

JULY 2022

# brilliant

ONLINE



➔ 3 feet 6 inches Imaan Hadchiti, Comedian who performed at Tortuga Show

[Read Mocked for being Different](#)

Photo: Steve Ullathorne Photography

## *The* **FRIENDSHIP** *Issue*



**INSIDE:** While we strive to be united in differences and diversity, we share stories of individuals like Imaan Hadchiti and Jessica Gardner and businesses like disAbility Maternity Care and TG's Child Care

**brilliant**  
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**I love your magazine!**  
**It's so full of happiness!** We are living in rather crazy times undeniably, and it's simply uplifting that your articles are so positive and everyone is smiling.

Testimonial from

**Suzy Morrison**

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# NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

◆ Welcome to July's edition of Brilliant-Online.

**T**his month we are celebrating friendship, inclusivity and diversity, values that we constantly champion and that we believe very much underpin our ethos at Brilliant-Online. We wholly embrace these values, reflected in our approach to our work and by the fact that our team is made up of diverse mix of individuals scattered all over the world that we hope present an alternative, exciting and brilliant perspective to the stories we bring to you.

"Different" is a word we celebrate, not mock. Being different doesn't mean anything is wrong or bad - it simply means an opinion, belief or look contrary to others. An alternative that provides choice, options. As individuals and a society we learn through difference. It helps us develop and become more rounded, knowledgeable and tolerant people. Personally, one of my favourite sayings has always been, "there are too many sheep in the world and not enough shepherds!"

We genuinely believe here at Brilliant-Online such an approach helps foster a notion of understanding and kindness which means we ultimately treat everyone and everything with respect. And we hope that this permeates to our customers who are able to share stories about themselves and their business to a broader community, which effectively helps them sell without selling.

So this month we showcase people like Jessica Gardner, who shares her very personal story of how she embraced Islam. We focus on how with open arms Australia embraced the Taliban-fleeing Afghan women's football team. We also take a deep dive into the life and times of one Elvis Aaron Presley, someone classed as "different" prior to his global fame. And if being "different" is good enough for the King of Rock n' Roll, then it sure is good enough for us!

There's a whole lot more that we hope you enjoy - especially if it leaves you thinking and looking at things a little "differently!"

*Ben Tirebuck*



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## ABOUT BRILLIANT

Brilliant-Online is more than a one dimensional read. It is an empowering read for progressive individuals and dynamic businesses pushing for a better world in the digital era. Born witty, Brilliant unveils an online magazine featuring a variety of digital interactive content that makes it similar to the magical Daily Prophet newspaper from Harry Potter.

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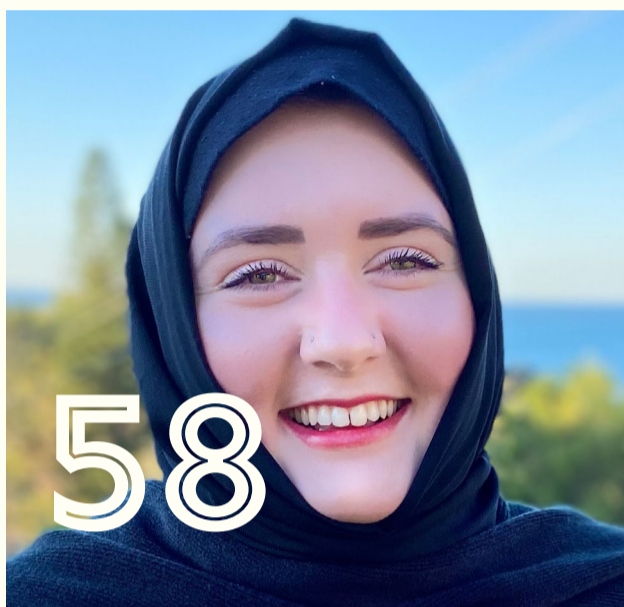
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*Brilliant*

**BUSINESS**



# GETTING TO KNOW THE ‘MOTHER HEN’

◆ Meg Barnden-Hyde knew from a very early age what she wanted to do career wise when she grew up.

She would work with children, helping them develop, nurturing their natural skills and abilities to become the very best versions of themselves. She always knew it was what she was good at and what she therefore wanted and needed to do, never once wavering from her decision.

It therefore comes as no great surprise to learn that over the past 13 years the much loved and respected centre manager at TG's Childcare in Armidale has become known as 'Mother Hen'. She has an innate ability to bring the best out in others, to help, support and develop, something all those under her watch over the years will gladly bear testimony to.

"From a very early age I always knew I wanted to be a pre-school teacher," she tells us. "Children are just incredible and have so much to offer. I am forever learning from them so working with them is a dream come true - certainly no one day is the same! Being a part of the process in nurturing and supporting young children to develop and reach their full potential is an amazing gift."

## No guts, no glory!

Meg came into the TG's family back in 2009 thanks to sheer assertiveness and confidence – a 'no guts, no glory' approach! Finding out that Gayle and Trevor were setting up a centre locally, Meg immediately knocked on Gayle's door, handed over her CV and said "I want to work for you!" The bold approach worked and 13 years later Meg has been an integral part of helping grow the business into a trusted and successful pillar of the community ever since.

Meg now oversees 5 centres across NSW and supports the QLD centre, including Armidale, Uralla, Wauchope (Hastings St., High St. and Riverbreeze), and Urangan and with a staff of 160 educators across all six centres, only three of whom are male. When I ask what the secret is behind the success of TG's, Meg is quick to point to the unique culture that has been created and fostered over the years.

"We place huge importance on building relationships, both internally with our staff and externally with the families and their children," she explains.

"We interact fully with the community which is really important," she adds. "We welcome families into the centre but also reach out to the community to maximise inclusivity. This has helped create a robust level of trust and respect, which is paramount in any business but especially important in early childhood education. We regard TG's Educators, the children we teach and their families as one big happy family and as a cornerstone of the community, something that we believe has contributed wholeheartedly to our excellent reputation.

"We also fully respect and trust our educators, which is so important," Meg explains. "We encourage everyone to show initiative, be open, ask questions, to give and absorb feedback.

"It creates a process whereby we are all constantly learning, from new approaches and from each other.

"I like to think when you value people and their skills then this is reciprocated and they value you equally in return. We want our educators to not just enjoy but love their work, to love coming in everyday to do something they truly value, which I genuinely believe all our employees do.

"I have watched many educators grow and develop over the years into wonderfully confident and adept individuals, which is so rewarding. I am so proud of them all," she concludes with a smile.

Meg should rightfully be very proud of the brood of educators she has helped develop over the years as there is no doubt TG's is eternally proud and grateful to their 'Mother Hen'.

[Read more about Mother Hen](#)



➔ Meg Barnden-Hyde, Centre Manager of TG's Armidale





## WE'RE HIRING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS JOIN THE AWARD-WINNING TG'S FAMILY

### Our Purpose

Our purpose is to create and develop independent young minds, encouraging collective thinking with their peers. In doing so, the TG's Way becomes a way of life.

### Why be a TG's Educator?

To be a TG's educator is to embody the ideal of Playing is Learning for Life. Every TG's educator sees TG's as their extended family and they love going to TG's every day, as much as the children do. The loving, nurturing environment at TG's extends to the educators too!

### TG's educators can be identified by these traits:

- They love being curious and creative - they invent FUN every day!
- They are keen observers and can identify each child's interests, understand their backgrounds, development levels and experiences and explore ways to grow each child's gifts.
- They make learning fun and relevant for children, combining what the children do outdoors with their indoor curriculum.
- They identify their gifts and those of their team, working towards success as a team.
- They are excellent communicators with families and are excited to involve families in the learning journeys of the children.

As a TG's educator, your gifts and strengths are recognised and matched to each group of children under your care. You grow in an environment that resonates with trust, support, respect and love.

[FIND OUT MORE AND JOIN TG'S FAMILY](#)

[📍 Armidale | Uralla | Wauchope | Urangan](#)

[🌐 https://www.tgschildcare.com.au/careers](https://www.tgschildcare.com.au/careers)

# THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE MAY IMPACT YOUR TAX

◆ Was it an Expensive cup of coffee or was it a Valuable cup of coffee?

**Y**ears ago one of my bosses received a cheque for an account and scrawled on the With Compliments slip were the words “Bill – I’ve never had a more expensive cup of coffee.” In those days tea and coffee were often offered to clients.

My boss had spent several hours with the clients going through a potential business restructure. This is more than “I can set up ABC Company and XYZ Trust”. How does this impact on parents’ retirement, children who are involved in the business, children who aren’t, life partners etc. The clients trusted Bill with this information so that at the end of the time he was able to give them advice that suited their circumstances.

Surely a cup of coffee that in \$ terms might have cost more than the cup next door at the café, but a cup that was much more valuable to a family looking for expanding their business and succession planning.

## The Consequences of Choice

Even simple decisions can have consequences that clients might not have considered e.g. a couple buy an investment property jointly, one partner takes several months unpaid parental leave a year or two later and has no income to claim against a loss in the investment property.

The decision to buy jointly might still be a good decision for that particular couple for a range of reasons or it might not be.

[Read about Investment and Tax](#)



A colleague found a method of saving his client thousands of dollars on the after tax cost of his hobby game fishing boat. However, if my colleague had not gotten to know his client, that would not have happened.

### Disclaimer :

As always the advice in this article is general and you should seek advice from a professional advisor on your circumstances.



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# LET'S GO PARTY WITH PORT ADVENTURE CRUISES ON THE RHYTHMBOAT

◆ Sail away on Port Macquarie's tourist and local attraction - the Rocks Rhythmboat!

If you spot the beautiful, fun & versatile party catamaran - it's the biggest and best vessel ever to sail on the Hastings River, then you may want to know it is the MV Port AdVenture or Rocks Rhythmboat from Port AdVenture Cruises.

Owners David and Elsa Lazarus are inviting you to hold your next party on the Rhythmboat. You and your guests will meet Tom, "Cruise Director", David's jolly alter-ego who is on board to ensure a smooth (and fun) ride!

## Book your next party on the Rhythmboat

The Rhythmboat is available for cruises or a party boat hire and can cater up to 150 guests. The ideas for this are endless - imagine sailing down the river for a Christmas party, a birthday party and why not make your wedding extra memorable on the waters? Companies who are bored with the usual rent-a-room-and-catering-food event can take

guests out on a corporate event on the Rhythmboat and get some fresh air!

A cruise can last up to three hours around the waters of Port Macquarie and. Choose which time of the day best suits your event. We'd certainly love to be invited for a day cruise to watch the dolphins as they get their morning exercise routine up and running jumping in the waters! It's a great idea for birthday parties and just imagine spotting dolphins celebrating this special day with you!



➔ Tom "Cruise Director" of Rhythmboat invites you to party

And if anyone is getting married and planning a romantic sunset cruise to seal their vows of love, we'd want to be on the cruise too!

With a fully licensed bar and options for buffet and a variety of entertainment, guests are well taken care of.

## Meet the dolphins

One royal treat you can experience when you take a day cruise on the Rhythmboat is meeting the dolphins. They know when the Rhythmboat is

approaching and they are old friends with the vessel and its captain! When the dolphins come to visit a cruise it's simply delightful.

## A very special wedding venue

An MV Port AdVenture Hastings River cruise wedding would make for an unforgettable wedding. Imagine a gentle cruise on the sparkling waters of the Hastings River, and if you do it at sunset, your photographer will be beside themselves trying to snap a

shot every single second! The colours are simply gorgeous and it changes from second to second.

And again if you're lucky, the dolphins may just gatecrash your wedding party! With such a setting, we'll be ever so ready to say, "Yes I do!"

## An unforgettable Christmas

Why not take your staff way out of their comfort zone this Christmas, and forget the typical catering or cocktailing in a fancy restaurant.



➔ Ready for a Sunset Cruise? Book now

Get some river breeze in their hair and take them on an entertainment cruise on the Rhythmboat at Christmas!

There's plenty of cruising, food and beverages that will get everyone to let their hair down and just relax into the river's embrace! Just being outdoors and smelling the freshness of the waters can help people connect differently and have a good time.

There are endless reasons to go on a cruise with Tom, Cruise Director of the Rhythmboat. For us, we're ever ready to hop on and gaze into the distance as we cruise on a river we're so familiar with and love. What are you waiting for? The dolphins are ready to meet you!

[Book a Cruise](#)



[Book a Dolphin Spotting Cruise](#)  
Photo: Alex McNaught.

Alex McNaught  
WWW.ROVING-EYE.COM

# Book your next party on Rhythmbot

## PORT ADVENTURE CRUISES

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# WHAT'S A POCKET WATCH?

◆ It's a time-teller carried in your pocket. Did you know that the pocket watch has been a symbol of affluence from as early as the 16th century?

**E**ven today, the pocket watch still offers a certain level of class and prestige and is highly sought after by distinguished gentlemen and ladies worldwide. The pocket watch has been an integral part of fashion over the decades.

**Darius Witecki from Port Pickers has collected a superb variety of pocket watches, from vintage, antique, solid gold and sterling silver, the choice is yours.**

## JW BENSON

A very nice example of a WW1 Military Pocket watch made by JW Benson circa 1910. The watch movement is inscribed with "H M the Queen". On the inside of the case you will notice the watchmaker has dated the services of this watch and the dates are from over 100 years ago.

## Jaeger LeCoultre GSTP Military Pocket Watch

The ultimate collectors piece. A 1943 Jaeger LeCoulter (GSTP) pocket watch with a 51.8mm case, movement cal. 467. These were entirely produced in house from 1939 through to 1945.

The brand was founded by Antoine LeCoultre in 1833 and has hundreds of inventions, over a thousand calibers to its name and has some of the most iconic watches made in the 21st century.

## Moeris Coin Pocket Watch

Port Pickers have a Moeris pocket watch in stock. Can you believe the pocket watch case was made by splitting an actual antique silver coin in half! The two sides encompass the watch. A highly collectible item. Circa 1940.

**The biggest difference between a pocket watch and a wristwatch is one lives on your wrist and one lives in your pocket**

"The whole idea of the pocket watch came from clocks," Darius told us. "The invention was a smaller version of a clock that people could carry in their pocket, hence the term pocket watch.

"In the late 1800s, they started converting pocket watches into wrist watches. By soldering a little piece of metal onto the edges of the pocket watch case and making a band for it, the first wristwatches were created. They were sometimes homemade or made by a watchmaker."

The wristwatch became popular in the early 1900s and almost everyone wears a wrist watch or has one, today. "The pocket watch started dying off I'd say in the 50s and 60s," explained Darius. "You can still buy a pocket watch today, but they're not very common. Most retail stores that stock watches will have a number of brands of watches, some have hundreds and hundreds of different watches, but maybe a handful of pocket watches, if any at all."

Although the smartphone has replaced most watches today, the pocket watch is still seen as a status piece that has never lost its prized reputation.

Pocket watches are still made by watch manufacturers today. Brands such as Longines, Bulova, and Tissot continue to create pocket watches. While they are not as popular as wristwatches, many people choose to buy pocket watches for their style.

[Read Full Story](#)



➔ JW Benson & 8 Day Amida Facon Pocket Watch





# PORTPICKERS

EST. 2020

## ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES & UNIQUE ITEMS

### FROM YESTERYEAR

An eclectic mix of high end watches and clocks, quality antique furniture and homewares, antique toys and collectibles, books, knives, vintage tools and stationary, timber decor, garagenalia, petroliana, Bric a Brac, glassware, breweriana, movie memorabilia, stoneware and kitchenalia plus much more!



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# SO YOU'VE GOT THE TEAM - WHERE'S THE COACH?

◆ You've done all the things: built the team, established the systems, and developed your offering. But do you still feel like you're spinning your wheels? Maybe what you're missing is a business coach.

**T**aking the step towards bringing in an advisor for your business is a tough one with lots of conflicting emotions:

Am I even ready for a business advisor? Maybe I should wait.

How do I know if they're any good?

Can't someone just do it for me?

What the heck have I gotten myself into!?\*

\*Ok, that last one just sounds like you need a nap and a hug. Maybe a holiday.

But you can't shake the niggling feeling that, unless you do something radically different, you'll keep spinning your wheels until - well, they spin off?

I like to take real world perspectives when it comes to breaking down big concepts (a nifty trick from my accounting days). When it comes to business advice - and whether it's right for us there's a lot we can take away from the similarities between us as business owners and elite athletes.

## They never outgrow their need for a coach.

Ever noticed that even the best in their field never get SO GOOD that their coach becomes redundant? It's because they know that they can't do it all - be in the moment, in their zone of genius, as well as be across all the strategies and hurdles coming up.

And it starts from way back in the beginning:

It's starting with a passion, then turning it into a vision.



It's working towards the grand final, one game at a time.

It's the combined effectiveness of big picture strategy and micro-tactics.

It's constant self-discipline & self-improvement.

It's the cheering from the sideline (or the 'GET YOUR @SS BACK UP!', depending on what you need at the time).

A business advisor can keep the bird's eye view on the long term objectives, the strategy and how it all ties to the here and now. They can support you in perfecting your technique, honing your skills and making the tough decisions needed to get ahead.

## How do you find the right coach for your business?

'Coaching' in the business space has seen an explosion in the last few years. And much like an explosion, it's not been without carnage.

I'm not sure what to put this down to - maybe it's social media and Google Search suddenly elevating everyone to expert status. Whether we realised that a degree isn't always synonymous with expertise. Or maybe it's the minority of people who realise they can turn their confidence into cash, even if they don't really have the life experience to back it up.

Suffice to say, it's an industry that doesn't have much standardisation and regulation. Which can be both fantastic and terrifying.

