives many people away from gardening. You can reduce it by using mulch (unless the mulch contains weed seed!), and some weeds are edible. My favourite weeds are basil, lettuce, spring onions and coriander which come up in my veggie patch. To avoid chemical sprays, I prefer to remove weeds by hand, and the job can be surprisingly satisfying. It is also a wonderful way to relax, switch off and enjoy being in nature. I even use the time to write in my mind, or to learn the words of songs for a show. And sitting on my wheelie-weeder, I can chat with the birds or passers-by.

If you look around; the healthiest people are those who spend time gardening. I can't imagine living a life without it. Thanks, Mum.



Living Room Accent Wall Ideas

1. Create a Modern TV Feature Wall

The TV is already one of the main focal points in most living rooms, so it makes sense to design the accent wall around it. Instead of simply mounting the screen on a bare wall, use wood slats, fluted panels, slim shelving, or built-in storage to make the TV feel integrated.

Concealed cables are essential, and a floating media console can keep the setup clean. Soft backlighting can add warmth without making the wall feel overdone. For a timeless palette, consider white, light oak, charcoal, or greige. The main mistake to avoid is crowding the TV with too many shelves or accessories. Keep the styling simple so the wall feels intentional and the screen sits comfortably within the overall design.

2. Make a Statement with a Black Accent Wall

A black accent wall sounds bold, and many people assume it will make the room feel smaller. In practice, it often adds depth, especially when the space has decent natural light and lighter tones around it for balance. A matte finish usually works better than gloss because it softens the wall instead of bouncing light back into the room.

Pair black with warm wood, white trim, brass hardware, and layered lighting so the space feels rich rather than heavy. If possible, add moulding, panels, or slats to create dimension. If your room gets very little natural light, keep black to one wall rather than wrapping the whole room.

3. Bring Nature Indoors with a Green Accent Wall

Green remains popular because it brings a natural, calming feel into the home without locking the room into one specific style. Sage feels light and airy, making it ideal for relaxed or minimalist living rooms. Olive has more depth and pairs well with wood furniture, woven textures, and warm neutrals.

Forest green is bolder and works best in larger rooms or spaces with good natural light. Cream, taupe, beige, and warm white all sit comfortably beside green. Add plants and natural textures for a layered look, but avoid making the wall feel like part of a forced theme. Test samples at different times of day, because green can change noticeably from morning light to evening lamps.

4. Add Timeless Character with Decorative Wall Moulding

Decorative moulding does not depend on trends, which is exactly why it works so well. It adds depth and structure to plain drywall while still

feeling classic. Picture-frame moulding creates a custom, built-in look, while board and batten feels more traditional and suits farmhouse, transitional, or heritage-inspired interiors. Paint moulding the same colour as the wall for a subtle effect, or use contrast if you want the pattern to stand out. Installation matters: straight lines and even spacing are harder than they look, and one uneven panel can be very noticeable once everything is painted.

5. Warm Up Your Living Room with Vertical Wood Slat Panels

Wood slats add warmth, texture, and a clean modern rhythm to a living room. Their vertical lines can make the ceiling feel higher, while the shadows between the slats add interest without making the wall look busy.

Light oak is versatile, walnut feels richer, and lighter finishes can create a Scandinavian-inspired look. Wood slats work especially well behind a TV or fireplace, especially with subtle lighting. Keep the rest of the wall simple so shelves, large artwork, or extra decorations do not compete with the texture.

6. Create a Bold Focal Point with Stone or Faux Stone Panels

Stone brings texture and visual weight to a room in a way paint cannot. Natural stone and high-quality faux stone panels can both create a feature wall that draws attention. Around a fireplace, stone reinforces a natural gathering point. Behind a TV, it adds depth without overwhelming the rest of the setup.

Faux stone has improved in recent years and is lighter, easier to install, usually less expensive, and often difficult to distinguish from natural stone once installed. Grey, limestone, and warm beige are safe choices because they work with most furniture and paint palettes. Keep the surrounding decor simple so the texture remains the main feature.

7. Keep It Simple with a Painted Feature Wall

Sometimes paint really is enough. It is still one of the most practical living room accent wall ideas because it is affordable, flexible, and easy to change later. Skip bright shades that may date quickly and consider warm greige, soft olive, muted blue, charcoal, or terracotta instead.

Always sample the colour before committing, because morning sun and evening lamp light can make the same shade look very different. Finish matters too: matte paint hides imperfections better, while eggshell is easier to wipe clean in homes with kids or pets. **Cont next page...**



EXPERT TIPS FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT ACCENT WALL CONT...

Forget chasing whatever is trending this month. The best accent walls fit the house, support the room's natural focal point, and work with the way you actually live in the space.

- **Pick the wall your eye lands on first, not the one you think should be the feature**
- **Watch how the light hits it at different times of day**
- **One accent wall, not three competing for attention**
- **Match the material to the rest of your home's style**
- **Think years down the road, not just this season**
- **Less decor around it, not more**

If your design includes custom moulding, wood panels, or textured finishes, professional accent wall installation services can help deliver clean lines, accurate measurements, and a polished finish that lasts.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Are accent walls still in style?**
Yes. Accent walls are still popular, but the look has shifted toward texture, wood, moulding, and stone rather than relying only on bold paint colour.
- **Which wall should become the accent wall?**
Choose the wall that naturally draws the eye first. In a living room, that is often the TV wall, fireplace wall, or the largest uninterrupted wall.
- **What is the best colour for a living room accent wall?**
Neutral and nature-inspired colours usually age best. Greige, warm white, charcoal, sage, and deep navy work with a wide range of furniture styles while still giving the wall enough presence.
- **Can I have more than one accent wall?**
You can, but one usually has more impact. Multiple walls competing for attention tends to make a room feel busy instead of designed.
- **Does an accent wall increase home value?**
Not directly. An accent wall alone is unlikely to increase home value, but a living room that feels finished and well-designed can leave a stronger impression on buyers.



