

BUNDABERGNOW

# weekender

Saturday 27 March 2021

**Fine dining  
experience  
on the  
bridge  
for Taste  
festival**

**Sounds  
of Rock  
coming  
to Burnett  
Heads in  
May**

**More  
than a job  
- lifesaving  
still priority  
for Craig**

**Local muso  
Mick Bazley scores  
Acca Dacca role**



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## Photo of the week

Photo by @kyliee\_lanee





Six green tree frogs now call Alexandra Park Zoo home.

## Fine dining experience on the bridge for Taste festival

Megan Dean

A unique Banquet on the Bridge dining experience, held as part of the Taste Bundaberg Festival, will celebrate the region's produce while lighting up the iconic Burnett Traffic Bridge.

Cars will be replaced with tables and chairs as guests get close enough to touch the region's history.

The long table experience will see 200 diners feast on local flavours surrounded by twinkling fairy lights that adorn the bridge's unique arches.

Canapes and cocktails are included as part of the experience with local produce highlighted in a three-course paired meal.

The adult-only Banquet on the Bridge event is **\$140 per person** and also includes a three-hour beverage package.

The dinner will be held on **Saturday 12 June** as part of the 10 day Taste Bundaberg Festival from June 11 to 20.

Details of the exclusive Banquet on the Bridge event are being revealed ahead of the release of Taste Bundaberg Festival tickets at 9 am on March 29.

Bundaberg Regional Council events portfolio spokesperson Cr John Learmonth said Banquet on the Bridge would not only be a taste sensation but an experience diners wouldn't soon forget.

"The Burnett Traffic Bridge is a significant part of the Bundaberg Region landscape and is an engineering marvel that has stood the test of time," Cr Learmonth said.

"Many residents will have crossed the bridge countless times but not many people can say they've pulled up a chair and enjoyed the best food and drink our region has to offer between the bridge's well-known arches!

"Entertainers will roam the dining area delighting the crowd as they enjoy the many flavours of our region."

Cr Learmonth said the entire Taste Bundaberg Festival program would be released on Monday and it was shaping up to be the biggest year yet.

"We have celebrity chefs featured throughout the program alongside a range of fabulous local chefs and producers.

"And of course, our popular free events are back including the Chilli and Lime Festival at Riverfeast and the farmers' markets in Alexandra Park.

"There is a wide range of events throughout the 10 days that celebrate the flavours of the region and highlight the diversity of the experiences on offer."

**The full Taste Bundaberg Festival program will be available on Monday, with tickets for all events, including the Banquet on the Bridge, available from 9 am.**



Mick Bazley is sure to leave audiences Thunderstruck when he performs in the worldwide-touring Acca/Dacca tribute show.

## Local muso Mick Bazley scores Acca Dacca role

Ashley Schipper

With a huge set of lungs and a showstopping rock 'n' roll scream, Mick Bazley is sure to leave audiences Thunderstruck when he performs in the worldwide-touring Acca/Dacca tribute show.

The local musician was recently chosen to play ACDC's Brian Johnson in Acca/dacca and The Australian ACDC Story, a professional show that has been running for over 20 years and is approved by the original Aussie band.

It's an exciting time for Mick, who said he auditioned three weeks ago and got the job on the spot.

"I applied for the position and then met the guys in the studio, sung two songs for them and they said 'yep, you have the job,'" he said.

"I was on a high about it then and I am still on a high about it now."

Mick will soon start touring with the show, which is playing all throughout Queensland and in to New South Wales before heading over to Europe next year.

He said playing the part of the legendary Brian Johnson was a huge moment for him.

**Playing the part of the legendary Brian Johnson was a huge moment for him.**

Johnson became the third lead singer of the Australian rock band after the death of Bon Scott in 1980.

He is known for his powerful vocals and his knack for belting out classic hits like Thunderstruck,

Back In Black and For Those About To Rock, which Mick said was one of his favourites.

"I love that song," he said.

"The powerful beginning is great and just the whole meaning behind the song is amazing."

The news of Mick's role was announced on the Acca/dacca and The Australian ACDC Story Facebook page recently, with a post praising the local musician's talent.

"Well we've been looking for quite some time for the right person to take on the Brian role for Acca/Dacca...," the post reads.

"Finally after a huge line of hopefuls we struck gold!"

## "Finally after a huge line of hopefuls we struck gold!"

"We'd like to welcome Michael Bazley (playing Brian Johnson), the man with the voice of demon fire, who will be sharing the stage with Larry who will be performing his iconic Bon Scott part of this world class ACDC show that is Acca Dacca."