So how do you bring someone into your business, one that's taken you years to grow, and trust them with the path forward?

Life experience and runs on the board are big indicators for me.

I've worked with hundreds of small businesses over my career as both an Accountant and a Business Advisor - I know first hand how unique each business' ecosystem is. And I also know there are some universal truths that apply to us all.

Yet even despite all MY experience, I still engage coaches and mentors for all different aspects of my life. And this is another thing I look for. Working with someone who is still actively learning means they're constantly building their bank of mental resources, which will have a flow on effect to their clients (YOU!)

## See what's possible.

I like to invite business owners to have a FREE 30 minute chat with me, so I can get a sound understanding of their business and they can get a clear idea of what I'm like to work



with. Because much like the athlete / coach dynamic, we're going to be pushing each other to the limits. We need to know we can build trust, be honest with each other and value our different perspectives.

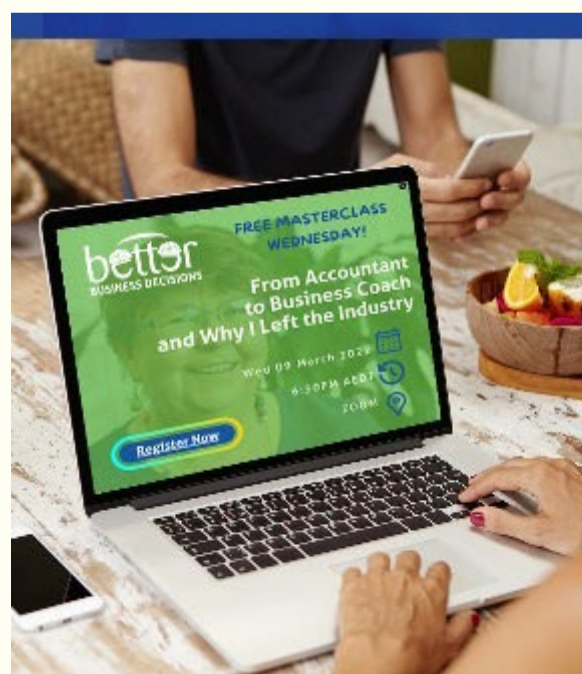
The added joy of my approach is that it's backed by 35+ years as an accountant. So we can run the numbers on virtually any possibility and make some educated estimates.

Now, are you ready to not be given all the answers, but to work together to find them?

**Book a FREE 30 min discussion**

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**better**  
BUSINESS DECISIONS

## Did you know you can lower your lifetime tax?

The evolution of the accounting industry has left many in the dark! To improve your financial intelligence - We provide a safe space (in person or via Zoom) to unpack your financial information with an expert Business Advisor! In fact Liz has helped hundreds of businesses make more money and pay less tax in her 30 years of Chartered Accounting

**Get in touch anytime**

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# THE NOISE ON THE NURSERY. ANOTHER GARDEN CHAT WITH CHOOK, FROM GREENBOURNE NURSERY

◆ Greenbourne Nursery on Ornamental Plant, Herb and Fruit Tree recommendations

## Ornamental Plant Recommendation

**Ajuga (*Ajuga reptans*, *Ajuga australis*)**

Ajuga will bring a great colour contrast with the rich purple and burgundy colours they produce. It is a plant that thrives in those semi shaded spots that can sometimes be problematic when finding the right selection to suit the area.

The plant is great when used as a border, and the really low growing varieties such as *Ajuga australis* do really well between pavers as they are tough and don't mind being trodden on from time to time. They are best planted in full sun to part shade.

## Culinary Herb Recommendation

**Mushroom plant (*Rungia klossii*)**

Now here is a vegetable herb that you very rarely see sold fresh in shops. It is a small perennial shrub that produces rich, thick green leaves that taste like mushrooms.

The mushroom plant is a great addition to cooking when you require nutrition and mushroom flavour in your meal. It is best lightly fried in oil and then added to the meal cooking process toward the end.

The plant itself grows great, preferring full sun, down to partial shade. It performs really well in nice compost rich soils and due to the thick leaf pallet, it doesn't need too much



➔ *Ajuga reptans*

water, just treat it like most herbs and watch the soil moisture levels in the summer. The plant will grow up to about 80cms and it likes continual pruning to stop it getting spindly, which is perfect if you are consistently pruning it for the frypan.

## Fruit tree recommendation

**Pomegranate (*Punica granatum*)**

Pomegranate is considered a superfood. The rich red pigment in

the pulp that surrounds the seeds of the fruit is incredibly high in antioxidants. There are plenty of herbal supplements on the market with pomegranate in them, however the best way to get the true benefits from the fruit are to grow the plant and eat the fruit as fresh as you can. The pomegranate has a rich European heritage and naturally has grown in quite tough and difficult conditions in cultivation for centuries.

The edible part is the rich red pulp surrounding the seeds that has a sweet, sugary flavour with a

subtle tangy aftertaste. The plant is deciduous, thus going dormant over the winter. It performs well in most climate zones, it is a very versatile plant to grow. In cultivation it will benefit from compost rich soils that will promote extra vigour and fruiting.

It is a small tree with attractive autumn foliage colour, and large red flowers in the late spring. So apart from producing delicious healthy fruit it will also make a colourful autumn addition to your garden.

**So, everyone please go and get out there into your garden centres and enjoy this lovely winter weather.**

Our friendships and our relationships with each other are so important, and it can all start with and be as simple as a smile. I'll see you out here at Greenbourne Nursery for all your garden questions and advice or just for a friendly chat.

**Happy Gardening - Daniel "Chook" Fowler**



➔ Mushroom plant (*Rungia klossii*)



➔ Pomegranate



## For All Your Gardening Needs

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# NEW NAME, SAME GOALS

◆ Meet Katherine Harris, Executive Officer for Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce who are now trading as Business Port Macquarie

**H**aving been with Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce for over eleven years, Katherine's skill and knowledge have been essential to keeping the administration and Chamber events running smoothly, she has efficiently supported four consecutive Executive Officers (EO).

With the recent resignation of Mark Wilson, it was time for Katherine to take a step up into the EO role and use her experience to take on the top job.

Many of you will know Katherine as the first point of contact when calling the office and she is impressively humble about her past experience and achievements.



➔ Katherine Harris, Executive Officer for Business Port Macquarie

## Her background

Katherine was a Senior Executive Assistant, working in the international corporate finance and investment banking sectors for Global Directors in both London for seven years and Sydney for many more. Her experience gained over the last twenty plus years ensures her eye for detail, highly professional manner and an ability to work calmly under pressure.

She is an achiever who wins respect, inspires trust and builds strong rapport with both management and colleagues.

Out of the office Katherine is mum to teenager Jack and their cavoodle Rosie. She can often be found walking with them both on Lighthouse beach, her happy place.

Katherine is very excited about stepping into his new role having remained behind the scenes for the last eleven years. With the rebrand from Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce to Business Port Macquarie from 1 July 2022, it is a

great opportunity to modernise and move forward.

She looks forward to working with the new President, Alex Glen-Holmes, to help engage members and the business community and to provide quality events and support as needed. Katherine says, "It is a new and exciting challenge and I am looking forward to being more involved with our wonderful business community under our new brand of Business Port Macquarie."

Port Macquarie Chamber of Commerce rebrand to Business Port Macquarie.

Same service, events and advocacy - just new logo in-line with the National and State Chambers which are now

called Business Australia and Business NSW.

Each member of Business Port Macquarie is also a member of the State Chamber (Business NSW) with all the benefits entailed, so it was decided as a Chamber to align with the brand... it is all about relevancy for their business community.

Katherine told Brilliant-online, "A lot of people traditionally connected the Chamber with the Council and didn't really know what we did... so it is a good time for change!

"Business Port Macquarie made so much more sense. We are here for business, for the future and to increase our demographic membership."

**BUSINESS  
PORT MACQUARIE**

Contact  
Katherine Harris  
Executive Officer :

☎ 0422 562 300

✉ executive@portchamber.com.au

🌐 businesspmq.com.au

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# AMSA IS UNITING MALAYSIANS AND SINGAPOREANS WITH THEIR LOVE FOR GREAT FOOD

◆ AMSA is looking at a new direction ahead with exciting value propositions, all combined with great food to engage Malaysians and Singaporeans.

**T**he Australian Malaysian Singaporean Association Inc (AMSA) has been a platform for Malaysians and Singaporeans living in Australia to come together to network and socialise since 1970.

It has since grown into an extensive multicultural community association recognised by the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs, High Commission of Malaysia and High Commission of Singapore. An incorporated, not-for-profit organisation, the AMSA brings together active former and current residents of Malaysia and Singapore in Australia to create a home away from home. This is a place where they can come together to promote their legitimate interests and welfare in the development of the community.

The AMSA organises regular social and professional networking functions to encourage interaction within the local community. These include sports events, bushwalking, meet & mingle, celebrating cultural festivals, helping new migrants from Malaysia and Singapore to settle into Australia, and their Annual Gala Dinner. Through these social activities, the AMSA network has grown so extensively that their membership is actually open to all nationalities.

People from all over are welcome to join the AMSA membership. As a home away from home, this is where new 'families' have sprouted, because this is where people feel a sense of belonging when they come



## ➔ AMSA Talk Series 2022

to activities and events organised by AMSA, and it becomes natural to start inviting more friends along.

Last year, AMSA proudly celebrated their 50th anniversary and is one of the oldest Malaysian and Singaporean associations in Australia.

### History of AMSA

Australia and Malaysia go a long way back together. Back in the 18th and 19th centuries, Malays were involved in the pearling industry and the unusual activity of collecting sea slugs (trepang) off Australia's northern coast.

The first significant arrival of Malaysians to Australia occurred with the Colombo Plan from 1950.

This brought nearly 17,000 overseas students to Australia, the majority of whom were Malaysians. Many of these students later married locally and then sponsored their parents or siblings to Australia.

Malaysians have one of the highest rates of intermarriage with the Australia-born forming families of mixed ancestries. (Source: Australian Government Department of Home Affairs)

In 2021, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)'s Census recorded 172,250 Malaysia-born people in Australia. Its estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth on 30 June 2020 has listed Malaysia as one of the top 10 countries of birth for overseas-born.



## AMSA Now

The AMSA recently concluded its 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 28th June 2022 with incumbent Thomson Ch'ng re-elected as President for the second term.

An interesting shift that has been happening recently is the increase in the number of younger members with roots from Malaysia and Singapore and who are now living, working or operating a business in Australia.

What some of you may not know is, apart from their social and networking activities which bring them close together, the members are all united with a common love - 'makan', which is an affectionate word used in Malaysia and Singapore to mean Eat, and usually, eating great food from back home!

One of the best ways to break the ice and find a connection with each other is to simply bring in food. Talk about it, cook something together, share food together... there is nothing like good makan to light up one's eyes and catch one's attention. It is well known that Malaysians and Singaporeans love their food and cuisine and are die-hard foodies to the core.

## New Strategic Pillars

Their recent AGM also brought up some interesting issues for the future. Mr. Ch'ng released a draft version of their New Strategic Pillars which will be further discussed with the committee before its official launch.

As the organisation continues to change and evolve, the draft strategic pillars will offer new value propositions for AMSA's members, as well as new direction for AMSA as a 50-year-old organisation growing in the 21st century.

- AMSA's New Strategic Pillars include:
- Advocacy and empowerment
- Professional and Social Networking
- Community engagement and support

"This year's AGM was particularly special. Members who have attended the meeting have actively contributed ideas on ways to enhance AMSA's future operation and initiatives," said Thomson Ch'ng, President-elect of AMSA 2022/23.



"As an organisation that is run by the community, for the community, an active and engaged membership allows bottom-up communication, including feedback to the executive committee. It's a key ingredient of success for us as an organisation,"

**- Thomson Ch'ng, President-elect of AMSA 2022/23.**



 Malaysians and Singaporeans love to makan

## AMSA's Three Focal Areas

AMSA has put forward three main areas to focus on for this year.

The first focus is to become an effective platform to develop professional, business and personal social networks. Now that COVID rules are easing, members and guests can expect more events that bring together networking, social activities and of course, as always, excellent makan! No AMSA activity is complete without the presence of amazing cuisine.

Advocacy and empowerment is the second focus. AMSA is committed to giving Malaysians and Singaporeans a voice in Australian society. Earlier in February 2022, AMSA organised a Q&A with the Malaysian Department of Immigration in Australia to provide a platform for people to get clarifications on immigration and passport issues. It was a helpful source of information for issues related to renewals, applications or extensions.

AMSA's third focus is engaging and supporting communities. AMSA has been actively reaching out and engaging with the community via events and webinars such as assisting new migrants to settle into the country by providing accurate and relevant information about living, working, studying or doing business in Australia.



➔ AMSA Hari Raya and Launch of Queensland Network 2022

## AMSA's new state network

A clear indication of AMSA's expansion and outreach is the establishment of its state networks in Victoria and Queensland within the first five months of 2022.

Its first state network is in Victoria where the largest number of Malaysians and Singaporeans reside was established in February. Victorian Convenor is Donny Doughty.

The second state network in Queensland was established in May led by Queensland Convenors Sylvia Tiong and Debb Seven Chew.

[amsa.com.au](http://amsa.com.au)



"The AMSA Queensland and Victoria State Network offer a unique and trusted platform for the community to connect with one another under the umbrella of the association. Our state convenors are committed to assist their peers and create positive impacts in the community," said Mr. Ch'ng.

Brilliant-Online is a member of AMSA. AMSA members can reach out to us to feature their stories

[editor@brilliant-online.com](mailto:editor@brilliant-online.com)



# CELEBRATING MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

◆ For big impact, support your local small business

**T**he United Nations General Assembly designated June 27th as 'Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises Day'. Small but mighty is how MSMEs are, and their contributions to the economy are more than meets the eye.

The United Nations General Assembly is raising awareness of the amazing contributions of MSMEs to the achievements of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The numbers speak for themselves: MSMEs account for 90% of businesses, 60-70% of employment and 50% of GDP worldwide.

MSMEs are essentially the backbone of societies in how they contribute to the local and national economies. They are especially vital for sustaining the livelihoods of the working poor, women, youth and other groups in vulnerable situations. They are essential to helping economies bounce back from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the challenging situations the world is facing, from climate issues to conflicts.

MSMEs have learnt to become more adaptable but mighty is how MSMEs are, and they have learnt to become more adaptable, agile and resilient to future situations.

## Amazing facts about MSMEs

These facts may help you take a different view towards MSMEs:

- Small businesses employ over 5 million people, which is 42% of Australia's private sector workforce.
- Construction is our largest small business sector, employing 793,000 people.
- Small businesses employ 63% or almost 288,000 of Australia's apprentices and trainees.
- Small businesses employ 42% of Australia's private sector workforce.
- Top five industries with the highest percentage of people employed by small businesses.
- Small businesses contribute \$483 billion to the economy, that's roughly 33%!
- Small businesses account for 97% of all Australian businesses.

Brilliant-Online loves supporting small businesses. We are so proud of what they do, and we are proud of what we do with small businesses! We think they are absolutely Brilliant,



Brilliant-Online  
supports small  
businesses

and their stories drive us to want to deliver a brilliant story that helps people get to really know them.

## Helping Brilliant small businesses shine

Here are just a few of the small businesses whose stories we have heard, and whose journey we are supporting.

### John Clarke, Success Tax Professionals

John understands what small businesses go through in terms of their financial challenges and concerns, and his monthly contribution has been invaluable in helping small businesses better understand what they need to do about tax and investments.

[Read John's latest article](#)

### Greenbourne Nursery in Wauchope

Daniel "Chook" Fowler has been our regular contributor on gardening tips. Go to Greenbourne Nursery in Wauchope if you are looking for pots, plants, flowers, trees, water features and other garden accessories for outdoor spaces.

[Read Chook's latest garden recommendations](#)

### disAbility Maternity Care

Dr. Namira Williams of disAbility Maternity Care has so many inspiring stories to share. She is changing the conversation and perception of parents with disabilities.

[Read how they support mothers with disabilities](#)

### Liz Jarvis, Better Business Decisions

Liz Jarvis is a Business Advisor with a megawatt smile, and she is a helpful sounding board for business owners who feel overwhelmed. Read what Liz has to say for Business Mums and it's clear she is truly listening to the challenges her clients face on a daily basis with setting up and running a business.

[Read Liz's latest article](#)

### The Friendly Micro Business Forum

So where does a small business owner go if they need help or support? Are they entirely on their own?

Micro Business Forum is a professional business network providing education, networking

and support to both start-ups and established small-business owners in Port Macquarie-Hastings. Mention MBF and most people would recognise them and tell you what a friendly network it is!

At MBF, there are events, forums and get-togethers for micro business owners in the community to have a place where they can come together to share their stories and insights, their skills and experiences, and to simply be a source of encouragement and support.

So if you are a small business owner in the community, remember you don't have to navigate through your journey alone. Join some events at MBF and you may find yourself returning for another! There is such a variety of businesses, industries, skills and personalities at the MBF, that every networking event is rich and engaging, you simply don't know who you may meet and help you along in your business journey!

Join MBF Coffee Connect every second Thursday 10am each month.

[microbusinessforum.org.au](http://microbusinessforum.org.au)



➔ John Clarke

➔ Liz Jarvis

➔ Dr Namira

➔ Daniel "Chook" Fowler

## Why advertise with Brilliant?

So that people will know what you do best. What you do so brilliantly.

And because our brilliant interactive advertising platform means the engagement you have with your audience is not only extensive, it is also deep. It helps audiences make a direct, immediate connection with you, your products and/or services. Your business and your stories are shared everywhere - on our online magazine, web banners, on social media channels, emails and blogs.

