

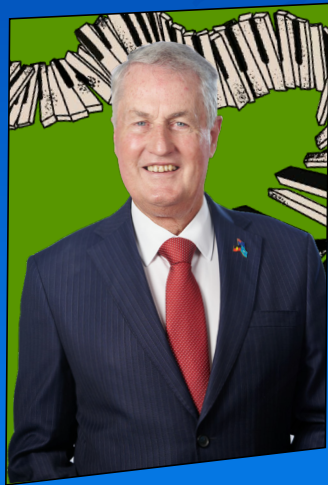


MACKAY FESTIVAL

OF ARTS 2026

WELCOME

The Mackay Festival of Arts acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and its waters, the Yuwi people. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, as they hold memories, traditions, culture and hope for generations to come. We recognise and value Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander histories, knowledge, culture and lived experiences.



MAYOR OF MACKAY MAYOR GREG WILLIAMSON

The 39th Mackay Festival of Arts will bring a vibrant program to our community, featuring local and touring talent across visual art, theatre, music, photography, literature, performance art, jazz and arthouse film.

Highlights include Daly Bay Illuminate, which will transform the City Centre with stunning light installations, the lively Whitsunday Wealth Festival Hub and the iconic Wisely Wine and Food Day. July is the perfect time to celebrate Mackay's creativity and culture – visit local eateries, admire the city's art deco architecture and enjoy as many festival events as you can. Invite friends and family to experience the warmth, energy and sparkle of Mackay in July.

“THE ARTISTIC FREEDOM” ARTWORK BY KRISTINE ARCILLA

This piece is a celebration of human expression – raw, imperfect, and alive, inspired by retro art styles. Each panel features a variety of art forms, with bold colours, strong lines, and beat tones creating a lively, nostalgic feel. Highlighting the individuality of every person depicted, and drawing inspiration from Daniel Savage's collection of doodles, the work explores how creatives come together to support their communities through shared experiences and aspirations.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Kristine Arcilla is a Filipino graphic designer and illustrator based in Mackay. She studied Multimedia Arts and continues to explore her craft in branding, illustration, and poster design. Kristine aims to evoke emotion through well-crafted narratives and strong storytelling that define her work.



SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

A burst of tropical bliss in every pour.

Inspired by the vibrancy of the 2026 theme Pop Collision – where art smashes into life and sparks fly – a riot of clashing colour, mismatched characters and creative chaos that refuses to sit still – Sarina Sugar Shed has crafted this exclusive liqueur, bursting with playful flair.

Pop 'n' Passion is your go-to for instant summer vibes. Electric yellow, sun-ripened passionfruit meets a hint of sweetness and a whole lot of personality and groove. Shake it, mix it, or sip it straight... this little bottle has serious moves.



Sarina SUGAR SHED DrinkWise.

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are at the heart of every Mackay Festival of Arts event – bringing the energy, warmth and community spirit that make our festivals so special. From welcoming guests to supporting event delivery, this amazing team works side-by-side with our festival crew to create safe, inclusive and memorable experiences for everyone who attends. You'll spot them in the iconic pink shirts at Mackay Festival events!

Looking to make new friends, grow your professional network, gain hands-on experience and give back to your community in a meaningful way?



Be part of the magic –
join the team today!

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals

HOW TO BOOK

Ready to book your tickets?
Our friendly team is here to assist with any enquiries and ticket sales for select events.



Head to our website

Book your tickets online at ourmackay.com.au/festivals



Give us a call or visit the box office

Book your tickets over the phone by calling 07 4961 9777 or in-person at the MECC Box Office.



Civic Precinct,
258 Alfred Street,
Mackay, Qld, 4740



Box Office Opening Hours

9am – 4.30pm
Monday to Friday
10am – 1pm
Saturday

Box Office also open 60-minutes prior to each performance at the MECC.

Access Requirements

Please contact the Box Office 07 4961 9777 or visit us in person for more information.

ACCESSIBILITY ICONS

Keep an eye out for these icons in the program to help you navigate the shows.



Wheelchair Accessible

Indicated access for people with limited mobility including wheelchair users. Please contact the event organiser directly to book your seat and/or confirm details.



