

DISCOVER
HERON ISLAND
**Turtle Season
has begun!**

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Fiesta Loca Central Queensland Dance School

**Join us for Swing
Dancing In The Parklands!**

**Once a month at the GPC
parklands behind the
amphitheater**

Have fun, get fit, and meet new people
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Our Weekly Classes

**Gladstone Family and Community
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Social Classes Thursdays from 6pm

Single time swing, East Coast Swing,
& Lindy hop including Charleston. Each
style will be in 4 week blocks.

Latin Classes Thursdays from 7pm

Salsa, Bachata, Merengue, Cha Cha
Cha, & Rumba to mention a few. Each
style will be in 4 week blocks.



For class schedules and information visit

www.fiestaloca.com.au



Fiesta Loca

WHAT'S ON IN Gladstone

from February 8th 2024

Agnes Blues, Roots & Rock Festival February 2024!

16TH-18TH FEBRUARY

Where: Sandcastles 1770 Motel & Resort

Cost: \$125 per person per night

Stay with us 16-18 February 2024 with this amazing package:-

- 3 Nights accommodation in a 1, 2, or 3 Bedroom Beach Home
- 3 Day Festival Pass per person
- VIP Entry Skip the Queue!
- Festival Stubbie Cooler
- Bottle of Sparkles and Chocolates
- 3pm Late Check-out on Monday



Galentines Night Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser

SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

Where: Truffle Pig Tannum Sands

Cost: \$15 (tickets via Eventbrite)

Wednesday is for the lovers.

Saturday is 'For the Girls'!

Truffle Pig Tannum Sands is hosting an event for Breast Cancer Awareness!

Come along and share in a beautiful afternoon of music drinks and tapas with your girls and support Breast Cancer Awareness.

2024 Combined Schools Musical, Disney's The Little Mermaid

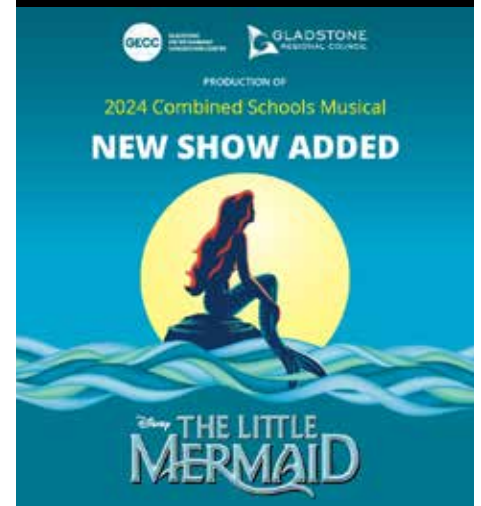
6 - 17 MARCH 2024

Where: Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre

Cost: from \$27 (child ticket)

Uncover what's under the sea in the 2024 Combined Schools Musical, Disney's The Little Mermaid this March.

In a magical kingdom beneath the sea, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel, longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above.



FISH OF THE MONTH WINNER

Congratulations Lyn on catching this Grunter!

Please contact Gladstone News to arrange collection of your \$50 voucher.

DID YOU KNOW?

Grunter are often referred to as barred javelin and are super effective hunters of small baitfish, prawns and crabs in both shallow and deep water.



DISCOVER HERON ISLAND

Turtle Season has begun!

Heron Island, a National Marine Park situated in the southern end of the Great Barrier Reef, is a significant nesting location for two threatened sea turtle species, the Green Turtle and the Loggerhead Turtle.

Year after year these turtles return on the high tide to nest in the sandy dunes from late October to early March.

Late December marks the beginning of baby Green and Loggerhead Turtle hatching season, a cycle that will continue into May. Undeterred by human presence the hatchlings erupt from their nests between 25 to 50 metres from shore and make their way to the reef, just beyond the water's edge. During this journey, the hatchlings will be imprinting on the environment, so they know to return to these beaches as mature adults. This crossing from nest to ocean also gives hatchlings the opportunity to warm up their flippers in preparation for their big ocean journey.

For guests, the opportunity to see turtles nesting or hatchlings erupting, is as simple as taking a stroll around the island at sunset or sunrise. As a world-renowned haven for turtles, guests at Heron Island are given strict guidelines for the viewing of turtles to minimise disturbance to these magnificent marine reptiles. Naturalist guides on Heron Island also lead complimentary educational tours for

observing the turtles and hatchlings.

Calling Heron Island home, Master Reef Guide and Marine Biologist, Catie Streng gets to witness this wondrous lifecycle of the turtles and their hatchlings each year.

"During our complimentary sunrise and sunset turtle walks guests are amazed by the experience of seeing a turtle nesting or the tiny hatchlings erupting to make their dash out to sea. It is such a privilege to pass on my knowledge of sea turtles to our guests, who are enthusiastic to know how they can protect these endangered reptiles during their stay at Heron Island and also when they go back home," commented Streng.



TO BOOK CALL 1800 875 343 or visit www.heronisland.com

Terms and conditions apply.

The Turtles are coming to Heron Island!

It is time to dust the sand off the welcome mat in preparation for the arrival of hundreds of sea turtles who return to Heron Island year after year for their annual breeding and nesting season.

Although you can swim with turtles year-round at Heron Island, from late October to early March, endangered Loggerhead and Green Sea Turtles return on the high tide to nest in the dunes. Then from December to April, be enchanted by hatchlings as they begin to erupt from their nests.

To be part of this magical experience take advantage of our Turtle Package, which allows you to view the turtles in the water, through an underwater window or with a glass of wine in your hand. The choice is yours!

Did you know?

Heron Island is in a World Heritage listed **Marine National Park**, supporting around 1000 of the 1,600 different fish species that can be found on the Great Barrier Reef. The Heron Reef is also home to 72% of the more than 450 species of hard coral that is found on the Great Barrier Reef.