We share real, human stories from the very heart of each community that are valuable and accurate. It is what people want to hear and feel connected to.

Our Brilliant brand story selling is how businesses can create positive brand perception and be able to sell without selling.

One vital component of knowing how your business is developing is having the numbers to show for it. When businesses advertise on Brilliant-Online, they can see and understand how their ads are performing. So effort is never wasted, and it's always clear what they are getting from their ads.

Read here to understand better how our multichannel and omnichannel advertising work. We love sharing brilliant stories. How would it feel to have your brilliant story right here in this brilliant space?

For us, every day is MSMEs Day. We celebrate every small business whose stories have inspired us to share here. When one business grows, the whole community benefits. Call it the Butterfly Effect or the Hummingbird

Effect, we believe one small ripple can create a positive impact on the community. Having been through so many adversities together over the past few years, it is clear that supporting small businesses is how we make our community and bigger world around us a brilliant place.

**How will you celebrate the MSMEs in your community today?**

[Read all Brilliant-Online Magazines](#)

**Call Chrissy Jones to Advertise Brilliantly**

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➔ headspace Port Macquarie







*Brilliant*

**HEALTH**



# HEADSPACE IS PROUD TO PRESENT... THE WAUCHOPE COSPLAY FESTIVAL

◆ The Wauchope Cosplay Festival is a FREE, all ages, large-scale, inclusive pop-culture event that seeks to deliver a dynamic, one-of-a-kind opportunity for the flood-affected communities of Wauchope, Port Macquarie, Laurieton and their Hinterlands.

**I**t will be HUGE! Created in collaboration with the Hastings Community Drug Action Team, the festival is funded by the Office of Regional Youth (Holiday Break Program). Held in the Wauchope Library precinct on Saturday August 6th kicking off at 10am and continuing on throughout the day, winding up at 4:00pm.

## There's something for everyone...

Truly there will be, from the Youth Makers Market for 12 to 25-year-olds, where you can get a free stall to sell your homemade goods and creative wares, to the all ages Manga Art Show,

to the main event the all ages Cosplay Parade: create your costume and enter the parade on the day to win.

Youth Makers Market - More info and to register for a free stall here

[Makers Market Registration Form](#)

Manga Art Show & Exhibition  
More info and to register to exhibit here

[Cosplay Art Show Entry Form](#)

## Workshops and Creative Fun

Fun will be had by getting involved in the Box Head Workshop. Create a box head and enter the Cosplay parade. Try your hand at learning and creating a new skill by joining in the activities from Blackout Poetry, Zentangle, Affirmation Boxes and Steam-Punk Jewelry.

**T**here will be Extreme Make-up Demonstrations, the amazing Reverse Garbage crew that are travelling all the way up from Sydney to provide free 'mask making' and 'superhero gadget' workshops - if you are curious, conscious and creative, then these are for you.



The incredible Matt Lin, well-known Manga Artist will help to inspire and support those interested in Manga Art and illustration.

More info about Matt here

[matthewlin.com.au](http://matthewlin.com.au)

You will be amazed by Action Reaction Entertainment's 'Spider Man Stunt Team' who will showcase live stunts and acrobatics.

**FREE Haircuts and Make-up by the Community Hair Project** are on offer, but be quick as spots are limited. To book your appt contact Christine :

☎ 0432 580 059.

Plus there will be local services, face painting, BBQ and FREE LIVE music by upcoming stars from 12-3pm featuring Port Locals, 'Weak Need' and acoustic duo 'Keanu Jai & Lyla' and Taree local Cassidy.



➔ Get involved! Book a free stall at the Youth Makers Market



Weak Need



Taree local Cassidy



Keanu Jai & Lyla

## A day to reconnect and rebuild

Join the interactive activities that support the mental health and wellbeing of our community. A shuttle bus schedule will be listed closer to the date for those coming from outlying areas. Come and join us! All welcome. For event information email:

[wauchopecosplayfestival@gmail.com](mailto:wauchopecosplayfestival@gmail.com)

## Wauchope Cosplay Festival on Saturday August 6th 2022

Website event info:

[headspace.org.au](https://headspace.org.au)



➡ Exhibit in the Manga Art Show

# Family & Friends Reference Group

Are you a parent, carer, friend or family member of a young person going through a tough time?

Are you a community member with an interest or passion for mental health?



 **headspace**  
Port Macquarie

We are currently recruiting volunteers for our Family & Friends Reference Group (FFRG)

The FFRG is an opportunity to get involved in the continuing development of headspace Port Macquarie. Open to ages 25+ this initiative is designed to give a voice to family and friends of young people who are experiencing mental health issues.

The group will meet quarterly, touching base regularly online to ensure our youth are receiving appropriate assistance that is supported by their family and friends. Training will be provided, and opportunities available to support headspace events and activities.

For more information get in touch with [lauren\\_millar@hotmail.com](mailto:lauren_millar@hotmail.com) or to apply head to our website via QR code.



headspace national Youth Mental Health Foundation is funded by the Victorian Government Department of Health

# WAUCHOPE COSPLAY FESTIVAL



**SAT AUGUST 6TH 10AM-4PM**  
**WAUCHOPE LIBRARY PRECINCT**

Live Music • Stunt Show • Cosplay Parade • Youth Makers Market • Manga Artist in Residence - Matt Lin • Manga Art Exhibition • Workshops: Superhero Gadgets, Boxhead & Mask Making, Extreme Make-up • Free Hair Cuts • Food • Face Painting & More

For more info on registering to Cosplay, getting a free table at the Makers Market or wanting to exhibit in the Manga Art Exhibition  
E: [wauchopecosplayfestival@gmail.com](mailto:wauchopecosplayfestival@gmail.com) or visit website via QR Code



# NO PARENT CAN DO IT ALONE. THEY NEED COLLABORATIVE CARE

◆ Interagency or inter-sectorial collaboration is something we all hear about. Whether it's working on a specific project, or providing care for clients in your particular field.

Inter-sectorial collaboration often means not working within our respective work areas, siloed from how our work interacts with other organisations, or other parts of people's lives.

Is this something we really do? Do we work this way a lot of the time, or just when we need to?

We would like to introduce the term 'collaborative care' when thinking about care to support parents with disabilities. So often we hear the term

'it takes a village to raise a child' – a term that acknowledges the importance of other's roles in the community in child raising, not only the parents.

However, there are often lots of social expectations around parents being able to do this on their own. When it comes to parents with disabilities, this is even more an expectation – that they need to show society that they can do this, by themselves. And if they aren't able to, then there is social scrutiny as to whether they should be having children at all.

**The reality is that no parent can do it alone – we ALL need support in one way or another – in what whatever ever way that meets our needs.**

Whether it's about going back to work, and needing childcare, to having time out from parenting when a parent has postnatal depression,



➔ Pregnancy Planner

or needing support to bath or change babies because of the parent's disability. Whatever the parental needs are, we need to be supporting them in the best possible way, and collaborative care can do this.

The Collaborative care model has been used mostly within the field of mental health. It came from people with mental health issues falling through the gaps between services, and needing to find a better way to meet the person's needs.

When we think about families and parenting, there are often many services involved, depending on the point within the journey for each parent. Knowing how to navigate all these points can be very difficult, especially when it is a first pregnancy, or the parents have lots of challenges within their lives.

Knowing who each provider is, what they do and when you see them can be very tricky for many parents to be, and also for parents with a disability.

Our Pregnancy Journey Map, which can be downloaded for free shows the steps along the pregnancy to birth journey to assist with this. Parents with disabilities have found this to be especially helpful as it points out links with NDIS planning.

**Download Pregnancy  
Journey Map**

Our mission is for parents to be empowered to succeed, and supported by knowledgeable and skilled providers and services. In our May Brilliant article we spoke about our services, and how we support parents with disabilities. The aim of all our services is to improve collaborative care for these parents, so they don't fall through the gap.



## ➔ Collaborative Care assists parents with disabilities

Collaborative Care planning has been defined as prioritising 'the preferences and values of the person with lived experience of [mental health] issues'.

Central to this is the family, carers and others in the development of the care plan along with providers. Many parents with disabilities have complex lives, juggling chronic health conditions, disability and other life aspects. Planning care into the future, and within a family life means planning care that takes account of these life complexities, and the specific needs as defined by the parent themselves.

Over the next few months, we will focus on aspects of collaborative care to better help parents with disabilities, but also providers work more collaboratively.

**Our Providers supporting Parents with Disabilities Network Facebook group** aims to give providers a platform for better interagency collaboration and sharing of knowledge.

**Visit disAbility  
Facebook group**

**disAbility Maternity Care** is holding a workshop on October 13th (so put it in your diaries), 'Collaborative Care to support Parents with disabilities' in Port Macquarie, NSW. This face-to-face event will provide both practical workshops and opportunities for networking. Register your interest here. The finalised program and registration form will be emailed to you.

**Register for Collaborative  
Workshop**



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[www.disabilitymaternitycare.com](http://www.disabilitymaternitycare.com)



# HEMP IS HERE

◆ Legalised in Australia since 2017, the much maligned plant HEMP is a fast-growing, nutritious and sustainable resource, used across thousands of applications, from medicine to biofuel to eco-friendly insulation.

**A**C Healthy Solutions have just launched a range of hemp products that are highly nutritious. The Hemp products can be used for a range of health conditions including constipation, high cholesterol, eczema, arthritis, and many other conditions.

Nature's Hemp is considered to be a Plant-Based SuperFood. Plus hemp seeds also supply the body with fibre, minerals and vitamins. Unlike most plant-based proteins, Hemp is a high quality source for amino acids.

## Hemp is an Immune System Booster

Hemp seeds contain globular proteins – edestin and albumin. Enzymes, antibodies, hormones, and fibrinogen are all made from globular proteins.

Edestin and albumin make up the fluid in a portion of the blood plasma.

Which means these proteins are essential to supporting a healthy immune system.

## Hemp Aids Weight Loss and Improves Digestion

Hemp curbs hunger cravings, is rich in fibre and promotes a healthy digestive system, the fibre also helps us feel fuller for longer, hence reduced cravings and sustained weight loss. The high fibre content of the hemp plant is also believed to help prevent chronic disease such as heart disease and diabetes, it increases fat-burning potential, helping you lose weight effectively.

Hemp seed protein actually aids in digestion due to the high concentration of soluble and insoluble fibre.

Hemp supplies the body with balanced

protein, it is also hypoallergenic and suitable for people with soy, gluten, egg, or dairy sensitivities, making our blends perfect for vegetarians and vegans.

## What's the difference between hemp and marijuana?

Marijuana and hemp are different varieties of the same species. (Cannabis Sativa) hemp is the non-psychoactive

cousin of cannabis or commonly known as marijuana.

Hemp or industrial hemp is cultivated with low-THC (THC is the intoxicating component that makes you high). This variety of Cannabis is grown purely for its seeds, oil and fibre. Hemp is a non-intoxicating product.

[Read Full Story](#)



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Alison Carroll

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# EVER CONSIDERED GOING RAW?

◆ As this month's Brilliant-Online theme focuses on 'Friendship', we wanted to shine the light on the question of just how friendly we are to our bodies with regards to what we put them!

**C**onsider what you are consuming on average and ask yourself honestly, are you being friendly to your body? Are you consuming and digesting sufficient levels of nutritious content to ensure a fit and healthy lifestyle where your body functions at its optimum? Or are you guilty of consuming foods that aren't so healthy, that your body considers unfriendly?

Excluding animal products such as meat and dairy, a Raw Vegan diet includes foods that are plant-based, raw, unprocessed and that don't require cooking, as much of the nutrients are lost when foods are heated. Instead of firing up the stove or BBQ, a raw vegan-based diet will see foods juiced, blended, soaked, dehydrated, germinated or sprouted. Many choose the diet in an attempt to improve their health while also identifying with the ethical and ecological principles of the diet.

We decided to check in with Toni Jessop from Rawlicious You, a Phuket-based Raw Vegan, fitness and mindset coach who is as good as anyone we know to get the honest low-down on a Raw Vegan lifestyle!

Toni has been fully vegan for the last decade, and was a vegetarian for several years prior to that. Working in the fitness industry, she quickly became aware of how important it was to put the right types of fuel into her body to ensure it could perform at its peak. Naturally, this meant healthy, nutritious food which would provide her the energy she needed.

"We live in a society obsessed with instant gratification," she says. "We have been bombarded over the years with processed convenience foods being driven by big business which have now, sadly, become the norm and the

foundation of bad diets the world over."

Familiar with the term gut microbiota? No, I wasn't either until I spoke with Toni. The gut microbiome is the collection of bacteria, fungi, and viruses that live in your bowels and that affect everything in your body, from

inflammation to heart health. Research proves people who have a diet high in processed and animal-derived fatty foods develop greater levels of destructive bacteria.

"So much of society en masse, especially in developed countries, has



Toni and her healthy food

become so used to a diet of processed and fast foods which offer very little, if any, nutritious content and which have a terribly detrimental impact on the body by imbalancing the gut microbiome. It is why so many people are continually tired and prepared to accept chronic fatigue. It also explains the high numbers of people turning to unnecessary supplements and vitamins to try and satisfy the deficit."

Eating a raw, plant-based diet negates this problem altogether, Toni explains. Think about how fast and processed foods may satisfy a particular craving but, equally, how they leave you feeling unfulfilled and still hungry not long after.

"That's down to MSGs, or monosodium glutamate to give it its correct term,

that are so common in processed foods. Of course, this is absent in raw foods which is why your body instinctively knows it is full and to stop eating, rather than over-indulging. There's no chemical enhancements, its all natural. Your new found energy will amaze you!

In addition to the obvious health benefits, there is also the fact that a raw vegan diet is ultimately kinder for the environment and therefore the health of our planet.

"It's a win-win scenario that's healthier and friendlier for the environment, the planet, animals and you," says Toni.

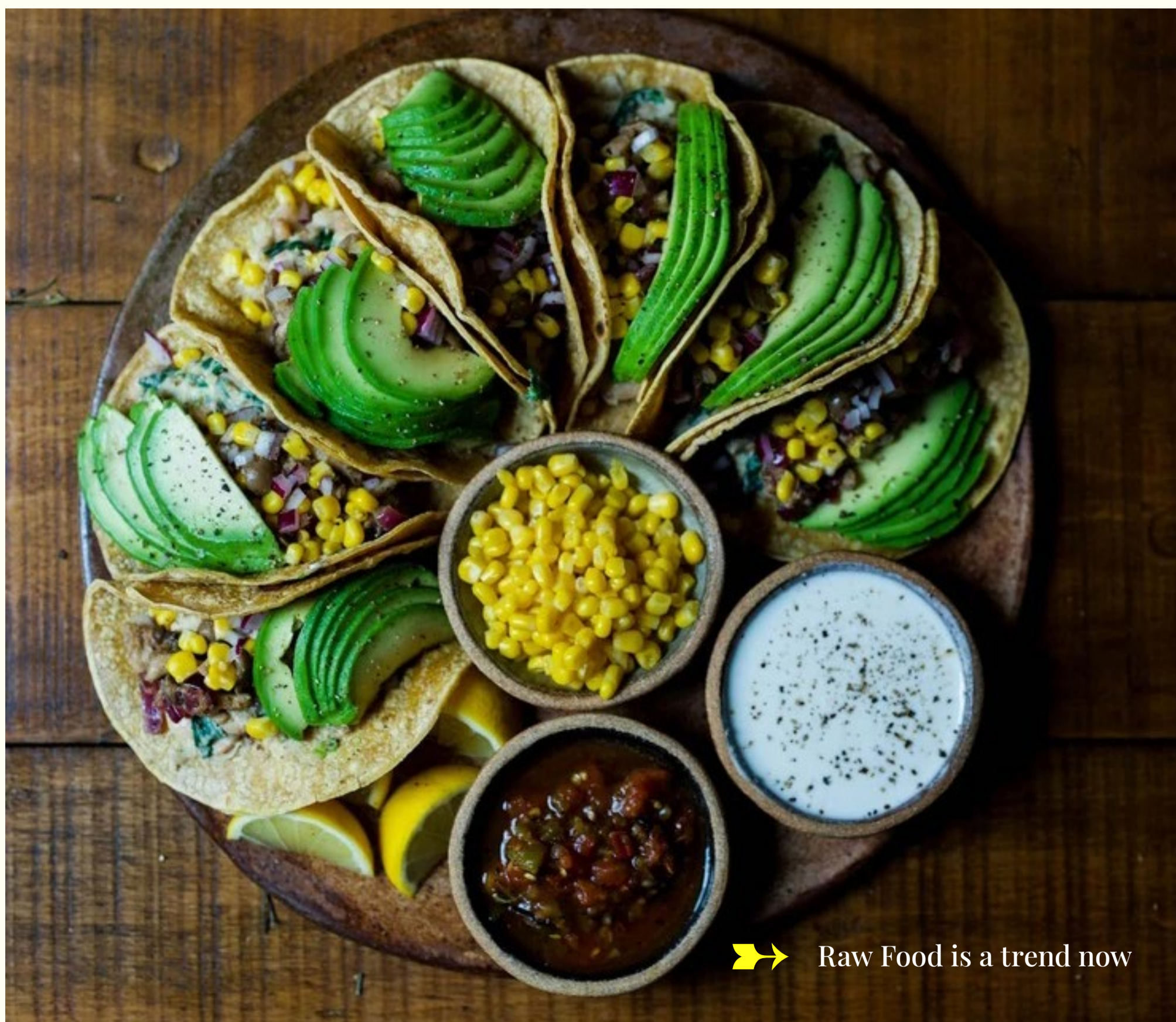
So, next time you've the option to try something from the raw vegan staple,

why not give it a go – I've no doubt you will be pleasantly surprised!

