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GLADSTONE NEWS

TAKE ME, I'M FREE!

ISSUE 344
26th November 2026



Gladstone Healthy Harbour PARTNERSHIP

2026 HARBOUR REPORT CARD RELEASE

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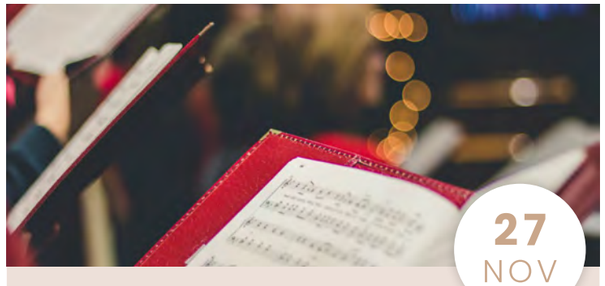
WHAT'S ON IN *Gladstone*

From 26th November 2026



27 NOV

Calliope Rotary Christmas Carols

Come get festive at Calliope Rotary Club's annual Christmas Carols! With unlimited rides, face painting, crafts, food and drinks, ham wheels, entertainment and, of course, a visit from Santa himself, it's a fun night out for all the family.

All funds are distributed back into the Calliope community.

When: Friday 27th November 2026, 04:00 PM - 08:30 PM
Where: Chapman Park, Calliope Rodeo Grounds
Price: Gold Coin Donation



01 DEC

Cancer Council Christmas Parcel Wrap

Cancer Council Qld Gladstone Branch will conduct their annual Christmas Parcel Wrap from the 1st to the 24th of December, helping you wrap your presents in time for the festivities. Only costing a gold coin donation per gift, and with EFTPOS available, come past and say hello this festive season! New and past volunteers are welcome, so phone Leslie on 0417 782 812 or Ros on 0418 761 708 to help out.

When: From Tuesday 1st December, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Where: Gladstone Centre Plaza
Price: Gold Coin Donation Per Gift



04 DEC

Toad Catching Competition

Calling all toad catchers! Bring your biggest cane toad down to the Miriam Vale Hotel on Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December from 4 – 9 PM, or Sunday 6th December 2 – 5 PM for your chance to win $50 for the heaviest male or female toad. Children who bring a toad will receive a reward, and after the event all toads will be disposed of humanely by the Toadman from Lockey's Toad Town & Wildlife Reserve.

When: Friday 4th December, 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Where: Miriam Vale Hotel
Price: Free entry



GCLA
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Gladstone Community Linking Agency

Gladstone Community Linking Agency proudly recognises **International Day of People with Disability**. We are committed to removing barriers, creating equal opportunities, and ensuring people with disability are included in all aspects of community life.

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GLADSTONE HEALTHY HARBOUR PARTNERSHIP

2026 GLADSTONE HARBOUR REPORT CARD *launched*



The 12th annual Gladstone Harbour Report Card, prepared by the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) was released on 26 November, containing updated results for the harbour's Environmental and Economic components.

Beginning with a pilot report card in 2014 that assessed harbour health across six basic indicator groups, the 12th annual Gladstone Harbour Report Card has evolved to provide an in-depth picture of Gladstone Harbour through 33 different indicators, ranging from mud crabs and seagrass to economic performance and community wellbeing.

Each indicator is graded from Very Good (A) to Very Poor (E) and is developed by GHHP's Independent Science Panel using data collected by specialist research organisations across the region.

> "The Report Card is produced through the combined efforts of GHHP's 23 Partners, who work together to support the long-term health of Gladstone Harbour,"

said Professor Iain Gordon, Independent Chair of GHHP.

Drawing on monitoring data collected between July 2025 and June 2026, the 2026 assessment provided Gladstone Harbour an overall environmental grade of B, reflecting continued good environmental health across much of the monitoring program for the third consecutive year.

Water and Sediment Quality remained a standout, achieving a Very Good (A) grade for the 12th consecutive year. Seagrass also continued to perform well, retaining a Good (B) grade and reflecting generally healthy communities across the harbour, noting that seagrass data is provided through the Gladstone Ports Corporation annual seagrass monitoring program.

However, there are still areas receiving low results. Coral condition remains Very Poor (E), with only limited recovery observed following the significant declines after the 2013 flood event. This highlights the challenges of ecosystem recovery and the importance of maintaining long-term monitoring.

Fish and Crabs received a Good (B) grade, with Fish Health continuing to perform particularly well. Fish Recruitment remains a more variable indicator, with Yellowfin and Pikey Bream recruitment fluctuating between years in response to environmental conditions such as rainfall. Despite these fluctuations, recruitment has remained relatively stable over the past decade.

One of the significant milestones celebrated in this year's Report Card is 10 years of mud crab monitoring, the longest-running monitoring program of its kind in Australia.

Recent years have shown a recovery in mud crab catch rates following a period of lower scores in the abundance measure. The latest results recorded increased abundance, although higher levels of rust lesions contributed to a slightly lower score. The mud crab indicator retained its Good (B) grade.

"Ten years of monitoring provides an invaluable picture of how mud crab populations are changing over time," said Professor John Rolfe, Chair of GHHP's Independent Science Panel. "It allows us to look beyond individual sampling results, understand longer-term trends and recognise signs of recovery following periods of lower abundance. This is exactly why sustained investment in independent science is so important."

The Report Card also continues to track litter and marine debris across Gladstone Harbour, using data from the Australian Marine Debris Initiative, collected by volunteers through Tangaroa Blue Foundation clean-up projects. Monitoring covered 16 sites, including five new locations. The Outer Harbour recorded the highest litter pressure across the monitoring network, although no sites recorded Very High Pressure. The contribution of volunteers through these clean-up projects remains an important part of understanding and addressing marine debris in the region.

