

FREE

CAMDEN HAVEN

LOCAL



LAURIE TON | NORTH HAVEN | DUNBOGAN | KEW | KENDALL **NEWS** BONNY HILLS | LAKE CATHIE | DEC/JAN 2025/26

hello
holidays

strange things
in outer space

on ya bike!

making
overtures

marvelous
markets

summertime and
the living is easy

Gardening Recipe Reviews Stargazing People Travel
Health What's On Pets Community Chat Happenings

Happenings on the home front.

Kendall Boat Shed travels to Murwillumbah.

One of the premier offerings from Kendall Boat Shed is the organised Away Paddles ("AP"). Our latest journey to Murwillumbah was among the furthest and, consequently, the longest. It proved to be worth the travel with the itinerary featuring a variety of paddles, cycles and social activities. Eighteen keen club members rose to the challenge.

Murwillumbah Showground became our base camp, being the only facility for caravans within 20 km. Everything was clean, tidy and welcoming, providing an enjoyable stay within walking distance to town.

Our first paddle was at Byangum, embarking from Col Wiley Park on the banks of the Tweed River. We paddled several km along the beautiful Tweed before turning onto

the Oxley River.

Our second paddle started from Tumbulgum, also on the banks of the Tweed River. Alarming, one of our paddlers, on an inflatable kayak, began to deflate – rapidly! Fortunately, a few people still on the wharf were able to pull the paddler to safety, before getting too wet or sinking! It has since been attributed to 'user error', as the owner had misread the inflation instructions and used twice the recommended pressure. Our predicament was ultimately resolved by calling our land support team.

Our third and final paddle departed from Crams Farm Reserve with the destination being Clarrie Hall Dam. The paddle was spectacular and a fitting finale to our trip.

Although Base Camp wasn't situated on a

waterway – requiring transport for each paddle – the showground is conveniently located near the Northern Rivers Rail Trail. Some club members also took a day to travel to Kingscliff, which featured another wonderful cycleway, offering a 60 km round trip.

Another notable highlight of this, our final AP of the year, was the addition of brief nightly entertainment.

As we wrap up another year filled with paddling, cycling, and socialising, we reflect on our club's many adventures. And although we're still talking about the 'Great Deflate' anecdote and the belly-laugh entertainment, we eagerly await next year's adventures!

If we've whet your appetite and you'd like to join us, please email thorpe.amanda@gmail.com by *Alison Stewart*



Volunteers needed.

The iKew Tourist Centre, run by the Camden Haven Chamber of Commerce, is calling for friendly volunteers to join our welcoming team in Kew. If you're a local with a love for the area, we'd love to have you on board. Volunteers greet visitors, share local knowledge, and help promote the many hidden gems of our region. Just a few hours a week can make a real difference, and full support and training is provided. If you're looking to connect with your community, meet new people, and support local tourism, we need you. Come help us showcase the Camden Haven!



Markets are all go.

Laurieton Riverwalk Markets are all geared up to run the extra market in January.

So the dates are: • Sunday December 21st • Sunday January 4th • Sunday January 18th
Plenty of food and beverages on offer. Crafts, hand made bits and pieces. Something for everyone at one of the country's finest market days with over 180 stalls. Bruce Porter Reserve, Cnr Tunis and Short Street, Laurieton.



Laurieton Library Events

BABY BOUNCE

Thursday December 4, 11, 18. 10am - 11am
Fun songs, rhymes, finger play, and music for infants from birth to 1 year.

STORY TIME.

Tuesday December 2, 9, 16. 10am - 11am
Some wonderful stories and great fun. Suitable for ages 3-5 years, w. parent/carer.

MOBILE LIBRARY Van @ Lake Cathie

Thursday December 4, 11, 18. 10am - 12pm
Lake Cathie Community Centre
Lot 3 Mulloway Drive

For January times go to <https://mnclibrary.org.au>

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WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE.

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CAMDEN HAVEN LOCAL NEWS

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Community Chit Chat.

Preserving Camden Haven's past. from an interview with *Barbara Holebon*

The Laurieton Historical Society Museum may be small, but it holds a mighty collection of stories, photos, and artefacts that celebrate Camden Haven's rich history. Entirely volunteer-run, the museum survives on \$3 entry fees, local donations, and the dedication of community members like Barbara Holebon.

Originally from Sydney, Barbara found herself in Laurieton after helping her cousin recover from surgery – and never left. "I wasn't into history," she laughs, "but I loved the idea of saving things from the past for the future." With her background in administration and security, Barbara quickly

became an anchor for the museum's volunteer team, helping modernise systems, care for records, and ensure everyone feels valued.

The museum faces familiar challenges: limited space, heritage restrictions, no air-conditioning, and mounting costs. Yet, through determination and community spirit, it continues to digitise documents, safeguard fragile items, and welcome visitors eager to connect with the past.

Barbara's belief is simple: "These aren't just



old things – they're our stories." The museum stands as a testament to that truth, preserving the essence of Camden Haven one memory at a time. What do you have at home that deserves being seen by the public? <https://www.camdenhavenhistoricalsociety.com.au>

Laurieton Tennis Concludes Another Successful Year. by *Alison Stewart*

Laurieton Tennis Club will finish another year on a high note. Adult players have enjoyed multiple social events, night competitions, and the Barrington Tops Inter-Club Challenge, while junior development has remained the primary focus of the club's coaching arm, Evoke Tennis.

Junior tennis players will compete in the final of five annual tournaments, known as the Evoke Tour, on 7th December. The tournament is open to all players aged 4 to 12 who currently participate in Tennis Australia's Hot Shot Program, and is held in conjunction with Kempsey Tennis Club.

We also continue to follow the rise of nine-year-old Sam Ritchie, who will compete in the Champion of Champions – an event which required Sam to qualify by winning

several tournaments.

Both of these junior events were featured in detail in last month's edition of this publication.

It's also been great to see Laurieton Public School offering tennis as an extracurricular sport. Over 20 students have attended the weekly lessons during Term 4.

For all inquiries, please contact Coach Quinn at info@evoketennis.com.au.



Laurieton Public School students learning the basics of tennis

Massive Summer Rotary book sale.

Mark your calendars for a highlight of the Laurieton summer season.

The Rotary Club of Laurieton will again host the Summer Book Sale at the Laurieton United Services Club from Saturday 10 January to Sunday 18 January 2026. Running daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm (closing at 3.00pm on the final day), the event offers thousands of preloved books at bargain prices.

Entry is free, with most adult books priced at \$3.00 and children's books at 50 cents. Fiction, non-fiction, children's titles and rare finds will be neatly sorted by author, and volunteers will be available to help locate specific books or suggest a great read. A kids' corner will offer plenty of choice for young readers.

Visitors can enjoy refreshments while browsing or donate their own books to support the cause. Since 2003, the sale has raised more than \$200,000 for local

community groups and Rotary projects, with over 10,000 items available each year including books, jigsaws and DVDs. Stock is refreshed daily, making repeat visits worthwhile.

Held twice yearly, the book sale is Rotary's major fundraiser, helping support local schools, senior groups, emergency services, surf lifesaving, and those affected by droughts, floods and fires. The ongoing success of the event is thanks to Rotary members and the generous Camden Haven community.



Coach Quinn with Sam Ritchie

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Community Chit Chat.