Through her 'Rawlicious' website Toni runs a worldwide community-based membership program that can help people with improving their diet and mindset via raw foods, intermittent fasting and meditation techniques.

You can find out more  
and sign up here

[rawliciousyou.com](http://rawliciousyou.com)



➡ Raw Food is a trend now



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# ESG compliant



*Brilliant*  
**INVESTMENT**



# VENTURE MINERALS LIMITED DISCUSSES THE SIGNIFICANCE AND ECONOMICS OF TIN

◆ Venture Minerals Limited (ASX:VMS) is giving Tin its rightful place in the investment ecosystem.

The Green metal and No Emission movement have made the plight of the Tin Story important for Investors. Venture Minerals may be an accidental recipient of the Green Metal movement.

This is the #GreenTin song that is often heard in the investment space.

Thing is, Tin is the quiet element that has been grossly underrated and forgotten. To fully give Tin the credit it deserves, we have to see it in a different light - Tin is in fact, the 'glue' of technology. In this new world that is emerging, a world of No Emission and Electrification of Progress, we really need Tin.

Venture Minerals Limited (ASX:VMS) is currently undergoing a phase of preparing a Feasibility Study. Andrew Radonjic, Managing Director of the company recently attended a Tin conference on his travels, and he has returned to share why Tin is a significant commodity.

Basically, if you take the supply issue of non ESG compliant sources, there will be a big issue for tin users. For those who see this need for realisable ESG compliant source of tin, this is a great time to look at companies like Venture Minerals.



➔ Venture Minerals Limited (ASX:VMS) with Noel Ong, CEO of Samsco.

Now, you may have heard that there are other 'sources of tin' that claim they are production ready. And what about those, you may ask.

If they are 'production ready' as they claim, surely they would be producing already. It would be highly interesting for potential investors to reach out to Mr. Radonjic to ask about what can happen, and what will never happen.

There are now some serious conversations about how tin will play in carbon capture, water treatment and heat harvesting. Take a deep dive into the amazing world of Tin in this video and get clarity on the concept of the Tin market and its uses. Find out why Tin is becoming a major player in the world of No Emission and electrification of energy.

This video may help to give some insights as to what could be a real game changer in terms of the need for Tin. As we can see now, the uses of tin are increasing and there is now talk of Tin being a vital component of lithium battery anodes. Pipe dream it may be, but that was what they said about the vanadium battery too.

If the so called Lithium-Tin solid battery anodes become a reality, we will see a complete change in the Tin market.

The same factors that are driving the High Purity Alumina industry that is driven by Kaolinite-Halloysite is also being seen with the Tin sector.

## About Andrew Radonjic

**Qualifications: BAppSc (Mining Geology), MSc (Mineral Economics), MAus/MM**

Mr. Radonjic is a geologist and mineral economist with over 30 years of experience in mining and exploration, with an initial focus on gold and nickel in the Eastern Goldfields of Western Australia. Andrew has fulfilled a variety of senior roles which gave rise to three gold discoveries, totalling in excess of 3 million ounces in resources and resulting in 1.5 million ounces being produced. Since 2006 Andrew has been an executive director with Venture Minerals, which he has been co-leading during the discovery of the Mount Lindsay Tin-Tungsten deposit. Andrew is a founder and recently was a director of Blackstone Minerals Limited (ASX: BSX).

## About Venture Minerals Limited

Venture Minerals Ltd (ASX: VMS) has refocused its approach to developing the Mount Lindsay Tin-Tungsten Project in northwest Tasmania, already one of the world's largest undeveloped Tin-Tungsten deposits. With higher Tin prices and the recognition of Tin as a fundamental metal to the battery revolution, Venture has commenced an Underground Feasibility Study on Mount Lindsay that will leverage

off the previously spent +\$35m on feasibility work.

At the neighbouring Riley Iron Ore Mine, the company entered an exciting phase as it moved from a highly successful explorer to producer with completion of the first shipment. In Western Australia, Chalice Mining (ASX: CHN) recently committed to spend up to \$3.7m in Venture's South West Project, to advance previous exploration completed by Venture to test the priority 20 km long Thor target.

At the Company's Golden Grove North Project, it has already intersected up to 7% Zinc, 1.3% Copper and 2.1g/t Gold at Orcus and has identified several, strong EM conductors to be drill tested along the 5km long VMS (Volcanogenic Massive Sulfide) Target Zone, along strike to the world class Golden Grove Zinc-Copper-Gold Mine.

Venture recently doubled the Nickel-Copper-PGE landholding at Kulin by securing two highly prospective 20-kilometre long Ni-Cu-PGE targets.



## RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE MINING

*Venture Minerals strives to discover and develop world class mineral deposits.*

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West Perth, Western Australia 6005



ESG compliant



➡ Sawasdee! Thailand embraces visitors once again. Photo shows the Songkran festival





*Brilliant*

**TRAVEL**



# EXOTIC THAILAND BECKONS AUSSIES BACK TO ITS REFRESHED RESORTS

◆ Tourism Thailand recently held a major Sydney expo to renew its welcome to Australian visitors. Travel writer Susie Boswell was invited along.



➔ Chocolate & Icecream rooms  
Photo: Amp Sripimanwat

**I**n the year to December 2019, just before COVID exploded, tourist arrivals in Thailand from Australia, New Zealand and adjacent Oceania were approaching 1 million, of an annual 40 million Thai tourism visitors overall.

The total loss of such huge patronage, obliterated in the worldwide pandemic travel bans, makes the impact on the Thai economy starkly evident.

Now, Thailand has thrown open its arms to embrace visitors once again, ten hours' flying time from

Sydney. Travellers need only show a vaccination certificate, or a negative RAT or equivalent test within 72 hours of departure.

As a destination Thailand is valued for its charming culture and scenery, gentle friendly people, delicious cuisine, general ease of getting around, widespread English understanding and range of good value accommodation from modest to the very finest.

Just one affordable example I spotted, on Koh Samui, the late Shane Warne's chosen island, offers eight nights for



*Susie Boswell*

Susie Boswell is an award-winning travel writer who's visited more than 35 countries. Her favourite destinations are Paris, Italy, European ski resorts - and tropical islands.

a room for up to three at \$1399, plus many extras, for travel until Christmas Eve next year.

Moreover, many of Thailand's most renowned, most luxurious resorts are offering outstanding promotional offers: so, a timely opportunity to grab, to indulge. Soneva Kiri, featured here, has discounted rates of as much as 30 per cent and more.

## SONEVA KIRI, on the island of Koh Kood:

Many a child's early fantasy is escaping to the seclusion of a cubby house high in the branches. So for adults at this premier resort one most-coveted experience is Treepod Dining, perched privately in an intimate "nest" elevated at the top of the rainforest canopy. Guests are

seated in a bamboo pod, then hoisted aloft, their ziplining waiter emerging from the tropical foliage delivering gourmet delights!

Soneva Kiri offers other signature experiences, a swift 90-minute flight from Bangkok. Just 34 luxurious pool villas form the resort's very private accommodation: lingering adjacent to the beach, hidden amid hillside jungle or commanding breathtaking views from the clifftops. Marvel then that such a select guest cohort may choose from as many as eight dining opportunities across an array of cuisines and an underground cellar offering some 350 top-notch wines. One such rare indulgence is a Mushroom Cave lunch - five Thai vegan or Western non-vegan courses from varieties of fungi grown in the resort's own Mushroom Hut - prepared by a dedicated chef.

Other Soneva diversions are private swimming excursions beneath isolated cascading waterfalls and a Floating Breakfast in your villa pool, or beachside. A generous buoyant woven tray is delivered by your barefoot butler laden with treats of pastries, tropical fruits, sandwiches, petits-fours and chilled Champagne.

Other experiences include a sunset wooden boat Champagne and canapes cruise, a visit to a traditional fishing village and family for a seafood barbecue, a sunrise jetty breakfast, an astronomy dinner cruise, beach dining on fresh-grilled seafood attended by a personal chef and waiter (marriage proposals!) and snorkelling, spa and steam treatments. Treats are not confined to adults: children are indulged in dedicated playground dens with a range of outstanding fun-filled active pastimes. **See: [soneva.com](http://soneva.com)**



➔ Mushroom Cave lunches  
Photo: Alicia Warner

## GETTING THERE

- Thai Airways operates flights from Sydney to Bangkok and Phuket daily, and to Bangkok from Melbourne daily and from Perth three times weekly.
- For current official entry requirements: [canberra.thaiembassy.org/entry-to-thailand](http://canberra.thaiembassy.org/entry-to-thailand)
- There are a wealth of websites offering Thai holidays. Do your research - quite a task - as there is so much on offer. Begin at non-profit Tourism Authority of Thailand site: [amazingthailand.com.au/book-now/](http://amazingthailand.com.au/book-now/) Also explore: [luxuryescapes.com](http://luxuryescapes.com) And: [tripadeal.com.au](http://tripadeal.com.au)
- Or, better still, take your ideas to your local travel agent who'll do the hard yards on your behalf and offer you a choice of recommended deals. After an idle two years or more, travel agents are poised and keener than ever to offer clients the benefit of their professional expertise.

All photos courtesy of Soneva Kiri.

[Read Full Story](#)



→ Kids' Cooking Classes



→ Kids' Coconut Shy



Intimate Treepod Dining  
Photo: Sandro Bruecklmeier

# SPANISH PAELLA RECIPE BY VERONICA LIND

◆ Paella is pronounced as 'pa-e-ya'

It's hard not to love Mediterranean cuisine.

I'm a true blue foodie and while it's great having photos as a memento of places I've visited, I also enjoy taking a piece of their cuisine with me back home.

After a recent trip to Spain I had a go at making my own Spanish paella when I got back to Australia. I found a good recipe for you, so give it a go, prepare a hearty jug of sangria to go with it and you'll feel like you're in sunny Spain.

The most important thing about paella is this - a good paella needs good company to bring out its best flavours, so round up your friends, family, neighbours and coworkers to enjoy it together with you!

## What rice do I use for paella?

The best rice to use for paella are:

- Bomba Rice (Arroz bomba)
- Valencia Rice (Arroz de Valencia)
- Calasparra Rice (Arroz Calasparra)

You can get these types of rice at Woolworths and Harris Farms, Coles, delis, Spanish or Mediterranean delis (some Italian ones too), or gourmet stores. If you cannot find these, then the best substitutes for paella rice are:

- risotto rice - add an extra 1/2 cup of water with stock
- medium grain rice - reduce water to 2 cups per 1 cup of rice
- long grain white rice, sushi rice - reduce water to 2 cups per 1 cup of rice



## INGREDIENTS:

### (Serves 5-6 people)

- 1 - 2 tbsp olive oil
- 7 oz / 200g cured chorizo (2 pieces), sliced 1/2 cm / 1/5" thick
- 200g / 6 oz squid (calamari), cut into 7mm / 1/4" thick rings
- 1 onion, diced (brown, white, yellow)
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 red capsicum / bell pepper, diced
- 300g paella rice ("Bomba", "Valencia" or "Calasparra" rice)
- 2 juicy ripe tomatoes, peeled and diced OR 3/4 cup canned crushed tomato
- 300g / 10 oz chicken thigh fillets, cut into 1.5" / 3.5cm pieces
- 875 ml chicken broth/stock (not low sodium) or homemade seafood broth
- 1 tsp saffron threads (or 1/4 tsp ground saffron)
- 150g frozen peas
- 12- 16 medium / large prawns, whole (shell on)
- 12 large mussels, cleaned and checked for freshness

## Garnish

- Fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 lemons, cut into wedges

### Note

Famous chef Jamie Oliver caused a scandal when he suggested adding chorizo (a type of Spanish sausage) to the classic paella. Paella may not be an item on UNESCO's list of things to be protected but the Spanish are protective of their tradition. The humble chorizo is quite a well-loved ingredient, and delicious to boot, so To Chorizo or Not to Chorizo....that is your choice!

## METHOD:

If you haven't got a paella pan, you can use any large skillet or a wide pot. If this is your first time making paella, it's probably a good idea to start with a skillet or pot because the traditional paella pan is very shallow and without a good technique the rice may burn easily.

1. Heat 1 tbsp oil in a 30cm / 10" paella pan or large skillet over high heat. Add chorizo and cook until browned on each side (appx 3 minutes). Remove with a slotted spoon and set aside.
2. Add squid and cook for 45 seconds on each side, then remove and set aside.
3. Add remaining oil (if needed). Add garlic and onion, cook for 2 minutes. Add capsicum, cook for 1 minute.
4. Add chicken. Cook for 2 minutes until lightly browned but still raw inside.
5. Add rice and mix until the grains are coated in oil.
6. Add in most of the chorizo (reserve 1/4 for garnish), chicken stock, fresh or crushed tomato and saffron. Stir.
7. Bring it to a simmer then adjust heat so it's simmering fairly gently (make sure it's not too fast or the rice may burn). Simmer for 10 minutes. DO NOT STIR. At this stage, a bit of rice should be poking through to the surface but there should still be plenty of liquid.
8. Scatter over peas, squidge the prawns and mussels into the rice (partial submerge is fine).
9. Cook for 8 minutes (turn prawns halfway if you think it's necessary) or until prawns are opaque, mussels are

open, and most of the liquid has been absorbed but still a bit liquidy. Discard any mussels that do not open. Remove from stove.

10. Do a taste test to see if the rice is cooked - it should be firm but cooked. If it is too firm for your taste, no stress, just add a splash of hot water (not too much) and keep cooking.
11. Scatter over squid and reserved chorizo (residual heat will warm through), cover with lid then rest for 5 minutes (rice will

absorb remaining liquid). Paella rice should now be tender but "juicy", not stodgy and thick (if it is, add a bit of water to loosen it).

12. Scatter with parsley and wedges of lemon. Take to table as it is, then mix up rice with seafood before serving.

### Tips on making Paella



Check out my trip to Spain.

Photo: La Sarada Familia Barcelona, from CZ Connect

Brilliant Discovery of Spanish Cities

# EMBRACING ECO-FRIENDLY TOURISM

◆ Many of us have been cooped up for significant periods of time during the last 24 months or so, itching with the travel bug to get back out there into new pastures. Now the COVID-19 pandemic appears to be softening, at least in its severity and reach, borders have reopened and travel is once again largely permitted across the world.

Whereas this is great news for many of us, it isn't necessarily for Mother Nature as the travel industry is one of the most harmful in its impact on the environment. Carbon emissions from planes, unsustainable resources required at hotels and just the impact of tourism en masse on the environment are all significant factors. Could it be that our frequent getaways are causing far more damage to the planet and natural habitats than we realise?

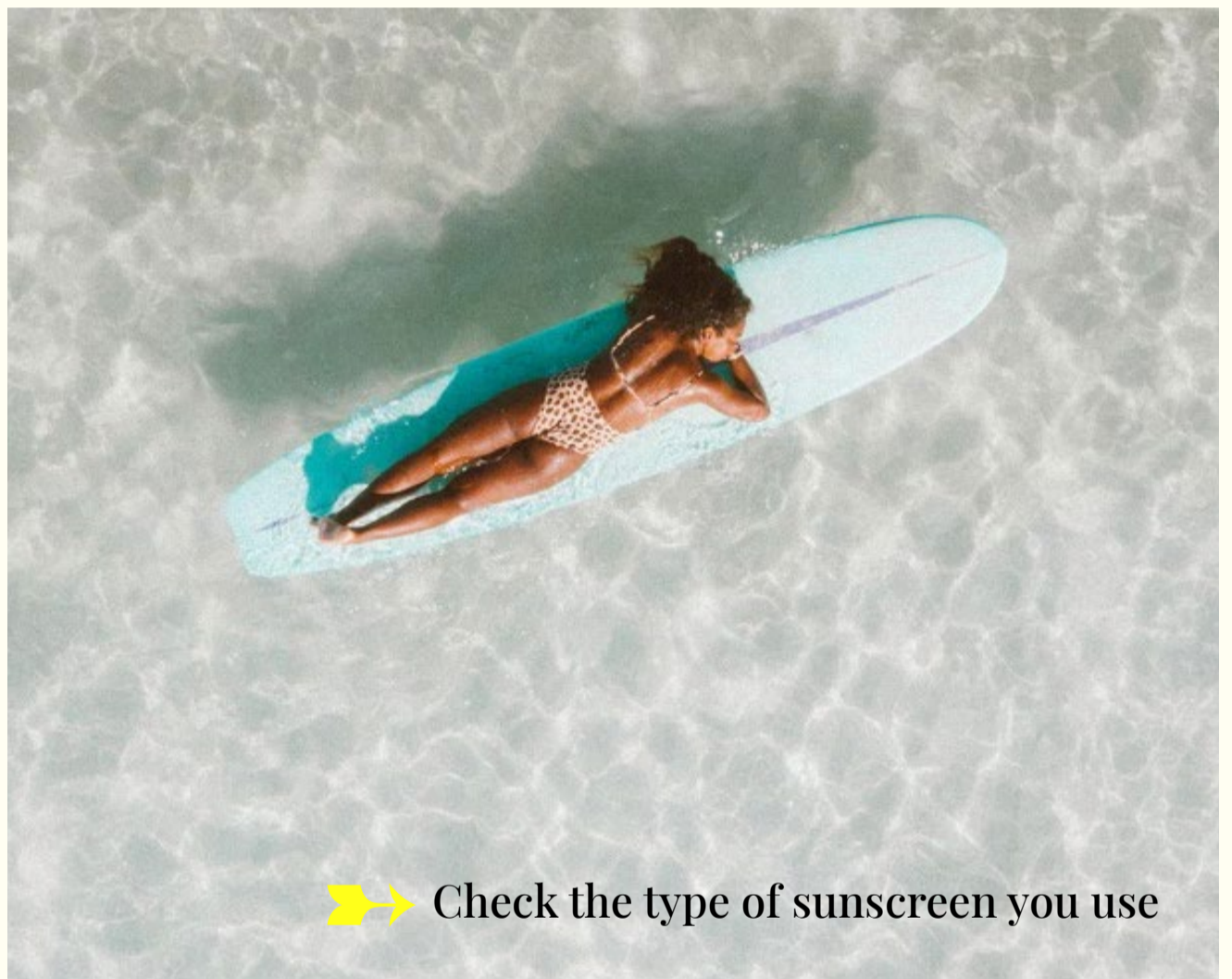
Fortunately, ongoing campaigns to raise awareness as to the plight of the planet are having a positive impact and eco-friendly or green travel is now more than just a passing fad – it is a way of life for many.

