

FEB 2022

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ONLINE



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Craig Mason,  
East Coast  
Photography

## *The* HEART TO HEART *Issue*



**INSIDE:** From celebrating love, positivity and weddings to catching up with skydiving daredevils in the clouds, this edition will get your heart pumping.



# NOTE FROM OUR EDITOR

## ◆ Love is in the Air!

**Y**es ladies and gentlemen, girls and boys, it's time for St. Valentine's Day, when sentiments of love and romance dominate - and, after a rough couple of years, we think celebrating love and positivity with our nearest and dearest sounds like just what the doctor ordered!

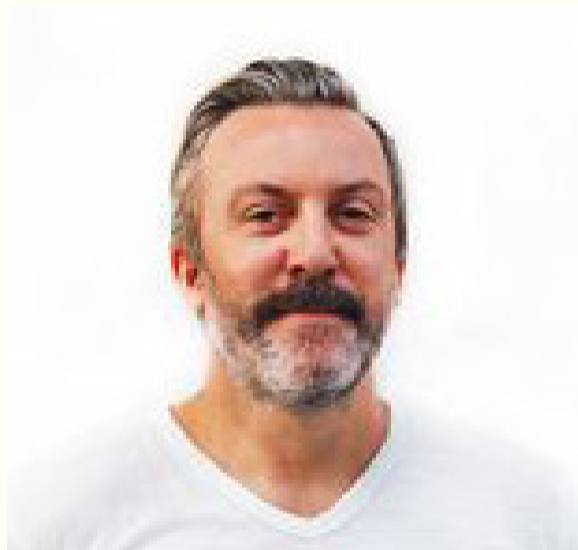
In this special "Heart" themed issue we take a look at the special day of love itself, learn how it came about and how it is celebrated around the world. We similarly focus on marriage and how it is celebrated in so many weird and wonderful ways worldwide plus we catch up with celebrated wedding photographer Craig Mason and popular celebrant Jennifer McKenzie.

We're not just high on love, however, as we take a journey into the clouds with professional skydive instructor Matt Boag and catch up with daredevils from the recent Skydive Port Macquarie event.

Further afield we look at the controversial Beijing Winter Olympics and analyse how the business world adjusts to life with COVID, with a specific focus on what the future of work may look like.

The Beatles sang it best when they declared "All You Need Is Love!" They were absolutely right and that's all we are about this month so we hope you share and enjoy!

*Ben Tirebuck*



## Feature your business in March, Small Business Month

◆ Contact Chrissy ◆

**+61 412 137 621**

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## ABOUT BRILLIANT

Brilliant-Online makes people and businesses famous. 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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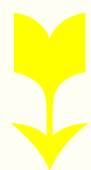
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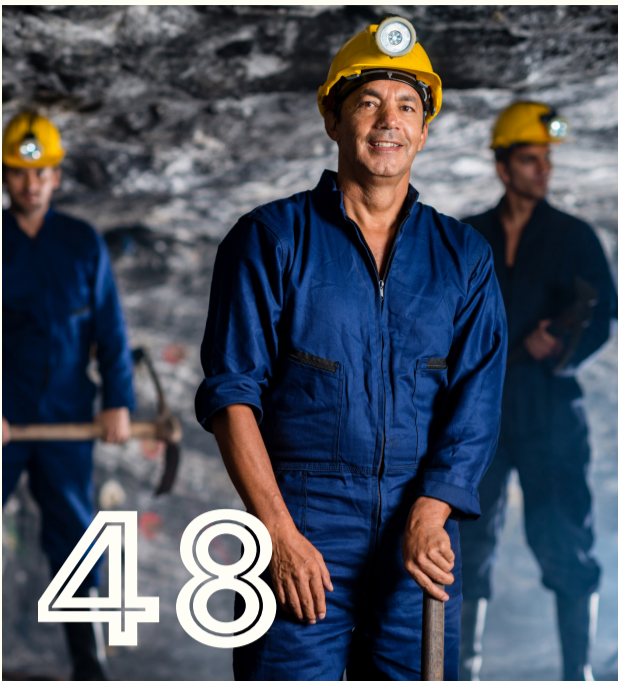
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East Coast Photography





*Brilliant*  
**LOVE IS IN  
THE AIR**



# ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

## ◆ Celebrating St. Valentine's Day



It's that time of year that those of a romantic persuasion hold very close to their hearts. St. Valentine's Day is a time to celebrate love, often to those closest to us but also to those admired from afar. It's a day synonymous with gifts, flowers, chocolates, romantic candle lit dinners, greeting cards and, increasingly nowadays, heart shaped emojis!

Valentine's Day is now a huge commercial occasion with close to an estimated US\$24 billion spent around the world last year. It is also celebrated with different customs in different cultures and often on dates other than February 14th.

However, there is no concrete agreement on the actual origins of the occasion with several conflicting theories abound. Some believe it originated in Roman times when Emperor Claudius II reportedly had two separate men named Valentine beheaded on the day of February 14th in two separate years and it is believed the Catholic Church decided to honour the men as martyrs.

Others believe it was Pope Gelasius I who, in the 5th century, declared Valentine's Day a replacement for the Roman festival of Lupercalia, which took place on February 13-15.



Then there are those that believe Valentine's Day claimed its origins at a much later date, crediting the likes of William Shakespeare and Geoffrey Chaucer for romanticising the occasion.

Whatever its origins, the occasion grew in popularity over the years into the behemoth that it is today and is now celebrated in many different forms around the world.

While dinner, chocolates, flowers and a card are often the norm in places like Australia, the UK and US, in Wales lovers exchange intricately carved wooden spoons, known as lovespoons, on January 25th.

February 14th is also Winemakers Day in Bulgaria where couples raise a glass or two to celebrate their love and in Ghana the day of love also coincides with national chocolate day.

The Czech Republic celebrates Valentine's Day on May 1st, a day that sees couples make a pilgrimage to the statue of poet Karel Hynek Mácha in Prague's Petrin Park to steal a kiss beneath the cherry blossom trees, something that is believed to encourage good luck for the year ahead.

In Romania they celebrate on February 24th, 'The day the birds are betrothed', when boys and girls either head out to the forest to pick flowers or wash their face in snow, which is believed to bring health and happiness in the year ahead.

It is widely known that Japan is a patriarchal-based society, something evident on Valentine's Day where it is the men who are showered with gifts, usually chocolate, on February 14th, with women having to wait a month to have the favour returned.

For some, however, celebrating love just one day per year simply isn't enough. In Argentina they dedicate an entire week to the occasion and in South Korea they celebrate on the 14th day of each month with the likes of Rose Day in May, Kiss Day in June and Hug Day in December complementing Valentine's Day on February 14th!

Whenever, wherever or however you celebrate Valentine's Day, it is clear that love is the message and the answer and we at Brilliant-online hope you enjoy your special occasion with your loved one, with many more romantic-themed times ahead!



[Read The Full Story](#)

# VALENTINE'S DAY DRINK RECIPE

◆ A romantic night can't go without an easy to do, perfect Valentine Cocktail or Mocktail.

## "Roselle Fizz" with Jackie @temperandtaste

"In case you are wondering, roselle is a hibiscus and is packed with vitamin C, calcium and iron. Having said that this is a boozy recipe so not sure how it would rate on the health scale after sugar is added to it, but hey it's the perfect romantic Valentine's Day drink!"

### What you need:

- 1 x tbsp of Roselle Powder or 1 x tbsp Dragonfruit Powder
- 1 x tbsp caster sugar (use nutri bullet or blender to blend the powder and sugar so it's more fine)
- 45 ml of gin I'm using @fourpillarsgin (leave this out for mocktail version of this drink)
- 2 x sprigs of thyme
- 3 x blueberries X2 raspberries for threading
- 1 cup of soda water
- 1/2 lime
- 1 cup of frozen raspberries simmered down with 2 tbsp of caster sugar, strained and set aside
- Ice (to your discretion)



**Buy Roselle from My Blue Tea at 15% discount by checking out with code BRILLIANT15**



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# MARRIAGE CELEBRANT MAKING DREAMS A REALITY

◆ When it comes to the day of saying "I do", Jennifer McKenzie is there to hold nerves steady and make sure everything runs smoothly so you can sit back, be fully present and enjoy your wedding.



One would love to sit next to Jennifer on a train ride and start up a conversation about what she does as a marriage celebrant. It's not every day that you meet one, and we were really intrigued by what she does. And from what we see in the movies, it's hardly enough to even remotely piece together what her job involves. It goes way beyond standing in front of a couple and reciting some legal phrases to validate their union.

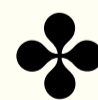
## So what do you really do?

Jennifer is an authorised Australian Marriage Celebrant based in Port

Macquarie who helps couples select and plan a ceremony that best reflects what they have always wished and desired for. This is one special day where you'd want everything to be as you dreamed.

Celebrants are authorised to conduct formal ceremonies in the community. They officiate and solemnise weddings. They are also responsible for checking the accuracy of the legal documents required. Celebrants have the added special touch of being able to help couples create their own personalised bespoke ceremony.

It is all about assisting and guiding people who want to design their



Jennifer's work also extends to other important days such as Commitment Ceremonies, Renewing of Vows and Baby Naming.

memories for a lifetime. There are those special days in one's lifetime where we'd really like to have some measure of control and desire over how it is going to be.

Jennifer's work also extends to other important days such as Commitment Ceremonies, Renewing of Vows and Baby Naming.

The work of a marriage celebrant is a curious mix of the practical and the artistic. Listening is the very first step to the entire process, and Jennifer sits down with her clients to understand exactly what they are looking for. It's not just about jotting down notes of what they want to do or say. It's about sifting through all the ideas to get to the essence of what they really want, and to find a way to turn that elusive essence into reality. A marriage celebrant has to be both well-organised to handle the administrative and legal planning, and to also have that special touch to introduce that bit of magic that makes every marriage so unique.

There is no limit to where the marriage ceremony can be conducted, or even the time. This is where the couple can let their imagination fly. Jennifer's job is always kept interesting because she never quite knows where her next couple will take her! Every couple has their own ideal venue they have always dreamed of. It can be in Port Macquarie itself, or the surrounding areas, parklands, beaches, mountains or even in your own home.

Jennifer travels around Australia marrying couples.

Each couple's marriage ceremony is as unique as a thumbprint.

They have the total freedom of choice with not just the venue but also the vows, music and readings.

Jennifer's job is to guide the couple so they do not get overwhelmed by choices, and to help them understand the logistics of what they would like to have and how to make it all work. She explores options together with the couple so that they can find the most harmonious fit of all their ideas. It is like putting together a jigsaw puzzle. It is fun to brainstorm ideas for the ceremony, but it can also make one feel lost when you don't really know where to start. Jennifer is there to keep the couple on track and also enjoy the planning process.

## How did you become a Marriage Celebrant?

Jennifer was professionally trained by the Academy of Celebrancy of Australia. When she completed her Celebrant course I, she also did her Certificate IV in Small Business management. She is a registered member of the Australian Marriage Celebrant Inc.

Marriage celebrants are authorised figures so there are training and legal requirements.

Jennifer moved to Australia in 1997 when the family decided they wanted a sea change. Since then, Australia has become their home, and she has spent countless joyful hours witnessing marriage ceremonies.

## What special characteristics does it take to be a marriage celebrant?

Throughout her life, Jennifer has always enjoyed helping and working with people. If you get the chance to meet Jennifer, you'll notice her warm nature, her friendliness makes her very approachable. She makes people want to talk to her and feel comfortable doing so. Empathy and understanding come together with a good listening ear, and these are skills necessary to enjoy doing the job of a Marriage Celebrant, and to do it well.

Sharing one's lifelong dreams, desires and wishes can make couples feel shy or vulnerable sometimes. One can always fantasise and daydream about how we want our marriage to be, but we do not always have all the necessary information to know if what we desire is actually possible. You want to share these precious thoughts with someone who is genuinely committed to making your dreams a reality, not someone who is going to make you wish you had not been so much of a dreamer.





If what you want is a picnic marriage ceremony near a lake where the guests come in white summer clothes and children get bottles of bubbles to blow while they do a reading from 'Some Things Go Together' by Charlotte Zolotow, where all pets are welcome and can bring home a goodie bag of pet treats, why not? Jennifer's brain immediately starts whirring and coming up with all the possibilities and alternatives to make your dream as close to reality as possible.

Secret tip: Jennifer plays the bagpipes, and she'd be happy to play a tune or two for you if you asked!

A key part of a marriage celebrant's job is also to ensure the legal aspects of your marriage are done properly and that you have obtained and applied for the documents required. A marriage celebrant needs to know the legal requirements well, and to stay up-to-date with the law.

## Why need a Marriage Celebrant?

A marriage ceremony is one out of a dozen other things a couple has to take care of when they make one of the most important decisions in a person's life.

Of course, a couple can always plan and organise everything on their own. It means you will need a lot of time, energy, information, resources, networking and excellent skills with Excel and a myriad of organisation apps to help you get everything fitting in perfectly. And at the end of it, to actually still have enough spirit, energy and excitement to attend the marriage ceremony!

A marriage celebrant helps take on all these tasks (with a lot less stress and frenzied nerves) and makes sure all the cogs fit together and work seamlessly, so on the big day itself, the couple can be at their most relaxed to fully enjoy the experience and not have to be in active mode all the time worrying if all the procedures are in place.

Experience. This is another vital part of what a marriage celebrant offers. They have witnessed many marriage ceremonies and know what things to look out for; the pitfalls, potential challenges, what's best to avoid, potential hiccups, better alternatives, being able to offer a variety of possibilities, etc. A marriage celebrant's experience can help you when you are writing your vows, or deciding what readings to do.

Writing one's vows is not exactly something we were trained to do in school essays, and it can be quite an intimidating task to put down what feels like an entire lifetime's feelings onto one page and to make sure it adequately expresses to your partner what you feel.

## What are the rewards of the job?

Marriages are a momentous event and celebration of the lives of two people who are ready to create a new life together. Basically, it is a celebration of hope. Maybe you're marrying your best friend who doesn't mind your lion's mane in the morning when you wake up, or you're marrying the only person in the world who has managed to move you, or the girl you've always liked sharing a meal with since kindergarten or the man whose hugs are so tight they squeeze all the sadness and fears out of you... whoever it is, the celebration of a marriage is one that Jennifer feels privileged to witness and be a part of.

She loves what she does and she is as committed as the couples are to make this ceremony a memorable and beautiful one. Jennifer does not see herself as an 'external' element brought in to get the wheels running. She is very much a part of each of the marriage ceremonies she has undertaken, and this comes from her sense of pride, respect and responsibility for what she does to be involved in each couple's unique journey.

It is an emotional event to be a part of and to be the one making sure everything runs smoothly. For Jennifer, she sees herself continuing to celebrate the new and wonderful lives of every single couple who comes to her. Making a couple's dreams a reality is what she will be doing for many more years to come.

