

Gladstone Area
Water Board

NATIONAL WATER WEEK 2026

**Water connects everything –
how Aquaculture Gladstone is
helping Lake Awoonga thrive**

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WHAT'S IN THIS *issue*

03

What's on in Gladstone

04

National Water Week 2026:
Water connects everything – how
Aquaculture Gladstone is helping
Lake Awoonga thrive



06

Alpha HPA expands analytical
capabilities in Gladstone

08

Queensland Museum Science
Invention Award won by
Gladstone students

10

Vodafone expands Gladstone
5G coverage

11

Gladstone honours lost lives
on Police Remembrance Day

12

Get creative and win!
Aquaculture Gladstone
colouring competition

14

'No More Silence': Message in a
Bottle Project supports assault
victims

16

Business Spotlight:
Blend Café & Cocktail Bar
shakes up Gladstone

18

Brickin' It builds lasting
lego-cy at Mindcare

20

Recipe: Thai chilli basil
chicken

22

A smash hit for BITS Cricket
Club Industries weekend

WHAT'S ON IN *Gladstone*

From 15th October 2026



20
OCT

Tech and Tea

Join GRC for a relaxed, seniors-friendly program designed to make technology feel less scary and more manageable. Find out more about your laptop, smartphone, tablet, or iPad settings and apps, and learn how to set up device safety and security settings.

Bring your own device and enjoy a cuppa while you learn with others. Places are limited, so book now at:

(07) 4976 6300.

When: Tuesday 20th October, 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Where: Philip Street Communities and Families Precinct,
1 Pengelly Street, Gladstone

Price: Free (bookings essential)



24
OCT

Seagrass Flower Collection

Calling all ocean lovers! CQUniversity is inviting community volunteers to collect seagrass flowers from Pelican Banks in Gladstone. Meet up at 07:30 am to catch a free ride to Pelican Banks via the Curtis Ferry Service. Spend the morning exploring the island at your leisure and grab a bite to eat before rolling up your sleeves and picking flowers for research into the health of seagrass ecosystems.

Book your spot at eventbrite.com.au.

When: Saturday 24th October, 07:30 am – 04:30 pm

Where: Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre, 213
Alf O'Rourke Drive, Callemondah.

Price: Free (bookings essential)



24
OCT

CQ Health, Sport & Recreation Expo

Come and meet local sporting clubs and groups, try activities, get a free health check and more at the CQ Health, Sport & Recreation Expo, with 2026 CrossFit Games finalist Astin Bidgood as the guest speaker. A fun day out for all the family!

Presented by CQ Health in partnership with My Health for Life.

When: Saturday 24th October, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Where: Yaralla Sports Club, O'Connell Street, Barney Point

Price: Free

FISH OF THE MONTH WINNER

Congratulations Marko Robinson on catching a Large Mouth Nannygai!

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

DID YOU KNOW?

The Large Mouth Nannygai is a long-living fish, meaning it can have a lifespan of over 40 years.



Gladstone Ports
Corporation
Growth, prosperity, community.

Gladstone's
Big6



Want a chance to win?
Scan the QR code to enter!

gpcl.com.au
Terms and Conditions apply.



Name: Marko Robinson
Fish Species: Large Mouth Nannygai
Location: 12 Mile Creek



Rotary
Club of Gladstone



CHARITY EVENT
SUPPORTING MEN'S MENTAL HEALTH

**INTERNATIONAL
MEN'S DAY**
breakfast

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19
YARALLA SPORTS CLUB
7:00 - 9:30AM**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: TRENT SCHERER -
GENERAL MANAGER AT
QUEENSLAND ALUMINA LIMITED

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**TICKETS
AVAILABLE**

Water connects everything – how Aquaculture Gladstone is helping Lake Awoonga thrive

Water does more than fill our taps

At Lake Awoonga, water supports recreation, wildlife, tourism, education and one of Queensland's most significant fish stocking programs.

This National Water Week, Gladstone Area Water Board (GAWB) is shining a light on Aquaculture Gladstone - its multi-species native fish hatchery at Lookout One at Lake Awoonga. The hatchery produces Barramundi, Mangrove Jack and Sea Mullet fingerlings for release into Lake Awoonga.

Every year, millions of fish begin their life at Aquaculture Gladstone before being released into Lake Awoonga. From supporting a healthy aquatic ecosystem to maintaining one of Queensland's premier freshwater fishing destinations, the hatchery plays an important role in science, recreation and the local environment.

Using cutting edge aquaculture techniques, the hatchery team oversee the spawning and rearing of millions of fingerlings in a highly controlled, biosecure environment. Once released into the lake, these fish contribute to the balance and diversity of the aquatic ecosystem and grow into the trophy fish prized by local and visiting anglers.



Did you know?

- Aquaculture Gladstone sells Barramundi fingerlings, perfect for stocking dams. For more information, visit our website - aquaculturegladstone.com.au
- Aquaculture Gladstone produces Barramundi, Mangrove Jack and Sea Mullet and has released more than ten million fingerlings into Lake Awoonga.
- GAWB's first fish hatchery opened in 1995 in Lord Street. It was closed and a new state of the art hatchery, Aquaculture Gladstone, was opened in 2022.



Why fish stocking matters

When the Awoonga Dam wall was constructed, it prevented some native fish from completing their natural migration between saltwater and freshwater to mature and spawn. Fish stocking was the only possible solution to reconnect this lifecycle stage, ensuring these species continue to thrive in Lake Awoonga.

