TAKE ME, I'M FREE!

ISSUE 230 19th May, 2022

GLADSTONE NEWS



Celebrating 20 Years of

AUSSIE HELPERS

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WHAT'S ON IN Gladstone from 22nd May, 2022

Creatures of the Night FRIDAY, MAY 20

Where: Tondoon Botanic Gardens When: 6-8pm

Cost: Free, but bookings required

Join the team at the Tondoon Botanic Gardens for a nighttime walk around the gardens, to see what wildlife you can find in the dark!

David Strassman: The Chocolate Diet

Where: Gladstone Entertainment and Convention Centre

When: 7-10pm

Cost: from \$49.90 to \$79.90

America's David Strassman is gracing the stage of Gladstone with his hilarious ventriloquist stand-up. Rated MA.

Ecofest

Where: Tondoon Botanic Gardens When: 9am - 3pm Cost: Gold Coin donation at the gate.

Enjoy a day filled with educational workshops and activities, market stalls and food trucks with the whole family. This year's theme: 'Only One Earth'.





Rainbow on the Reef Pride Festival JUNE 10-12

Where: Several venues, including Gladstone Cinemas and The Reef Roof Top Bar

When: Times vary for events. See @ RainbowontheReef on Facebook for details.

Cost: Prices vary from \$10 to \$50. Bookings essential.

This weekend will be a massive celebration of PRIDE like Gladstone has never seen before.



ley Ral

Saturday, 23rd July, 2022 from 1pm CQU carpark, Gladstone Marina

Drive thru start at CQ Uni Drive thru finish at Yarwun State School Meal pack for 4 included with ticket

Prizes will be drawn at 8pm live on our Facebook page and winners will be notified by phone

> Tickets can be purchased on the day or via Facebook

> > \$25 per car

AND

The Great 'Rio Tinto' Yarwun Valley Rally f

With many thanks to our major sponsors















Celebrating 20 Years of **AUSSIE HELPERS**

For 20 years, rural charity Aussie Helpers has supported farmers and rural communities through some of the harshest conditions in the world, including devastating droughts, floods, fires, cyclones, and famine and has assisted more than 15,000 farmers experiencing hardship by providing financial and emotional support.

he charity will celebrate its 20-year legacy in July as it hosts its annual Gladstone gala to raise critical funding to assist farmers.

"Rural communities and farmers are some most resilient people in our country," she said, "They are some of the many unsung heroes of our time, and Aussie Helpers is in a privileged position to extend its unique knowledge to bring about realistic solutions for our rural heroes.

"Events like the gala, public donations, sponsorships, and contributions from volunteers, all play an important role in making sure Aussie Helpers continues its work supporting the industry.

"It's incredible to think how much support the charity received since my mum and dad started it in 2002," she said. "What started out as a humble \$20 raffle has evolved to improve the lives of so many people."

Having grown up with farming communities, the beauty and the intensity of the Australian landscape left a deep impression on the future CEO, and when her parents Brian and Nerida Egan, the founders of Aussie Helpers, asked Tash to take over from them in April 2019, she found her calling.

"Aussie Helpers is very different to other charities - we don't just collect donations and inject cash into fixing problems. We go deeper. We get boots on the ground and get straight to the heart of the



issue," Tash said.

In 2020, Tash's father Brian was working with some of his farming community when he suddenly passed away.

"

Aussie Helpers is very different to other charities - we don't just collect donations and inject cash into fixing problems. We go deeper. We get boots on the ground and get straight to the heart of the issue.

"Losing a man who had devoted much of his life to supporting others was devastating, and while the pain of losing him is still fresh, I'm proud to see his work continuing through the success of the people he advocated for," Tash said.



Aussie Helpers is run by a small but mighty team with offices in Dubbo NSW, Charleville QLD and Tash's base and home in Gladstone QLD.

"Gladstone is a great place to live, but it does face some gruelling conditions like floods, droughts and cyclones," she said. "Protecting farmers and their assets is crucial to the success of the agricultural economy, and we stand by that mission with a steadfast mind even through times of great unrest and uncertainty."

In 2021, Aussie Helpers hosted its first Gladstone gala and raised around \$79,000 for farmers.

From the funds raised, Aussie Helpers gifted \$10,000 to Mount Larcom State School to invest in the next generation of farmers. Aussie Helpers also visited flood-affected Murwillumbah in NSW, meeting with 40 farmers and offering financial and emotional assistance. Tash said she is excited to see what the future brings for Aussie Helpers.

"Our 20th anniversary is an important milestone for us," she said. "I'm so grateful to lead such an amazing charity, and I appreciate the support of our incredible sponsors, Akubra, Triple M and Foodbank for what they bring to our farming table," she said.