Onya bike folks.

by Alison Stewart

Better by Bicycle Port Macquarie ("BBBPM") is now featuring various cycle routes throughout the Camden Haven area. Known as 'Tuesday Trails with Stephanie', their latest ride followed a route from Kew to Dunbogan, via North Haven Beach. Starting at 8:00 a.m., 16 cyclists set off from the Royal Hotel Kew car park on the 36 km, Grade 2 route. The relatively flat course follows shared pathways, interrupted in various places by a few hundred metres of road.

Unfortunately, they encountered their first obstacle quite early on. Upon entering the western end of Queens Lake track, they found the track in poor condition—almost inaccessible from Sirius Drive to the Sailing Club on anything less than a mountain bike. Although the group persevered on the way in, they decided to tackle the traffic on the return leg, later in the day. "That's a busy stretch of main road, and we had to use it because of the deteriorated condition of a purpose-built track," lamented one rider. Thankfully, with skill and cautious road sense, the group safely navigated the challenges.

Fortunately, that was the worst of it, as the rest of the journey was magnificent. They meandered along the picturesque lakeside boardwalk and trail, which extended to the border of Laurieton. One rider remarked that she was discovering parts of the area she hadn't known existed. Upon reaching the main road again, they traveled a short distance before accessing the shared pathway over North Haven Bridge, riding through the mangroves and ultimately following the Camden Haven foreshore toward the breakwall. Once more, they chose to ride the quiet back streets instead of the shared pathway, as the breakwall can be quite dangerous during busy times. Retracing their steps over the bridge, they



hugged the waterline through Laurieton and crossed the Laurieton Bridge toward Dunbogan.

The group ultimately disembarked at Dunbogan Boatshed & Marina, where they were welcomed as regulars, this being their fourth visit in recent months. Sean and Sabine Coenraad manage the café on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and quickly accommodated the 16 brightly dressed patrons. Sean says, "Of



course, we know the locals, but now we're recognizing the cycling groups as well. The B2B has opened up Dunbogan to everyone who wants to walk or cycle. We see entire families in hi-vis and helmets."

To follow the exact route taken, please refer to the Strava App <https://strava.app.link/xbd0x3PTbXb>

This particular cycle group is the inspiration of Stephanie Todd, whose recently expanded routes of the Camden Haven area have so far included rides from Johns River to Crowdy Bay, Logans Crossing to Kendall, and the aforementioned ride from Kendall to Dunbogan via North Haven along the B2B shared pathway.

In addition to organizing various social rides throughout our entire LGA (Local Government Area), BBBPM advocates for safer cycling infrastructure. They collaborate with the local council, providing advice on planning, to include the needs of all transport users. Upcoming rides are listed on their FB page, Better By Bicycle Port Macquarie, or email info@bbbpmq.net.au.

Lemoncello Christmas Balls



Recipe adapted by Olwen Williams

Here is a fresh take on the Christmas classic rum balls. We replace rum with lemoncello for a White Christmas treat!

280gm of cake crumbs (Approx 3 cups) made by hand crumbling store-bought Madeira Cake.

3 Tablespoons Lemon Curd – either homemade or store bought.

3 Tablespoons of White Magic flavoured Drinking Chocolate (Available from Woolworths Lake Cathie)

3 Tablespoons of Lemoncello – we use Maria River Distillery (Available from Stall #47 Tunis Street Laurieton Riverwalk Markets) **Added at the end...**

2 Tablespoons of lemoncello

2 Tablespoons of lemon curd

150 gm Organic Desiccated Coconut (Available from Forgiving Foods Laurieton)

Place cake crumbs, lemon curd, white magic flavoured drinking chocolate and lemoncello into a bowl; mix well.

Take tablespoonfuls of mixture and roll into balls using wet hands.

Warm extra 2 Tablespoons of lemon curd with 2 Tablespoons extra Lemoncello, stirring gently. Dip balls into this mixture then coat with desiccated coconut.

Place into paper patty cases.

Refrigerate until firm.

PASS THEM AROUND AND ENJOY!

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When it comes to delicious meals at Caramels at Cathie, you're in for a treat – whether you're after a leisurely brunch or a quick bite with top-quality coffee. Open since 2007, this locally-owned café in Lake Cathie, NSW, has built a reputation for vibrant flavours, fresh ingredients and a friendly, relaxed vibe with plenty of seating, 7 days a week.

Their all-day menu kicks off with brunch favourites: picture a Beachside Brunch Bowl loaded with avocado, house-pickled red onion, spiced chickpeas, greens and either house-smoked salmon or grilled halloumi

with roasted sweet potato – finished with a dill & mustard dressing.

Then there's their decadent French Toast, light and fluffy, served with lime curd, berry compote, fresh fruit, toasted cinnamon coconut and a scoop of vanilla ice-cream.

For those looking for savoury lunch options, Caramels delivers beautifully. The standout newcomer on Caramels' new summer menu is the Hot Chilli Chorizo Scramble. Soft, buttery scrambled eggs are folded with chorizo, parmesan and a touch of chilli, layered onto toasted house baked sourdough and finished with salsa fresca and the café's own house-made chilli jam and chilli salt. It's a bold, flavour-forward breakfast that promises a lively kick and plenty of hot summer energy. Or dive into a hearty take-home meal like their classic lasagne – layers of beef & pork, rich tomato sauce, béchamel and melted cheese – perfect

for a cosy night in.

Sweet treats and great coffee aren't neglected either. The café uses Byron Bay beans. The smooth, well balanced roast pairs perfectly with their sweet treats, baked fresh in-house each morning. Favourites include the banana berry walnut bread, caramel slice, friands and muffins, with a generous range of gluten free options ensuring everyone can indulge.

With generous portions and consistent quality (they're rated 4.7/5 on TripAdvisor) you'll leave more than satisfied.

All in all, Caramels at Cathie is a standout.



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Camden Haven Heritage.

Way back when



Punt end Laurie Street

Words from our local wandering artist-writer.

by *Diane Solomon Westerhuis*

This week I have been playing the role of a “flâneur”, which AI tells me is a French term for an idle urban wanderer, an artist or writer who uses their observations of modern, urban society as inspiration for their work.

So for inspiration I have been wandering our beautiful Camden Haven, which has much built history worth preserving. A prime example is the School of Arts in Laurieton. The building houses the Camden Haven Neighbourhood Centre and the Camden Haven Historical Museum, and is the home of our local Camden Haven Historical Society. Named the School of Arts¹ for the movement which began in Sydney in 1833, it was also known as a ‘Mechanics Institute’.

It promoted education for working class people, opened libraries, and offered classes and lectures, thus promoting local cohesion and support for communities. The movement spread quickly in the early 20th Century, so that now we find surviving buildings like ours

in various stages of decay in many country towns.

Our current Laurieton School of Arts was built in 1911, replacing two earlier versions. The first was blown down in 1898 by a gale, the second destroyed by fire. This third surviving building is described as a ‘rare and remarkably intact example of a School of Arts’ in its listing by NSW State Heritage. The building is also listed on the Port Macquarie Hastings Council Local Environmental Plan (hereafter LEP).