Assistive Listening

Assistive listening systems (hearing loop) or portable systems (hearing receivers) are available to amplify or enhance sound quality via hearing aids, headsets or other devices.



Audio Description

Verbal narration.



Outdoor Access

Pathway is outdoors and may not be firm, level or obstacle free.



Auslan Interpreted Events

Deaf Australian Sign Language (Auslan) interpreting provided.



Guide Dogs and Assistance Animals

Guide dogs and assistance animals are welcome to all public venues.



Companion Cards

Indicates that the provider is a Companion Card affiliate.

DBCT KIDS' THEATRE SEASON FRACTURED FAIRY TALES

Fairy tales have fractured!

Classic stories have tipped higgledy-piggledy and favourite characters are all in a muddle. Two children, whisked away to fairyland, meet a bold Little Red, grumpy gran, disco pigs, a lonely giant, love-struck prince and princess. They must piece the fairy tales back together before midnight.

Along the way, our heroes learn who to trust, when to help, kindness and to look beyond first impressions. Every choice turns a new page – can they rewrite the tales and find happily-ever-afters?

Wednesday 1 July

10.30am and 6pm

MECC, Auditorium

Ages 6+

Ticket cost: \$19.50

→ themecc.com.au





MALTA ON A PLATE



Malta's culinary heritage reflects a diverse past, featuring dishes and ingredients passed down through generations, creating a fusion of flavours. Join us in this unique event, as we uncover the historical roots of our most beloved foods.

Saturday 4 July

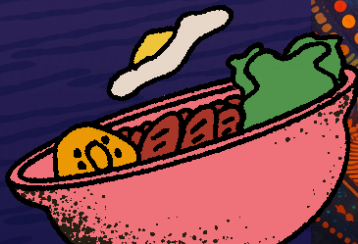
5pm

📍 Vintage Farmhouse Kitchen, 363 Rocky Waterholes Wollongford Rd, Marian

Ages 18+

Ticket cost: \$139.50

→ vintagefarmhousekitchen.com.au



STORIES IN LIGHT

A contemporary digital projection by DT Trait Designs, mentored by acclaimed artist Donna Maree Robinson, the work illuminates First Nations identity and culture through digital storytelling across the Mackay Regional Council Sir Albert Abbott Administration Building.

Monday 6 July – Sunday 12 July

6pm – 9pm

📍 Sir Albert Abbott Administration Building

All ages

Free event



LIVING SCULPTURES

HOW THE BIRDS GOT THEIR COLOURS



Where imagination takes flight

Presented in the open air against a living backdrop of sky, flora and fauna, Living Sculptures: How the Birds Got Their Colours is a striking, Indigenous-led contemporary performance. Created by ARC Circus Co. in collaboration with Luther Cora and Yugambah Aboriginal Dancers, this visually rich work blends traditional First Nations dance and storytelling with contemporary circus. Inspired by the Dreamtime story, the performance unfolds as living artworks before your eyes, exploring themes of belonging, identity and the beauty of our differences. Heartfelt, immersive and unforgettable, Living Sculptures invites audiences to see the world anew and let your imagination take flight.

Saturday 4 July – Sunday 5 July

See website for times

📍 Tropical Sun Garden Lawn, Botanic Gardens

All ages

Ticket Cost: \$25

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals





NAIDOC STREET PARADE FAMILY FUN DAY

Celebrating culture, community and connection!

Hosted by Mackay NAIDOC Incorporated, join us in a vibrant celebration of culture, connection and pride during NAIDOC Week.

Experience the colour and energy of the NAIDOC Street Parade, followed by a lively NAIDOC Family Fun Day filled with music, culture and community spirit. This much-loved annual event honours the stories, traditions, enduring contributions and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Enjoy a dynamic program of cultural performances, explore around 60 community and cultural information stalls and sample a variety of delicious foods. With activities and experiences for All ages, the day offers a wonderful opportunity for the whole community to come together to learn, connect and celebrate.