It's not the first time the Bundaberg singer has been part of a major production, with Mick having lent his vocals and performance prowess to a Cold Chisel tribute show in his earlier career.

"The show was performed in Sydney called Circus Animals," he said.

"I did that for about seven years."

Mick said he had also been a regular in Bundaberg's live music scene through his solo performances as well as his work with Walker Street Band and Top Shelf Duo.

He said performing had always been a passion.

"The energy, the sweat, the audiences reaction and seeing people happy is what makes it all worthwhile," Mick said.

"I love every aspect of it."



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# What's ON

BUNDABERG



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first to know

[whatsonbundaberg.com.au](http://whatsonbundaberg.com.au)



## A BEE STORY 7 April 2021

10am & 12pm

Tickets on sale now



- 27 Mar** | **Good Morning Vietnam**  
Music From the Vietnam War Era
- 28 Mar** | **Mick Fleetwood & Friends**  
Cinema Presentation
- 29 Mar** | **Tai Chi for Health - FREE**  
Gin Gin Youth Centre, 9.30 -11.30am
- 30 Mar** | **Understanding Confidentiality & Privacy**
- 31 Mar** | **Balanced Bodies - FREE**  
Gin Gin Youth Centre, 2 - 3 pm
- 25 Mar** | **Wednesday Art Walk:**  
Reef Gems and Coral Roses
- 2 Apr** | **Easter Activities at the Botanic Gardens**
- 1 Mar - 30 Apr** | **Toad vs Beetle**  
touring exhibition
- 13 Feb -28 Mar** | **National Photographic Portrait Prize 2020 Exhibition**
- 11 Mar - 9 May** | **Reef Gems & Coral Roses Exhibition** - Childers Art Space

# More than a job - lifesaving still priority for Craig

Craig Ross

Surf lifesaving may no longer provide a living for Craig Holden, but it is certain to remain a lifestyle for the veteran of the service.

Readers may be familiar with Craig and his Bundaberg Region beach and surf reports for local media, including Bundaberg Now, but it is through his dedicated service to lifesaving, both as a volunteer and paid employee, that he has provided the greatest service to the community.

Craig's 43 years in surf lifesaving since beginning as a nipper at the age of five, included serving as Wide Bay Capricorn regional operations manager for Surf Life Saving Queensland from 1997 until January this year when he finished in the role after a restructure of the state body.

Craig said while he loved his job he was now looking forward to the next chapter of his life.

"It's an opportunity to see what else is out there," Craig said.

**Craig said while he loved his job he was now looking forward to the next chapter of his life.**

"I was offered the opportunity to go to another role but it was Brisbane-based and I had no intention of moving to Brisbane," he said.

Speaking about his years on the job there is no doubt that he thoroughly enjoyed his time in the regional operations manager position - a role that changed regularly throughout the years to best meet Surf Life Saving Queensland's needs..

When asked to recall what he is most proud of during his career as regional operations manager, Craig was quick to point to the efforts of local surf lifesavers to help the Bundaberg Region community during the 2013 floods.

"The local disaster management group really leant on us a lot and that was something I was really proud of, just to see what we, as volunteers, could do to help out.

On a personal level, Craig said he would look back fondly on the number of lifesavers he has helped nurture from nippers to senior members and valuable members of the community.



*Craig Holden is no less busy even after finishing in his regional operations manager role with Surf Life Saving Queensland.*

He and his wife Kristine are life members of the Elliott Heads club, as are his late father Robert and his mother Shirley, and his brother Brett while his son Kobi, daughter Baylee, sister-in-law Rebecca and nieces Mia and Evie are also members of the club and lifesaving movement.

Craig said lifesaving had changed dramatically since he began volunteering for beach patrols as a 17-year-old, mostly due to the advances made in technology.

Craig believes the use of drones will be the next thing to revolutionise the lifesaving movement.

"We're already using them to look for crocodiles and sharks (but maybe) they can even be used to rescue somebody or drop lifesaving equipment to somebody - it will be amazing to see," he said.

"We won't need lifesavers soon - just someone sitting up in the clubhouse with a remote control!"

On the surf lifesaving competition front Craig is as busy as ever as a coach and competition, having not long returned from the junior state championships, with the Queensland Senior and Masters State Championships in Tugun this weekend and the Australian championships on the Sunshine Coast from April 16-24.

He is also focused on next year when, as head coach of the Australian Youth team, he is scheduled to take his charges to the world championships in Italy - although he concedes it is far from certain that the event will go ahead.

Given the busy competition calendar, Craig said he is happy to wait until the middle of the year before finding new employment but, although he has had a couple of low-key approaches about work, does not yet know what that work might be.