There are other local LEP heritage listed sites in Camden Haven, including the Pilot Station Complex and three graves at Camden Head, and a couple of cottages at North Haven. Once part of a larger group which have now mostly been renovated substantially, two cottages remain listed as good examples of holiday houses of the early 1960s. The training wall is listed, as is the cemetery at Laurieton, and the ANZAC War Memorial in the small park on Castle Street, Laurieton (corner Bold Street and Kew Road).

The Memorial statement of significance explains that the monument is representative of the beliefs of the community, its patriotism and allegiances and ‘demonstrates the impact of world events on smaller communities throughout Australia’. The Holy Trinity Church, on the corner of Bold and Laurie Streets at Laurieton, is listed, it has important local history associations for many people.

The Former Post Office and dwelling in lower Laurie Street are listed, an important area of Laurieton for local history and particularly significant because it is situated where local Indigenous and maritime history meet. The south end of Laurie Street was

the main street, as the community relied on shipping for trade.

Goods like timber and bags of oysters were shipped to Sydney from the old wharf, the remains still evident at the bottom of the street. This was also where the punt took people across to Dunbogan, before the bridge was built. It was also a place where local Indigenous people would meet prior to European settlement, enjoying a seafood meal and leaving behind remains to show where they were. Also important for their history is Dooragan (North Brother), described by State Heritage as an Aboriginal Place under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974. State Heritage Inventory explains that The Three Brothers dreaming story ‘links the Three Brothers Mountains Middle and North Aboriginal Place to the Three Birpi Brothers Mountains South Aboriginal Place’.

However not all of our heritage is recognised adequately. We could recognise the historical value and heritage of other local sites. For example in Laurieton we could list the 1957 Plaza Cinema, corner of Bold and Laurie Streets; a timber public school building on Bold Street at the Laurieton Primary School; the original 1899 timber Longworth home in Laurie Street; and the remains of a Memorial Avenue of Trees². With a little effort there is potential for us to create a heritage zoned area of local significance in Laurieton³.



1. All quotes are from the State Heritage Inventory, see <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au>.

2. Phillip Bowman (2018), Camden Haven’s ‘Avenues of Honour’ WW1 memorial trees. 1916-1918, CHHS.

3. All photos courtesy Mid North Coast Cooperative Library Service and are freely available in their Local Studies Photograph Collection, some are also available at the Museum.

Merry Christmas and a heartfelt thank you for an incredible 2025.

From the team at Sundial Dental.

As we come to the end of 2025, we would like to extend our warmest thanks to everyone who has supported us throughout this wonderful year. It has been a year of growth, connection, and community, and we couldn't have done it without you.

To our families and friends, your encouragement and belief in our mission continue to inspire us every day. To our patients, thank you for your trust, your stories, your expertise, all the things you shared with us, and your smiles. You bring colour, laughter, and learning to our weeks, and it's a privilege to be part of your oral health journeys. Your feedback, expertise, and shared experiences have helped us grow both professionally and personally.

A special thank you goes to the schools that welcomed us into their classrooms for our

school-age oral health presentations. Your openness and enthusiasm for promoting good dental habits among students have made a lasting impact on the next generation's health and confidence.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to the Kempsey community for embracing us so warmly since our opening in September. Your kindness, support, and sense of community spirit have made us feel right at home, and we are truly excited to continue growing alongside you.

As we look ahead to 2026, we remain committed to serving our communities with care, compassion, and dedication. Thank you for sharing this journey – together, we're building brighter, healthier smiles for the future of Australia.

Dr Peter Elfar and the team at Sundial Dental

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So much world-class music. Right here.

Music to marvel. by *Olwen Williams*

The Kendall National Violin Competition Programmers have done it again!

Sunday November 2, 2025 saw Kendall School of Arts Hall full of avid music lovers eager to hear the next instalment in the PhiloMusica Concert Series.

The performers were two exceptionally talented young men: Pianist Dono Ng, who played here in February as one of the accompanists for The Kendall National Violin Competition. This time he performed the entire first half as piano soloist featuring music by Ravel, Rachmaninoff & Medtner. After interval he was joined by 19 year old violinist Antony Want who is a current under-graduate student studying at The Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Antony's playing and technique belies his years, exhibiting amazing agility and technique during his exposed Eugene Yasye Sonata no. 6 for Solo Violin yet clearly, he put his heart and soul into his performance coaxing a rich timbre from his instrument. Performing as a team collaborating on Richard Strauss' Sonata for Violin & Piano, op 18, this dynamic duo wowed the audience with this jaw dropping show of brilliance raising the roof with a



rousing crescendo and a flourish to finish! North Haven residents, Jann & Ewald expressed their excitement by saying "We were in awe at the quality and talent of the musicians last Sunday and sat spellbound for the entire performance. How very fortunate we feel to have such an opportunity so close to where we live!"

Don't worry if you missed this concert, there is one more for the year scheduled



West Haven resident, 11 year old piano student Harley Bishop (Centre) with performers Antony Wang & Dono Ng.

for Sunday December 7, 2025 featuring the violin virtuoso, Dr Goetz Richter AM who will be hosting visitors from The Sydney Conservatorium of Music plus a local choir led by Robyn Ryan OAM. Come along in your finest festive dress as this concert will have a Christmas theme.

All proceeds from the PhiloMusica Concert Series go towards the prizes for The Kendall National Violin Competition which is held right here in The Camden Haven once every two years. The next Kendall National Violin Competition is scheduled for Feb 2027.

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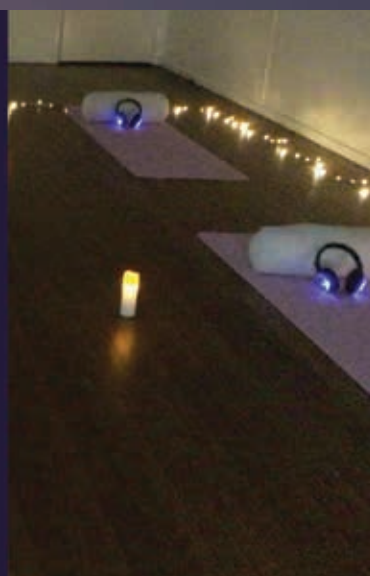
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What's on and shows and stuff.

Holiday activities for the whole family!

Holiday stuff

Laurieton United Services Club

Ham Raffles

Fridays - 5th, 12th and 19th - \$2,000 Friday Fortune Raffle + 10 Half Hams to be won every Friday leading up to Christmas! - Onsale from 5:30pm / Drawn from 6:30pm
Sundays - 7th, 14th and 21st - \$2,200 Ultimate Meat Raffle + 50 Half Hams to be won every Friday leading up to Christmas! - Onsale from 10:30am / Drawn from 12pm

New Years Eve at LUSC!