Accent walls are not about chasing trends. They are about creating a living room that feels like yours and works for the way you use the space every day. Wood slats, moulding, stone, and simple paint can all work beautifully when the choice fits the home instead of fighting it. A big statement made for its own sake often backfires, but a well-planned feature wall can change the feel of the entire room. If your project involves custom panels, detailed moulding, or textured finishes, professional accent wall installation services can be worth it for clean lines and a polished finish.

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The Plants That Roll Out the Welcome Mat for Snakes



In Queensland, the debate about “snake-attracting plants” often misses the point. Snakes are not drawn to a garden because they admire a particular species; they come because a yard offers what all wildlife seeks: food, water and shelter.

That means the real culprits are not plants by name so much as plantings that create cool, dense, undisturbed cover close to homes, sheds and paths.

Thick groundcovers, tangled grasses, sprawling bromeliads, dense lomandra clumps, low shrubs, heavy mulch, palm frond piles and overgrown garden beds can all provide the concealment snakes prefer.

They also shelter frogs, skinks, rodents and insects, which may become prey. In humid or warm parts of Queensland, a lush garden beside a leaking tap, pond, aviary, compost heap or pet bowl can become even more appealing.

This does not mean Queenslanders should strip their yards bare. Native gardens support birds, insects, lizards and frogs,

and biodiversity deserves a place in suburbia. But good habitat design must be balanced with household safety.

Garden beds should be kept away from doorways and high-traffic areas; lawns should be short; paths should be open and visible; dense plants should be pruned so people can see the ground beneath them. Compost and timber should be tidy, raised or enclosed, and bird seed, pet food and food scraps should be stored so they do not attract rodents.

The smartest editorial position is not fear, but responsibility. Snakes are protected native animals and important predators in Queensland ecosystems. Most encounters become dangerous when people interfere with them. The better approach is to design gardens that reduce hiding places near the home while still respecting wildlife.

A safe Queensland garden is not a concrete desert; it is a well-managed space where plants are chosen, placed and maintained with clear sightlines, fewer rodent shelters and less temptation for a snake to stay.

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The Interior Designer's 60-30-10 Rule: The Secret to a Balanced Interior

Have you ever walked into a beautifully designed room and wondered why all the colours seem to work so effortlessly together? One of the classic principles interior designers use to create a balanced and cohesive space is the 60-30-10 rule.

This simple decorating formula provides an easy starting point when choosing colours for your home. It helps prevent a room from feeling either too bland or overwhelmed by too many competing colours.

60% – Your Dominant Colour

The 60% colour is the foundation of your room. It is the colour that takes up the largest visual area and establishes the overall mood and feeling of the space.

This could be your wall colour, flooring, large pieces of furniture, or other major surfaces. Soft neutrals such as warm whites, beige, soft grey and natural tones are often used as the dominant colour, but there is no reason why you can't be more adventurous.

Wallpaper can be a wonderful way to create your 60% colour, particularly when using a subtle pattern, texture or softly coloured design throughout a room.

30% – Your Secondary Colour

The 30% colour introduces contrast and adds depth to your scheme. It should complement your dominant colour while providing enough difference to make the room visually interesting. This is where soft furnishings can play an important role. Curtains, Roman blinds, upholstered furniture, bedding, cushions and rugs are excellent ways to introduce your secondary colour.

For example, if your walls are a warm neutral, you might introduce duck-egg blue, sage green or soft coastal blue through your curtains and upholstery.

10% – Your Accent Colour

The final 10% is where you can have some fun. Your accent colour is generally the strongest or most contrasting colour in the room. Because it is used in



smaller amounts, you can be more adventurous without overwhelming the space. Think cushions, artwork, lamps, decorative accessories, vases, throws or a statement chair.

A touch of black, deep green, navy, terracotta, pink or even metallic gold can instantly bring personality to a room.

Don't Take the Rule Too Literally

The 60-30-10 rule isn't a strict mathematical formula. It is a design guideline to help you distribute colour throughout a room. Your percentages don't have to add up perfectly, and you can use different shades and tones within each colour group. The key is to create a sense of balance, repetition and harmony.

For example, a coastal interior might use 60% warm neutral tones, 30% soft blue and 10% natural or earthy accents. An Art Deco-inspired room could use 60% neutral, 30% rich jewel tones and 10% black or metallic accents.

The beauty of the 60-30-10 rule is that it gives you a starting point while still allowing your personality to shine through.

I believe your home should reflect your individual style. Whether you're choosing wallpaper, curtains, Roman blinds or upholstery, understanding how colour works together can help you create a home that feels beautifully balanced and uniquely yours.

Ivory T - fabric & wallpaper 0422 599 084

Queensland smoke alarm rules:

don't leave it until the last minute

Queenslanders have been given plenty of warning about the smoke alarm changes, but that does not mean everyone is ready.