The Gladstone community can continue to support the work of Aussie Helpers by donating, volunteering, or purchasing a ticket to the Gladstone gala in July. Keep your eyes peeled on our socials for Tickets will be going on sale soon.

AUSSIE

P 1300 665 232

- E admin@aussiehelpers.org.au
- W www.aussiehelpers.org.au
- @aussiehelperscharity
- @AussieHelpers

GLADSTONE SELECTED AS FINALIST IN

Tourism Awards

Gladstone has been selected amongst a handful of other towns as a finalist in the 2022 Queensland Tourism Industry Council's Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards.

ladstone joins Yeppoon, Bowen, Tamborine Mountain, Bundaberg, Rockhampton and Charters Towers as finalists in the Queensland Top Tourism Awards. The award aims to publicly recognise and reward excellence within the tourism industry. It will also allow for improved business planning, provide a benchmark for best practice within the tourism industry, and promote an annual platform of celebration for the industry.

The awards are offered to three different categories: Top Tourism Town Award, Top Small Tourism Town Award, and Top Tiny Tourism Town Award.

Voting is open until Monday, May 23rd, so don't forget to get your vote in before it closes! Vote at www.qtic.com.au/toptourism-award/top-town-voting

All photos courtesy of GAPDL Media Gallery.







abor





Matt Burnett Delivering for Gladstone and Central QLD

We need a local like Matt down in Canberra; a leader with a proven track record of standing up for the people of Central Queensland and one who will deliver A Better Future for us all.





Authorised by Julie-Ann Campbell, Australian Labor Party. Level 1, 16 Peel Street, South Brisbane QLD. 🗾



SAVE THE DATE: Port to Park Sunday 21 August 2022

Lace up your running shoes and get ready to pound the pavement! The Port City's favourite fun run – Gladstone Ports Corporation's Port to Park – is back again in 2022, thanks to support from our generous sponsors and media partners.



Celebrating Small BUSINESSES THAT HELP THE REGION SHINE



YVONNE The Deli Plate

Yvonne started The Deli Plate after working in a variety of different jobs, since she always had a passion for food and cooking.

"Some of the best parts of the job are being my own boss, and making people happy. I really love what I do. The best way to support a small business is to buy local, and spread your positive experiences. It's so important to highlight these good experiences with a business," said Yvonne.

Yvonne's inspiration for the business



The best way to support a small business is to buy local, and spread your positive experiences

came from a desire to sell gourmet ingredients that aren't readily available in grocery stores. Starting The Deli Plate from the ground-up, Yvonne has developed a reliable customer base, because of the variety of cheeses and antipastos that aren't available anywhere else in Gladstone.

"It's definitely growing as a business; we're getting busier and busier all the time."



SARAH Little Bloom Room

Sarah opened The Little Bloom Room in 2014, after owning a flower business in the Gold Coast.

"The best way to support a small business is to shop local, and to support smaller businesses first. Also, giving good reviews and spreading the word to your friends and family makes a big difference," said Sarah.

"The highlights to me of owning a small business in Gladstone is to see the happy faces of our community when they receive our products, and when we get great feedback. It's really nice to know that we're appreciated in town for the awesome work that we do."

Sarah also notes that Gladstone is an incredibly supportive community for small businesses, and gives owners the opportunity to be uplifted by other local business owners.

"It's so amazing to be part of a community where small business owners support other businesses as well. I love Gladstone and I feel that it's a great place to own a small business."



MURRAY *Solar Power Gladstone*

Murray from Solar Power Gladstone thinks the best part about owning a small business is meeting people in the community.

"I love what I do, meeting real, downto-earth people and listening to their backgrounds and getting involved in their plans," said Murray.

Murray, who has been the owner of Solar Power Gladstone since 2016, and a member of the team since 2012, said that staying local is at the forefront of their small business.

"People need to buy local. I employ local people and support other companies with local sub-contractors. Everyone buys local, so the money stays local. We also support local sports teams."

"It's amazing that I get to meet so many people from the area, and I really enjoy educating people about the benefits of solar."

Murray's background is predominantly in sales, and after moving to Gladstone in 2012, he said he has no plans of going anywhere.

"I came to Gladstone in 2012, and I love it here. I buy local so the money stays here."

Business Month

May is 'Small Business Month' here in Queensland, and we would like to thank several of Gladstone's locally-owned businesses for their hard work, and making our Region truly one-of-a-kind. Spend a minute getting to know some of our small business HEROS!

SAM WARD Alex Maree Hair Studio

The best way to help a small business according to Sam Ward, the owner of Alex Maree Hair Studio, is to stay involved.

"The best way to help a small business? Share their social media posts, and tell your friends and family about your positive experiences," said Sam.