The next time you pass by what looks like a marriage ceremony, keep a lookout for Jennifer. You can be sure she is the calm, steady and reliable presence there to ensure no one's frazzled or lost. If you get to meet the couple and ask if they enjoy the experience, they'll both be in unison in saying 'I do.'



# Jennifer McKenzie

Marriage Celebrant

I would love to help you select and plan a perfect ceremony that best reflects your wishes and desires for your very special day.



Let's plan your wedding together.

Phone: 02 6584 6132 | 0414 863 706

Email: [jenny@jennifermckenzie.com.au](mailto:jenny@jennifermckenzie.com.au) | Website: [www.jennifermckenzie.com.au](http://www.jennifermckenzie.com.au)

# INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED AWARD WINNING WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

◆ East Coast Photography is the most established professional photography business on the Mid North Coast of NSW, established in 1997 by Craig Mason.

**C**raig's talent behind the lens covers most subjects from Award Winning Wedding and Landscape photographs to Commercial and Real Estate.

For the past 20 odd years Craig has been photographing weddings. He absolutely loves it. Being such an integral part of a couple's union is something he finds an absolute honour.

"The warm feeling of capturing someone's most important day in their life is truly special for me," says Craig. "To be at the top of the game is also important to me - award winning photography is one thing, but award winning wedding photography is another."

## Award Winning Photography

Wedding photography is an important part of your wedding celebration because it will capture your day, it will capture your memories, it will tell a story, and not just any story, it will tell a beautiful story of your special day, a day you will never forget.

Over his illustrious career as a photographer, Craig has won numerous awards at state, national and international level in the two most contested categories – landscapes and wedding. Achieving 3rd in the world for wedding photography in 2004 and top 100 landscape photographers internationally in 2015 are just some of his achievements.



Photo Credit: Craig Mason,  
East Coast Photography

[Wedding Photo Gallery](#)





Photo Credit: Craig Mason,  
East Coast Photography



"The warm feeling of capturing someone's most important day in their life is truly special for me, To be at the top of the game is also important to me - award winning photography is one thing, but award winning wedding photography is another."

- Craig Mason, East Coast  
Photography



Photo Credit: Craig Mason,  
East Coast Photography



Photo Credit: Craig Mason,  
East Coast Photography

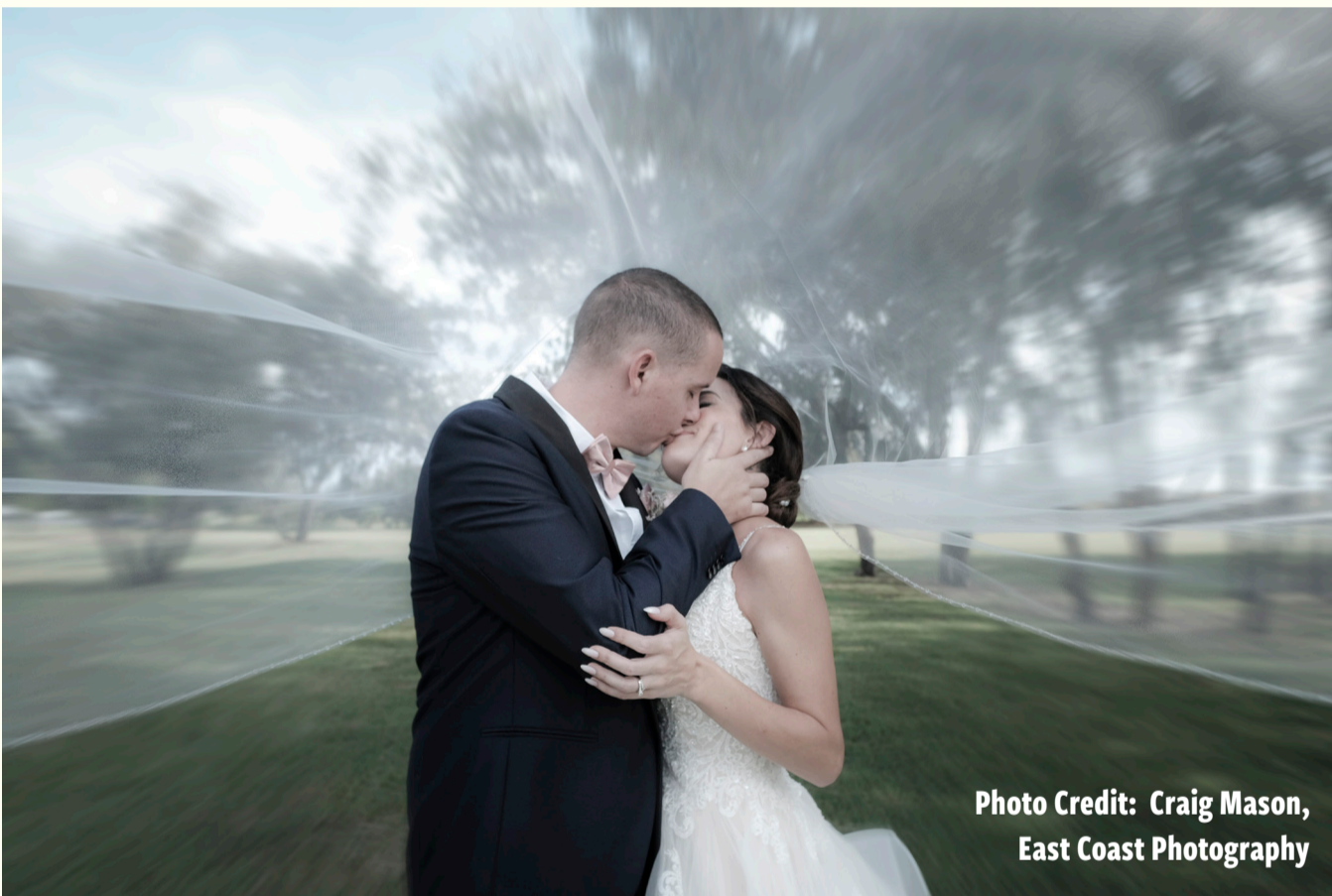


Photo Credit: Craig Mason,  
East Coast Photography



Photo Credit: Craig Mason,  
East Coast Photography

If you like what you see here, please feel free to download the packages and price list PDF, then if all is good, make contact with Craig and you can discuss your wedding plans and how he can assist in making your day – PERFECT.

## What You Can Expect From Craig

He will be with you from the start to finish of your wedding, if that's what you want. From getting ready to the reception, he will show up in the morning to either or both the bride or groom's getting ready location and go from there ...

- First Look
- The Ceremony
- The Family Formals
- The Wedding Party Photos
- The Bride and Groom Portraits
- The Reception
- Entrance and First Dances

Wedding photography is important because it will capture your day, it will capture your memories, it will tell a story, and not just any story, it will tell a beautiful story of your special day, a day you will never forget.

It's easy for a detail such as wedding photography to become eclipsed by the dress, venue or even choice of food, but prioritising it is an important part of your planning.

## Your Wedding Day Will Be Full of Memories You'll Never Want to Forget.

From the bouquet toss and first dance to walking down the aisle and saying your vows, it's an event you'll always cherish. Long after the ceremony is over, your wedding photographs will be treasured keepsakes that forever remind you of the experience.

Photo Credit: Craig Mason,  
East Coast Photography



# OUT THERE ESCAPES

◆ Picturesque gardens with a variety of beautiful natural backdrops for your wedding ceremony!



Photo Credit: Urban Folk Photography

If you have ever imagined celebrating your special day in picturesque gardens with majestic trees and a variety of beautiful natural backdrops for your ceremony and photographic memories, then this is your venue.

Out There Escapes is a unique, garden experience that has been lovingly developed over the last 25 years by the original owner.

The five-acre rural property is situated in Frazers Creek, Beechwood NSW, approximately half an hour inland from Port Macquarie.

The long tree lined entrance leads into open lawns with a 360-degree view of lush gardens and distant mountains. There is a wide choice of open and artistic areas for both ceremonies and photographic memories, perfect for boutique and intimate events, with no minimum numbers required.

The property also includes luxe accommodation that sleeps up to four (5) and can be hired by guests or the wedding party, for a romantic weekend away, memorable honeymoon, or girl's night experience where you can relax in luxe privacy.

## Luxe Accommodation

Our specialty is small Boutique Weddings, Micro weddings, Elopements, Baby showers and intimate events, that make a small footprint on our beautiful property.

## Wedding Destination



The packages cater for Ceremonies for up to 80 people, small Boutique Weddings/ Receptions for up to 50 people, Micro Weddings /Receptions up to 30 people and Elopements. Some packages also include accommodation, Luxe breakfast and picnic baskets and extra trimmings.

Whether you wish to create your own themed day or work with an events planner, we are looking forward to helping you create a magical day to remember.

## A Picture Paints A Thousand Words

For the ceremony there is a choice of three backdrops.

- The Classic, The Circle and the Stairs.
- Intimate French Provincial Arch on terraced steps, with the Folly backdrop.

- The large deck area is perfect for canapés and relaxing as is the wet weather option for small Boutique Weddings Ceremonies and Micro Weddings and Receptions.

The gardens are a most unique and lush backdrop for images and a delight for guests to wander and explore.



For more Information, to view the property, or to see the 2023 Wedding Packages:

+61 402 856 582

chessca@gmail.com

theouttherecollective.com

Frazers Creek, Beechwood NSW Australia

# I DO! THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE AROUND THE WORLD

◆ Marriage is a truly global practice, the biggest and most important day of many people's lives, and rightfully so.

**M**arriage is a truly global practice, the biggest and most important day of many people's lives, and rightfully so.

However, the manner in which marriage is conducted and celebrated around the world differs dramatically with some truly unusual, humorous and often quite frankly bizarre traditions and customs witnessed.

Take, for example, couples tying the knot in the Democratic Republic of the Congo who are not permitted to smile, lest it shows that they are not serious about the commitment they are making.

Tears are frequently shed at weddings although that is incomparable to the Tujia people in China where the bride, a month out from the big day, will dedicate one hour a day to crying. After 10 days her mother joins and, 10 days after that, her grandmother gets involved. On the eve of the wedding, all the females in the family have joined the weep-fest, the wailing cacophony believed to represent song and therefore joy.

Dancing is always a huge component of any good wedding party but in Niger having an actual camel perform a dance takes the festivities to an altogether different level entirely,

as the dromedary shakes his hump along to a drum-driven rhythm! Brides dancing in Ireland best leave one foot on the floor at all times to save tempting evil fairies coming and sweeping her away and if you want a dance with the bride in Cuba then you'll have to pay for it!

Men asking their father-in-law for their daughter's hand in marriage is a common tradition all around the world but in Fiji it is an act accompanied by the presentation of a whale's tooth. Meanwhile in the Marquesas Islands of French Polynesia relatives from the bride's side of the family will lay face down on the ground, side-by-side, as



the newly married couple walk over them like a human bridge or carpet!

The recently wed couple in Germany are presented with a log that they saw through, if they are not cleaning up crockery that their guests have broken, both acts undertaken to symbolise unity and togetherness.

In Greece the groomsmen do exactly that by shaving the groom himself while in Spain they cut the groom's tie or the bride's garter then sell the pieces to guests to raise money for the happy couple and in Turkey a national flag is planted outside the home of the groom to signify the start of the day's festivities.

Indian brides will be adorned in mehndi, a type of paint made from henna, and Japanese brides wear all white, including makeup, to denote their maiden status before sharing sake with her and her groom's family to represent unity.

White doves are often released by the happy couple in the Philippines to symbolise happiness and harmony and a young child is placed on the bed of the couple in the Czech Republic to help with their fertility and future baby-making pursuits!

Whoever from the wedded couple takes the biggest bite of the sweetbread wedding cake known as "karavay" in Russia is then considered the head of the family and in South Korea the bizarre ritual of "Falaka" sees the groom held down and his feet thrashed by sticks or dried fish while he is quizzed with random trivia!

Possessions or the actual bride herself are "kidnapped" in the likes of India and Romania, with a ransom required before they are freed, chickens are slaughtered in Mongolia and the bride is spat at in Kenya in a ritual believed to encourage good fortune.

We're all different and that is a good thing, as witnessed by the range of weird and wonderful rituals and traditions that bond us with our loved ones via the institution of marriage!



[Read The Full Story](#)

# BIG DAY, SMALL BUDGET WEDDINGS

◆ Here are some simple but smart ways to cut costs on your wedding day



Photo Credit: Craig Mason,  
East Coast Photography

**Y**ou don't need to spend a fortune to have the wedding day you have always dreamt about.

From the flowers and reception venue to the bridal party attire and bridal cars, planning your big day can cost a pretty penny. That said, getting married doesn't need to be one of the most expensive days of your life. It can be very easy to get carried away, so set a budget, make it an amount that you are comfortable spending and stick to it.

Below are some tips on how to cut some corners, save some money and still have an amazing wedding day, all within your budget.

## 1. Design your own wedding invitations or send them out via e-invites

There's no need to pay through the nose to get invitations professionally made. You can create top-quality invites



yourself – all you have to do is hop online and search for websites that allow you to design custom wedding invitations. You could even ditch the traditional paper invitations and send out e-invites. Not only will you save on postage costs, but you'll also save yourself the trouble of writing all those addresses on envelopes.

## 2. Serve a signature drink

If you don't want to provide and pay for a fully stocked bar you can save a lot of money by serving one signature cocktail to all guests.

Be creative, use the Bride and Grooms preferred flavours, give the cocktail a catchy name that relates to you. Make it in various versions, his and hers, also a non-alcoholic version for the child guests and non-drinkers. Keep your costs down whilst still serving your guests something that is personal, looks fancy and expensive.

## 3. Serve buffet-style food

Gone are the days of alternate meals, "would you like steak or chicken?" Guests love a great buffet, they can pick what they want to eat, and a buffet is another money-saving way to feed lots of people.

Maybe a gourmet barbecue, a pizza buffet, Mexican? And a lolly station always goes down a treat. Many venues will let you set up and provide your own lollies - another cost saver.

Whatever style of food you go for, a buffet is a winner in many ways.

Check out My Blue Tea recipes and get inspired with their party pack superfoods and whip up a great buffet!

## 4. In-season flowers are a must

In-season flowers purchased from a local florist will always be less costly. Not only will the blooms be the freshest for your bridal bouquet and venue decorations, if you use local you will save on shipping costs.

Of course, if you prefer year-round blooms like orchids or roses your local florist will have these readily available.

## 5. Consider a public space for a ceremony venue

Public spaces like lookouts, parks and beaches are beautiful and offer you gorgeous backdrops for all those photos - and they are mostly free. Maybe check with your local Council first in case they require a permit. You could choose a unique place or outdoor location that means something special to you as a couple to make your ceremony a lasting memory.

## 6. Op shop and bargain hunt

If you are decorating your own wedding, there are many small items that could break your wedding budget. From tablecloths, cutlery, tables and chairs, these can be sourced from op shops. Many beautiful pieces can be found to style your wedding venue, this also adds a personal touch and best of all, you can keep the purchases after the wedding.

