

Travel *Today*

ISSUE 3

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Taste of glorious Gympie

From historic Gympie City to the rolling hills of the Mary Valley in the south, the trail of country towns to the west of the region and the pristine waters of the Cooloola Coast in the northeast – we welcome you.

Located two hours north of Brisbane and only 30 minutes from Noosa, the region acts as the southern gateway to the World Heritage-listed K'gari. Whether you're here for a short or long stay, you're in for a good time, and an abundance of experiences from fishing, camping, nature, food and events. No matter if you're an adventure seeker, travelling with family or simply looking for a relaxing getaway, the Gympie Region encourages you to make the most out of every moment.

Gympie City boasts rich heritage you can explore after a walk along the River to Rail Trail, a 7.8km loop that winds its way along the Mary River and through the heart of town. Stroll through the main street and relax with a coffee at one of the cafes before embarking on a self-guided heritage tour.

Visit the museums or art gallery, browse the weekend markets to sample fresh local produce or experience a range of fun activities. If you're looking for something more relaxing, you can simply spread out a rug and enjoy a picnic at one of the many magnificent parks. Gympie Memorial Park is a three-acre parkland featuring manicured gardens, a playground, jacaranda trees and a century-old rotunda.

Take a dip in the Mothar Mountain Rock Pools or a ride on the Mary Valley Rattler from Gympie City to the Mary Valley.

Mary Valley

Set in the rolling hills, the Mary Valley is dotted with villages that exude community spirit and offer authentic country hospitality. With a history of agriculture, including beef and dairy farming on rich fertile land, you will discover bespoke shops and cafes that showcase local growers and producers.

The natural beauty of the Valley lends itself to many adventure activities such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing, bush walking, bike riding, four-wheel driving, and horse riding. For the true Valley experience, set aside a mini-break long weekend. There are various accommodation styles for families and couples, including beds and breakfasts, farm stays, cabins and camping under the stars in the forest.

Discover Kilkivan, Goomeri and the Woolooga area

Discover a history of rich grazing and friendly farming communities across these areas. For lovers of quirky collections, fine



antiques, collectibles, and vintage goods visit Goomeri Antiques, Kilkivan Antiques Fine Art and Collectibles, Wimberley and Co Bookstore, Goomeri Emporium and The Country Way Museum.

Take to the outdoors and explore the bushland following the Kilkivan to Kingaroy Rail Trail. This 88km trail can be enjoyed by foot, bike, horseback, or accompanied by your pooch. Step your way through the heritage village and its comprehensive displays at the Kilkivan Shire Museum. Visit the Mt Clara Smelter, a once-active copper mine in the 1870s; the heritage-listed chimney is the only remaining artifact. Park your caravan at Kilkivan Bush Camping and Caravan Park or stay at Kilkivan Country Bed and Breakfast.

Built in 1886, heritage-listed Dickabram Bridge is the oldest road-rail bridge in Queensland and the second oldest in Australia. Have a barbecue lunch at the bridge, or stop in at the Historic Theebine Hotel for a good country feed.

As you head towards Goomeri, look out for the signs to Kinbombi Falls. The falls cascade down the steep basalt rock face into the gorge below and feature a scenic lookout. Treat yourself to some country retail therapy in Goomeri's main street. Don't forget to stop by the local bakery while you stroll along the Goomeri Heritage Trail.

Cooloola Coast

Step into the Cooloola Great Walk and take the 102km journey across five days and four nights from Noosa North Shore to Rainbow Beach. With vast arrays of different scenery from the Noosa Everglades, the Cooloola sandmass and the lush rainforest of the Great Sandy National Park, there's a reason why it's described as one of Australia's most scenic hikes.

Carlo Sand Blow and Coloured Sands

With unobstructed 180-degree ocean views from Double Island Point to the southern tip of K'gari, no two visits to the Carlo Sand Blow ever look the same. Two kilome-

tres south from Rainbow Beach is the iconic Coloured Sands; 200ft of sandy cliffs with 70+ colours best enjoyed up close or from the comfort of a 4WD or scenic flight.

Inskip Point

Dubbed the gateway to the largest sand island in the world - K'gari - Inskip Point serves its own set of nature-based adventures. Set up camp in the designated areas to enjoy this ocean-side paradise for yourself.

Discover the coloured coast. Nestled in a World Heritage-listed area and neighbouring biospheres, Rainbow Beach is as rich in culture as it is in breathtaking landscapes. The area can trace its history back to the ancient creation time stories of protective rainbows and evil boomerangs colliding over the now famous sands. Experience life on the water. Immerse yourself in the coastal lifestyle of Tin Can Bay where seafood is enjoyed fresh and the wildlife is abundant.

Continued page 3

Get out among it all

Caravanning and Camping in the Gympie Region

The Great Sandy National Park beckons with its breathtaking Cooloola sand mass and the captivating allure of K'gari.

Be immersed in the pristine beauty of this coastal wonderland as you enjoy the rainbow sands, swim in freshwater lakes,

and explore the picturesque surrounds. With four designated camp areas and accessible 4WD routes, the park offers the perfect camping escape.

Brooyar State Forest

For an idyllic camping getaway, look no further than Brooyar State Forest.

Set up camp right beside the tranquil Glastonbury Creek and enjoy time un-

winding and connecting with nature. The best part? A furry companion can join in camping adventure, as dogs on leashes are allowed.

Amamoor State Forest

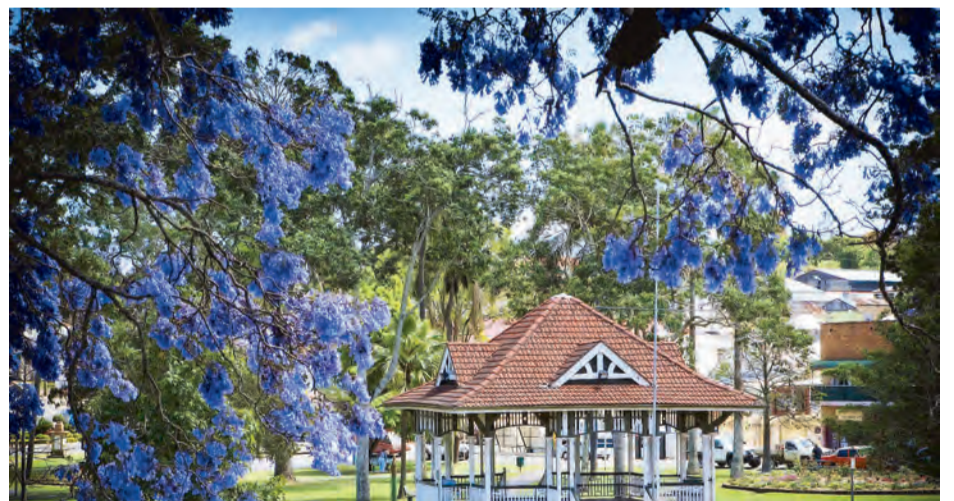
Located just 30 kilometres southwest of Gympie City, Amamoor State Forest provides a peaceful retreat for nature enthusiasts.

Cedar Grove camping area invites both tent campers and those with motorhomes to set up for the night next to the creek among red cedars and bunya pines.

For those looking to bring their dog, head to the nearby Amamoor Creek camping area, where dogs are permitted on-leash only.

Welcome to a taste of glorious Gympie

From page 2



Remember your first time?

You never forget the first holiday you take on your own or with friends. The taste of freedom that comes with no parents or school teachers to dictate where you go and what you do.

It's almost a rite of passage, a part of growing up.

Suddenly you are making the plans and relying on yourself and your mates to plan and organise the perfect holiday.

For most of us it happens in our late teens and is often part of end of school celebrations – trips to Surfers or Byron or an island resort or even overseas.

For me it was Gympie with a workmate to visit his family.

I'd been to Noosa with my family but I'd never been any further north than that.

Gympie was just that little bit further away and this time without my parent to hold my hand.

I kind of fell in love with the natural beauty of the place, with Tin Can Bay and Gympie itself on that trip. And it in the years since it has become a frequent stop-over point.

It has been fun revisiting that trip (and my subsequent holidays) while putting together the winter edition of Travel Today and our special on the Cooloola Coast and Gympie Region.

It was a great place to visit in the early 90s but with new places to stay, events to enjoy and places to eat, it's even more fun now.

Hopefully this edition of Travel Today will give plenty of ideas to help make the most of a trip to the region.

For those looking to leave the country Kylie Mitchell-Smith has filed two stories from Spain where she is currently travelling (and lecturing at a Travel Writers seminar –

nice work if you can get it).

Meanwhile Bob Anthony continues his series on his recent trip to Vietnam with a look at one of the world's most incredible and very different theme parks – it's definitely not like a trip to a Gold Coast theme park.

And because it's winter there are places to visit where you can rug up and enjoy a warm drink and an even warmer fire.

So, grab your hot chocolate, pop in an extra marshmallow and enjoy this season's Travel Today.

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Muster a must for the vibe

For those who love great music, fun times and camping under the stars, come along to the Gympie Music Muster, famous for its good vibe and friendly atmosphere.

It's the perfect festival to bring the family to with kids 12 and under are free and discounted tickets are available for the teens.

The Gympie Music Muster is one of Australia's most-loved camping and music experiences. Staged deep within the natural surrounds of the Amamoor Creek State Forest, the Muster showcases a mix of country, roots, blues and country rock music as well as workshops, dancing, bush poets, kids' club and more.

The four-day event will run from 22 to 25 August this year.

The first Gympie Muster, held in 1982 to celebrate the Golden Guitar win by the Webb Brothers, has grown to become one of Australia's most recognised and iconic fundraising events. The Muster is proudly owned by the Apex Club of Gympie and its fundamental purpose has always remained the same — to raise funds for those in need within the community. Since that first festival almost \$21million has been raised for charities and community groups.

The Artists

This year's Muster will feature more than 140 artists, showcasing Australian talent from a variety of genres. Our Aussie artists include including Lee Kernaghan, Graeme Connors, Beccy Cole, Brad Cox, James Johnston, Casey Barnes, Brooke McClymont and Adam Eckersley, Felicity Urquhart and Josh Cunningham, Tex Perkins (The Man In Black), Andrew Swift, Lyn Bowtell, Amber Lawrence, Ashleigh Dallas and the fabulous Davison Brothers Band from the US.

The famous Bundy Crowbar will be rock-in over the four days with Joe Camilleri and



Getting ready for the famous Gympie Muster.

The Black Sorrows, Shannon Noll, Dragon & Kaylee Bell joining the huge line-up.

Headlining the Boss Hire Blues Bar are artists will be Richard Clapton, Pierce Cain and Allensworth from the USA. To see the full entertainment line-up check out the muster.com.au website.

So Much More Than Just Great Music

Don't miss the Bullride and Rooftop Express horse show in the Newgen Muster Arena, plus there is line dancing, bush dancing, ukelele workshops and plenty for the young ones in the Gympie Mazda Kids Country.