From 1 January 2027, all homes in Queensland will need to meet the updated smoke alarm rules. That includes the family home, the unit, the townhouse and the place someone has owned for years and never thought twice about.

The rule is not complicated. Homes need photoelectric smoke alarms, and they need to be interconnected. In plain English, that means if one alarm goes off, the others go off too.

Alarms must be in every bedroom, in hallways that connect bedrooms to the rest of the home, and on every level of the house. That matters because fires do not wait until everyone is awake and alert. A fire can start in one part of the home while someone is asleep in another.

A single alarm in the wrong spot may not be enough. Interconnected alarms give everyone a better chance to hear the warning and get out.

Yes, replacing alarms can cost money, and that is not easy for every household. But the deadline has not appeared overnight. Rental homes and homes being sold have already had to meet the rules since 2022. The next big step is owner-occupied homes, which must comply by 1 January 2027.

The problem is that many people will still leave it too late. If thousands of households wait until the final months of 2026, electricians and smoke alarm installers will be busy, prices may rise, and people may struggle to get the work done in time. The smart move is to check now.

Homeowner checklist

- Check every bedroom has a smoke alarm.
- Check hallways or areas outside bedrooms have smoke alarms.
- Check every level of the home has at least one smoke alarm.
- Make sure the alarms are photoelectric, not old ionisation alarms.
- Make sure all alarms are interconnected, so they all sound together.
- Check the alarms are less than 10 years old.
- Replace flat or removable batteries where needed, and test alarms regularly.
- If alarms are hardwired, use a licensed electrician.
- Do not wait until late 2026. Book help early if you need it.

What happens if you do not comply?

The first risk is the most important one: your home may not give people enough warning in a fire. But there can also be practical problems. If you rent out a property, the owner or property manager is responsible for making sure smoke alarms meet Queensland standards.

If you sell a home, you may need to show that the alarms comply. If they do not, it can delay things, cause disputes, or affect the sale process. After the 2027 deadline, non-compliance may also expose homeowners to penalties, and it could become an issue with an insurance claim if there is a fire.

Queensland should keep the 2027 deadline, but the message needs to be simple: do not wait. Look at the alarms in your home, check whether they are the right type, check whether they are connected, and ask a qualified installer if you are not sure.

Smoke alarms are easy to ignore until the day they are needed. By then, they either work properly or they do not.

LKA Electrical & Air Pty Ltd:

Local Service You Can Trust

Professional, friendly and honest electrical and air conditioning solutions for homes and businesses.

When it comes to reliable electrical and air conditioning work, choosing a local contractor makes all the difference. LKA Electrical & Air Pty Ltd offers professional, friendly and honest service for local homes and businesses. Led by Lucas Alderman, who has lived locally for 30 years, the business understands the community it serves and takes pride in delivering practical electrical and air conditioning solutions with care, respect and reliability.

For many property owners, electrical and air conditioning work is about more than convenience. It is about safety, comfort and peace of mind. Whether you need new smoke alarms installed, a new hot water system connected, improved lighting, new ceiling and wall mount fans, or air conditioning installed, serviced or upgraded, LKA Electrical & Air provides dependable workmanship and clear communication from start to finish.

Smoke alarms are one of the most important safety features in any property, and having them installed correctly is essential. Hot water systems are another everyday necessity where reliable electrical work matters. Lighting can transform the look and feel of a space, while ceiling and wall

mount fans help improve airflow and comfort throughout bedrooms, living areas and outdoor spaces.

Air conditioning is also an important part of keeping a home or workplace comfortable, especially through Queensland's warmer months. LKA Electrical & Air can assist with air conditioning installations, replacements, servicing and planned upgrades, offering practical advice to help customers choose a reliable solution that suits their space, budget and comfort needs.

What sets a local contractor apart is the relationship built with customers. People want someone who arrives when expected, explains the work clearly, treats the property with care and delivers a result that lasts. LKA Electrical & Air is built around that simple idea: professional electrical and air conditioning service should also be friendly, respectful and trustworthy.

For residents and businesses looking for a dependable local electrician and air conditioning specialist, Lucas Alderman and the team at LKA Electrical & Air Pty Ltd are ready to help. For all your electrical and air conditioning needs, get in contact today to schedule an appointment.



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The Rise of the Laundry Sink:

THE KITCHEN HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

When dinner moves to the laundry, dignity is the first thing down the plughole.

By Cherrie Wilson

So, the kitchen has not so much gone missing as been abducted. One minute it was the heart of the home; the next, it is a dusty crime scene with pencil marks on the wall, no roof so a snake, mouse or possum can pop out and say hi and it eerily echoes.

For someone who believes a proper cuppa is a basic human right, and that a sandwich should not require balancing bread on a washing machine, this is not just an inconvenience. This is a full-blown national emergency with crumbs.

The kitchen situation has also brought out everyone's inner food critic. My partner opens the fridge, stares into it as though guilt alone might manifest a roast dinner, and says, "What's for tea?" The grown kids appear at mealtimes with the confidence of people who have contributed nothing but appetite and passive judgement.

When I suggest toast, they look wounded, as though I have failed them as a mother and a cook. And so help me God, if anyone tells me this is "part of the adventure," I will serve them dinner on a drop sheet.

The lack of kitchen has upset the order in appliance world. The laundry sink has now been promoted to the head honcho of household crisis management.