Barramundi, Mangrove Jack and Sea Mullet were identified as species most affected by the dam wall and are now produced at Aquaculture Gladstone for release into the lake.

In 2026, Aquaculture Gladstone reached a major milestone by successfully producing and stocking Lake Awoonga with all three species in one year, a result of decades of research, innovation and expertise.



Building future careers

Aquaculture Gladstone offers work experience placements, school-based traineeships and aquaculture traineeships, providing students with hands-on experience in a real hatchery environment.

For more information about work experience, students should speak with their careers advisor. Current traineeship and apprenticeship opportunities are available at gawb.qld.gov.au



Alpha HPA Expands

ANALYTICAL CAPABILITIES IN GLADSTONE

Advanced materials manufacturer Alpha HPA's Gladstone operation has commissioned a new PerkinElmer NexION 5000 ICP-MS (Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometer) to bring advanced analytical testing in-house, no longer relying on specialist laboratories interstate and significantly reducing turnaround times for critical product analysis.

For the past three years, samples have been sent to a specialist laboratory in Perth to verify the absence of trace impurities in their products, with results often taking up to six weeks to be returned. This new capability enables testing to be completed on site, allowing Alpha HPA to access analytical data in hours rather than weeks for semiconductor and other advanced technology applications, lowering the cost of external analysis.

The NexION 5000 is one of the most advanced multi-quadrupole mass spectrometers available and can detect elements at extremely low concentrations which is currently being used to analyse products for uranium and thorium, with the capability to detect less than 0.2 parts per billion (ppb). The instrument provides a "proof of zero" capability, helping to verify the absence of these elements in Alpha HPA's ultra-high purity aluminium products.

Laboratory Superintendent Ronald Janssen said the instrument would play an increasingly important role as production volumes grow and customer requirements continue to evolve.

"Advanced analytical capability is often concentrated in major capital cities. Having this technology available in Gladstone allows us to build specialist expertise in regional Queensland while supporting the quality and performance requirements of global customers."



Recently, Alpha HPA secured Australian Made certification across its entire product range, recognising the Australian manufacturing behind its ultra-high purity aluminium materials and synthetic sapphire products. Managing Director Rob Williamson said the certification recognised the local technology, expertise and manufacturing capability behind the Company's products.

"We have developed the technology here, built the manufacturing capability here and are producing advanced materials in Australia for some of the world's most technically demanding industries," Mr Williamson said.

“ We are proud to carry the Australian Made logo and support what it represents. Building sovereign manufacturing capability means developing the technology, skills and facilities to make more high-value products here in Australia. ”

"Our customers are also looking for secure and reliable supply chains. The Australian Made logo gives them an independently recognised way to identify our products as Australian manufactured."

As Alpha HPA expands its production in Gladstone, the certification will provide independent recognition of its Australian manufacturing capability while supporting the production of more advanced products in Australia.

The new technology and certification provide additional confidence in Alpha HPA's ability to verify product purity and meet increasingly strict analytical requirements, taking another step in building globally competitive advanced manufacturing capability in regional Queensland, supported by world-class infrastructure and specialist expertise.



Earn. Learn. Join the HRS crew.

Scaffolding Traineeship Open Day

Friday 4 December 2026 | 2pm | 46 Hanson Road, Gladstone

Learn on the job, with people who back you.

- Hands-on training alongside experienced scaffolders
- Paid to learn a trade
- A mentor at HRS to guide you

Where could it take you?

Trainee | Scaffolder | Supervisor and beyond

With pathways into rigging, insulation and sheet metal fabrication.

Plan your next five years with a team that invests in you.

What it takes: the trainee gold standard

- Be fit for work
- Bring the right attitude
- Benefit from great mentors
- Get the training to build your trade

You bring the attitude. We'll build the skills.

A local company that's been growing for 14+ years

14+ operating across Central Queensland

100+ local people

Real stories from the crew

Meet trainees who simply gave it a go.

Hear them tell it in their own words in this year's traineeship video.

Backed by our community

HRS is a proud founder of COGSY, Communities of Gladstone

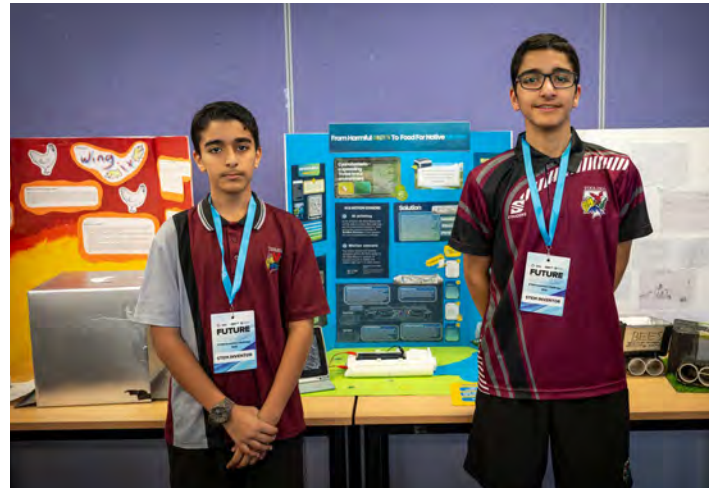
Supporting Youth, which helps young people aged 15 to 25 get job ready.

Queensland Museum Science Invention

AWARD WON BY GLADSTONE STUDENTS

Students from Toolooa State High School have been named the Gladstone region winners of the 2026 Future Makers STEM Inventors Challenge in a ceremony at Central Queensland University recently.