Friday 10 July

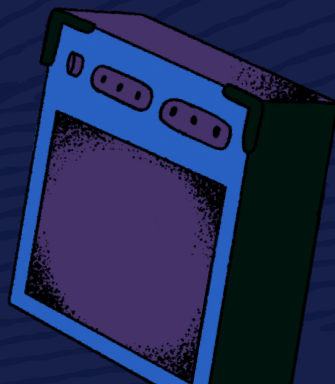
Street Parade | 10am – 11am
📍 Starting at Macalister St

Family Fund Day | 11am – 3pm
📍 Queens Park

All ages

Ticket Cost: Free event

→ facebook.com/NAIDOCMACKAY/



CIRQUE NOUVELLE

A new evolution of circus

Prepare to be amazed as our quirky ring master takes you on a journey to see riveting acts from around Australia, coming together to present 'Cirque Nouvelle' – a new evolution of circus. Expect to see acrobatics, juggling, aerials, balancing and many more jaw dropping feats! This show is guaranteed to thrill, captivate and amaze the whole family.

Monday 6 July

6.30pm

📍 MECC, Auditorium

Ages 3+

Ticket Cost: From \$45 – \$65

→ themecc.com.au



SEA OF LIGHT

Paint a voyage in light

With a UV torch as your paintbrush, paint and stencil your own voyage and steer ships that leave glowing paths of light in their wake.

Sea of Light, artworks by Aboriginal Contemporary Visual Artist Elizabeth Close, is painted in light across the sea floor, reflecting the connection between land, sea, earth and water, drawing inspiration from the diverse Australian landscape.

The experience combines magical light and a gentle soundscape to create a unique family adventure.

Wednesday 8 July – Saturday 11 July

See website for times

📍 MECC, Plenary Halls

All ages

Ticket Cost: \$22 – \$28

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals



THE LATE NITE POWERPOINT COMEDY SHOWCASE

With five comedians performing five different PowerPoints, it's a lineup show like no other.

Hosted by the agents of Microsoft Office chaos, Sweeney Preston & Ethan Cavanagh, this wild showcase is easy to follow and begging for technical difficulties.

Grab your family, friends and anyone else who has endured boring work presentations or tedious uni slides as we heal together.

This cult classic arrives in Mackay for the first time ever after sell-out seasons at Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, the UK's iconic Latitude Festival and Adelaide Fringe.

Friday 10 July – Saturday 11 July

See website for times

📍 Various Locations

18+

Ticket Cost: \$60

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals





MACKAY SCOTTISH BLUEWATER FLING

This year's Fling is bigger and better than ever.

Celebrating 100 years of community service, the Mackay Pipe Band's Fling promises to be a fantastic day of family entertainment. One hundred pipers and drummers will march across the Forgan Bridge at 2pm, including special guests the Queensland Police Pipes and Drums and Brisbane Celtic band, Murphy's Pigs. Mackay's Bluewater Fling is a free, outdoor, family-friendly community event showcasing local and visiting performers, finishing with a spectacular fireworks display at 8.30pm.

Saturday 11 July

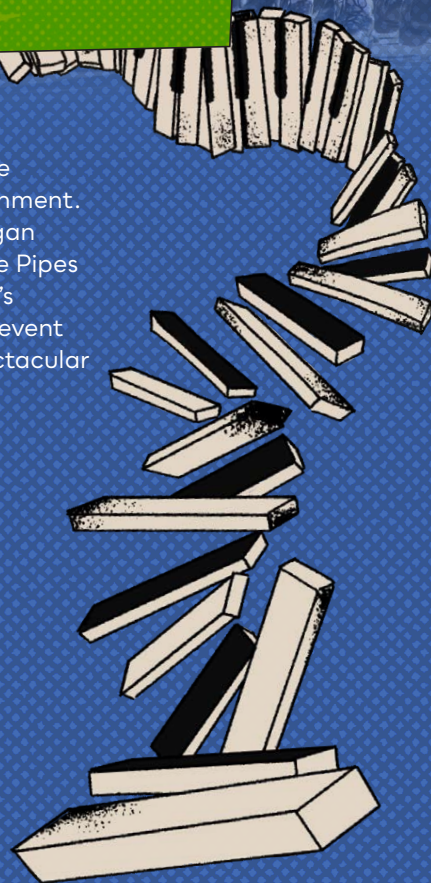
1.30pm – 9pm

📍 Bluewater Quay

All ages

Free event

→ bluewaterfling.com



NEON SUGAR SKULLS

SIP & PAINT NIGHT

During this fun session, we draw the curtains and turn out the lights to paint under UV light, bringing our neon artwork to life. All art supplies and instructions provided.