It was the only sink with water, so it became kitchen sink, bathroom basin—although the bathroom is done now, so its duties have lightened—dishwashing station, handwashing spot, vegetable rinser, toothpaste target, paint-removal bay, and general place of emotional support.

I have washed plates, hands, mugs, paint splashes, cutlery, possibly a carrot, and definitely my dignity in that sink.

At this point, I am one rinse away from giving it a name and putting it in the will, which would be fair, as the laundry sink is currently doing the job of every wet area in the house.

I have found cups, forks, toothpaste, paintbrushes and socks intermingled and I swear if anything I find anything else in it, I'm moving out and letting the sink run the household. It's clearly more qualified.

The microwave, meanwhile, has taken on a superior air now the oven has been decommissioned. It sits on a buffet cabinet, surrounded by kitchen paraphernalia, takeaway menus, and a single teaspoon no one will claim, humming as though it is personally holding civilisation together with reheated hope.

Every meal now emerges like the line from *Forrest Gump*: life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get. Last night, I seriously considered whether baked beans eaten straight from the tin count as rustic dining, minimalist cuisine, or evidence for an intervention.

Of course, everyone keeps asking when the kitchen will be finished, as though I am hiding a team of cabinetmakers in the linen cupboard and refusing to release them until morale improves.

I have been given timelines, revised timelines, optimistic timelines, and one sentence that began with "all going



well,” which is builder language for “please lower your expectations, hydrate, and possibly take up meditation.”

I now measure progress by whether the same power tool has moved since yesterday, and whether the mysterious packet of screws on the floor is spare, important, or evidence that one day a cupboard door will magically appear.

Still, I have started to imagine the day it all returns to normal, though I am no longer sure I will recognise normal when I see it again. There will be cupboards with doors, drawers that do not require negotiation, and a bench where bread can lie flat without forming a meaningful relationship with fabric softener.

And when the first proper meal finally comes out of that kitchen, I will not serve it with ceremony, candlelight, or any of the crap people put in renovation magazines beside bowls of suspiciously perfect lemons.

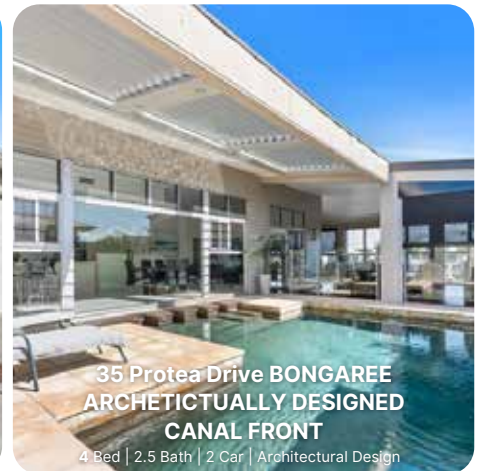
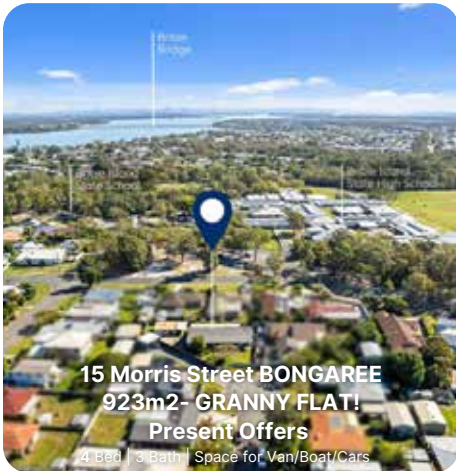
I will put plates—real ones, not paper—on an actual bench, make a cup of tea without moving a cordless drill first, and announce that dinner is ready. If anyone complains, asks what else there is, or suggests takeaway, they will be directed firmly to the laundry sink and left there until they understand their grave mistake.

Until then, we live among drills, crumbs, and mystery screws, pretending this is character building and not Stockholm syndrome with splashback samples. The laundry sink carries on without complaint, rinsing mugs, dignity, and the occasional unidentified object.

When the new kitchen finally opens, I’ll probably make one triumphant cup of tea, admire the beautiful new sink, be overcome with gratitude and then wander back to the laundry like a traumatised homing pigeon who has lived too long in the wilderness and now distrusts civilisation.



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A Local Real Estate Team with Heart

Wilson & Co Property Professionals brings a personal, community-minded approach to selling on Bribie Island.

Here on Bribie Island, homes hold stories. They are the places where families grow, neighbours wave from the driveway, grandchildren visit for weekends by the water, and new chapters begin under the Queensland sun.

From quiet mornings near the Passage to afternoon walks along the foreshore, island living has a way of becoming part of who we are.

So, when it comes time to sell, it is never just about putting a property on the market. It is about trusting someone with a place that has meant something.

Wilson & Co Property Professionals understands that deeply. Based in Bellara and proudly serving the Bribie Island community, the team brings a down-to-earth, people-first approach to real estate.

Their focus is on making the selling experience feel clear, supported and personal from the very beginning. For many locals, that sense of connection matters just as much as the final sale price, because selling a home often comes with decisions that are practical, financial and emotional all at once.

For local homeowners and buyers, that kind of care can make all the difference. Selling or purchasing a home can bring mixed emotions: excitement about what is ahead, sadness about leaving memories behind, and uncertainty about the process itself. Wilson & Co aims to ease that journey with fairer fees, strong marketing, regular communication and practical guidance every step of the way.