The Economic component maintained a Good (B) grade, reflecting continued strength in the region's economic activity. Economic Performance received a Very Good (A) grade, supported by strong Shipping and Tourism results, while Economic Stimulus retained a Satisfactory (C) grade.

The Social, Cultural, and Economic Value components also retained their previous Good (B) grades, based on the most recent available assessments from 2022. A new framework has since been developed through GHHP's biennial Human Dimensions survey, introducing 52 indicators to provide a more comprehensive understanding of these components. The new framework will be incorporated into the 2027 Gladstone Harbour Report Card.

Professor Gordon said the Report Card remained an important way of bringing together the different perspectives and expertise needed to support the health of Gladstone Harbour.

"Gladstone Harbour is much more than an environmental asset. It is central to the region's economy, cultural identity and community way of life. Our vision is for a healthy, accessible and working harbour, and the Report Card helps us understand how we are progressing towards that goal.

"It is important to recognise the significant work being undertaken across the region and the value of having 23 Partners working towards a shared vision."

Minister for the Environment and Tourism Andrew Powell said the report card showed the value of long-term partnerships between communities, industry, and government to protect the health of waterways and the Great Barrier Reef.

"These results are encouraging because they show the positive impact of practical, on-ground action to improve and protect water quality," Minister Powell said.

"The findings reinforce why the Crisafulli Government is investing a record $330.5 million to support action across Reef catchments and improve the Great Barrier Reef water quality because healthy waterways are essential to protecting our natural assets for future generations."

Supported by the Australian and Queensland Governments, GHHP also brings together local government, industry, First Nations, community and research organisations in its commitment to the long-term health of Gladstone Harbour.

For further information and to view the full 2026 Gladstone Harbour Report Card, visit ghhp.org.au.



Acknowledgement of partners

Free Calls To Santa Returns

TO GLADSTONE THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Telstra is ready to make Christmas merry and bright this festive season with the return of Free Calls to Santa at their public payphones, and for the first time in the experience's history, more than one child can now say "hi" to Santa on the same call, giving siblings, cousins and friends the chance to share their Christmas wishes together.

Embracing this jovial tradition since 2020, Captain Cook Drive, Seventeen Seventy, has taken out the title of Queensland's most festive payphone, racking up almost 5,500 calls to Santa since 2020 and making this one tradition that local children have been excited to be part of annually.

Since the launch of Free Calls to Santa back in 2021, callers have made nearly 2.5 million calls to Santa nationwide, connecting Australian kids to the big man himself.

In an interview between Santa and Telstra, he said that making a call to him this year was easier than ever, and that it was a great opportunity for parents to show kids the importance of being able to find and use a payphone if they ever need to.



"This Christmas is going to be bigger than ever because families can share the magic of calling me together, so brothers, sisters, cousins and friends can all get involved.

"Give me your wish list, your most important Christmas question or just simply say 'hello!'"

Kids can dial #HOHOHO (#464646) from any of Telstra's 14,000+ payphones nationwide and speak directly to Santa for free, with lines open until Christmas Eve to deliver your Christmas wishes to Mr Claus himself. Using the payphone finder on Telstra.com, families can locate one of over 300 sites across the country to find the closest Hoho-Hotline to speak to.

Alpha HPA's Stage Two Facility

REACHES NEW MAJOR MILESTONE

Progressing through its Stage Two construction site, Alpha HPA has had an eventful week, welcoming Council members and a major 420 m³ concrete pour to the site over the last seven days.

Gladstone Regional Council Mayor Matt Burnett and Economic Development Manager Kristy Marks visited their Gladstone operations for an update on the progress of the HPA First Facility and what's ahead as the project continues to develop.

Chief Operating Officer Peter Ware, Construction Manager Grant Wilson and Senior Project Engineer Ryan Cook stepped through the progress being made across Stage Two, where construction is transforming the site as the major production areas of the expanded facility take shape.

The visit provided an opportunity to look beyond the construction program and discuss what the development means for Gladstone as the project moves towards commissioning and operations.



Wrapping up mid-morning last Thursday after more than ten hours, 420 m³ of concrete was poured at the Stage Two construction site, with the team working alongside McCosker Contracting and Boral to complete the substantial structural footing around the recently installed major process infrastructure, marking the next stage of progress for the facility.

"A pour of this size takes a lot of coordination. It was a great effort across the teams to keep the pour moving safely and efficiently and complete another significant footing for the project," Alpha HPA Superintendent Civil Jeremy Blows said.



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

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With pathways into rigging, insulation and sheet metal fabrication.

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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.

We'd Love to see you there highrisksolutions.com.au

Gladstone Pool Reopens

IN TIME FOR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The long-awaited return of the 50m pool at the Gladstone Aquatic Centre has almost arrived, set to reopen to the public on Friday, 11th of December, just in time for the Christmas school holidays.

Since closing earlier this year, the Council has been undertaking various investigations and working with contractors to identify temporary remedial works that could be undertaken to allow the pool to reopen.

Gladstone Region Mayor Matt Burnett said works on the pool had commenced back in October.

“We’re expecting to see the 50m pool reopen just in time for the summer school holidays depending on weather and site conditions,” Mayor Burnett said.

“These works will allow the pool to continue operating while we conduct further investigations and prepare for its long-term replacement.

“The 25m heated indoor pool remains available for use year-round, while the outdoor Splash Park reopened on 19 September following its usual winter closure.”

The Gladstone Aquatic Centre 50m pool was opened in October 1975 and is now celebrating its 51st year of service to the Gladstone Region community.

In April, as part of project planning for a complete re-tile of the 50m pool to extend its life, ground-penetrating radar scans identified voids beneath the shell and broken tiles, possibly due to water leaks related to the age of the facility. As a result, the complete re-tile was determined to be impractical, and the pool closed to ensure patron safety while further investigations were undertaken, and temporary solutions were explored.