One thing Craig is sure of, surf lifesaving will always be a key element in his life.

# Easter school holidays full of adventurous activities

Ashley Schipper

From science experiments, arts and crafts and even a guided nature walk through the Baldwin Swamp, there is so much on offer throughout Bundaberg Regional Council's facilities these school holidays.

Here's a list of what's on for the Easter holidays:



## FRIDAY, 2 APRIL

### Easter activities at the Botanic Gardens

When: 2 April to 18 April

Time: 9 am to 3 pm

Where: Botanic Gardens

Kids can enjoy two brand new activities at the Botanic Gardens in the Easter school holidays, including an activity sheet and a drawing activity.

Pick up your activity sheet and paper at Cafe 1928, Hinkler Hall of Aviation or Bundaberg and District Historical Museum.

## FRIDAY, 7 APRIL

### A Bee Story

Time: 10 am and noon

Where: Moncrieff Entertainment Centre

Cost: \$15

Children are sure to enjoy this circus of fun, coming straight out of the Sydney Festival.

### Flower Making

Time: 10.30 am

Where: Childers Library

Cost: FREE

If you love all things nature than this is the perfect activity.

Make your own beautiful flowers using the materials provided at the Childers Library.

**Bookings essential.** Ages 5 years and up.



## FRIDAY, 8 APRIL

### Among Us

Time: 10.30 am

Where: Childers Library

Cost: FREE

Complete tasks and work out who the impostors are!

I-Pads supplied and no previous gaming experience required.

**Bookings essential.** Ages 8 years and up.

### Recycled CD Peacock Craft

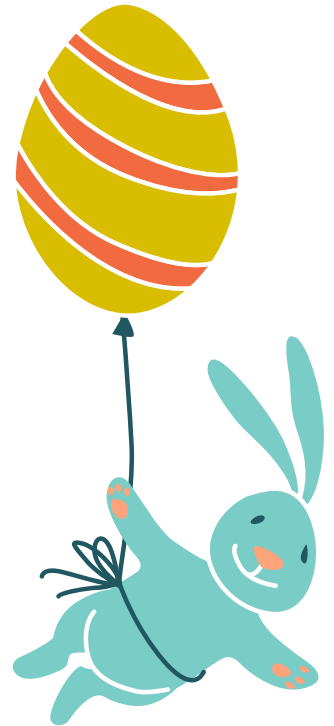
Time: 10 am

Where: Gin Gin Library

Cost: FREE

Make a stunning peacock using an old CD.

**Bookings essential.** Ages 5 years and up.



## FRIDAY, 9 APRIL

### Pop-up Story Time on the Reading Hunt

Time: 10 am

Where: Gin Gin Nature Park, Elliott St, Gin Gin

Cost: FREE

Bring a picnic rug and morning tea for your family to join in stories, songs and activities.

For more information please phone 4130 4620.

For all ages.

## SATURDAY, 10 APRIL

### Place Invaders

When: 10 April to 20 June

Where: Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery

Cost: FREE

This interactive game enables you to use your mobile phone to stop invasive plants and animals from taking over the environment, teaching valuable lessons about how invasive species cause great economic and environmental harm in our state.





## SUNDAY, 11 APRIL

### Disco Rainbow Dance Party

Time: 10 am

Where: Moncrieff Entertainment Centre

Cost: \$10

The Disco Rainbow Sparkle Dance Party crew are ready to ignite your feet and heartbeat with a high energy live music and dance set that leaves you jumping for joy!

## MONDAY, 12 APRIL

### Inquiry Science

Time: 1 pm

Where: Bundaberg Library

Cost: FREE

Join Dr Joe the Travelling Scientist for fun and fascinating science.

**Bookings essential.** For ages 7 to 14 years.

### Space-themed Outdoor Artroom

Time: 10 am

Where: Gallery Park, Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery – 1 Barolin Street

Cost: FREE

Join Messy Myrtle for free art play this school holidays where Messy will explore a range of space-themed activities.

Young art lovers will need to be accompanied by an adult.

### Dangerous Science

Time: 10 am

Where: Gin Gin Library

Cost: FREE

Get ready for bright colours, loud noises, and simple yet profound science ideas as we delve into what makes science dangerous.

**Bookings essential.** For ages 6 to 14 years.

## TUESDAY, 13 APRIL

### Motion Madness Science

Time: 1 pm

Where: Bundaberg Library

Cost: FREE

Try out the vacuum bazooka, experience the inertial wheel, and find out what happens when Barbie forgets to wear her seatbelt!