Wednesday 31st December 2025
4:30pm: Kids Fun Fair - \$15 Wristbands:
Bungee Runs, Jumping Castles, Axe Throwing, Basketball Shooting & MORE!
4:30pm: LUSC Fishing Group Annual BBQ
4:30pm: LUSC Can Bar
4:30pm: Camden Haven Redbacks Glow Stick Pop Up Shop
4:30pm: Tropical Sno Snow Cones
5pm: Boardwalk Bistro Opens
8pm: Retro Rewind with The Brad Lockwood Band
9pm: Fireworks Display
9:30pm-12:30pm: Retro Rewind with The Brad Lockwood Band

IWA Wrestling

Thursday 8th January 2026
VIP Doors: 7:30pm / GA Doors: 8pm
/ Show: 8:15pm
VIP: \$33 / GA Adult: \$28.00 / GA Child: \$19.00
TICKETS NOT ON SALE

Rotary Book Sale - Community Event

10th January 2026 to the 18th January 2026
10am-4pm Daily
Books across all genres - Fiction, Non-Fiction, Children's Books, Mystery, Romance and MORE! + Games, Puzzles, Jigsaws, Records and DVD's
FREE ENTRY: All proceeds go back to the community

Summer Orchid Show - Community Event

10th January 2026 to 11th January 2026
Saturday: 10am-4pm
Sunday: 9:30am-3:30pm
Orchid Display + Sales Table
Entry Fee: \$2 / Children Free

\$1,500 RSL Auxiliary Cash Bingo

Saturday 10th January 2026
From 7pm - \$20 Books
20 Games with HUGE Cash Prizes!

Reptile Solutions Kids Show

Saturday 17th January 2026
From 11am-1pm
FREE EVENT

Pinot & Picasso

Saturday 24th January 2026
From 6:30pm
Tickets: \$69.00 - All materials included
Tickets Link: <https://pinotandpicasso.com.au/portmacquarie/session/ebb-and-glow-pop-up-laurieton-united-services-club/>

The Hastings Bonsai: Bonsai Show - Community Event

Friday 23rd January 2026 to Sunday 25th January 2026
Friday Night Preview: 5pm-8pm *continued>*

continued >

Saturday: 10am-5pm / Sunday: 10am-4pm
Entry: \$5pp / U14 Free
Trees, Pots, Tools, Raffles Prizes, Group Sales & Demonstrations all day Saturday & Sunday

Kew Country Club

\$1,000 Santa's Sleigh Raffle

Sunday 7th December 2025
Tickets on sale 4pm / Drawn from 5pm
Prizes: 8ft Farrell Trampoline, Fujifilm Instax Mini & 15+ Other Prizes!! PLUS many Hams to be won on the night.
Fairways Bistro open from 5pm - Spend \$50 in one transaction and receive a Mini Golf Pass (1x Adult + 1x Child)

Reptile Solutions Presents:

Kids Reptile Show

Saturday 10th January 2026
From 11am-1pm
PLUS BBQ Lunch available after the show!

Happy Hour Mini Golf

(Saturday 20th December to Sunday 25th January 2026)
Saturday-Thursday every week of the school holidays!
10am-1pm - Only \$5!

Family Fridays Mini Golf

(Friday 19th December to Friday 23rd January 2026)
Purchase a Family Pass for \$40 and enjoy 20% off your dinner at Fairways Bistro!
Open from 5:30pm-8pm every Friday night!
To book contact the Clubhouse on 6559 4203.

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- Quality supplements - Vitamins and Herbs
- Protein and collagen supplements
- Natural skin care ranges
- Essential Oils and Giftware
- Healthy snacks
- Healthy drinks
- Local herbal teas and coffee
- Pick-up point for So-Hip Organic Veggies

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SAT 10AM - 2PM.

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Kendall Community Hall

KENDALL CHRONICLE
community newspaper.

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WHAT'S ON



Seymour St, Laurieton
Ph 6559 9110
www.laurietonclub.com.au

CAMDEN HAVEN CONCERT BAND INC & LAURIETON VOICES CHOIR
presents
Laurieton Christmas Concert

SUN 14TH DEC
From 2:30pm

Free Entry

PLUS, don't miss a visit from Santa!

LUSO
XMAS Ham Raffles

FRIDAY'S
TX ON SALE 5:30PM | DRAWN 6:30PM
5TH & 12TH DEC
\$2,000 Friday Fortune Raffle + 10 Half Hams to be won

SUNDAY'S
TX ON SALE 10:30AM | DRAWN 12PM
7TH & 14TH DEC
\$2,200 Ultimate Meat Raffle + 50 Half Hams to be won

Plus

FRI 19TH DEC
MASSIVE FINAL FRIDAY HAM RAFFLE
\$2,000 Meat Raffle + 30 Half Hams/Christmas Meats to be won

SUN 21ST DEC
MASSIVE FINAL HAM RAFFLE
\$2,200 Meat Raffle + 70 Half Hams/Christmas Meats to be won

Proudly sourced through local providers: T-Bones Butchery and Wiggly Tail Butchery
laurietonclub.com.au 02 6559 9110

THIRSTY MERC
Summer LIVE 25 TOUR

SATURDAY JAN 3
LAURIETON UNITED SERVICES CLUB
LAURIETON NSW

SATURDAY 3RD JANUARY 2026
DOORS: 7:30PM START: 8:00PM
Tickets: \$51.00

LUSO
SAT 10TH JAN 2026
From 7PM

\$1,500 RSL AUXILIARY Cash Bingo

Join us for a night of Charity Cash Bingo this January Holidays in support of RSL Auxiliary.

Get ready to shout "BINGO!" and win CASH prizes at this fun-filled event. Enjoy 20 games of bingo with plenty of opportunities to win big.

GAME 1 \$100	GAME 2-19 \$50	GAME 20 \$500
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LAST PRIZE MAY FLUCTUATE SUBJECT TO NUMBER OF PLAYERS. NO NETS - BOOKS ONLY
\$20 BOOKS - CLUB AND TOWN VOUCHERS ACCEPTED
NO 12 PACE BINGO BOOKS VOUCHERS ACCEPTED (SOUTH TARCIOOLA)

laurietonclub.com.au 02 6559 9110

THE MIRANDA
Tay Tay
TRIBUTE SHOW

TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2026
DOORS: 4:00PM START: 4:30PM
Tickets: \$26.00 (UNDER 3 FREE)

Joe Camilleri & THE BLACK SORROWS
The QUINTESSENTIAL Best of Tour
40+ years in the making

LAURIETON UNITED SERVICES CLUB
THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY 2026
DOORS: 7:30PM SUPPORT BAND: 8:00PM
Tickets: \$51.00

WHAT'S ON



Kendall Rd Kew
Ph 6559 4203
www.laurietonclub.com.au

KEW Mini GOLF
KEW COUNTRY CLUB
18-hole Mini Golf Course
Open 7 days!

KCC
XMAS Ham Raffles

FRI 28TH NOV
\$1,000 Raffle
8 1/2 Hams & 2 Ck Meat Trays

FRI 5TH DEC
\$1,200 Raffle
13 1/2 Hams, 10 Meat Trays & Turkey Buffs

FRI 12TH DEC
\$1,400 Raffle
18 1/2 Hams, 15 Meat Trays & Turkey Buffs

FRI 19TH DEC
\$1,600 Raffle
23 1/2 Hams, 20 Meat Trays, Turkey Buffs & Turkey Buffs

Proudly sourced from: The Happy Butcher, Wiggly Tail & T-Bones Premium Meats
Fairways Bistro Open from 5:30pm every Friday!

KCC
REPTILE SOLUTIONS Kids Show

SAT 10TH JAN 2026
From 11am-1pm

Join us at Kew Country Club this School Holidays for an interactive show with Reptile Solutions!

Get up close and personal with the fascinating world of reptiles! Learn all about these incredible creatures, touch a real-life reptile, and snap a fun photo to remember the experience.

It's the perfect adventure for kids and animal lovers alike!