Saturday 11 July

6pm – 8.30pm

📍 The Creative Art Studio
Shop 1, 3 Ungerer St, North Mackay

Ages 16+ with participating parent

→ handdrawndesignsbymichellemdv.com



The Creative Art Studio



LOVE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT?

JOIN THE CLUB!

Make memories all year round. Discounts, pre-sales and member perks.



Find out more at themecc.com.au



ART, MUSIC & MIXOLOGY

Celebrate creativity, flavour, and community at the Sarina Sugar Shed.

Immerse yourself in art, music and mixology for a sensory evening inspired by a fresh and playful take on the traditional arts experience. Enjoy a guided cocktail (or mocktail) class featuring their new passionfruit liqueur Pop 'N' Passion, create your own vinyl record bowl art and finish the evening with lively music hits bingo. With a blend of art, funky tunes and locally crafted spirits, this event promises a fun, social night – perfect for those looking to sip, create and connect in true festival style.

Saturday 11 July

4.30pm – 5.30pm

📍 Sarina Sugar Shed

Ages 18+

Ticket Cost: \$70 – \$75
Limited spots available

→ sarinasugarshed.com.au





MUSHROOM VALLEY PRESENTS ART HOUSE

Where beats meet brushstrokes.

Mushroom Valley brings together a live art competition and curated house music – headlined by Chicago house producer James Curd, creating an energetic, sensory experience from start to finish. Artists go head-to-head on the canvas while DJs keep the room moving. Expect tapas and nibbles, a relaxed atmosphere and a night driven by creativity and rhythm.

Saturday 11 July

6pm – late

📍 The Dispensary

Ages 18+

Ticket Cost: \$50

→ events.humanitix.com/mushroom-valley-presents-art-house



UNFAMILIAR GROUND CROSSROAD ARTS

*How do we explore new ground when our feet cannot lead us?
How do we find hope in uncharted times?*

Join us on an adventure and imagine a universe of unlimited possibilities – one where we can be the hero and shape the way of the future where no-one is left behind. Led by Crossroad Arts performers and creatives, audiences will be immersed in a virtual world and be wowed by large-scale projections, sweeping soundscapes and a warming story that sparks the imagination of all ages!

Wednesday 15 July – Saturday 18 July

7pm – 8.30pm

📍 Secret location

*Location will be revealed on ticket purchase

All ages

Ticket Cost: \$15 – \$35

→ events.humanitix.com/unfamiliar-ground



Crossroad Arts is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and the Australian Government through Creative Australia. Principal Sponsor of the 2026 Artistic Program is Daly Bay and Gold Sponsor for Unfamiliar Ground is BOLD Architecture. Photo credit: Jim Cullen Photography.

IBIS MACKAY

Ibis Mackay, a part of the Accor hotel brand, is a modern hotel with superb facilities welcoming local visitors, workers and travellers alike to Mackay. Situated directly opposite the airport and about 6km from the CBD, the Ibis is perfect to explore the town and surrounding attractions and boasts unparalleled comfort.

WEBSITE:

ibishotel.com

CONTACT:

h9266-re@accor.com



TURBARLENCE



WHITSUNDAY VOICES YOUTH LITERATURE FESTIVAL

Experience a vibrant three-day celebration of literature, art and creativity. Join the excitement with over 80 interactive events for all students across grades K-12, presented by 17 of Australia's leading literary talents.

Wednesday 15 July – Friday 17 July

9.15am – 2.30pm

📍 Whitsunday Anglican School

School Age Students Kindy – Year 12

Ticket Cost: From \$8 – \$35

→ whitsundayvoices.com.au



Daly Bay, supporting Whitsunday Voices to strengthen opportunities for young people in our region.

JELENA DOKIC DBI LITERARY DINNER

A Whitsunday Voices Gala Event.

Join us for an unforgettable evening as Australian broadcaster and former international powerhouse of the court, Jelena Dokic, takes centre stage at The DBI Literary Dinner.

Jelena emerges as a beacon of hope, bravely sharing her story through the pages of her two bestselling books, *Unbreakable* and *Fearless*, and her multi-award-winning documentary. Her words echo as testament to the immense power of sharing our stories. Jelena's remarkable journey stirs a profound sense of admiration beyond belief.