**Bookings essential.** For ages 7 to 14 years.

### Reef Gems and Coral Roses – Children’s Workshop

Time: 10 am

Where: Childers Arts Space

Cost: FREE

Spend the morning with Hadie MacLeod looking at her exhibition “Reef Gems and Coral Roses”.

You will also have the opportunity to make an artwork about coral reefs.



## WEDNESDAY, 14 APRIL

### H is for Happiness- Free Family Film

Time: 11 am

Where: Moncrieff Entertainment Centre

Enjoy this free family film that follows Candice Phee, an unflinchingly honest and optimistic twelve year old who is determined to bring her dysfunctional family back from the brink.

### Magic of Science

Time: 10 am

Where: Childers Arts Space

Cost: FREE

A science show with a difference! This is a light-hearted show that’s great for a good laugh!

**Bookings essential.** Ages 6 to 14 years.

## THURSDAY, 15 APRIL

### Guided nature walk at Baldwin Swamp

Time: 9 am

Where: Baldwin Swamp

Children will take part in a scavenger hunt and will also learn about the different types of leaves in the area. For ages 5 to 10 years.

Each child needs to be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Bookings are essential as places are limited.

To book phone Council on 1300 883 699 or email [parkadministration@bundaberg.qld.gov.au](mailto:parkadministration@bundaberg.qld.gov.au)

### Creative Corner

Time: 10.30 am

Where: Childers Library

Cost: FREE

Let your imagination fly as you create your own design using the materials provided.

**Bookings essential.** Ages 5 years and up.

### Design and create your own banner

Time: 10 am

Where: Gin Gin Library

Cost: FREE

Decorate a small banner with a design that suits your home or a special interest.

**Bookings essential.** Ages 7 years and up.

## FRIDAY, 16 APRIL

### Little Art Lovers

Time: 10 am to 10.45 am

Where: Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery

Children 18 months to four year and their parents explore the current exhibitions through fun stories, song and art making activities.





Just Freight owners Holly and Aaron Kemps are all smiles following the business's move to a larger premises at Thabeban.

## New Just Freight depot a boon for Bundaberg

Craig Ross

Bundaberg family business Just Freight has increased its storage, loading and delivery capabilities to keep up with the region's growing demands.

Owners Aaron and Holly Kemps said the business's move two weeks ago to its new \$4.2m premises at 37 Triggs Crescent, Thabeban, a stone's throw from its previous location, had given Just Freight the space and facilities it needed to serve the Bundaberg Region community into the future.

Aaron, a former professional cyclist who represented Australia at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006, said the business was already thriving in its new surrounds, including a much larger freight depot area.

"We've got 3500sq m under foot, which is about double what we previously had, and a new custom-built conveyor belt which has really sped up the loading process for us," Aaron said.

"We receive more than 300 parcels per day, and it used to be very time consuming and labour intensive at the previous site where we would park the truck inside and all the freight was laid out on the ground, and we'd have a stacker handing items up to the driver to load into the truck.

"Now, with the conveyer belt, we can load 3000 parcels in an hour and a half – we just pull up the orders, scan them and load them, it's a much speedier and more efficient process."

### Just Freight expands storage service

The new depot also enables Just Freight to warehouse items for other companies, something that Holly said she and Aaron had wanted to do as part of the expansion.

**"We want to be able to help other family-run businesses with their storage needs"**

"We want to be able to help other family-run businesses with their storage needs," she said. "It also allows us to hold more state and national freight.

"We want to help other family-run and local businesses of all sizes as much as we can and for the construction of the new shed, we used local suppliers and contractors wherever we could."

The new facility boasts a larger undercover area, giving Just Freight more room to store large items outside while also keeping them protected from the elements.

It also enables delivery trucks to be offload under cover, something that was not possible at the previous depot.

Just Freight delivers locally as well nationally and internationally through strategic partnerships with other carriers.

Aaron and Holly agreed that the \$4.2m investment was not only a show of faith in the future of Just Freight, but also that of the Bundaberg Region itself, believing that the local economy was thriving.

Aaron said the business had grown increasingly busy shortly after the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions in Queensland last year and had not let up since.

“With everyone buying so many items online, our volumes of freight keep soaring,” he said.

**“You can predict Bundaberg’s growth before it happens just by the amount of freight coming through,”**

“It was quiet for the first two weeks after the restrictions were introduced, while people were still unsure what was happening, but then it ramped up and was at Christmas (period) volumes by April and has stayed that way ever since.”

Holly said the freight business was an indicator for the health of the local economy – and that all signs are pointing to a booming Bundaberg Region.