Turtle Experience Package

Pricing is based on accommodation chosen and includes:

- Accommodation with full breakfast daily
- Snorkelling equipment hire (snorkel, fins and mask)
- A \$100 Marine Centre Voucher – which can be used towards a tour of your choice, including a Snorkel Tour, I-Spy Semi-Submersible Tour or Sunset Cruise
- Turtle Tours with qualified naturalist guides
- Learn more at the Evening Turtle Presentations

Exclusive Local Offer

From \$167 AUD* per person per night twin share

Includes:

- Discounted Accommodation
- Daily Breakfast
- Snorkel, Mask and Flippers hire
- Guided Island Tours
- 1 x Sunset Drink (a beer or wine) for 2 adults
- Half price boat transfers for adults
- PLUS 20% off Discover Scuba Diving course
- Kids under 12 travel on the Heron Islander for free



Heron Island
GREAT BARRIER REEF

A Fusion of Art and

COASTAL BEAUTY

The Blue Mirror Gallery is a business which supports established and emerging artists to showcase their work in a professional setting, that is also one of our favourite coffee houses.

Charlotte Orgill's solo exhibition, titled 'Beyond Shore' marks the commencement of the gallery's showcase for the year 2024. As an emerging artist, this exhibition holds particular significance for Charlotte, serving as a debut for her artistic journey. The Blue Mirror Gallery takes pride in being the venue for this milestone, providing an opportunity for art enthusiasts and coffee connoisseurs alike to engage with Charlotte's evolving artistic expression.

'Beyond Shore' are abstract landscape works inspired by the Gladstone harbour and marine. "It is about how there is beauty in the place we live" says Charlotte. Charlotte's connection to Gladstone serves as a thematic anchor for the exhibition, reflecting her appreciation for the local environment. Through her abstract landscapes, she communicates a message about finding beauty in the everyday places we call home. This collection not only showcases Charlotte's artistic evolution but also invites viewers to rediscover and appreciate the aesthetic richness of their own surroundings.

Charlotte, born and raised in Gladstone, studied overseas in the US where she then developed her artist voice. Since graduating and returning back in May of last year, she began her artist journey here in Gladstone. 'Beyond Shore' took Charlotte four months to curate with some of the selected pieces from her last year of University.

Charlotte used a variety of different mediums to form her colourful collection, she used acrylic paints, tissue and tracing paper, tape, as well as coloured paper. Charlotte shared her favourite part about creating art, she said "Being able to create and share has always been enjoyable to me. My favourite part of creating art is working through the process and learning but creating those happy accidents that lead to something special. Overall I'm excited to share it with others." She also enjoyed working



on a larger scale with canvas.

The Blue Mirror team has a series of stunning exhibitions planned for the year, with their in-house 'WILD' exhibition to follow 'Beyond Shore' in March. If you are interested to view, or purchase, Charlotte's artwork, call into the gallery at 153 Auckland Street during the month of February on Tuesdays to Saturdays from 7am-12pm.

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2024 Citizen of the Year Ron Streeter with Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett.
Inset: Young Citizen of the Year: Abiksha Murali

Community champions recognised at 2024 Australia Day Awards

Nine community champions from across the region are currently coming down from cloud nine after being recognised at Gladstone Regional Council's Australia Day Awards held on the evening of Thursday 25 January at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre.

"A huge congratulations goes out to all nine of our award winners and 63 nominees for their fantastic contributions to their field and our community," Mayor Matt Burnett said.

"I also want to thank everyone who took the time to submit nominations."

2024 Australia Day Awards recipients:

- **Citizen of the Year:** Ron Streeter
- **Young Citizen of the Year:** Abiksha Murali
- **Sport and Recreation:** William (Bill) Webb
- **Young Peoples Sport and Recreation Award:** Ethan Sharpe
- **Arts and Culture Award:** Ann Hooper
- **Community Event Award:** Gladstone Combined Services - Combined Services Gladstone Touch Football Day

- **Community Volunteer Award:** Josephine Meng
- **Mayor's Community Champion Award:** Ronald and Patricia Doherty
- **Mayor's Young Community Champion Award:** Sidney Crawshaw.

This year's Citizen of the Year was awarded to Ron Streeter. Ron has been part of our community for more than 70 years.

Through business and socially, he has continually energised people enhancing their lives.

He has influenced many from apprentices through to mature-aged workers and community members alike.

Young Citizen of the Year and aspiring doctor Abiksha Murali had a busy 2023 through her wide-ranging community involvement.

Council also proudly welcomed 47 new Australian citizens from 10 different countries at its Citizenship Ceremony.

Young artists show their Aussie pride

Young students recently showcased 'who and what makes Australia great' through the 2024 Celebrate Australia Primary School Art Competition, now in its 18th year.

Primary school students from Prep to Year 6 submitted a total of 293 entries featuring flora, fauna, architectural icons and Australian ideals such as volunteering and mateship, showing off our country's diversity.

The artworks will tour Council's regional libraries throughout the year commencing 29 January and will be on display at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum in April.

SECTION ONE (PREP – YEAR 2)

- First Prize: Órla Thetford, *Beauty and the Banksia*
- Second Prize: Jonathan Lorraway, *Deadly Box Jellyfish*
- Third Prize: Aspen Thetford, *Holding On for Life*.

SECTION TWO (YEAR 3 – YEAR 6)

- First Prize: Khloe Falls, *Don't swim at the beach*
- Second Prize: Sophie Lorraway, *Orca Family under the Southern Cross*
- Third Prize: Caroline Brooks, *Dingo*.

Highly commended awards went to Ashton Cook, Noah Robinson, Piper McCauley, Axel Kelly, (Section One) and Adele Codrington, Douglas Titchmarsh, Khoda Mehio, Alexis Yeoman (Section Two).



Órla Thetford won first prize, Section One with *Beauty and the Banksia*.