Camping and Accommodation

Camping at the Muster is a unique and

integral part of the festival experience and is included in the cost of the festival ticket. Four-day ticket holders can camp for free for up to nine nights from Saturday 17 August and early campers will be treated to Pre-Muster entertainment from this date until 21 August ahead of the official four-day festival beginning on 22 August. The campgrounds are located within the beautiful Amamoor Creek State Forest, a riverine rainforest 15 kms past the township of Amamoor.

For those who don't have their own camping gear the festival have them covered with Banjo's tent motel which includes a pre-set-up tent with canvas floor, lighting,

mattresses, bed linen, table, chairs, dedicated amenities and a communal mobile recharge station. The package also includes breakfast each morning of the festival and a short ride into the festival entrance on a free shuttle bus. Book Banjo's tent early to avoid disappointment.

Just the facts

- Tickets are available from muster.com.au
- Gympie Music Muster – 22-25 August 22-25, Amamoor Creek State Forest, Queensland

The Gympie Music Muster is proudly supported by the Gympie Regional Council and the Queensland Government, through Tourism and Events Queensland.

2024 FULL ARTIST LINE-UP



AMBER LAWRENCE
ANDREW SWIFT
BECCY COLE
BRAD COX
BROOKE MCCLYMONT & ADAM ECKERSLEY
CASEY BARNES
DAVISON BROTHERS BAND (USA)
DRAGON
FELICITY URQUHART & JOSH CUNNINGHAM
GRAEME CONNORS
JAMES JOHNSTON
JOE CAMILLERI & THE BLACK SORROWS
KAYLEE BELL
LEE KERNAGHAN
LUKE O'SHEA
RICHARD CLAPTON
SHANNON NOLL
TAYLOR MOSS
TEX PERKINS THE MAN IN BLACK
WADE FORSTER
THE WHITLAM'S BLACK STUMP

ALSO PERFORMING (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

19TWENTY · ALEX KOSENKO · ALICE BENFER · ALLAN CASWELL · ALLENSWORTH (USA) · AMY RYAN · ANABELLE · ASA BROOMHALL · ASHLEIGH DALLAS · THE BAD DAD ORCHESTRA · THE BARLEYSHAKES · BETH LUCAS · BIG SKY MOUNTAIN · BILLIE-JO PORTER · BLUES ARCADIA · BOX FALCON · BRAD BUTCHER · BRENDAN MCMAHON · BRIANA DINSDALE BAND · BRIANNAH GRACE · BUD ROKESKY · THE BUSHWACKERS · CAITLIN HARNETT & THE PONY BOYS · CHAD MORGAN · THE CHARLES CAMILLERI CONNECTION · CHRIS CAIN (USA) · CHRISTIE LAMB · COL FINLEY · COURTNEY KEIL · CRAIG WAYNE BOYD (USA) · DAN HORNE · DARREN HANLON · DAVE HOLE · DEE JAYE BUX · DELSINKI & THE QUIET COACHMEN · DENNIS COMINO · DENVAH · DUNCAN TOOMBS · FAVOURITE KID · FREIGHT TRAIN FOXES · GOOD WILL REMEDY · HANA AND JESSIE-LEE'S BAD HABITS · HENRY CATANIA · HENRY WAGONS · THE HILLBILLY GOATS · HUSSY HICKS · THE INADEQUATES · JACK RAYMOND · JAKE WHITTAKER · JAMES BLUNDELL · JEFF LANG · JEN MIZE & THE ROUGH 'N' TUMBLE · JEREMY TURNER · JOLLEE · JUKEJOINT · KARL S WILLIAMS · KATELANN MAREE · KIRSTY LEE AKERS · LANCE FRIEND · LANE PITTMAN · LEE GRIFFIN · LIL G · LINC PHELPS · LITTLE QUIRKS · LYN BOWTELL · THE LYRICAL · MATT CORNELL · MELANIE DYER · MIDWEST MOLLY · NATALIE PEARSON · NATHAN MAY · PETE CULLEN & THE HURT · PETER CHAPMAN · PIERCE BROTHERS · THE PIGS · RHINESTONED · ROBERT FORSTER · ROCK N ROLL BOYS · ROSHANI · RUBY JANE · RYAN GILES BAND · SARA BERKI · SARAH SAVANNAH · SHANLEIGH ROSE · SIMPLY BUSHED · SMALL TOWN ROMANCE · SONS OF ATTICUS · STEVE GRAHAM · SUE RAY · SWEET TALK · TAKING BACK THURSDAY · TAMMY MOXON · TAUREAN THOMPSON · TENNESSEE LIGHTS · TILLY ROSE · TOBIAS · TOM HARRINGTON · TORI FORSYTH · THE TRAVELLING COUNTRY BAND FEAT PETE DENAHY · WANITA · THE WET WHISTLES



GYMPIE MUSIC MUSTER

TICKETS ON SALE!
22-25 AUGUST 2024 MUSTER.COM.AU

FREE CAMPING





Enjoying nature.



Feeding the dolphins at Tin Can Bay.

Be immersed in nature

The Gympie Region is an area of natural beauty with plenty to do and see during a weekend or enjoying a longer stay.

Kayak the Mary River or Yabba Creek for a chance to see an elusive platypus in the early morning. Hire bikes and explore the local forest and waterfalls and try spotting a Koala or listen to the bell birds on the Mary Valley Rail Trail.

Cooloola Great Sandy National Park gives visitors a chance to experience nature's sculpture in sand with massive dunes and towering sand cliffs, wide ocean beaches etched by wind and waterfalls, tall forests, fragrant wildflower heaths and paperback swamps. Walk scenic tracks and explore Double Island Point Lighthouse.

Enjoy the seaside village of Tin Can Bay and check out the rare Indo Pacific humpback dolphin and an abundance of other wildlife. The sheltered coast makes this coastal village a lovely place for sailing, kayaking and fishing as well as enjoying seafood from Great Sandy Strait and Pacific Ocean.

For a touch of history visit the charming town of Kilkivan with its streets lined with heritage buildings. Gold was first discovered in Queensland near the town back in 1852 sparking a gold rush more than a decade later in 1868. Even now it's not unusual to spy amateur prospectors panning for gold in the village and surrounding region.

Famous for the annual Kilkivan Great Horse ride established in 1986 and held in April, Kilkivan is one of the few towns situated on the Bicentennial National Trail. The 5000km long trail stretches from Cooktown in Queensland, to Healesville in Victoria. A historic coach and stock route once used for long distance horse treks, these days



Catching up for a cuppa.

keen hikers and cyclists traverse through the countryside amongst rugged mountains, dry plains and valleys.

While famous for a horse ride, it's also a great place for mountain bike riders thanks to the Kilkivan Rail Trail, which stretches 27

km along the old rail corridor from Kilkivan to Goomeri.

And for the history lovers, drop into the Kilkivan District Museum in Bligh Street where there are plenty of displays showing what life was like in bygone days. The

museum also has a significant mineral collection featuring around 5,000 specimens.

And of course there are plenty of great places to eat right across the region.

There really is something for everyone to enjoy and explore in the Gympie Region.

Kilkivan District Museum

Kilkivan, with its population of about 500 people, is only half an hour west of Gympie. Did you know that the first recorded discovery of gold in Queensland was near Kilkivan in 1852?

The landowner of the time kept the exact location a secret, but a gold rush did occur in 1868.

Did you know that Cinnabar, which is the base material for Mercury, was mined in the local district of Cinnabar during the second World War? This Museum has been in place for more than 40 years

The current displays include:

- ◆ A small military collection including uniforms and several rifles
- ◆ A grocery shop from the past
- ◆ A research facility detailing the lives of past residents of the Kilkivan region
- ◆ An old railway barracks showing a kitchen and a classroom from a bygone time
- ◆ A Slab stockman's hut just as he lived in it over 100 years ago

We have one of the most significant collections of minerals in regional Queensland. This collection which consists of approximately 5,000 specimens covers the full range from throughout the world.

This wonderful collection was donated to our Museum, located at 12 Bligh Street, Kilkivan.





All aboard.

Gympie's rattling good time

The iconic Mary Valley Rattler – or 'Rattler' as it is known locally – provides an atmospheric journey back in time, when Gympie was one of Australia's richest gold fossicking regions.

Gympie's gold was credited as saving the fledgling Queensland colony from bankruptcy, and while the rivers of gold slowed by the early 1900s, agriculture became the new glittering attraction for settlers from the south.

To cater for the expansion of farms and communities, work began on the railway in 1911 leading to the establishment of small townships at Kandanga, Brooloo, Imbil, Amamoor and Dagun.

As part of the construction of the new Mary Valley line, a new station was constructed in 1913 in the heart of Gympie, and it soon attracted visitors from around the world, including King George V in the 1920s.

The station's elegant 'pagoda' architectural style makes it one of the most important heritage buildings in Queensland and a must-visit attraction for Gympie visitors.

While commuter and freight services ended in the mid-1990s, the romance of the railway refused to fade. Volunteers lovingly restored the steam and diesel trains, and rebirthed vintage carriages to ensure the Rattler remained on the rails.

Today, the Rattler fleet traverses the glorious Mary Valley, crossing over bridges and through verdant farmland to the historic village of Amamoor. Here, passengers can disembark and enjoy refreshments while watching the train engine turn on the turntable for the return journey.

It is a brilliant day out for everyone. The Rattler operates throughout the week, providing a range of services including traditional steam engine rides and the weekly

Silver Bullet High Tea Experience, which combines the heritage Silver Bullet railmotor with a glass of bubbles, locally made sweet and savoury treats, and unlimited tea and coffee through the two-hour journey.

Special packages are available for visitors to ride with the driver and tour the workshops, while VIP offers first-class service for those who want to really enjoy the romance of the rails.

Based at the heritage Gympie Station, passengers on the Mary Valley Rattler can dine at Rusty Rails Cafe before or after their journey and purchase food and beverages for the journey.

The Mary Valley Rattler is a magical history tour perfect for all travellers, regardless of age.

Volunteer-run, it is run with a real passion for the service delivered, and the Rattler has custom-designed carriages to

accommodate wheelchair-bound passengers and even four-legged friends.

A ride on the Rattler is a great way to appreciate the history of the Gympie region. It's worth making a whole day—or short break—available for touring the area. The history of Gympie's gold rush can be explored at the Gympie Gold Mining and Historical Museum, while the Woodwork Museum also offers a fascinating insight into the past.

In many ways, the Gympie town centre is a museum in its own right, and there are plenty of self-guided walks available to explore a heritage where the roads were almost literally paved in gold.

Gympie is just an hour north of the Sunshine Coast and two hours north of Brisbane Airport.

Website: maryvalleyrattler.com.au/

All Aboard

MARY VALLEY RATTLER

& DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF HERITAGE RAIL!

Explore the Historic Gympie Station, grab a coffee & a bite to eat at the Rusty Rails Cafe, before jumping aboard for a great family adventure. Head to our website now to book. We look forward to welcoming you aboard!

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The sand blow.



Kayaks.

Picture: EPIC OCEAN ADVENTURES

Rainbow to fall in love with

Rainbow Beach locals say life is better there. They reckon the surf-side town has all the benefits of a metropolis but with the quietness and hospitality of the country.

And they might be right.