Don't miss the iconic DBI Literary Dinner, where story and inspiration collide.

Friday 17 July

6pm – late

📍 MECC, Plenary Halls

Ages 18+

Ticket Cost: \$225

→ whitsundayvoices.com.au



Dalrymple Bay Infrastructure is proud to support The Literary Dinner, celebrating Whitsunday Voices and its enduring contribution to our region's cultural life.

WHAT'S ON AT ARTSPACE

CONTEMPORARY ART EXHIBITIONS

Bring your family and meet your friends at Artspace Mackay to experience three new exhibitions featuring international, Australian, First Nations and local artists: *Looking Out, Looking In: Exploring the Self-Portrait*; Archie Moore: *Mīal*; and Katelyn Dunn: *You sound just like your Mother*.

📍 Artspace Mackay, Civic Precinct,
Gordon St, Mackay

All ages

Free events

Register your spot: bit.ly/3ND3oyK



→ artspacemackay.com.au



Opening Night: Friday 3 July | 6pm

Exhibition: Saturday 4 July – Sunday 20 September

10am – 5pm Tues to Fri

10am – 3pm Sat and Sun

BMA KIDSPACE

Artspace Mackay's popular toddlers' program, lets children under five explore art materials and tools through fun, co-operative learning. This free program includes two free artist-led sessions and live musical entertainment. Proudly supported by BHP Mitsubishi Alliance.



Tuesday 28 July

9.30am – 1.30pm

(free music session 11am – 11.45am)

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Take a closer look at artist's books from the Mackay Regional Council Art Collection. This free program is an opportunity for visitors to explore the featured artists book of the month with the help of Artspace Volunteers, up-close and page-by-page.



Saturday 15 August

10.30am



NIGHT IN THE CANEFIELDS

Night in the Canefields is an unforgettable family evening where music, fire and atmosphere collide. Soak up live music all night by Mango Junction, enjoy great food and drinks, and as the sun sinks, stand in awe as the canefields ignite. A rare, spectacular cane fire at sundown – powerful, primal and unforgettable.

Saturday 18 July

4pm – 9pm

📍 Oh Deere Farm Stay,
71 Zamparuttis Road, Calen

All ages

Ticket Cost: \$55 per vehicle

→ ohdeerefarmstay.com.au





WISELY WINE AND FOOD DAY

Taste the beat. Sip the sound. Let your senses dance where music, food, and art collide.

Wisely Wine and Food Day invites you to soak up a vibrant celebration of street eats, wine, creative culture, and live music. Head to Queens Park for an unforgettable day packed with bold flavours, refreshing brews, artistic energy and feel-good beats. Wander through arts markets, watch live plein air painting, or join a relaxed paint-and-sip session.

Explore food vendors serving crowd-pleasing street food. Raise a glass to craft beers, wines, and ciders. Live performances ignite the stage with an electrifying mix of genres, keeping the energy flowing from first sip to final encore. Free, family-friendly, and full of atmosphere, this celebration is for everyone.

Saturday 18 July

10.30am – 5.30pm

📍 Queens Park, East Mackay

All ages

Free event

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals



A responsible parent and/or guardian will need to supervise children at all times. This is a fully licensed event, strictly no BYO and ID required for the purchase of alcohol. Get the facts at drinkwise.org.au



Get the facts
DrinkWise.org.au



BB PRINT MAIN STAGE

BUDJERAH

Platinum-selling, ARIA Award-winning artist Budjerah, is a Coodjinburra man from the Bundjalung nation, who quickly became one of the most exciting new voices in Australia. With over 50 million streams, including the platinum hit “Therapy,” he blends deep emotion with genre-defying sound. His new single, “Want You Back,” is the first taste of his highly anticipated debut album produced by Om’Mas Keith, where fans can expect even more of his signature blend of raw emotion and infectious energy.

BERMUDA SOCIAL

Let Bermuda Social chart a course through your favourite classics, remixing and reimagining each tune into a seamless, high-spirited voyage.

THE SHORT FALL

Alias of Rockhampton based frontman Angelo Conway; a Filipino-Aussie indie-rockster from the heart of Cattle country who delivers emotive guitar-driven songs with vocal harmonies & catchy hooks.