Gladstone Region Planning Scheme Review

Have your say in Council's ten year review of our region's planning scheme, Our Place Our Plan. Visit one of our drop-in sessions to meet our project team and learn more about the project.

📍 **Calliope Central Shopping Centre**
9am-noon
Friday 9 February

📍 **Gladstone Centre Plaza Shopping Centre**
8.30am-noon
Saturday 10 February

📍 **Discovery Coast Rotary Markets, Seventeen Seventy**
8am-noon
Sunday 11 February

Scan the QR code to complete our survey online or collect a hardcopy from your nearest Council Office or Rural Transaction Centre.

Conversations.gladstone.qld.gov.au



Empowering Gladstone

INNOVATIVE TRAINING FOR HUMAN SERVICE SECTOR

In a proactive move aimed at addressing critical skills shortages in the Gladstone Region, the local community has come together to identify and prioritise training needs for practitioners in the human services sector.

The initiative, born out of the Gladstone Region Wellbeing Action Plan, emphasises the importance of collaborative capacity building to achieve continuous improvement within the service system. A key component of this plan is the identification of priority training and professional development required for local practitioners, with the ultimate goal of enhancing the quality and timeliness of support for clients.

Several events, including the Combined Interagency Meeting on March 1st 2023 and the GAPDL Communities for Children Professional Networking on the Green event on March 21st 2023, played a pivotal role in gathering insights and endorsing the Gladstone Region Together (GRT) to spearhead a funding proposal.

Recognising the challenges of fair access to training, Rio Tinto has stepped up to partner with the local human service sector in this three-

year initiative. Their contribution will directly fund training costs, covering everything from trainer fees to travel and accommodation expenses.

The collective community project is expected to yield far-reaching benefits, including sector-wide participation in priority training at an affordable co-contribution price, upskilling of service sector staff, improved retention, readiness for role succession, shared practices and resources among referring services, continuity of support for clients, and enhanced service system integration.

As the project unfolds, GRT, funded by the Stronger Places, Stronger People initiative, will play a crucial role in

facilitating ongoing sector feedback, coordinating training logistics, evaluating individual training outcomes, covering venue costs, and assessing the overall success impact of the initiative.

A Sector Training – Mapping and Planning Workshop is also scheduled to engage stakeholders in shaping the future of workforce development. This collective effort represents a unique opportunity to foster workforce and sector development, ultimately leading to improved early supports and opportunities for Gladstone children and families.



Grant Strengthens Gladstone Community Linking Agency's Service Capacity

TO ENHANCE AGED CARE SERVICES IN QUEENSLAND

Gladstone Community Linking Agency (GCLA), a local not-for-profit aged care and disability provider, is thrilled to announce the receipt of a significant grant from the Department to further enhance aged care services.



This generous funding will allow GCLA to expand its Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) offerings, focusing on Domestic Assistance, Personal Care, and additional improvements to the Port Curtis Respite Services. The grant comes at a critical time when the demand for aged care services is growing. GCLA is committed to meeting the needs of seniors and their carers, by assisting them to stay in their caring role longer through planned respite.

"We are deeply grateful to the Department for recognising the importance of our work in the Fitzroy Aged Care Planning Region," said Jennifer Marsh, Managing Director of Gladstone Community Linking Agency. "This grant will enable GCLA to strengthen our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for seniors by expanding our CHSP Domestic Assistance and Personal Care services, while providing a much-needed boost for our day and overnight respite service. We plan to purchase new furniture and make some upgrades to our grounds to improve accessibility."

"This request for additional funding towards our Port Curtis Day Respite Centre was essential as we have a high need for Respite services. We are passionate about caring for the ones you love by allowing them to continue living well at home," Jennifer continues.



Start a meaningful journey with us – explore employment. Join our team dedicated to seniors or NDIS and make a difference!

Contact our engagement team today for Aged Care & Disability Support.

AGED CARE VOLUNTEERS VISITORS SCHEME

GCLA is thrilled to be delivering the Aged Care volunteer Visitor Scheme (ACVVS). The ACVVS is a program aimed at combating social isolation within the aged care community by providing friendship and companionship.

The ACVVS creates a meaningful impact in the lives of older Australians. GCLA takes pride in fostering companionship and connections within our community.

Be the difference. Join ACVVS, where your time creates smiles and combats loneliness!



NEW HUB PROGRAM Super Girls

Every Friday.
Phone 07 4972 8855 to book!

Your Opinion Counts: Join the GCLA Survey and Make Your Voice Heard!

GCLA Survey on Your Preferred Programs for Social Inclusion and Capacity Building



LOVE IS IN THE AIR

This Valentine's Day...

...and Gladstone News is your go-to cupid to make this romantic celebration unforgettable!

Get ready to shower your special someone with affection on February 14th, and we've got an array of delightful suggestions and ideas to help you create magical moments.

As the day of love approaches, allow us to be your guide in curating the perfect Valentine's Day experience. From unique gift ideas to romantic rendezvous, we've gathered a curated selection that promises to add an extra touch of love to your celebrations.

Our dedicated team has carefully selected an assortment of considerate gift suggestions guaranteed to make your significant other feel truly cherished. Whether it's personalised keepsakes or locally crafted treasures, each recommendation serves as a token of love that transcends the ordinary. Discover a range of Rose Quartz at Our Tiny Emporium, a stone known for fostering unconditional love, heart-opening qualities, and cleansing effects. This beautiful gemstone not only promotes healthy and harmonious relationships of all kinds but also proves effective in attracting new love into your life.

Embark on a journey of love this Valentine's Day by securing your ticket to be part of an extraordinary



draw at this year's Boyne Tannum Hookup! Ignite the spark of romance and anticipation as you become eligible for a chance to win incredible prizes and make this Valentine's celebration truly unforgettable.