## 7. Get married on a weekday

Thousands of dollars can be saved by getting hitched on a weekday as opposed to a weekend. Lots of couples are doing this already in an effort to save. Also, if you pick a date at the end of the traditional wedding season (Spring/Summer) there are savings to be had.

## 8. Have a small bridal party

Many dollar savings can be had with this one. Less expenses for outfits, hair, makeup and those all important gifts from the Bride and Groom to the Bridal Party. The smaller number in your bridal party means less cost and, ultimately, more savings in your budget.





Brilliant-Online  
supports Small Business  
Month in March



*Brilliant*  
**BUSINESSES**



# BACK TO BUSINESS

◆ Can businesses not just operate but also find a way to thrive in a Never Normal World?



Micro Business Forum members coffee connect

**B**usinesses in Australia and all around the world had it especially tough in 2021 as a raft of COVID-19 related regulations, lockdowns and reduction in consumer spending bit hard. The willingness and ability for a business to pivot and innovate became arguably greater than ever.

However, we look forward with confidence, and here we detail some of the trends and changes envisaged for the workplace in 2022.

## Community engagements

It has been clear through the pandemic years that community has been an important source of sustenance for so many businesses.

Business leaders convening to generously share knowledge and insight into the challenges that COVID had enforced was something clearly evident when Vermilion Pinstripes launched their Knowledge Sharing series in early 2020. This provided a

platform for people to connect, to air and share concerns and solutions and generate motivation from one another. When one business grows, another benefits.

## Hybrid and remote work models

Working from home has become the modus operandi for the majority of workers in the last two years with many companies last year slowly

introducing a hybrid work model whereby employees could choose to combine office and remote work. This is something that experts predict will grow in popularity in 2022 although further surges in infected cases may well put the brakes on, should they emerge.

However, this model does not and will not work for everyone so there are transparent conversations that need to be had between employees and business leaders in order to achieve the right balance. It is a restructuring effort that will take a lot of thought and planning.

## Manpower and money challenges

Hiring and retaining staff became increasingly problematic in 2021, something expected to continue this year. People getting infected or simply not wanting to expose themselves in the public domain in fear of catching the virus impacted many industries, particularly the Food & Beverage industry.

Supply chain will also be a key priority for many businesses this year as getting inventory will be a challenge, prices will go up and

end-users are going directly to manufacturers. In this instance, being able to innovate and create new products to complement existing range is key.

Managing cash flow within a business has, naturally, become a major challenge for many. There seems to be more borrowings and inflation can eat into profitability.

Take time in 2022 to look at your pricing structure and how you transact - decide on payment terms with your customers and consider adjusting prices to ensure you have enough cash to service debts.

## Let's get digital...

Consumers were increasingly turning online prior to the pandemic but the past 24 months has only escalated the trend, resulting in a huge rise in the ecommerce space. That doesn't necessarily mean that 100% of your business need switch to online but if you have not yet got a presence in that space then it is time for rethink your strategy.

Your digital marketing strategy is key. Being able to digitally connect with customers, showcase your brand, products and services and

tell your story now takes on greater significance than ever. It is, therefore, crucial to ensure your website and messaging are updated and on-point. Likewise, ensuring the right systems are in place to allow customers to pay for goods and services is crucial. Utilising and capitalising on QR codes is also a smart move, urge experts.

## Pivot and embrace...

There comes a point when simply thinking about the pandemic is enough to wear one out. Why not focus instead on possibilities and opportunities? The past does not have to be dreaded. It can still be embraced. And businesses only need to look around them to know they are not alone in this. We need to look beyond COVID-19, and realise that while it has been a massive change, it is not the only change in our lifetime. There have always been changes. And there will continue to be.

Let's get back to business. And let's make it a good one.

[Read The Full Story](#)



Flexible working environment at FoodXervices Inc



# IN 2022 IT'S WORK, BUT NOT AS WE KNOW IT...

◆ It's fair to say the work environment as we once knew it has changed for good. We are making history, and it's worth paying attention.

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has enforced change in practically every facet of our daily lives and it's fair to say the work environment as we once knew it has changed for good.

Working from home has very much become the norm for many around the world in the last two years as office spaces gather dust and the work-home balance is elevated to an altogether different level.

Working from home, or remote work, works for some (pardon the pun!) but not for others, which is completely

understandable. Some enjoy the flexibility that remote work offers, being able to work around their own schedule and spend more time with family. Others complain of cabin fever, of struggling to disassociate the work and home dynamics and of missing the social aspect of an office environment.

As we enter into the third year of the pandemic in 2022, many companies are offering their employees the choice, where available and applicable, as part of a hybrid dynamic where workers spend a couple of days at the office and a couple of days at home.





“Home offices will be designated for desk work while company offices will be reserved for creating a sense of belonging and company culture.”

- **Addie Lerner, Founder and Manager Partner, Avid Ventures**

“Home offices will be designated for desk work while company offices will be reserved for creating a sense of belonging and company culture,” Addie Lerner, Founder and Manager Partner at Avid Ventures told Forbes.

“Many companies will offer hybrid remote work policies and pay for office spaces designated for in-person relationship building activities, such as employee onboarding, quarterly team sessions, meetings with employees from other cities and celebrating milestone wins,” Lerner added.

This approach will be key for many and is an advantage that hybrid work can offer in being able to eliminate any sense of disconnect that many workers experienced in fully remote work during lockdowns. It will also afford the opportunity to network and indulge in face-to-face contact.

However, there will be challenges if this approach is to be successfully adopted. Data from Microsoft states that even the basics are often lacking such as employees not having essential office supplies at home, bad or volatile internet connections and concerns about remote expenses.

Furthermore, actually defining how a hybrid approach works is complex and throws up a myriad of questions,

as a recent study by McKinsey showed: What work is better done in person than virtually, and vice versa? How will meetings work best? How can influence and experience be balanced between those who work on site and those who don't? How can you avoid a two-tier system in which people working in the office are valued and rewarded more than those working more from home? Should teams physically gather in a single place while tackling a project, and if so, how often? Can leadership communication to off-site workers be as effective as it is to workers in the office?

It is clear that employees and employers need to work together in order to chart the unknown ahead of them, to communicate effectively and adapt in order to incorporate structural changes.

Open and frank conversations will be needed around culture, inclusion, trust, flexibility and support. Managers will need to collaborate with their employees more as opposed to merely setting out the rules and structure, as before.

This will be especially necessary given the increasing trend of employees actually reevaluating their relationship with work over the past two years. A recent Work Trend Index by Microsoft

which quizzed more than 30,000 people in 31 countries, revealed that 46% of the workforce is planning to move because they can now work remotely.

Similarly, Forbes states 4 in 10 employees have expressed consideration about leaving their current place of work and there were a record number of what it refers to as “unanticipated resignations” in each month of last year, that is people deciding to vote with their feet and walk away from their job.

There is also the influence of the next generation as Gen Z students enter the workforce armed with an entirely different set of values and principles compared to those so familiar in the legacy workplace.

The work landscape will continue to change in the year ahead as the dynamic between business leaders and their talent continues to adjust. It is key that both collaborate openly in order to forge the right relationship and balance to establish a new and better way to work.

[Read The Full Story](#)

# SAFETY AND CHILD WELFARE TOP PRIORITY AT TG'S CHILD CARE

◆ Keeping children and educators COVID Safe



**C**hild safety is paramount at all times although it has arguably become even more of a focus in recent times with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and all the disruption and uncertainty it has brought with it.

We are now at a stage where it appears much of the world has accepted that COVID is here to stay and we simply have to get on with our lives as best we can – we have had enough of hiding or running scared from the virus and it is time to reclaim our lives.

This, naturally, means a raft of health and safety measures will be introduced to much of our everyday lives – after all, getting on with things does not mean being complacent and health remains our most precious asset that must be protected.



This is an approach strictly adhered to by TG's Child Care where the top priority is the health, safety and wellbeing of children, educators and families as per guidelines provided by the NSW Government for Education.

While health and welfare remain the top priority, a child's education and development are crucial and TG's Child Care is leading the way in this respect.

Their COVID safety procedures are applicable for all TG's centres, and some may even have additional rules depending on local LGA requirements.

It was mandatory for all TG's early childhood education and care educators and staff to have been vaccinated by Nov 8, 2021 and all staff, children and families involved with the centres must be able to provide a negative COVID test, be symptom free and/or provide a medical clearance.

Facemasks must be worn by family members dropping off their children, and the staff have their masks on in all indoor areas at all times except when eating or drinking.

Any confirmed cases of infection are reported to the Health Department immediately in addition to a detailed report on who the infected person has been in contact with and for how long.

In regards to physical distancing, TG's complies with the Australian Government Department of Health's current public gathering limits and numbers of people allowed in indoor or outdoor spaces at Service and during excursions or other events. Likewise plans and systems are in place to monitor and control the number of families and visitors in or around the Service at any one time. Visitors are required to sign in using the QR code.

TG's Armidale has put together this fantastic visual video for children that

breaks down the new drop off routine into easy to follow steps.

The highest standards of cleaning and hygiene are in place across all TG's centres to minimise any chance of infection spreading and all staff are fully aware of requirements in this regard.

There has been too much disruption already and as we strive to return to some form of normality as a community, TG's is confident and proud that it can provide not only best-in-class services for our beloved youngsters but that it is delivered in a safe and healthy environment.

The full TG's Child Care COVID Safety Policy:

**TG's COVID Safety Policy**



➤ TG's Armidale, Safety measures when dropping of children

# WE'RE HIRING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

◆ Join the award-winning TG's Family



## 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!

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



## TG's Child Care Early Learning Centres Across Australia for children 6 weeks to 6 years

### Uralla

-  +61 (02) 6778 3369
-  [uralla@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:uralla@tgschildcare.com.au)
-  [tgschildcare.com.au/uralla](https://tgschildcare.com.au/uralla)
-  23B John St, Uralla NSW 2358
-  Licensed for 32 places

### Urangan

-  +61 (07) 4184 2282
-  [urangan@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:urangan@tgschildcare.com.au)
-  [tgschildcare.com.au/urangan](https://tgschildcare.com.au/urangan)
-  61 Miller St, Urangan, QLD 4655
-  Licensed for 73 places

### Armidale

-  +61 (02) 6772 7810
-  [armidale@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:armidale@tgschildcare.com.au)
-  [tgschildcare.com.au/armidale](https://tgschildcare.com.au/armidale)
-  11 Samuelson Crescent, Armidale NSW 2350
-  Licensed for 75 places

### Wauchope Hastings St

-  +61 (02) 6585 1033
-  [HastingsStreet@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:HastingsStreet@tgschildcare.com.au)
-  [tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-hastings-st](https://tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-hastings-st)
-  33B Hastings St, Wauchope NSW 2446
-  Licensed for 48 places

### Wauchope High St

-  +61 (02) 6585 3331
-  [HighStreet@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:HighStreet@tgschildcare.com.au)
-  [tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-high-st](https://tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-high-st)
-  223A High St, Wauchope NSW 2446
-  Licensed for 48 places

### Wauchope Riverbreeze

-  +61 (02) 6585 2981
-  [riverbreeze@tgschildcare.com.au](mailto:riverbreeze@tgschildcare.com.au)
-  [tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-riverbreeze](https://tgschildcare.com.au/wauchope-riverbreeze)
-  3 Riverbreeze Drive, Wauchope NSW 2446
-  Licensed for 48 places

**ENROLL AT TG'S CHILD CARE**

# DOES YOUR BUSINESS HAVE A HEALTHY HEART?

◆ John Clarke explains how cash flow is the lifeline of a business

**W**hat kind of heart does your business have? Is it a cash-generating machine or a cash eating monster?

Cash flow to a business is like bloodflow to a person. A healthy cash flow provides money to pay the bills, to reinvest in the business and to share with the owners.

A lot of the time in business we look at the Profit & Loss Statement (sometimes called the Income Statement) and the Balance Sheet (sometimes called the Financial Position Statement). These can be misleading because a business could have a "healthy" profit, and more assets than liabilities (money it owes), if the business' assets are tied up in money owing to it, it might not have enough money to pay the bills when they need to be paid.

There's a missing link between the Profit & Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet which ties them together. This is the Statement of Cash Flows.

A typical statement of cash flows splits cash into three categories:

1. Cash flows from operating activities
  2. Cash flows from investing activities, and
  3. Cash flows from financing activities
- and looks a bit like the image on the right:

Looking at this I see a business that is generating cash from its usual activities, and which can reinvest and reduce its loans and pay dividends to its shareholders

Contact me at [john.clarke@stptax.com](mailto:john.clarke@stptax.com) if you would like further information on how your business can be a cash-generating machine.

As always the advice in this article is general in nature and you should contact an accountant or tax agent for advice that is specific to your circumstances.

## XYZ PTY LIMITED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS 2021

	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Receipts in the course of operations	500,000
Payments to suppliers and employees	- 300,000
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>200,000</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	10,000
Purchase of property, plant & equipment	-40,000
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>-30,000</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	
Cash received from borrowings	0
Repayment of borrowings	-80,000
Dividends Paid	-50,000
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>-130,000</b>
Net increase in cash held	40,000
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	20,000
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	60,000



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Chiaroscuro Business Advisory Pty Ltd

ABN 63 168 493 025

# GRAFICO WINS ASIA PACIFIC CONTINENTAL CROWN IN WRAP LIKE A KING 2021 GLOBAL COMPETITION

◆ Avery Dennison vehicle wrap solutions transform a supercar into a head-turning vehicle.

On a global stage open to professional vehicle wrap installers from more than 40 countries worldwide, “Faure Le Page” Lamborghini Huracan project by Grafico Group emerged as the Asia Pacific Continental Winner of Avery Dennison’s prestigious global “Wrap Like A King” 2021 Competition.

“Congratulations to the team at Grafico on their well-deserved success!” said Jordan Leach, Business Director, Graphics Solutions, Australia/New Zealand (ANZ) and Southeast Asia (ASEAN), Avery Dennison. “The international panel of judges for this year’s Wrap Like A King were unanimous in their vote for Grafico’s ‘Faure Le Page’ Lamborghini Huracan project, giving it high scores for visual transformation, production quality, skill of installation, stunning street appeal, and creative design.”

“We are ecstatic!” exclaimed Damian Corney, Founder and Creative Director of the Melbourne-based design, print, and signage expert Grafico Group.

“This win, amidst the ongoing pandemic, is especially rewarding considering the time and circumstances behind the project. Our design, production, and installation team members used Avery Dennison vehicle wrap solutions to transform a supercar into a head-turning vehicle that proudly reflects the House of Faure Le Page brand qualities.”

For its win, Grafico will receive a prize pack worth over \$3,000 including a Continent Winner Trophy, Wrap Like A King swag, gift vouchers, a Vlog kit, banner stand display, and Avery Dennison social media exposure.

In addition, a charity selected by Grafico will receive a \$1,000 donation in their name. Grafico has nominated Charity Drive Days, a Registered Charity Association run by car enthusiasts that want to make a difference by raising funds for people in need.