The business, which has been open for three years as of this April, was created as an entirely positive space.

"We wanted to create a happy and

inspired space for our work to be shown, and have a truly positive working environment."

Sam said that the best part about owning a small business in Gladstone is the fact that it is a forever-evolving town.

"To see growth in my staff and business is an absolute highlight, as well as being able to build relationships with clients and other businesses.

Sam had been doing hairdressing for 13 years before opening Alex Maree Hair Studio.

"I was always passionate about blondes



and bridal, and always focused on giving myself the best education and training in Brisbane and Sydney to bring back to work, and I loved being able to create my own vision within the studio now."

WATER COVERS MORE THAN 70% OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE.

AY 2022

IRONMEN

Less than 3% of that water is accessible freshwater.

There's #OnlyOneEarth and we need to look after it and our water future.

Join at us at **ECOFEST ON ON SUNDAY 5 JUNE** and learn more about how you can help make every drop count.



CONNECT





- March Martine

A short film on Gooreng Gooreng Elder Richard Johnson, directed by Kaylene Butler, was the first of 10 short films played at the Our Priceless Past Short Film Series.

Our Priceless Past short films provide fascinating glimpse into times gone by

The red carpet was rolled out at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre (GECC) on Wednesday 4 May as a slice of Gladstone Region history hit the big screen for the premiere of the Our Priceless Past Short Film Series.

Ten films were shown at the premiere, delving into the lives of some of the region's seniors aged 70 years or over who have lived in the area for 30 years or more.

Attended by almost 200 people, Gladstone **Region Councillor and Regional Arts** Development Fund (RADF) chair Glenn Churchill said the short films were emotional and thought provoking.

"All 10 short films not only demonstrated the many talents of our local filmmakers, but most importantly they also provided a valuable insight into the history of our region and the people who have played a role shaping the place in which we live," Councillor Churchill said.

"I strongly encourage anyone interested in the rich history and wonderful people of our region to visit the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum (GRAGM) website to view these short films."

The journey towards the Our Priceless Past Short Film Series began in July 2021 when nominations were sought.

In September 2021, Year 8 students from Toolooa State High School conducted online interviews with seniors to help shape the stories they would write for the 2021 *Our Priceless Past* booklet.

After consolidating their notes, students worked with their teachers as well as local historian Paulette Flint to add the final touches to their stories

These stories, including personal effects and portrait images by MGR Photography's Mike Richards, went on display at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum until 27 November 2021.

A travelling exhibition followed (currently on display at Gladstone Airport until 31 May and CQUniversity Gladstone Marina Campus from 15 July to 21 August) before talented local filmmakers Katrina Elliott, Wezzy Crüze and Photopia Studio, as well as First Nations filmmaker Kaylene Butler, added their artistic flair to turn the students' words into short films.

Visit www.gragm.qld.gov.au to watch the short film series. Nominations for 2022 Our Priceless Past are now open, phone 4976 6766 or email gragm@gladstone.qld.gov.au for details.

This project was made possible by the Australian Government's Regional Arts Fund, provided through Regional Arts Australia, administered in Queensland by Flying Arts Alliance.

New First Nations role open to applications

advertising for a First Nations Fire Officer to support our commitment to bushfire

This newly created role will be responsible for the planning and lighting of fires on Council managed land, in partnership with First Nations stakeholders and other fire agency

Goodluck said Council is seeking someone who identifies as belonging to one of the Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng or Taribelang Bunda – however, all other First Nations

ensure improved environment and cultural outcomes," Councillor Goodluck said.

"It will require someone with previous experience and relevant qualifications, but join an organisation that is committed to a dynamic, proud and diverse future for our

"As either trustee or owner, Council manages approximately 10,000 hectares of land comprising of more than 1000 lots, so the successful applicant will experience many

vacancies to apply. This is a maximum term position until 31 March 2024.

been made possible by funding from the Australian Government's Black Summer





GECC

Men's Health Deek: JUNE 13-19

The annual event aims to raise awareness about mental health issues confronting men in Australia.

on Steen, the Treasurer of Gladstone Men's Shed Association Inc. said that nine Australians die every day from suicide, a number that is more than double the road toll. 75 percent of those who take their own lives are men.

"Any tool to educate and increase awareness is important to



COMING SOON TO CALLIOPE

JUNE 2022

Providing General Practice including after hours appointments, Physiotherapist, Psychologist and Diabetic Educator.

outbackgp.com.au

Follow us on facebook for updates regarding our opening @OutbackGPCalliope shine a spotlight on individual and community health and wellbeing, particularly where males are at a greater risk. It is important to take time for a proactive approach to our mental health and wellbeing and to highlight why social connections are important for staying healthy," said Ron.