Join us as we celebrate the season of love, and let Gladstone News be your partner in creating moments that will be cherished for a lifetime. Follow our Valentine's Day features for inspiration, tips, and surprises to make this day truly magical.

Your Dream Ring Awaits
Engagement Rings starting from \$2750

Gladstone
BRIDAL BOUTIQUE

THEADORE + CO.

Contact Gladstone Bridal Boutique to book your one-on-one appointment.

OUR TINY EMPORIUM

Whether you're spending the day with a partner, friends, or focusing on self-love, let the subtle magic of rose quartz enhance the love and positivity that surrounds Valentine's Day.

Rose Quartz is a stone of unconditional love that opens and cleanses the heart chakra, allowing vibrations of love to flow freely and without fear. It promotes healthy and harmonious relationships of all kinds, and can be effective for attracting new love.

Come and browse the beautiful range of Rose Quartz at Our Tiny Emporium!

37 Tank Street, Gladstone · ourtinyemporium.com

Can you find all
the words in our
Valentine's Day
crossword?

ADORE	DATE
PAIR	CHERISH
EMOTION	BEAUTY
TOTALLY	FAMILY
BOYFRIEND	ETERNAL
LIKE	CARESS
IDEAL	HEART
GIRLFRIEND	HONEY
MISS	LOVE
LOVELY	PASSION
LOYALTY	DARLING
DREAM	HONEYMOON
MARRIAGE	HAPPINESS
JOY	SWEETIE
PERFECT	TENDERNESS
CONSTANCY	PLEASURE
AFFAIR	HUG
ALWAYS	FLIRT
FRIENDSHIP	EMBRACE
ROMANCE	SENSE
TREASURE	RELATIONSHIP
MARRY	FLOWER
WEDDING	COUPLE
SUNSHINE	KISS
CARE	



AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST FAMILY FISHING COMPETITION

Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th May 2024

Hook yourself up with a ticket to be in the draw* to

WIN OUR SEAJAY 590 TITAN SAMURAI HULL

with a 150hp Yamaha outboard motor
& Outta Range Marine electronic fitout.

Valued at \$112,000.

*All 2024 BTHU ticket holders eligible.

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ACCONIA *Community Hub*

As of February 1st, ACCIONA Energia proudly established its Community Hub on Goondoon Street in Gladstone, marking a significant milestone for the 480MWp Aldoga Solar Farm project.

The establishment of this hub serves a dual purpose, functioning as both a centralised space for the project team in the pre-construction phase and a valuable resource centre for individuals keen on exploring job opportunities and gaining insights into the project's intricacies within the local community. This dynamic initiative underscores ACCIONA Energia's commitment not only to the successful development of the Aldoga Solar Farm but also to fostering community engagement, knowledge-sharing, and providing a platform for those interested in contributing to or learning more about the project. The Community Hub stands as a tangible embodiment of ACCIONA Energia's dedication to transparency, collaboration, and the seamless integration of the project within the fabric of the Gladstone community.

In total, the Aldoga Solar Farm will create at least 350 construction jobs over its 18 month construction period. "The 350 construction jobs are great in the short term, however more importantly this project will help secure a renewable energy supply for Gladstone's new and existing industries supporting thousands of jobs in the long term." Says Mayor Matt Burnett. The entirety of the energy produced by the Aldoga Solar Farm will be supplied to Stanwell Corporation for the Central Queensland Hydrogen Project (CQ-H2), fostering the creation of new employment opportunities and skill development in the green hydrogen sector.

In addition to the 350 construction roles integral to the project, the Aldoga Solar Farm is set to contribute significantly to the local economy by facilitating the movement of 2500 containers through the Port of Gladstone. This operation will not only enhance the efficiency of the port but also create additional employment opportunities along the entire supply chain. Early preparatory work has already commenced at the solar farm, gearing up the site for construction commencement in March. The first wave of progress includes the expected arrival of the initial 25 container loads of equipment at the Port of Gladstone later this month, marking the beginning of a substantial phase in the solar farm's development.



GPC ANNOUNCE MAJOR COMMITMENT *Keeping an Easter tradition alive!*

The 76th edition of Queensland's oldest race, the Brisbane to Gladstone (B2G), is poised to commence with a significant backing from Gladstone Ports Corporation.

Over the next five years, GPC will be making a substantial contribution of \$300,000 to the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club (QCYC). GPC's CEO, Craig Haymes, conveyed the corporation's pride in taking a prominent role in Australia's second-largest yacht race, a beloved Easter tradition for both the Gladstone region and Queensland.

"It's only January but our preparations for the race are in full swing including getting the giant pontoon ready – we can't wait to welcome the fleet back to Gladstone to refresh, relax and explore all that our 5 Gold Anchor Marina has to offer," said Mr Haymes.

Celebrating their 110th year of operation, GPC sees this sponsorship as a significant milestone, reinforcing their commitment to supporting crucial events for the region and the state.

"Easter in Gladstone is always an exciting time as we welcome thousands of locals and visitors."

Highlighting the allure of Gladstone's scenic East Shores, Mr Haymes emphasises the exceptional experience awaiting spectators with "Our award-winning parklands at East Shores offer free front-row seats to the finish line and our Marina has sky-rocketed in popularity after we upgraded facilities."

GPC goes above and beyond by offering free berthing, access to premium facilities, and a complimentary shuttle bus service that operates around the clock. Additionally, significant in-kind support is provided, including berthing for yachts after the race.

Competitors will undertake a challenging 308 nautical mile (570-kilometer) journey on Good Friday, sailing from Brisbane's Redcliffe to the exhilarating finish line in Gladstone Harbour.

2023 HARBOUR REPORT CARD RELEASE



The Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) celebrated the launch of its ninth annual Gladstone Harbour Report Card on Thursday 1st February containing new results for environmental and economic health of the harbour, and continued results for social and cultural components.