FREE EVENT

PLUS BBQ Lunch Available after the Show!
For bookings please visit our website or Facebook or contact us on 02 6559 4203

KEW Mini GOLF
KEW COUNTRY CLUB
HAPPY Hour
10AM - 1PM
\$5
Flat Pinner

SAT 20TH DEC - SUN 25TH JAN 2026
Saturday - Thursday every week of the school holidays!

For bookings please contact the Club on 02 6559 9110

What's on and gig guide.

Live music, gigs and special concerts!

Dec 2025 & Jan 2026

THU DEC 4 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Leigh l'Anson (Live Music)
Club North Haven
1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI DEC 5 6.30pm

Hoedown Band & Dance Night (Live Music)
Kendall Music Exchange
School of Arts - Comboyne Rd
Tix: \$5
kedallmusicexchange123@gmail.com

FRI DEC 5 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Gary King (Live Music)
Club Lake Cathie
45 Evans Rd Lake Cathie
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SAT DEC 6 8.00pm

Ross Wilson - Selling Fast (Live Music)
Laurieton United Services Club
Seymour St, Laurieton
Presale \$46 Tickets at: <https://lusc.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/154634>

SAT DEC 6 6.30pm – 10.30pm

Jordan Van der Heide (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN DEC 7 1.00pm Pre Concert talk

PhiloMusica 2.00pm Concert commences
Christmas Chamber music featuring Dr Goetz Richter AM (violin) Sydney Strin Orchestra and Choir
Kendall School of Arts Tix: \$35
Ticketing: Maxene 0416 197 585
www.kendallnationalviolincompetition.com

SUN DEC 7 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Charlotte Rose (Live Music)
Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
613 Ocean Dr North Haven

THU DEC 11 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Pure Acoustic (Live Music)
Club North Haven
1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI DEC 12 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Rockabillys (Live Music)
Club Lake Cathie
45 Evans Rd Lake Cathie
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SAT DEC 13 6.30pm – 10.30pm

Kyle Moore (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN DEC 14 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Sunday Sessions
DJ's Ollie Brooke & Luke Cousins
Haven Ridge
743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
Tix: \$10 kids free
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN DEC 14 2.00pm

Camden Haven Concert Band & Laurieton
Voices Christmas Concert
LUSC - North Tarcool
FREE Entry and a visit from Santa
Conducted by Iain Pole
www.laurietonclub.com.au

SUN DEC 14 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Pete Roberts (Live Music)
Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
613 Ocean Dr North Haven

THU DEC 18 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Gary King (Live Music)
Club North Haven
1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI DEC 19 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Shane Peters (Live Music)
Club Lake Cathie
45 Evans Rd Lake Cathie
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SAT DEC 20 6.30pm – 10.30pm

Besty (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN DEC 21 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Sunday Sessions
Max Marvell (Live Music)
Haven Ridge
743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
Tix: \$10 kids free
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN DEC 21 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Martin Becker (Live Music)
Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
613 Ocean Dr North Haven

FRI DEC 26 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Tezza (Live Music)
Club Lake Cathie
45 Evans Rd Lake Cathie
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SAT DEC 27 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Charlie O'Derry (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN DEC 28 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Sunday Sessions
Autumn Blue Band (Live Music)
Haven Ridge
743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
Tix: \$50 Adults only
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN DEC 28 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Max Marvel (Live Music)
Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
613 Ocean Dr North Haven

SUN DEC 28 6.30pm – 10.30pm

Beau Bennett (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

NEW YEARS EVE

WED DEC 31 8.00pm – 10.30pm

Retro Rewind
with The Brad Lockwood Band
Lots of family activities from 4.40pm
Fireworks Display at 9pm
Laurieton United Services Club
Seymour St, Laurieton

WED DEC 31 6.30pm – Midnight

Charlie O'Derry (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

WED DEC 31 6.30pm – Midnight

Sound Estate (Live Music)
Club Lake Cathie
45 Evans Rd Lake Cathie
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

THU JAN 1 6.30pm – 9.30pm

(Live Music)
Club North Haven
1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI JAN 2 6.30pm – Midnight

Happy Dave (Live Music)
Club Lake Cathie
45 Evans Rd Lake Cathie
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SAT JAN 3 6.30pm – 10.30pm

Besty (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SAT JAN 3 7.30pm

Ross Wilson - Selling Fast (Live Music)
Laurieton United Services Club
Seymour St, Laurieton
Presale \$51 Tickets at: <https://lusc.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/150580>

SUN JAN 4 1.00pm – 5.00pm

Sunday Sessions Steve Bennett (Live Music)
Haven Ridge
743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
Tix: \$10 kids free
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN JAN 4 1.00pm – 4.00pm

(Live Music)
Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
613 Ocean Dr North Haven

SUN JAN 4 6.30pm – 10.30pm

Beau Bennett (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Drive Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

THU JAN 8 6.30pm – 9.30pm

(Live Music)
Club North Haven
1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

Continued over >

Garden hints and nature's wonders.

December's garden.

The first month of Summer has arrived. With Christmas and the New Year only a few weeks away, it is time to prepare our gardens for the busy season ahead.

Hydrangeas are producing a magnificent display and are consistently a summer favourite with Australian gardeners for Christmas colour.

Mulch well and water daily to keep plants fresh and flowering. Ideally, a position in the morning sun and afternoon shade will provide a perfect spot.

Feed regularly with *Sudden Impact* and a small application of *Organic Life*.

They will also grow successfully in containers where they can be moved to enjoy the colour in summer. Always use a premium potting mix to give them a good start.

Removing spent flowers will help to ensure a longer flowering season.

Another Christmas favourite is the NSW Christmas Bush (pictured).

Stunning red colour, these plants must be grown in a well-drained soil. If you have heavy soils, consider growing them in a large container using a native planting mix.

A small feed after Christmas with *Native Slow Release* will keep them happy.

With summer heat approaching, now is the perfect time to mulch pots and gardens.



This helps to retain moisture and helps to protect shallow roots from summer temperatures. I normally recommend mulching to a depth of 20-50mm, and avoid placing mulch close to the base of plants. In addition to mulching, an application of a wetting agent will ensure that moisture is available to the subsoil.

Harvest herbs regularly to ensure good flavour and to prolong the plant. This can also slow some herbs from bolting to seed in summer. A fortnightly feed with liquid fertiliser will maintain good growth and flavour.

To help reduce the outbreak of fungal problems occurring in our herb and veggie garden, water early in the morning if possible.

With the noticeable absence of bees in the garden this spring, now is the time to consider making our gardens safer and more appealing for the pollinators to be welcome in our gardens. Look at planting a diverse selection of perennials and native flowering plants, if possible, with flowering throughout the seasons.

There is a range of safer sprays now available to reduce the impact on our bee populations in the garden. Talk to the local garden centre about options now available.

Wishing everyone a safe and very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Happy Gardening,
Mal McKinlay

What's on and gig guide. Continued.