Brothers Yousef and Seif in Years 7 and 9 presented their innovative prototype in an impressive tabletop display, called 'From Harmful Green to Food for Native Marine', which is a blue-green algae filtration system. The solar-powered, AI-piloted aquatic drone is designed to purify lakes and dams infested with the toxic cyanobacteria that threaten the health of people, wildlife, livestock and ecosystems. The device would also map out algae blooms and predict future outbreaks.



The 10-week Future Makers STEM Inventors Challenge asked Gladstone region students in Years 5-10 to design a solution that supports Queensland's wildlife and ecosystems. 'From Harmful Green to Food for Native Marine' was the standout among 17 team entries, which were exhibited for judging at the celebratory STEM Inventors Showcase Day held at CQUniversity's Gladstone campus.

Queensland Museum CEO Renai Grace said the additional support of CQUniversity opens the door even wider for students to deeply consider potential study pathways in STEM fields.

"Today, we celebrate the achievements of these talented young innovators and encourage them to pursue their STEM journey with the same passion and curiosity that is evident in their remarkable prototype creations."

Krishna Venkatesan, Vice President for Shell's QGC business, said the Future Makers STEM Inventors Challenge teaches students the analytical and creative skills to tackle real-world challenges in their communities and beyond.

“This year's winners have exemplified the curiosity, creativity and determination that this challenge is designed to foster. We are proud to support this empowering program focused on building student knowledge, confidence and aspirations in STEM.”

Toolooa State High School Students took out the remainder of the awards, and each of the winners received a trophy, certificate and prize pack, with a \$1,000 cash prize and a valuable collection of Queensland Museum science publications granted to their school.

Last year's winners teamed up again to create a duck pond filtration system called 'EcoPond', which earned them both the Highly Commended and People's Choice awards. The Commended award went to 'Myna-mize', a small tree-mounted hut designed to dispense pellets containing a slow-release hormone that inhibits reproduction in the invasive Indian Myna bird, and teams from Calliope State High School, Chanel College and Faith Baptist Christian School received Encouragement certificates for their high-quality displays and prototypes.

If you or your budding young inventor would like to know more about Future Makers initiatives and the STEM Inventors Challenge in both Western Downs and Gladstone, visit museum.qld.gov.au to learn more out these fantastic scientific opportunities.



Local Finalists Named

AT QUEENSLAND TOURISM AWARDS



Tourism businesses from the Gladstone, Rockhampton and Bundaberg regions have been named finalists at the Queensland Tourism Awards, with Dive Spear and Sport 1770, Bundaberg Rum Distillery Visitor Experience, Hinkler Hall of Aviation, Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort, Mystery Craters, Busbys On Tour - Explore Rockhampton Family Drive Campaign, Great Keppel Island Hideaway, Keppel Dive & Water Sports and Rockynats 06 competing in the 25th annual awards ceremony held at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The finalists earned their place in the finals after a rigorous judging program required entrants to reach a minimum scoring benchmark to progress, and QTIC CEO Natassia Wheeler said being named a finalist was an achievement worth celebrating.

"The finalist list is a snapshot of just how diverse and dynamic Queensland tourism is," Wheeler said.

"We have major international drawcards alongside small regional businesses, community organisations, cultural experi-

ences, events, accommodation providers and operators who are creating exceptional experiences right across Queensland.

"To reach this stage, entrants have had to demonstrate a high standard through their submission and the judging process. Being named a finalist means they have earned their place among some of the best tourism businesses and experiences in the state."

The finalists will discover who has taken home the state's highest tourism honours when the 2026 Queensland Tourism Awards Gala is held on Friday 6 November on the Gold Coast, as part of Tourism Week, bringing together tourism operators, industry leaders, partners and supporters for a night celebrating the people and businesses behind Queensland's visitor economy.

This year's finalists pool showcases the extraordinary breadth of Queensland's visitor economy, which spans accommodation, attractions, festivals, tours, food and drink experiences, visitor services, major events and destination marketing from almost every corner of the state.

Gladstone Ports Corporation

Community Benefit Program

Are you part of a community group in Gladstone, Rockhampton or Bundaberg? Applications are now open for our **Community Benefit Program**.

Open: Wednesday, 30 September 2026

Closing: Friday, 30 October 2026

Online applications are being accepted for funding up to \$5,000 for initiatives and activities as part of the Grants and Donations funding round for FY26/27.

For more information and to apply, visit www.gpcl.com.au



Gladstone Ports Corporation

Growth, prosperity, community.

1800 243 GPC (472)  

Apply Now!



Vodafone Expands 5G Network

COVERAGE TO WEST GLADSTONE

Telephone company Vodafone has recently expanded its 5G coverage to residents and businesses in West Gladstone and Central West Gladstone, allowing access to Vodafone 5G following a recent upgrade to its network.

Vodafone's upgrade promises improved network capacity, faster speeds and a better mobile experience, while delivering locals greater choice in mobile networks and less regional premiums for access to quality communications.

A spokesperson for Vodafone said, "A great mobile network shouldn't come with a premium price tag. By continuing to invest in regional communities and expanding access to our 5G network, we're making it easier for West Gladstone and Central West Gladstone locals to enjoy a more reliable mobile experience without breaking the bank."

The West Gladstone and Central West Gladstone upgrade is part of Vodafone's continued rollout of 5G across Australia, bringing its national total to 4,416 sites, while just this year there have been approximately 60 5G upgrades across Queensland.