Whereas adopting the eco-friendly traveller approach sounds pretty straightforward in theory, it can be a little more challenging in practice. However, there are many, simple ways that you can leave a positive measurable impact and still enjoy your travels.

Start off by doing a little research into destinations that are wholly focused on sustainability. There are more than you think. The Green Destinations website has a wealth of ideas and tips, including a Top 100 list. Similarly, check out airlines that have a robust carbon offsetting policy.

Pack light. We often don't need much of what we think and taking less luggage can help lessen aircraft emissions.

Hotels and accommodations traditionally supply amenities that not biodegradable and are therefore terrible for the environment.



➔ Check the type of sunscreen you use

Consider bringing your own shampoo, toothpaste, shower gel and body lotion in reusable containers. Reuse the towel and bedsheets more than once as the amount of water required for laundering is quite staggering.

Similarly check the type of sunscreen you use to ensure you aren't using ones that include the chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate found in many popular brands which increase coral bleaching. You can find a list of 11 reef-safe sunscreens here.

Flat-out refuse to accept single-use plastics such as plastic straws, plastic coffee stirrers, plastic bags, plastic bottles and plastic cutlery. Likewise take your own drinking bottle.

Consider the "leave-no-trace" approach popular with outdoor enthusiasts and lovers of camping whereby you take away everything you bring with you to, effectively, leave no obvious mark on the environment.

Cut back on the selfies and over-promotion of destinations. Might sound daft but the number of people striving to get that perfect shot via a selfie can lead to damage to the local environment by wandering off the designated track.

Respect local cultures and be aware of what is and is not acceptable when taking a snap.





➡ Revival of Maya Bay

Be sensible when on that mountain range or while near dangerous animals as it can lead to bad, sometimes tragic, results.

And while we all want to share the spoils of our location via Instagram, Facebook or the like, popularising certain sites can often have a detrimental impact, especially when it is someone who has hoardes of social media followers. Just look at the likes of Maya Bay in Thailand, Venice and Barcelona as destinations that have been near ruined by an over population of tourists.

Take a snap for sure but maybe enjoy the location and its charms with your

own two eyes as opposed to taking everything in via a phone!

There are so many ways we can contribute to a healthier planet and just taking a little time to make conscious decisions with something like our holiday destination choices, how we get there and what we do when we are there, is just one example. Enjoy your next holiday but please do so with a nod to the planet's overall health by embracing eco-friendly tourism!





Jessica Gardner reverted to Islam



*Brilliant*  
**COMMUNITY**



# MOCKED FOR BEING DIFFERENT

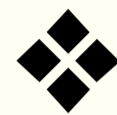
◆ 'Normal' is just a setting on the washing machine.

**D**o you remember your adolescence where there was this mysterious unspoken law that made you and your peers want to be like exact photocopies of each other? The same way you'd roll up the sleeves of your school uniform, the way you shared the same lingo and way of speaking, the way you all wanted to be interested in whatever was trending then...

Those of you who are parents of teenagers will heave a sigh of relief

when we say, we hear your stress of "When do I allow my kids to have their own mobile phone?! I wish they'd stop pressuring me to allow them to own one!" It's not really about the phone if you think about it. It's much bigger than that. The phone is a symbol for a teenager that they belong in the 'tribe'.

It's really all biology. Just like in caveman times, we need to feel like we belong in a group, a tribe, a community where we share something similar. It made us feel safe.



Because to be different is, frankly speaking, terrifying. It means I do not belong, I am not part of the tribe, and speaking from a survival point of view, a member that is excluded from a tribe faces predators on their own and are left to fend for themselves. In the 21st century many of us may be lucky enough to live in urban places where there are no lions running after us, but the primal feeling still remains - we need to feel like we belong. Lions or no lions.



➔ The modern symbol of belonging to a tribe - the mobile phone

## Celebrating friendship, diversity, inclusivity

July is a month where we celebrate friendship, diversity and inclusivity at Brilliant-Online. And we want to celebrate those who have embraced being different and who, in spite of being misunderstood and judged, have found a way to set themselves free and even contributed to their communities or societies.

At some point in our lives we may have felt we were different from others. And often it's a 'negative' different like feeling inferior, or not belonging, perhaps even thinking we were strange, there was something 'wrong' with us, we were 'defective' and that nobody could possibly understand us, much less love us. But when we discover the true value in our differences, life can change and take us down a path we may not even be able to imagine.

You'll be familiar with all of these names and they have all been people who've once felt ostracised, misunderstood, or even discriminated against. And we also know that every single one of these people are incredibly amazing and have done so much that we know and remember them even after such a long time. They have gone down in history in spite of, or perhaps, because they were different.



In this 21st century, our challenge as a planet would be to embrace and celebrate our differences and use that to create a more enriched world that has infinite space for variety and diversity.

After all, in the world of nature, the ecosystem thrives precisely because of diversity. Ask any farmer and they'll tell you it's good to mix certain crops together because they benefit from their differences. And anyway, can you imagine how terribly dull (and creepy!) the world would be if we were all exactly the same, like some dystopian future where we were all clones?

## People who were different

### Gustav Klimt

You'll know him from the famous painting *The Kiss*, but did you know Klimt's work which often depicted voluptuous bodies totally scandalised the Viennese establishment?

As he progressed in his artistic development, Klimt began rejecting traditional approaches to painting and his period of experimentation and rebelliousness got him dangerously close to being rejected. In fact, in 1897, Klimt broke from the traditional Vienna Artists' Association to form a radical group called the Secession. He was the group's president.

Critics objected to his style. They were not comfortable with what he had to express. Klimt stood by himself and refused every form of support from the state.

And are we glad Klimt stuck to his guns in being different, because if not, we would not have the rich treasury of paintings he left behind. His daring to be different led to the Viennese Expressionism, it influenced the Bauhaus and Russian Constructivists as well as the Art Nouveau and Cubism that were to come.



➔ Veronica's favourite Klimt Art replica: DESIRE

## Hua Mulan

So everyone knows Disney's cartoon Mulan and her unforgettable motormouth dragon but the original ballad of Mulan of course has no dragons in it.

We all know the story of how when she got news about drafting men into the army to serve the country, disguised herself as a man and went to war in place of her father. One can only imagine not just the courage needed to even just go to war, but also the risk of being discovered, and also to take on the label of not being like other 'normal' girls. According to the ballad, she returned triumphant from the war and the only reward she asked for was to be reunited with her family.

One may wonder how she managed to stay disguised having spent 12 years in the army with men and not having her cover blown. To dare to do something so different clearly showed Mulan had more than enough courage to not just go to war, but to also make her own decision about what it was she had to do.



Mulan 2020 Movie by Walt Disney Pictures

## Stephen Hawking

This needs no introduction. Hawking was struck with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease) when he was only in his 20s. When diagnosed he was told he had only a few years left to live. The disease progressed to a point where he could only move his eyes and flex a finger.

But that did not stop his indomitable spirit. He never stopped making discoveries, travelling the world, going up in a hot air balloon at the age of 60 and just when you think he couldn't do more, he took part in a zero-gravity flight on board a special jet when he was 65!

"I want to show that people need not be limited by physical handicaps as long as they are not disabled in spirit."  
- Stephen Hawking



Stephen Hawking floats weightlessly aboard a Zero-G flight.

Image: Zero Gravity Corporation

## Albert Einstein

Mention Einstein and we think about all the mind boggling theories on relativity and the universe and what an incredibly intelligent person he was. Having an amazing brain does not protect one from the challenges of life. He was a longtime pacifist and a Jew. And this meant he became a target in Germany. A month before Hitler became chancellor of Germany, Einstein decided to leave his country and emigrate to the United States. He was never again to return to his home country.

“The person who follows the crowd will usually go no further than the crowd. The person who walks alone is likely to find himself in places no one has ever seen before.” – Albert Einstein



→→ albert einstein by taiton moise unsplash

## Florence Nightingale

Nowadays if a woman wants to be a nurse there are opportunities to study, train and work. In Florence Nightingale's time, that decision was enough to rock a few boats. She was so clear it was her mission in life to be a nurse, but as a young, unmarried woman in Victorian times, she had no power to make her own decisions. Even her family could not understand her decision and she did not get any support from her family. After all, nursing was hardly considered 'suitable' work for a woman like her.

Stuffy societal norms did little to stop a heart so ardent and intent on doing more. Instead of sitting around doing embroidery and giving in to the oppression, she got on her own two feet and went around visiting the poor and the sick to try to help them. Her kindness extended even to animals that she picked up.

Florence Nightingale's father finally gave her permission to train as a nurse in Germany. When the Crimean War broke out, she was asked by the British government to actually lead a team of nurses to care for injured soldiers at the hospital.

This was one brave woman who knew what she wanted, did not care that she was different to others in her society, and did all she could to make a difference.



→→ Florence Nightingale

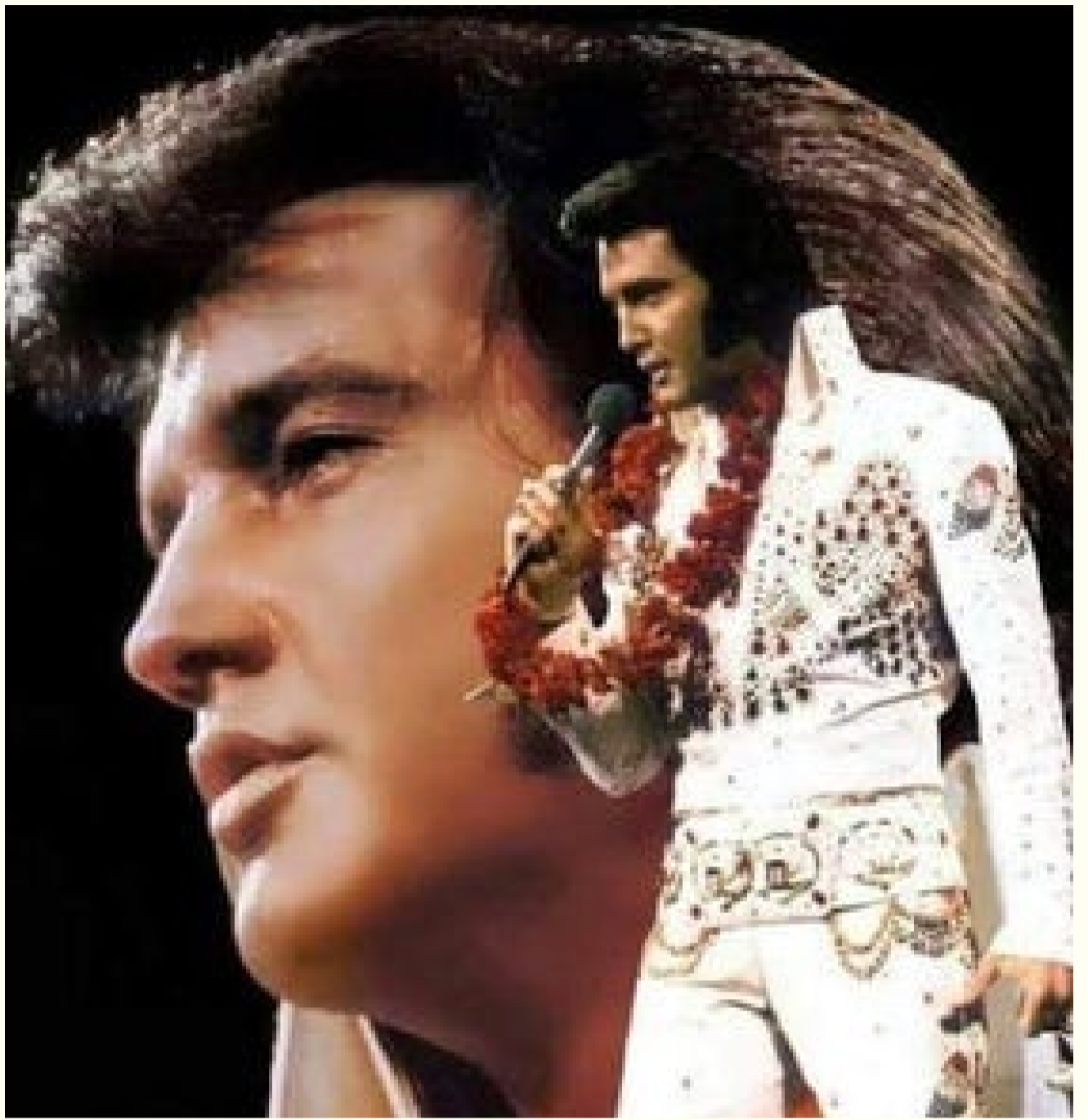
## Elvis Presley

Yes, the King of Rock & Roll was also someone who paid a heavy price for being different. Unless you're a diehard Elvis fan, you may only know him as a famous musician and you can hum a few of his famous tunes. Those who do know his story can tell you it is a heartbreaking one, and beneath all the glitz is someone who fought to stay true to himself and his music in spite of the manipulation that was around him.

Elvis grew up in a black area, which influenced how he interpreted music, and he had the magnetism and charisma to inspire his fans to throw away inhibitions to scream and dance freely. In a time of more conservative etiquette, being with Elvis was freedom to simply be how one was.

Read Elvis' story, and get ready to fall in love with the real man behind the music all over again.

[Read Elvis' story here](#)



Elvis Presley King of Rock & Roll

## People who are different now

### Jessica Gardner

There are also ordinary people in our communities who have had their own struggles at being different, finding acceptance and learning where they truly belong.

Jessica Gardner is a 21-year-old Australian who has endured criticisms all her life. She found a sense of belonging and community when she reverted to Islam. Practising a spiritual path brought her back to life, it brought her dignity, a better future, and a community of people to support her. Today, she is a much happier person and living a full life.

[Read Jessica Gardner Article](#)



Jessica Gardner reverted to Islam



## Imaan Hadchiti

Imaan may be small in stature but he's huge in personality and talent. He is a 3 feet 6 inches Australian comedian and actor of Lebanese descent. He and his sister Rima are the only two known cases of "Rima Syndrome" which is a genetic condition causing small stature while retaining normal proportions. He performed at the Tortuga Festival and has been performing since he was 15.

### What is being different?

Being different is not about being special, unique or better than others, any less than it is about being lesser, unworthy or a loser. It is simply about the courage to know who you are, be who you are, regardless of how others perceive or treat you. Being different takes courage. One can be born different, but to dare to be different allows one to create an amazing life, for oneself or for the greater good of the society. We want to extend a brilliant invitation to celebrate everyone's differences, and to see how our differences are coming together to create a strong and vibrant society that will continue to be all-embracing and accepting for generations to come.

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference." – Robert Frost.

What does your path look like? However it is, embrace it. And celebrate yourself for walking on it.



➔ Imaan Hadchiti, comedian,  
Photo: Steve Ullathorne



# REVERTING TO ISLAM - JESSICA GARDNER'S STORY OF GRACE

◆ Jessica Gardner is soft spoken yet her story is one of loud courage. Her choice of religion brought back her life and gave her the quiet strength to build a new future.

**A**s a child, I was often teased because of my wild red hair, freckles, and chubby cheeks. My pale skin would sunburn easily, and so my face was permanently pink, prompting insults like “matchstick” and “tomato” that made me ashamed of my appearance. As I grew older, people would comment on my weight, the clothes I wore, the way I styled my hair, how my makeup looked, who I associated with... to the point I felt scared to leave my home because of the criticism I received on an almost daily basis. I became hyper-aware of

how other people reacted to the way I looked and acted, and it created an unhealthy obsession within me to be “perfect”. I developed anxiety, an eating disorder, and my self-esteem was so low that I often found myself in situations where I allowed people to treat me badly and take advantage of me because I didn't think I deserved any better.

I struggled with this for many years before being introduced to Islam, and now that I have the spiritual support that I do, along with a community of people who love and respect me for who I am, my life has changed completely.

## LEARNING ABOUT ISLAM

Funnily enough, I was introduced to Islam through a Hindu Indian friend of mine, named Anuradha. I got to know the Indian and Pakistani Muslims in the area through her, as the majority of South Asians tend to stick together when living in foreign countries, and they all know one another.

While I do see myself as being very open-minded and accepting, the opinion I had of Muslims growing up wasn't very good, largely because of how the media portrayed them. I remember watching so many documentaries and news stories on TV labelling Muslims as terrorists and wife-beaters, and for young and impressionable minds like mine, this type of content can be very damaging. Not only is it incredibly inaccurate and biased, but it creates fear and hatred in people that can manifest as violence and discrimination, which, in turn, could potentially lead to an innocent person's life being lost.