FRI JAN 9 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Rockabillys (Live Music)
Club Lake Cathie
45 Evans Rd Lake Cathie
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SAT JAN 10 6.30pm – 10.30pm
Echo Union (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Dr Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN JAN 11 1.00pm – 5.00pm
Sunday Sessions
Simon Gugen (Live Music)
Haven Ridge
743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
Tix: \$10 Kids Free
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN JAN 11 1.00pm – 4.00pm
(Live Music)
Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
613 Ocean Dr North Haven

SUN JAN 11 5.00pm – 8.00pm
DJ Jimmy Laing
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Dr Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

TUE JAN 13 8.00pm
The Tay Tay Tribute Show (Taylor Swift)
Laurieton United Services Club
Seymour St, Laurieton
Presale \$26 Tickets at: <https://lusc.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/156762>

THU JAN 15 7.30pm
The Black Sorrows
Laurieton United Services Club
Seymour St, Laurieton
Presale \$51 Tickets at: <https://lusc.sales.ticketsearch.com/sales/salesevent/154842>

THU JAN 15 6.30pm – 9.30pm
(Live Music)
Club North Haven
1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI JAN 16 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Stevie B (Live Music)
Club Lake Cathie
45 Evans Rd Lake Cathie
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SAT JAN 17 6.30pm – 10.30pm
Kyle Moore (Live Music)
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Dr Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au

SUN JAN 18 1.00pm – 5.00pm
Sunday Sessions - DJ Nathan Healey
Haven Ridge
743 Ocean Dr, Grants Beach
Tix: \$10 Kids Free
www.havenridge.com.au

SUN JAN 18 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Hudson Rose (Live Music)
Moo & Bean Kitchen & Bar
613 Ocean Dr North Haven

THU JAN 22 6.30pm – 9.30pm
(Live Music)
Club North Haven
1 Woodford Rd North Haven
www.clubnorthhaven.com.au

FRI JAN 23 6.30pm – 9.30pm
Tezza (Live Music)
Club Lake Cathie
45 Evans Rd Lake Cathie
www.lakecathiebowlingclub.com.au

SAT JAN 24 6.30pm – 10.30pm
DJ Broox
Lake Cathie Tavern
1609 Ocean Dr Lake Cathie
www.lakecathietavern.com.au



If you have any entertainment events happening in our region please let us know and we will list it here.

FREE LISTING.

editor@camdenhavenlocalnews.com.au

whats on december

FRIDAYS 3-8pm

KITCHEN, BAR + TUNES

SATURDAYS 12-3pm

THE RIDGEROOM RESTAURANT
shared feast from \$65pp

SUNDAYS 12-5pm

SUNDAY SESSIONS

7th CLOSED private event
14th DJ Duo: Ollie Brooke &
Luke Cousins
21st Max Marvell
28th Autumn Blue

! SORRY - we are closed Fri 5th to Sun 7th for a private event



whats on january

FRIDAYS 3-8pm

KITCHEN, BAR + TUNES

SATURDAYS 12-3pm

THE RIDGEROOM RESTAURANT
shared feast from \$65pp

BURGER NIGHT  4-8pm

SUNDAYS 12-5pm

SUNDAY SESSIONS

4th Steve Bennet
11th Simon Guden
18th DJ Nathan Healey
25th DJ Duo: Ollie Brooke &
Luke Cousins



see you at the ridge!

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Cosmic visitor or cosmic messenger?

Sometimes a rock is just a rock. Or is it?

If you don't know about 3I-Atlas you are missing the greatest space event of our lifetimes. When the faint glow of 3I-ATLAS re-emerged from behind the Sun in early November 2025, telescopes from Chile to Hawaii were waiting. What astronomers saw reignited one of the liveliest space debates since Oumuamua sped past in 2017. Is this merely another interstellar comet, asteroid, or something far stranger?

The Comet Story: A Predictable Oddball.

For most astronomers, 3I-ATLAS (named for the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System that first spotted it) behaves like what it technically is: an interstellar comet which is 11km across, 33 billion tons and travelling at an amazing 200,000km/hr. NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Minor Planet Center both confirm its orbit is hyperbolic, meaning it's just passing through our Solar System – a one-time tourist from another star.

The latest post-perihelion data shows a non-gravitational acceleration – a tiny push caused when sunlight warms the comet's surface, sending jets of vaporised gas puffing into space like microscopic thrusters. numbers line up neatly. A natural comet at those temperatures can eject molecules at roughly 300 m/s; to account for the observed acceleration, the nucleus would have lost about 13 percent of its mass – dramatic, but not impossible. If that's true, the James Webb Space Telescope should soon detect a swollen cloud of gas and dust surrounding it. That, say the traditionalists, will close the case: exotic yes, intelligent no.

The Anomaly-Hunters: Reading Between the Orbits.

Loeb's own analysis, however, reads more like a cosmic detective story. His Galileo Project at Harvard exists precisely to chase such outliers, and 3I-ATLAS provides plenty.



Oumuamua - 55 times smaller at 200m than 3I-Atlas at 11km

First, its retrograde trajectory sits within only five degrees of the ecliptic plane – a coincidence with odds of just 0.2 percent. Second, it showed a sunward jet, or “anti-tail,” that isn't a trick of perspective. Third, it's massive – a million times heavier than 'Oumuamua and a thousand times bulkier than 2I/Borisov – yet moving even faster. The odds of that trio of traits appearing together? Under 0.1 percent.

Then come the chemistry surprises: a nickel-to-iron ratio far higher than in any known comet, with nickel-cyanide levels resembling industrial alloys, and a mere 4 percent water content – strange for an object supposedly made of ice. Even its light is off-beat: extreme negative polarisation (unseen in other comets) and a bluish hue brighter than the Sun's spectrum near perihelion. And to spice the lore, its incoming direction lies within 9 degrees of the sky patch that produced the famous 1977 “Wow!” radio signal.

For Loeb and others willing to color outside the lines, these are not quirks but breadcrumbs. The comet's acceleration could still stem from ordinary evaporation – yet if no giant gas cloud appears in December's Webb images, he argues, a different mechanism must be at work. A technological one, perhaps: the kind of high-velocity exhaust that would

need to shed far less mass than natural ice jets. **Science or Belief?**

That suggestion triggers reflexive discomfort among many peers. After all, “alien probe” headlines tend to outrun evidence. But Loeb's defenders – from astrophysicists to curious readers like Dr Sukanto Bhattacharya of Deakin University (Australia) – see his openness as intellectual courage, not heresy. Bhattacharya likens the backlash to Galileo's run-ins with the church: a warning that even modern science can become its own orthodoxy.

Between Wonder and Skepticism.

So where does that leave the rest of us, the sky-watchers reading from our café tables and phone screens? Probably somewhere in the middle. The mundane truth – that chunks of distant planetary systems occasionally wander through ours – is already thrilling. Yet the possibility, however slim, that one of them might not be a random rock keeps curiosity alive. By year's end, as Webb and Earth-based observatories collect more spectra, 3I-ATLAS will tell us what it is: comet, curiosity, or calling card. Until then, both camps share one essential thing – the childlike wonder that looks up at a streak of blue light across the stars and whispers... “What if?” Keep a lookout in December and onward.

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BACH, RESPHIGI, CORELLI & VIVALDI!

Concert starts 2pm SUNDAY DECEMBER 7

Kendall School of Arts Hall 19 Comboyne St Kendall

Tickets: \$35 adults / \$15 children under 12 years
<https://events.humanitix.com/the-spirit-of-christmas-kj9wx42s/tickets>
Or call Maxene on 0416 197 585

The audience is invited to join for refreshments after the performance.

Further information visit www.kendallviolin.org.au
PhiloMusica Series presented by The Kendall National Violin Competition.