“Grafico has been working with Charity Drive Days for many years now,” explained Damian. “We have been involved with many of the charity’s events over the years and together,



we have helped raise millions of dollars for worthy causes such as those providing daily support for children and families living with cancer.”

“In these pandemic times, I know that the charity will be very grateful for this donation, and we are happy to have made this happen with our win as the Asia Pacific Continental Wrap King for 2021.”

Damian’s team used the Avery Dennison MPI 1105 Easy Apply RS Cast Digital film; a premium high-gloss cast film with superior 3D conformability, stunning printability, and maximum durability for complex surfaces with curves and recesses, for a smooth, seamless application of the Fauré Le Page design onto the aerodynamic curves of the Lamborghini. The team added Avery Dennison 1480Z

Matte, a matte clear conformable cast overlamine, over the wrap for maximum UV and weathering protection for the printed graphics.

The Wrap Like A King 2021 Competition officially ran from September 1 to October 31, and the winners finalised in November 2021. The three final Continental winners of Wrap Like A King 2021 were “Faure Le Page” Lamborghini Huracan project by Grafico Group for the Asia Pacific Region, “The Goddess – La Dea” project by Wraproad for Europe, and “ColossXL” project by Colossal Motorsports for America.

.....  
 🌐 [graphicsap.averydennison.com](https://graphicsap.averydennison.com)  
 .....



**WRAP  
 LIKE A  
 2021 KING**  
**LOCAL EDITION**  
 Powered by Avery Dennison

# STAND OUT BY BECOMING A BRILLIANT RED SEAGULL

◆ How does one stand out in a sea of companies all with stories clamouring to be heard? Samsu's Red Seagull strategy is shining Brilliantly with support from partners.

**T**o become a Red Seagull one needs the support of partnerships and Samsu's Red Seagull strategy is taking flight by partnering with Brilliant-Online to boost distribution and amp up modern marketing.

Here is a simple question. Have you ever seen a Red Seagull?

Probably not. If you live by the coast, you'd be familiar with the huge families of white seagulls and their trademark cries as they soar effortlessly in the air. It's pretty, but they all look and sound the same. That's how companies feel sometimes, that they are just another run-of-the-mill classic white seagull in a sea of competitors.

But if you were a Red Seagull, you'd be noticed. You'd be spotted, even from afar. And not just that, you'd be guaranteed to have a curious crowd follow you just to find out what you are, where you are from, why you are red and what you can do. You'll be on everyone's Instagram and on everyone's lips.

Companies want to be a Red Seagull.

## Samsu gets a boost

And Samsu has a Red Seagull strategy. Samsu is a renowned resource among the investment community for keen market analysis and insights into the companies and business trends that matter. It is a space where investors can engage with the companies they invest in and get knowledgeable evaluations of current industry knowledge and developments across different business sectors.



Veronica Lind with Noel Ong

For Noel Ong, CEO of Samsu, walking the talk is an important part of taking his brand to another level. To help companies boost their presence in the investment space, Samsu as a brand and business also has to take a leap.

And one way he did this is by partnering with Brilliant-Online to boost distribution and amp up their modern marketing.

Samsu is therefore able to use this to further distribute their strong offerings to help companies stand out and become Red Seagulls. Effective modern marketing



is essential to delivering content that piques investor interest. Samsco bridges this connection between companies and investors, by helping companies take on Red Seagull status and helping investors notice the Red Seagulls. Samsco cuts through the clutter and makes the connection direct, smooth and of value.

Investors appreciate what Samsco offers with their Coffee with Samsco, Rooster Talk or Samsco Insights. Knowledge, insights and experiences from thought leaders are shared in a way that is clear, direct and digestible.

For more information about Samsco Offerings, download Samsco's brochure:

[Download Samsco's Brochure](#)

## How does Samsco's Red Seagull Strategy work?

An important part of Samsco's strategy to bring together companies and investors involves a strong partnership for effective modern marketing.

Samsco handles the content and partners with media channels such as Proactive, Mining HQ, Brilliant-Online and Vermilion Pinstripes. This is an attractive option for companies as it helps them save the extra cost of third party creators.

Brilliant-Online's interactive advertising platform deepens connections and widens engagements.

Brilliant is known for telling valuable, accurate stories that people want to hear, and has an extensive outreach to an international audience.

With this partnership, Samsco is able to offer companies a unique value proposition for branding, helping them achieve an enhanced multichannel digital brand connection. This is how companies become a Red Seagull and attract attention.

## Why Brilliant?

Because the results speak for themselves. Numbers are a reliable source in modern marketing to measure if a method works or not.

"Brilliant opens up exciting new aspects for more effective engagement with both our clients and a broader audience of investment communities," said Noel Ong, CEO of Samsco. "It gives us a multi-dimensional digital canvas on which to portray an extended scope of our industry insights right across the investment landscape. We're amazed how results jumped 90x for our client Venture Minerals in just one month!"

The Samsco-Brilliant Partnership allows Samsco's companies to reach out to new audiences mainly in Australia, Singapore and Canada. Being in cyberspace essentially means news can reach all corners of the world.

Brilliant-Online's multi-channel interactive advertorial platform also means readers can view Samsco's interviews from Coffee with Samsco and Rooster Talk under the magazine's Brilliant Investment section. The leap

that Brilliant offers is readers can take actions with the advertiser directly from the magazine. At no point do you lose a reader's interest in leaving a site and having to navigate and search. The connection is seamless, convenient, and direct.

Brilliant's stories are SEO rich and shared to 19,000 subscribers with ad banners and social media outreach included in one single convenient, robust advertising package. For Samsco, this means huge savings in time and energy, and everything is streamlined through Brilliant.

With this partnership, Samsco allows companies to take advantage of a new era of engagement. Modern marketing is only modern if we continue to keep up with developments, innovations, trends and changes.

## Finding the right partner

We've often heard people sagely giving advice about finding the right partner for life. In the world of business, the right partner can help you become a Red Seagull, igniting passion for your business, nurturing long-term connections and engaging a sustained interest in your story.

For Samsco, Brilliant is like a Red Seagull, and this partnership has helped Samsco and their companies take a leap. It's a great feeling to see each company take flight and become amazing Red Seagulls.

Samsco is helping companies shine brilliantly as Red Seagulls. Are you ready to become one too?



- Thomas Line, CEO, Taruga Minerals Limited (ASX: TIE)

"I was actually charmed by the interview and question style of Samsco. Call it unorthodox or unique, for me the value is in how it helps to speak to a target audience who are not geologists and may not have this technical background. The relaxed style of the interview makes the information a lot more digestible and clear so there is that opportunity there to focus on educating investors.

The one-stop-shop profile created for investors by Samsco offers really good value, not just to the investors but also to companies. They have a very effective marketing package. When our interview was freshly out, it hit 2.2k views.

I appreciate the complimentary Rooster Talk to get even more juice out of our conversations and how we are plugged in to social media as a boost. This ensures we are exposed to new markets and new investors. I'll be happy to be back again for another chat when the time is right with relevant news to share."

# MARCH IS SMALL BUSINESS MONTH

◆ Building a brilliant future for small businesses Made in Australia with pride

## Proudly Supporting Brilliant Small Businesses

**S**mall businesses have a very special place in our hearts at Brilliant-Online. And March is a month dedicated to every single small business owner in our communities. We see your efforts, value and contribution. And this month, small businesses take centre stage!

While big companies may appear to dominate the landscape and the news, small businesses have always been quietly keeping the cogs in the machine going in the background. In fact, there are a lot more small businesses out there than we think. Just because they are small in size does not mean they are small in number.

According to Mccrindle, small businesses dominate the Australian economy, with 99.8% of all Australian business considered a small to medium enterprise.

## Just Keep Swimming

Dory got it right, and this is the mantra small businesses have branded into their psyche especially in overwhelming times - "Just keep swimming."

There are no words appropriate to describe the pandemic, and 'overwhelming' comes up short. The pandemic has been affecting businesses across the world and small businesses have been especially hard-hit. Even as of now, many small businesses are still holding their breath, trying to hold the rudder steady and find new ways to adapt and grow.

One would imagine some harsh statistics about how the pandemic has affected small businesses, but the numbers are actually more heartening than one would expect. It may be strange to know this, but the number of Australians running businesses has increased in spite of the pandemic.

"As of June 2021, there are 2,402,254 companies in Australia, with more than 227,000 exiting the market. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, around 365,000 were



Micro Business Forum members are small business owners .  
They come together to Learn, Network and support each other





“Small businesses dominate the Australian economy, with 99.8% of all Australian business considered a small to medium enterprise.”

- Mccrindle

incorporated, leading to an increase in the number of companies by 3.8%. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the numbers are encouraging and this should be the first indicator to consider when setting up a business.”

(Source: <https://www.financial-expert.co.uk/eye-opening-statistics-about-small-businesses-in-australia/>)

“According to the Bureau of Statistics, the number of small businesses jumped by 15.2 per cent over the last financial year. In the June quarter alone, the number of businesses rose by 1.4 per cent, with 34,000 created.”

(Source: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-08-27/new-business-registrations-increase-through-the-pandemic/100409330>)

With that said, one cannot help but want to cheer on small businesses and support them to keep going, and even thrive.

## Building Connections Supporting Small Businesses

At Brilliant-Online, something we are so proud about Australia is the tenacity and drive of small businesses.



## Learning and building connections

It is no new news that Australia has an entrepreneurial spirit, and that special energy and motivation to do one's best and give it a shot.

There are so many stories about small businesses we have heard and been inspired by. These small businesses are sharing their skills, knowledge, experience and passion to help keep our communities going. We are so proud of our Made in Australia small businesses that are supporting one another.

You can take a stroll through our Brilliant-Online community of small businesses and find something you need or can enjoy. With autumnal temperatures coming, Pura Vida's beautiful handmade crochet top keeps one cosy and perhaps a unique handmade necklace from Utopian Living could complement the look, and while you are at the shop, you may well enjoy an interesting story or two about the origins of all the variety of materials. If the trees in your garden are looking a bit poorly, the friendly arborists from Accomplished

Tree Management can swing by to take a look and help perk things up. Or you could be another small business that needs some renovation, and Abstract Plastics can provide the solution with their applications.

There is something special about supporting small businesses in our communities that gives a sense of identity and connection. Every product or service that has been provided and purchased is a seed for a conversation and there is that trust in knowing where these products and services come from, and who provided them. It is our responsibility as consumers to 'do our homework' and choose consciously what we want in our lives. With small businesses, what you see is what you get and there is a sincere honesty in what they are creating. Being able to put a name and a face to the people who provide our purchased products and services somehow intensifies the enjoyment of what we have and helps us live more consciously and fully.



Supporting small businesses is a way to slow down time and fully enjoy human connections. It helps one to enjoy and appreciate whatever we hold in our hands and what we possess even more. It is a powerful way to really see and hear the people around us, and appreciate their existence.

When you sit in your garden and enjoy the shade of your tree, you'll remember an anecdote your local arborist shared with you when he was pruning the tree. And if you bump into him in the street, he'll probably ask how your tree is doing, like the tree is an old mutual friend. Perhaps by chance you meet your marriage celebrant on your way home from the hospital with your new baby and you recall what a special wedding it was thanks to her services.

Small businesses help nurture this very special feeling of inter-connectedness.

Small but mighty is how Brilliant-Online sees small businesses, and we are supporting them in these brilliant ways:

### 1. Magnifying small businesses brilliantly

We are helping businesses become more brilliant with our multi-dimensional digital canvas.

Noel Ong, CEO of Samsco, one of our media partners, observed how results jumped 90x for his client Venture Minerals in just one month. Being on Brilliant opens up exciting new aspects for more effective engagement and broadens the reach of audience.

### 2. Helping Small Businesses Keep Up with the Times

In order to support our local communities well, we need to constantly update and be abreast or even ahead of trends and what's to come.

It's not about forcing or slapping on new technologies into an old format of publishing or advertising. Our current climate is that of the Gig Economy and the Experience Economy, which means we craft our work to suit this current climate in a format that readers and businesses can identify with and which is relevant and adapted to them.

We blend business, art, science, psychology, technology and maths, giving a multi-faceted source of information for readers. This gives depth, sparks insights and curiosity, and opens up objective thinking for businesses to share their stories in the Gig Economy and we are constantly striving forward towards an increasingly digital future.

### 3. Shoulder to Shoulder with Small Businesses through a Storm

When challenges come up, we aim to find solutions, adaptations and alternatives to allow small businesses to continue to grow.

The pandemic has been a real test for everyone, and Brilliant-Online was born and grew through this difficult period, and we were at the same time, able to support small businesses with different strategies.



ALISON CARROLL



JOHN CLARKE



VERONICA LIND



BARBARA SMITH

## BOOK AN EXPERT

- Brainstorm your business ideas
- Finance & Tax
- Marketing
- Technology



Ultimately, clients feel reassured and their confidence even grows knowing that what they have put in with Brilliant-Online is helping them reap rewards. We work with small businesses side by side, understanding their concerns, worries and limitations, and we help by giving them peace of mind. They can see for themselves real leads and insights as to the customers they are targeting and how effective the engagements are.

## Growing in the Never Normal World with Small Businesses

Through good and tough times, communities need to come together. Our inter-connectedness means when one thrives, the others benefit as well.

Solidarity is key to surviving, growing and thriving together. When we learn together, we grow better together.

Micro Business Forum has an event coming up on 16th March 2022 for Small Business Month. If you are planning to start your new business, do come along and find some useful guides on all you need to get started.

### MBF Small Business Month

You can also book an expert during the Forum to speak to them about your business ideas, finance and tax, marketing and technology.

What is heartening for small business owners to know is that they are not alone in what they are experiencing.

There are many challenges, disappointments, fears, frustrations and sometimes hopelessness when one is trying to steer a small business through a storm. But knowing that there are many others who have the same experience and have found innovative and effective solutions to get through the obstacles means small business owners can get help and find the collective motivation to keep going.

With March being Small Business Month, Brilliant-Online salutes every single small business out there who are doing their best to grow their business. We are proud of all products, services and values Made in Australia, and we are committed to helping businesses shine more brilliantly than ever.



## SMALL BUSINESS MONTH FORUM

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Daniel O'Brien,**  
**Chicken Caravan**

Wednesday 16 March 6-8pm

CWA Port Macquarie, Cr of Chop & Chill



Support / Education / Network

# REBUILD, RECHARGE AND RENEW

◆ Micro Business Forum supports NSW Small Business Month with a Forum on 16th March 2022 for small business owners in the Port Macquarie-Hastings

**S**mall business owners have been hard hit by the pandemic and it is still a challenge for many now. Some were resilient, others thrived, and many were also so adversely affected they had to close their businesses.

Small businesses are necessary for a healthy economy in our business environment. In line with NSW Government Small Business Month, the Micro Business Forum (MBF) will be holding a Forum on 16th March to support small business owners.

This is the first time in our 19-year history as a business network creating a forum to bring small business owners together to learn from each other, network, form collaborative partnerships and support local.