Their approach recognises that people do not simply want an agent who lists a property; they want someone who listens, explains, follows up and helps them feel confident about each decision. Local residents have praised Sally, Craig and the Wilson & Co team for making the experience feel professional, personal and genuinely supportive.

"Sally was amazing. She went above and beyond to make the whole experience effortless. Professional, always took our calls, and it was a genuine pleasure dealing with her. Highly recommend."

— Local resident testimonial

That can mean helping a long-time owner prepare a much-loved home for market, guiding a family through the timing of their next move, or giving an investor clear advice about how to present a property to the right buyers. It can also mean answering the small questions that arise along the way: what to expect at an open home, how buyer feedback is handled, and what happens once an offer is made.

These details may seem simple, but they can make the process feel far less daunting.

"Thank you to the wonderful Sally and Craig for selling our property. Sally is nothing short of 'just the best'. She works very hard and we made a friend for life. She's the real deal, and I highly, highly recommend Sally. What a wonderful experience."

— Local resident testimonial

What sets a good local agency apart is not only the ability to sell property, but the ability to understand people. On Bribie Island, where community connections still matter, Wilson & Co's local knowledge and approachable style offer reassurance to sellers who want to feel heard, respected and well looked after. The island has its own rhythm, from established neighbourhoods and waterfront homes to low-maintenance villas and family-friendly pockets, and local insight can help shape a campaign that feels right for both the property and the people behind it.

There is also something refreshing about a real estate team that speaks plainly about value. Fairer fees and strong marketing are a meaningful combination for homeowners who want professional service without feeling overwhelmed by costs. When paired with open communication and local care, that model reflects what many Bribie Island residents appreciate most: honesty, practicality and genuine effort.

"I recently had the pleasure of working with Sally and Craig from the Wilson & Co team in my quest to buy a new home, and I cannot express how grateful I am for the outstanding service and support I received throughout the entire process. I cannot recommend Wilson & Co enough to anyone in search of a dedicated, knowledgeable and highly effective property agent."

— Local buyer testimonial

As Bribie Island continues to welcome new residents while holding onto its relaxed coastal character, local businesses like Wilson & Co play an important role in keeping service personal. Real estate will always involve contracts, negotiations and market conditions, but at its heart it is about people moving from one chapter to the next.

For anyone considering a move, exploring their options, or simply wondering what their home might be worth, Wilson & Co Property Professionals offers a friendly place to start the conversation. With a focus on care, clarity and community, it is a local team helping Bribie Island sellers feel supported every step of the way.

FISHING BRAG

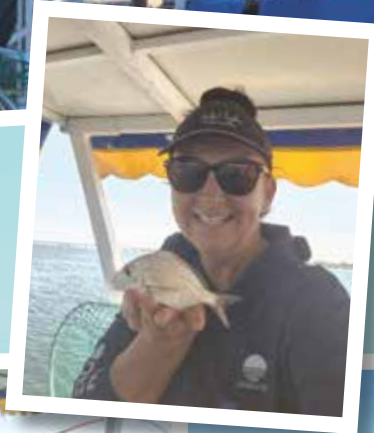
More than the catch: WFC brings women together on Pumicestone Passage

The Women's Fishing Classic (WFC) is running at the moment. It's actually about much more than catching fish — it's about bringing women together, building friendships and creating memorable experiences on the water.

As part of this year's competition, a group of WFC participants enjoyed a fantastic day together on the beautiful Pumicestone Passage. It was the perfect opportunity to throw in a line, share a few laughs and spend time with like-minded women who all share a love of fishing and the outdoors.

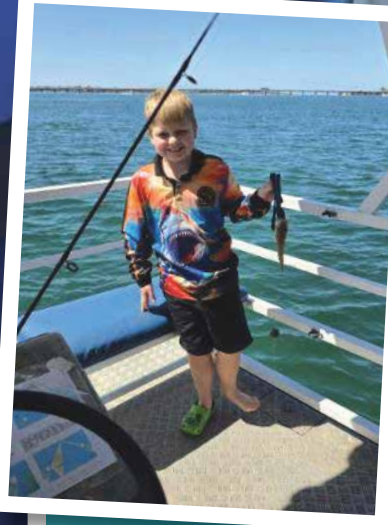
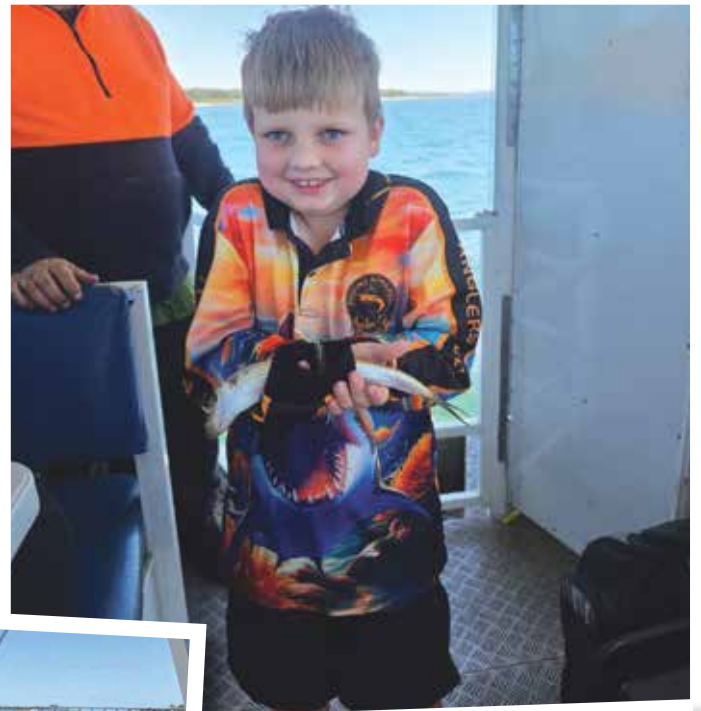
While there is always some friendly competition during the WFC, days like this highlight what the event is really about — connection, community and encouraging more women to get out on the water.