Just because something is unfamiliar does not mean it's bad, and I'm a firm believer in educating yourself on controversial subjects like this, which is why I chose to set aside my personal prejudices and open myself up to learning about Islam through my new friends, and I am eternally grateful that I did.



Jessica Gardner reverted to Islam

## FROM CHAOS TO PEACE

I came from a very dysfunctional family – my father was a violent alcoholic and ended up leaving us at quite an early age, so my mother was forced to raise my siblings and I by herself. While she wasn't perfect, I can appreciate now how hard she tried to provide for and take care of us. There was a time when our relationship was very toxic, and there was a lot of sadness and resentment in our home, but nowadays we are getting along a lot better, and I'm very grateful for her presence in my life.

Before meeting my husband, I had been involved with an abusive paedophile who's impact on my life has left me with several trauma-related disorders that I still struggle with today. I was hospitalised many times for my mental health, and by the age of 16, I had already tried attempting suicide. I had this constant, overwhelming feeling

of inadequacy, like I didn't belong on this earth, like I didn't have a purpose, like I deserved all the bad things that were happening in my life. And then I lost something very important to me, a loss I will never wish on anyone, and it absolutely devastated me. For a brief moment, I felt hope, and then it was gone again. I felt like the world was closing in on me, and all I could do was watch and hope that it didn't hurt too much.

My friend Anuradha noticed the state I was in and let me come and stay with her for a few days so she could keep an eye on me. During this time, she invited me to go out with her to meet some of her friends, to have fun and try to distract myself from everything that had been happening.

It was then that I was introduced to a few of her Muslim friends in Port Macquarie, and after learning about my situation, they opened

their arms to me and cared for me like I was their sister. It was eye-opening for me - I was blown away by their kindness, generosity, and optimism that things would get better. They weren't the violent, oppressive, religious maniacs that I had once been made to believe; they were actually the complete opposite. Their complete and utter faith in God, along with the love, respect and acceptance they offered to everyone they came across, absolutely fascinated me, and that is when I started learning and reading about Islam myself.

I began implementing certain things into my lifestyle and daily life, like wearing the hijab, eating halal certified meat, and eventually praying multiple times a day. I developed a strong faith in God, and as someone who was previously an atheist, this was a huge change for me. I found that the more I prayed and researched about Islam, the better I felt. Every day, the grief



and pain got a little easier, a little lesser, and I found myself resting in the support of not just my friends, but also God. Whenever I started praying, I felt this wave of peace, calmness, and contentment wash over me. It was unlike anything I had ever felt before, and I can only describe it as being akin to a warm embrace from someone you love.

My experience is not uncommon in that many people have turned to religion because of grief or other traumatic experiences, however I don't feel like that fact makes my journey to Islam any less special or meaningful.

Since then, I have come to terms with my loss, and by praying and learning about Islam, I have escaped from the abyss that I had spent many years suffering in. I am sure that if I hadn't found this spiritual

support when I did, I probably wouldn't be here today, and that is both a terrifying and comforting thought.

I undoubtedly feel much happier since finding Islam, and while I still get sad and struggle with my mental health, I feel more like myself now, and I am slowly becoming the person I had aspired to be when I was younger.

I would have never imagined that I, born and raised as a Catholic, would end up reverting to Islam, but I believe that everything that happened was a part of God's plan, and that where I am now is exactly where I need to be. I feel so much love and gratitude for the people I befriended, those who stood by me and helped me to overcome my struggles. I became close to these people, who are mostly foreigners

from different cultures and backgrounds, who helped to open the doors to Islam for me and gave me the warmth, sense of belonging, support, and faith that I desperately needed.

I've since come to accept that there will be many people who won't support my decision, who will make insulting, uneducated remarks that are full of prejudice and bias, but I am choosing not to associate with these people. I have had to cut ties with many of my friends, and even some of my extended family because of their blatant Islamophobia. For me, any kind of discrimination is bad, whether it's religion or race, or simply making negative comments about something one does not know enough about.



## Did you know that racism in Australia is illegal?

I'm happy to talk to people and share my experiences with anyone who is curious and willing to listen. I can respect the opinion of each person, and I can only hope that, in the future, they, like me, can have an experience where they come to understand things a little better. And I mean this not just specifically for my religion, but really for any issue in the world. Perhaps if we could simply stop to listen for a bit, or do some digging for ourselves, we would come to see things, and people, in a much better light.

Jessica's story is one we're not ever going to forget, and a powerful reminder to keep our hearts open. It's easy to claim inclusivity and diversity, but living it, and walking the talk is something else. Brilliant-Online's theme for July is precisely about friendship, diversity and inclusivity. At the end of the day, as humans we all want and need connections...to people, perhaps to something greater than us out there. For Jessica, this was how she found a way to connect to life again. If you ever come across a quiet young lady with a now beautiful smile, radiant green eyes and a lovely hijab, say hi to Jessica and you'll know she'll be happy to share with

you her experience if you are open to learning. It takes so little to make someone feel like they are seen, they matter and that they belong. Now you'll know the power of your smile and how a friendly hello can make all the difference in a person's day. Thank you Jessica, for your gentleness and wisdom, and for giving us so many insights to your religion.

\* شكرا لك

**\*Shukran lak - Thank you.**



➔ Jessica and her husband, Bilal Khan

# WAUCHOPE CREATIVE HUB CELEBRATES ITS FIRST BIRTHDAY

◆ Congratulations Wauchope Creative Hub, proving itself as the heart of creativity

**W**e met Stu Doherty a year ago, a Sydney artist who poured his heart and soul into a bold idea to turn the town of Wauchope into a creative hub housing over 25 artists creating, displaying and selling their brilliant works under one roof. This boldness born from a COVID turnaround has now become the centre for creativity across the Mid North Coast.

**Read how Stu started  
Wauchope Creative Hub**



Brilliant-Online supported Stu and the Wauchope Creative Hub through their journey, featuring their works, events and artists. It has been a pleasure to meet and showcase the vast array of talented artists and creative minds in Brilliant-Online and we look forward to bringing our readership more from Wauchope Creative Hub.



Contact  
WauchopeCreative Hub

📍 87 Cameron Street,  
Wauchope, NSW 2446

📘 Wauchope Creative Hub

📷 wauchopecreativehub

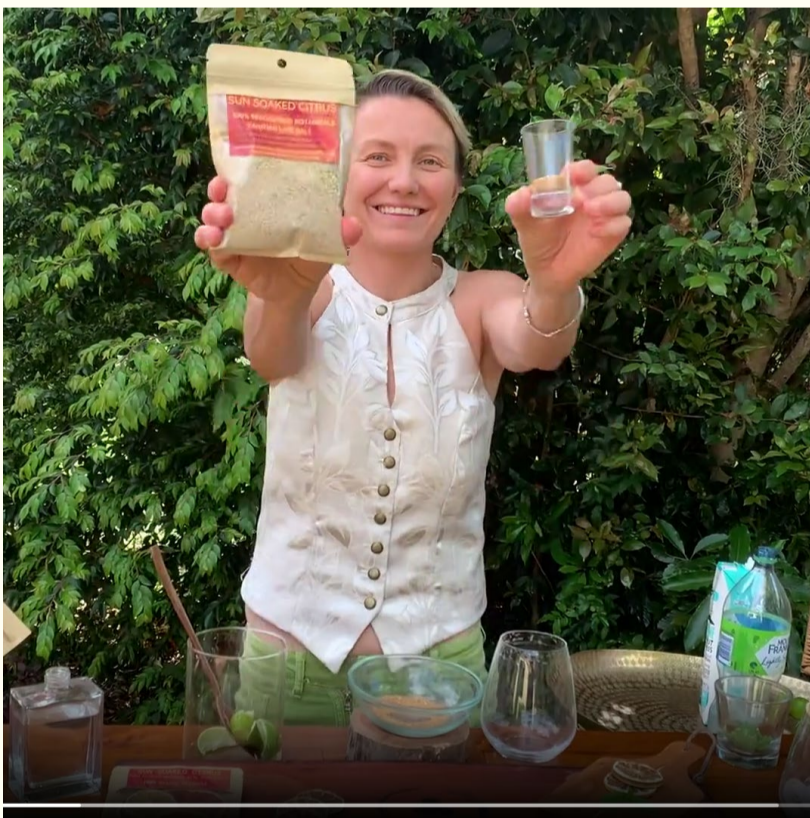
## Let's look at some of the Wauchope Creative Hubstars



**Stu Doherty with his "Blue Ribbon" winning art work**



**Marlene Doherty spinning the wheel for decades**



**Gaye White's Malibu Mojito Mocktail Recipe**



**Francesca O'Donnell, Out There Design & Mosaic**



**CJ Grootenboer upcycles objects to give them new life**



**Biggest morning tea at The Hub**



**Wauchope Creative Hub has a new addition**



**Wauchope Creative Hub welcomes local artist Angela Marr-Grogan to the creative family**



**Love, Home, Work, Life - the essence of Crystal Tantricity**



**Purple Rain winner Alycia Lipovac loves art in all of its forms**



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# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING FOR SMALL BUSINESS

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BY LYNDALL WARD

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# DONATE A GIFT CARD FOR THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

◆ The Port Macquarie Hastings-Homelessness Committee is made up of over 20 Community service Organisations that are working together to help overcome ever growing homelessness rates in Port Macquarie and surrounding suburbs.

## Homelessness Week

With ever increasing housing shortages and homelessness numbers on the rise, the Committee has an end goal of creating a hub where people experiencing homelessness can come and speak to different services, have a shower, wash and dry clothes, speak to a counsellor or just take refuge for the day in a safe space.

During Homelessness Week the Committee are working hard to bring attention to the plight of the people they work with as well as getting around to as many areas as possible in a "Travelling Roadshow" to feed, clothe, give haircuts, tests and more.

In Australia there are over 116,000 people experiencing homelessness on any given night. Homelessness Week aims to raise awareness of the impact of homelessness on Australia via national and local community events, including providing information on the importance of housing as a solution and educating communities on how they can make a difference.

## Port Macquarie Hastings Homelessness Awareness group are calling for people to donate gift cards to help the less fortunate members of our community

"Last year, when we came up with this concept, we were thinking about what we could give, that gave control back to the person at risk," says committee member Lisa Willows. "We can feed people and give them clothes, but what can we give that gives them control?"

"The response when we gave the gift cards out at last year's roadshow was unexpected. We had mothers and daughters crying – my heart nearly broke when one child asked their mother if they could go to K-Mart that afternoon with a \$10 gift card, something we all just take for granted. There were tears from most people as they didn't expect them."

The collected gift cards are distributed to rough sleepers and people currently without a home during Homelessness Week which runs from August 1st to 7th.



New Horizons case worker Tracey Rogerson said gift cards will allow the recipient more control over their purchase.

"We received amazing generosity last year with the community donating all sorts of gift cards. Coffee vouchers, charcoal chicken vouchers, Woolworths Gift Cards and Coles as well," she said.

"Many services utilise gift cards as part of their welfare processes, and it has been evidenced that this allows for choice and control for the person receiving the gift card as well as flexibility in what can be purchased and provided."

The gift cards will be used to source items for people that aren't readily available through other avenues that provide welfare services.

"These items include mobile phones, credit, chargers, medication, fuel, food, clothing, household items, education or items for children and any item that may assist a person to minimise the impact of the situation they are in," Tracey explained.

"Disadvantaged people are not just the people that are sleeping rough or couch surfing but also people and families that are struggling to pay rent as well as buy essential items and a gift card might fill the shortfall."

## From now until August 1st, locals are being encouraged to purchase a gift card and drop it off at one of the participating organisations

"The community has been generous in the past and not only during Homelessness Week, but all year round," Tracey added.



Sarah Clark, Mikaela Weldon and Tracey Rogerson from New Horizons are ready to help the Homeless

The impacts of the current housing crisis has meant more people are at risk of becoming homeless.

"Homelessness can affect anyone no matter of age, gender or income as has been evidenced during the current rental crisis that is impacting the local community at present.

"This incentive allows for the stigma and portrayed image of homelessness to be seen for what it is in the current environment we find ourselves in.

"Every little amount and item can make a huge difference to someone who finds themselves in need of some assistance whether its due to homelessness, financial shortfalls, relationship or family breakdowns."

The gift cards can be donated to the following locations:

- New Horizons, 137 Gordon Street, Port Macquarie
- Community Housing, 1/16 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie
- Neami, Level 1, Suite 304/147 Gordon Street, Port Macquarie
- Mid Coast Legal, 30 Murray Street, Port Macquarie

"The cards will be handed out during Homelessness Week and will include a travelling road show attending the Neighbourhood Centres in Wauchope, Port Macquarie and Lake Cathie," Tracey said. "Any cards that are not distributed during the event will be divided between the participating services to be distributed as needed."



Contact :  
Port macquarie hasting  
homelessness

f <https://www.facebook.com/portmacquariehastingshomelessness>

✉ [ewilkins@newhorizons.org.au](mailto:ewilkins@newhorizons.org.au)





*Brilliant*  
**SPORTS**



# NEWSFLASH... FIRST PMHC "MAYOR'S SPORTING FUND" FUNDRAISER IS LOCKED IN

◆ Doors and Bar will open from 6pm for a 7'o'clock start. Fun fundraising activities will include raffles and an Auction, so bring your cash! Come dressed in the theme - Commonwealth Games Sport or just wear Green and Gold!

**E**mCees for the event are John and Sue Carroll. Why not buy a table of 8 today and support Hastings sportspeople aged 13 to 21 with the costs associated with competing at Regional, State, National and International Level.

The MSF Sub-Committee organising this event includes Nik James Lipovac (Radio 531), Jo-Anne Border (former Equestrian Champion), Richard McGovern (Westpac Rescue Helicopter), Sue Reid (St Agnes Parish) and Sarah Thompson and Cath Walsh (SCA).

[Get your tickets here](#)

## HISTORY of the Mayors Sporting Fund

The Mayor's Sporting Fund was established in 1999 by former Mayor, Wayne Richards. The Fund has provided more than \$300,000 in financial assistance since it was established. The money for the fund is raised through fundraising events, such as the popular Mayors' Sporting Fund Golf Tournament and the Mayor's Sporting Fund Bowls day.

The Mayor's Sporting Fund was set up to assist young sportspeople who reach a high level of achievement in their chosen sport and have been gained selection or qualified

to compete at an upcoming elite sporting competition. The fund provides assistance to the families supporting the athlete in their pursuit in achieving the highest level in their chosen sport.

More information  
about MSF

[pmhc.nsw.gov.au](http://pmhc.nsw.gov.au)



# LEARN TO FLY WITH HDFC



A Discovery Flight is a fantastic way to experience what flying is all about. With one of our professional flight instructors at your side, you will actually get to fly our Sling aircraft across the coast and town of Port Macquarie!

**BUY A DISCOVERY FLIGHT**



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# SPORT CREATING NEW HOPE AND FRIENDSHIP

◆ It's been said many, many times before: sport has an uncanny ability to transcend boundaries, language, race and religion to unite people and cultures all across the world.



Football, a global game played everywhere even on the streets

Photo credit: Unsplash



Once you step onto that tennis court or football pitch, take to the track or pool or lace up the boxing gloves, you are united by one common denominator and all else is put to one side, even if only momentarily.

Sport and friendship go hand-in-hand in many ways and the examples of deep-rooted, genuine friendships being forged between opponents over the years are seemingly endless.

Here we focus on just two examples of how sport and friendship have

offered hope to unite people and create meaningful relationships, no matter the odds.

Football (yes football, not soccer!) is widely-regarded as the global game, played in the streets, alleyways, fields and beaches of the world by a multitude of nationalities and religions. Relatively safe and cheap to play, it is an accessible sport that can be played anywhere as long as you have a flat-ish open space and a couple of jumpers to set down as goalposts.





gettyimages®  
PATRICIA DE MELO MOREIRA

## The Afghanistan women's football team made it to Australia

It is also a sport that is built around friendships, be it with your teammates or opponents.

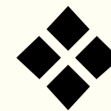
Many a life-lasting friendship has been forged on the football pitch contesting hard fought matches. Once the game is over it's back to the bar for a couple of cold beers and a recounting of the day's events - win, lose or draw, friendship is always the winner!

Aussies are world-renowned as a friendly bunch and no more has that been evident than in the recent case of Afghanistan's

national women's football team who fled their homeland and the Taliban to seek refuge down under.

The women had become a target back in their homeland and their safety was jeopardised after the Taliban seized control of the country in August 2021 and were quick to implement their strict interpretation of Sharia law.

Female oppression under Taliban rule is notorious and the idea of women playing sport was incomprehensible to the new regime. The team therefore fled Kabul via Hamid Karzai airport shortly afterwards, many without their families, to seek asylum in Australia.



“If they were still there today they'd be at extreme risk,” commented former Socceroos captain Craig Foster, now an acclaimed Human Rights Advocate. “They certainly wouldn't be able to play [football], nor to attend university, or for some of the young ones even to attend school.”

Foster helped the women with their relocation and managed to secure the team a place to play in Victoria's State League Division 4 West under the banner of the Melbourne Victory Afghan Women's Team. Along with big-hearted community members, supporters and volunteers within the greater Melbourne area, Foster has helped the Afghan women assimilate into the Aussie lifestyle and provide them the opportunity to play the game they so love without fear or recrimination.

The welcome they have received from their new neighbours has been critical in helping the women adjust and come to terms with the fact that many of them are alone, thousands of miles away from their loved ones and facing an uncertain future.