66

Ron said that paying attention to your mates, and noticing when they feel stressed, angry, upset or isolated can be a great opportunity to support them.

Unfortunately, Australian men are statistically far less likely to seek help for mental health problems than women.

"A lot of guys just don't realise how common mental health problems are, and that by sticking their head in the sand the problems just get worse. There is a great benefit from mates looking after mates, and asking that simple question: 'Are you okay?' is an effective strategy to help men get help."

Ron said that paying attention to your mates, and noticing when they feel stressed, angry, upset or isolated can be a great opportunity to support them. Starting a conversation is the only way to get rid of stigma surrounding mental health, and could even help save a life.

Visiting a local Men's Shed is also another fantastic way to find support, or to give it.

"Men's Sheds make a positive contribution to the Australian community through the prevention of social isolation, the promotion of positive health and wellbeing and the opportunity for men to participate in their local community while standing shoulder to shoulder with their peers."

Gladstone Men's Shed is located at 18 Moura Crescent in Barney Point, and the chatter at their daily smokos apparently make even more noise than the workshops. To find out more about the Men's Shed programs, call Ron on 0408 980 175 or send an email to menshed4680@hotmail. com.

Curtis Coast Automotive RECOGNISED GLOBALLY WITH AWARD

The local Nissan dealer has been awarded with a globally-recognised commendation for their consistent efforts as a business.

oss Turner, the Dealer Principal at Curtis Coast Automotive, said that this is an award that they have been striving to achieve for a long time.

"We've been trying so hard to focus on our day-to-day runnings and making sure we notice the little things, as well as making sure we deliver good customer service. We've been through such a difficult time with Covid-19, struggling with worldwide shortages," said Ross.

The award that the team at Gladstone

Nissan (operating within Curtis Coast Automotive) received is the 'Number One Provincial Dealership' award, which is one of three Australia-wide awards: Metro, Provincial and Rural. This award recognises the dealership globally, and has provided them with the highest level of recognition for their consistent service.

"At our core, our business here operates like a family. We maintain a high morale, and we have really great, long-term employees. There's definitely some challenges out therewe face challenges everyday- but it's so good to be recognised.

"I've been here for 27 years, and being recognised globally has always been one of my goals. It's taken so much work to get this award, and now that we've received it it's incredibly satisfying." Ross said that he is incredibly grateful for his team who have worked tirelessly to achieve this award.

"We really couldn't have done this without our team, who have made this possible. I'd also love to thank our loyal customer base. I really appreciate them, and without our staff and customers we're nothing, so they have really made this possible."



National Reconciliation Week

ConocoPhillips Australia acknowledges National Reconciliation Week as a time to listen and explore the histories, cultures and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to commemorate two important milestones: the 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision.

ConocoPhillips Australia recognises the enduring and unique connection to land and waters that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have, and we celebrate their ongoing contributions to Australia's political, economic and social landscapes. Through the implementation of the RAP our organisation is seeking to develop a deeper understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures, histories and contributions. To do this we will broaden our approach to engaging with First Nations stakeholders and ensure we are seeking guidance and advice on RAP implementation and cultural learning opportunities for our workforce.

To read more on ConocoPhillips Australia's Reflect RAP, visit https://www.conocophillips.com.au/sustainability/reconciliation-action-plan/





National Reconciliation Deek:

MAY 27TH TO JUNE 3RD 2022

Be Brave. Make Change.

he theme for National Reconciliation Week in 2022 is 'Be Brave. Make Change.' This theme is a challenge to all Australians to be brave, and tackle the unfinished business of reconciliations so we can make change for the benefit of all Australians.

Last year's theme was to take action, and not just during Reconciliation Week, but every week of the year.

The reason for the selection of these dates is due to two very major events in Australian history. May 27th in 1967 saw Australia's most successful referendum, with more than 90 percent of Australians voting to give the Australian Government power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and have them recognised in the Census.

The second event happened on June 3rd of 1992, when the Australian High Court delivered the Mabo decision, and recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional



Owners and Custodians of lands.

There are plenty of ways that you can be brave, and help fight injustices in our country this Reconciliation Week. While all of the advised actions you can take are listed at nrw.reconciliation. org.au, some of the easiest ways to make a change everyday are to: tell the truth on racism, learn your local history, be a brave ally, and support self-determination. There are a number of resources on each of these actions, again available at the Reconciliation Australia website.

This Reconciliation Week, why not try and learn ways that you can support and respect our First Nation's Peoples here in Gladstone: the Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng and the Taribelang Bunda Nations.

Be Brave. Make Change.

At GPC our vision for reconciliation is to ensure equality, equity and unity, where culture and heritage is recognised, respected and celebrated as a part of our shared national identity.