In a study by Vodafone, it was found that their customers reported taking an additional 1.3 regional trips over the past year. Improved coverage is helping people get out more, with 42% of customers saying that they feel more able to travel to regional towns because of better connectivity, as 60% of Queenslanders reported that fewer network disruptions significantly improved their mobile experience.



A Place Where Children's Voices Matter

There is something very special about being part of a community that has grown alongside generations of children and families.

Rainbow Valley Early Learning Centre is proud to announce that our recent National Quality Standard Assessment and Rating has resulted in an **overall rating of Exceeding the National Quality Standard (NQS)** — with all seven Quality Areas rated Exceeding.

At Rainbow Valley, we believe children are capable, curious and active participants in their own learning. We listen to their ideas, questions and perspectives and use their voices to help shape our environments, curriculum and philosophy.

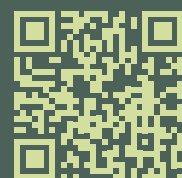
Our philosophy is grounded in connection — to people, place and community. Our gardens, bush walks, studio, yarning circle and many other learning spaces provide opportunities for children to investigate the world around them and develop their own ideas and theories.

We are also proud of our connections with local artists and our commitment to arts-based learning. We see the arts as an important way for children to express their ideas, explore different ways of thinking, communicate their perspectives and let their individual voices shine. Our connection to Gladstone and the local community is woven throughout our environment and curriculum, creating a strong sense of belonging and place.

Exceeding NQS is a wonderful achievement, but for us, the greatest achievement is seeing children feel safe, valued, capable, heard and connected every day.

We have limited spaces for kindergarten in 2027 now available.

Rainbow Valley Early Learning: growing, learning and belonging together.



07 4979 3544 • 12 Untiting Pl, Telina 4680 • rainbowvalley.com.au

Gladstone Honours Lost Lives

ON POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Residents, officers and members of the Gladstone Thistle Pipe Band marched from the Gladstone Police Station to Saint Saviour's Anglican Church to honour the service and sacrifice of police officers on National Police Remembrance Day in late September.

The march was followed by a moving service honouring the lives of officers lost in the line of duty. Vigils, services and marches are held across Australia each year to commemorate National Police Remembrance Day and offer an extension of support to families, friends, colleagues and communities affected by those losses, while also remembering and honouring officers whose deaths did not occur because of their duty.

The tradition of National Police Remembrance Day started in 1989 for people to pay respects to officers killed on duty, even as far back as the beginning of the Queensland Police Force in 1864 and has been honoured every year since. In 2020 and 2021, the usual marches did not take place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but marches returned in 2022 in locations throughout Queensland. Gladstone recognises NPRD



on the 29th of September each year, and this year held special significance as the 20th anniversary was observed.

NPRD is a solemn occasion, but the support from the local community and greater Queensland continues to recognise the sacrifice of officers committed to bettering safety across the state; from the sea to the desert, from the Gold Coast to the Torres Strait, and beyond.

With honour they served.

PROUD OF GLADSTONE PROUD OF LNG

Part of the Gladstone community, now and into the future



Since 2010, we've been proud to be part of the Gladstone community and support local organisations making a difference.

Through our partnership with Bob's Garage, we're helping to break down the stigma around mental health and encourage meaningful conversations. This R U OK? Day, Bob's Garage joined our employees to share their story and remind us all of the importance of checking in on mates, colleagues and loved ones.

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

www.conocophillips.com.au

Get creative and win!

Calling all young artists from nine years and younger, to take part in GAWB's colouring competition for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from Pat's Tackle World.

Simply colour the picture and then drop it off at one of the below locations:

- Gladstone News, Shop 12/100 Goondoon Street

- GAWB Head Office, 136 Goondoon Street
- Aquaculture Gladstone, Lookout One, 837 Awoonga Dam Road

Entries close COB 5 November.

Winners will be notified on 10 November and shared on GAWB social media.

Get colouring and good luck!



More than a hatchery: a place to learn and explore

Aquaculture Gladstone is much more than a fish production facility.

Open to visitors, the hatchery provides an opportunity to discover how fish are produced, through interpretative displays, guided tours and educational experiences. Visitors can learn about native fish species, aquaculture, biosecurity and pest management while seeing broodstock up close.

