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GLADSTONE NEWS

TAKE ME, I'M FREE!

ISSUE 335
23rd July 2026

Catholic Education Week

26 July - 1 Aug 2026

Share
your
light
inspire
others



CELEBRATING
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
IN QUEENSLAND

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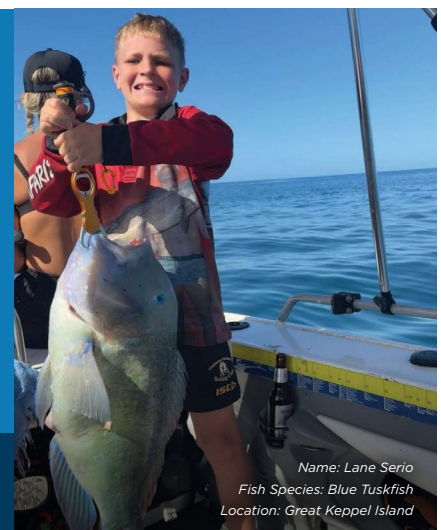
FISH OF THE MONTH WINNER

Congratulations Lane Serio on catching a Blue Tuskfish!

Please contact Gladstone News to arrange collection of your \$100 voucher.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Blue Tuskfish are also known as "bluebone" because they have a distinct bright blue skeleton!



Name: Lane Serio
Fish Species: Blue Tuskfish
Location: Great Keppel Island



Join Our Friendly
BEGINNER'S GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
presented by Genealogical Society Gladstone District



25
JUL

Beginners Genealogy Workshop

Trace your family history back and learn about lineage with the Beginner's Genealogy Workshop presented by the Genealogical Society Gladstone.

When: Saturday 25th July, 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Where: Calliope Library Meeting Room, 3 Don Cameron Drive, Calliope

Price: \$5 for members, \$15 for non- members (\$10 refunded if you join!)



28
JUL

Picnic & Stories in the Park

Bring a picnic rug, a hat, a water bottle and your little ones for a morning of stories and a nursery rhyme sing-along in the outdoors.

When: Tuesday 28th July, 10:30 am to 11:00 am

Where: Millennium Esplanade Park, Millennium Esplanade, Tannum Sands

Price: Free



2
AUG

Gladstone Community Open Day

Come to the Marina Parklands for a day of fun, education and excitement! See the CapRescue helicopter up close, explore the interior while taking photos and speak to local Emergency Rescue crews including CapRescue, SES, QPS and more.

When: Sunday 2nd August, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Where: Gladstone Ports Corporation Marina Parklands

Price: Free



2
AUG

Fitstop Gladstone Half Marathon

Get pumped up with Fitstop's Gladstone Half Marathon. Whether you're looking to achieve a new personal best or you just want to run 10km for something to do, join the Fitstop community as we run around East Shores, followed by a post-run sausage sizzle.

When: Sunday 2nd August

Where: East Shores

Price: Free but tickets required

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Share your light, inspire others

In a world often clouded by uncertainty, division and rapid change, Catholic Education Week 2026 offers a timely and uplifting invitation: “Share your light, inspire others.” This theme is not merely a slogan; it is a call to action. It challenges every student, teacher, parent and school community member to recognise the light within them and to use it for the good of others.

At the heart of Catholic education is the belief that every person is created in the image of God, endowed with dignity, purpose and unique gifts. Schools are not simply places of academic instruction; they are communities where

young people are nurtured spiritually, intellectually and socially. Within these spaces, the “light” we speak of is multifaceted; it is the light of faith, of knowledge, of compassion and of hope.

To share your light is to live out Gospel values in everyday actions. It is seen in the student who welcomes a new classmate, the teacher who goes the extra mile to support learning, and the parent who models kindness and resilience at home. These seemingly small acts have a profound ripple effect. They illuminate dark corners, build bridges and inspire others to do the same.

Reflecting on this year’s theme, Mr Michael McCusker, Diocesan Director Catholic Education-Diocese of Rockhampton said,

“

Catholic Education Week reminds us that the light entrusted to each member of our community is not for ourselves alone. Through faith, learning and service, we are called to share that light so that it may inspire hope, strengthen relationships and enrich the life of our wider community.

Importantly, this year’s theme also speaks to courage. Sharing one’s light requires confidence in who we are and what we stand for. In an age where young people can feel pressure to conform or withdraw, Catholic schools play a vital role in fostering self-worth grounded in faith. Students are encouraged to recognise their talents not as something to hide, but as gifts to be offered generously to the world.



Equally, to inspire others is to lead by example. Inspiration does not demand perfection; it requires authenticity. When students see their teachers and peers living with integrity, compassion and purpose, they are reminded of what is possible. Inspiration blossoms in classrooms that prioritise respect and encourage inclusion, and in communities that celebrate diversity and the development of the whole person.

Catholic Education Week 2026 also invites reflection on our broader responsibility to society. The light we carry is not meant to remain within school gates. It is meant to shine outward into local communities, workplaces and the wider world. Through outreach programs, social justice initiatives and acts of service, Catholic education continues to instil a commitment to the common good. These experiences shape young people into compassionate leaders who understand that true success is measured not only by achievement, but by contribution.

In today's increasingly complex global environment, the need for such leadership has never been greater. Issues such as inequality, environmental sustainability and social cohesion demand individuals who are not only knowledgeable but also morally grounded. Catholic schools, guided by faith and tradition, are uniquely positioned to form individuals who can navigate these challenges with wisdom and empathy.

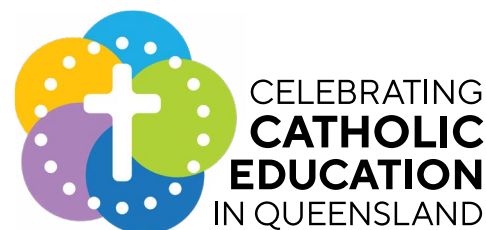


This week is also a moment to celebrate the enduring partnership that sustains Catholic education. Schools thrive when families, parishes and communities work together. Each plays a role in nurturing the light within young people. Parents are the first educators, teachers are dedicated guides, and faith communities provide the spiritual foundation that strengthens all learning.