## Keynote: The mindset quadrant that will take your business to the next level

Small business owners at different stages of their journey can benefit from this forum. Daniel O'Brien, CEO and co-founder of Chicken Caravan is our keynote speaker. Daniel is a very inspiring speaker and a perfect example of a small business owner who over the years pivoted his business. From a small workshop in the Port Macquarie industrial area to exporting his products to over 17 countries around the globe and now has staff in 3 countries. Chicken Caravan won the Australian Farm Invention of the Year Award for its innovative, portable, movable chicken sheds that make chicken farming automated and efficient.



**Keynote speaker: Daniel O'Brien, CEO and co-founder of Chicken Caravan**

Daniel is adept at using videos to engage prospects turning them into customers. Daniel will share his "Results Mindset Quadrant" to help you take your business to the next level.

**Register for Small Business Month**



## Book an Expert

Participants can also book an expert at the forum to discuss their business ideas, marketing, finance and technology. When you register, mark that you want to book a 20-min with an expert. You'll walk away with valuable information which you can implement right away.

### Book An Expert



Alison Carroll

Alison Carroll is great at Direct Selling. She is expanding her line of health products besides Turmerix. Brainstorm your business ideas with Alison and gain different perspectives.



Veronica Lind

Ask Veronica Lind, Vermilion Pinstripes about all aspects of branding and modern marketing. Bring along your plans, brand assets and gain clarity about Facebook advertising, SEO and any marketing questions that have been bugging you.



John Clarke

Ask John Clarke, Success Tax Professionals, a Business Accountant and Tax Guru about anything relating to managing finances in business. From cash flow to tax deductions to budgeting, John is the man.



Barbara Smith

Technology is an important enabler to efficient business. Ask Barbara Smith, The Roving Trainer which technologies best suit your business. For a micro business, technology is key and need not be difficult.

## MBF Members Can Book A Stall

Stalls sell quickly. MBF Members can book a stall for \$5 per table to display their products or services. Participants can browse, purchase or talk to members about their products and services.



### Book A Stall

MBF has always been the friendliest business network that provides a platform for small business owners to network, learn and support each other. The forum is designed to inspire participants to rebuild, recharge and renew themselves inspiring business ideas and new ways of doing business. So sign up for the forum today!



## Disclaimer

ASX companies engage Brilliant-Online to share their commentary on the progress of their companies and projects. The author, owners of Brilliant-Online and associated entities may or may not hold shares of these companies. The content above is the writer's personal opinion and is provided to you for information only and is not intended to be general or personal advice nor will it create/induce the creation of any binding legal relations.





*Brilliant*

**INVESTMENTS**



# THREE DISCOVERIES FOR MIRAMAR RESOURCES LIMITED (ASX: M2R) AT GIDJI, BANGERMALL & WHALESHARK

◆ Allan Kelly, Executive Chair of Miramar Resources Limited (ASX: M2R) reveals the company's three main focus points in their project portfolio.

**Miramar Resources Limited has exciting explorations going on, and every inch of exploration is unravelling positive discoveries.**

Allan Kelly has useful insights for investors about how they should look at projects. This is going to be helpful for investors to learn how to discern and sift out companies with a story that has value. Mr. Kelly also explains how companies really do mineral exploration.

And to do that, he brings news about the three crown jewels in the Miramar's project portfolio - the Gidji, Mt Vernon at Bangermall and Whaleshark.

Miramar is looking at exciting times in their company's history as every exploration is revealing more of how much these jewels are shining.



➔ Allan Kelly, Executive Chair of Miramar Resources Limited (ASX: M2R) reveals the company's three main focus points in their project portfolio. ....

## 1. Gidji

For Gidji, its consistent drilling results are showing signs, slowly but surely, of becoming a valued proposition. For Mr. Kelly, this could well be a new mineral camp sitting between Kalgoorlie and Paddington with a vast array of geological formations and mineralising tectonic settings.

### Eastern Goldfields Projects

## 2. Bangemall

The Mt Vernon project in the Bangemall is creating a lot of opportunities and the company now has new targets being generated which they will interpret and start more surveys to vector drill targets.

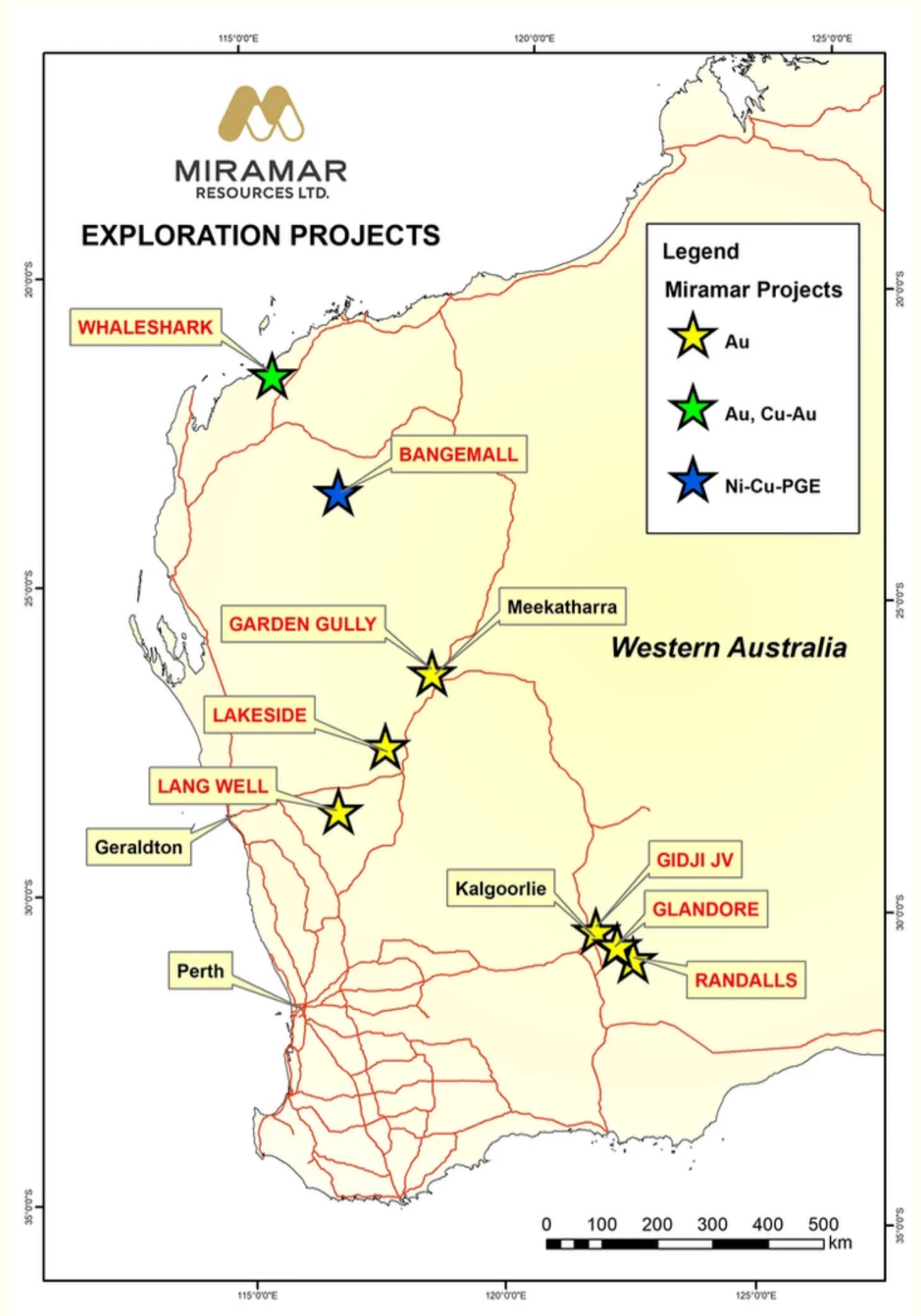
## 3. Whaleshark

This is the company's third major project that looks set to reveal even more secrets with time.

## About Miramar Resources Limited (ASX:M2R)

Miramar Resources Limited is a Western Australian focused mineral exploration company with projects in the Eastern Goldfields, the Murchison and Gascoyne regions. The portfolio of exploration projects has high potential for new gold discoveries within trucking distance of existing operations and for the discovery of nickel-copper-platinum group element (PGE) mineralisation.

Miramar aims to create shareholder value through discovery and the Board has a proven track record of successful discovery, development and production.



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# GREEN HYDROGEN IS SET TO CHANGE THE WORLD

◆ A Samsø Insight on the Investigation of Green Hydrogen by Melissa Buckley



All you've ever wanted to know about this energy source, but never thought to ask is in this power-packed ebook from Melissa Buckley, one of our Samsø Insights Contributors.

## Green Hydrogen = World Changing

Big things have humble beginnings, and Melissa originally started out writing about green hydrogen as a blog post.

With her research and her enthusiasm, her inquiry into green hydrogen grew and it became clear this was getting more exciting and we decided to share it as an ebook.

There is no denying that green hydrogen is an exciting, emerging technology. There is much we can learn about it, and it is looking like it has the potential to change our world forever.

Download our ebook on Green Hydrogen: An Investigation to get an overview of:

- What green hydrogen is
- Australian interests
- Countries in exploratory phases
- The technology behind it
- Costs and parameters
- Future usage

It has all the essential information to help your decision making for successful wealth creation today.

## The Author

Melissa Buckley is a second year Edith Cowan University student studying Marketing, Public Relations and Advertising.

She has a background in social media content creation and management and in her previous career supplied administrative support to the not-for-profit sector and private enterprise.

Melissa also has a lifelong love of collecting minerals/crystals.



# Green Hydrogen An Investigation

[Download Ebook](#)



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*Brilliant*  
**SPORTS**



# SEE THE WORLD FROM A WHOLE NEW LEVEL AND EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF SKYDIVING

◆ Whether it's your first time, you're an experienced adrenaline-junkie or skydive on a regular basis, skydiving definitely gets the heart pumping.



**P**arachuting or skydiving can be performed as a recreational activity or a competitive sport and is also widely considered an extreme sport due to the risks involved.

Imagine the feeling of free-falling from incredible heights before the parachute opens and you float your way back down to earth. The rush you'll experience as you travel up to

200km/hr free falling for 60 seconds will be a feeling you remember for years to come.

If it's your first time, you may be feeling a little nervous and scared but that's completely normal. Once your parachute opens and you enjoy the 5-7 minute float to the ground, your fears will drift away as you take in the view from above.

## What Should You Know Before Going Skydiving?

Whether you've never skydived before or you consider yourself a pro, there are a few important things you need to remember including that there are certain weight restrictions and guidelines in place.



The maximum weight for a skydiver is 110kg. There are also age restrictions for skydiving - the minimum age is 14, however if you are looking for something for those under that age, you can indoor skydive from three years upwards.

It's also important to note what you should wear on the day. It is recommended to wear comfortable and loose clothing (taking into account the weather on the day) as well as wearing sensible closed shoes. These need to be secure to save them flying off during the dive. It's a good idea to leave any valuables on the ground so they don't fall off during the jump!

## Is It Safe to Skydive?

How safe is skydiving? Skydiving isn't without risk, but is much safer than you might think. According to statistics by the United States Parachute Association, in 2018 there were a total of 13 skydiving-related fatalities out of approximately 3.3 million jumps!

## Why Do People Skydive?

People choose to skydive for many different reasons. Skydiving is visually stunning. Flying in formation with friends, the plane disappearing above you, the thrill of the parachute ride, the smile that just stepping out of a plane puts across your face - all are reasons to skydive.

## What Are the Benefits of Skydiving?

The good chemicals we create such as adrenaline, serotonin, and dopamine are driven to action by skydiving which can have both immediate and lasting effects. The various internal chemistry stimulated by freefall can help with things like sleep and digestion, but also aid depression and improve general mental health.

The most prominent effect of skydiving on the brain is the release of the neurotransmitter dopamine. Dopamine is most closely tied to feelings of pleasure and the brain's reward system. After a skydive, the flood of this 'feel good' neurotransmitter can produce feelings of euphoria.



**Skydive Port Macquarie,**  
Photo credit: SPMQ Smorgasbord : Highlight Reel



Photo Credit: Chrissy Jones



Photo Credit: Chrissy Jones



Photo Credit: Chrissy Jones

## Are Skydivers Crazy?

We interviewed several skydivers. Listen to their stories.

Most people would agree, skydiving isn't something you do everyday. But while skydiving is an extreme sport and it does get your adrenaline pumping, it's not a crazy thing to do.

Skydivers aren't crazy! They are sensible, calculated people who know exactly what they're doing and do it with total precision.

## Why Do People Crave To Skydive?

There's an endless amount of reasons as to why someone would choose to jump out of a perfectly good airplane. Is it mostly for the freedom or for the thrill? Is it to find a sense of belonging with a small community filled with people like them? Or can it be used as a form of therapy, to clear the mind and create positive emotions? There are so many reasons why people want to skydive!

Why people skydive often depends on how frequently people skydive. Most first time tandem skydivers are looking for a once in a lifetime experience and choose to make their skydive for the thrill of it. They want to cross an item off of that proverbial bucket list.

Experienced skydivers, people who participate in this sport and make hundreds of skydives a year, have found a way to turn this sport into a lifestyle. They tend to seek out this crazy sport of skydiving because of the community, confidence and therapy it provides. It's fun!

## History of Skydiving (Parachuting)

After Louis-Sébastien Lenormand demonstrated a rigid-frame parachute for the first time in 1783, the first high-altitude parachute jump in history was made by André-Jacques Garnerin, the inventor of the frameless parachute, on 22 October, 1797.

Garnerin tested his contraption by leaping from a hydrogen balloon 980 metres above Paris. Garnerin's parachute bore little resemblance to today's parachutes, as it was not packed into any sort of container and didn't feature a ripcord.

The first intentional free-fall jump with a ripcord-operated deployment was not made until over a century later by Leslie Irvin in 1919. While Georgia Broadwick made an earlier free-fall in 1914 when her static line became entangled with her jump aircraft's tail assembly, her free-fall descent was not planned. Broadwick cut her static line and deployed her parachute manually, only as a means of freeing herself from the aircraft to which she had become entangled.

The military developed parachuting as a way to save aircrew from emergencies aboard balloons and aircraft in flight, and later, as a way of delivering soldiers to the battlefield.

Competitions date back to the 1930s, and it became an international sport in 1952.

In World War II, thousands of combatants across the globe experienced exiting an aircraft and parachuting to the ground, either as a paratrooper dropped into combat or as flight crew escaping a crippled aircraft. Some servicemen discovered that it was enjoyable, and after the war ended kept jumping.

The National Parachute Jumpers and Riggers was born in 1947. This group would later become the Parachute Club of America and finally its current iteration: the USPA (United States Parachute Association). Parachuting as a sport had begun to go global.

In the 1970s, sports skydiving became very popular thanks to a quick-release system of the main parachute based on the three rings or rings, designed by engineer Bill Booth, that allowed anyone to use it - the 'High Performance' canopy.