Surrounded by huge sand dunes, subtropical rainforest and a stunning ocean, the town attracts travellers with a passion for life.

This beautiful corner of the world is situated within a three-hour drive of Brisbane, Toowoomba and Bundaberg.

For many visitors, Rainbow is the perfect balance between outdoor adventure and pure relaxation.

Whether looking for a boutique resort, beachside cabin, budget digs or a home away from home, it's hard not to fall in love with all they have to offer.

Bordered by nature, it's not hard to see why many believe it is the perfect holiday destination for families. Nestled between the Cooloolo National Park and the southern gateway to K'gari (Fraser Island), with an abundance of experiences to take the breath away.

There's no denying it, the beach is one of the most popular attractions – and for good reason. It spans 23km from the camping corner of Inskip Point to the pristine Double Island Point.

Visitors can take their own wheels, rent a four-wheel drive, or outsource the driving to an expert; it's the perfect opportunity to ditch the bitumen and take the road less travelled.

There is a chance for visitors to learn to surf on one of Australia's longest surf breaks, make friends with a dolphin while

kayaking around Double Island Point, or feel the wind through their hair as they ride along the white sandy shore on horseback.

For the truly adventurous go diving at Wolf Rock, one of only a few sites in the world that the endangered Grey Nurse Shark calls home.

No trip to Rainbow is complete without a visit to the Carlo Sand Blow, a majestic sand mass that sits high above the town and offers breathtaking views in all directions.

Visitors can rent a sand board before heading up -with locals believe there's no better sound than the laughter of families as they ride (or tumble) their way down the dunes. It's also a breathtaking spot to watch the sunset.

Resting on the outskirts of town is Lake Poona where visitors can hear the birds as they make their way along the sandy track with towering hoop pines, strangler figs and tall piccabeen palms.

It's a short four-kilometre round trip with the journey as impressive as the destination.

Slow down on a holiday in the region by unwinding with a meditation or yoga session on the ocean viewing platform at Phil Rogers Park or secure a quiet spot on the beach.

Listen to the waves crash the stress of everyday life melt away. A pamper session at the massage and pedicure salon is always an option.

It's not just nature that attracts people to Rainbow. Those looking for the ultimate fresh meal, can try their hand at beach fishing or they can always just dine locally at one of the amazing eateries.



Rainbow Beach from the air.

Picture: RAINBOW BEACH HELICOPTERS



cooloolo coast
general practice



GENERAL PRACTITIONERS NEEDED – EXPANDING CLINICS

Time for a Sea Change? Due to expansion, full or part time positions are now available for General Practitioners in beautiful Queensland Coastal towns - Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay and Cooloolo Cove.

The region is surrounded by National Park and our locals love swimming, boating, surfing, beach four wheel-driving, cafe culture, fishing and lifestyle opportunities and only two hours to Sunshine Coast airport.

Clinics are well appointed with great support staff. Choose your own hours and days. Feel valued. Great earning potential. Rent free fully furnished house for the first six months with reduced rent available after this.

Locum support for holidays so you can explore this remarkable region. Any questions email Mary Van Beek at pm@cooloolacoastgp.com.au or phone: **0458 604 085** Life is better at the beach!

Discover Norfolk Island

Nestled in the tranquil waters of the South Pacific Ocean lies a gem waiting to be discovered: Norfolk Island. This tiny paradise boasts an abundance of natural beauty, a rich history, and a vibrant community spirit. But what truly sets Norfolk Island apart is its captivating events that offer travellers a chance to indulge in their passions and hobbies whilst also experiencing a holiday unlike any other.

From cultural celebrations to sporting extravaganzas, Norfolk Island hosts a diverse array of events throughout the year that cater to every interest and passion. Here are just a few compelling reasons why you should pack your bags and embark on an unforgettable journey to Norfolk Island to partake in these events.

Norfolk Island's Living History

Norfolk Island's fascinating past comes to life through its historical reenactments and commemorative events. Step back in time and witness the island's convict heritage during the annual Bounty Day celebrations, where locals don period costumes and recreate the landing of the HMS Bounty. Gain insight into Norfolk Island's convict era through guided tours of Kingston, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and attend convict-inspired theatrical performances that transport you to a bygone era.

The Vibrant Culture

Immerse yourself in Norfolk Island's vibrant culture by participating in its lively festivals and cultural events. From the Norfolk Island Food Festival showcasing the island's culinary delights to dancing and theatre events, there's no shortage of entertainment to delight your senses.

Outdoor Adventures

For adventure seekers and outdoor enthusiasts, Norfolk Island offers an abundance of



Reliving history.

exhilarating activities set against breathtaking natural landscapes. From golfing events, to 3D Archery, Clay Target and Pistol Shooting events to Lawn Bowling competitions, there is something for everyone.

Connect with the Community

One of the most rewarding aspects of visiting Norfolk Island is the opportunity to connect with its warm and welcoming community. Whether you're attending a local market showcasing handmade crafts and fresh produce or participating in a progressive dinner at local houses, you'll be greeted with genuine hospitality and a

sense of camaraderie that's synonymous with island life. Engage with local artisans at workshops and craft fairs, where you can learn traditional skills such as basket weaving and wood carving passed down through generations.

Escape to Island Paradise

Beyond its captivating events and cultural attractions, Norfolk Island beckons travellers with its serene beauty and laid-back charm. Relax on pristine beaches framed by towering Norfolk Island pines or explore lush rainforests teeming with native flora and fauna. Take in panoramic views from



Enjoying Norfolk Island.

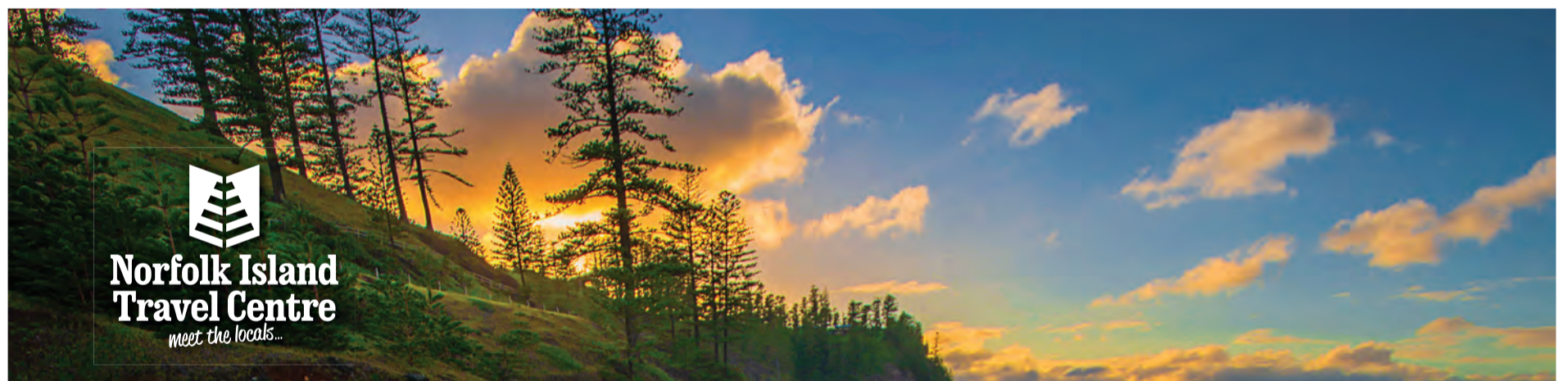
Pictures: TOURISM AUSTRALIA



Bird's eye view.

scenic lookouts overlooking rugged cliffs and dramatic coastlines, or simply unwind and savour the island's unhurried pace of life.

Norfolk Island offers a truly immersive and enriching travel experience for event enthusiasts seeking adventure, culture, and community spirit. Whether it's the rich history, vibrant festivals, or breathtaking natural scenery, Norfolk Island promises to captivate hearts and leave visitors with cherished memories that will last a lifetime. So why wait? Start planning a journey to Norfolk Island today and embark on an unforgettable adventure unlike any other.



CALENDAR OF NORFOLK ISLAND EVENTS: JULY 2024 - JUNE 2025

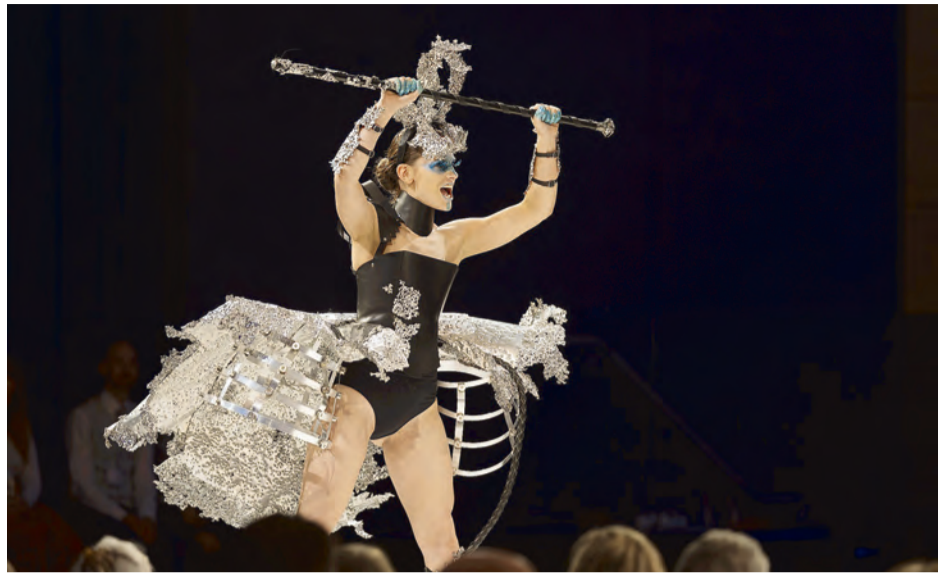
JULY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graham Rodger Country Music Week (2024 only) 	FEB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clay Target Championships Veterans Golf Tournament South Pacific Pairs Bowls Tournament
AUG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Burge Pro-Am Golf Classic NIO Classic Triples Bowls Tournament 	MAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Fleet Week & Foundation Day Celebrations
SEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qigong Retreat with 'Master' Simon Blow (2024 only) 	APR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANZAC Day & Commemorative Week Castaway, Baunti Tours Pairs Golf Tournament Line Dancing Festival with Kate Moore
OCT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden Week & Royal A&H Show Art Workshop with Judy Salleh (2024 only) Friendship Force Australian Gathering (2024 only) 	MAY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bounty Bowls Fours Tournament Red Hatter Extravaganza on Norfolk Island
NOV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird Week Governor's Cup Golf Tournament Food Lovers Week 	JUNE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Ballroom Dance Festival Bounty (Anniversary) Day Celebrations
DEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Pistol Shooting Championships 		

Image: Ian Rolfe, Southern Lightscapes Photography

✉ groups@nittravelcentre.com | www.norfolkislandtravelcentre.com | ☎ 1800 1400 66



Rangebow 2024: The Kitty Kats to perform at After-Dinner Mintz.



Emerging Wearable Artist Winner Rae Saheli.