As we celebrate Catholic Education Week 2026, let us pause to recognise the countless examples of light already shining brightly in our Catholic kindergartens, Primary schools and Colleges; from Bundaberg to Mackay and west to Longreach. Let us give thanks for the teachers and support staff who inspire, the students who strive and the communities that support them. More importantly, let us commit ourselves to carrying this light forward.

Because when one person shares their light, it does more than brighten a single moment, it ignites something far greater. It sparks hope, encourages action and builds a future grounded in faith, compassion and possibility.

In the spirit of this year's theme, may we all be encouraged to step forward with confidence: to share our light generously, and in doing so, inspire others to shine.



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

STAR OF THE SEA

Catholic Primary School

Catholic Education Week celebrates all that is great about Star of the Sea and the important role we play in shaping our future generations.

Catholic Education Week celebrates all that is great about Star of the Sea and the important role we play in shaping our future generations. Established in 1902, we seek to provide a holistic education, catering for the academic, spiritual, cultural, sporting, and social-emotional needs of our students. We offer quality teaching and learning in a caring, inclusive, and inquiry-based environment. Our school motto “LET

YOUR LIGHT SHINE” permeates every aspect of our school life, encouraging us to gratefully acknowledge the gifts God has given us to help us reach our potential.

The theme for Catholic Education Week this year is Share Your Light - Inspire Others, which is perfect for our school. Catholic Education Week will see us exploring ways we can deepen our own faith and inspire others through our compassion and service. A highlight will be our whole school prayer celebration with our Grandparents, entertainment provided by our Choir and Bell Ensemble, followed by a chance to tour our classrooms to see the great work our students are doing.

All who seek our values are welcome at Star of the Sea. Enrolment enquiries for 2026/2027 are welcome by visiting our website www.staroftheseagladstone.qld.edu.au, contacting our School Office on 0749721305 or emailing sosg@rok.catholic.edu.au.





STAR OF THE SEA

CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL GLADSTONE

W

www.staroftheseagladstone.qld.edu.au

P

07 4972 1305



Chanel College

A PLACE TO LEARN,
GROW AND BELONG

Catholic Education Week invites us to pause, reflect, and celebrate the heart of who we are as a faith-based educational community. This year’s theme, “Share Your Light and Inspire Others,” speaks powerfully to the mission and spirit of Chanel College.

A Chanel education is about far more than academic achievement; it is about discovering the unique spark within every student. Our school is a place where young people can grow not only in knowledge, but in faith, courage, and generosity.

As the only Catholic secondary school in the Gladstone region, we provide a dynamic, co-educational environment for students in Years 7 to 12. We believe that every student brings their

own distinct light to our campus, enriched by a vibrant tapestry of cultural backgrounds. Our dedicated and experienced staff work tirelessly to nurture this potential, offering a safe, inclusive space where intellectual curiosity is ignited.

Whether a student’s passion lies in the science laboratory, on the sporting field, across the creative arts, or through hands-on community service, our modern facilities and extensive co-curricular opportunities provide the perfect platform for them to thrive. We challenge our students to not only strive for personal excellence but to use their unique gifts to elevate and inspire those around them. This commitment to shared growth is anchored deeply in our college motto, “To Live Justly.” By integrating faith with a genuine love of learning, we prepare our students to step out into the world as compassionate, active citizens. At Chanel College, we do not simply educate; we empower young people to share their light and, in turn, illuminate the path for others.



W

www.chanelcollege.qld.edu.au

P

07 4994 8900



WELCOME TO THE
LEARNING COMMUNITY OF

St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School

As a school, our aim is to create a sense of belonging that will nurture your child's growth and help create a healthy self-esteem and lifelong love of learning.

Every child at St John's has the right to LEARN, a right to feel SAFE, and the responsibility to RESPECT those around them. As educators, our prime responsibility is to ensure your child is safe in order to maximise their learning so that they can display their full potential.

We believe and acknowledge that every child is different and that every child is special, with special needs, special interests and special characteristics. Your child is important to you, and important to us as educators. We need to work together to help them grow, learn and develop, both as an individual and as a member of our school community.

Education is an important partnership between the home and the school. For any partnership to be successful, communication needs to be open and effective. All parents are urged to work closely with their child's teacher by regularly communicating with them and working together to provide the best educational opportunities possible.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school community.



St John the Baptist
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

W www.sjgrok.catholic.edu.au

P 07 4978 1799



Saint Francis Catholic PRIMARY SCHOOL

Saint Francis Catholic Primary School Tannum Sands, is a welcoming Prep to Year 6 community set on 26 acres, bordering the Boyne River and Canoe Point Beach. As part of the Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton (CEDR), we are committed to quality learning and to forming young people through lifelong and life-wide experiences, grounded in the person and teachings of Jesus.

Each day, many students travel safely to school via the Turtleway path, arriving ready to learn in calm, consistently predictable classrooms. Our experienced educators place Christ at the centre of teaching and learning, delivering the Australian Curriculum alongside the CEDR Religion Curriculum to nurture curious minds, strong values, and a love of learning.

Students enjoy weekly specialist lessons in Performing Arts and Music, Physical Education, STEM, and Visual Arts. Years 3 to 6 participate in weekly sport, and the whole school comes together for Cross Country, Athletics, and Swimming carnivals. Each morning, students are invited to join movement activities before school, and brain breaks throughout the day help everyone reset and refocus.

Our school-created Positive Behaviours and Wellbeing Framework supports clear expectations and a safe, respectful environment, strengthened by strong partnerships between school and home. We also follow Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton's wellbeing approach to support the flourishing of students and staff.

Before and After School Care operates throughout the year, including vacation care. Online enrolments are now available - families are warmly invited to connect with our school office to learn more.