The Gladstone Aquatic Centre summer opening hours are 5.30am-7.30pm Monday to Friday and 7am-5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Visit www.facebook.com/GladstoneAquaticCentre or www.gladstoneaquatic.com.au for more information about Gladstone Aquatic Centre.

Keep your pool in tip top shape

This Summer with these tips from Nexus Pools!

Dive in today!

Call Nexus Pools Gladstone to arrange your free Quote. Your dream pool journey starts here!

Use a Pool Cover:
Using a pool cover or a shade over the pool will significantly reduce water loss from evaporation.

Check for Leaks:
Always make sure you’re inspecting your pool and its surrounds for any leaks. Make sure you correctly re-connect your filter, and pump covers after cleaning.

Maintain Water Chemistry:
Keep your pools water chemistry balanced. Good chemistry control will keep your pool clean and healthy, reducing the loading on your filter.

Use your skimmer:
Remove leaves, bugs and any other surface lurkers to keep your pool looking fresh and prevent filter blockages.

Brush and Vacuum Regularly:
Brushing your pool walls, steps and corners helps to remove dirt and prevent algae build up.

Check your filter:
While your pool pump should be running long enough to circulate and filer the water properly, don’t forget to give your filter some love. Check it regularly and clean the baskets.

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Spreading Festive Cheer

WITH THE CHRISTMAS SUPER RAFFLE

Gladstone Region residents will have the chance to win some fantastic prizes this Christmas while supporting vulnerable members of the local community, thanks to the annual Santos GLNG Christmas Super Raffle, with more than $1,400 worth of prizes up for grabs.

This year's raffle will raise funds for Roseberry Qld, a local not-for-profit organisation supporting vulnerable young people, families, and individuals across the community, with tickets available to purchase online before the Santos GLNG Mayor's Christmas Carols on December 4 for the first time, giving everyone more opportunities to get involved and support a great local cause.

Roseberry Qld CEO Jo Paringatai welcomed the initiative and thanked Santos GLNG for choosing the organisation as this year's charity beneficiary.

"We're incredibly grateful to Santos GLNG for their ongoing commitment to our community and for choosing Roseberry Qld as the beneficiary of this year's Christmas Super Raffle," Ms Paringatai said.

> "Every ticket purchased helps us continue providing vital support to vulnerable young people, families and individuals in our community, not just during the Christmas season, but throughout the year."

The four fantastic prizes on offer include a Weber Baby Q BBQ with a portable cart and cover valued at more than $650, a $350 Woolworths voucher, a $250 Kin Kora Meats voucher, and a $150 Gladstone Cinemas voucher. Tickets are $5 each, with discounted bundles available at three for $10, eight for $20 or 25 for $50.

All net proceeds will go directly to Roseberry Qld, with the raffle drawn live at the Carols, but winners do not need to be present to claim their prizes.

Tickets are available to purchase online at: https://www.raffletix.com.au/?ref=emybd

Santos GLNG

LOCAL SCHOOLS CELEBRATE SUNNY COMPETITION WINNERS.

More than 2,000 students from 23 primary schools across the Gladstone Region have helped spread the message that 'SPF is my BFF' through the 2026 Sunny Colouring Competition.

Developed by the Gladstone Region Youth Council, the competition encouraged students to bring Sunny, the Council's sun safety mascot, to life while promoting lifelong sun-safe habits.

Trinity College and **Ambrose State School** were announced as winners, each receiving a SunSquirt sunscreen dispensing kiosk and an initial 12-month supply of sunscreen, thanks to Santos GLNG and Australia Pacific LNG (APLNG), operated downstream by ConocoPhillips.

The neighbouring Curtis Island LNG operators contributed more than $3,000 each to support the initiative, with the winning schools celebrating at special parade celebrations in honour of **National Skin Cancer Action Week (November 15-22).**

The kiosks will provide students with convenient access to sunscreen, helping make sun protection part of their everyday routines.

Congratulations to both winning schools and everyone who participated in the competition.



CMH339345AN

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

Santos GLNG | GLNG is a Santos PETRONAS TotalEnergies KOGAS venture.

Santos | PETRONAS | TotalEnergies | KOGAS

GLNG.COM

acciona energía



Share a little kindness this

Christmas

For many of us, Christmas is a time of celebration, family, good food and giving. But for others in our community, it can bring added financial pressure, loneliness and uncertainty.

At Roseberry Qld, we want everyone to have the opportunity to experience a little Christmas joy.

On 22 December, we'll be hosting a special Christmas lunch, preparing a festive meal and sharing gifts with people who might otherwise go without. We'll also be making sure young people spending Christmas in our youth shelter have gifts to open and something special to look forward to. Through our Dignity Hub, we'll provide food hampers, extra pantry essentials and Christmas treats to help local individuals and families through the festive season. We also continue our proud Adopt-A-Family tradition.

Your generosity helps make all of this possible, and so much more.

Financial contributions and donations of non-perishable food help us provide practical support at Christmas and throughout the year. Every dollar donated stays local, helping people right here in our community.

To DONATE TODAY or to FIND OUT MORE visit our website www.roseberry.org.au/donate

Roseberry Qld

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The Cotton Mill Gladstone

At the heart of The Cotton Mill, we're a small, family-owned business, and I think that says a lot about what we value. We love the idea of keeping things humble, personal and connected to the people around us. Shopping locally reflects those same values. It's about supporting people who live here, work here, raise their families here and are building their own little legacies within the region. We understand firsthand the work, dedication and heart that go into running a small business, so when we support another local business, it feels like a natural extension of who we are and what The Cotton Mill represents. Small, local, humble and full of heart.

This is our first year owning The Cotton Mill as a family, and there's been a whole world of new experiences and opportunities to explore. I'd heard about Shop to Win and understood that there was a positive initiative behind it, so I thought, why not get involved? Sometimes you've just got to put your hand up, get amongst it and see where it takes you!