Travel stories, places, hints and ideas.

What about Vietnam? Culture. Connection. Curiosity.

by the *Editor*

Vietnam isn't just a destination – it's a lifestyle experience that invites you to slow down, lean in, and discover a country where tradition and modern vibrancy live side by side. Exploring Vietnam through the lens of "What About Vietnam" reveals a version of the country that goes far beyond postcards and tourist trails. Host Kerry Newsome and her podcast guests; travellers, local experts, and tour operators, talk about authentic encounters, making it feel less like a trip and more like an unfolding story. Kerry, an experienced travel specialist and regular traveler since 2007.

A journey may begin in Hanoi, where the morning hum of scooters harmonises with the aroma of fresh pho. Take your time – sit in a tiny café, listen to the street vendors, watch as everyday life unfolds. A mindful pace to allow Vietnam's charm seep in.

Further south, the ancient town of Hoi An delivers a completely different rhythm. Golden lanterns flicker over the river, tailors greet you by name after just one visit, and every narrow alley tempts you with local craftsmanship. According to the travel insights shared on What About Vietnam, Hoi An has become a sanctuary for digital nomads and wellness travellers alike.

Food, naturally, becomes its own adventure. Beyond the beloved classics, Vietnam's culinary landscape is evolving with creativity and passion. In bustling Ho Chi Min City, rooftop restaurants sit above markets overflowing with herbs, spices and sizzling street snacks. What sets Vietnam apart is the intimacy of its food culture – meals are shared experiences, often cooked according to family traditions passed down through generations. Each dish becomes a window into local identity.



But perhaps the greatest allure lies beyond the cities. Travellers who venture further discover Vietnam's soul in places like Boc Giang's "Land of Lychees," the terraced rice fields of

Adventure lovers aren't forgotten either. Motorbike journeys over the Hoi Vân Pass, cave expeditions in Phong Nha, and coastal escapes along pristine beaches offer endless opportunities to explore Vietnam's wild beauty. Yet even in these adrenaline-filled experiences, travellers should engage with respect, sustainability and curiosity.

What ties all these experiences together is the warmth of the Vietnamese people. Whether you're navigating a chaotic market or learning to make banh xeo in someone's home, it's the genuine hospitality that stays with you long after you leave.

Vietnam is not a place to simply tick off a list – it's a country that invites you to immerse yourself, be present, and open your heart to discovery. And with thoughtful guidance from What About Vietnam, travellers can experience the country in a way that feels personal, meaningful and unforgettable.

Visit over 100 podcasts and episodes on <https://www.whataboutvietnam.com>



the north, or the peaceful Mekong villages, where life flows gently with the river's tide. It's here that What About Vietnam truly encourages deeper travel – meeting local families, joining cooking lessons, exploring markets, or simply wandering through rural landscapes untouched by mass tourism.



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Critiques and Reviews.

What is **love** actually? A Christmas special!

by *CJ Mulligan, Author.*

This month we're tuning out all distractions and tuning into a single holiday classic. Why? Because it's Christmas season, and this film is as much a tradition as mistletoe and candy canes.

The Film is **Love Actually** Paramount +

Follows the lives of eight very different couples, as they deal with their love lives in various loosely interrelated tales. All set during a frantic month before Christmas in London, this movie solidified itself as a classic Christmas comedy over the past two decades - and for good reason. Its formula has been copied time and time again, with films like "Valentine's Day" and "New Years Eve" attempting to pull off the all-star-genius that is Love Actually. But they just can't seem to hit the right notes, unlike Billy Mack.

It stars Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Colin Firth, Kiera Knightley, Liam Neeson, Bill Nighy, Alan Rickman, Martin Freeman, Rowan Atkinson, Billy Bob Thornton and many, many more.

That list alone should be reason enough to watch it if you haven't, but beyond the star power is the story. I wouldn't praise the cinematography or direction any more than an average film, but the writing, and the story

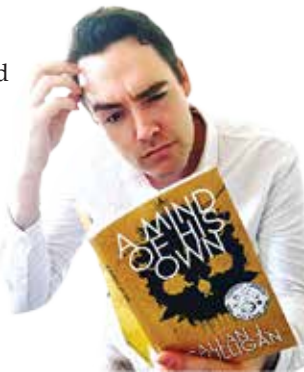
itself, shines through this classic like sunlight through a diamond. There are layers upon layers of inside jokes, which the audience is brought into effortlessly, and relationships that transcend the usual art of cinema.

With a standard runtime and such a large cast of characters, you would think it impossible to find any relation and empathy for them, but Love Actually manages to not only pull off a perfect three act structure filled with twists and pay-offs, it also develops many of the characters deeply and finds an emotional pull with the audience to a level better than some television series manage to do across several episodes.

I can't rate Love Actually highly enough. It is a Christmas Eve tradition in my home, and at this stage I have seen it well over 10 or 15 times. It remains laugh-out-loud hilarious, forever quotable, and heartwarming to the core.

Speaking of Christmas,

give yourself the gift of knowledge and subscribe to my YouTube channel for FREE tutorials on writing, illustrating, filmmaking, and more @ callancreates



I've always loved music - every kind, every genre, every era. I've spent five decades listening, exploring, and appreciating it all. After so many years, you start to believe you've heard everything worth hearing.

But every now and then, a band slips through the cracks and reminds you just how surprising music can be.

That's exactly what happened recently when I stumbled across a live performance of "Crazy Train" from Live Aid. It had that gritty, bluesy, American-style rock sound - raw and full of soul. I was hooked. Naturally, I assumed the band must have been American.

Imagine my surprise when I discovered they were Australian - The Waifs.

Curiosity took over, and I spent the next few hours diving into their music. What I found was a group with heart and history, whose songs are steeped in Australian storytelling and spirit. One in particular, "Bridal Train," absolutely floored me. It's a hauntingly beautiful tribute to Australian war brides, sung with emotion and truth - a song that feels like part of our national soundtrack.

The Waifs are sisters Donna and Vikki Simpson with guitarist Josh Cunningham and have been crafting their blend of folk, rock, and blues for decades. They're multi-ARIA Award winners, adored on the festival circuit, and respected worldwide.

So how did they escape my radar all these years? Just when you think you've heard it all, something special comes along.

TIP OF THE MONTH HEALTH FUND ROLLOVER LIMITS+

Did you know?

Extras policies with dental cover can cost over \$280 per month—that's more than \$3,000 a year potentially wasted if unused. Even worse, most health funds reset their benefits on January 1st, and unused entitlements don't roll over.

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Book your appointment at Laurieton Family Dental before December 31st to make the most of your current dental cover. Alternatively, schedule from January 1st to take advantage of your renewed benefits and start the new year with a healthy smile.



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Pets in paradise.

Happy holidays are when your buddies go with you.



Holidays are a joyful time, but for dog owners, they can bring a few extra considerations. Whether you're hitting the road or flying to a new destination, caring for your furry friend requires planning and thoughtfulness. Before leaving, make sure your dog is healthy and up to date with flea treatments and such. A quick vet check can help avoid problems on the journey. Pack a dedicated pet travel bag with food, water, bowls, leash, toys, medications, and their favourite blanket – familiar scents help keep dogs calm in new environments.