E info@sftsrk.catholic.edu.au

W www.stfrancis.qld.edu.au



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

26 JULY – 1 AUG 2026

Share
your
light
inspire
others

catholiceducationweek.com.au



(L to R): Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett, Rockhampton Mayor Tony Williams, Member for Keppel Nigel Hutton, Livingstone Shire Mayor Adam Belot and Regional Development Australia Chair John Anderson.

Business Case launch boosts Defence vision in Central Queensland

The Central to Defence Working Group (CTDWG) marked an important milestone in the journey to secure a stronger role in Australia's defence industry with the launch of the Central Queensland Defence Industry Precinct Business Case in Rockhampton this month.

The launch brought together key stakeholders from government, defence and industry to highlight the identified opportunities within the Business Case and reinforce the CTDWG's collective ambition for Central Queensland to be established as a strategic hub for Australia's defence industry.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said the Business Case, funded with support from the Queensland Government, is more than just a strategic document and was developed following extensive independent research and consultation.

"It represents a united regional effort to attract increased defence activity,

investment and industry opportunities to Central Queensland," Mayor Burnett said.

"Central Queensland has many strategic advantages including Gladstone's deep-water port, versatile airports, world-class military training facilities and skilled workforce that make it uniquely positioned to contribute to Australia's defence and defence industry objectives.

"The opportunities identified have the potential to drive investment, create jobs and diversify the regional economy for generations to come."

The CTDWG is a partnership of three local governments (Gladstone Regional Council, Livingstone Shire Council and Rockhampton Regional Council) and Regional Development Australia Central and Western Queensland.

Visit centraltodefence.com.au for more information.

Honouring culture, connection and 50 Years of NAIDOC Week

The Gladstone Region recently celebrated NAIDOC Week 2026 with its annual Flag Raising Ceremony, marking not only the beginning of a week of celebration and reflection, but also a significant milestone – 50 years of NAIDOC Week.

Held at Council's Goondoon Street office, the ceremony brought together First Nations Elders, community members, Council representatives and guests to celebrate the enduring cultures, histories and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said raising the four flags is a long-standing tradition.

"The flag-raising ceremony serves as a visible symbol of unity, respect and recognition for the Traditional Custodians of the Gladstone Region and First Nations peoples across Australia," Mayor Burnett said.

"Since adopting our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) in 2018, we've continued to build meaningful relationships and deliver practical actions that support reconciliation.

"Council is now developing its fourth RAP, informed by the valuable contributions from the Gladstone Region RAP Reference Group."

As the flags rose above the city, the message was clear: for five decades, First Nations peoples have carried NAIDOC forward, supported by our commitment to learning, respect and reconciliation.



(L to R): Mayor Matt Burnett, Auntie Neola Savage, Uncle Colin Lingwoodock, Auntie Juliri Johnson and Tony Blackman cut the cake at this year's 50th anniversary of NAIDOC Week.



SYMPHONY UNDER THE STARS

FRI • 31 JUL 2026 • 7PM

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Exercise Austral Shield 2026

SEES BIGGEST COLLABORATION BETWEEN ADF AND POLICE

The sea breeze whistled lazily through the grass on the battlefield - a patch of land in Barney Point, Gladstone, prepared for Exercise Austral Shield 2026 – the most dramatic, explosive collaboration between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Queensland Police there had been yet.

The quiet of the morning was quickly dispelled when the first of the troops arrived by motorised raft at Barney Point Beach, ready to scope the area for safety. Stationed on either side of the esplanade, the troops moved towards the battlefield with caution until the enemies, members of the Army dressed as “extremists”, fired shots and alerted the troops to their whereabouts. A smoke bomb was deployed, and a member of the Army, firing a blank, shot and injured one of the enemies on the field. The rest of the task force scouted the area until there were no remaining threats, and the police moved in with a Remote Positioning Vehicle-Medium (RPV-M), or “bomb disposal robot”.

Military training simulations such as Exercise Austral Shield are integral to the training of defence personnel across Australia, highlighting the importance of being prepared for the event of a natural disaster or the protection of Australia and civilian lives.

“JTF 629 is a standing task force for homeland support, most often that is activated for disaster response,” Brigadier Mark Smith stated. “It also has a standing task of security response, and that is what this exercise is doing - rehearsing security.

“Thankfully, we haven’t been deployed for security response, but we need to be prepared to do that as one of our missions is to support the state of Queensland in a crisis.”

Troops came from all corners of the country to participate in Exercise Austral Shield – one participant had even driven a vehicle from Launceston, Tasmania, all the way to Coen in Far-North Queensland.

Lieutenant Colonel Nick Perriman stressed the importance of collaborating with the community: “Engaging with the community while we’re here is a really important part of our operations here; we are making a really concerted effort to integrate ourselves as much as possible into the community and to become a trusted stakeholder.

“

We needed to be able to show people who we are and show the face behind the uniform, so we conducted a Family and Community Day, which was an opportunity for members of the public to come visit and meet up with ADF members who are currently on Exercise Austral Shield in Gladstone. ”



“The vast majority of our soldiers are reservists and are members of the community so it’s very important that we’re engaging and giving back to the community.”

As well as the Community Day, some of the engineers conducted Backyard Blitz operations, which assisted two legacy war widows living in Gladstone with tasks around their homes and yards. The reservists also helped coordinate traffic control over the four-night festival Luminous, recently held in the Tondoon Botanic Gardens.

When asked about his 33-year career in the Defence Force, Brigadier Mark Smith listed the three things that contributed to his decision to join as a sense of adventure, a love of the outdoors, and a sense of purpose.

“I’m much closer to the end of my career than the beginning, but I reflect back on the wonderful experiences, meeting some great people, and we’ve done some great things, and I wouldn’t change it for anything in the world.”



Carp-e Diem:

NATIVE SPECIES REPOPULATION IN LAKE AWOONGA

For the first time in 4 years since the Aquaculture Gladstone facility opened its doors, the multi-species fish hatchery located in Lake Awoonga has successfully produced and stocked three native fish species: Barramundi, Mangrove Jack and Sea Mullet, in a single year, highlighting this as an important milestone years in the making.