“These women and girls, along with all of the vast majority of other Afghans who came, came without families, they fled under circumstances where there simply wasn't enough visas to go around,” said Foster.

“And so those most at risk were helped. I had to explain to this team that they couldn't bring all of their

families, and that's an awful place to be both for them and for those that are trying to help them," he added. While being fully appreciative of the welcome and support they have received, the team has naturally turned to one another and formed an almost impenetrable bond of unity.

"The soccer pitch is the only place where we can forget everything such as those bad experiences we had in airports or in Afghanistan," defender Mursal told the ABC. "We can forget we don't have our families as well. When you don't have them it's so hard. Instead of them we have our second family, that's our team. We're like a family together, unbreakable."

The future is uncertain for the women and it is not yet known whether world football governing body FIFA will permit a team in exile to compete

in international competition. But for now that isn't the most important thing. The safety of the women is paramount, afforded by an incredible display of friendship by a foreign country and its people.

"The entire football community should be proud that we're capable of delivering these sorts of opportunities for the most vulnerable members of the community," Melbourne Victory director of football John Didulica told the ABC.

"It's the bedrock of why we are such an incredibly successful multicultural nation. Football's ability to create a safe space for these communities, but then get them working with other communities cohesively... is the hallmark of what football's brought to this country."

## Enemies come together for a day

For the second example of how sport has served to transcend and create friendships, we go back over 100 years to the battlefields of Europe in World War I. On Christmas Day in 1914 in Frelinghien, France, one of the most remarkable events in living memory occurred.

As British soldiers lay shivering cold and pertified with fear in the trenches, looking out at the numerous corpses littering the 'No Man's Land' separating them and their enemy, they noticed that German soldiers were starting to come out from their parapets and advance towards them. As they came closer to the British trenches, it was clear the Germans came in peace, offering gifts such as



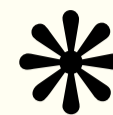
➔ Khalida Popal, former captain of the Afghanistan national women's football team, has been honoured with this year's Lantos Human Rights Prize. Khalida reflects on the impact the Taliban returning to power after 20 years has had, with women now banned from playing football.

cigars and chocolate, wanting to shake the hands of their usually bitter enemy and take photographs together.

Shortly after, a game of football was arranged on the war-ravaged ground that only hours previous had witnessed young soldiers falling to their death. Space was cleared and goalposts were erected from salvaged timber before the two teams representing each nation took to play.

"No referee; we didn't need a referee for that kind of game... There was no score, no tally at all - it was simply a melee," Ernie Williams, a 19-year-old private with the 6th Battalion Cheshire Regiment at the time, told the Imperial War Museum in an interview several years later.

Indeed the score was irrelevant. It was the occasion, the opportunity to forget the horrors of the battlefield and forge friendships with those, who the very next day you would be fighting to the death, that was so extraordinary in this instance.



With so much turmoil still engulfing our world over 100 years later, it might pay to recall how differences can be set aside, even in the most testing of circumstances, and friendships can be forged, however fleeting, through something as simple as a game of football.



➔ German and French soldiers put their guns down on Christmas Day of 1914, WWI to offer gifts and play football

Photo credit: Unsplash



New band alert! - "Louise"



*Brilliant*

**ENTERTAINMENT**



# ELVIS AARON PRESLEY, KING OF ROCK AND ROLL

◆ Elvis Aaron Presley, one of the most significant cultural figures of the 20th century, was an American singer and actor, widely referred to as the "King of Rock and Roll".



➡➡ Ardent Elvis fans: Alex and Stephanie Pursehouse

**E**ven after several decades, Elvis still has a profound impact on popular culture as we know it today. His ascent into superstardom in the 1950s was one that America had never seen before, and one that was only made possible by his fervently devoted fans.

Wauchope local Stephanie Purhouse is a devoted fan to say the least. She has travelled the east coast of Australia to various Elvis events and made the trek to the USA to walk the grounds of Graceland, the home of Elvis.

Stephanie was a co-organiser of our Brilliant Elvis Movie Premiere on 23rd June 2022, encouraging clients to attend and dress the part, something Stephanie herself excelled at on the day.

## Stephanie's thoughts on the movie...

"Baz Lurhman and Austin Butler did a fabulous job of depicting Elvis in his youth and as he grew older and more into his music. The movie showed how talented he always was, and how his religious traits came into his music. Having grown up in a black area, it was only natural, that he learnt at a young age how to relate and move to music in general."

Stephanie told us the movie filled her with a mix of emotions: "How he was exploited by Colonel Tom Parker, who was an illegal immigrant, was very heart-breaking and each scene with that in it was emotionally charged for both fans and non-fans. The part that really got to me was when his own father did what the Col. wanted and not what would have been healthier and better for Elvis."

Stephanie loved the part when Steve Binder and Co. managed to get Elvis to do the 68 Comeback special (as a Christmas show). "That showed how much Elvis loved to perform in front of a live audience. I don't want to give too much away about the movie, as I'd like to think people go see it and form their own opinions about Elvis and the Colonel."

## An accurate depiction of Elvis?

"I think so," Stephanie said. "The movie was fairly accurate and confirmed a lot of what I have been very vocal about for years, that basically Elvis was exploited. But, it didn't show his humanitarian side of giving without being acknowledged."

## Why are you such an Elvis fan?

"That's a hard one," she says with a smile. "I've always loved Elvis from the time I was 2-years-old, so, I guess, it was his music first, then his charisma in movies, and then the combination of the music and charisma once he began performing again on-stage."

For Stephanie now, it's mixing with like minded Elvis fans. Over the years, she has met and spoken with a lot of people who worked both with and for Elvis. "When they talk to you and discover how you feel about Elvis, they tell you the most profound things about him," she explained. "I am regularly on the internet with a friend in England

involved with the Circle G ranch (that's how I met her) and we talk about Elvis a lot."

Stephanie reads anything she can on Elvis and supports his charities when she can. "His charities are still going 45 years after his death. I will always love Elvis, his singing, music, humanitarian ship, beliefs, tenacity, he himself, but I will never forget how he was used by a lot of people around him and what that eventually led to."

## Elvis was a philanthropist

A little known item about Elvis was how much he loved children and people in general and helped them if he could.



➔ Elvis Presley King of Rock & Roll loved performing live for his fans

Stephanie gave us some examples: "Hearing of a child that needed an operation and the parents could not afford it, Elvis paid for the operation and rehabilitation. He stipulated to the hospital that no-one was to tell the parents he'd paid for it. There are many stories, one being that he gave a house to one of his staff. He was a loving, giving man. He opened the Circle G ranch to underprivileged children, he once bought a whole lot of push bikes for the children just over the hill from Graceland because they didn't have one. And so it goes on.

"He found out once there was a little blind girl in the audience and before the show he organised with his security detail to bring the little girl into his van to meet him; another time, he learnt there was a little one with cancer and did the same - he sang to that little girl throughout the show that day, knowing he was giving her a bright light in her horizon."

## Many shows have been seen, cruises had, plus a visit to Graceland

"I've been on several cruises with Elvis Tribute Artists giving us the entertainment, been to The Parkes Elvis Festival where I am in the Parade on the Saturday, seen many live shows on-shore in theatres throughout the east coast of Australia, the list goes on," Stephanie said. "My favourite Elvis song is Pledging My Love and my favourite Elvis movie, I think, would be Viva Las Vegas."

Yes, she has even been to Graceland! "I really enjoyed it. We stayed in the old Heartbreak Hotel opposite before it burned down," Stephanie remembers. "On entering through the front door of Graceland, I couldn't get over the beautiful feeling of Elvis welcoming me into his home. To see Elvis' piano at the end of the lounge room - I said, it would be lovely if I could play his piano, just once. Seeing all of his silver, gold, platinum and the one blue record - wow, it really showed how many accolades he received."

Stephanie explained that there is lots on display at Graceland. "Elvis's suits were on display both in the racquet ball (squash) room and on the other side of the road in a building, along with his cars, planes, shoes, motorbikes, and all sorts of things. Elvis and Priscilla's wedding clothes, awards from the likes of the Jaycees, and the president of the USA."

A profoundly memorable experience, she also saw the stables where his horses, rescued ones, still gallop around, and The Remembrance Garden where Elvis now lays to rest. "A very peaceful area meant for meditation and prayer, a very serene space," she said.

You can't just walk into Graceland, but must go in via a bus. It takes you around the back of the house to where the garage and original recording studio is. "As I went to Graceland as a VIP, I went into a different part of the house where there were some private memories of Lisa Marie, photos, clothes, toys; Priscilla photos, clothes, diaries and of



Graceland the home of Elvis Presley



Elvis himself, everyday clothes. It was a remarkable experience,” Stephanie recalls.

**Elvis attributed his fans for taking him to the heights he never thought possible. He recognized their loyalty, was thankful for their support and appreciated their devotion.**

Amidst the norms of conservative etiquette and manners, Elvis fans threw away their inhibitions to scream and dance freely, buy records en masse and turn up the energy at sold-out shows in a way no one had ever seen before.

Fans of Elvis were arguably one of the first examples of what we see as typical youthful fandom behavior today. But as with anything new and unfamiliar, there was backlash and

dark sides. For every unforgettable concert, there was a ruthless review condemning Elvis and his fans for moral corruption and delinquency.

### What others say about the Elvis movie

I totally enjoyed the movie and the company of the micro business network of people. I would highly recommend anybody to see the movie for its entertainments and history. - Kim Staples, Art of Life

I would like to say a huge thank you for the wonderful invitation to be a part of the Elvis experience. Margaret, John and myself (Linda) attended the show. It was magnificent. In John's words (who is an Elvis buff) said that the movie was extremely authentic and on par apart from a couple of differences. We all agreed that it was a wonderful movie and well worth the effort of attending. We all teared up a little as it was very moving. It was thoroughly enjoyable. - Linda, BlazeAid Wauchope



“If you haven’t seen the movie yet, you are indeed missing out. Not at all what I was expecting, the movie opened my eyes to Elvis the child, son, husband, father and of course superstar.

To see the portrayal of his upbringing, his influences, his rise to fame, his exploitation by Colonel Tom Parker (played expertly by Tom Hanks), definitely places Elvis The Movie at the top of my list of best movies seen.” Chrissy Jones - Operations Manager, Brilliant-Online.



Elvis look-alike Vicki Carnes and Alex Pursehouse

# HEAVY BEARDED ONE-MAN BAND, CRAIG ATKINS

◆ Roots, Blues & Folk  
Multi-Instrumentalist  
based in Adelaide, SA  
(Kuarna Country)

## An Original Sound Lounge Artiste Feature

### Who is Craig Atkins?

Award Winning Roots\*. Blues and Folk Multi-Instrumentalist Craig Atkins is a 'one-man band' songwriter and performer based in Adelaide, SA (Kuarna Country), that regularly tours the country with his set up consisting of various Acoustic Guitars, Lap Slide, Cigar Box Guitars, Didgeridoos, Harmonica, Foot Percussion and Loop and Effect Pedals.

With influences such as Paul Kelly, Joe Purdy, Harry Manx, Xavier Rudd and numerous Blues Masters to name but a few, Craig's live performances weave through various styles from chilled finger-picking folk & Alt country stories, to delta slide blues, through to rollicking folk foot tappers and stomping jumping

roots and "Didgeriblues", with lyrical content covering his aspects of life, love and loss and observations of the world we all live in.

### Performances

Craig will be touring through Port Macquarie, Yamba and Grafton areas early September. He will be in Old Bar on Friday 9th September then Mullumbimby on Sun 11th September before Queensland playing at the Mitchell Creek Festival.

### \*Awards

- Winner of the 2014 Adelaide Blues & Roots Association's (ARBA) 'Best Solo Roots'
- Finalist for ARBA Roots Album Awards 2015.
- Finalist Australian Roots Awards 2018



➤ Recorded live at 'The Butter Factory' in Telegraph Point NSW AUGUST 12th 2021 with Audio & Visuals by Daniel Hopkins.

# NEW BAND ALERT! - "LOUISE"

◆ Port Macquarie has been producing some great music recently across a wide range of genres. There are pockets of youthful talent sprouting up from all areas across the LGA and encompassing a wide variety of genres, including grunge, indie, and punk. This month we focus on new outfit "Louise".

**L**ouise are "a notoriously stripped back act... abrasive and minimalistic in style". The three-piece hailing from Port Macquarie started off with a few GarageBand beats recorded in a wooden shed in the backyard. To hear Louise is to hear a revolution fury of punk, hip-hop with the bleakness of industrial loops, guitars and rants about life.

**Oscar Plentinger | Vocals**

**James Saidey | Beats and Guitar**

**Riley | Rapper**

"We've got Oscar on backup vocals and turntables, James producing the beats and playing guitar and Riley rapping. Well known for hard hitting abrasive beats, heavy guitar riffs and rapid bars, Louise mixes an industrial and raw grit with a euphoric soundscape and leaves a lasting impression," says guitarist James Saidey.

## What's it like to play in Louise?

Riley: "We just wanted to do something different, and we each share the same vision which makes it a cohesive experience. At the end of the day people do things because they have to or because they want to, we want to."

Oscar: "A stifling blare of industrial energy, Louise is an agitated snub against the stale conformity in music today. I enjoy witnessing the infancy and growth of a collaborated musical objective... an idea progressively growing and maturing."

James: "Being in a group that gets on stage with a guitar, a few microphones and a laptop is nothing short of



➔ Riley and James from Louise

interesting. It has its struggles with the stigma of electronic music seen as inferior, but we believe so strongly in the sounds we're making and we work hard to achieve them, spending sleepless nights tweaking and re recording instrumentals, jamming, practising and writing just like a traditional band. Since growing unsatisfied with many modern bands sounding so stagnant, we decided to do it differently. We find that the best way to approach the sound we hear in our heads is with a computer, a mic and a cranked guitar amp."

The boys have been a solid on the local live music scene, already having secured spots on the Hot Tropics bill,

at Finnegans Irish Hotel and at house parties. They're already a favourite amongst the local musos and look set to take.

## So what's next for the band

"We are going to keep playing live, writing music and having fun. Our next show is on Saturday August 6th at Finnians Irish Tavern."

[Listen here](#)

# TAKE A BOW GORDO GAMSBY AND LUCY FROST

◆ World class entertainment, cabaret, comedy, circus, Port Macquarie's inaugural TORTUGA Festival had it all.

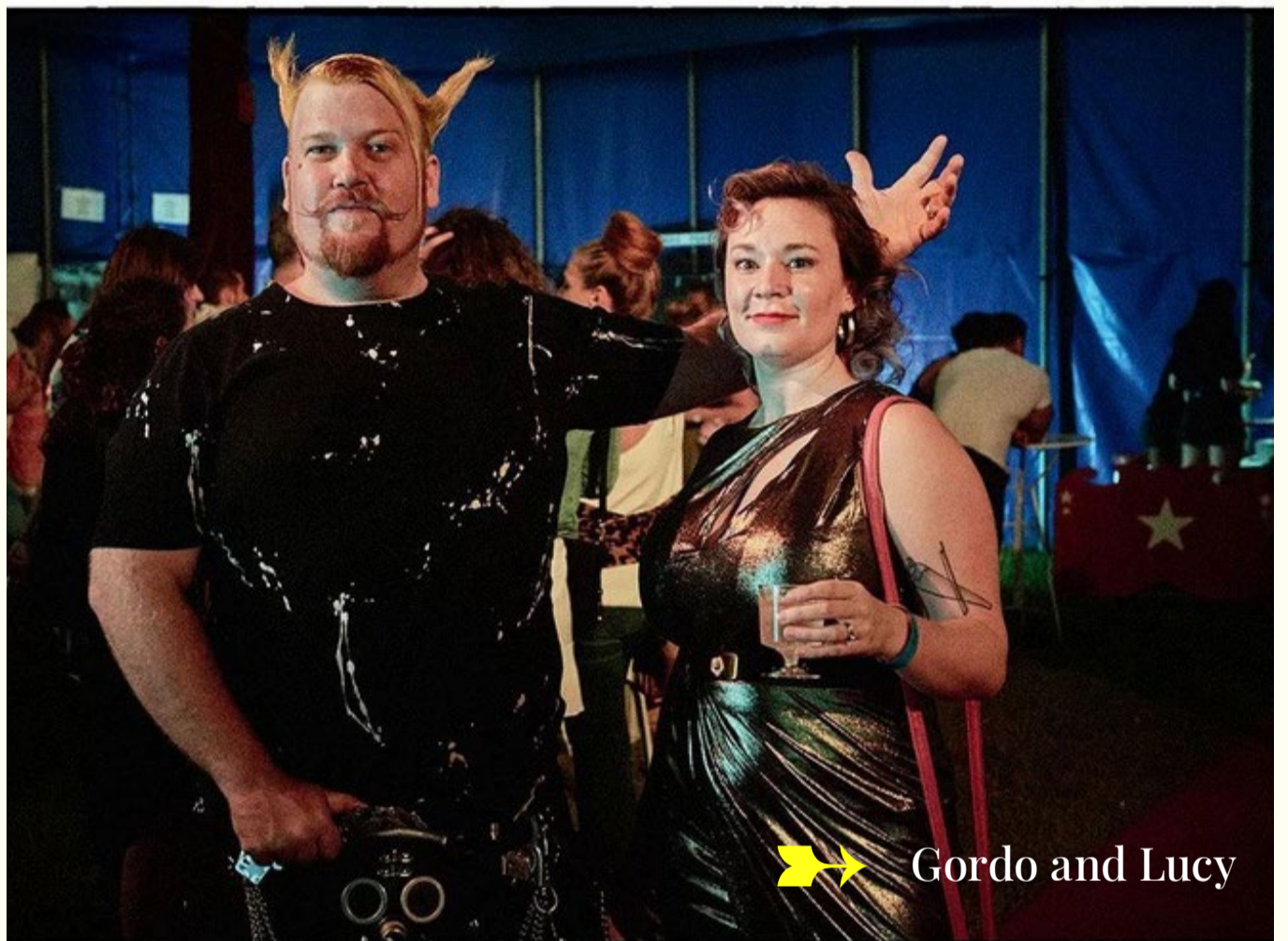
**F**estival producer Gordo and his wife circus performer Lucy, are to be congratulated profusely. What an event they brought together in the amazing venue - the art deco Aurora Spiegeltent.