Gladstone Cinemas

At Gladstone Cinemas, we are a top destination for people to come and create long-lasting memories, experience new worlds and let their imagination run free! From our comfortable seating and licensed menus to our top-notch visuals and sound, we always strive to provide an immersive experience that people will cherish.

We understand the value of supporting other local businesses, and by participating in this year's Shop To Win campaign, we have the chance to promote our cinema while also highlighting the growth and success of fellow businesses in the area. When customers choose us, they're not just supporting our cinema; they're supporting the entire community.

So, why not pay us a visit and join us in championing local businesses? You might even win the chance to take home $10,000!

Gladstone Flooring Xtra



Shop To Win is a celebration of local business that helps support jobs, families and opportunities in the region, which is something we're proud to be a part of at Gladstone Flooring Xtra. This is where we live, work and raise our families, and through our business we create local employment opportunities, help train the next generation through apprenticeships, support local events and organisations, and provide quality flooring solutions for homes, schools, healthcare facilities and aged care centres throughout the region.

Shop To Win aligns perfectly with our values at Gladstone Flooring Xtra. We believe supporting local businesses, creating local employment and keeping money circulating within our community has a positive impact on the locals, so make sure to support a local business this Christmas for your chance to win $10,000!

Intersport Gladstone



As owners of a small business, Anthony and I definitely know firsthand how important local community support is. When you choose to shop locally, you are supporting not just businesses but local jobs, families, and suppliers in our region, in turn creating a stronger, more sustainable community for everyone. For us, this is a great opportunity to encourage people to support local businesses while giving something back to the community.

Being involved in a bespoke local initiative that celebrates local shopping, brings businesses together and reminds people that their spending choices can make a real difference right here in Gladstone is gold! Customers get excited about the possibility of winning such a great prize, especially just before Christmas and planning which stores and what items to buy with their potential win is great!

Nature's House Wellness



I believe that shopping local is what keeps our community strong and is what helps to support the families behind small businesses and keep the region growing. By providing local employment, supporting local producers and creating a space where our community can access wholesome foods, natural health therapies, and personalised care, sharing our passion and knowledge for health and wellness is very rewarding.

Small business is the heart of our community! We provide access to quality organic whole foods, organic produce, and holistic healthcare, while encouraging healthier, more sustainable living and supporting local and Australian farmers and producers. I love being involved in initiatives that encourage people to shop locally, and we've noticed that consumers and businesses are doing it tough right now, so the excitement behind people being able to win $10000 is so great to see!

Olive & Fig Hampers



As the festive season approaches, we become increasingly mindful of where we buy our gifts. Shop To Win is fantastic because it encourages locals to give back to the community during the busiest and most philanthropic time of the year while ticking off their Christmas shopping list. There is so much that our region has to offer, and every business participating is so incredibly unique, playing a huge role in our town's success and fostering community spirit.

We love working with other local businesses for their gifting needs, providing a wide range of custom luxury hampers and corporate gifts to the local region and beyond. Olive & Fig are here for the special moments that deserve to be celebrated, and we're here to back other small and local businesses in our community that keep Gladstone thriving.

Why not try your luck this Christmas? Enter Shop To Win and support local businesses for your chance at $10,000!

Poolwerx Gladstone



Shopping locally is about so much more than making a purchase. It's about supporting the people behind the businesses: the families, employees and individuals who contribute to our community every day. Every customer who walks through our doors helps us continue to employ local people, grow our businesses and invest in the communities we call home. We strongly believe that when local businesses support one another, the whole community benefits, and that's why giving back and reinvesting in the grassroots of Gladstone is so important to us.

Having now owned Poolwerx Gladstone for 12 months, we saw Shop to Win as a fantastic opportunity to get involved in a community initiative that encourages people to support local businesses. It's a great way to give back to customers who choose to shop locally, while helping promote the incredible range of businesses we have right here in Gladstone. We're excited to be part of an initiative that brings the local business community together.

Style House Fashion



At Style House Fashion, we believe shopping locally is key to Gladstone's growth; it keeps money circulating within our region, creates jobs, and strengthens our community. We're passionate about encouraging more people to shop locally and support the businesses that make Gladstone unique.

As a proudly local boutique, we love collaborating with other businesses, from photographers and makeup artists to hairdressers and local organisations like The Queens, where we've partnered to offer gift vouchers and packs for their weekly promotions. These collaborations help us all grow and connect with a wider audience.

Our biggest advantage is our loyal customer base, who value the personalised service and one-on-one attention we provide. While staying ahead of online competitors is always a challenge, we're proud to keep evolving, offering the latest fashion, supporting fellow locals, and celebrating community pride every day.

Be in to win $10,000 in Gladstone's Shop to Win Competition

www.shoptowin.com.au

From Gladstone To Global Championships:

REBECCA COVERDALE'S PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY

Eagerly waiting and watching the magic of the instant photograph developing in front of her eyes, young Rebecca was fascinated with her Grandfather's Polaroid camera.

Now the owner of the Rebecca Coverdale Photography studio in South Gladstone, she has become the Asia-Pacific Regional Winner in the Newborn category of the 2026 NewGen Olympic Photography Awards, taking her art from regional Australia to the international stage.

As a child, Rebecca's parents never owned a camera, so the photographs from her childhood were all taken by her grandfather, who inspired her to enter the world of photography. Knowing she was passionate about the craft, he bought her first camera, but after becoming upset that none of her photos turned out, her mother made him return the camera.

"Looking back, I sometimes wonder whether the cost of developing all that film might have had something to do with it! Rebecca reminisced."

Determined to continue, at 15 she purchased a Canon AE-1, and her passion for photography continued to grow, working part-time in Tasmania as a self-employed children's photographer before expanding into wedding photography by the late 1990s. Spending her spare time in a darkroom, Rebecca fondly remembered developing film strips and watching the photographs come to life.