The Aquaculture Gladstone team has dedicated many hours of their time to developing the broodstock of the Sea Mullet and Mangrove Jack - notoriously difficult fish species to research - to the point where they can be produced seasonally. Mangrove Jack broodstock can take up to 5 years alone to reach maturity and be ready to spawn from being caught in the wild, whereas Sea Mullet can take up to 3 years.

The facility produces up to 5 million Barramundi, Mangrove Jack and Sea Mullet fingerlings a year at peak production behind their bio-secure door, using cutting-edge techniques to grow healthy juvenile fish for restocking into Lake Awoonga or for commercial sale. Supporting operations at the facility are volunteers who run tours showcasing educational displays and a live fish exhibit, which gives groups the opportunity to watch the 11 am Barramundi feeding with their rare Golden and White Barramundi varieties.



The team at the Aquaculture Gladstone facility has achieved this incredible milestone through improved research and dedication to the science of aquaculture, and the organisation is another step closer to achieving its long-term stocking objectives at one of Queensland's top recreational fisheries.

PROUD OF GLADSTONE PROUD OF LNG

Part of the Gladstone community, now and into the future



Since 2010 we have been a part of the Gladstone community and proudly support local organisations that strengthen our community.

We support COGSY's Gear Shift Program, delivered by COGSY in partnership with Gladstone State High School, to help Year 10 students build workplace readiness skills, through hands-on trade and construction experience and industrial site visits.

ConocoPhillips is the downstream operator of Australia Pacific LNG and we value our relationship with the local community.

www.conocophillips.com.au

Living The Sweet Life In Gladstone

QUEENSLAND CAKE DECORATORS' ASSOCIATION

Gladstone bakers have long enjoyed coming together to learn valuable culinary skills, meet new people through their hobby and try their hand in competitions around the region. The Gladstone branch of the Cake Decorators' Association is no different, offering a night of demonstrations once a month where hobbyists can come together to learn and teach each other about the joys of baking.

Established in 1981, the Queensland Cake Decorators' Association Inc. (QCDA) is the parent body for 17 branches across Queensland. Made up of hobby cake decorators, home bakers, cake professionals and teachers, QCDA promotes and shares knowledge in the art of cake decorating, and anyone of any age with an interest in decorating and baking is welcome, no matter their level of skill.

Each branch shows off its skilful baking in the local community through displays, shows, and by providing cakes for charity groups. By holding monthly demonstration days, the members can get hands-on and learn different skills from flower making, piping, novelty work, and even the art of chocolate making. There are competitions held annually at agricultural shows such as the Rockhampton and Mt Larcom Shows, where members can enter their confections in the hopes of winning prizes and showing off their artistry to the public. Secretary of the Gladstone branch, Judy Neville, said that the goal of the demonstrations is to "have fun and encourage others to have a go".

“A lot of members had to learn to bake for events, such as when their children had birthdays, and the demonstrations are great for progressing and learning new skills.”

Members have long entered their confectionery into Cooking and Cake Decorating competitions, with the most recent one being at the Mt Larcom Show in June, entering several decorated cakes including traditional wedding cakes with beautifully crafted flowers, novelty cakes in the shape of a XXXX Gold being poured into a beer mug, a highland Cow and a tackle box, and children's cakes featuring characters Bluey and Bingo from the hit cartoon Bluey, among others.



QCDA President Joan McDermott said the secret to cake decorating is to let the cake know who is in charge. "Remember that you're the boss, not the cake. A lot of people stress out. Enjoy it and remember you're the boss," she said.

“Don't let the cake rule. Just enjoy what you're doing and be creative.”

Cake decorating has come a long way from its humble beginnings of birthday and wedding cake decoration, and anything your heart desires can be made of cake. The addictive world of confectionery and cake making has infiltrated the kitchens of Queenslanders for decades and is now enjoyed by people of any age range and gender.

The Cake Decorators' Association Gladstone Branch meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Heritage Retirement Village (Corners of Witney St and Pioneer Dr) in Kendrick Hall. Anyone wanting to dive into the sweet world of baking and confectionery can contact Judy Neville at nevilles@dreamtilt.com.au or join the Gladstone Cake Decorators' Association Facebook group to get inspired and find out more.



Work Experience Insights:

JESS' THOUGHTS

I chose Gladstone News for my work experience placement because I wanted to gain real insight into the reality of working in news in 2026. This week, I most enjoyed building questions for businesses participating in the annual Shop to Win initiative and liaising with them. I found that building rapport with the community is Gladstone News' biggest strength and what I find most valuable in the news industry.

Moreover, seeing the way different roles that build the foundation of Gladstone News, everyone's diverse skill sets can work cohesively to create a refined piece of work showed me just how much advertisements contribute to Gladstone News, ensuring accessibility in price and location, and the work that goes into website and social media design.

In journalism, I believe that the ability to time manage effectively and to stay focused when deadlines draw near are paramount. As a

Year 12 student, I didn't pay close attention to the local news prior to my week here; however, my perspective has changed. In 2026, a year with so much to be worried and overwhelmed about, Gladstone News focuses on the bright side – I admire that most.



My dream career is a foreign correspondent focusing on international relations. I am interested in the global scale of news and the way it can influence the relationships countries form with one another. My experience at Gladstone News has taught me that local news is equally important; it focuses more closely on the community as opposed to global impact.

In three words, my experience was fast-paced – every role has a strict schedule to meet tight fortnightly deadlines; welcoming – with a supportive team, I felt like I could just ask anyone for help; and valuable – this experience gave me a perspective of my future career, proving that news matters regardless of the scale.