We're guided by our Stretch Reconciliation Action Plan and the Future Directions Community Liaison Group, and are committed to improving relationships, understanding and opportunities for the Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander communities in which we operate.

This year's theme for National Reconciliation Week is "Be Brave, Make Change" and at GPC we firmly believe each and every one of us has a role to play when it comes to reconciliation.

#NRW2022 #BeBraveMakeChange2022



Copes Octury TO GLADSTONE NEXT MONTH

Central Queensland's largest environmental awareness event returns to the Tondoon Botanic Gardens in June.

he event will run in conjunction with World Environment Day, and promises to offer something for the whole family, running from 9am-3pm on Sunday June 5. There will be plenty of different events including kids' activities, educational workshops from leaders in gardening and sustainability, as well as eco-market stalls, plant sales, food trucks, live music, guest speakers and much more.

Gladstone Region Councillor and Ecofest MC, Desley O'Grady, said that Ecofest aims to encourage people to





"Ecofest brings educational and informative workshops, demonstrations, activities and entertainment to our community in the natural space of award-winning Tondoon Botanic Gardens," Councillor O'Grady said.

"Adding to this, it's encouraging to know that every business, group or individual who is a part of Ecofest has committed to make a change towards a sustainable future and demonstrate how they are mindful of their consumption."

This year's Ecofest theme is 'Only One Earth', which serves as a reminder that we don't have any second changes in regard to preserving and protecting our planet, and all the different species that



live on it.

"Preserving and protecting the planet starts at home and here in the Gladstone Region we are fortunate to be the gateway to the Southern Great Barrier Reef and have other natural wonders we must take care of including rainforests, wetlands, coastlines and conservation areas."

Think Hybrid. Think Toyota.

Join us at Ecofest Sunday June 5, 10am-3pm

Bill Robertson Toyota 84 Hanson Road, Gladstone T: 4972 2766 1008737 billrobertsontoyota.com.au





JOIN US FOR THE LAUNCH OF Lainpolv on the

GLADSTONE PRIDE FESTIVAL

Friday 10th June, 7:30 pm AT GLADSTONE CINEMAS

This fabulous night out will include a screening of an award-winning Australian Short Film 'Sparkles' followed by the crowd favorite 'The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert'.

Meet the Makers of 'Sparkles' - a short film from Rush Films about a 30-something-year-old Down Syndrome woman who leaves her past behind by running away from a small country town towards the city. Along her journey, she strikes up an unlikely friendship with an outback drag queen, teaching us to not be afraid to celebrate who we are.

We are thrilled to be joined by Sparkles actress and writer, Tina Fielding for the Gladstone Premiere.

Priscilla Queen of the Desert is rated M15.

Proudly supported by

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RAINBOW

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

events.humanitix.com/rainbow-on-the-reef-pride-festival

Why not try a soft-printed cushion to brighten the room on a chilly afternoon?



Adairs has plenty to choose from, including this beautifully textured one.

> Of course, there's no point being cosy if your feet are cold!

> Kip & Co have a great selection of stylish slippers that are sure to keep your feet warm from late afternoon to early morning.



MAKE YOUR HOME FEEL WARM THIS

Winter

Are you familiar with the joy of a cosy Winter night at home?

How about listening to the wind howl outside as you curl up on the lounge under a soft blanket? If you're noticing the nights starting to cool down, why not have a look at these items that will make you feel extra toasty. Looking for something that's perfect for wrapping around you while you watch your favourite movie on Netflix?

Have a look at this reversible dustypink blanket from the Sheet Society.



How about a gorgeous scent to unwind to after a long day?

GlassHouse Fragrances are sure to have something that will do the trick...the smell of marzipan and cherries, maybe?

ด GLADSTONE REAL ESTATE



73 SQUIRE STREET, TOOLOOA \$215,000 ➡ 3 ➡ 1 ➡ 2

MORTGAGEE IN POSSESSION

This split-level, three-bedroom property was built in 1976 and is situated on a corner, fenced block of approx. 602m².

There are three bedrooms, all of a good size, and all are carpeted with built in robes and ceiling fans. The kitchen, dining and living areas form part of an open plan design that features polished cypress floors.

An L-shaped kitchen is installed and hosts ample cupboards and bench space, and is fitted with Electrical Appliances.

A timber deck is located at the front of the property. Great for sitting back and relaxing at the end of the day.

Under the house there is a double car garage with plenty of additional space for storage or a workshop.

73 Squire Street is being sold "as is where is" and is sure to attract Buyers wanting an Entry Level Property.

Call Kerry Connor For Your Inspection 0407 533 353

LOCATIONS estate agents



3/50 AUCKLAND STREET GLADSTONE CENTRAL \$369,000

Immaculate, private brick duplex in amazing location, it would be a great place to live if downsizing, first home buyer or the avid investor. Spacious 3 bedroom duplex that feels like a private full sized home.