GEED UP BAND

Blending vocals, hip-hop, breakdancing and acrobatics, their live show unites audiences of All ages to laugh, dance, and enjoy high-energy, joyful entertainment with their self-proclaimed #WORSTSHOEVER.

VIVA BAND

Offering a diverse blend of R&B, Flamenco, Latin, rock, classic hits, 80s, 90s, pop, and delivering high-energy performances across the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

MICK DOUGLAS

From Mackay and now Fraser Coast based, Mick Douglas fuses soulful vocals and acoustic rock with powerful riffs, inspired by INXS and Pearl Jam, creating music that resonates with listeners.

JESSICA CASH

A local musician captivating the Mackay-Isaac and Whitsunday region for the last seven years, blending vocals, guitar, and stompbox across a vibrant mix of genres.





TROPICAL COAST PLUMBING FAMILY ZONE

Let the kids join the fun at our Kids' Zone, sponsored by Tropical Coast Plumbing. With rides, jumping castles, and interactive activities, it's the perfect place to play, laugh, and enjoy.



BOTTLETOPS & BRUSHES PAINT & SIP

Unleash your creativity at mini Paint & Sip sessions, or drop in to decorate a terracotta pot or tote bag. Local art experts Bottletops and Brushes will guide you to create your own masterpiece.

11am – 4.30pm

All ages

Ticket Cost: \$30 – \$40

→ bottletopsandbrushes.com



ARTISAN MARKET TRAIL

Browse unique local creations – from stunning artwork and handcrafted goods to homemade baked treats and artisan sauces. It's a true feast for the senses and the perfect way to savour the creativity and flavours of our region.



ART SOCIETY ACTIVATION LIVE PLEIN AIR PAINTING AND ART EXHIBITION

Watch local artists bring landscapes to life in the live Plein Air Painting Demonstrations, explore an Art Exhibition and add your touch to a communal painting.

11am – 5pm

All ages

Free event

→ mackayartsociety.com

THE MECC AND CARLA CONFESSSIONAL CABARET PRESENTS THAT'S NOT AMORE



A feminist cabaret comedy for your heart and soul with a pinch of guilt on top. The only way Italian's know how.

An exploration of growing up Italian in Australia. This cabaret speaks to the complicated layers of life, generational trauma, ones worth, expectations and the value of women...

Along with the sentimental dramatic Italian heritage stories, a loud upbringing and the 'characters' that come with a big Italian family...

Explore the traditions, dialects and value systems that have been frozen in time by the immigrants that ventured here from across the seas.

Mamma Mia!!!

Friday 24 July

7.30pm

📍 MECC North Foyer

Ages 16+

Ticket Cost: \$41 – \$55

→ themecc.com.au

Warnings: Suicidal reference (one sentence), flashing lights, swearing, family/domestic abuse references (2 scenes) and audience participation with consent.



SHARED GROUND

PLAYS IN PROGRESS

Two plays. One stage. Shared Ground presents rehearsed readings of two works in progress by Mackay playwrights Cassandra Ramsay and Traci Lietzke. Join us for an intimate evening of storytelling and be part of the creative journey.

Friday 24 July

6pm

📍 Andergrove Community Centre,
80-84 Celeber Drive, Andergrove

16 and under accompanied by
an adult. Includes adult themes.

Ticket Cost: \$20 – \$25

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals



The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Mackay Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.

Plays originally developed as part of Mackay Regional Council's Harvest Development Program.



BOUTIQUE BURLESQUE PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

'THE REVEAL'

The Reveal: sexy, surprising striptease at its finest. Join Boutique Burlesque Productions for a night of tassels, tease and unforgettable performances by headlining artists from across Australia. Dress to impress and leave your inhibitions at the door. For one night only, be swept into a world of class and sass, cheek and charm, babes and baddies. Think you know burlesque? Think again. Let us educate – and better yet – entertain you.

Saturday 25 July

Doors Open 7pm

📍 Seabreeze Hotel, Pacific Room

Ages 18+

Ticket Cost: \$74

→ boutiqueburlesque.com



RIVER OF LIGHTS CRUISES



Enjoy Daly Bay Illuminate from one of Mackay's most exclusive vantage points on a relaxed one-hour evening cruise along the Pioneer River aboard Endless Days. These river cruises are rare and only possible on limited tide windows each year. As the city lights shimmer on the water, you'll glide through quiet stretches of river that still feel untouched and wild, offering a breathtaking contrast of festival energy and natural beauty. Includes light refreshments served onboard.