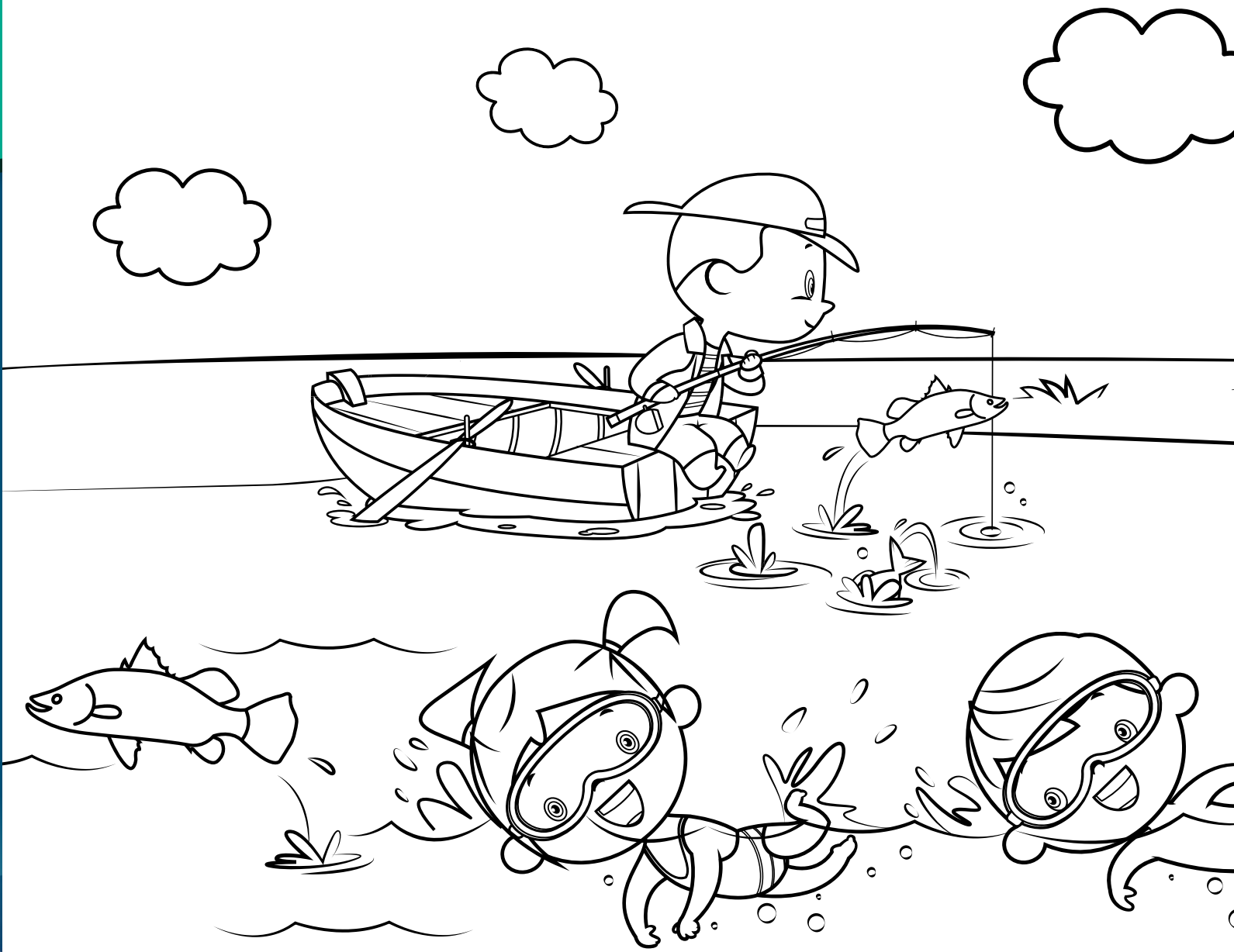
A highlight for young and old is the opportunity to view the rare Golden and White Barramundi in the big display tank, with the chance of either colour occurring naturally estimated at around one in ten million.

Aquaculture Gladstone also helps inspire future careers in aquaculture, fisheries and environmental management. School groups, families and visitors can gain a better understanding of how science, water and the environment are interconnected.

Visit

Aquaculture Gladstone

- Open 9am to 3pm Monday to Saturday
- Daily fish feeding at 11am
- Free entry
- Guided tours are available to book, please visit aquaculturegladstone.com.au
- Learn about careers in aquaculture through work experience and traineeship pathways
- Located at Lookout One, 837 Awoonga Dam Road



Name:	Age:	Parents name & contact number:

Get creative and win!

Colouring competition
0 - 9 years old

‘No More Silence’:

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE PROJECT SUPPORTS ASSAULT VICTIMS



This story mentions sexual assault. If you or someone you know needs urgent care, call 000. Don't be afraid to reach out to Safe & Well CQ on 07 4979 1456, DVConnect on 1800 010 120, or seek help from other helplines or local organisations.

This October, 'No More Silence, Prevent Sexual Assault' is local organisation Safe and Well CQ's tagline for Sexual Violence Awareness Month, inviting community members to take part in the Message in the Bottle campaign, encouraging people to write anonymous messages of hope and support for victim-survivors of sexual violence.

Launched this month, the initiative aims to start conversations about sexual violence while reminding victim-survivors that they are believed, supported and not alone. The messages placed in collection bottles across Gladstone will be displayed as part of a community artwork at the end of the campaign.

Safe and Well CQ CEO Kerry Myers said the project provides a simple but meaningful way for the community to stand alongside victim-survivors.

"Sometimes the most powerful things we can say are also the simplest, I believe you. I support you. You are not alone; what happened to you does not define you," Ms Myers said.

"Message in the Bottle gives our community a really simple way to say those things out loud."

Collection bottles are located at several sites across Gladstone, including the Safe and Well CQ office, Wellbeing Hub, Glenn Butcher MP's office, Mantis Clothing, Gladstone Neighbourhood Centre, Gladstone Medical Centre and the Women's Shelter. The call is being made for more businesses to join, furthering the reach of the campaign.

Ms Myers said every message placed in a bottle sends a broader message about the kind of community Gladstone wants to be.

"Silence doesn't prevent sexual violence. Conversations do. Education does. Challenging the attitudes that allow violence to continue does. And as a community, all of us have a part to play in that."

At the conclusion of the campaign, messages will be displayed on a canvas artwork at Safe and Well CQ and shared through the organisation's online platforms.

"I hope someone who needs to see one of these messages finds exactly the words they need in that moment," Ms Myers said. "Most importantly, we want people to know they are not alone. They will be believed, and support is here when they are ready."

How does Message in a Bottle work?

- Come to any bottle location across Gladstone
- Write a message of encouragement, support and solidarity on the notes provided
- Fold your note in half and place it gently in the bottle
- Your note will be turned into a community artwork at the end of the campaign

Community members and organisations interested in supporting the campaign can contact communities@safeandwellcq.org.au. Every message counts, and every voice matters. Together, we can create a powerful symbol of support for victim-survivors.