- Fully air-conditioned roomy three bedroom duplex
- Spacious modern kitchen with extra cupboard space and pantry
- Open plan kitchen and dining room

🚍 3 🚽 1 🖨 2

- Tiled throughout including the air-conditioned lounge room
- Undercover patio accessed from the lounge room or side gate
- Private and peaceful backyard with a fully insulated garden shed
- Oversized air-conditioned main bedroom with TV point and three bay build in cupboard
- Dual entry bathroom with access from the main bedroom
- Double vanity, full sized bathtub and shower
- Carpeted bedrooms all air-conditioned, ceiling fans, built in cupboards and two with TV points

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CELEBRATING **VOLUNTEERS:** GLADSTONE NEWS' VOLUNTEER

Bob Pailthorpe, Gladstone News' volunteer of more than 15 years said that he has been volunteering since 16, and has no intention of stopping anytime soon.

've been volunteering since I was around 16. My dad was in the ambulance committee, and I used to go out and help them," said Bob.

Bob has been an invaluable member of the Gladstone News team for more than 15 years he thinks, though it's been so long he can't remember the actual number.

"I've been at Gladstone News since they were on Hansen Road. I can't even remember how long ago that was."

The best part about volunteering is the satisfaction after doing the job. I also love to talk to people, and share some historical stories.

Bob helps the team at Gladstone News out in plenty of different ways, including putting up corflutes around town each fortnight, and helping us out with delivery runs when needed.

"The best part about volunteering is the satisfaction after doing the job. I also love to talk to people, and share some historical stories."

Bob recently celebrated his 80th birthday, though you would be wrong if you think this means he will start 'slowing down'.

While this recognition comes at the time of National Volunteers Week, the entire team here at Gladstone News appreciates the care and hard work that Bob puts in every day, of every week.





Volunteer Marine Rescue Gladstone

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers for providing safety of life at sea



www.vmrgladstone.org.au



National Volunteers Deek:

MAY 16-22, 2022

Volunteers are essential in our community and during volunteer week 16-22 May they deserve a big shout out for all they do.

ou will find these local champions in all corners of our community committing their time, experience, skills and knowledge to make a difference in the lives of others.

Plenty of Gladstone organisations rely on the help of volunteers to continually have a positive impact on the Region. The Gladstone Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Family Violence (CCRDFV) proudly have volunteers involved in their programs.

"Volunteering for CCRDFV has helped me heal and grow as a person after experiencing trauma, I am proud to volunteer for CCRDFV, to give back to the community, and I have formed some amazing friendships as a result," said an anonymous volunteer at Gladstone's CCRDFV.

The environment that CCRDFV provides through programs such as their 'Love Bites' program is an encouraging, safe space that has a positive impact on participants as well as volunteers.

"I liked how we could talk about anything without feeling embarrassed, it was a safe environment to talk about sensitive and important topics," said a Love Bites participant.

The CCRDFV is a shining example of what can be achieved when a community is given the opportunity to learn and grow together, with the right volunteers. CCRDFV recently had a group of volunteers collate resources into 110 GLAD packs for men, women and families. These packs will be distributed to local service providers who can directly give them to people escaping Domestic and Family Violence.

The CCRDFV has authored some fantastic awareness initiatives in its time, such as the creation of the Avenue of Peace at Friend Park, Barney Point to remember those lost to Domestic and Family Violence (D&FV), yearly D&FV Remembrance Days to remember those who have lost their lives to D&FV and support their family and friends left behind. The CCRDFV come together to run yearly awareness campaigns in May due to it being D&FV Prevention Month. They have been running the Paint the Town Purple for some years now, where they ask everyone to go purple in their circle of influence, work, social, or sporting teams, to start important conversations about D&FV and bring D&FV out from behind closed doors.

Bjay, a volunteer with Gladstone Region Awareness of Suicide Prevention Network (GRASP), the Gladstone Coordinated Community Response to Domestic and Family Violence (CCRDFV) and the Gladstone Food Centre said that he has loved volunteering since he was 15, and has no intention of stopping.

"I can't even explain what I feel when I'm volunteering. It just feels good for my soul. As someone who has spent parts of my life being homeless, I know firsthand how much of a difference volunteers and these programs can have on your life," said Bjay.

"Being able to maintain those connections that you make with people is so rewarding. Sometimes people who I have helped will come back and see me weeks later

AVAILABLE VOLUNTEER SPOTS

Flourish Festival May 28 | 3pm – 9pm Volunteers needed for Welcome Crew. Call 4903 1931

This and That Shop Volunteers needed. Call 4972 9740

Food Centre Volunteers needed. Call 4972 9484

CCRDFV Volunteers needed. Call 4971 3241

to tell me that they've gotten a house, or they've gotten a job, and that is just an indescribable feeling."