“You can predict Bundaberg’s growth before it happens just by the amount of freight coming through,” Holly said.

“Just Freight has been in business in Bundaberg for more than 25 years and there is a definite

pattern that you see happening, with the amounts of freight coming through increasing before the town grows.”

Aaron, who captured three state titles as a junior cyclist, left Bundaberg to pursue his pro cycling career firstly at the Australian Institute of Sport and then at its European base in Italy.

After securing three stage victories in World Cup under-23 competition in 2003 and 2004, he embarked on a professional career that resulted in him competing in some of the world’s most prestigious cycling road races including the Tour of Spain and the Tour of Flanders.

The pair said they had travelled the world during Aaron’s cycling career but could not think of anywhere better to live with their four children and Holly, a former Shalom College student, believed more people were coming to that realisation.

“We’re only four hours out of Brisbane and people are moving out of the cities to areas like Bundaberg which has everything,” she said.

Aaron, who went to Sharon State School and Bundaberg North High, agreed.

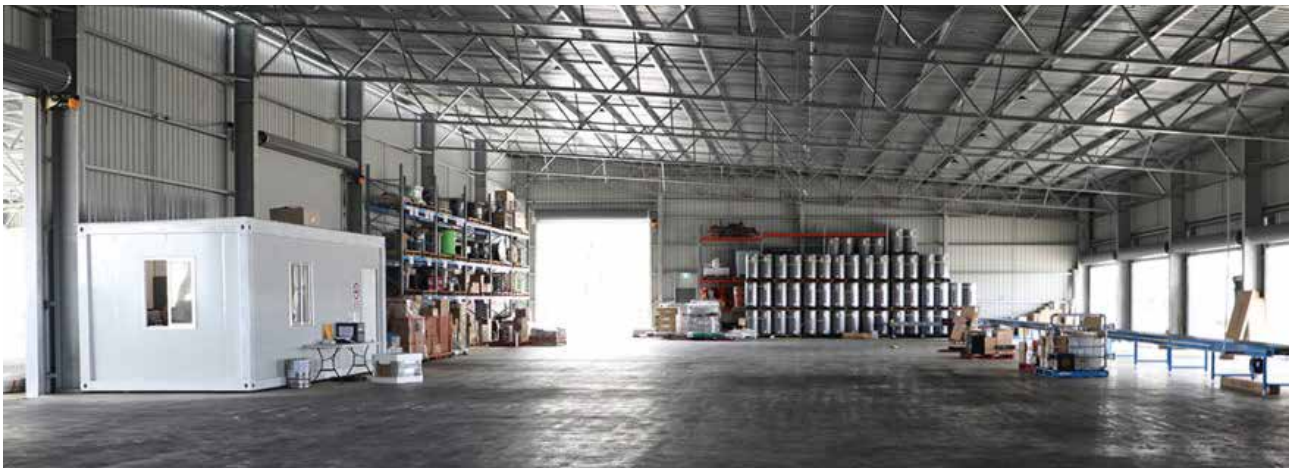
“Nearly every day we’re delivering tiles for new houses,” he said. “There’s the beach, river, good schools and sports facilities – Bundaberg’s a great place to live and bring up kids.”

Aaron said the rapidity with which Just Freight’s previous shed, still owned by the business, had been rented by another Bundaberg company indicated other commercial operators shared his optimism.

Aaron and Holly bought the business from Aaron’s parents Bernie and Maree two years ago when Bernie wished to retire, although he is still a regular presence at Just Freight where Aaron’s brother Tyson is also an employee.

In keeping with Aaron and Holly’s love of the Bundaberg Region community, Just Freight sponsors local cycling, football and dance clubs and academies.

It has also supported several community initiatives including providing free transport of new trees to regrow bushland devastated by bushfire and delivery of hand sanitiser to local schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The larger depot is enabling Just Freight to provide an even better service for Bundaberg Region customers.



ABC TV personality Jenny Woodward is bringing her one-woman show, 'Weathering Well' to Bundaberg in June.

## Jenny still 'Weathering Well' after all these years

Craig Ross

An evening of laughs, life stories, and live music is forecast for Bundaberg when revered ABC TV news weather presenter Jenny Woodward brings 'Weathering Well' to the rum city.

The one-woman show is a potted history of the life and times of the popular presenter who has 'weathered' almost 35 years of live TV presentations with the national broadcaster, will come to the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre on Saturday, June 19.

Combining comedy, live music, video projections and a killer script with Jenny's natural wit and charm, Weathering Well is an 80-minute autobiographical theatre experience with a high probability of intriguing anecdotes and behind-the-scenes revelations.