In her early twenties, Rebecca moved to Melbourne to pursue photography as a full-time career working as a mobile children's photographer, where during that time she met her husband Neil, who was attending Navy recruit school. Moving around to different postings, the couple relocated to Rockingham in Western Australia, where they started their family, later moving to Sydney and opening her own studio, then returning to Western Australia and eventually settling back in Tasmania, where they lived for 15 years.



Rebecca and her family eventually moved to Queensland where she found the perfect property in South Gladstone to establish a dedicated photography studio on the ground floor of their family home where she specialises in newborn, maternity, baby and family portraiture, with a particular passion for creating timeless, artistic images that families can treasure for generations.

In October this year, Rebecca was thrilled to receive First Place in the Newborn category of the NewGen Olympic Photography Awards 2026, earning recognition as an Asia-Pacific Regional Winner after spending a lifetime dedicated to her craft. And now that her family has grown up, she has more time to creatively develop and challenge herself.

Her winning photograph has now progressed to the Global Champions stage of the competition, where it will be considered for further international recognition. Submitting her work over several categories, Rebecca is excited to see how her entires progress, and to continue to learn and grow behind the camera; no matter how many years she's been at it.

Going from film photography to digital and living across Australia, photography has taken Rebecca to places she never thought possible and she continues to do what she loves: creating beautiful portraits and capturing precious memories for other families.

> "Photography has been a lifelong passion that has taken me across Australia, introduced me to countless wonderful families and allowed me to capture some of life's most precious moments."

"My love for creating beautiful photographs has never faded. I continue to enjoy learning new techniques and exploring the creative possibilities that modern photography offers."

Daycare Leader Olivia Publishes

EDUCATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK "FEELING FRIENDS"

A local daycare worker has self-published her first children's book, Feeling Friends, finding a way to encourage and help children understand and talk about their emotions while they are learning about them for the first time.

Olivia Lester, who works alongside families and educators to create welcoming educational environments, says that her love of creating resources grew into an idea to create her first children's book.

"Working with young children showed me how big and confusing feelings can feel when you're still learning how to understand them. I wanted to create a gentle, fun way to help children talk about their emotions. I also love creating resources, so Feeling Friends grew from an idea into my first children's book."

Feeling Friends introduces children to different feelings through a group of colourful monsters, with each representing an emotion, helping children to recognise and talk about what they might be feeling. The book has a separate snap card game that corresponds to the story, bringing the characters off the page and into play in another fun way to recognise and match their feelings.



Olivia hopes that her book gives families an easy starting point for conversations about emotions, as they can often experience turbulent feelings, and this can be confusing when it's your first time learning about them.

"Reading together can help children feel understood and build the words they need to express themselves. The story and game can also create opportunities to talk about what helps when big feelings come along," she said.

Olivia has her sights set on developing more books and educational games in the future, providing families with resources to boost confidence.

> "I'd love to keep creating playful tools that help children learn, express themselves and make sense of the world around them."

GLADSTONE
PICTURE FRAMING
AND ART MATERIALS

Gladstone
THANK YOU!

Thank you to each and every one of our valid customers, old and new, for a fantastic year. Tony, Murdoch and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Christmas Opening Hours: We shall be closing at 12pm on the 23rd December and reopening on the 19th January at 9am.

For last minute gifts, we have paint by numbers, puzzles and refurbished fire extinguishers and so much more.





Contact us today! (07) 4972 2493 • 0412 086 197 • 59 Central Lane, Gladstone

Locals "Share The Dignity"

AND DONATE 150 PERSONAL CARE BAGS FOR CHARITY

Gladstone locals have come together for charity organisation Share the Dignity, donating 150 bags worth of basic daily items to women and girls in need.

Community and Junior Youth Council members collected and sorted each bag, ready for distribution to those struggling to access items that we take for granted in our lives, from shampoo and hairbrushes to toothpaste and period products.

One of the generous donors to this year's It's in the Bag drive was Sarah, who donated 32 bags of products to help struggling women gain access to basic personal care items.

"This year I wanted to make sure I did my part in helping them make a difference. And in honour of turning 30, it seemed like a good number to reach for."

Sarah believes the whole bag is important, and as well as including sanitary products, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, body wash, toothbrushes, toothpaste and hairbrushes, she adds a few extra things like hair ties and claw clips, and her favourite part is including a personalised card for the person receiving the bag.

"I firmly believe in this specific organisation's cause, their movement and goal of achieving period product equity by 2031.



No woman should ever have to lose their dignity by not having necessary access to period products because of their financial situation. These are necessities for women."

Share the Dignity is a women's charity in Australia that distributes period products to women, girls, and anyone who menstruates while they're experiencing homelessness, fleeing domestic violence, or doing it tough.

"I hope these women feel seen, heard, loved and know that this season is temporary, there are people who care and most importantly they feel a sense of security in regaining some dignity in these tough times."

PROUD OF GLADSTONE
PROUD OF LNG

Part of the Gladstone community, now and into the future

AUSTRALIA PACIFIC LNG | ConocoPhillips



Last financial year, we supported 44 organisations through our community investment initiatives.

The Gladstone Community Sponsorships and Donations Program supports eligible local events, equipment and grassroots initiatives that benefit our community.

Scan the QR code to apply.

For larger community investment opportunities, contact our Social Performance team at aplng.gladstone@conocophillips.com

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

www.conocophillips.com.au

Raine&Horne.



4 2 2

68 Whitbread, Clinton

View By Appointment
Price Offers Over $675,000 Considered
Web https://shorturl.at/xdsz4

Steven James
0439 111 197
steven.james@gladstone.rh.com.au

Amazing Family Home in Clinton with Deck - Get Here Quick..!

This beautifully constructed house, built in 2004, offers a generous land area of 745 sqm, providing ample space for outdoor activities and entertaining.