Whether participants are experienced anglers or still finding their feet, WFC provides a welcoming environment where women can learn from one another, make new friends and enjoy everything fishing has to offer.





Andi did a bit of holiday fishing, and his catch wasn't a lot bigger than his bait!



For Connor, it wasn't all about the size of the fish, either – just about the fun!

TIDE TIMES

**Bribie Island
AND
Moreton Bay**

Fri 25 Sep 3:05 am 0.31m 9:00 am 1.56m 2:46 pm 0.27m 9:13 pm 1.87m	Sat 26 Sep 3:30 am 0.24m 9:33 am 1.67m 3:23 pm 0.23m 9:44 pm 1.87m	Sun 27 Sep 3:59 am 0.19m 10:08 am 1.76m 4:02 pm 0.23m 10:16 pm 1.82m	Mon 28 Sep 4:28 am 0.18m 10:45 am 1.82m 4:45 pm 0.28m 10:52 pm 1.71m	Tue 29 Sep 4:57 am 0.2m 11:24 am 1.86m 5:30 pm 0.35m 11:28 pm 1.56m	Wed 30 Sep 5:26 am 0.25m 12:04 pm 1.86m 6:18 pm 0.45m	Thu 1 Oct 12:07 am 1.4m 5:57 am 0.31m 12:49 pm 1.83m 7:14 pm 0.54m
Fri 2 Oct 12:52 am 1.26m 6:35 am 0.39m 1:41 pm 1.78m 8:22 pm 0.61m	Sat 3 Oct 1:48 am 1.15m 7:28 am 0.47m 2:44 pm 1.72m 9:47 pm 0.65m	Sun 4 Oct 3:06 am 1.09m 8:45 am 0.53m 4:02 pm 1.68m 11:12 pm 0.61m	Mon 5 Oct 4:47 am 1.13m 10:23 am 0.54m 5:28 pm 1.69m	Tue 6 Oct 12:22 am 0.53m 6:16 am 1.26m 11:51 am 0.48m 6:40 pm 1.75m	Wed 7 Oct 1:19 am 0.42m 7:19 am 1.44m 1:05 pm 0.37m 7:39 pm 1.82m	Thu 8 Oct 2:07 am 0.32m 8:13 am 1.61m 2:05 pm 0.28m 8:29 pm 1.85m



VESSEL MAINTENANCE

Come rain or shine, maintenance of the vessels always gets done. On Thursday Bribie 1 had her 200-hour service, Bribie 3 a new propellor fitted and as the tractor and trailer were out for Bribie 1 we also took Bribie 2 out of the water to power wash her hull. Thanks to all that helped - John O'Hagan tractor driver, Ian Grimes maintenance, Liz Radajewski, Mark Purtell, Ross Perry, Mark Paterson boat, pontoon and safety crew.



Ian Grimes and Ross Perry only worried about getting top halves wet whilst replacing Jonkers Bribie 3's propeller.

FAREWELL LUNCH KAYE, SHERYL

Tuesday 25th August 2026 – Bribie Island Golf Club Woormim. Marine Rescue Bribie Supporters Association Social Committee met and farewelled Kaye Hammond and Sheryl Traill with a luncheon at the Golf Club. Kaye had been an Active Member for over 10 years and Sheryl over 13 years. Thank you, ladies, for your years of service, we still hope to see you around the base.



Standing: - Sharyn Giles, Robyn Young, Barb Gilmore, Brenda Allardyce, Kaye Hammond, Cheryl Robinson, and John Traill. Seated: - Carol Pobar, Betty Snell, Kelly Langworthy, and Sheryl Traill.

VALE BEV JAMES

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Beverley Yvonne James.

1935 - 2026 Aged 90 Years. Beverley passed away peacefully on Sunday the 2nd



of August at Palm Lakes Care, Beachmere.

Much loved wife of the late Kevin James, and adored mother of Laurence and Stuart.

Kevin James was a Radio Operator at VMR Bribie Island Inc. for 12 years, two of which were as Unit Radio Officer (Aug 2009 – Oct 2011). Kevin passed away in 2016.

In keeping with Beverley's wishes a private cremation will be held.

SUNSET DRINKS -

Friday 28th August 2026

Build your own burger – 52 Active members and partners attended. On offer was a beef patty, fried onions, bacon, egg, tomato, beetroot, pineapple, cheese, lettuce, with a selection of sauces on a Sandstone Point Bakery hamburger bun. Dessert as usual was ice-cream in a cup or a waffle cone and a choice of toppings. Cheryl Robinson and her Social Committee once again did a marvellous job preparing meals and the room for the function. Thanks also to our BBQ Boys for a job well done.

There was a Lucky Door Prize plus the usual raffles. The August Birthday members were treated to a free drink & \$10 worth of raffle tickets.