Start your journey to volunteering today by registering your interest as a Care Army Volunteer (QR code attached) or to find out more get in touch with Debbie, your local Neighbourhood and Care Army Connect Worker located at Gladstone Community and Neighbourhood Centre, Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct or on mobile 0459 570 067.

Volunteering is a great way to give back, meet new people and connect with your community.

Connect Workers Initiative







This outrageously good macaroni and cheese fuses two classic comfort foods into one dish. Perfect as a weeknight dish as the nights start cooling down.

INGREDIENTS

- Kosher salt
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, plus more for greasing the pan
- 1 kilo yellow onions, peeled, halved and thinly sliced
- 5 sprigs fresh thyme, plus more thyme leaves for garnish
- 1 fresh or dried bay leaf (optional) Black pepper
- Black pepper
- 500 grams elbow pasta
 1 baguette, cut into 1.5cm slices
- 1 baguette, cut into : • 1 garlic clove
- 1 garlic clove
- 2 tablespoons sherry vinegar, red wine vinegar or white wine vinegar
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- \cdot 4 cups whole milk
- 450 grams Gruyère, grated (about 5 cups)
- 350 grams white Cheddar, grated (about 4 cups)

PREPARATION

- 1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. (If you're planning to bake the macaroni and cheese in a baking dish instead of a skillet, butter 9-by-13-inch baking dish or other casserole dish.)
- 2. Meanwhile, in a deep, large (12-inch) ovenproof skillet, melt 2 tablespoons butter over medium-high heat. Add the onions, thyme sprigs and bay leaf, if using, and season with salt and pepper. Cover with a lid, baking sheet or foil and cook, stirring once or twice, until the onions are softened, 3 to 5 minutes.
- 3. Uncover and continue to cook on mediumhigh, stirring occasionally, until deep golden brown, 20 to 25 minutes. If the onions look dry, add a few tablespoons of water at a time to prevent them from burning, scraping up any browned bits that are stuck to the bottom of the skillet. (You will need to do this several times.)
- 4. While the onions are cooking, heat the oven to 200 degrees fan-forced. Cook the pasta in the boiling water until 2 minutes shy of al dente; drain and set aside. Rub one side of each baguette slice with garlic.
- 5. When the onions are a deep golden brown, discard the thyme sprigs and bay leaf and deglaze the skillet with the vinegar until

evaporated, scraping up browned bits as you go, about 30 seconds. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons butter. When melted, add the flour and cook, stirring, until the flour begins to stick to the bottom of the pan and has turned a light golden brown, about 3 minutes. Slowly whisk in the milk and season with salt and pepper. Bring to a simmer, whisking often.

- 6. Reserve 1 cup of the Gruyère. Carefully add the remaining Gruyère and all the Cheddar to the caramelized onion mixture and carefully stir until melted. If your pan is big enough, add the cooked pasta and stir to combine, or combine the sauce and pasta in the prepared dish.
- 7. Spread the pasta mixture in an even layer in the prepared dish, then top with the baguette slices, garlic-side up. Sprinkle the toasts with the reserved 1 cup Gruyère and season with pepper. Place the skillet or dish on a sheet pan and bake until bubbly and brown in spots, 10 to 15 minutes. If you like a crispier top, broil for a few minutes. Let cool slightly, then garnish with fresh thyme leaves.

Recipe and photo courtesy of New York Times Cooking.



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Do It For Dolly Day:

TAKING A STAND AGAINST BULLYING

The tragic loss of the teen's life in 2018 sparked a nationwide response that encourages communities around Australia to spread kindness, and unite in taking a stand against bullying.

fter 14-year-old Amy 'Dolly' Everett tragically lost her life to suicide after ongoing bullying in January of 2018, her parents vowed that her death would not be in vain. This was a promise that they kept, with the 13th of May becoming 'Do It For Dolly Day'. This day encourages people Australia-wide to engage with their community in potentially life-saving ways.

Dolly's parents, Tick and Kate Everett began the 'Dolly's Dream' foundation in 2018, and since then have asked people to show their support for anti-bullying by expressing kindness, participating in community events, and wearing blue on May 13th.



There are a number of ways you can support people being bullied. We can all help by being kind to everyone, all the time. It's also important to let people in your life know that you are there for open and honest communication if they need, and if you see something, say something. Stopping bullying is our combined responsibility, and we can't beat it until we are united in taking a stand.