Don't miss these events

If art, culture, food or fashion are on the wish list for activities this winter, the Sunshine Coast has it covered.

Over the next few months, the Sunshine Coast will host an array of epic events and festivals worth the time – think multi-day celebrations of Indigenous culture, foodie festivals to tantalise the tastebuds and a garden expo that's sure to be a feast for all the senses.

Here's five to mark on the calendar:
Queensland Garden Expo

4-7 July

Whether a bona fide horticulturist or a novice green thumb, the Queensland Garden Expo is the place to go green this winter. Spanning four mammoth days in the Sunshine Coast hinterland town of Nambour, dive headfirst into workshops, demonstrations and Australia's largest gardening speaker program in celebration of 40-years. Get immersed in a botanical wonderland while learning how to establish a kitchen garden from the experts; or attend one of over 120 free talks and demonstrations, including the free Plant Clinic to address individual gardening needs.

Noosa alive! Festival

19-28 July

Celebrating its 22nd year in 2024, the Noosa alive! Festival presents 10 days of music, theatre and thought performances. Ignite senses with live shows, literary events, thought provoking, mind tingling, sensory overload performances – each accompanied with great food and wine all to the backdrop of stunning Noosa. The first release event program includes standouts such as performances from the Queensland Ballet, The Seven Sopranos, and one of Australia's most popular writers and actors – William McInnes.

The Curated Plate

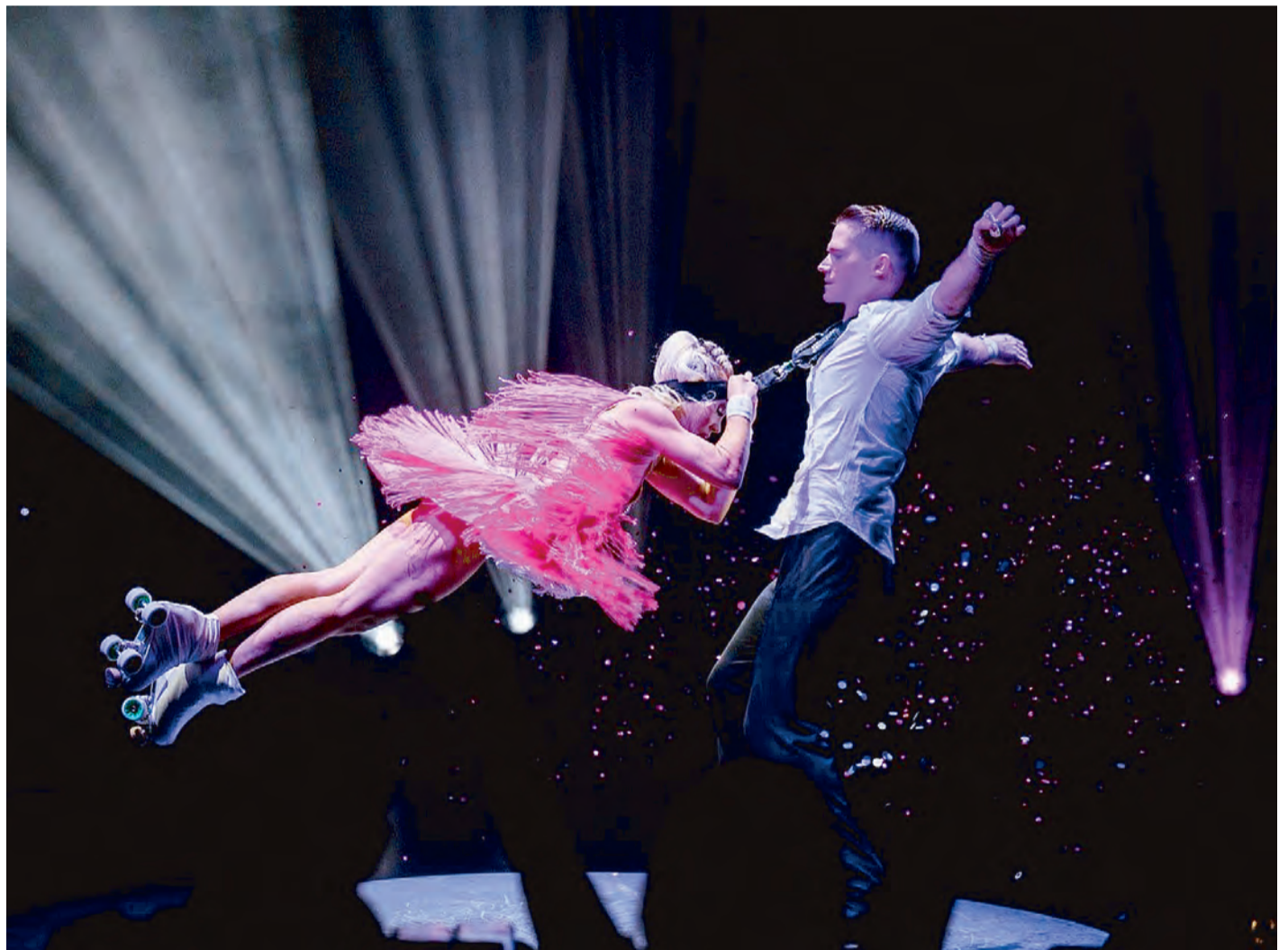
26 July – 4 August

All about connecting people to place through food, this year's festival will showcase 90 foodie events over 10 days. Learn the stories of local farmers, the producers whose secret ingredient is passion and the chefs who celebrate local in every dish at events such as Queensland's Sunshine Pantry live at The Station – when over 70 of the region's top producers and makers will showcase their finest local products in one place for one day only. The Curated Plate is the must-visit annual festival for food lovers on the coast and beyond.

The Rangebow Festival

1-4 August

Honouring the creative life and spirit of everyone in The Range communities (encompassing the Sunshine Coast hinterland towns of Maleny, Montville, Flaxton and Mapleton), The Rangebow Festival celebrates diversity, inclusivity, sustainability and reconciliation. The events showcased are as diverse as the people that call these lands home, with everything from a Micro-film Fest, to Platypus Walks and a First Nations Forage Fire Feast prepared by Auntie Dale Chapman of My Dilly Bag.



Noosa Alive Festival. Queensland Ballet.

Picture: DAVID KELLY



Queensland Garden Expo.



Long Table Lunch at The Curated Plate 2023.

Picture: TOURISM AND EVENTS QUEENSLAND

Australian Wearable Art Festival

9-10 August

The Australian Wearable Art Festival is where fashion and art collide, bringing together a unique cultural event. Capturing both national and international attention, this two-day event has more than 40 artworks paraded along a 27-metre catwalk. Artists and Designers will exhibit across four categories of artworks – trashion,

sustainability, avant garde and Floriana – with the aim of taking out a Gala Award. A series of talks, workshops and exhibitions will also accompany the captivating catwalk exhibits.

Gympie Music Muster

22-25 August

Music lovers listen up, one of Australia's best country, blues, folk and rock festivals is coming back to Gympie this August in

a showdown that you don't want to miss. Over four days the Gympie Music Muster will feature over 100 artists, along with workshops, markets, dancing and more. All set against the backdrop of the picturesque Amamoor State Forest and camping onsite, it's a true country experience.

See visitsunshinecoast.com for more information.



LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO THIS WINTER?

FIND YOUR SUNSHINE MOMENT WITH THESE AWESOME ACTIVITIES ON THE SUNSHINE COAST.



GO WHALE WATCHING

During winter, you'll be sharing our big blue front yard with Humpbacks as they migrate north - so why not score a front row seat and watch in awe as they dance and frolic at sea. The crew at Sunreef Mooloolaba will get you up close and personal with these gentle giants. Sunshine Coast Afloat also offer incredible whale watching experiences that will provide 'pinch me' moments aplenty.

HOP ABOARD THE PRAWN STAR

The Wharf Mooloolaba has long been hailed as an unmissable foodie destination and one of its latest additions proves exactly why. Enter Prawn Star, a cheekily named converted fishing trawler moored permanently at the Wharf allowing you to dine on deck and dig into local seafood like a platter of world famous Mooloolaba prawns, crab and fresh oysters—an absolute seafood lover's paradise.

HIKE THE GLASS HOUSE MOUNTAINS

Feel connected to country in the Glass House Mountains, a formation of 11 ancient volcanic peaks that formed more than 25 million years ago, with a hike around the base of Mount Tibrogargen or climb to the summit of Mount Ngungun.

KAYAK THE EVERGLADES

Can you hear that sound? More than 40 per cent of Australia's bird species can be found living around the pristine waters of the Noosa Everglades - one of only two everglades systems found on earth - and one of the best ways to explore is a kayak with Kanu Kapers.

GO ON A CRAFT BEER TOUR

The Sunshine Coast has well and truly earned its title as Australia's Craft Beer Capital - with a slew of award-winning breweries dotted along the coastline and hinterland. Head to a taproom, order a tasting paddle and settle in for a cosy afternoon, slinging tasty meals (think: Mooloolaba prawns, towering burgers and pizzas), plus live music. Sip your way around the region by following the craft beer trail, or book yourself a spot on one of the awesome tours.

LEARN TO SURF

Surf's up year-round on the Sunshine Coast from the glassy waves of Noosa - a World Surf Reserve - to Australia's longest wave at Double Island Point. You'll be frothing to hit the waves, and a lesson with Coolum Surf School will have you hanging 10 in no time.

DINE IN QUEENSLAND'S SUNSHINE PANTRY

Enjoy paddock-to-plate dining at 114-year-old Mapleton Pub perched on top of the Blackall Range, or sip on a fruity gin inspired by our iconic Big Pineapple at Sunshine and Sons. There's an abundance of ways to taste our organic, seasonal produce.

GET YOUR ADRENALINE PUMPING

There's something special about spotting dolphins in the wild, and with Noosa Ocean Rider, you'll be at one with the creatures of the big blue on their Dolphin Safari or Whale Watching Tour.



VISITSUNSHINECOAST.COM

COUNTRY VIBE



A united force: Goomeri's Moore Street traders are working together to create a fun and memorable experience for visitors to the historical country town.



The "Moore St Mob" representing Lightning Tree Wines, Manu's Goomeri Cafe, Oscar and Willow Soaps, Goomeri Bakery, House of Artisan, Wimberley & Co Bookstore and Barambah Valley Confectionery...working together to create a unique country vibe in the little town of Goomeri.

Really smashing pumpkins

With a population of less than 1000 people, the rural township of Goomeri is definitely punching well above its weight.

Originally put on the tourist map some 30 years ago for its annual Pumpkin Festival, the town has more recently become a vibrant hub, which belies its small stature.

The prosperous growth spurt was predominantly led 10 years ago by the establishment of the Goomeri Bakery. Widely regarded as one of the best French-style patisseries outside Brisbane, its reputation quickly grew into a "must-do" tourist destination.

As more visitors flocked to the historic town, the natural progression of new or rejuvenated businesses followed.

In the past two years, seven new businesses have opened in the town.