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Locals Band Together

FOR COMMUNITY TABLE

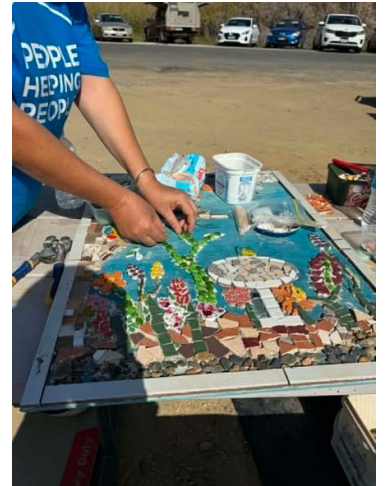
On the corners of the Gladstone-Benaraby and Skyhill Roads sits a small, hand-built shack guarding a table of food, clothing and plants donated by passers-by. This is one of eight Community Tables in the region, supplying free items to people in need. Their motto? *Share what you can, take what you need.*

Recently, one of the busiest tables in the region was destroyed by a fire. Instead of devastation, the Gladstone Community responded by banding together to rebuild the table, offering materials, skills, time and support to get the Community Table up and running once more.

On Sunday the 5th, the More Than a Table – Community Build Day commenced, with local businesses, organisations and community members coming together to make planter boxes, little notes of kindness and a community mosaic. Tommy's Roofing Services supplied the building materials and worked alongside JD Lewis Carpentry. Lifestyle Church hosted a BBQ for the volunteers, and Lynn Thomson coordinated the community mosaic. The local volunteers shared plenty of laughs and conversations over lunch and were vital to the success of the rebuild.

The Community Table is currently in Stage 1 of building, with hanging space, storage and shade being added next to make the table even more useful to community members. The new table is back at the intersection and ready to provide free items to anyone in need. Other locations around Gladstone include Elizabeth St, Drummer St, at the Gladstone QCWA Community Garden, the Tannum Sands QCWA Hall, the corner of Jim Whyte Way and Brendonna Rd in Burua, and the Calliope Community Hub in the old RSL hall.

Any member of the community and surrounding regions is welcome to donate and swap items at any Community Table location, keeping in mind to *share what you can and take what you need.*



CQ Wedding Expo

Your Wedding Starts Here

Discover inspiration, connect with local vendors and plan your perfect day, all under one roof.

The CQ Wedding Expo is more than just a wedding event... It's an inspiring day designed to bring wedding dreams to life.

Bringing together trusted wedding vendors from across Central Queensland, the expo gives couples the opportunity to meet professionals face-to-face, ask questions and discover everything they need in one relaxed setting.

Explore our range of Wedding and Event Vendors from:

- Photographers & photobooths
- Celebrants
- Catering & venues
- Beauty
- Bridal gowns & formalwear
- Jewellery & accessories
- Live entertainment
- Wedding event services

And so many more!

With over
40+
vendors
exhibiting

See you there!

Where: Gladstone Events Centre
(Yaralla Sports Club)
When: Sunday, 2nd August 2026
Time: 8.30am til 1.30pm
Door entry - \$5 per person,
children 14 & under free



Interport Global's "Project Velocity"

SETS ITS SIGHTS ON GLADSTONE

Investing \$20 billion across Central Queensland, Interport Global's "Project Velocity" promises to make Central Queensland and Gladstone a nationally significant freight, trade and logistics hub.

The long-term project, led by newly appointed CEO Anthony Donald, plans to invest in port, rail, road, cold storage, industrial, and renewable energy infrastructure to unlock new economic and export opportunities across the region.

"We've just seen the Queensland Budget handed down and this project couldn't align more strongly with it, building regional infrastructure, export capability and resilient supply chains, while bringing private-sector investment to support long-term jobs and economic growth in Gladstone and Central Queensland," Mr Donald stated.

As part of the project, IPG plans to build an Inland Road and Rail Port at Calliope, which will include a 48,000m2 cold storage and reefer container facility, an industrial park for advanced manufacturing, renewable energy infrastructure and the opportunity to expand shipping services into Asia. Central Queensland possesses several strategic advantages, including Gladstone's deepwater port, with established industrial bases and access to national freight networks.

“

Gladstone is perfectly positioned to join Australia's ranks as an international freight hub, especially as Australia's freight and logistics networks face increasing pressure from growing trade volumes, larger vessels, and port congestion, ”

said Mr Donald.

"Gladstone is one of the best deep channel ports in Australia, let alone the world, and is well placed to receive these mega-cargo ships (Ultra Large Container Vessels), more readily than other ports."

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australia's total goods and services reached record levels, with exports rising 3.1 per cent to \$665.2 billion in 2025, while imports rose 6.9 per cent to \$658.3 billion. The integration of both coastal shipping and rail networks in the region would be a unique asset for the development and increased productivity of major industry supply chains across Central Queensland.

Graymont invites applications for the 2026 community-focused Carbon Reduction Fund

We are proud to announce that we are accepting applications for the Graymont Carbon Reduction Fund, an innovative, grass-roots initiative designed to support the development of carbon-reduction initiatives in the communities across the globe that we call home.

The fund's role is to support projects focused on:

- Protecting the environment by the responsible use of resources
- Reducing our carbon footprint through increased energy efficiency
- Developing and maintaining natural, biological 'carbon sinks' such as agricultural land, forests or peat bogs that act as a natural offset for carbon

If you have a project idea that relates to any of these topics, the GCRF is looking for you!

For additional information, please contact Vicki.robins@graymont.com

Applications are due by **August 21, 2026**

Graymont's mission is
to deliver essential
calcium-based solutions to
meet the world's changing
needs.

Grand Plans

FOR GLADSTONE'S GRAND HOTEL

Gladstone's Grand Hotel is getting a major refurbishment this month, with KPAT Hotels set to breathe new life into the historic establishment. With careful restoration and planning, the 1890s landmark in the heart of Goondoon Street will be given a revamp while maintaining its heritage charm.

Built in 1898 and designed by Bundaberg architect Frederic Faircloth, who was also responsible for several heritage-listed buildings such as Barambah Homestead in the Gympie Region and the Queensland National Bank in Maryborough, the Grand Hotel has been part of Gladstone's history for more than 125 years, which then featured 17 bedrooms, a sitting room, two bathrooms, a bar and a parlour.