Acrobats, plate spinners, comedians and jazz singers, an eclectic mix of artists never seen before in the Port Macquarie Hastings region, wowed the audience at Port Macquarie's inaugural TORTUGA Festival.

From the Opening Gala on Friday June 10 through to the Grand Finale on June 19, the daring and sometimes risqué arts festival was jam-packed. Some of the awe inspiring performances were from Queen of the Hula Hoops Lilikoi Koas, multi-award-winning stunts from Head First Acrobats, death defying sword swallowing from Elle Diablo and cabaret shows featuring the darling of ABC Jazz (and formerly of Playschool fame), Monica Trapaga.

## Curated and produced by 11 times Guinness world record holder Gordo Gamsby

He has travelled the world performing in the circus as a strongman and sword swallower! He met his circus performing wife, Lucy Frost (originally from the UK), whilst performing in Western Australia six years ago and they continued travelling the world performing together. Now they have settled in Port Macquarie and have a 2-year-old son, Spike.



→ Gordo and Lucy

## There was truly something for everyone

In its first year, Gordo and Lucy tried to make an inclusive space to demonstrate what the festival can be and how it will benefit the community and greater area. "I have taken inspiration from many arts festivals around the world and combined it with a community spirit," Gordo explained.

Performers travelled from far and wide to be involved. "To get truly world class performances across multiple genres, you really have to find performers from all around the world. Lilikoi Kaos is one of my longest friendships in the performer world, she came directly from Hawaii to Port Macquarie to host the Untamed Cabarets, and has left straight from here to go on a world tour with

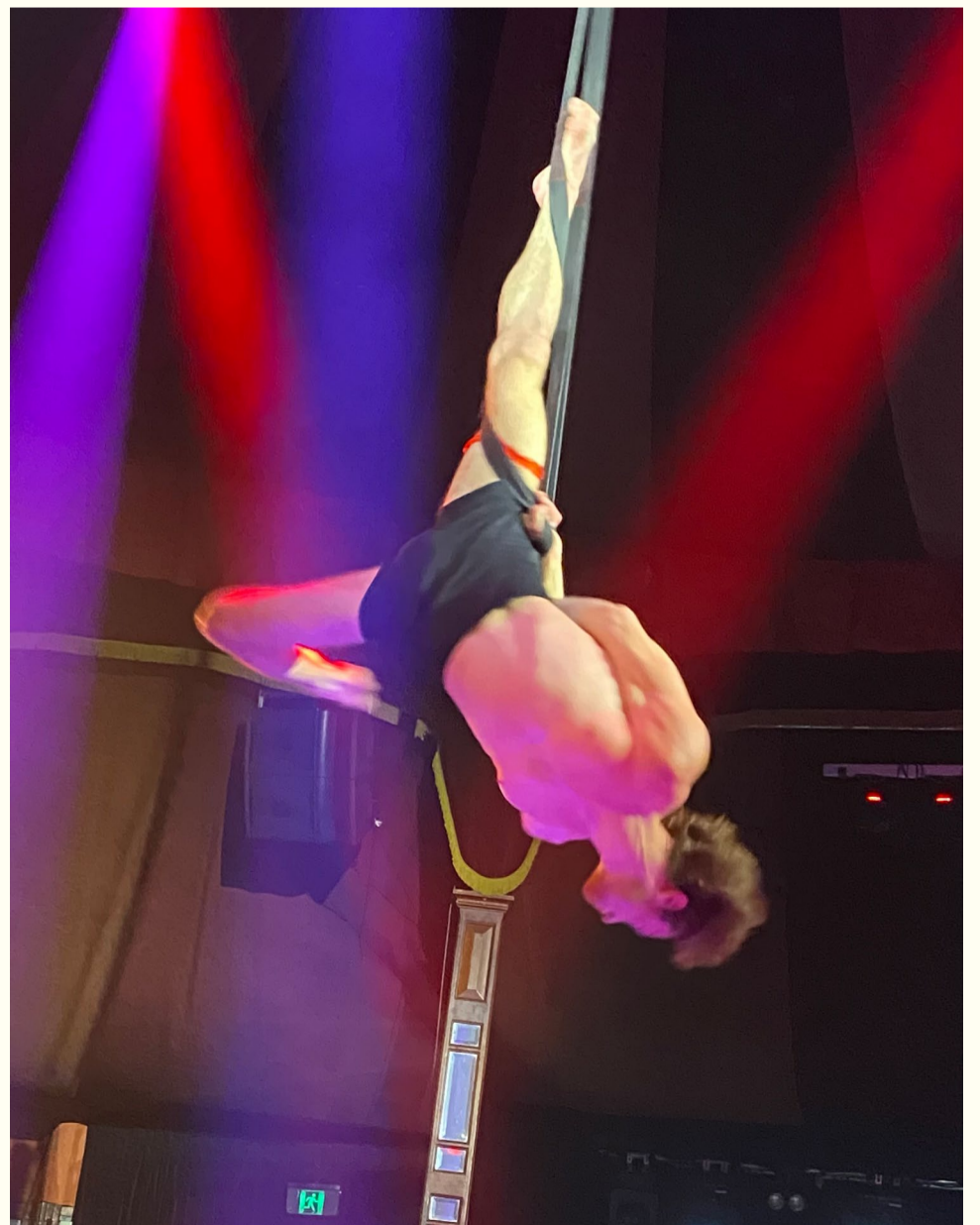
another show she is part of, the 'Hot Brown Honeys'. Maybe next year we can have that show!"

## Thank you from Gordo and Lucy

"We acknowledge the traditional custodians the Biripai Peoplepeople and look forward to their continued involvement, Inphase Productions, Supportmacquarie, GPMTA, Foreshore Markets, Magnum Haulage, PMHC, Brookvale Union, Arts Mid North Coast, Hastings Co-op, Round and Round, Rotary, and Alison Neville our Production Manager, couldn't have done it without her."

[Read Full Story](#)

# TORTUGA Festival





➡➡ Dress in Green and Gold for Trivia Night



*Brilliant*  
**WHAT'S ON**



# WHAT'S ON IN JULY - AUGUST PORT MACQUARIE-HASTINGS

◆ Community events Arts, Culture and Entertainment, Markets, Business events

## Community Events

**Activities:** Participate in activities and improve on social skills, such as co-operation and communication - Of course we can't forget the Fun, Fun, Fun that is to be had.

## Port Adventure Cruises

Dolphin Spotting River Cruises 11am

Sunset River Cruises 3pm

Town Wharf Port Macquarie

0434393199

[www.cruiseportmacquarie.com.au](http://www.cruiseportmacquarie.com.au)

[Click Here for Event Info](#)

**Festivals:** headspace is proud to present The Wauchope Cosplay Festival. A FREE, all ages, pop-culture event that seeks to deliver opportunity for the flood-affected communities.

## Wauchope Cosplay Festival

10am to 4pm

**Saturday 6th August**

Wauchope Library precinct

[Click Here to Read Our Story](#)

**Fundraisers:** The Mayor's Sporting Fund helps young local athletes attend elite level sporting competitions outside of our local government area.



## Mayors Sporting Fund

### The Regional Australia Bank GO FOR GOLD Trivia Night

Friday 5th August

6pm to 7pm

Wauchope-Bonny Hills Surf Lifesaving Club

[Click Here for Tickets](#)

**Shows:** Head out with the family and enjoy a show. They are not only fun and entertaining but they also help us to see a different perspective from our own.

## Erth's Prehistoric World

Tuesday 30th Aug 22 - Wednesday 31st Aug 22

6:30 PM - 7:25 PM

Glasshouse Port Macquarie

30 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie, New South Wales, 2444

02 6581 8888

[info@glasshouse.org.au](mailto:info@glasshouse.org.au)

[Click Here to Book Your Ticket](#)

**Art Exhibitions:** Inspire your visual imagination by being in the presence of art and culture. Art can have a positive effect on a person's well-being.





➔ Experience the creatures of your imagination coming to life on stage in this enthralling new show

### Old Books New Looks Exhibition

#### Port Macquarie Museum

22 Clarence Street, Port Macquarie,  
New South Wales, 2444

02 6583 1108

portmuseum@gmail.com

**Sport Events:** Family, friends, fans and fanatics all attend sports to support participants and to have fun. You may even be lucky enough to share in the experience of joy should your team win on the day.

#### 3 Rivers Mini Marathon

Sunday 24th Jul 22

Annual event

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Port Macquarie Rowing Club

Hibbard Drive, Port Macquarie, New  
South Wales, 2444

0479 161 125

portrowing@gmail.com

#### Australian Surf Championships

Friday 5th Aug 22 - Monday 22nd Aug  
22

Annual event

7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Port Macquarie

Town Beach, Port Macquarie, New  
South Wales, 2444

02 9093 6035

events@surfingnsw.com.au

australiansurfchampionships.com/

#### Dropknee Sessions

Friday 5th Aug 22 - Saturday 6th Aug  
22

Annual event

6:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The pristine beaches of the Holiday  
Coast

Pacific Drive, Port Macquarie, New  
South Wales, 2444

0428 237 788

info@dksessions.com

www.dksessions.com

## Arts, Culture and Entertainment

### July 2022

#### FRIDAY, 15TH JULY

4.30pm Backyard Gig, 16 The Fairway Drive Port Macquarie, Keanu Jai and Cassidy Alyson

6.00pm Hello Sailor, SAIJE

#### SATURDAY, 16TH JULY

4.00pm Wicked Elf Brewery, Sarah Mckenna and Pam Hata Music

10.30am Ulong Cafae in the Valley, Riverbed Bloomers

#### SUNDAY, 17TH JULY

3.00pm Hello Sailor, Owen Campbell

#### FRIDAY, 22ND JULY

12.00pm Christmas in July Lunch Cruise,

Port Adventure Cruises

**Get Christmas in July  
Cruise Tickets Here**

5.00pm Hello Sailor, "Hear Me Roar", Isabella Livingstone

7.00pm Party Mega Mix, Port Adventure Cruises

**Get Party Mega Mix  
Cruise Tickets Here**

#### SATURDAY, 23RD JULY

7.30 - 10.30 Port City Bowling Club, JAKE DAVEY

#### SUNDAY, 24TH JULY

9.00am Dark Arts Cafae and Bar, Liam Moylan Music

1.00pm Port Panthers Tapp Bar, Vanessa Lea and Road Train

3.00pm Hello Sailor, Simon Gudgeon

#### SATURDAY, 30TH JULY

7.30PM Port Panthers, Diva Dance Night

### August 2022

#### FRIDAY, 5th AUGUST

5.30 PM 80's Anthems Night - Cold As Ice at Hello Sailor

#### SUNDAY, 7th AUGUST

3.00pm Hello Sailor, Natalie Davis

#### FRIDAY, 14th AUGUST

6pm Hello Sailor, JAKE DAVEY and JAKE HUDSON



 **Book a Dolphin Spotting Cruise**  
**Photo: Alex McNaught.**



## MONTHLY MARKETS

### SUPPORT LOCAL

Bring the family and join the markets trail, you will discover the finest from our regions local businesses, farmers and artisans.

[AC Healthy Solutions Website](#)

#### SATURDAY, 16th JULY

Forster Farmers Market 8am - 12pm  
7 Little St, Forster, NSW, 2428, Australia

#### SATURDAY, 23rd JULY

Tuncurry Markets 8am to 1pm  
John Wright Park, Tuncurry

#### SUNDAY 24th JULY

Christmas in July on the Green 10am to 2pm  
The Gloucester Bowling Club

#### SUNDAY 31st JULY

Pacific Palms Market 9am to 1pm  
Pacific Palms Community Centre, The Lakes Way  
Elizabeth Beach, NSW 2428

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Real Food Local Produce Markets 12.00pm to 6.00pm  
Port Central Hay Street Forecourt, Port Macquarie

#### EVERY SUNDAY

Port Macquarie Art Society Market Bazaar 8.00am to 1.00pm  
Hamilton House 198 Hastings River Drive, Port Macquarie  
<http://www.pmas.org.au/markets.html>

#### FIRST SATURDAY

Kempsey Riverside Markets 9.00am to 12.00pm  
Eden St, Kempsey NSW 2440  
<https://macleayvalleychamber.com.au/kempsey-riverside-market/>

#### FIRST SUNDAY

Grown and Gathered Community Markets 9.00am to 12.00pm  
1493 Pappinbarra Road, Pappinbarra  
<https://www.facebook.com/grownandgatheredcommunitymarket>  
Blackhead Lions Club Car Boot Market  
Hallidays Point Shopping Village Black Head 7.00am-12.00pm  
<http://www.hallidayspointlions.org.au/>

#### SECOND SATURDAY

The Foreshore Markets 8.00am to 1.00pm  
Westport Park Cnr Buller & Park Streets, Port Macquarie  
[www.marketplaceevents.com.au](http://www.marketplaceevents.com.au)  
Johns River Markets 8.00am to 12.00pm

Johns River Community Hall 54-56 Johns River Rd, John's River

[www.facebook.com/johnsrivercommunityhall/](http://www.facebook.com/johnsrivercommunityhall/)

Gloucester Farmers Market 8.00am-12.00pm

17 Denison St, Gloucester NSW 2422  
<https://www.visitnsw.com>

#### SECOND SUNDAY

Forster Town Market 8am -1pm  
Oyster Parade, Forster NSW 2428  
<https://barringtoncoast.com.au/>

#### THIRD SUNDAY

Laurieton Riverwalk Markets 8.00am to 1.00pm  
Cnr. Tunis & Short Street, Laurieton  
[www.riverwalkmarkets.com.au](http://www.riverwalkmarkets.com.au)

#### FOURTH SATURDAY

Wauchope Farmers' Markets 8.00am to 12.00pm  
Wauchope Showground High Street, Wauchope  
[www.wauchopefarmersmarket.com.au](http://www.wauchopefarmersmarket.com.au)

#### FOURTH SUNDAY

The Local 8.00am -1.00pm  
Maritime Museum William Street Port Macquarie  
[www.marketplaceevents.com.au](http://www.marketplaceevents.com.au)

## BUSINESS EVENTS

### Deeper Learning - Micro Business Forum

Learn to enhance the running of your business with simple but effective technology tips and tricks. Barbara Smith is the founder and brains behind The Roving Trainer helping business owners become more efficient and productive.

6 PM – 8 PM

**WEDNESDAY, 20th July**

Success Tax Professionals office,  
5/124 Horton Street, Port  
Macquarie, NSW 2444, Australia

[Click Here for your Deeper Learning Tickets](#)

### MBF Meeting and AGM 2022

MBF's AGM is part of MBF's regular meeting. This AGM is expected to be brief followed with a presentation on "Content Marketing that Hooks People with short attention span churning out 50% more leads" by Veronica Lind.

**FRIDAY, 5th AUGUST**

Port Macquarie Panthers

[Click Here to register for this event](#)

**\* Advertised dates are subject to change. Contact the individual venues for further information.**

### Join Business Port Macquarie to launch their new name

Come along and hear from Michael Long, Head of Development, Lewis Land Group, on the future plans for the next stages of development for Sovereign Hills.

Having just sold their 1,000th residential lot and 1,000 more to come together with the plans for the Business & Technology Park there is a lot going on at Sovereign Hills and Sovereign Place Town Centre. Michael will provide an update on all the plans, and abundant opportunities for local businesses, at this informative evening.

This is your chance to find out what is next – don't miss out, register now!

**When:** Thursday, 21 July 2022 from 6pm to 8pm

**Where:** The Rushcutter Room, Panthers, 1 Bay Street, Port Macquarie

**Cost:** \$35 for Business Port Macquarie members and \$45 for non-members & guests (includes welcome drink, canapes and presentation).



## BUSINESS PORT MACQUARIE

### JULY NETWORKING EVENING

Come and hear an update from Michael Long, Head of Development, Lewis Land Group on future plans and opportunities for the Sovereign Hills Development.

Proudly sponsored by:

Thursday, 21 July 2022

6pm to 8pm

Panthers, Port Macquarie

Book now at [www.portchamber.com.au](http://www.portchamber.com.au)



**PANTHERS**  
PORT MACQUARIE

# MBF MEETING + AGM 2022

Friday 5 August 9am at Port Panthers

**Presentation:** Content Marketing that Hooks People with Short Attention Span churning out 50% more leads

[Sign Up Now](#)



SUPPORT NETWORK LEARN

MacBook Air



# Did you know you can lower your lifetime tax?

The evolution of the accounting industry has left many business owners in the dark!

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Liz Jarvis has helped hundreds of business owners like you reclaim their Business Power.

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 [betterbusinessdecisions.com.au](https://betterbusinessdecisions.com.au)

 [hello@betterbusinessdecisions.com.au](mailto:hello@betterbusinessdecisions.com.au)

 +61 (02) 6553 0274

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