ALDOGA SOLAR FARM - HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A helping hand for Gladstone's local students

Six Gladstone students have been given a boost to help study close to home with a new round of funding for local education scholarships.

ACCIONA Energía and CQUni jointly deliver the annual, \$25,000 CQUniCares ACCIONA Energía Aldoga Solar Farm Higher Education Scholarship program.

The initiative is designed to support education opportunities for students who want to undertake tertiary studies or vocational education that will benefit the local community.

The three recipients of the 2026 Higher Education Scholarships for 2026 - Josiah Orr, Yukti Mago and Kai Mitchell - were celebrated at a special morning tea at the CQUni campus in August.

All three students have recently received distinctions and high distinctions for their studies so far this year and indicated the scholarship would help them to manage the challenges of study and cost of living.

The Aldoga Solar Farm is also proud to support three VET students with scholarships in 2026:

- Sharon Manski (Diploma of Community Services)
- Michaela Reyes and Madison Olajos (Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care)

Ms Manski said she wants to build a career supporting young people in the Gladstone region and was grateful for the assistance provided through the scholarship.

"Receiving this scholarship has eased a significant financial burden for me. As part of my study, I am

required to complete unpaid placement hours, which can make balancing study, work and everyday living expenses quite challenging," she said.

Ms Reyes said the scholarship has helped to balance study, part-time work and course placement hours as she works towards her Early Childhood Education qualification.

During my placement, I have learned a lot and gained more confidence. It has made me even more excited to work in this field...This scholarship will help me a lot with my everyday expenses like transport, food, and study materials.

ACCIONA Energía's Queensland Community and Stakeholder lead, Renee Mooney, said the scholarship program was designed to encourage students to stay local. "We hope this program encourages more students to stay in the Gladstone area to complete their studies, find local jobs and share their skills legacy with the local community."

Applications for the 2027 CQUniCares ACCIONA Energía Aldoga Solar Farm Higher Education Scholarship program and other grant initiatives will open online at community.acciona.com.au/aldoga early next year.

The \$500 million, 480 MW Aldoga Solar Farm has been fully operational since late 2025 and employs 15 local operational staff.

Business Spotlight:

BLEND CAFÉ & COCKTAIL BAR SHAKES UP GLADSTONE

After three years of growing Blend Café in Tannum Sands, Rachel and the team decided the next step was to bring Blend into the heart of Gladstone. Originally starting as an idea to expand the café, it has now evolved into Blend Café & Cocktail Bar - a space that will still offer everything people know and love about Blend during the day, while transforming into a relaxed cocktail bar in the evenings.

The team's vision is to create a venue where you could grab your morning coffee or breakfast, catch up over lunch and tapas, and then come back for cocktails, delicious food designed around social dining, and a completely different atmosphere at night.

Like any renovation, there have been plenty of challenges and learning curves along the way, but seeing the venue slowly transform from an empty space into what the team originally imagined, as they have been involved in almost every process from design to equipment selections, has made it incredibly rewarding.

Since opening the doors to the original Tannum location in 2013,

Blend Café has been a go-to spot for locals and visitors in the heart of Tannum Sands, focussing strongly on serving great coffee, fresh food, and building genuine connections that make you feel right at home the moment you walk in. With a relaxed coastal vibe, friendly faces, and a menu made fresh in-house using quality local ingredients, Blend offers so much more than food, with fun experiences such as their Thrift & Sip events and seasonal gatherings, creating a space for people to connect and enjoy something a little different.

The expansion is a special milestone for owner Rachel, who purchased Blend at just 23 years old with an original team of five. Since then, the business has grown to a team of around



15 people and is opening its second location, something she wouldn't have imagined when first taking over the café. They're excited to employ local people, buy locally, sponsor and donate to fundraisers, and create spaces where the community can come together in the Gladstone CBD.

As they near the completion stage, Rachel and the team are excited to see their hard work come to fruition. Ready to mix up the Gladstone nightlife, Blend Café & Cocktail Bar are in high spirits, ready to open the doors to their stunning new location.



Blend
Café

Refresh Your Home This Spring

The arrival of spring means new beginnings and a full reset for most people. It's a great time to get some spring cleaning in and turn your house into a home with these simple steps:

Clear the air

Open some windows and let that breeze in before the house gets shut up 24/7 for the summer air conditioning. It's also a fantastic time to wash curtains, clean the blinds, and wipe down window frames, and you'd be surprised by how much more natural light comes in!

Declutter with purpose

If purging your house completely sounds stressful, you're not alone. But it doesn't have to be this way – try asking "what is making this space harder to use" and go from there, focusing on spaces that cause everyday frustration. Sometimes, organising a singular cupboard can have more impact than spending hours sorting through things you rarely see.

Refresh the spaces you use the most

Not every room needs attention at once, and small changes can make your living space more enjoyable. Try rearranging furniture, replacing worn cushions and throws, adding a plant or some flowers, clearing crowded surfaces, and swapping heavy winter bedding for lighter layers. Small changes can be enough to make a familiar room feel new again.

Give your home a maintenance check-up

Spring is the perfect time to deal with all those jobs you've been putting off for the past 6 months! Are your taps dripping? Loose door handles? Sticking windows? A smoke alarm that needs testing? Maybe there's unwanted mould where there shouldn't be? The most important thing is to never ignore the small jobs, as they can become large in a matter of days.