Originally used to accommodate passengers waiting for transport by sea to North Queensland, the hotel would feature entertainment, including that of 3-year-old Myre Crowe who danced on the bar for a half-penny reward from patrons, music played by a band on the hotel balcony during the night, and it offered such things as a "special septic service, hot and cold showers, [a] large vestibule, writing and sample rooms, lighted throughout with electric light," as one 1920's advertisement stated.

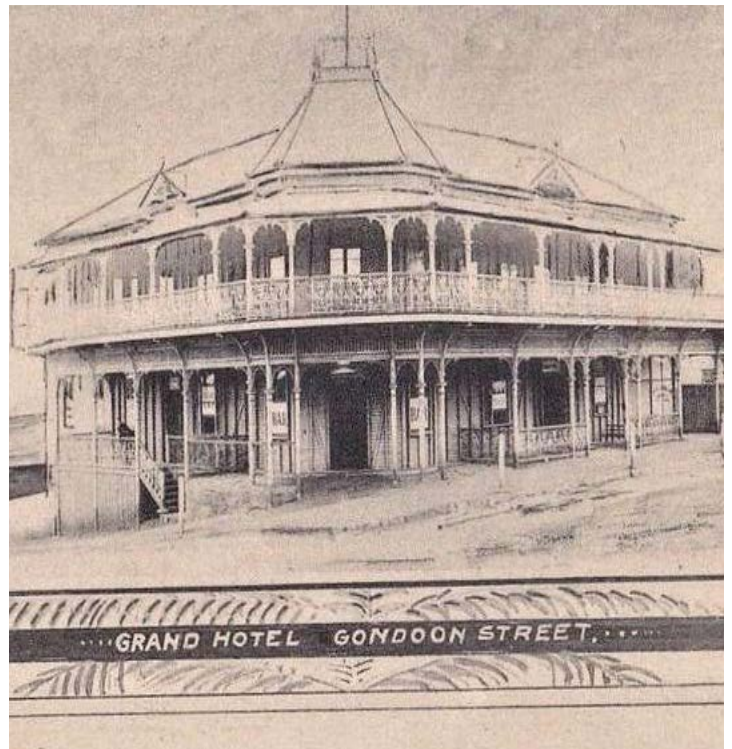
Over its long tenure, the building has survived two major fires - one in the early 1900s and another in 1993, but despite the tragedy, several original heritage features (including its grand staircase) remain intact.

KPAT Hotels Managing Director Kenneth Wagner said the investment reflected the company's long-term commitment to the tourism and hospitality industries and preserves an important piece of the state's history.

“Historic hotels are the heart of many Queensland communities, and The Grand Hotel has been part of Gladstone's story for well over a century, Wagner said. ”

“

Our vision is to respectfully restore the character that people know and love while creating a venue that delivers a high-quality experience for today's guests. ”



The project will be delivered by KPAT Hotels, who are managing every stage of the refurbishment from planning and design through to construction and operations. Construction began this month, with the project's end date expected to be in the later months of 2026. Throughout the construction, the Grand Hotel expects to continue trading with works carefully staged to minimise disruption to patrons.

Wagner said the ability for KPAT to manage the project internally was a significant advantage for delivery.

"Our vertically integrated model means we're able to oversee every aspect of a project," he said.

"That gives us greater control over quality, timelines and investment, while ensuring every decision supports the long-term success of the venue.

“

We take a long-term ownership approach to every asset we develop or refurbish because we're building venues that communities can enjoy for decades to come. ”



Both owned and operated by KPAT, The Grand Hotel sits alongside the Oaks Gladstone Grand Hotel, which features 144 rooms with contemporary serviced apartments, a swimming pool, gymnasium and a central CBD location, making it a popular choice for travellers.

The new design of the hotel will take inspiration from the building's heritage while adding warm contemporary finishes, improved functionality and inviting spaces for dining, socialising and entertainment.



MADLOCH
PROPERTY

madloch.com.au

Announcement

Gladstone's worst kept secret has finally come to fruition as Jim Baron Realty merges with Madloch Property.

We are incredibly excited to officially welcome Jim Baron Realty into the Madloch Property family.

After many wonderful years serving the Gladstone community, Jim Baron has made the decision to retire.

While the business name is changing to Madloch Property, our mutual clients can rest assured that Laura and Kate will be staying on within our property management department to continue to provide the exceptional service you've come to know.

“ I'm incredibly grateful to Jim for choosing me and placing his trust in Madloch Property to continue to care for his valued clients. It's a privilege to build on the strong relationships he has established over the years, here in the Gladstone community. ”

- Emily Malberg

Please join us in wishing Jim a long, happy and well-deserved retirement! Thank you for everything you've contributed to the Gladstone community over the years.

Here's to an exciting new chapter!

50th Birthday Celebrations

FOR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION EVENGLOW

Organising community initiatives and coordinating transport between multiple aged care homes is no easy feat. President Roy Jones and his wife, Vice-President Val, make the hard work look easy, and the joy on residents' faces is a testament to their tireless work and dedication to Evenglow, a community-based organisation tasked with providing fun days out to elderly citizens in the region.

Evenglow was founded on the 7th of July 1976 by a small group of Gladstone ladies, after the Community Health Sisters realised that many Gladstone seniors suffered from loneliness. A roster of volunteers was compiled to cater for gatherings during the year, including transporting seniors, often using their own cars, to and from functions which were usually held at the QCWA hall.



Now run by 18 members, Evenglow provides fortnightly Wednesday morning entertainment to around 85 senior citizens from different aged care homes, including Bindaree, Edenvale, and New Auckland Place. The day costs \$8, and for seniors without transport, the community bus fare is \$6.

On this occasion, 123 people, including Council members and representatives from Rio Tinto, the sponsors of the luncheon, turned out to celebrate the anniversary of Evenglow's humble beginnings. Local musician Athol Gilson serenaded the seniors during morning tea for an hour and a half. Then, like clockwork, the hall went silent while residents listened to the shout of "one, spade!" and "ten, diamonds!" during the life-or-death game that is Hoy, a variation of Bingo.