Above and below members and partners enjoy the setting sun on the balcony.

THANK YOU, LAURIE HOSE

Monday 31st August 2026 - You cannot keep a good man down Laurie Hose came back for one more shift and this time we had cake. Farewelled on his final shift by Deputy Radio Officer John O'Hagan, Senior Radio Advisor Peter McNamara, and Unit Support Coordinator Kelly Langworthy.

Laurie joined VMR Bribie Island in November 2018 and has been active as a Radio Operator since April 2021. Laurie transitioned to MRQ Bribie Island 1 4th August 2025 – Thanks for your service, Laurie. - Laurie has now transferred to MRQ Sandgate.



Laurie at the radio workstation with the sun setting over the Pumicestone Passage.



Laurie with his cake.



Radio Officer for most of Laurie's time with Marine Rescue Bribie, Peter McNamara, now Senior Radio Advisor, and Deputy Radio Officer & Unit Asset Coordinator John O'Hagan present Laurie with a Certificate and a cake in recognition of his service.

BUSY FRIDAY CALLOUT CREW

Friday 4th September 2026 - the callout crew Senior Coxswains Liz Radajewski & Ian Grimes and David Logie were kept busy. Starting with a medevac to Tungalooma and no sooner had they returned to base they had another task, this

time an 8m Cuddy Cabin breakdown in the shipping channel off Tangalooma. The broken-down vessel was towed back to Sandstone Point Marina boat ramp. A third call out, a 6m Tinnie at 1730hrs was handed over to the night callout crew, Senior Coxswain Garry Bunker with crew James Dickson, Paul Gillmore & Phil Hagen to recover the vessel from the NW Channel 6km South of Caloundra. The vessel was towed to the Sandstone Point Marina concluding at 2045hrs.



The 8m Cuddy Cabin off Tangalooma is towed back to the Sandstone Point Marina.



BUSY SATURDAY RESCUE CREW

5th September 2026 White Saturday's crew was kept busy all day. Skipper Liz Radajewski and crew members Denise Inggs, Dave Dodsworth, and Phil Helgesen had just completed the vessel checks and settled down for a cuppa and an Offshore SMS refresher with Ross Perry when the calls began—and they did not stop until the crew signed off at 1800 hrs.

Their first assist was a 50-foot Maritimo near the passage entrance. One engine had blown, and the other refused to work. The vessel was towed into Pacific Harbour and berthed at the owner's pontoon. Next, the crew assisted a 6m broken-down vessel with 4 people on board near the shipping channel north of the third lagoon and towed it to the Sandstone Point boat ramp.

On the way, they received another call for assistance near Henderson Rock, east of Moreton Island. After leaving the second vessel on the beach near the ramp, they departed for the third assist. The journey brought plenty of whale and dolphin sightings—excellent lookout practice for the crew—and the onboard snack bag and cool drinks were thoroughly enjoyed. The 5.2m Cuddy Cabin vessel was located and towed to the Bellara Boat Ramp.

The crew then refuelled, returned to base, closed down all three vessels, completed the paperwork—or rather, the iPad work—and finally signed off. Great work, crew; you made every assist look easy.



50-foot Maritimo vessel under tow by Bribie 1.



Bribie 1 tows the 50-foot Maritimo vessel toward the Pacific Harbour Canals.



Bribie 1 tows the vessel from North of the 3rd Lagoon



Final tow for the day Bribie 1 nears the Bellara boat ramp.



UNIT COMMANDER GARY'S MESSAGE:

**Let's Talk About
Moreton Bay!**

One of the great things about boating around Bribie Island is that we don't have to cross a coastal bar every time we want to get out in open water. But that doesn't mean navigation is easy!

Moreton Bay is full of sandbanks in between the deeper channels, and some of those sandbanks can be a real trap if you don't know where they are.

Normally we would advise you to stay in the marked navigation channels. Unfortunately, the marked channels in Moreton Bay are there to get big ships in and out of the port of Brisbane, and they run pretty much North-South. They are no help at all getting you from Bribie across to Moreton or out wide. If you want to cross the Bay safely, you need to study the chart and work out the safest route for yourself.

A great example is Gilligan's Island, just south of Skirmish Point. Many people have come to grief on this dangerous bank, because it is in a direct line between the passage entrance and Tangalooma. So if you don't know it is there, and you head straight for the lights of Tangalooma, you will absolutely run aground and then be stuck in breaking water - with potentially severe consequences.

So don't just point the boat at where you want to go and follow the shortest route. Take the time to look at your chart before you leave. Work out where the sandbanks are and plan a route that gives you a safe trip.

And be particularly careful around the sandbanks in bad weather and at night. In calm daylight conditions, the waves breaking over a shallow bank can give you an obvious warning. At night, or when the sea is already rough, those telltale waves can be much harder to see.

If you are not familiar with Moreton Bay, check out our special local edition of "Beacon to Beacon". We produce these specifically for local boaters, showing the safest routes around Moreton Bay and providing plenty of other useful information for boating in the Passage and the Bay. You can buy these at our base, and there is a discount for members.

So remember – don't assume that the bay is safe just because there is no coastal bar. Study your chart, understand the water you are travelling through and plan your route before you leave.

Stay safe on the water.