As suggested by the show's all-encompassing title, Jenny said she will not only be discussing the history of Australian weather and meteorology, but also the changing trends and styles that have been present during her three and a half decades on Australian TV.

"I'm also going to talk about hairstyles and fashion and how they've changed over the years and I've got some fairly startling photos which I am going to share," Jenny said.

"There are a lot of 'Oh my God, what was I thinking?' photos.

"It won't be all about me! Australian has some really interesting weather history and there's one particular character I'm going to spend a bit of time on, Clement Wragge, who was one of the founders of weather forecasting in Australia."

Weathering Well is produced by Jenny's son, Alex Woodward, and signals a return to her roots, having studied theatre at university and performing in a New South Wales theatre company before her television career took hold. "I guess I had always felt that I hadn't fulfilled my stage career and I got to that point in my life where I thought, if I don't do this now, I'm never going to do it," Jenny said.

"And of course, I didn't have to audition for myself which was the best part!"

While the spotlight will shine foremostly on the star of the show, Jenny will be joined by Jake Bristow on keyboard for the production.

"I think having a live musician on stage will give the whole show a more theatrical edge," she said.

"Oh, we might have a little sing at the end! It's the kind of thing I don't think people would expect me to do."

For Jenny, the Weathering Well tour is almost an extension of her regular live broadcasts from regional Queensland.

"I love going out on location, particularly once I get out of the city, as I get to meet so many wonderful people and find out a bit more about their lives which are so different to mine in Brisbane," she said.

"I'm really looking forward to taking this show throughout regional Queensland and to coastal communities."

Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased via the **What's On Bundaberg website**.

**Tickets:** \$35 adults, \$28 pensioners/students, \$20 for 20 years and under  
\$26 each - group of six or more  
\$24 each - group of 10 or more.



National acts like Thirsty Merc, Daryl Braithwaite and Ross Wilson will be performing at Sounds of Rock.

## Sounds of Rock coming to Burnett Heads in May

Ashley Schipper

Plans are well and truly underway for the Sounds of Rock music festival, with headline acts including Daryl Braithwaite and Thirsty Merc coming to the region in May.

Local man and NUI Events spokesperson Trevor Sands is behind the event and said through a partnership with the Burnett Heads Lighthouse Hotel, a new location in the coastal area would host the first-time festival.

“The festival will be held on Saturday, 8 May right beside the Lighthouse Hotel in Burnett Heads,” he said.

“With their help we have been able to secure a beautiful block of land and we are currently working to transform it into something fantastic for the region.

“It is a blank canvas at the moment but it won’t stay that way for long.”

Mr Sands said event-goers could expect one big “party atmosphere” at the festival, with national acts like Daryl Braithwaite, Thirsty Merc, Black Sorrows and Ross Wilson to take to the stage.

“We are so very stoked with this line up and it really caters for everyone,” he said.

“So many of us grew up on this music - and we can’t wait to see everyone enjoying live music at its best!”

Mr Sands said Sounds of Rock had been nearly two years in the making and was born from a desire to bring a live music event straight to the community.

“Our goal is to bring major and quality events to the Bundaberg Region that may boost the tourism economy,” he said.

“Most Bundaberg and surrounding region music fans have had to travel over four hours to Brisbane to attend this type of festival, so this will mean a lot to everyone.

“We’ve invited some of the best artists in the country and can’t wait to put on an incredible show for all the Bundaberg music-lovers.”

Local muso Abby Skye set to perform at Sounds of Rock

Mr Sands said local musician Abby Skye would also be on stage during the festival to keep the audience entertained.

“When we were thinking about a local muso to play at the event Abby Skye came to mind straight away,” he said.

“She has played before with Daryl Braithwaite and I know she is very excited to be up on that big stage.”

Mr Sands said community support for Sounds of Rock had so far been outstanding, with ticket sales going strong.

“It’s been so successful already that we are even starting talks about who we are bringing to the festival next year,” he said.

“We will have food vendors, local business and community groups all coming on board, all you have to do is bring a chair, sit down, relax and have a fantastic day enjoying the entertainment.”

Tickets to Sounds of Rock cost \$99 and are available at [oztix.com.au](http://oztix.com.au) as well as the Lighthouse Hotel and Bout Time Music.

# Kerry's colourful oasis a dream come true



Kerry Forrester in her dream garden filled with colour and native wildlife.

## IN OUR GARDEN

**Morgan Everett**

Kerry Forrester has transformed a neglected backyard into her dream garden filled with colour and native wildlife.

The creation started four years ago with Kerry's vision of a subtropical garden and her goal of always having a plant in flower.