This spacious residence features 4 well-appointed bedrooms, including a master suite with an ensuite bathroom for added privacy. With a total of 2 bathrooms and 2 toilets.

The heart of this home is the inviting open-plan living area, complete with a separate dining room. Enjoy modern conveniences such as air conditioning, a dishwasher, and servery window to the spacious rear deck.



4 2 1

11 Sea Nymph Street, Gladstone Harbour

View By Appointment
Price Offers Over $649,000 Considered
Web https://shorturl.at/Skuth

Steven James
0439 111 197
steven.james@gladstone.rh.com.au

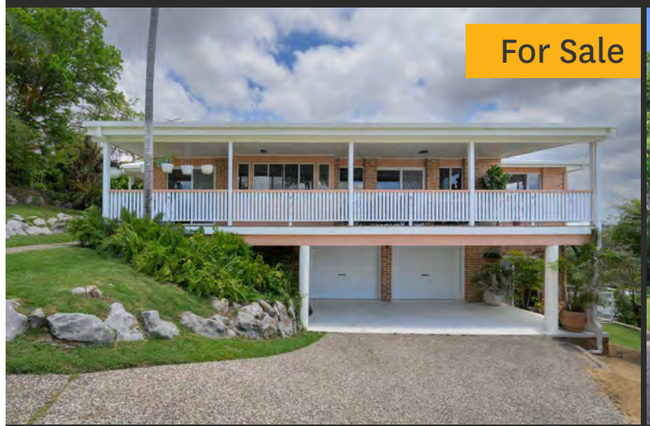
Rare Opportunity to live at "The Oaks" on Facing Island - Your Island Getaway Awaits..!

Have you been thinking about Island living in the Gladstone Harbour...?

There is a Regular barge service from Gladstone Marina to the North end of Facing Island, so you can drive along a pristine hard sand beach to your home/ holiday house.

The house overlooks the harbour towards Gladstone with a fantastic light show across the water every evening.

There are less than a dozen homes at this end of the Island and it is an exclusive location.



4 2 2

34 Willow Street, New Auckland

View By Appointment
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Steven James
0439 111 197
steven.james@gladstone.rh.com.au

High on the Hill with Panoramic Views..!

This spacious property features 4 generously sized bedrooms, making it ideal for families or those who love to entertain guests and looking for a home with a view.

Set on a substantial 779 sqm lot, this home was constructed in 1993 and has been thoughtfully designed to cater to all your needs. The open-plan living areas are complemented by beautiful timber floorboards, while the separate dining room provides an elegant space for family meals.

Unwind in the luxurious inside spa or enjoy family time in the spacious rumpus room downstairs.



3 1 1

3 Maple Ave, Sun Valley

View By Appointment
Price Offers Around $550,000 Considered
Web https://shorturl.at/HYng6

Steven James
0439 111 197
steven.james@gladstone.rh.com.au

Excellent Opportunity - Act Now!

This delightful property features three spacious bedrooms, making it an ideal choice for families or those looking for extra space.

The separate dining room provides a perfect setting for family meals and gatherings.

The property includes a well-appointed bathroom and a separate toilet for added convenience. Stay comfortable year-round with reverse cycle air conditioning and split system heating, ensuring a pleasant atmosphere no matter the season.

Step outside to discover a fully fenced backyard, perfect for pets and children to play safely. The massive outdoor entertaining area invites you to enjoy summer barbecues and gatherings with family and friends.

ARRANGE YOUR INSPECTION TODAY

Supercentenarian Nellie McEachran

CELEBRATES EXTRAORDINARY 110TH BIRTHDAY

Two pandemics, world wars, technological advancements, and five monarchs: Ms. Nellie Jane McEachran has seen it all over her incredibly eventful life. From growing up near Mackay on a farm, to falling in love during the war, raising a family and giving back to the local community, the supercentenarian is now not only the oldest woman in Queensland; she is the oldest person in Queensland overall – a remarkable achievement for the Gladstone local.

Arriving in 1882 on a 200-passenger boat, Nellie's family settled in Rosella near Mackay, 34 years before she was born on November the 5th, 1916, during the First World War. The eldest of four children, she lived a simple life on her family's farm, filled with hard work and happy memories. She would walk to school while her brother was allowed to ride the horse, attend dressmaking lessons, and help her mother with household chores long before vacuum cleaners and washing machines existed.

When asked in an interview about what the greatest invention introduced in her lifetime was, Nellie's answer was clear.

> "I'd have to say it's sliced bread. I know it's simple, but it's true," she said.

Nellie attended boarding school in Fairholme, Toowoomba, where she excelled in tennis – a game in which she would meet her future husband, Archie McEachran. When the couple heard that World War II had started in September 1939, they were concerned about what it would mean for their future, and almost three years later on the 6th of June 1942, Archie rushed home to Mackay where the pair would be married.



"We just had a quiet wedding. But in those days, although it was a quiet wedding, the church was full of your friends and relations to see you married. And that was nice."

While her husband was away, Nellie relocated to Townsville, living in billeted housing while surviving air raids and bombings. She survived off rationed food, and to this day, still has her original ration card.



After the war, Arch and Nell raised their three children Helen, Ray and Jenny in Biggenden before permanently moving to Gladstone, and her family now spans 5 generations, including her own three children, five grandchildren, seven greatgrandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. Nellie worked hard as a dedicated Rotarian, investing countless hours into helping the local community.

Celebrating her incredible life on the 12th of November, over 30 friends, family and community members gathered in the Tondoon Botanic Gardens to honour her achievements with a birthday cake, countless stories highlighting her contributions from well-wishers, and an updated plaque fixed to a totem pole provided by the Gladstone Branch of National Seniors Australia, who originally formed in April 1996 and are currently sitting at 187 members, making them the largest branch in Australia. The totem pole monuments placed in the Gardens have honoured 100yr old Gladstone residents since 2000, and each plaque states the name and date of birth of each centenarian, with 35 100yr and one 110yr plaque currently on display.