If you're travelling by car, secure your dog in a harness or crate for safety, and plan regular stops so they can stretch, drink, and relieve themselves. Never leave them alone in a hot vehicle, even for a few minutes. When flying,

check the airline's pet policy well in advance, and if your dog isn't suited for long flights, consider alternative arrangements such as a reputable boarding kennel (see below) or a trusted pet sitter (see below).

Accommodation is another key factor. Choose pet-friendly stays and bring a mat or bed so your dog feels at home. Keep routines as normal as possible – consistent feeding times, walks, and affection go a long way in reducing stress.

Lastly, remember that dogs pick up on your emotions. If you're relaxed and confident, your pet will likely mirror that calm energy. With preparation and care, you can ensure your four-legged companion enjoys the holidays as much as you do.

Happy holidays.

Debbie Atchinson is a familiar and much-loved figure at the Laurieton Riverwalk Markets, delighting visitors with her vibrant collection of birds and the joyful business she runs, Cute Critters Pet Sitting.

Debbie has a genuine passion for all creatures feathered, and her energy and warmth make every visit to her stall a moment of fun and connection. At the markets she offers not only the chance to view and learn about her colourful birds, but also provides personalised sitting and care services for companions and pets of any kind – while their owners are away. Debbie's gentle, attentive approach and her deep love for birds shine through everything she does. For pet-owners looking for a trustworthy, experienced carer who treats their pets like family, Cute Critters Pet Sitting is a reassuring go-to. Her presence at the markets also brings community and conversation and turns a market visit into a memorable experience.



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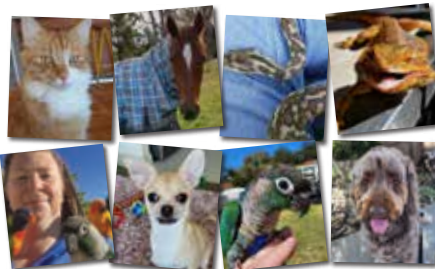
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LOCAL MARKETS

First Sunday of the month
Kendall Community Markets
Kendall Showground 9am - 1pm

Second Saturday of the month
Johns River Country Markets
Johns River Rd 8am - 12.30pm

Second Sunday of the month
Comboyne Museum Markets
Comboyne Museum 8am - 1pm

Third Sunday of the month
Laurieton Riverwalk Markets
Tunis St & Short St 8am - 1pm

The people who choose to be local.

A fresh face with a friendly spirit.

After two decades in hospitality, Matt Haack JP has found his perfect balance of career and lifestyle as the new General Manager of Laurieton United Services Club. At 37, Matt brings a wealth of experience, a down-to-earth attitude, and a genuine enthusiasm for community life to his new role in the Camden Haven.

Born and raised on Sydney's Northern Beaches, Matt began his working life collecting glasses and pouring beers before steadily working his way up through the ranks of clubs and hotels across New South Wales. "I've been in the industry about 20 years now," he says. "I started on the floor, learned every part of the business, and eventually moved into management. The best way to understand hospitality is to do it from the ground up."

Moving to Laurieton has been a refreshing change for Matt, his wife Georgie, and their young sons Findlay (4) and Darcy (2). The family now calls Dunbogan home – and they couldn't be happier. "We still wake up and can't believe we live here," he says. "We drive around the promenade, look up at North Brother Mountain, and think, how good's this?"

Matt says the sense of community has been one of the biggest surprises. "Everyone



Official opening of the new cafe at LUSC. From left: Mayor Adam Roberts, Matt Haack, Robert Dwyer MP and Alison Penfold MP

says hello on the street – it's like going back to how things used to be. We've been welcomed with open arms, from the staff at the club to the team at St Joseph's where the boys go to daycare."

At the club, Matt's focus for the first year is to settle in, listen, and learn. "The club already runs beautifully. My first goal is to really understand the operations of both the venues, LUSC and KCC, get to know the people, and see where we can make small improvements

that make work life easier and more efficient."

With extensive experience in property and site development, Matt is also helping guide future plans, including expanding Kew's role as an emergency evacuation centre and exploring opportunities for growth.

But it's not all work. "We've got ducks landing on our balcony in the mornings," Matt laughs. "The kids love it. Honestly, this place feels like home already – friendly faces, natural beauty, and a real sense of belonging."



"We had the great pleasure of having Luke as our agent. At all times he was an absolute delight to deal with. Nothing was ever an issue.

He was very committed to selling the house for us and we received our goal price. Luke always kept us informed of all the open houses and then gave us feedback each time.

I would highly recommend Luke if you want an agent that is committed to doing a fantastic job and getting the best outcome for your property. Thank you so much Luke."

Megan - Vendor, West Haven

Thinking of Selling? **Lets Talk.**



Luke Hadfield

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MONDAY

- **Raffles** - 20 Trays drawn at 6:30pm
- **Seagulls Meal Deal** - 2 Meals + 2 drinks for \$30 (M) \$35 (V)
- Schooner Draw at 6pm - *Supporting Local Community Groups*

TUESDAY

- **Seagulls Meal Deal** - Topper Tuesday - Schnitzels for just \$15 (M) \$17 (V) + \$5 for a Topper of your choice

WEDNESDAY

- **Seagulls Meal Deal** - Ribs and Wings + Drink Deal for \$23.90 (M) \$25.90 (V)

THURSDAY

- **Members Superdraw Drawn** between 6pm - 8pm - Win up to 55k
- **Raffles** - 30 Trays drawn at 6pm
- **Live Entertainment** from 6:30pm
- Second Chance **\$200 draw** at 8:30pm

FRIDAY

- **Jumbo Raffle** - 70 Prizes valued at over \$3,500 Drawn at 6pm - 40 In-house and 30 online
- **Last Friday of the Month** - BIG FRIDAY - 100 prizes in total, 50 online and 50 in-house Over \$5,000 in value
- **Seagulls Meal Deal** - '\$15 Friday' Dinner Specials

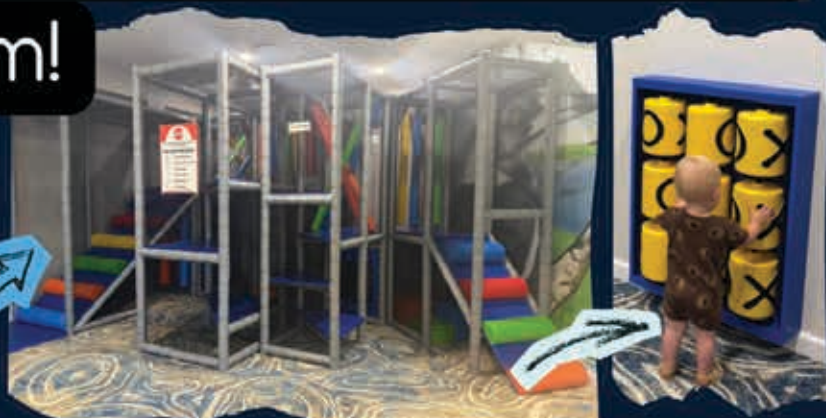
SUNDAY

- **Raffles** - 20 Trays drawn at 1pm
- Buy \$10 Raffle tickets & get a Roast Lunch - For just \$10
- 20 Trays - Drawn at 5:30pm
- **Seagulls Meal Deal** - Sunday Roast Lunch & Dinner \$13.50 (M) \$15.50 (V)

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