The short Moore Street shopping strip now boasts a butcher (The Phat Wag opening soon), the baker (Goomeri Bakery), the soap maker (Oska and Willow), the chocolatier (Barambah Confectionery), a resident artist (House of Artisan), the wine maker (Lightning Tree Wines), the coffee maker (Manu's Goomeri Cafe) and beautiful bookstore (Wimberley and Co).

All add a vibrant, eclectic bustle to the town's older establishments including the Goomeri Emporium, the Hair Salon, Dusty Butts, Goomeri Antiques, Crystal Shop, Gypsy Ga Ga fashions, the Post Office, Foodworks, Nedloh Rural Supplies, and of course the Pub - Joe's Grand Hotel.

Goomeri's newest business, Lightning Tree Wines opened in March - just in time to enjoy the Easter school holiday crowds. Owners Peter and Vikki Stewart have been involved in the South Burnett wine industry for 26 years and said opening their cellar door in Moore Street was a natural progression, given its rapid growth in local and interstate visitation.

"Goomeri is at the junction of three major highways - the Bunya, Burnett and Wide Bay Highways - so it's a perfect mid-journey stop for travellers; whether they're headed north, south, east or west," Vikki said.

An added bonus is that Goomeri is the gateway to the South Burnett Wine Region - it's just a 20-minute drive to Moffatdale where four winery/cellar doors are situated in close proximity to Lake Barambah (Bjelke-Petersen Dam).

"In the short time since opening, we've had so many people say they didn't even realise we grew wine grapes in this area. The wines region has been here for nearly



This massive mural is an iconic landmark as visitors drive into Moore Street, Goomeri.

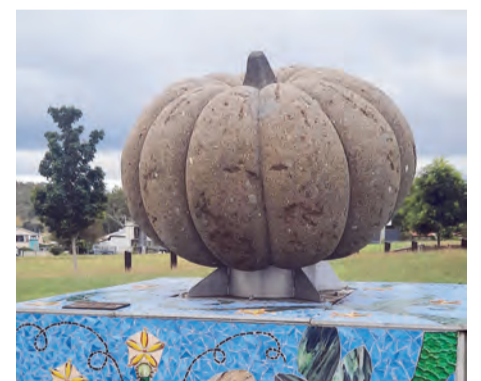


Picturesque Moore Street, Goomeri. A popular visitor stop has more recently become a destination in its own right as visitors enjoy browsing the growing number of artisan shops.

30 years, so opening our cellar door in town means more and more visitors are exposed to what our region has to offer. And people just love it.

"They stop for lunch or a quick coffee

and then have a wander around town to enjoy the relaxed, friendly vibe. Return visitors say they're so happy to see the new changes and they really enjoy supporting small, family-owned businesses," Vikki said.



The humble pumpkin has put Goomeri on the map, with thousands of visitors converging on the town for the annual Pumpkin Festival, held the last weekend in May.

With another bumper crowd (20,000+) expected at the Goomeri Pumpkin Festival, to be held later this month, it's only natural that Goomeri's popularity will just keep rolling!

GOOMERI - AT A GLANCE

Goomeri is conveniently situated on the South Burnett Rail Trail - an 89km dedicated off-road cycle/running/walking trail between Kilkivan and Kingaroy.

The section between Kingaroy to Murgon is a sealed surface while the remain-

ing section between Murgon to Kilkivan is unsealed and provides a more challenging route for users. Since opening in 2017, the South Burnett Rail Trail has brought to the region an ever-increasing number of outdoors enthusiasts.

Accommodation options for a stop-over in Goomeri are also increasing with a new B and B soon to open in Moore Street, various short term caravan and camping options including Goomeri Caravan and Bush Camp, Dairy@Goomeri Hip Camp

and the Goomeri Showgrounds. Or check out the pub lodgings at Joe's Grand Hotel or the Goomeri Motel.

Further information: goomeripumpkinfestival.com.au; southburnettwineregion.com.au and southburnetttrailtrail.au.

Settle into ‘island time’

Allure Stradbroke Resort is tucked into the foothills of Point Lookout on the north-eastern tip of North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah). Allure allows you to leave the hustle and bustle behind and settle into island time.

Enjoy simple, fun, and carefree days staying in Allure’s range of architecturally designed, fully self-contained beach shacks and villas. Allure is situated directly across the road from Home Beach, and only a leisurely stroll away from the coastal village of Point Lookout.

The resort is the perfect base for exploring Straddie’s white sandy beaches, breathtaking views, magnificent inland lakes, and hidden waterways.

Guests can make their way to North Stradbroke Island by vehicle ferry or water taxi and enjoy a true journey that makes it all part of the experience as well as island experiences such as Yura Tours, Straddie Tipis, Straddie Arts Trail, Stradbroke Chamber Music to name a few.

Hayley and Rod lead a small, but amazing team of hospitality stars, who aim to always be around to make guests feel welcome and looked after.

According to guests...

“Cute little shack, 600m from the beach, little cafe on site and walking distance to pub, bowls club and a restaurant. Super handy! The room was clean and comfortable. We even had a kangaroo hanging out in the bushes near our deck and lots of curlews/other birds around too”

“Very comfy home away from home. Clean and well presented with excellent location to home beach across the road and oasis Mexican restaurant walking distance. Kitchen has the essentials and the bed was comfy. Staff were kind with giving us early check in knowing we were in the island.



The resort.

Would easily recommend”

“Just a really welcome surprise how good this place was. Pricing was still reasonable in the high-season which was great to see they aren’t gouging like the rest of the

island’s hotels. The style of accom is perfect for the location. A one-minute walk to the beach. Great Coffee in the morning at the restaurant, the first open on the island by the way too”



The beautiful pool.



Enjoy the beautiful surrounds.

For more information follow them @allurestradbroke on Facebook and Instagram. To get in touch call 07) 3415 0000 or email reservations@allurestradbroke.com.au

Winter Whale Specials

at Allure Stradbroke Resort

1 Night Free on 5 Night Stays & 20% off Ferry Transfers

Have a whale of a time on North Stradbroke Island this winter! To celebrate our favourite season, we’re offering 1 night free on 5-night stays and 20% off return ferry transfers with SeaLink Stradbroke Island between 31 May and 31 August

20% off 3 Night Stays & 20% off Ferry Transfers

Join us on Straddie for a wonderful mini winter whale escape, with 20% off 3-night midweek stays (Monday to Thursday nights) and 20% off return ferry transfers with SeaLink Stradbroke Island between 31 May and 31 August

Terms and conditions apply, see website for details



Image credit: Tourism & Events Queensland



www.allurestradbroke.com.au
reservations@allurestradbroke.com.au
 @allurestradbroke
 07 3415 0000



Enjoy fiesta time in Seville

By **Kylie Mitchell-Smith** @travellingseniorita

Slow travelling through Spain in April, we beat the summer heat and crowds- and take our time to explore the unknown of this beautiful country. We wander off the itinerary, to discover destinations and events that pop up along the way.

A Spanish friend and renowned Chef Pepe Garcia, insists that if we are in Spain in April we simply 'must' head to Seville, for the 'Feria de Abril' otherwise known as Seville's grand fair. As luck would have it, we were heading (loosely) in that direction and jumped on a convenient, fast train from Barcelona- in just over a couple of hours we were immersed in the vibe of this picturesque city.

Seville, is an authentic Spanish city, bursting in history, with an abundance of local food and wine, it's a place where the people are full of passion and life. The 'Feria de Abril' literally takes over the city's streets and parks, where locals are donned in traditional flamenco and matador attire and are transported by elegantly dressed horse and cart.

The fair begins at midnight just after the holy easter holidays and goes for six days, ending on midnight on the last day- mmm I think there's a theme here.

The Sevillanos invest in the tradition of the fair with gusto, from magnificently decorated casetas (private marquee tents) reserved for members and prominent families of the region- to a small array of colourful public tents (that's where we gather).

The casetas are a work of art, styled to impress, with striped fabrics and flowers aplenty- the sounds of live flamenco and the flavours of Seville flood the streets. Seville is the capital and largest city of Andalusia, and the annual fair is the ideal place to immerse in the regions rich culture.

The fair dates back to 1846 and was originally held in the Basque Country in Northern Spain, formally a livestock event, where the community of gypsy wanderers would trade animals. Soon after, the fair changed shape and moved to Seville's town hall and Casino- inevitably spilling onto the streets and parklands.

Since 1973 it has been held on a designated 24-block area 'Real de la Feria' with more than a thousand casetas, amusement park, street food vendors and pop-up bars, plus a week of traditional bull fighting in the cities famed bull ring- if that takes your fancy.

Although bull fighting known as 'Corrida de Toros' is a tradition in Spain, it's been slowly declining since 1970 to protect the welfare of the animals- alas Seville has reserved a week of authentic 'Bull Running'



to preserve its origins.

The fair streets are aptly named after famous bullfighters, and each day the fiesta begins with a parade of colourful carriages, transporting elegantly dressed fairgoers

from the bullring to the parklands. Hordes of horses line the public streets, and we get the sense it's still about the animals, but with a tad more prestige.

Seville is a city that bursts with colour

and history, ideally located on the River Guadalquivir in the southwest of Spain. Visit the region in April for the 'Feria de Abril' it's authentic, affordable and a whole lot of Spanish fun.

Invest in a new lifestyle

Embarking on a new journey with a caravan is more than just a purchase; it's an investment in a lifestyle of exploration, comfort, and unforgettable adventures. At Vecto Caravans, the team understand this sentiment deeply because their story is woven from the same fabric of passion for caravanning that drives their customers. As fellow enthusiasts, they've crafted an unparalleled caravanning experience, blending Australian design integrity with innovation and premium quality craftsmanship.

They believe what sets Vecto Caravans apart isn't just a single feature; it's a culmination of five pillars we proudly call the Vecto Edge.

Design: Their caravans aren't just vehicles; they're meticulously crafted homes on wheels. Years of experience and dedication to reimagining the caravanning experience have led to bold external symmetry, ground-breaking silhouettes, and elegant interior lines that redefine caravan design.

Quality: Caravanning is a lifestyle, and we're committed to elevating it to new heights. From the latest appliances to the unseen areas undercarriage, every aspect exudes uncompromising quality and luxury, backed by Australian craftsmanship.

Build: Using only the highest grade of Australian composite materials and steels, their caravans are not just built; they're engineered to withstand diverse environments, ensuring their customers safety and comfort wherever their adventures take them.

Lifestyle: They understand that choosing a caravan is about more than just size; it's about creating a customisable space that reflects your unique lifestyle. With six living configurations and thoughtful details like



their 'Cone of Silence' padding, they've redefined what it means to feel at home on the road.

Care: From their first inquiry to the last mile of their journey, the team is with is

with their customers every step of the way. Vecto's thorough handover process ensures they're equipped with the knowledge to enjoy their caravan to the fullest, backed by an industry-leading warranties.



At Vecto Caravans, they're not just selling caravans; they're crafting experiences that fuel passion for exploration and discovery. Join them on this journey, and redefine caravanning together.



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Off Ibiza's 'beat-en' track

By **Kylie Mitchell-Smith**

We were looking for an island style holiday, that was both affordable and authentic on our recent stopover in Barcelona. Presto we found it, the Spanish Island of Ibiza - best known for all night pool parties and DJ beats - has another side and it delivers in spades.