"We can't stop Hoy because people revolt," Roy commented, while residents groaned in frustration and exclaimed with dismay when someone yelled out "Hoy!" and won the game (and its subsequent prizes).

At 12 pm, the volunteers flooded out of the kitchen with gloves and plates of ham, roast chicken, salad and baked potatoes. Drinks and dessert were also on offer to residents, as well as celebratory cake, and the hall once again went silent while the food was served – the clattering of cutlery and plates being the only audible noise throughout the centre. Life members Cathy Webb and Val Griffiths were also honoured during this occasion.



When asked about his motivations for continuing to volunteer for community initiatives such as Evenglow, Roy humorously stated, "Beats me!"

"We volunteer at other places, my wife and I, and we both just wanted somewhere to volunteer. In 2012, she started, and then I started at [Blue Care] Auxiliary. Two weeks later, I came here and she went to the [Blue Care] Auxiliary also. Two of her cousins used to be volunteers, and one of them still is, and that's how it happens."

The luncheons are sponsored by local businesses and organisations like Rotary Clubs, Quota, the Gladstone Orchid and Foliage Society, NRG, Rio Tinto, Cement Australia, and others, as well as private donors. The senior citizens also enjoy special occasions throughout the year, including Easter, ANZAC Day, Mother's & Father's Day and Christmas. The residents can also compete for prizes by making Easter bonnets and Mother's Day hats, among other crafts.

The fun won't stop any time soon at Evenglow, and Roy stated that

“

Hopefully it [Evenglow] will just continue; we don't want it to get too big or we won't be able to use this place [the Port Curtis Senior Citizen's centre], it's the best place in town for it. ”

If Gladstone locals or retirees wish to contribute to the electric energy and camaraderie at Evenglow, the organisation is currently open to new members, particularly seeking kitchen staff to help share workloads and continue to bring smiles to senior citizens' faces. Contact President Roy Jones at (07) 4978 2898 or royvjones@dreamtilt.com.au.





Photo from the Calliope River Historical Village

Here in History

CAR RALLY CROSSING THE BOYNE RIVER

This photo was taken in 1924 when the first Queensland Reliability Trial was crossing the Boyne River at Benaraby.

This Ford caused all sorts of trouble for the motorists who participated. When motor cars began arriving in the Gladstone region, motorists going south from Gladstone on the Bruce Highway only had a shallow Ford in which they crossed the Boyne

River. They often became bogged in the sand, and if the river became swollen then there was no chance of the traffic getting through. Rainy weather often caused the adventurous tourists to wait (sometimes, as long as a week) before they could get their cars through this crossing. In 1926, a single lane bridge was built in this location. Although slow with just one lane, this was quite an improvement. This bridge spanned the water region of the river in dry weather but if there was sufficient run in the river then the bridge would be covered, and traffic would bank up for miles on either side.

By *Betty Laver*

Santos GLNG

A MILESTONE POWERED BY PEOPLE.

This month, Santos GLNG celebrates an incredible milestone – the shipment of our 1,000th liquefied natural gas (LNG) cargo from our GLNG Facility on Curtis Island.

Since 2011, our people have worked safely, reliably, and collaboratively to deliver energy to our joint venture partners while supporting local jobs, local businesses, and community groups throughout the Gladstone Region.

Reaching 1,000 cargoes is a significant achievement and reflects the dedication, expertise and commitment of our employees, contractors, suppliers, and industry partners.

Last year we spent nearly \$33 million across 74 suppliers supporting our operations, and as of early 2026 the GLNG Project has paid over \$1.3 billion in royalties to the Queensland Government.

We would like to thank the Gladstone Region community for its ongoing support throughout our journey.



GLNG 42145AN_GN

We are proud to have been a part of the Gladstone Region community since 2009.

Santos GLNG

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CREAMY TUSCAN CHICKEN SOUP

INGREDIENTS

- 500 g/1 lb chicken thighs
- 1/2 tsp each salt and pepper
- 30g / 2 tbsp unsalted butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 large celery stems, finely sliced (sub 2 carrots)
- 1/2 cup chardonnay or other dry white wine, optional
- 4 cups chicken stock/broth, low sodium
- 3 cups water
- 1 tsp cooking/kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 250g/8 oz small pasta shells (or other small pasta, rice, potato)
- 1 cup (tightly packed) parmesan, finely grated or store bought pre-grated (sandy type)
- 1 cup thickened/heavy cream
- 2 packed cups baby spinach, chopped kale or similar
- 1/2 cup sun dried tomato strips, chopped into 1cm pieces, plus a bit of oil drizzling

Prep: 15min
Cook: 20min
Serves 5

METHOD

1. Cook outside of chicken – Sprinkle each side with salt and pepper. Melt butter in a large pot over medium high heat. Once foamy, place the chicken in and cook the first side for 3 minutes or until light golden, then the other side for 2 minutes – it's fine if the inside is still raw, it cooks more later. Remove onto a plate.
2. Soup flavour base – Turn the stove down to medium low. Add garlic, onion and celery into the same pot then cook for 3 minutes or until the onion is softened.
3. Deglaze – Turn up to high, add wine, stir, then let it simmer until the wine reduces by half.
4. Broth & pasta – Add stock/broth, water, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil then add the pasta. Cook for the time per the pasta packet directions (~10 minutes), stirring every now and then so the pasta doesn't stick to the base of the pot.
5. Add chicken partway – While the pasta is cooking, chop the chicken into 1.5cm / 1/2" pieces then add into the pot to finish cooking.
6. Finish soup – Once the pasta is cooked, turn heat down to low. Stir in parmesan until melted. Stir in the cornflour-water mixture, cream and spinach. Stir for a minute until spinach is wilted and soup thickens slightly.
7. Serve – Ladle into bowls. Sprinkle with sun dried tomato strips (and a bit of oil looks nice for finishing). Eat!

job alert.