"After I stripped out the existing plants, I extended the gardens and also put in new gardens," she said.

"The entire area has been redeveloped.

"The other criteria were to have different plants to what was common around this area."

**Kerry's goal is  
to always have  
a plant in flower.**

After working in Information Technology for 35 years, Kerry said this was her first major garden venture.

"Cleaning up what was here and creating my own vision has changed my life," she said.

"I am healthy and happier than I have ever been.

"I have also grown a lot of my plants from seeds or cuttings, which has given me great satisfaction."

Kerry said handyman Kevin Taylor had helped turn her dreams into a reality, assisting with the construction of things for her green space.

"I have a builder come in who has built a pergola, privacy wall, steps leading down to the garage and back gardens, two beautiful arbours and the side fence," she said.

Together the two have created a flourishing oasis, home to birds, bees, frogs and more.

"The dead tree is a tree that I will never remove as it is a haven to many of the wildlife around here," Kerry said.

"The butcher birds sing their happy little songs in this tree and the kookaburras use it to spy on any food moving around in the garden below.

"At the base of this tree is a native bee nest."

The Bundaberg green thumb said she was given fence palings from a neighbour which were then repurposed under the house to expand the tropical garden.

"This area and under the pergola are my dream

space where I spend a lot of time relaxing, especially at the end of the day after a lot of work," she said.

"This tropical garden is where my most favourite plants grow."

Kerry is no stranger to being creative and upcycling items to use outdoors, creating a new perspective wherever you look.

"When I started to dig out the paths, I was digging up mostly rocks," she said.

"I decided to use these rocks to put onto my pots for a unique look.

"The idea of the mirror gives the garden area a different dimension from every angle.

"All my plants are my favourite as they have been chosen by me and planned specifically for each garden, giving me variation with the changing seasons."



## Vietnamese Bun Chay

### Ingredients

#### Dressing:

1/4 cup rice vinegar  
3 tbs lime juice  
3 tbs coconut sugar  
2 tbs mushroom soy sauce  
(or fish sauce if not vegan)  
1 stem freshly minced lemongrass  
1 clove garlic, crushed  
1 to 2 chilies, sliced (optional)  
2 to 3 dashes Bragg's Amino Acids  
(sub. soy sauce)  
1 tbs water

#### Bun Chay:

1 packet vermicelli rice noodles  
6 carrots (or 1 beetroot), julienned  
1 large capsicum sliced paper thin  
1 cup sliced cucumber in half moons  
1 cup cilantro stems and leaves  
1 cup basil leaves  
1 cup mint leaves  
1 cup chopped peanuts  
Lime wedges for serving (optional)

#### Caramelised Tofu:

1 tbs peanut oil  
1 packet firm tofu, in bite-sized squares  
2 tsp soy sauce  
1 tbs sesame oil  
1 tbs coconut sugar

### Method

Set a large pot of water on the stove to boil. Whisk the dressing ingredients together in a small bowl.

Set aside to infuse.

Cook the noodles according to package directions; rinse with cold water, drain well, then divide into four serving bowls.

Heat one tablespoon of peanut oil in a large skillet set over medium heat. Add the tofu pieces and fry until golden brown, about 5 to 7 minutes on both sides.

While the tofu is frying, stir the mushroom soy sauce, sesame oil, and sugar together in a small bowl until the sugar has dissolved.

Once the tofu is browned, pour this mixture into the pan. Allow the sauce to cook in the pan for 1 to 2 minutes, until it begins to thicken.

Flip the tofu to ensure the sauce coats and sticks to each side. Cook for another minute or so, until the tofu is caramelized and sticky. Transfer the tofu to the noodle bowls.

Top the noodle bowls with julienned carrot/beetroot, sliced capsicum, cucumber half moons, herbs, and peanuts. Pour a quarter of the prepared dressing over each bowl.

Serve at once.



The Gold Coast Knights Easter Skills Acquisition Phase Clinic will be coming to Bundaberg soon, run by the teams coaches. Photo: Facebook.

# Gold Coast Knights coaching clinic kicks off next month

Ashley Schipper

A clinic run by some of the best development coaches in the country will have local junior footballers kicking goals when it opens in Bundaberg next month.

SC Corinthians will host the Gold Coast Knights coaches as they conduct the inaugural Easter Skills Acquisition Phase Clinic at Bundaberg's home of football, Martens Oval.

The coaching group is headed up by Gold Coast Knights Football Club NPL Football Director Jimmy Gotis, who comes from a professional playing background.