As we delve into the Balearic Isles history, we discover an area threaded with National Parks, pristine beaches and Spanish old towns.

Bonus, the return one-hour flight from Barcelona starts at as little as 10 euro (that's \$16 Australian). The only catch is the excess luggage charges, we suggest the convenient and affordable lockers located at the airport or train station.

Arriving at Ibiza airport, we quickly notice how immaculate everything is, from the taxi ride to the other side of the Island, to the seamless check in at our impressive beach side hotel, Mongibello - perched above the picturesque Siesta Beach in Santa Eularia.

Mongibello Hotel is part of the Concept Hotel Group, who remodelled old motels on the Island into 'themed' glory.

Mongibello is inspired by a 1960's Amalfi Coast, where retro style meets coastal charm - the quintessential beachside town Santa Eularia is just a short stroll away.

Breakfast is served as an interactive fresh and local marketplace, that quite literally wraps around the whole ground floor of the hotel. Travel off season (April and September) and you'll enjoy all this for a couple of hundred dollars a night, for two people.

The hotel staff are welcoming and geared for tourism - whilst English is their second language, they go out of their way to assist.

We wander just outside the hotel's pristine gardens and discover a village bakery and pop-up Argentinean style barbeque, who serve possibly the best Empanadas outside of South America.

The 'old' town is a hive of local activity, with a tapas bar on every corner and the

ocean as the backdrop.

The port town of Ibiza is worth a stopover, as we take a ferry 'day trip' to the Island of Formentera, the smallest of Spain's Balearic Islands. It is perfectly perched in the Mediterranean Sea and is a fusion of tourism and tradition - with some of the bluest water we've ever seen.

The island is said to have one of the clearest sea waters on the planet, due to a seagrass (*Posidonia Oceanica*) that acts as a natural filtration system. Arriving at the pretty port La Savina, we hire a moped to explore the rest of the island. First stop Calo des Morts for a brisk but beautiful swim, then onto Es Arenals for a traditional tapas style lunch of fresh fish, patas bravas and local vino.

Back to the Island of Ibiza, fellow tourists suggest we catch the setting sun at the popular San Antonio Beach - after a long taxi ride, we discover the Islands fiesta side and tourism on mass. We decide to head back to the serenity of Santa Eularia and Siesta Beach - more our style.

Ibiza is an island full of surprises, travel off season and look beyond the DJ beats and party scene and you'll discover a desirable destination - naturally beautiful, with Spanish culture at its heart.

EAT

- The Village, Bar & Restaurant Santa Eularia
- Sorella Ristorante, Mongibello Siesta Beach
- Bar Verdera, Formentera

PLAY

- Es Caio & Es Arenals Beach, Formentera
- Siesta Beach, San Eularia Ibiza
- National Park de ses Salines, San Eularia

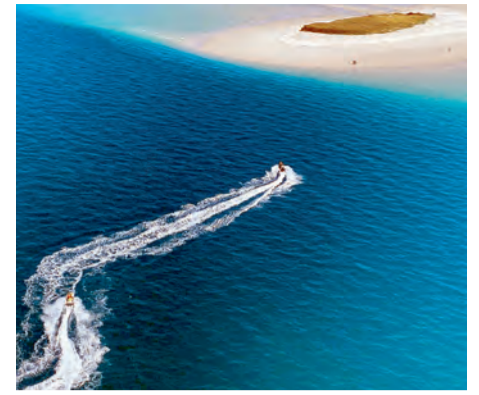
STAY

- Mongibello Hotel - San Eularia
- Dorado Hotel - San Josep
- Grand Paradiso - Ibiza

GETTING THERE

Book a one-hour return flight from El Prat Barcelona Airport with either Ryanair or Vueling for under \$100 Aud.





Turquoise waters await

Embark on a dual delight with Great Ocean Helicopter Tours, seamlessly blending the terrestrial and aquatic wonders of Hervey Bay and surrounds.

Discover world-heritage listed wonders as well as other unforgettable K'Gari/Fraser spectacles including Lake McKenzie, 75 Mile Beach, Maheno Shipwreck, Platypus Bay and Moon Point.

Be awestruck with the turquoise water and pure white sand of Pelican Banks, admiring the unique beauty of the Great Sandy Strait. Spotting marine life while indulging in panoramic views of traverse coral seas,

Urangan Pier, Boat Harbour, Torquay, and Scarness Beaches on return.

From August to November, witness majestic whales gracing the ocean, with an exclusive experience combining a thrilling helicopter flight with a mesmerizing whale watching cruise.

Whether seeking exploration or spoiling a loved one, their helicopter tours unveil the wonders of Hervey Bay from an extraordinary vantage point—a breathtaking escape where each moment is a masterpiece painted against the canvas of the sky.



Preparing for a foodie Hong Kong journey

By Tania Phillips

Food adventures are always a favourite - tasting new food while visiting beautiful new areas.

Even here in Australia, seeking out the Asian sector of a city and finding the perfect place to eat. One place that has always fascinated is Hong Kong - more so since discovering a family connection.

It is a melting pot of cuisine, a place to explore as much for its food as for the rest of its culture.

So I've been waiting for one of the cooking channels to come up with a journey to whet the appetite and give a starting point for any future Hong Kong journey.

Acclaimed executive chef, author, and presenter Dan Hong is back on SBS with *The Streets Hong Kong* which premiered on both SBS Food and SBS On Demand on Monday 3 June at 7.30pm.

In this series, Dan explores Hong Kong, learning about its history and culture and how this has shaped the local food scene. Determined to discover the most authentic flavours, he scoured the streets and markets to meet the vendors and find out how these traditional dishes were made and served to hordes of hungry customers every day.

It's well-known that Hong Kong is a food-obsessed paradise with many dishes to ex-



Dan Hong in Hong Kong.

plore. Known for its melting pot of Chinese, European, Japanese and Korean cultures, the city has seen street food flourish and it's a must-see for most foodie tourists.

Be where to start that's the big question for any food tourist and it's something Dan has tried to answer this time around.

"Running a few Chinese restaurants in Australia, Hong Kong has long been a big

inspiration, and whenever I got the chance to go, I mostly went to restaurants on the central side specialising in fine Cantonese cooking," Dan said.

"For this series I decided to take a different turn, discovering the old school institutions that have a rich and long history specialising in singular dishes which most are unfortunately a dying art with nobody in the

next generation to continue the tradition. Not only did I learn about how they started and continued their businesses to this very day, I also saw the lifelong dedication and heart they put into their craft."

From pigs roasting in an underground woodfired oven, to wonton noodles and one of the very last handmade fish ball factories, this culinary trip was really lifechanging for me and I can't wait to show you."

From Dim Sum to Fish Balls to Egg Tarts, Dan unearths the origins and evolution of many iconic street food dishes tracing them back to their roots and cooking them and giving viewers an insight on what they are and where to find them on a Hong Kong visit.

Dan learns the secrets to some of Hong Kong's finest delicacies and heads into the kitchens of some of the city's finest restaurants to find out how the chefs are elevating these treasured dishes.

Taking everything he's learned back to his kitchen, Dan puts his own unique and playful spin on these classic dishes, showcasing an array of fresh and original recipes to inspire.

Packed with great cooking tips along the way, Dan's fast-moving series has the home cook and foodie tourist firmly in mind as he hits the streets and beyond.

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UNIQUE PARK



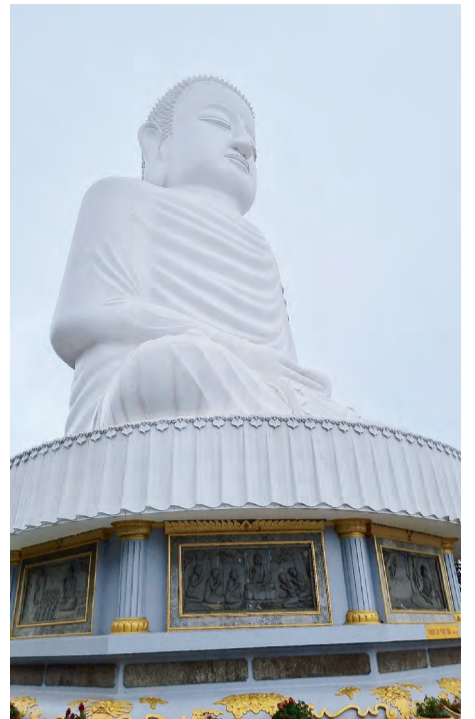
Wander through cobblestone streets high above the ocean at Ba Na Hills.



There is an amusement centre located in the centre of the mountain at Ba Na Hills.



Classic European architecture features at Ba Na Hills.



A giant statue of Buddha at Ba Na Hills.

A misty mountain hop

By Bob Anthony

A medieval French chateau sitting high upon a mountain range overlooking the Vietnamese cities of Da Nang and Hoi An isn't something you expect to find in this wonderful Asian country.

And you certainly don't expect it to be a theme park but perched 1500m above sea level sits one of the most unique theme parks in the world, Ba Na Hills.

It is unlike any theme parks you might encounter in Australia.

Just getting to Ba Na Hills is a great experience in itself without the adventure to be had in the park itself.

You catch a 5km cable car which takes you on a 20-minute journey high up often through the clouds to the main station.

From here, you can catch other cable cars to different areas of the park, spread over the mountain tops.

The main station is also the where you will encounter the famed Golden Bridge, a structure comprising two giant concrete hands holding a band of gold which is actually a bridge and lookout back towards the ocean.

Depending on what time of year you visit, you will either enjoy views of Da Nang and Hoi An or experience being surrounded by mist and feeling like you are walking in the clouds.

But there is much more to Ba Na Hills which is actually a former French mountain retreat.

Here the French colonials tunnelled out wine cellars and created a destination to escape the Vietnamese heat in summer.

The wine cellars are still there and you can sample the wine as well as admire French-style gardens, French inspired chateaus, a cathedral, hotels, a castle and cobblestone streets with shops and cafes which may be transported directly from Europe.

The attention to detail is incredible.

However, being an Asian country, there are also pagodas, temples, a giant statue of Buddha and parks.

These are on all different levels so you can catch cables cars to the various areas and immerse yourself in very diverse cultures.

The impressive castle holds a cinemas featuring 3-D short films, there's a giant buffet room which can be included in your entry ticket with taste temptations from around Vietnam and the world or you can just simply marvel at the engineering feat which is Ba Na Hills,

There is a wide variety of food outlets catering for all tastes, a beer hall and of course what would a theme park be without amusement rides.



One of the more unusual but beautiful gardens at Ba Na Hills.



The underground wine cellar at Ba Na Hills theme park.



The famous Golden Bridge at Ba Na Hills, even in the mist it is impressive..



A French chateau perched high on the hills at Ba Na Hills theme park.



One of the many beautiful gardens at Ba Na Hills theme park in Vietnam.



The 5km cable car to Ba Na Hills rises more than 1500m above sea level.

Mind you, you don't get the high speed roller coasters like those on the Gold Coast but there are amusement centres for all ages.