In 2021 a supersonic parachute was deployed to land a payload on Mars.

Video: Watch Singapore Armed Forces Basic Airborne training



Photo Credit: Chrissy Jones



Photo Credit: Chrissy Jones

# MEET MATT BOAG, PROFESSIONAL SKYDIVE INSTRUCTOR

◆ Hailing from the Gold Coast, Queensland, for the past 13 years, Matt Boag has around 2,500 skydives under his belt to date.



→ Matt Boag, Skydiving/Wind Tunnel Coach



“I went tandem as you do for your first jump at a drop zone just like this. I told the guy when I was under the parachute with him 'man, I'm gonna do this forever.' He kind of laughed at me.”

- **Matt Boag, Professional Skydive Instructor**

**W**e chatted with Matt at the Skydive event held at Port Macquarie Airport. Although the skydivers present are mostly highly experienced, he was present to teach others how to improve their skill.

That's his day job. He is a skydive instructor, but this is the first event he has been at that uses a helicopter. He told us that not many skydiving operations get the luxury of having a helicopter at their disposal.

“A very cool thing to do, to be able to jump out of something that's not moving at all, it's kind of like getting into that dead end feeling. As opposed to an airplane, you're instantly hit by a bunch of wind whereas the helicopters are super quiet.”

Matt also works inside vertical wind tunnels. He has about 6,000 hours of tunnel time. Number one advantage of the wind tunnel is the safety side of things.


 The logo for 'brilliant ONLINE' features the word 'brilliant' in a stylized, lowercase font with a yellow star above the 'i'. The word 'ONLINE' is in a smaller, uppercase font below it. The entire logo is set against a black background with a yellow circular graphic element behind the text.


## Introducing Matt Boag

### Professional Skydive Instructor

#### ➔ Meet Matt Boag

The maximum weight for a skydiver is 110kg. There are also age restrictions for skydiving with a minimum age of 14. However, if you are looking for something for those under that age, you can indoor skydive from three years upwards.

### Three Important Things

A part of the skydive community for many years, Matt says safety is the number one priority and most important thing, although number two is having fun. His number three reason for his love of the sport is the teaching side. He believes even if you have an enormous amount of skill you can always learn something new.

"You never really finish learning when skydiving, no matter how good you get there's always something new to learn," he said "There's always something new to try, and we keep everyone safe, the number one priority."

Matt is a specialist free flyer. The discipline is an upside down style of flying. Called "Pre-flight", some say it is more difficult, but it's the most popular.

### Your First Jump...

"I went tandem as you do for your first jump at a drop zone just like this," Matt said. "I told the guy when I was under the parachute with him 'man, I'm gonna do this forever.' He kind of laughed at me."

He needn't have laughed though as Matt proceeded to obtain his licence and then had fun skydiving for two years while gaining plenty of experience. He then went for a job in wind tunnels and then started to travel around and go to events instructing.

# JUMP, EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF FREE FALLING FROM 10,000 FEET

◆ What a Fabulous Event Held at Skydive Port Macquarie Across the Last Weekend in January 2022!



One hundred parachuters were jumping from two different aircraft - a Caravan aeroplane and a helicopter from Affinity aviation.

All experienced skydivers, but for some, it was their very first skydive from a helicopter.

Ten thousand feet up, hanging from a helicopter, then free fall and take in the scenery! The general consensus was, "WOW! LET'S GO UP AGAIN! THAT WAS SO COOL!"

Brilliant-online joined in, albeit from the sidelines, chatted with some of the thrill seekers who all expressed their absolute passion for the exhilarating sport and turned our eyes to the sky to witness the spectacle in the sky over Port Macquarie.

Jumpers came from all over - Sydney, Brisbane and regional NSW, ranging in age from late teens to early 60's, male and female and we even spied a gorilla!

All skydivers who participated, the teams from Skydive Port Macquarie and Affinity Aviation and spectators are all to be congratulated for such a fantastic event.

We spoke with some of the skydivers whilst they were on the ground!

## Eduardo Fogaca, 200th Skydive at Port Macquarie

Eduardo Fogaca added a page to his skydive resume by completing his 200th jump over the beautiful region of Port Macquarie.

Born in Brazil, he now lives in Sydney and is an avid skydiver. Not only was it his 200th jump, but it was his first from a helicopter. "The helicopter was pretty fun, a different experience," he said.

"The freefall is different. It's very good because you don't feel the pressure from the air. You feel like you are falling and the air is not holding you up."

Eduardo was in a group of seven people all jumping at the same time. The helicopter hovers, the skydivers take their positions, this particular time hanging by their legs from the helicopter feet, heads down!

The group did a formation jump, forming a star. "It was pretty fun," said Eduardo. "Hanging from the legs of the helicopter by our legs. Looking down at the beautiful beaches and letting the helicopter go. Up 10,000 feet. Very cool."

He skydives with a group of friends from his home in Picton. They all know each other and are basically at the same experience level. Because of this they are confident that they will make the formation.

"I just love skydiving, the feeling is amazing."

Eduardo told us it's all about having fun. "No pressure, just have fun, enjoy," he said.



## Introducing Eduardo Fogaca

Skydiver completing his 200th Skydive at Port Macquarie

### ➤ Meet Eduardo Fogaca

Every skydiver has to start, do their first jump. You're always learning, he told us.

"Events like this are great. The experienced trainers help us, they explain what we need to do better. We can see the videos of our jumps and see how it's progressing. The instructors really help, so it's good. It's worth it. Life is good."

### Michael Keddie: Just Because of the Helicopters

Michael Keddie travelled from the Central Coast to attend the Port SkyDive weekend. He says skydiving is good fun having been involved for a little over a year.

Asked why he likes the sport he said, "I am a bit of a rookie. Usually I jump with

friends but sometimes that doesn't work out. I was nervous of course the first time but once you get your head around it it becomes fun."

Having jumped from helicopters before, Michael didn't want to miss the opportunity and came to the event especially for the helicopter jumps. He told us, "When you jump from the helicopter the air is still, it's a different feeling, you lose your stomach!"



For Scenic Flights, Tours and VIP Charters, contact Affinity Aviation [affinityaviation.com.au](http://affinityaviation.com.au) +61 423 548 938

# BEIJING WINS AN OLYMPIC GOLD FOR CONTROVERSY

## ◆ Winter Olympics 2022

In a year with some heavyweight sporting events lighting up the calendar, it doesn't get much bigger than the Winter Olympics. It is an occasion when somewhat lesser known sports such as the Skeleton, Skijoring, Sled Dog Racing, Bandy and Ski Ballet all get their day in the sun (or should that be snow?!).

However, sadly the build-up to the 2022 Winter Olympics has seen very little coverage afforded to the actual sporting action and major off-field controversy has dominated the headlines.

Beijing hosts the Games from Feb 4-20, with the Winter Paralympics taking place between March 4-13. In doing so, it becomes the first city to hold both the Winter and Summer Olympics, having successfully hosted the latter in 2008.

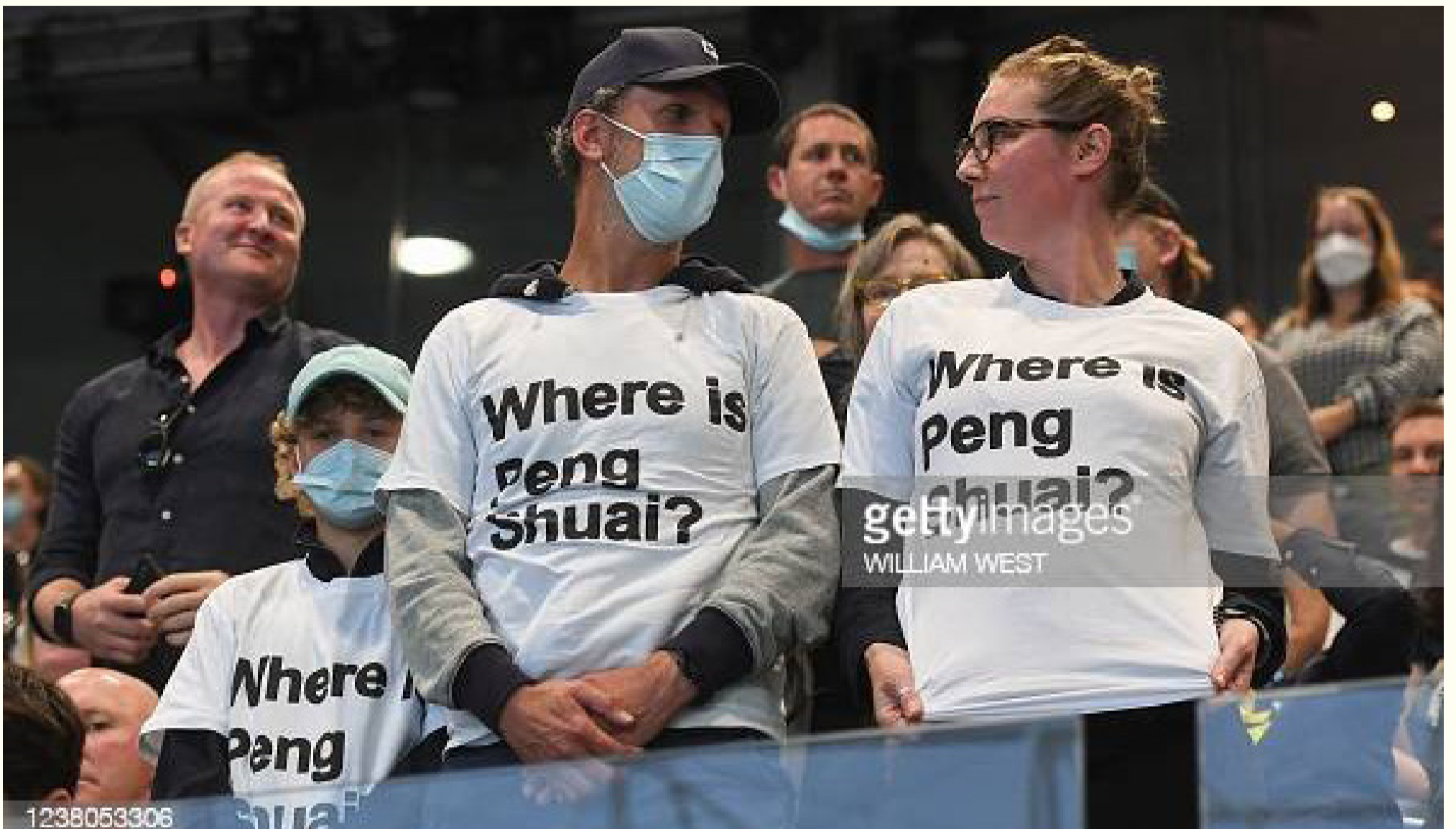
When China won the bid and then hosted the 2008 Summer Olympic Games it was heralded as a new dawn where the emerging super power would excel and show its sporting prowess on the global stage.

Fast forward 14 years, however, to a country now under the rule of Xi Jinping and the landscape and sentiment are light years away from the positivity leading up to the 2008 Games.

Like everything else, China's authorities are trying to control all facets of the Games and regard the occasion as an opportunity to project a strong image to the rest of the world. This might work internally where residents of the country have little or no choice as to what narrative they are fed but globally few are buying it, as a myriad of controversies attest to.







Spectators wearing "Where is Peng Shuai?" T-shirts, referring to the former doubles world number one from China, are pictured in the stands during the women's singles final match between Australia's Ashleigh Barty and Danielle Collins of the US on day thirteen of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on January 29, 2022.

(Photo by WILLIAM WEST/AFP via Getty Images)

It comes as no great surprise that COVID-19 is the major issue complicating affairs and one cannot fail to acknowledge the irony that it is the country that gave the virus to the world that is now being stymied by it. Some call it karma, others call it the inevitable consequence of negligent policies and the pertinacious approach to a zero-COVID stance ever since – China doesn't want the disease that broke in Wuhan over two years ago to cloud its delivery of the sports spectacular or sully its overall image but that is something nigh on impossible to attain.

Other issues of note that have stoked the controversy in the build-up include charges of human rights abuse, specifically in reference to the Uyghur Muslim community in Xinjiang where critics claim China is committing ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity.

Continual aggressive posturing in the South China Sea has resulted in fierce territorial disputes as China completely ignores UN law. Hong

Kong is falling from its perch as a booming and welcoming international finance and business hub to just another state controlled Chinese city.

Tibet has fallen victim to Chinese bullying for years and it appears only a matter of time before something serious happens with Taiwan.

Recently, the case with Chinese tennis player Peng Shuai has raised concerns as to citizens' safety, freedom and the state's stance on allegations of sexual abuse. There are also major worries around China's vast array of surveillance tools and privacy with foreign athletes advised to leave personal phones and laptops at home during the Games.

Several nations have employed a political boycott in response to the issues above and more, with the likes of the USA, UK, Australia, Canada and Japan refusing to send any government officials to the event.

Political tensions aside, the fact there is insufficient snow in the Chinese capital and this Games is the first ever

to rely wholly on the artificial variety seems symbolic as to the importance China places on image as opposed to truth and substance.

Whereas the occasion should be a celebration of sport and example of heroic achievement, nobody seems to be really focused on that and it is a great shame that it is the off-field drama and controversy that has taken centre stage.

The Games will take on an eerie, bleak futuristic guise as all 60,000 participants will be restricted to an impenetrable giant bubble stretching nearly 200 kilometres that has been established in the capital, with daily tests, 21-day quarantines and nobody permitted to leave.

It sounds grim although, ultimately, maybe this is just emblematic of the crazy times we are currently living in?

[Read The Full Story](#)





*Brilliant*  
**COMMUNITY**



# GIVE IT A GO, ENTER THE SHOW..

◆ Daniel 'Chook' Fowler, Greenbourne Nursery gives us some tips on garden shows

**A**s we now in 2022 begin to assume normality, we will charge on responsibly and encourage our re-engagement with what we have done year after year, for many generations prior to ours. All I ask is to please be responsible and protect all of those around you and trust our health care response as we begin to re-engage with our normality.

So, with that normality, we will see the return of all those lovely fairs, markets and shows. These are the events many communities have been desperate to get back into as they bring happiness to all that are involved with them.

You can simply attend these events as paying customers coming through the turn-styles ready to enjoy a day and evening of fun or if you would like to add that extra element to the experience you could enter one of the

many competitions that are run over the duration of the event.

In particular for us avid gardeners, please do consider entering a horticultural competition, trust me you will love it. You will meet like-minded people and become addicted to the thrill of the competition. Read on as I share some of my experiences, give you some tips and explain the process.

## It really all began with Mum

When I was young, I was fortunate to have a family around me that had various horticultural interests. My Nan loved native rock gardens. Grandma loved spring colour all through her gardens and Mum was always trying anything in the garden.

She would trial different plants she found at the local nursery, as well

as organising and planning various garden beds. Mum provided us with chickens in an urban environment and always allowed us to take ownership of a garden bed and plant seed or plants we had found at our neighbours, weekend markets or local nurseries.