Gladstone Harbour's annual Report Card offers a comprehensive assessment of its environmental, social, economic, and cultural well-being across 33 different indicators, graded from 'very good' (A) to 'very poor' (E).

According to the report, the environmental health of Gladstone Harbour remained stable, maintaining an overall 'satisfactory' (C) grade. Economic performance retained its 'very good' (A) rating, while economic stimulus held a 'satisfactory' (C) grade, mirroring previous years. Social and cultural indicators reused their 2022 grades due to stable trends.

GHHP's Independent Science Panel Chair, Professor John Rolfe, explained that while there haven't been any changes in the overall results, the results obtained for individual indicators such as Water and Sediment Quality, Mud Crabs and Economic Performance show promising signs for the region.

"From an environmental perspective, we're pleased to see that, overall,

the harbour's Water and Sediment Quality received a 'very good' (A) grade for the seventh year in a row, despite the higher-than-average rainfall recorded in the second half of 2022.

"What is perhaps most encouraging is the improvement we've seen in Mud Crab results this year," continued John. "After five years of receiving a 'poor' (D) grade, the overall grade has finally improved to a 'satisfactory' (C).

Some indicators experienced slight declines, with Seagrass dropping from 'good' (B) to 'satisfactory' (C) and Fish Recruitment slipping from 'satisfactory' (C) to 'poor' (D) in 2023.

From an economic standpoint, the harbour maintains robust performance, achieving a 'good' (B) grade for the ninth consecutive year. Economic performance receives a 'very good' (A) rating, reflecting the continued strength of shipping and tourism.

The report also includes results from the Urban Water Stewardship Management framework review, indicating that Gladstone Regional Council's urban water management practices align with current standards.

GHHP Independent Chair, Professor Iain Gordon, commended the ongoing support and collaboration of partners. The report underscores the combined efforts of government, industry, Traditional Owners, research, and the community in ensuring the harbour's sustained health and vitality.



Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership

2023 REPORT CARD RESULTS

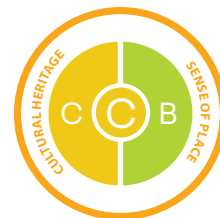
ENVIRONMENTAL



SOCIAL



CULTURAL



ECONOMIC



Our Partners



Svalbard: The Land of Dreams

Elena Korotkaia, a talented photographer based in the Gladstone Region, has garnered recognition for her exceptional photographic collection, which was thoughtfully selected for showcasing at QCAD Galleries.

Following this achievement, Elena set her sights on applying for the Regional Arts Development Fund, intending to seek financial support to defray the costs associated with presenting her compelling work in Brisbane. Demonstrating her dedication to advancing her artistic endeavours and sharing her unique perspective, Elena, with the support of Gladstone News, successfully secured approval for her second application to the Regional Arts Development Fund.

Svalbard, the land of dreams is a photographic collection exploring the natural landscape and fragments of industrial past on Svalbard, a remote Norwegian island in the Arctic Ocean. Svalbard has a very interesting background involving two distinctive nationalities, Norwegians and Russians. For both coal mining has been the leading industry for decades. Elena's work captures the extraordinary natural beauty of this place, while evoking thoughts on how humanity impacts nature through industry.



Elena, a self-taught photographer, has dedicated a significant amount of time to mastering both the creative and technical facets of photography. Her commitment to sharpening her skills independently speaks to her passion for the craft. The captivating images she captured date back to 2017 and have garnered recognition through exhibitions in both private and public galleries. Notable venues featuring her work include Photopia Studio, the Banana Shire Regional Art Gallery, and the Blue Mirror Gallery.

Elena's photographic journey reflects her dedication to the art form. The diverse display of her work in esteemed galleries underscores the universal appeal and impact of her imagery, inviting viewers to immerse themselves in the unique perspectives captured through her lens.

Svalbard, the land of dreams will be on display from 13th – 24th February 2024 at the project gallery, QCAD Galleries, Griffith University South Bank Campus.

Transform Your Home in 2024

A GUIDE TO SMART, SUSTAINABLE & STYLISH HOME RENOVATIONS

Embarking on a home renovation in 2024? Stay on-trend with sustainable and eco-friendly choices, smart home technology integration, and a penchant for bold colours and patterns.

These emerging trends promise to elevate your living spaces with style and functionality, offering inspiration for a modern and visually appealing home makeover.



SMART HOMES

Home automation has been a growing trend in the recent years, but in 2024 it is expected to see a greater integration of smart technology into everyday aspects of home renovation. From lighting and temperature control to fully automated security systems homeowners are seeking ways to seamlessly integrate technology.



GLADSTONE REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE



30 Bendee Street, Glen Eden

\$410,000

🏠 4 🚗 2 🚗 2

Move in or Invest!

Positioned on a flat, corner allotment of approx. 800m2 and built in 2013, this spacious floorplan offers an open plan, air-conditioned family/dining area, PLUS a tiled, second living space.

The kitchen is centrally located and complete with gas hotplates and electric oven and rangehood. The air-conditioned master bedroom is located at the front of the home and is complete with ensuite and walk-in-robe. All rooms have carpet, ceiling fans and built in robes. The fully fenced yard completes this package, with the possibility for side-access.

A double lock up garage provides security for your vehicles and an outdoor entertainment area is provided for you to sit back and enjoy your down time.

Rates approx \$3700pa, and Body Corporate approx \$1400pa. If you are looking to enter the market or looking for long term investment, this home could be the one!

Agent: Kerry Connor

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ECO-FRIENDLY MATERIALS

With increasing awareness of eco-conscious practices in today's world, homeowners are seeking a more sustainable approach to renovating their homes. Embracing recycled materials like wood and reclaimed resources, this approach aims to minimize the adverse environmental effects associated with home improvements.