Visit the wax museum, ride the funicular railway or take in one of many free shows full of music and dancing, themed to suit to the time of year you visit.

Ba Na Hills also offers hotels where you can stay overnight so you can be one of the first on the Golden Bridge to take in the sunrise.

This theme park is well-thought out and spread out so be prepared to spend some time there.

There is a lot to take in so be prepared to do some walking and if you go in cooler months, wear warm clothes.

But if you are planning to go, just be aware that this is an extremely popular destination, especially in summer when the Vietnamese are on holidays, so be prepared for queues.

That said, who has been to a theme park where there aren't queues.

Ba Na Hills offers something for all ages and while the Golden Bridge is a star attraction with its spectacular views, the theme park provides the opportunity to experience European history and Asian culture in the

one unique location.

IF YOU GO

Ba Na Hills is about a two hours journey from Da Nang, a little longer from Hoi An. **There are multiple ways to get there** - private car, taxi, bus.

- Private car, taxi: \$36
- Taxi: \$18
- Bus: \$11
- Park entry: \$60
- Park entry with buffet: \$80

Day package: Pick up from hotel, park entry and buffet lunch \$120 Best time to visit - January to August. * Prices may vary due to the time of year.

Take a breath of fresh air

For those tired of the hustle and bustle of city life and craving a break where time takes a chill pill and mother nature whispers to unwind it's time to buckle up and go on a journey to the breathtaking Lockyer Valley.

Just a hop, skip, and jump away from Brisbane, Queensland, this place is a hidden gem yearning to be explored. Imagine looking out at rolling hills, farms as far as the eye can see, and towns so charming they'll make your heart skip a beat. Yep, that's the Lockyer Valley for you.

But hold onto your hats because it's not just about the scenery; it's an entire vibe. Here, time moves at a leisurely pace, allowing visitors and locals alike to savour life's simple joys. And let me tell you, the real charm lies in the people. Wandering through picturesque towns, you'll be greeted with warm smiles and open arms. It's this genuine country hospitality that makes visitors feel like locals and keeps them returning year after year.

And let's not forget about the food. Whether it's sampling farm fresh produce at bustling markets or indulging in artisanal cheeses, this region is a food lover's paradise. And those sunsets? Absolutely breathtaking.

But don't be fooled by the laid-back vibe—the Lockyer Valley is also a hotspot for adventure seekers and outdoor enthusiasts too. Lace up the hiking boots and conquer the scenic trails of the Great Dividing Range or paddle through the pristine waters of Lake Dyer and Lake Clarendon.

With an abundance of activities ranging from bushwalking to birdwatching, there's never a dull moment in this natural playground.

So why wait? Escape the daily grind and



immerse in the charm of this rural paradise. Whether seeking adventure, relaxation, or simply a taste of the good life, this region has it all.

Come for the scenery, stay for the serenity, and leave with a heart full of memories.

And hey, grab a highlighter and circle 6-8 September on the calendars because

something epic is coming: the one and only Laidley Spring Festival.

With 61 years of tradition behind it, this event is a must-do on Queensland's social scene. Experience the magic of community and springtime as the valley comes alive with a plethora of events that'll have everyone feeling like they've stumbled into

a fairy tale.

The excitement begins on Friday evening with live music by talented artists from South East Queensland, accompanied by a smorgasbord of food trucks serving up lip-smacking delights and a bustling market, bursting with the creativity of talented makers and creators.

Saturday is the big shebang. Jam-packed day of fun with everything from stage performances to market treasures and a shiny Show 'n' Shine car showdown. And then there is the grand street parade—Laidley CBD can get hectic with thousands of festival goers watching the Street Parade. Decorative floats, heritage trucks, vintage vehicles, dressed up community groups and marching bands will wander down the main street, sharing their best interpretation of this year's festival theme, "Spring Magic"—show some love to the local businesses while shopping and explore along the parade route.

Friday and Saturday sees the community spirit sparkle as Expos bloom, with a vibrant gardening precinct featuring workshops and plant sales, alongside orchid shows, art exhibitions, quilt and craft expo, and open garden competitions.

Sunday is dedicated to the little ones, Bee Happy Day brings a hive of activity with artsy workshops, live shows, and plenty of treats to keep smiles wide. So, pack the picnic blanket and join the people of the Lockyer Valley for a weekend of fun, food, and festivities that will leave visitors grinning from ear to ear.

Stay updated with all the latest news by following the Laidley Spring Festival on social media and visiting their website at www.laidleyspringfestival.com.



Take a breath of fresh air
IN THE LOCKYER VALLEY

Spring Magic
is in the air!
3 DAYS OF
FESTIVAL FUN!

LOCK IT IN THE CALENDAR 6-8 SEPTEMBER 2024



Get to the heart of NSW

There's nothing better than taking the family on a road trip adventure, getting off the main highways and exploring all of the smaller towns.

It is harder these days thanks to the high cost of petrol but it's still worth it, in fact small towns need that injection of tourist dollars more than ever thanks to floods in the past few years and the cost of living.

And there is so much to discover "off the beaten track" in Queensland and across the country.

One region that can be over-looked is in the heart of New South Wales - the Lachlan Shire, a hidden gem waiting to be discovered.

From stunning natural landscapes and rich cultural heritage to abundant birdlife and some of the best sweet-water angling in the country, the Lachlan region is an adventurer's paradise.

'Unlock' the region's magic at their recently opened Visitor Information Centre located at the iconic Utes in the Paddock precinct in Condobolin, or talk with the locals at our Lake Cargelligo or Tottenham centres.

The new precinct features a cafe, local products and produce, Jockey's Memorial Garden, parking for long vehicles and easy access to the Sculpture Down the Lachlan, a public art trail stretching 100 kilometres from Condobolin to Forbes.

The Utes in the Paddock gallery is gaining increased national and international attention for being one of the most unique and quirky Australian outdoor art exhibitions in the country - a nod to the old Aussie Holden ute.

Dotted across the region there are a handful of towns and villages.

Some reveal busy centres and wide streets, while others are tiny communities brought together by a shared history. But whatever the size, each has a unique personality and story to tell.

Lake Cargelligo lives up to its reputation as the 'oasis of the outback' with its impressive array of birdlife drawing 'twitchers' from far and wide, its spectacular water tower mural, historical museum heritage walks and great camping make it a must-visit.

It might just be worth making tracks today to "Unlock" a Lachlan experience.



Enjoy the unexpected.



Funky utes anyone?



Silo art is spreading across the country.



The Lachlan Shire's brand new visitor information centre.



The peaceful and beautiful waters of at Lake Cargelligo.



The quirky Utes in the Paddock Gallery.



The sunlit plains extended.

Top 10 musts to see and do in the shire

Visit the iconic Utes in the Paddock

- Climb to the top of Mt Tilga and enjoy a picnic with 360-degree views

Explore the Wiradjuri Cultural Centre in Condobolin

- Pinpoint the exact geographical centre of NSW near Tottenham

Visit the spectacular farm chapel 'Christ the King on 'Bolo' near Tullibigeal

- Enjoy inland fishing on the Lachlan River

or one of the lakes including Lake Cargelligo or Gum Bend Lake.

- Birdwatching throughout the Lachlan and especially around the beautiful Lake Cargelligo, home to many migratory and

endangered species

Visit the Rabbit Trap Hotel in Albert

- Explore the Goobothery Monument
- Discover our past by visiting one of many themed museums

Winter city with it all

Melbourne in winter means chilly weather, weekend football, good food by the fire, and plenty of shopping.

Rug up and open the mind in the moonlight at Rising – an outdoor arts festival featuring works from hundreds of international artists.

Head into the CBD and grab a bite at Dom's, Society or one of Spring Street's pre-theatre restaurants, then take your seats at an evening showing of the latest smash hits.

For those in the mood for sports, Melbourne in winter is the place to be: there's the AFL, soccer, rugby, netball and much more.

After a game, be rewarded with some well-deserved retail therapy at Emporium, the Paris end of Collins Street, or the famous Block Arcade. Hidden bars can be found at the bottom of staircases and behind secret doors, and a labyrinth of colourful laneways reminiscent of Harry Potter's Diagon Alley play host to boutique shops, restaurants, hole-in-the-wall coffee joints, and unique urban art.

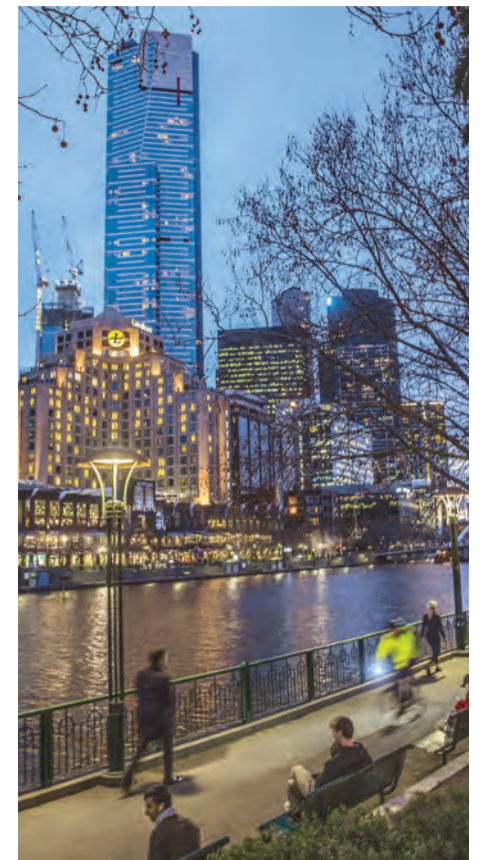
Then there is a chance to head to the NGV (National Gallery of Victoria) for their incredible Winter Masterpieces exhibitions.

And welcoming in the winter months, there is the special NGV Friday Nights which returns recharged and reimagined for an after-hours ode to the Melbourne Winter Masterpieces exhibition Pharaoh. Taking place at NGV International with extended late-night access to the winter blockbuster exhibition, the 17-week season presents a diverse line-up of music residencies, pop-up performances, Middle Eastern-inspired food, and an array of drink offerings.

Cabaret queen, Miss Cairo, welcomes guests each evening, bringing her unique brand of exuberance to the stage with songs and storytelling in the Great Hall every Fri-



View from Princess Bridge at sunset.



Yarra River by Night.

day night, presenting an evening of unexpected encounters with music and art.

From 8pm, a rotating program of guest performance residencies will surprise and delight with unique musical experiences.

Inspired by the Pharaoh exhibition, each

week audiences will be taken on a different musical journey, with a selection of music and performances, from jazz to cabaret, to classical, funk and blues.

NGV Friday Nights takes place 14 June - 4 October 2024 at NGV International, St

Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Pharaoh is on display 14 June – 6 October 2024 at NGV International, St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Tickets and information are available via the NGV website.

Winter Harvest Wonders at Scenic Rim Eat Local Month

Plan a weekend away in the Scenic Rim on the last weekend in June.

In exciting news, **Winter Harvest Festival**, the signature and finale event of Scenic Rim Eat Local Month is now a full weekend of harvest festivities and will be celebrated from 28 to 30 June in and around the stunning rural village of Kalbar!