Try these simple tips to refresh your home and feel lighter, fresher and more functional this spring.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Community groups in the Gladstone region are invited to apply for funding to support the delivery of community events in 2027.

The QGC Community Event Support Program is now open to local community groups and organisations seeking to deliver community events in 2027.

Applications for funding amounts of \$1,000 and above are available from 06 October 2026, to support community events that enhance community vibrancy, foster social cohesion, and benefit the Gladstone region.

Examples of how the funds may be utilised include:

- Event materials
- Logistics management
- Advertising and promotional costs
- Hosting event workshops
- Achieving brand awareness
- Complementary in-school programs

For more information and to apply, please scan the QR code.

Applications close Thursday, 31 December 2026.

qgccommunity@shell.com | 1800 030 443

www.shell.com.au/qgc



APPLY NOW

Brickin' It Builds Lasting LEGO-cy

AT MINDCARE

Members from the Brickin' It group hosted by Gladstone Mindcare recently completed a 2,000-piece puzzle they had been working on since May, marking a huge achievement in the 6-month project and invoking feelings of satisfaction in seeing the completed product. The puzzle will now be fixed onto a backing and kept at the Mindcare office as a reminder of all the time, patience and teamwork that the members poured into it. Other Brickin' It regulars, Georgia and PJ, also finished a smaller puzzle project the same morning.



Brickin' It is a LEGO and games group created for anyone in the region aged 16 and older, and whether you're a puzzle person, a board game fan or just looking for a relaxed way to connect with others, there is always something to build and create with other like-minded people in the region.

Gladstone Mindcare Hub is a safe and inclusive community space that offers preventative programs, social connection and health promotion activities, with a diverse network that enables the right fit of service to everyone's needs.

If you are interested in Brickin' It, or know someone who would love to join, the group meets every Friday from 10 am – 12 pm at Gladstone Mindcare on 147 Goondoon Street for great conversations, heaps of creativity and a brickin' good time.



Bright minds light up LEGO for biodiversity boost.

Central Queensland students will take centre stage at the FIRST® LEGO® League Regional Competition on Saturday 31 October at CQUniversity's Gladstone Marina campus.

The BioGlow activities focus on biodiversity, challenging 12 teams to investigate real-world environmental issues and develop innovative solutions, then design and code LEGO® robots to tackle competition tasks.

Behind the scenes, Gladstone SHS robotics teacher Julie Hunt and CQU STEM Central Lead Associate Professor Linda Pfeiffer are leading a dedicated team of volunteers to prepare challenging LEGO® scenarios for the big day.

While team registrations have now closed, community members can attend for free and see the next generation of innovators in action across 8.30am-3pm at STEM Central in the Leo Zussino Building.



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Gladstone Welcomes ReefTO Summit

AS VOICE FOR GREAT BARRIER REEF

Back in late September, Gladstone held the ReefTO Summit at the GECC over two days, establishing an Alliance within the organisation as a step towards strengthening the connections between ReefTraditional Owner groups in Queensland. Cultural groups from the Eastern Islands of the Torres Strait all the way down to Bundaberg joined together on Bailai, Gurang, Gooreng Gooreng and Taribelang Bunda land to set the direction of the newly founded ReefTO Alliance, electing two interim Co-Chairs as the Alliance's inaugural People's Leaders, and celebrating outstanding achievements at the Gala Dinner and ReefTO Awards ceremony, bringing everyone together with music and storytelling across the three categories of Honour, Respect and Hope.

ReefTO's journey started with the Sea Forums of the 1980s and is a Traditional Owner-led, grassroots initiative that honours the decades of work done by Elders to assert their cultural authority and rights to Sea Country, and to drive genuine partnerships across the Reef, achieving Traditional Owners' aspirations for the health, management and protection of the Reef and interconnecting Country.



Six representatives from each organisation with Sea Country rights and responsibilities to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area came and celebrated more than 30 years of conversations, advocacy, and determination with the newly formed Alliance, sharing knowledge and skills of working with Sea Country and inspiring the next generation of conservationists to answer when Country calls.



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THAI CHILLI BASIL CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

- 225g / 7oz chicken thigh fillets
- 1 green onion
- 1 cup Thai basil leaves
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 birds eye or Thai chilli
- 1 1/2 tbsp oil

Sauce:

- 2 tsp oyster sauce
- 1 tsp light soy sauce
- 1 tsp dark soy sauce
- 1 tsp sugar
- 2 tbsp water

Serving:

- Steamed jasmine rice

METHOD

1. Put Sauce ingredients in a small bowl and mix to combine.
2. Heat oil in wok or pan over high heat.
3. Add garlic and chilli and cook for 10 seconds. Don't inhale – the chilli will make you cough!
4. Add the white part of the green onions and chicken and fry until cooked, around 2 minutes.
5. Add Sauce and cook for 1 minute until the water reduces to make a thick glossy sauce.
6. Toss through green part of green onions and basil leaves. Stir until just wilted, then serve immediately with steamed jasmine rice.

<https://www.recipetineats.com/thai-basil-chicken-stir-fry/>



Here in History

ROAD AROUND AUCKLAND POINT

As early as 1863 the Gladstone Town Council was contemplating putting a road around Auckland Hill but like much of this political agenda, it took time.

In 1867, a public meeting was called and again it was proposed that this road would be reviewed but it was the following year before Government Surveyor Richardson prepared a plan. It was 1872 before Surveyor-General, AC Gregory, inspected this plan. He dismissed Richardson's suggestion and came up with a scheme of his own but then there were more delays and this idea eventually fell by the wayside.