MULTIFUNCTIONAL SPACES

As remote work gains popularity, there is more of a demand for home offices and versatile spaces. Anticipate an increase in innovative designs this year that seamlessly integrate living, working, and recreational areas. Essential components of this trend include furniture with concealed storage, convertible spaces, and other features aimed at crafting adaptable environments tailored to the needs of the modern homeowner.



PERSONALISE & CUSTOMISE

Homeowners are increasingly looking to create unique spaces that reflect their individual style. This can include customised cabinetry, unique hardware choices, personalised colour palettes and much more. These simple renovations will emphasise personal touches and flares.

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Special Counsel
VAJ Byrne & Co Lawyers



Kahn Goodluck

Deputy Mayor
Gladstone Regional Council

RIO TINTO TAKES LEAD IN ESTABLISHING AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST *solar farm in Gladstone*

Rio Tinto is set to lead the development of Australia's largest solar farm in Calliope, expected to occur in 2025 or 2026.

Once approvals are secured, the construction of the solar farms are expected to take between 1-2 years. This strategic move aims to boost renewable power sources in one of Australia's key industrial hubs, showcasing their commitment to advancing sustainable energy initiatives.

They have taken a decisive step towards a greener future by announcing their intention to obtain a substantial 1.1 gigawatts of solar power from the Upper Calliope Solar Farm. This strategic commitment goes beyond mere rhetoric, solidifying Rio Tinto's position as a major player in the renewable energy landscape. The pledge secures exclusive access for the company to the entire renewable energy output generated by the solar farm facility for an impressive 25-year term, showcasing a long-term commitment to sustainable energy practices.

This bold move not only positions the company as a leader in clean energy adoption but also exemplifies the company's dedication to reducing its carbon footprint. By securing exclusive rights to a significant portion of the solar farm's output, they demonstrate a forward-looking approach that aligns with global efforts to transition towards more environmentally friendly energy sources. This commitment sets a high standard for corporate engagement in renewable energy initiatives, emphasising the company's role in driving meaningful change towards a more sustainable and eco-conscious future.

Once approved, the solar farm is set to be built on a 2700-hectare site in Calliope, formerly used for cattle grazing. The project not only contributes to Australia's sustainable energy goals, but it also exemplifies a forward-looking approach in repurposing land for eco-friendly initiatives.

Rio Tinto is not just going green but will also be creating jobs with the new solar farm. They will contribute to approximately 1000 construction and 100 operations jobs. With some of the jobs including labourers, machine operators, trades and technicians, engineers, project managers and other professionals.



Gladstone Country Music Festival

GET READY GLADSTONE!

Prepare to be swept away by the melodious tunes and vibrant energy as the Gladstone Country Music Festival returns to the Gladstone Showgrounds on April 6th and 7th.

This highly anticipated two-day event boasts an impressive lineup, including local favourites such as Mackenzie May, Marnie Wilson, Jacinta May, and more.

Tickets are now available for purchase, offering music enthusiasts the chance to secure their spot at this exclusive celebration of country music in the heart of Gladstone. Don't miss the opportunity to witness live performances from some of the region's most talented artists and immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of country melodies.

As you plan your attendance at the Gladstone Country Music Festival, envision yourself surrounded by the enchanting melodies of Mackenzie May, the soul-soothing tunes of Marnie Wilson, and the captivating performances by Jacinta May and many more. Don't miss this golden opportunity to witness the best of regional talent while immersing yourself in the vibrant energy of the Gladstone music scene.

Mark your calendars for April 6th and 7th, secure your tickets, and prepare to embark on a musical journey that promises to linger in your memories long after the final note is played. The Gladstone Country Music Festival beckons, inviting you to be part of a celebration that transcends entertainment and becomes a cherished cultural experience.

MT LARCOM TOURIST PARK *wins Traveller Review Awards*

On January 25th, Mt Larcom Tourist Park earned a nomination for the Traveller Review Awards 2024 and emerged as the proud winner.

The tourist park has a long history that was first established in the 1960's. Over the years it has had several owners and Teena and Geoff have been operating it since January 2022.

The Mt Larcom Tourist Park is a small family run park that caters for a range of camping facilities from the picturesque unpowered area with views of Mt Larcom to the pet friendly cabins, there is something to suit everyone. Set on 6.5 acres in Mt Larcom just off the highway, it makes

the perfect stopover or destination to explore.

Since the park is smaller, they can offer the extra touch, where cabins are neat and tidy including all comforts as well as locally made goat soap. The park caters anything from solo-travellers to small groups and provides a short walk to their sunrise lookout which has beautiful views of Mt Larcom. They also have a weekly bush poetry night featuring the local bush poet Margy Mac.

The Mt Larcom Tourist Park team are constantly improving the grounds and have recently had some earthwork done at the rear of the park. The park have planted many local natives along the banks and are looking to expand these garden areas which attract many birds and other wildlife. In the future they envision more large powered sites

which will allow the ease of parking, another amenities block and possibly an extra cabin.

In addition to being honoured with the Traveller Reviews 2024 award, Mt Larcom Tourist Park has recently been named as finalists in the upcoming Grey Nomads Awards scheduled to take place in the picturesque Sunshine Coast in March. This double recognition is a testament to the exceptional quality and services provided by the tourist park. We extend our heartfelt congratulations on your well-deserved award and wish you the best of luck in the upcoming Grey Nomads Awards. May your continued success shine brightly in the industry!