NSA organises monthly activities for members and yearly tours for longer periods travelling within Australia and nearby islands, with opportunities for guest speakers to address members each month. The group meets at the Yaralla Sports Club on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9.30am, with new members encouraged to come join the fun.

Nellie Jane McEachran has seen it all, watching the world turn from horse-drawn transport to computers and technology, all while keeping a positive attitude, focusing on friendships and the community, and proving that she truly has, and is, having an amazing life.

Veterans honoured

AT 108TH REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Veterans and current service members in the Australian Defence Force were joined by members of the public and school groups to commemorate the 108th Remembrance Day on the 11th of November, paying respect to the many servicemen and women that lost their lives in all wars, past and present.

This years' service commemorated the signing of the armistice agreement that ended the Great War of 1914 - 1918, the "war to end all wars", and the 108 years that have followed since then. The service acknowledged the 61,000 soldiers who died during the Great War, and 102,000 soldiers who have died in active service for Australia.

The attendees gathered in Anzac park on the corner of Goondoon and Tank Street to commemorate the fallen, with the days proceedings beginning with opening addresses and lowering of the flags, the cenotaph guard standing watch over the war memorial, the reading of poems including the "Ode to the People at Home" (unique to Gladstone) and a vocal performance by singer Jenni Tidd, the wreath laying, the sound of the Last Post followed by a minute's silence to signify the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when the armistice was signed, the bugle call to rouse the gathering, followed by both the Australian and American national anthems and the raising of the flags.



Remembrance Day invites Australians to join together each year and remember the courage and sacrifice of service members, some of which didn't return home to their families and loved ones, and reminds us of the freedoms we have today because of their bravery in the pursuit of peace.

Lest We Forget.



$15,000 Raised for Bob's Garage at this year's International Men's Day Breakfast

Thank you to the 212 guests that attended this year's International Men's Day Breakfast.

Thank you to this year's Keynote and Guest Speakers:

Trent Scherer from QAL, **Dewald Lubbe** from Orica and **Bob McKoscer** from Bob's Garage

This year we raised $15,000.00 to be donated to our beneficiary Bob's Garage.

Rotary Club of Gladstone

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Save the date for next year **Friday 19 Nov 2027**



CHRISTMAS MAPLE BAKED HAM

INGREDIENTS

HAM

- 5 kg / 10 lb leg ham, bone in, skin on
- 2 oranges , cut into quarters
- 1 cup (250ml) water

GLAZE

- 3/4 cup (185ml) maple syrup (sub honey)
- 3/4 cup (165g) brown sugar , packed
- 3 tbsp dijon mustard (can sub American or other plain mustard)
- 3/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp All Spice (or nutmeg)

Prep: 30 min
Cook: 2 hrs

https://www.recipetineats.com/easy-maple-sticky-glazed-ham/

METHOD

1. Take ham out of fridge 1 hour prior.
2. Preheat oven to 160°C / 320°F (140°C fan). Arrange shelf in lower third so the ham will be sitting in the centre of the oven (rather than in top half of oven).
3. Place the Glaze ingredients in a bowl and mix until combined – use whisk if needed.
4. Remove the rind of the ham and lightly cut 2.5cm / 1" diamonds across the fat surface of the ham, about 75% of the way into the fat. Avoid cutting into the meat.

Glaze and Baking

1. Place the ham in a large baking dish. Prop handle up on edge of pan + scrunched up foil so surface of the ham is level (for more even caramelisation).
2. Squeeze the juice of 1 orange (4 quarters) over the ham. Then place them along with the remaining orange into the baking dish around the ham.
3. Brush / spoon half the glaze all over the surface and cut face of the ham (don't worry about underside, glaze drips down into pan)
4. Pour the water in the baking dish, then place in the oven.
5. Bake for 1.5 – 2 hrs, basting very generously every 30 minutes with remainig glaze + juices in pan, or until sticky and golden.
6. Use foil patches to protect bits that brown faster than others – press on lightly, caramelisation won't peel off with the foil.
7. Allow to rest for at least 20 minutes before serving. Baste, baste, baste before serving – as the glaze in the pan cools, it thickens which means it "paints" the ham even better – but be sure to save pan juices for drizzling.

Here in History

GRAHAM DICKER - BOXER

Graham Dicker became a classy Aboriginal boxer who won sixty-nine (69) professional fights in his boxing career. Graham started school at the Gladstone South State School in 1948 before he was five years of age and stayed at this school, until he reached grade 7.

He then attended the Gladstone Central State School for a while, before moving to Brisbane. He worked at Cannon Hill Meatworks for a time, but on finding his niche in the boxing game he become a professional fighter in 1961.

Over the next ten years he moved from preliminary fights to eventually getting frequent title fights. The divisions that Graham held were lightweight, welterweight, middleweight and light heavyweight. He was the holder of four Queensland Titles and of his 69 fights he won twenty-three by WKO and another sixteen on points. Possibly his greatest claim to fame was when he had an impressive win over the American import, Carlos Cruz, in 1964.



Regrettably, Graham was never the holder of an Australian Title but was documented in the Queensland Hall of Fame for Boxing. He came a long way from his humble beginnings at Gladstone South School and spent some of his late years in an Aged Home on the Sunshine Coast. He passed away on 7th April 2019, aged 76 years.

By *Betty Laver*

Photo from Jimmy Harris



Hands-on learning for a healthier harbour.

Year 4 students from Calliope State School wrapped up their final Buraligim Weiber program excursion for the year with a fantastic day of exploring, discovering and getting hands-on with our local waterways!