It took another six years before any positive action was taken and by this time all past plans were forgotten. Tenders were finally called for a ten-foot-wide road in 1878 and all buildings on crown land around Auckland Point were removed in preparation for a roadway to be named Marine Parade.

By *Betty Laver*

October is Seniors Month

An opportunity to celebrate our Seniors for their contribution to family and to our community as volunteers, workers, carers, grandparents, mentors and leaders.

Thank You!



Colin BOYCE
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR FLYNN



Authorised by Colin Boyce MP, 76 Goondoon St. Gladstone, QLD 4680

76 Goondoon Street, Gladstone QLD 4680 (07) 4972 5465

www.colinboyce.com.au ColinBoyceMP

Colin.Boyce.MP@aph.gov.au

GCLA takes care and resilience to a new level

As one of Gladstone's leading providers of care to seniors and people with a disability, the team at Gladstone Community Linking Agency were quick to see the benefits of participating in the Community Resilience program, according to their CEO Trish Lisle.

"As an organisation providing services to seniors and people with disability, preparedness is particularly important to us," Trish said.

"The program is helping us identify areas where we can strengthen our preparedness so that we are in a better position to support our staff and customers when they need us most."



To find out more about Gladstone Community Linking Agency's great work, visit:

www.gcla.com.au

Community organisations in the Gladstone region are still eligible to be part of the free program being run by Regional Business HQ, with assistance provided by the Australian and Queensland governments through the jointly funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

through Disaster
Preparedness and Business
Continuity Planning

www.businesshq.org.au

Get your free Business Continuity Plan

If you're a community organisation in the Gladstone or Bundaberg regions, you're eligible to be part of the Community Resilience program. Find out more at info@businesshq.org.au



Assistance provided by the Australian and Queensland governments through the jointly funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

A Smash Hit For BITS Cricket Club

INDUSTRIES WEEKEND

The Boyne Island Tannum Sands Cricket Club recently held its 2026 Industries of Cricket Cup over the weekend of the 2nd and 3rd of October, marking a massive two days of tense matches culminating in a win for RJ Warren Solar and Electrical.

The first game on Friday night saw Orica and Santos GLNG go head-to-head. GLNG fought hard, but Orica came away with a 186-142 win. Santos GLNG's Scott Hoffman was Friday's Player of the Match. Aurizon and QAL battled it out in a great match in game 2, and at the end of the 20 overs, both teams had scored 203 runs. The game was decided by a super over, with Aurizon winning in a nail-biter by 2 runs, and Tarryn Job taking out Player of the Match this game.

Game 3 between Blitz and Boyne Smelter started with a bang: massive sixes and a great run rate. BSL reined it in, but Blitz crew scored a massive 217 runs, with Brett McDermott hitting an unbeaten 83, winning the player with the most runs for Industries 2026. Jason Warry took home Player of the Match with an

all-rounder effort, taking valuable wickets and a half-century with the bat.

In the last game, RJ Warren crew versed the All-Stars team. The All Stars batted first, with some good runs from Nathan, Sean, Barry, and Shep, who helped to get the total to 213.

Ahmed and Barry Meiring bowled well, but Rob Warren stepped up to the plate, hitting multiple sixes. The last over

was close, but the RJ crew got the job done, winning the Industries of Cricket 2026 Cup with a score of 221. Mitch Woodward took home Player of the Match.

BITS thanks its sponsors, teams and volunteers for their incredible support, and appreciates everyone's efforts.



Santos GLNG

OPENING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Santos GLNG has been part of the Gladstone Region since 2009 — working alongside the community to support local events, initiatives and organisations that deliver positive outcomes for our region.

In 2027, we're introducing the **Santos GLNG Small Grants Fund** as part of our Community Investment Program.

The fund will provide support to not-for-profit organisations operating within the Gladstone Regional Council Local Government Area to deliver initiatives, projects and events that create meaningful community benefit.

The Santos GLNG Small Grants Fund aligns with our Community Investment Framework, which focuses on building **Resilient Communities**, improving **Economic Pathways**, and the **Environment**.

Through a dedicated funding round, we hope to create greater opportunities for local organisations to access support for initiatives that make a positive impact across our region.

We're keen to hear from organisations looking to:

- Strengthen health and wellbeing.
- Support social inclusion and diversity.

- Increase community connection and participation.
- Improve skills and qualifications that support sustainable employment pathways.
- Protect and restore biodiversity.
- Deliver environmental research and education initiatives.

Expressions of Interest for the 2027 Santos GLNG Small Grants Fund open September 1 and close December 1, 2026.

Eligible organisations, whose proposed projects, initiatives, or events meet the criteria of the Santos GLNG Small Grants Fund, will be invited to submit a formal application in **January 2027**.

Applications between **\$500 and \$5,000** will be considered, and successful applicants will be notified March 2027, with funding to be utilised during the 2027 calendar year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE SANTOS GLNG COMMUNITY TEAM AT GLNG.COMMUNITY@GLNG.COM.

Submit your EOI online here until December 1.



CMM3410IGLNG

Have a fang-tastic time on the dance floor with Fiesta Loca!

Spooky Zumba

Tuesday 20th October from 5:30pm
Yaralla Fitness Centre

Haunted Line Dancing

Thursday 29th October from 6:30pm
The Queens

Halloween Dance Night

Saturday 31st October, 7:30pm - 10:30pm
Philip Street Precinct (1 Pengelly Street, West Gladstone)
\$15 per person



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