5 Year Environment Strategy



Spent

to date







Spent locally -**Gladstone** region



In mid-2018 Queensland Alumina committed to a 5 Year Environmental Strategy (5YES) comprised of over 60 capital improvement projects and organisational culture change initiatives.

The program was a commitment made by QAL to deliver year-on-year improved environmental performance. With the investment increased from its original estimate of \$270M to a now fully scoped \$400M, the complex portfolio has been prioritised to either improve environmental performance at QAL, or reduce the risk of QAL impacting the receiving environment.



For more regular updates and project information, along with the full project implementation plan and videos, please see our website: www.qal.com.au/our-approach/environment.aspx

31 of 60

Projects

completed

To contact us please: call 1800 181 110 or email feedback@qal.com.au

QUEENSLAND ALUMINA

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white and the states



PINK IT UP: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF **The Boyne** Tannun Hookup

Over 30,000 estimated attendees enjoyed a weekend of sunshine at Australia's biggest family fishing competition.

he 2022 event saw over 3,400 registrations, with 70 percent of these belonging to the 4680 postcode. The competition, which originally began 27 years ago as a way of keeping locals in the area over the long weekend, has now become one of the Gladstone Region's biggest tourism drawcards.

"The HookUp started out as a couple hundred people in Bray Park, with the prizes being handed out the back of a semi-trailer and a white board used as the competition leader-board," said the HookUp's event organising team.

This year was the HookUp's 27-year celebration, with a prize pool of \$375, 000. Part of the HookUp's vision is to be 'Nationally Known and Internationally Recognised', which is being achieved by having the biggest prize pool and number of entrants for a fishing competition in Australia.

"This year, we also had the Gladstone Port's Corporation Youth Engagement Program, promoting sustainable fishing. They had learn to fish lessons, a colouring-in competition and youth tent activities in collaboration with our community group partner EBITS.

"Some of the biggest highlights this year were the number of participants in light of Covid-19 being around the community, being able to collaborate with our community partners and sponsors, the amount of people our videos have reached (with one getting more than 250,000 views) and for many participants and spectators having the ability to get out and enjoy the long weekend and all the fishing action with their families!"

This year's competition also featured the second year of the Satellite Weigh-In station in Gladstone located at the VMR Boat Ramp in Gladstone Marina. This helped to ease the fish weigh-in line-up at Bray Park. Other highlights included the live music program, and as always, the fireworks which have become a fan-favourite.

In the coming years of the HookUp, locals are being encouraged to 'pink it up' by painting their letterbox pink, wearing a pink shirt, or putting up pink solar lights in their homes or business to show pride in Australia's biggest fishing competition.



Game Development:

EX-BRONCOS PLAYERS HELPING REGIONAL SCHOOLS

The program continues to help kids in regional schools become more involved with Rugby League.

he Brisbane Broncos Game Development program visits over 50, 000 children a year, including plenty of schools in the Gladstone Region. The roundup of ex-professional players involved with our region's schools this year included Casey Mcguire, Jack Reed, Paul Dyer, Michael Hancock and Matt Gillett.

Game Development is a jointpartnership with Site Skills Training, and aims to involve local kids in sport,

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Seeing kids enjoying themselves and having fun with their mates; it's just amazing to give that back with a bit of Broncos branding

and also help to assist with training coaches. The program visited seven schools in the Gladstone Region, including Mount Larcom State School- a school with less than 100 total students, and a 100 percent great attitude.

I spoke to Casey McGuire, the program's leader of four years, and Jack Reed, the Sunshine Coast's Game Development Officer during their busy morning at Mount Larcom State School.

"This is a community based program, and we want to enable kids to focus on being active and healthy," said Casey.

"Originally we had a Broncos clinic just in Brisbane, but because of the interest up here in Central Queensland there was a massive need to have it up here as well."

"Doing something like this allows us to give back to our communities. Every time you turn on the T.V to watch a game or you buy a shirt, you're keeping our game alive, so we want to give back for that."

Jack Reed, who had to retire early in his NRL career due to an injury, has been in his role for seven years.

"We always say that playing Rugby League is the greatest job in the world, but this is nearly just as rewarding. Seeing the young kids smiling makes you remember why you originally got into football. Seeing kids enjoying themselves and having fun with their mates; it's just amazing to give that back with a bit of Broncos branding," said Jack.

"To give them a bit of exposure, and to do it in regional areas like this, it's an absolute thrill."

All players involved in the program are generously sponsored by groups in their region, enabling them to travel within the Central Queensland community and help regional schools.

"We're very lucky that Rugby League teaches you so many skills. Obviously it can be about the physicality of the sport, but it also teaches you how to work in a team. If we can just make the best people out of these kids for their community, then that's great. One day they're going to apply for jobs, and we want them to be good people. We're hoping to incorporate those values into Rugby League through this program."





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