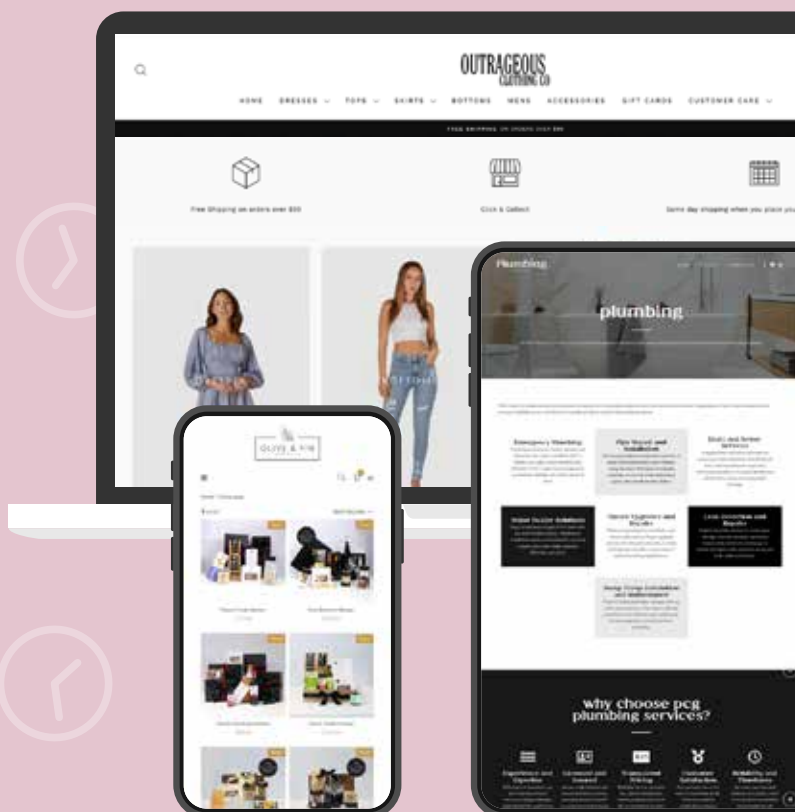
Photo credit: Mt Larcom Tourist Park

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Here in History

GLADSTONE: A NORTHERN COLONY & INTENDED CONVICT SETTLEMENT

With Betty Laver

On 17th February 1846, Queen Victoria signed Letters Patent establishing the Colony of North Australia, and the British government passed a law to define its boundaries.

Lieutenant Colonel George Barney was appointed Lieutenant Governor and superintendent of North Australia to administer the new colony on behalf of Governor Fitzroy. In September 1846, Barney arrived back in Sydney in the William Hyde, having received his new commission for the secretary of State for the Colonies, William Ewart Gladstone.



Colonel George Barney was sent to explore the northern colony for a suitable place for a convict settlement. He hired the small paddle-wheel steamer, Cornubia, a vessel of some ninety-four tons and set sail from Sydney in November 1846. The vessel called in at Bustard Bay and Rodds Harbour, but both these places were declared unsuitable. When they reached Port Curtis however, Barney was immediately impressed with the area.

When Barney arrived back in Sydney, Governor Fitzroy was engaged in organising the early dispatch of the first contingent of colonists and officials. Colonel George Barney oversaw the party that left Sydney 8th January 1847 aboard the Lord Auckland, a 516-ton barque. Brown and Co owned this ship, and the skipper was none other than the owner himself Captain Brown. On board was the official party, consisting of twenty-two men of the 99th regiment, seven women and twelve children. Fitzroy also chartered the Thomas Lowry to assist, and this ship was to follow soon after with the balance of stores and the rest of the personnel. Fitzroy purchased the Kangaroo, a small steamer, and this was to become a regular service craft between Moreton Bay and Port Curtis.

The statue of William Ewart Gladstone is installed in the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery and Museum.

Crispy pork stir-fry WITH BABY BROCCOLI

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil, divided
- 1 bunch baby broccoli, florets separated, stems thinly sliced
- 1 garlic clove, finely chopped
- 3 tsp finely chopped peeled ginger
- 2 spring onions, white and green parts separated and thinly sliced
- 500g Regular Pork Mince
- 1/4 cup (60ml) Pearl River Bridge Soy Sauce
- 1 tsp Cornflour
- 1 tsp White Sugar
- 2 cups (400g) Long Grain White Rice, steamed

METHOD

1. Heat a large heavy frying pan over high heat. Add 1 tablespoon oil. When oil is smoking, cook baby broccoli, tossing, for 2 mins or until brown in spots and crisp-tender. Transfer to a plate.
2. Return pan to high heat and add remaining 1 tbs oil. When oil is smoking, add garlic, ginger and white parts of spring onions. Stir for 30 secs or until fragrant. Add pork and cook, breaking up with a spoon, for 3 mins or until pork is cooked through. Spread pork in an even layer and cook, without moving, for 3 mins or until crisp underneath.
3. In a small bowl, whisk soy sauce, cornflour, white sugar and 1/3 cup (80ml) water. Add to pork mixture with baby broccoli. Cook, tossing, for 30 secs. Divide rice among serving plates and spoon stir-fry over. Top with remaining spring onions.

Recipe and image credit: <https://www.taste.com.au/recipes/curtis-stones-crispy-pork-stir-fry-baby-broccoli/LUkCRzht>





Additionally, the government is urged to review energy needs for critical minerals processing, ensuring a stable gas supply for manufacturing the minerals essential for achieving net-zero emissions.

Australian Energy Producers also highlights the long-term role of natural gas in Australia's energy transition to net zero, emphasising the growing opportunities for LNG exports to support regional emissions reductions. The call for urgent action includes proposed measures such as streamlining environmental approvals, addressing the offshore regulatory system, and establishing an Australian LNG Producer-Consumer Taskforce to enhance regional relationships and leverage potential growth in Asian LNG demand.

Gas supply concerns FOR AUSTRALIA

Australia's oil and gas industry is urging the government to address gas supply concerns in the upcoming Federal Budget, emphasizing the need to avert projected shortages, reduce prices, and capitalise on the economic and emissions reduction advantages of the country's abundant natural gas resources.