The ultimate farm gate on a platter, the day-long Winter Harvest Festival celebrates Scenic Rim farmers, producers, and makers. This is where you meet the faces behind the flavours, and where you can talk to multi-generational farmers and growers, jam-makers, cheesemakers, picklers, bakers, butchers and brewers.

Of course, there's lots of tasting amid the talking! The event features over 60 stalls plus workshops, classes and cooking demonstrations by Scenic Rim Food Ambassador chefs. The Festival is also home to the world-famous Tractor Pull Competition where teams face off against a 12-tonne tractor. There's fierce rivalry between the local butcher and farmer teams, and the event is truly a showstopper!



This new extended weekend program kicks off with a Friday night **Winter Harvest Dinner** at The Roadvale Hotel, the region's first gastro-pub under the culinary direction of Scenic Rim Food Ambassador and Head Chef Daniel Groneberg. On Saturday the **Celebration of Lost Culinary Arts** at Kalbar School of Arts & Memorial Hall pays tribute to the pioneers of the eat local movement (there'll be some wonderful old recipes and preserving secrets revealed) and on Saturday evening after the Winter Harvest Festival, **Harvest Hoedown** stars the region's country music star Laura Frank.

On Sunday 5th generation farmers Valley Pride Produce will welcome foodies to harvest fresh, local, and seasonal goodies on their farm, and **The Progressive Paddock** will be held at Scenic Rim Farm Shop & Café, hosted by Scenic Rim Food Ambassador Ash Martin.

So gather your friends and family and book your tickets now. This weekend is an epic, flavour-filled way to end Eat Local Month!

BON APPETIT

Photo Credit: Carin Garland

The Winter Harvest Weekend is held 28-30 June as part of Scenic Rim Eat Local Month. The Winter Harvest Festival is held from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 29 June.

All information, times, tickets and more are available at eatlocalmonth.com.au



ABOUT SCENIC RIM EAT LOCAL MONTH

Scenic Rim Eat Local Month is Australia's most authentic paddock to plate, food and farming festival, held just one hour from Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Across the month of June, there's more than 120 food events including 40 long lunches, degustations and dinners, 23 workshops and classes, 37 tours and experiences, 53 meet the producer opportunities and 50+ family friendly options.



Bustling Busselton a beauty

Busselton is a vibrant beach town situated on the shores of Geographe Bay in Western Australia – a place to encounter friendly locals, streets lined with boutiques and eateries, and a thriving events calendar.

The protected north-facing coastline and warming Leeuwin ocean current invites swimmers and the occasional pod of dolphins to frolic in its crystal-clear waters.

Busselton is a city made of, and for, stories – and there are plenty to discover. One of the first things to notice about Busselton is its iconic Jetty. Extending 1.8 kilometres out to sea, the Jetty is a remnant of the thriving timber industry of years gone by.

The Busselton Jetty is an absolute icon of the region, as the centre of (and spectacular backdrop to) all the activity and bustle of the City's foreshore. Generations of family holidays and traditions have played out here, from walking along – or jumping off – it, to diving, snorkelling or fishing.

There are lots of ways to experience the jetty, whether it be visiting the Underwater Observatory (one of only six in the world), taking in the colourful coral and sea life underneath, or riding the famous red electric train to the end. This is an unmissable Western Australian attraction.

Follow the footpaths inland from the Foreshore, and you'll quickly arrive at a collection of beautifully restored buildings which form the Busselton Cultural Precinct.

Continue along the town centre's arterial, Queen Street, where you'll be shopping and dining alongside the locals.

At the end of Queen Street, turn left to find the Busselton Museum, which is home to a fully restored group settlement house, a 1920s school, and other historical memorabilia in the heritage-listed Old Butter Factory building. The Museum is part of the Busselton Heritage Trail, which you can follow with a dedicated audio guide or book available to purchase at the Museum or Busselton Visitor Centre.

No exploration of the town centre would be complete without a visit to the award-winning Origins Market: a community of more than 60 local producers and makers



Fun in the sun at Busselton.



Enjoy the wines of Geographe Bay including those from beautiful Whicher Ridge.

Picture: KATHY HOWARD



Origin Markets.

Picture: RUSSELL ORD



Enjoying the boardwalk at Busselton.



Busselton foreshore. Picture: RUSSELL ORD



Watching a storm rolling in.

under one stylish roof in a modern market and food hall environment.

Those staying in Busselton or nearby can pop down for a morning coffee and pastry; pick up fresh provisions of cheese, sourdough or meats; to have lunch, wine taste; take the kids to the indoor playground; the reasons are plentiful. The markets celebrate produce, artisans and gourmet eateries right in the heart of Busselton. Discover

new butchers, bakers, brewers, winemakers, chefs, baristas and more.

Iconic sporting events such as the Busselton Jetty Swim, the Busselton Festival of Triathlon and Ironman Western Australia have made Busselton one of Western Australia's event hot spots.

Busselton is the perfect base to explore the stunning Margaret River Region, bursting with beautiful beaches, world-class wineries,

craft breweries and culinary delights -everything need for an unforgettable holiday.

The unique coastal town has been named a finalist for this year's 7NEWS Top Tourism Town Awards and if you're visiting it's pretty easy to understand why.

It's never been easier to get here, with Busselton Airport now offers direct connections to Sydney and Melbourne.

Busselton is flying high for tourists

Busselton Margaret River Airport has been a buzz in recent weeks thanks to the new Jetstar's new Sydney – Busselton air route.

The new direct flights between Busselton and Sydney, coupled with Jetstar's Busselton – Melbourne service are a major drawcard and boost for tourism in the South West region.

Both services are opening the doors for interstate and international business and leisure travel, as well as bolstering the City's identity as the 'Events Capital of WA', with further opportunities and connectivity be-

tween Busselton and the east coast.

City of Busselton Mayor Phill Cronin was full of excitement the day of the first flight back in March.

"It was wonderful to experience firsthand the level of excitement and activity at the airport today," he said at the time.

"Whilst greeting passengers who arrived on the flight today, it was fantastic to hear their positive comments and experience on the new direct commercial flight service.

Jetstar's Melbourne service has proven to be incredibly popular and if today is any-

thing to go by, I am sure Sydney will follow suit. I thank Jetstar for their commitment to the region and for their commitment to bring the Sydney flight service to Busselton.

"This is an important milestone for the City of Busselton and the State. I must acknowledge the support we've received from both the Federal and State Government, through Tourism WA and the South West Development Commission. We are also thankful for the contribution and support we've received from neighbouring Local Governments."

Jetstar are now operating an A320 aircraft (seating 186 passengers) three times a week on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, flying directly from Busselton Margaret River Airport to Sydney airport.

Visit Jetstar.com.au for more information on flights and ticket sales.

Facts:

- Jetstar's inaugural flights between Sydney and the Busselton Margaret River Airport began in March this year
- The service a major boost to tourism.



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Fireside at Wongari Eco Retreat.

Scenic joy

For those who don't want to leave the state but are dreaming of a winter escape complete with a roaring fireplace, a bottle of wine and a cheese platter, the Scenic Rim might just be calling.

Wongari Eco Retreat

Go off the grid and reconnect with nature at Wongari Eco Retreat, 40 minutes south of Beaudesert in Lamington. Guests can choose from two self-contained cabins, each with their own unique views and experiences. The 'Serenity' cabin is nestled in the forest, set beside the waters of Christmas Creek, while the 'Bimbul' cabin is open to the forest canopies with expansive 360-degree views of the mountains.

Verandah House Country Estate

The first five-star luxury retreat with breathtaking views of the hinterland and beyond is Verandah House Country Estate, a brand new haven at Tamborine Mountain. Eight designer-appointed guest suites capture beautiful country style with modern-day luxuries. There's a wellness space, yoga and meditation areas and a cedar hot tub with a view-to-die-for of the mountains.

Worendo Cottages

Escape from the fast lane and stay to this stunning wilderness setting overlooking the World Heritage Rainforest Mountains of Lamington National Park. Their three cottages feature indoor fireplaces, and all have an outdoor campfire setting.

Mount French Lodge

Commanding prime position on a majestic mountainside overlooking the Scenic Rim, Mount French Lodge is the epitome of modern luxury and comfort, and is part of the Private Collection by Spicers. Perfect for use by a group of up to 16 people, guests can settle into their own private apartment featuring a cozy floating fireplace.

Alcheringa Holiday Retreat

Alcheringa is the home of two exceptional new holiday houses, adjacent to the famous Binna Burra Lodge at Lamington National Park in the Scenic Rim. Overlooking the Coomera and Numinbah Valleys, each house has two bedrooms and two bathrooms, lounge and dining areas with floating fireplaces, a mudroom, a fully equipped kitchen, and balconies with gob-smacking views. They provide easy access to the of walking tracks of Lamington National Park and a base for visiting the many attractions of the Scenic Rim.

Beechmont Estate

Fancy raising a glass with friends in front of a stunning stone fireplace before settling in for some fine paddock-to-plate dining in SE Queensland? This luxury country retreat on the Beechmont plateau, near Lamington National Park, is just the ticket. Situated among the rolling fields of a privately-owned Wagyu farm, guests can relax in their own luxury cabin or pavilion with deluxe king beds, fireplaces, and their own private deck looking out over the idyllic hinterland countryside.



Worendo Cottages.

Scenic Rim Adventure Park

For camping, hiking, mountain bike riding and four-wheel driving are style, the Scenic Rim Adventure Park is located on a 680-acre property at Tamrookum Creek. There are 14 individual camping areas located throughout the property, and they all have their own campfire locations.

Hanoob Views

The owners of Hanoob Views understand pets are part of the family, that's why their two houses welcome them too. Located in Carney's Creek, the two properties are private from each other, and feature all the creature comforts.

Binna Burra Sky Lodges and Rainforest Campsite

Relax in comfort high above the clouds at the famous Binna Burra Sky Lodges and Rainforest Campsite. They are 800m above sea level, Binna Burra sits amidst the sub-tropical rainforest of Lamington National Park.

The Old Church Bed and Breakfast

For a heavenly stay in the Scenic Rim, reserve a room at this old historic church located in Boonah. Guests can choose from rooms and private ensuites and verandas in the church, or the adjoining self-contained studio.

Pethers Rainforest Retreat

This private and secluded retreat on Tamborine Mountain has been exclusively designed for adults and is set on five hectares of pristine rainforest. Each of Pethers 10 private treehouses are surrounded by rainforest and include a spa for two and a fireplace, meaning guests can fully unwind and relax in style. The award-winning restaurant also hosts a large, open sided fireplace.

For more information on these and other, retreats, camping and glamping sites go to the visit Scenic Rim website.



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Explore Auckland

Situated between two stunning harbours, Auckland boasts a breathtaking waterfront and iconic landmarks. Explore the city's vibrant neighbourhoods, filled with trendy cafés, boutique shops, and world-class restaurants. Immerse yourself in the rich Māori culture at the Auckland Museum or take a ferry to the picturesque Waiheke Island. Nature lovers can hike through the lush rainforests of the Waitakere Ranges or visit the breathtaking black sand beaches of the West Coast.

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