This great upbringing of plants, soil, fertiliser and of course garden confidence, began to rub off on me. In my early years of life away from the homestead I was always vegetable gardening with housemates and creating green environments wherever we could. Sometimes we would re-use large water tubs and replant them with veggies on the veranda or even plant herbs in used beer cans. My friends, while young and 'hip' really took to the process and helped accelerate my interest in the amazing phenomenon of horticulture.



## Champion by complete chance

After living many adventurous years with my amazing friends in various properties and units, where we trialled different fruit and vegetable growing techniques, I eventually ran into the love of my life and began settling down.

The property we initially rented together had a concrete backyard and a small grassed area out the front, things had to change. And they did, we immediately set up raised planter beds in the concrete area and tore up all the grass in the small front yard and turned it into a complete vegetable oasis.

The thing about a good vegetable garden is to visually bypass all the minor inconsistencies and enjoy the variety, the daily growth and the current and imminent harvest. Patience is learned via many disciplines, gardening is one of the most rewarding ways to do so.

I obtained through a friend some trombone zucchini seeds. Once planted they went crazy. It was a very aggressive type of rambling zucchini. I allowed it to do its thing and grow along a sloped embankment in front of the property. The emerging fruit did exactly what the name suggested, they would spiral around and resemble a trombone trumpet when they were on the ground.

However, to my surprise a part of the vine had 'escaped' and grown into a neighbour's overhanging tree. The fruit that formed in this position had gravity to assist it. It did not curl over itself like it would on the ground, it stretched out and grew, and grew and grew straight. I recall watching it and being amazed not only at its size but the strength of the vine to hold it. It eventually got approximately 170cm long, was firm, fresh and strong. When it changed colour slightly I picked it and took it into the nursery I was working with at the time to show the other staff (it was the iconic Engall's Nursery, opposite Swane's Nursery in Dural).

The nursery was fortunate to have industry legends working there at the time. As a young rookie, I took the vegetable in and was greeted with great surprise. "This is a season winner", "haven't seen this for years", were examples of comments I was greeted with by some of the elders at Engall's nursery. Little to my knowledge at the time, Engall's nursery had a long affiliation with the historic 'Castle Hill Show' which had been running for numerous decades. "You need to store this correctly and enter it in the show asap, this is special," I was told.

And so, my initiation into a show demonstrating produce began. I won by 80cms, the nearest was a long crop of silverbeet. The judge who awarded me the ribbon on collection of the vegetable stated that he thought it was the longest current vegetable in demonstrating show produce this season, he advised me to store it well and dominate the show season. At the time I was too hung over with the feeling of victory to take him seriously. I was young and didn't have the appropriate finances to hit the open road and chase the show season. Unfortunately, I retired the vegetable immediately and let it become compost, but what could have been!



## An easy process with many categories

Most of the show societies produce entry forms many months prior to the main event. In the old days you would pick up an entry form from the club secretary and return it once completed. Some organisations ask for a small administration fee, some don't, it is more of a donation really.

Obviously, these days a lot of the forms are online and you can enter and pay this way. If ever in doubt just make contact with the appropriate show secretaries who are incredibly organised and helpful. I personally entered a lot of the fruit and vegetable categories over the years. There are so many categories for fruit and vegetables at these shows, however they cater for all things horticulture.

Numerous flower display competitions, bonsai, potted plants, indoor plants and even grain exhibits, just to name a few. I promise you that you will find a category that suits your gardening interests.

## Tips and hints for vegetable competitions

I thought that I would take the following information to the grave. Once you get into the heat of competition you hold your cards very close to your chest, but I have personally grown, relaxed and won a lot, so am now ready to share a few methods.

## Always harvest as late as possible.

One of the main attributes the judges will score on is freshness. Freshness accounts a lot for the appearance of a vegetable or fruit.

The classic case is that of a lettuce, when displaying your lettuce it is normally with its full root system, placed into a glass vessel with water. If you have picked it the night prior it will already have begun to wilt. The Sydney royal easter show would have a set time of 8am to have all produce on display. On show day I was always in the garden early, picking the produce before sunrise with a headlight on my brow, ready to make the mad dash to Homebush.

Over the years I even developed a method of growing my leafy greens in foam boxes that I would fit into the car, this way I didn't have to pick until I was in the carpark. Some of those greens weren't picked until 7:45am and they usually did very well in the competition. My only mistake was to allow rivals to see me doing this - next year there were more foam boxes at Homebush than at the Flemington Sunday fruit markets.

## Grow numerous crops and stagger their plantings.

This method allows you to account for seasonal variations that may either ripen your fruit too early or late. With these numerous crops

dot them around different places in your garden to disrupt pest and disease issues.

## On display day take in a kit of various preparation items.

Scissors, cleaning cloth, water and washing tub. These items will allow you to work out of your car to prep your items at the last minute to gain that extra level of perfection.

## So do some research and find your local show.

Get involved. Start with what you do best and then push your boundaries by trying more and more events each year. The displays always take on more interest when there are more entrants involved.

Your local nursery like Greenbourne nursery in Wauchope will always be able to get you started with seedlings, natives, roses, indoor plants, etc. They have the fertilisers and pest control to help you produce that show winning item.

Hopefully I have inspired you to give it a go - you will have a ball, I promise. When entering, let all your family and friends know and encourage them to either participate or get out and support your items.

Thanks for reading! See you in the nursery for some advice (more secret tips) or just for a friendly chat.

Happy Gardening, Daniel "Chook" Fowler

Proud Sponsor of Wauchop Lasiandra Festival



## For All Your Gardening Needs

**Greenbourne Nursery, Wauchope  
Plants and Landscape Supplies**

a/ 239 High St, Wauchope NSW 2446

p/ +612 6585 2117

w/ [greenbournenurserywauchope.com.au](http://greenbournenurserywauchope.com.au)

f/ [www.facebook.com/midcoast.com.au](http://www.facebook.com/midcoast.com.au)

# NEW ART GALLERY AND BUSINESS HUB COMES TO WAUCHOPE

◆ The Wauchope Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc have launched a new Art Gallery and Business Hub space, the Opening Exhibition “Reflections of the Hinterland”.



The exhibited works represent over twenty artists from the Hastings region. The opening words included a welcome by Chamber President Gary Rainbow and Member for Oxley, The Hon Melinda Pavey MP. A representative from Destination NSW, Jacqui Greaves, was also present. The evening was well attended with a good cross-section of community members.

The Exhibition will remain in place until Friday 4th March, 2022. The Gallery is currently open Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9:30 am till 2:30 pm.

The multi-use space located at 62 Cameron St Wauchope is a Local Economic Recovery project named “Hastings Business Stimulus Project”. It is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and the New South Wales Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

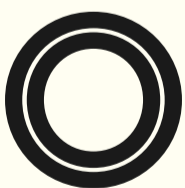
“The Hastings Business Stimulus Project is made up of three components that work together to stimulate economic growth, innovation and resilience. The components are the Industry Incubator Series, an Art Gallery, and Event Support,” said Lisa McPherson, Wauchope Chamber Project Officer.

The Business Incubator Program is open to new and existing businesses from the Hastings region across Manufacturing, Agribusiness, Creative Industries and Tourism. The FREE program will operate one night a week over six weeks and includes workshops, peer sessions and six mentoring sessions. Participants will explore five key business topics including Finance, Marketing, People & culture, Risk & Resilience, and Innovation. The program starts Wednesday 16th February.



# “LIV BY THE SEA”: A BRAND NEW ADDITION TO WAUCHOPE CREATIVE HUB

◆ Meet Olivia Allen - an artist creating coastal inspired homewares



Olivia is the designer and creator of Liv By The Sea, a line of individually handcrafted, beach themed resin products.

Having lived in the Port Macquarie/Hastings area all of her life she has a love of creativity in all forms. She combines this creative side with her love for our beautiful beaches. This is what has inspired "Liv By The Sea".

She spends any spare time she has wandering the local coastline, absorbing and being in awe of the stunning colours in the water, the textures in the sand and rocks, the ebb and flow of the rockpools along with the myriad of treasures and interesting creatures to be seen.

Predominately a self-taught artist, taking in knowledge from classes and work colleagues over the years,

her range is designed to capture the beauty of the Port Macquarie shorelines.

## Now on Display at WCH

Olivia's unique homewares create a talking point and bring the sense of calm that comes from a visit to the beach into your home or office.

She told us, "It is my hope that my products will allow customers a moment of mindfulness and trigger happy memories of being relaxed, having fun and being in nature."

The beach is Olivia's go to for relaxation and inspiration. She has the mantra that no matter where you are from, it is nice to have a piece of the beach in your home.



# WAUCHOPE CREATIVE HUB LAUNCHES CREATIVE KIDS WORKSHOPS

## ◆ Back to school children's creative workshops

**P**erfect for kids age 10 and up, the kick off class is fun and environmentally friendly - the Marvellous Recycled Rag Doll workshop will have kids designing and creating their very own unique soft toy character.

Making things out of items that are being discarded is a great way to be creative and also Eco-friendly.

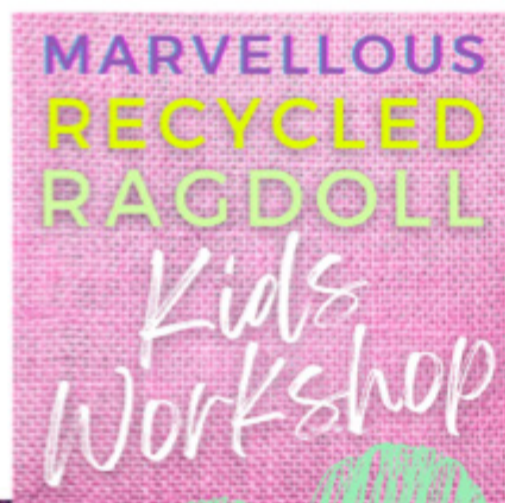
It is perfect if you have a piece of clothing that is outgrown but still holds some sentimental value. The materials could come from home, fabric remnants or op shops," says workshop coordinator Chris Pearce.

These two hour classes are glue, paint and chemical free and save some beautiful textiles from landfill!

Wauchope Creative Hub is committed to advancing local creative people and protecting our environment.

Bookings for kids workshops are selling fast. For more details and tickets:

**WCH Kids Workshops**



A 2 HOUR CREATIVE CLASS  
PERFECT FOR ARTISTIC KIDS  
MINIMUM AGE 10 AND UP,  
DESIGN & MAKE A UNIQUE  
FABRIC DOLL TO TAKE HOME,  
NO GLUE, NO PAINT, NO MESS,  
HANDS ON CREATIVITY  
EXPANDS YOUNG MINDS :-)

**SAT 12TH FEBRUARY**  
2PM TILL 4PM  
AGES 10 & UP: TICKETS \$40  
ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED  
PLACES ARE VERY LIMITED  
BOOK ONLINE AT EVENTBRITE

WAUCHOPE CREATIVE HUB  
87 CAMERON ST WAUCHOPE

*We love hand made*



# BONZA AIRLINES SET TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO MELBOURNE AND SUNSHINE COAST FROM PORT MACQUARIE

◆ Port Macquarie Airport has been named on Bonza's inaugural route map in the largest launch announcement in Australia's aviation history



**B**onza, Australia's only independent low-cost carrier, together with Port Macquarie-Hastings Council have announced a historic partnership that will see four new weekly flights from Port Macquarie Airport on two new routes.

The news is part of the largest announcement in Australia's aviation history as Bonza reveals its inaugural route map, airport bases, head office location and all-digital approach.

From mid 2022, subject to regulatory approval, Bonza will operate twice weekly from Port Macquarie to both the Sunshine Coast and Melbourne, routes are new and currently unserved.

Port Macquarie Airport is owned and operated by Port Macquarie-Hastings Council. Mayor Peta Pinson said the launch of a new low-cost airline carrier in Bonza would add significant value to Port Macquarie's booming business and tourism markets.

## From the Mayor, Cr Pinson

"We welcome the announcement by Bonza to launch its new routes to both the Sunshine Coast and Melbourne from Port Macquarie, that will help service the growing demand for air travel between Queensland, Victoria and the NSW mid-north coast," Cr Pinson said.

“Bonza’s move to offer this low-cost airline service illustrates significant confidence in our growing region and our booming tourism and business markets. It also shows renewed faith in the re-emergence of regional airline travel following the COVID-19 pandemic. With our region’s population set to double by 2040, we’ve been busy planning for the future with the construction of suitable airport infrastructure to accommodate for this rapid growth,” Mayor Pinson said.

“Our long term planning and vision for the Port Macquarie Hastings as a vibrant regional city, has seen us invest in major upgrades to our airport’s runway and terminal building facility to cater for growth in new airline markets. The new Bonza services to the Sunshine

Coast and Melbourne will enhance and complement the range of airline routes and flights already available at Port Macquarie Airport, which include direct services to Sydney, Brisbane, Canberra and Lord Howe Island.

“We look forward to welcoming Bonza and forging a strong and successful partnership with them into the future.”

## From the CEO of Bonza, Tim Jordan

In October last year, Bonza announced it was taking to Australian skies and promised not to fly the golden triangle between Australia’s three largest cities. Now, they are delivering on that promise by giving more choice to people living in regional areas, SA.

“With two new routes directly in and out of Port Macquarie Airport, we will be delivering on our promise to give Aussies more options for leisure travel. Not only will the flights open up new markets for the region’s tourism industry, locals will have the opportunity to explore their own backyard with ultra-low fares,” said Tim.