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS 2026

CATEGORY	JUL	AUG
Medical	3	2
Training/Patrol	6	3
Vessel Breakdown	35	13
Community Service/Events	6	3
Sinking Vessel	5	3
SAR Police Tasking	5	1
Total Activations	99	27
People Assisted	69	
YTD People Assisted	271	

"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!"

**"PLEASE WEAR YOUR
LIFE JACKETS"**



Dear Editor,
Thank you for repeating your clear explanation of navigating roundabouts, as even some of the bus drivers seem unable to give the right signals. But I have noticed a problematic behaviour which you didn't mention.

Sometimes people will tend to remain close to motionless at the entrance to a roundabout, even if there is no traffic on it which needs giving way to.

This is a problem for anyone following, who will naturally be watching the entrance on their right, rather than watching the car in front of them. It could result in a tail-ender for the front driver.

Caution is commendable, but not if it results in an unexpected collision.

H.Beneke

Dear Editor,
In reply to Dr subletter's letter in edition 272, there is only one-off leash on Bribie and that is the southern Woorim Beach where 4WD vehicles are not allowed except for authorised vehicles.

As for banning fisherman because of tangled or whatever is totally ridiculous.

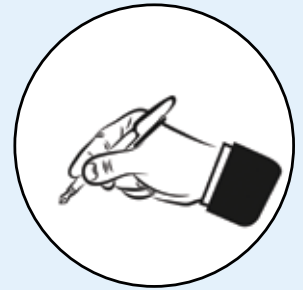
A.Non

Dear Editor,
Supermarkets do us a disservice in not sourcing more Australian product – There would be many who would, happily, pay a little more for that availability. And I have a real gripe that much product is labelled as having some percentage Australian sourced but no information as to where the balance comes from. A real gripe, specifically with one outlet, are the tins marked "Using Australian sliced peaches" or words to that effect but on the rear of the can, one finds the statement that this product contains at least 55% Australian product. In a tin of peaches, what on earth can be the balance of 45%.

Another manufacturer labels their cans as Australian peaches but on the back the statement that this product contains at least 58% Australian product. Again, in a tin of peaches, what can comprise the 42%. Another complaint is with NZ where I believe much of their product is sourced from other countries but apparently, they don't have any obligation to say so. I don't believe it is good enough and there should be change. I believe the Australian percentages, quoted, are accurate - there might be 1 or 2% error but certainly, in both cases, the Australian content is below 60%.

Regards
Ruggles

letters to the editor



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In Defence of Bribie's Whingers

Dear Editor,

I write in defence of a familiar local character: the Bribie whinger. They are not rare, sadly for those who enjoy peace, but they do serve a purpose. If a bin is overflowing, a footpath is uneven, a boat ramp queue has stopped moving, or something is "not how it used to be", someone will notice. There is a good chance it will be a whinger, and an even better chance the rest of us will receive the full report whether we asked for it or not.

They are not always subtle. A Bribie whinger can spot a badly parked car from across the road and describe the offence with the seriousness of a royal commission.

They also enjoy offering advice at the boat ramp, usually to people already enjoying the privilege of reversing a trailer while strangers silently judge their skills.

Still, beneath the running commentary is often a fair point: someone is blocking access, someone needs a hand, or someone has fed chips to seagulls and is now surprised to be outnumbered.

The saving grace is that many whingers do not stop at complaining. They grumble about litter, then pick it up, often while making sure everyone nearby knows society is collapsing one takeaway wrapper at a time. They complain about a neglected garden, then offer cuttings, advice, and a firm opinion on what should have been planted in the first place. They point out problems loudly, but quite often they are also the first to help fix them, after giving a short lecture on why it should never have happened in the first place.

We should also admit they have a role in keeping things moving. Who else will point out that a car is parked across two spaces, someone has blocked the access ramp, or a disabled bay is being treated as a handy suggestion rather than an actual rule? Who else will notice a trolley abandoned at Bellara and respond as if civilisation has finally called it quits? It may sound like complaining, but sometimes it is just common sense delivered with the volume turned up.

Of course, not every complaint deserves a council response, a Facebook post, and a full investigation by people who were not there but have apparently feel the need to be involved. Some things can be ignored, and some problems are not really problems at all, no matter how dramatically

they are reported. But when a few people are all pointing at the same thing, it is probably worth a look. It might be a blocked driveway, rubbish blowing along the foreshore, or a small issue that will become a bigger one if everyone keeps walking past and calling it "not my problem".

So, I suggest we give Bribie's whingers some credit, though not enough for them to start a committee. They can be loud, they can be annoying, and they are often right just early enough to make everyone else deeply resent them. They keep standards from slipping, visitors from getting stuck, and the rest of us from pretending someone else will deal with it.

However, there is a difference between pointing out a real problem and simply looking for something to complain about. If your whinge helps fix something, fair enough. If it only ruins the mood, holds up the line, or proves you have too much time and a deep personal relationship with the sound of your own voice, then maybe it is time to find a hobby and try the radical experiment of letting one thing pass without an official announcement.

Yours sincerely,
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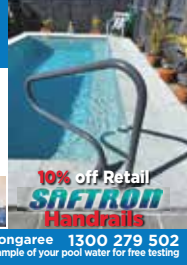
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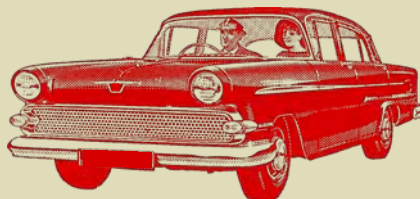
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