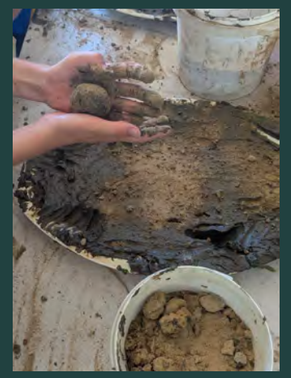
The adventure kicked off at Spinnaker Park, where students explored the BIG 6, guided by GPC, and learnt more about the important features of our local marine environment.

Next stop was CQUniversity's Coastal Marine Ecosystems Research Centre (CMERC), where students discovered the important role seagrass plays in healthy marine ecosystems. They even got their hands muddy, helping make seagrass mud balls to hold the seeds together, ready for planting in the ocean later this year!

To finish the day, the team at Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership (GHHP) brought the Gladstone Harbour catchment story to life. Students got to experiment with different contaminants and explore how everyday activities from businesses, schools, farms and our own communities can impact the health of our waterways.

From exploring marine environments to making seagrass mud balls and investigating water pollution, it was a wonderful day of learning about the connections between our community and the harbour we all share.







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Gladstone Navy Cadets Sail On

TO VICTORY AT YEPPOON CHAMPIONSHIPS

Australian Navy Cadets from the TS Gladstone scored a victory at the Queensland Youth Sailing Championships recently held in Yeppoon, bringing together over 255 boats and 368 young sailors from 33 clubs across 4 states. Running from the 21st to the 26th of September this year, Zarra Cunningham and crewmate Kenzie Sim crossed the finish line on the Delta Course, ending with a score of 12 and taking out the title as the best girls' team in their class.

Starting with a three-day coaching clinic, the competitors in each class were assigned an Australian Sailing coach who guided them through several drills designed to make the sailors think on the fly. The last three days of the championships were the class races, with three held each day in an intense battle to reach the finish line, coupled with extreme marine weather consisting of large swells and strong winds which unfortunately resulted in the cancellation of the second and third races on Day 1 of the competition due to safety concerns. Staggering the start of each course, the organisers were able to ensure there were enough safety boats to continue the championships safely.

The TS Gladstone Cadets returned home exhausted from the week-long camp, but they were very excited about their experiences over the duration of the competition, the friendships they made along the way, and the new skills learned from their instructors which they are now bringing back to their unit to train other cadets on better sailing techniques.

Bringing a total of four boats and crews consisting of eight cadets, including Lucien Debois and Tommie Morrison, Jaycee Cunningham and Montana Healey, Curtis Larkin and Reece Healey, and the two winners Zarra Cunningham and Kenzie Sim, the cadets were able to attend the championship through various fundraising activities throughout the year to cover the costs of accommodation at Cockscomb Veterans retreat and the entry fees.

Gladstone and Calliope RSL Subbranches, alongside Total Ventilation and Hygiene, kindly sponsored a boat each, and local engineering company Projam also sponsored boats for the event registration fee and coaching clinic, Kin Kora Meats donated meat for the meals during the cadet's week away, and Camp Akuna Pikes Crossing funded the groceries.

Australian Navy Cadets is a premier youth development program sponsored by the Royal Australian Navy for 13-18 year olds, focusing on the maritime environment and modern Navy specialties. The Gladstone unit, Training Ship Gladstone, is open to new recruits and are currently taking enrolments for 2027.

Zhik Youth Sail QLD is an event for youth sailors under 23 in Yeppoon, welcoming all kinds of junior and youth classes. The event is focused on growing participation in avid young sailors, increasing their skills, fostering social connections, and building friendships and community among youth sailors across Australia.

With the Olympics in Queensland only six years away, events like the Queensland Youth Sailing Championships are important for the development of local young sailors who may one day represent Gladstone at bigger competitions. Without the local support backing these aspiring seafarers, it would not have been possible for the team to participate this year, and the sailing community is eager to see where the wind will take these young sailors in the future.

McCosker Gladstone Speedway

THE NEWEST ADDITION TO 'KIDS IN PITS' PROGRAM

Speedway Australia has just welcomed Central Queensland's premier event facility, McCosker Gladstone Speedway, to their Kids in Pits Program, making the complex one of only six approved locations in the country who are part of the program.

Kids in Pits gives young people the opportunity to experience the excitement, atmosphere and community of speedway from behind the scenes. Designed with families in mind, the program helps children connect with the sport they love while learning about the people, vehicles and teamwork that make race day possible.

At the core of the program is the safety and wellbeing of the children and youth involved, and Kids in Pits is only available at approved venues that have demonstrated compliance with Speedway Australia's safety, operational and child safeguarding requirements, expecting each approved venue to provide a safe, welcoming and well-managed environment for participating families.

The key principles of the program include only letting children and young people in approved areas clear of restricted and operational zones, complying with venue directions and wearing appropriate enclosed footware, and the supervision of children at all times by a responsible adult.

The Kids in Pits Program reflects McCosker Gladstone Speedway's growing commitment to inclusivity and introducing the world of the sport in a safe and family friendly way by combining exciting behind-the-scenes access with strong safeguarding measures. The program aims to create memorable experiences for young people while giving parents confidence that their children can participate in a well-managed environment.

The first Kids in Pits event is scheduled for December the 5th, with more information on the program available at www.speedwayaustralia.org/kids-in-pits/ and the McCosker Gladstone Speedway Facebook page.

Things are heating up this December with Fiesta Loca!

Zumba
Maintain your health by finding your rhythm every Tuesday with Zumba! Shimmy your way to the Yaralla Fitness Center for a 5:30pm start.

Line Dancing
Heel toe and dosey doe every Thursday night at the Queens Hotel from 6:30pm! Want to learn the routines? Join us the day before on Wednesdays from 5pm and be performance ready!



Fiesta Loca CLASS BOOKINGS ONLINE www.fiestaloca.com.au Fiesta Loca



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