ELEVATE MEDIA AND GLADSTONE NEWS ARE LOOKING FOR A MOTIVATED, ORGANISED AND PROACTIVE **MARKETING COORDINATOR** TO JOIN OUR TEAM FOR A 6+ MONTH MATERNITY LEAVE POSITION.

If you're looking to take the next step in your career please submit your resume and cover letter outlining your experience and suitability for the role to **Ashleigh Kvitko** at ashleigh@elevate.net.au

ELEVATE
MEDIA

This is an exciting opportunity to become part of our fast paced creative agency, supporting both Elevate Media and Gladstone News.

No two days are the same, and you'll play an integral role in keeping our projects, clients and team running smoothly. Reporting to the CEO, this role focuses on client communication, project coordination, marketing administration and day to day office support. You'll work closely with our creative, digital and sales teams to ensure projects are delivered on time while providing exceptional service to our clients.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Monitor and manage shared email inboxes, responding to enquiries and directing communications where required.
- Coordinate day-to-day workflow between clients and the creative team.
- Assist with client meetings, communication and ongoing account coordination.
- Support the planning and delivery of marketing campaigns across digital, print and social media.
- Coordinate project timelines, schedules and deadlines to ensure smooth delivery.
- Prepare proposals, marketing recommendations and client documentation.
- Manage project administration, job tracking and internal systems.
- Provide general office administration and team support.
- Maintain a professional and positive presence within the local business community.
- Deliver exceptional customer service to our clients and suppliers and ongoing account management

This is a fantastic opportunity to to broaden your skills across marketing, communications and project coordination.



Register Now!

More than just a fun run, Port to Park (P2P) is a fundraiser that supports local schools and our 2026 P2P Community Beneficiary, Gladstone Community Linking Agency (GCLA). Every registration creates opportunities and provides resources which make our community stronger. Be part of the impact!

Invite your family, friends or colleagues to participate in the 10 kilometre Koongo Dash, the 5 kilometre Koommonka Sprint or the 3 kilometre Yallarm Family Run. All events will be running through GPC's beautiful parklands - East Shores Parklands, Marina Parklands and Spinnaker Park.



Scan for more information
or to register now!

See you at the start line on
Sunday, 16 August 2026!



**Gladstone Ports
Corporation**

Growth, prosperity, community.

THANK YOU TO GPC'S PORT TO PARK 2026 SPONSORS.



Gladstone Players and Army Clash

IN FRIENDLY FOOTBALL GAME

The heat was on for both Gladstone United FC and Joint Task Force 629 as they battled it out on the field in a friendly game of soccer.

Both teams were in high spirits, and the atmosphere was electric as players fought to score over two games. The first game was an evenly matched 2:2 draw, but the second game ended 2:1 with United scraping through to victory at the end. Many members who wouldn't have normally played alongside each other had the opportunity to compete together, and the Army team, consisting of many different units including logistics, artillery, engineers and reconnaissance teams, even had United FC members join their team as reserve players.



"They were amazing and gave their all playing for Team Army," Major Mervyn Ng said. Supporters and children alike were thrilled to see army vehicles and hang out with soldiers, and this continued out on the field where, at one point, player Tamika Perkins twisted her ankle, and Major D'Arcy attended to her, treating her injury and having her teammates assist with carrying her across the field on a stretcher.

Other highlights of the game included Major Steve Jackson, the Team Captain for the Army Team, scoring the Goal of the Match and playing three halves with great stamina and enthusiasm. Division 1 Coach Peter Croskerry also had the opportunity to get in on the action and play for the Gladstone United FC.

President of the Gladstone United Football Club, John Falls, stated when asked what the game meant for players of the club, "This was an excellent way to cap off the break over the school holidays and re-engage with our community before the season gets down to the pointy end of things."

“

For our club events like these are a great way to build relationships and bring people together that otherwise may not have the chance. ”

Likewise, Major Mervyn said on behalf of the Army Players, "We love being here with the community. It's been a great day to come out and very encouraging to see the community come to support us."

The United vs ADF games were an afternoon filled with great food, good company, and fantastic play from both teams. Two very different sides, from different parts of Australia, came head-to-head in the match of a lifetime, forming lasting memories and bonds that will hopefully bring them back together in future games.



BMX Bandits

READY TO TAKE WORLD STAGE

Riding into the 2026 UCI BMX Racing World Championships in Brisbane this week, local Harbour City BMX Club members will don green and gold to represent Australia at the competition from the 17th to the 25th of July.

Ranging in age from 9 to 49, twelve members of the club will compete against 3,500 riders from over 40 countries internationally to take home the gold at the Sleeman Sports Complex. With a 400m racing track, riders will zoom around the future Olympic facility over 9 days of action-packed competition.

Harbour City BMX Club are first-time qualifiers for the championship, and mother of rider Cody Cowley, who is competing in the 14 Boys category, said that representing Australia "is a great achievement and something our town should celebrate."

Australia's connection to BMX runs deep, with the nation previously hosting the UCI BMX World Championships in Melbourne (1998), Perth (2003), and Adelaide (2009), and staging UCI World Cup rounds in Adelaide (2008) as well as Shepparton and Bathurst (2020). Brisbane is the hometown of reigning Olympic Champion Saya Sakikibara, and the city is gearing up to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. BMX fans can also look



forward to the first four rounds of the UCI BMX Racing World Cup being held in Australia in 2028.

The local BMX riders are ready to take on their international competitors, and are no doubt excited at what the championship will mean for them personally, their BMX club and their loyal supporters back in Gladstone.



Get your bootscootin' on with Fiesta Loca this August!

Wednesdays

Dust off your cowboy boots and cowboy hat and join us to learn how you can make those boots dance. Join one of our Line Dancing Classes at 5pm or 6pm.

Thursdays

Take those new dancing skills you learnt on Wednesday and hit the dance floor with Line Dancing at The Queens from 6:30pm.

**Single Time
Swing is back
Fridays from
6:45pm!**

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