Plying his trade as a youth academy player at Ajax Amsterdam FC in Holland under Dutch

Footballing great educators Aad De Mos and Johan Cruyff, Jimmy also played in the Australian National Soccer League under former Australian National Coach and FFA Hall of Fame inductee, Frank Arok.

In addition to his impressive playing career, Jimmy also holds a FA Dutch Level 2 Coaching Licence and FFA Advanced Licences.

"We at the Gold Coast Knights FC are excited to come to the region to meet and work with the next generation of Wide Bay football players and coaches," Jimmy said.

"We are very keen to establish ties within the Wide Bay Region and we look forward to this being the first of many successful camps and football engagements delivered into the future for this region."

The lead coach for the SAP Camp will be the Gold Coast Knights Football Club Skill Acquisition Director, Jamie Dixon.

Prior to his time with the Knights, Jamie was the Pre Academy Director at Brisbane Roar working with the U13s at the entry point into the Academy.

He has also worked at Stoke City in England in their foundation phase and recruitment department and currently Football Queensland State Metro U14 coach.

Rounding out the list of coaches is Gold Coast Knights Football Club Director of Methodology, Taher Mortezaie.

Taher has come to the Knights as the former Technical Director and Project Director at BARÇA Academy, Brisbane.

Prior to his time in Brisbane, he was with FC Barcelona as a Project Director and Technical Director and Head Coach for U8, U10 and U12 teams for FCBarcelona in Barcelona Spain.

## Clinic a great opportunity for junior players

SC Corinthians Director of Football Jim Cairney said the clinic would be something special for local players to participate in.

"These types of opportunities don't come along often to regional areas such as ours," he said.

"This clinic is open to all clubs, coaches and players from U9 to U13 who wish to develop their football skills.

"The pedigree of these coaches is world class and we would encourage anyone who is interested to register early to avoid missing out."

The clinic will be held at Martins Oval, Miller Street on Tuesday 6, Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 April.

Each day, the U9 and U10 age group clinic will be held from 9 am to 11 am.

The U11, U12 and U13 clinic will start at 12pm and finish at 2 pm.

To register, click [here](#).



Gymfinity club members Paige Hogan, Bailey Grigg, Bella Glass and Casey Giles are in action at the Queensland women's artistic gymnastics championships in Brisbane this weekend. Absent: Mia Wright and Lalana Lynch.

## It's Gymfinity and beyond as Paige chases state spot

Craig Ross

Gymfinity team member Paige Hogan hopes to become the club's first Queensland women's artistic gymnastics representative at the state championships in Brisbane this weekend.

Since coming into existence nine years ago, Gymfinity has supplied several state representatives in men's artistic gymnastics but has not enjoyed the same success in women's competition.

However, that situation may be rectified if Paige can keep up her good form at The Arena, in Brisbane's Sleeman Sports Complex.

Paige, 18, is backing up from victory in the Central Queensland Regional Championships at Bundaberg PCYC last weekend, where her routine scores were strong enough to have her in the running for state selection if she can produce a similar performance in Brisbane.

Paige's mother and club coach Tracy Hogan said her daughter was performing admirably on the comeback trail from injury.

"Paige has worked hard to get back to where she is after undergoing an ankle reconstruction 18 months ago," Tracy said.

"To be back competing and doing as well as she is - it's quite a remarkable feat."

As a level 10 competitor, Paige is eligible for selection for Queensland in individual and team competitions and a strong performance this weekend could result in her lining up for the state at the national championships on the Gold Coast in May.

However, Paige is not the only Gymfinity club member chasing state colours, with five of her clubmates eligible for selection in teams competition for the nationals.

Bailey Grigg, 15, Mia Wright, 14, Casey Giles, 12, (all level 8), and Lalana Lynch, 15, and Bella Glass, 14, (both level 7), also qualified for the state championships through their CQ regionals efforts and will push for Queensland selection.

Tracy said the team had met her expectations at the CQ regionals and she looked forward to seeing how they fared against stronger opponents in Brisbane.

"There were some personal best scores by the team (last weekend) which is good going into the state championships," she said.

"They have all trained hard for the event and qualifying for the state championships and state team trials is a credit to them."

Tracy, who coaches the Gymfinity team alongside her husband Tony, said the younger members of the team were readjusting to competing in events following 12 months of being restricted to training only when the competition calendar was suspended last year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"We contested an invitational event in Brisbane a few weeks ago and it was good for the girls to see the standard of competition they will be up against this weekend," she said.

"It will be a good experience for them and as they learn to compete again after 12 months off."

The Women's Artistic Gymnastics Senior State Championships and State Team Trials started yesterday and conclude tomorrow.

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