The 2024-25 Federal Budget submission from Australian Energy Producers emphasizes the necessity for a strategic plan to prevent impending shortfalls on both coasts, ensuring continued access to

affordable and reliable energy for homes and businesses.

Samantha McCulloch, Chief Executive of Australian Energy Producers, said: "After more than a year of policy instability, government interventions and project approval delays, a recalibration of the policy and investment environment for natural gas is needed to secure our energy future." The industry calls for the release of new acreage for petroleum exploration, which has been on hold since August 2022, and the resumption of overdue annual acreage releases.

The submission underscores the industry's concern over the potential permanence of price controls in the east coast gas market, urging the government to outline a plan to restore market signals and incentivise new supply before the scheduled 2025 review of the Code of Conduct.

“

A recalibration of the policy and investment environment for natural gas is needed to secure our energy future.

Furthermore, the submission advocates for Australia to become a regional carbon capture, utilisation, and storage (CCUS) hub. This includes the development of a national roadmap and the creation of Net Zero Zones to expedite emissions reductions.

Ms McCulloch said: "Carbon capture is part of the net zero pathway in a multitude of ways – such as lowering emissions from industries, unlocking low carbon hydrogen and supporting carbon removal. It can also be a major economic driver for Australia through new jobs and investment."

GLADSTONE PARTICIPANTS SHINE AT *Tennis Seniors Australia Teams Carnival in Hobart*

Tennis Seniors Australia recently hosted its annual Teams Carnival in Hobart, drawing over 700 players ranging from 30 to over 80 years old.

Four talented participants from Gladstone – Ann Leinster, Paula Rideout, Gayle Aldridge and Malcom Pollock – joined the likely competition.

The event, sprawling across six venues in Hobart and extending to Cygnet, saw Malcolm competing in the men's over 65 age group against players from the Gold Coast and Brisbane. Despite not securing any medals, the Gladstone team, including Ann, Gayle, and Paula, exhibited outstanding teamwork. They played alongside three ladies from

South East Queensland and finished the week undefeated, narrowly losing in a closely contested final against Tasmania.

The tournament, marked by the forging of new friendships and the renewal of old acquaintances, left a lasting impression on the Gladstone participants. While they may not have claimed the top spot, their collective effort, sportsmanship, and resilience showcased the true spirit of tennis camaraderie. Looking ahead, Ann, Gayle, Paula, and Malcolm eagerly anticipate next year's competition in Adelaide, ready to bring their skills and team spirit to the courts once again. The Gladstone team's performance not only demonstrated their tennis prowess but also celebrated the joy, friendship, and shared passion that make Tennis Seniors Australia events truly special.



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Gladstone Celebrates Outstanding Achievements AT 2024 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Gladstone Regional Council has announced winners from the 2024 Australia Day Awards, held on Thursday 25th January at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre.

A total of nine categories were announced with two of them including Young People's Sport and Recreation and Sport and Recreation.

Ethan Sharpe has been honoured with the Young People's Sport and Recreation Award, a recognition well-deserved for his outstanding achievements in Men's Artistic Gymnastics. His remarkable journey includes being crowned the 2023 Australian All Around Level 9 Open Champion, where he also claimed the national titles on rings and floor. Ethan's excellence extends further as he secured gold for Queensland in the team event and bronze on vault. To qualify for the nationals, he not only emerged as the all-around State Champion but also secured gold on pommel and rings, silver on floor and vault, and bronze on high bar.

Ethan's success is even more awe-inspiring considering the challenges he overcame. In 2022, he suffered a wrist ligament injury that sidelined him from training for six months. Despite this

setback, Ethan demonstrated resilience and determination, becoming the Gladstone Region's first men's artistic national champion. Serving as the Men's Captain at the Gladstone Gymnastics Club, he goes beyond his achievements to inspire and guide young gymnasts through coaching, imparting valuable lessons on training for success at the highest levels. Additionally, Ethan obtained qualification as a Men's Intermediate Bronze Judge in 2023, enabling him to officiate at both State and National levels. His commitment extends to supporting regional events, whether through judging or volunteering, ensuring their smooth execution. Ethan's passion for gymnastics extends beyond competition; he actively encourages aspiring gymnasts to develop into well-rounded individuals with a strong work ethic and respect for others.

Also a big congratulations to the other nominees: Linzi McBean, Tom Crawshaw, Felicity Webb, Milly Sharpe, William (Billy) Price, Hayden Tabone, Sidney Crawshaw, Kayden Gibson and Talon Egan.

William Webb has been honoured with the Sport and Recreation Award in recognition of his significant contributions to sports administration and coaching in the Gladstone Region. With a rich history of dedicated service, Bill played a pivotal role in reviving Meteors Sports Club when it faced a daunting \$90,000 debt three years ago. He generously volunteered as

the functions and marketing manager while also assuming the role of an acting groundsman, dedicating 10 hours each week to support the club. Bill's initiatives extended beyond the club's boundaries as he established a home for the Special Olympics at Meteors and initiated the Free Sports for Kids campaign, providing assistance to underprivileged children. This campaign has benefited 110 children, offering them free uniforms, coaching, and waiving Football Queensland fees.

In addition to his remarkable contributions to Meteors, Bill holds numerous coaching certificates and serves as the Football Technical Director at Meteors Football Club. Notably, he is an Australian PGA member, imparting his expertise to 130 junior golfers in the region. Bill's passion for sports development is evident in his efforts to introduce golf to Kin Kora State School and Calliope High School. Over the past year, he has continued to enhance his knowledge by attending the Asian Pacific Golf Teaching Conference and participating in PGA seminars across Melbourne, the Sunshine Coast, and Brisbane. Bill Webb's unwavering commitment to nurturing young talents and fostering sports excellence truly sets him apart in the sporting community.

A big congratulations to the other nominees: Katrina McDonald, Kylie Cameron, Rebecca Desertiaux, Jack Smith and Molly Black.

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