## All Digital Approach

He also shared Bonza’s decision to go paperless with the launch of its own app saying its commitment to technology is part of a broader focus on customer experience and sustainability:

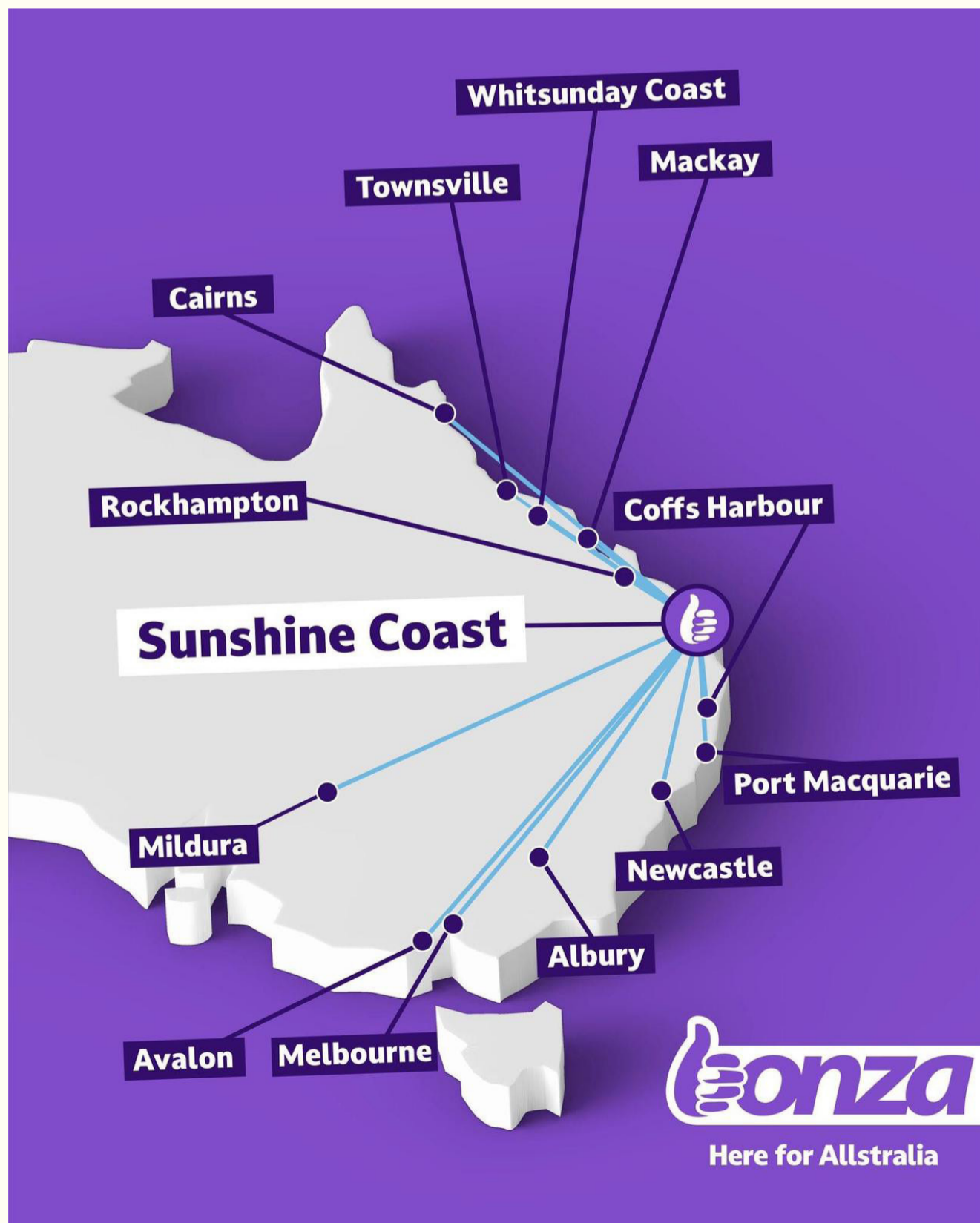
“We encourage everyone to download the new app to be the first in the know for flights going on sale, fare sales, destination news and travel tips. We’re also offering, via the app, the chance to win flights”.

Once all functions are added to the app in the coming weeks, it will be where Aussies can plan, book and manage their bookings. It’ll also be where travellers can check in and access their boarding passes - eliminating the need for paper passes at the airport. Once onboard, the retail offering, travel information and much more will be available exclusively through the app.

Australians are encouraged to download the app “Fly Bonza” on the Apple App Store or Google Play now and keep an eye out for updates as new functions are added. Flights are due to go on sale within the next eight weeks, pending regulatory approval.

Bonza - Australia’s new, and only independent low-cost airline takes off in the second quarter of 2022\*, enabling Australians to explore more of their own backyard, and at low-cost prices.

Bonza’s destinations will be announced in the coming months and will be primarily focused on stimulating new demand for travel across Australia. \*Subject to regulatory approval.





Join us on the 10th of March for Purple  
People Shopping Day





*Brilliant*

**WAUCHOPE  
LASIANDRA FESTIVAL**



# CRAZY FOR PURPLE. THE 38TH ANNUAL WAUCHOPE LASIANDRA FESTIVAL IN MARCH

◆ Wauchope is set to burst into a sea of purple for the 38th annual Wauchope Lasiandra Festival in March

**A** wide array of community events will be held across the entire month of March in Wauchope, NSW Australia. We are Crazy for Purple!

Events not to be missed include the Family Fun Day at the Yippen Creek Mini Railway on Saturday March 12 and the Purple Park Run at Rocks Ferry Reserve, a Bike Night hosted by Motorcycle Friendly Wauchope on Friday March 4 in Bain Park from 5:00pm, plus a new event put together by the talented artists at Wauchope Creative hub, a Purple Inspired Art Exhibition. Sponsored by Brilliant-online and the Hastings Co-operative, this will be a must see, and being held across the entire month, you have plenty of opportunity to drop by.





## Mark Your Calendar - Purple People Shopping Day

Thursday March 10 will see the Wauchope CBD a hive of activity. Art and Craft market stalls will be dotted about the town centre and there will be Purple People Day specials from participating shops.

Dress in your purple best and join in the fun. We can't wait to see all the crazy costumes on show!

The Lasiandra Festival Committee encourages all business owners to get into the purple theme by decorating their shop windows and premises AND dressing up your staff! Prizes will be on offer for the Purple Best.



## Thank You Festival Sponsors and Supporters

Wauchope Lasiandra Committee would like to thank the 2022 Festival Sponsors: Brilliant-Online, Hastings Co-operative, Wauchope Travel, Wauchope Rural Centre, Greenbourne Nursery, Building Energy Advisory, Harcourts, IPN Valuers, Rosewood Environmental Services, TG's Child Care, Hilberts Hardware, Wauchope Charcoal Chickenland, Al's BAKEHOUSE, Lewie's Quality Butchery and Wauchope RSL Club.

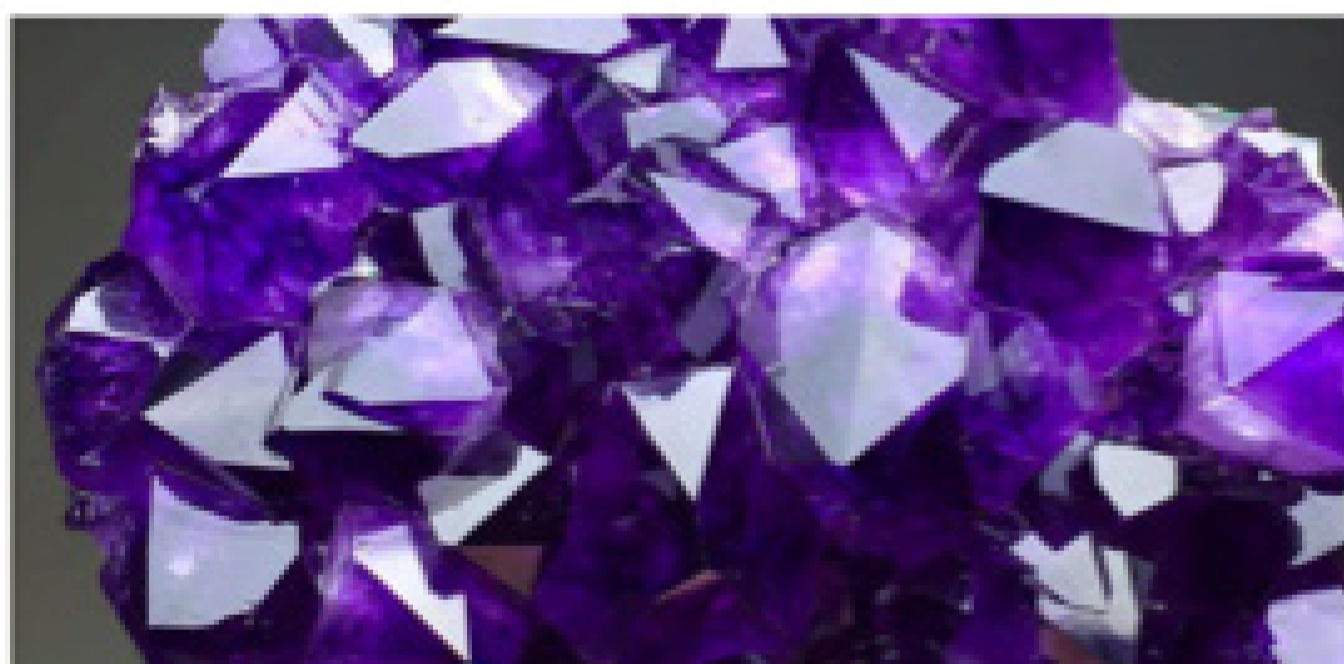
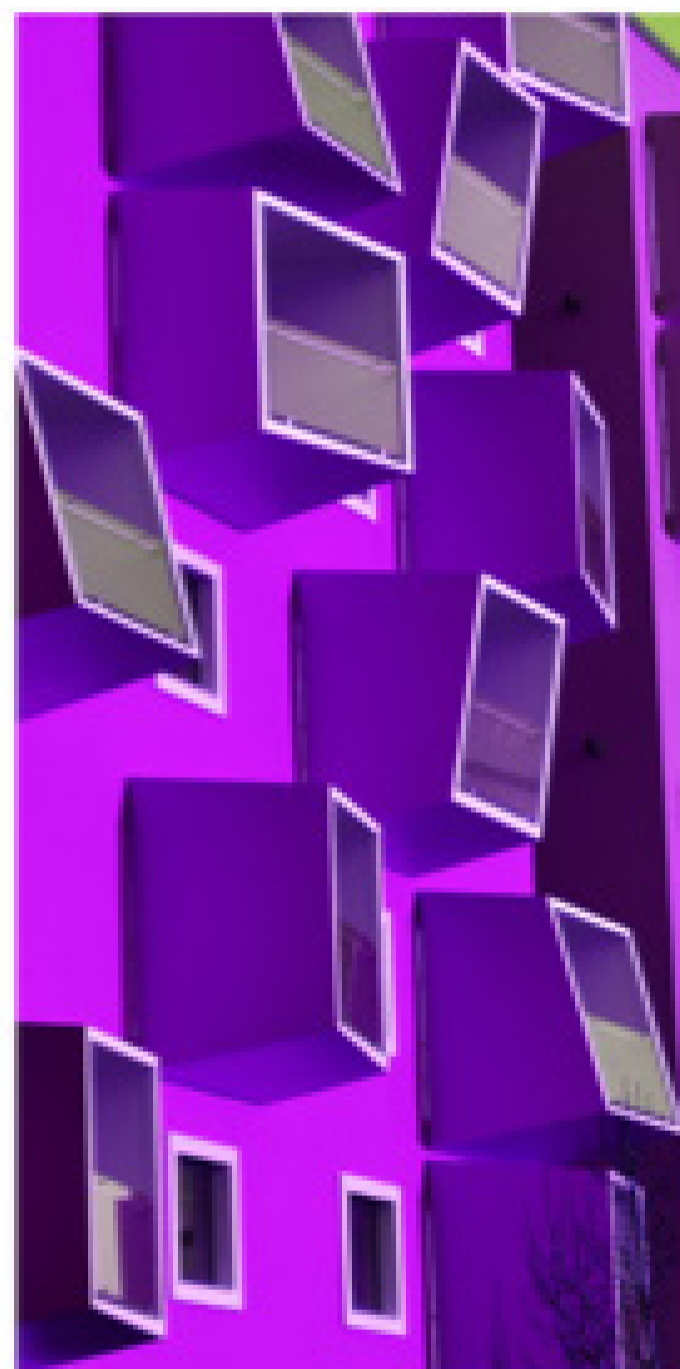
A big thank you is also extended to the community as a whole. Let's all make the 2022 Wauchope Lasiandra Festival a wonderful community event - join in, take part in an event, dress up, but most of all have fun!



Proud sponsors of Wauchope Lasiandra Festival

**Moodee & Sass** Candles . melts . gifts . clothing . paint @ [moodeeandsass.com](http://moodeeandsass.com)





# WAUCHOPE CREATIVE HUB

87 Cameron St Wauchope NSW

Wauchope Creative Hub in conjunction with Wauchope Lasiandra festival & Hastings Co-op present an art exhibition and prize with the theme Purple Rain from 1st to 31st of March 2022. Local visual artists are invited to participate. \*Terms & conditions: One overall prize winner will be judged by a 3 person panel of judges and awarded a \$200 gift hamper gratefully donated by the Hastings Co-op. Entry forms are available at Wauchope Creative Hub (WCH) & must be submitted along with entry fee of \$20 in person at WCH 87 Cameron St Wauchope by Friday 11th Feb. Artwork delivery on Friday 25th Feb 10am-3pm. Exhibition opens Tuesday 1st March. One entry per person. Maximum size of artwork is 40cmx40cm framed or unframed. All visual mediums & materials are included. WCH take no commission on artworks for sale.



**brilliant**  
ONLINE



# PURPLE RAIN PRIZE CEREMONY AND BRILLIANT 1ST BIRTHDAY PARTY

◆ Join the celebrations during the Wauchope Lasiandra Festival

## Sponsors for the Lasiandra Festival

In a combined effort showcasing community spirit at its best, our sponsors:

- Wauchope Creative Hub,
- Brilliant-Online,
- Wauchope Lasiandra Festival,
- Hastings Co-operative and
- Wauchope Apex

will host the Purple Rain Prize Ceremony and Brilliant-Online 1st Birthday Party on Saturday, 12th March from 2pm to 5pm at 87 Cameron St, Wauchope.

All are invited to come along, enjoy a sausage sizzle from Wauchope Apex Club, sample a purple rain drink from My Blue Tea, enter the lucky draw for prizes donated by Hastings Co-operative, Wauchope Creative Hub, Utopian Living, My Blue Tea, Moodee & Sass and have a slice of Brilliant-Online's birthday cake.

Entry is free and there is so much to see!

The Wauchope Creative Hub gallery will be open to view all the entrants in the Purple Rain exhibition and the winner will be announced and prize awarded by Hastings Cop-operative. You can stroll through the Creative Hub to see a fabulous collection of local creatives displaying their wares and art works.



## Wauchope Lasiandra Festival Treasure Hunt

**brilliant**  
ONLINE



### Treasure Hunt - Join in to Win!

Taking place on Thursday March 10, during Purple People Shopping & Market Day across the Wauchope CBD, there will be a treasure hunt! That's right, a treasure hunt.

It's easy to join in. Find a Brilliant-Online poster (displayed in various spots around the CBD), scan the QR code and fill in the form (there are a few easy questions). Paper copies of

the form will be available on the day at the Lasiandra stand for those without a QR scanner. The winner will be drawn at the Purple Rain Ceremony the following Saturday at Wauchope Creative Hub. It is definitely worth joining in with prizes kindly donated by Wauchope Creative Hub, Utopian Living, My Blue Tea, Moodee & Sass, Hastings Co-operative and the Wauchope Lasiandra Festival Committee.



Shop 5/7 High St,  
Wauchope, NSW 2446

Utopianliving.com.au  
+61 413 764 129

Proud sponsors of Wauchope Lasiandra Festival



# SMALL BUSINESS MONTH FORUM



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**  
**Daniel O'Brien, Chicken Caravan**

Wednesday 16 March 6-8pm  
CWA Port Macquarie, Cr of Chop & Chill

**REGISTER NOW**

Book 20 mins with  
an expert to discuss

- business ideas
- finance & tax
- marketing
- technology

**Support / Education / Network**