Thursday 23 July – Sunday 26 July

See website for times

📍 Pioneer River Pontoon,
Bluewater Quay

All ages. Under 18 accompanied
by an adult

Ticket Cost: Tickets ranging from \$99 – \$109
Limited sessions and capacity. Bookings essential.

→ bookeo.com/nauticalbynature



DALY BAY ILLUMINATE



Get ready for four unforgettable nights as Daly Bay Illuminate returns to light up the heart of Mackay City Centre. Step into the streets and experience the city like never before – where vibrant laneways and iconic facades become canvases for spectacular large-scale projections, powerful First Nations storytelling, inspiring community artworks and captivating puppetry. Across eight unique locations, art and light intertwine to transform the city centre into a glowing celebration of creativity, culture and connection. Join us as we dine, explore and illuminate the night together.

Thursday 23 July – Sunday 26 July

6pm – 9pm

📍 Mackay City Centre

All ages

Free event

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals



DISCOVER MACKAY'S ART, CULTURE & HISTORY



Dive into the dynamic, ever-evolving arts scene of Mackay's City Centre – wander at your own pace on a self-guided adventure or join an expert-led walk, and uncover creativity around every corner.

GUIDED TOUR

'ART IN THE STREETS' MURAL ART TOUR

Experience the vibrant city centre on a free art walk for all ages, guided by Public Art Officer Jennifer Dalton-Smith. Explore many colourful and varied artist murals that activate and brighten Mackay City Centre's urban laneways including three new large-scale murals and a hidden digital art street gallery.

Friday 10 July

4.30pm – 5.30pm

📍 Artspace Mackay

All ages

Free event

→ <https://bit.ly/3ND3oyK>



SELF-GUIDED TOURS WITH VIRTUAL MAPS

PUBLIC ART TRAIL



Discover the creative heartbeat of Mackay through its inspiring collection of public art. From striking sculptures to thought-provoking installations, the trail highlights the city's commitment to creativity, culture and storytelling in everyday spaces.

MURALS TRAIL



Experience Mackay's streets like never before – transformed into a vibrant outdoor gallery of colour, creativity and community spirit. The Murals Trail showcases large-scale artworks by local and visiting artists, each mural telling a unique story that reflects the character, culture and natural beauty of the region.

FIRST NATIONS ART TRAIL



Connect with the deep cultural roots and rich artistic traditions of the First Nations peoples of the Mackay region. This trail celebrates Indigenous stories, symbols and voices through vibrant public artworks created by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. Each piece reflects a profound connection to Country, culture and community.

HERITAGE TRAIL



Step back in time and discover the rich history that shaped Mackay into the vibrant city it is today. The Heritage Trail showcases a collection of iconic landmarks, charming architecture and stories from the region's past – celebrating the people, industries and events that have left a lasting legacy.



CITY CENTRE PARTNERS LIGHTING UP MACKAY FOR DALY BAY ILLUMINATE

Mackay City Centre is set to shine brighter than ever as local businesses come together for Daly Bay Illuminate, creating an unforgettable festival atmosphere in the heart of the city.

Our City Centre partners are getting into the spirit by extending their trading hours, offering exclusive festival deals, and embracing the magic of light, art, and community. From cosy cafés and buzzing bars to boutique retailers and vibrant venues, these local favourites are helping transform Mackay's City Centre into a lively hub of colour, creativity, and connection.

While you're exploring the stunning installations, be sure to wander through the city, discover something new, enjoy a delicious bite, and take advantage of the special offers available throughout the festival.

Support local, stay a little longer, and experience the magic of Daly Bay Illuminate.



DALY BAY ILLUMINATE
SELF GUIDED TOUR

DINE, EXPLORE AND DISCOVER

Step into the glow of Illuminate and explore Mackay City Centre at your own pace. This self-guided journey invites you to wander, discover, and experience the city transformed through light and creativity. Simply scan the code to unlock your interactive map and let the night lead the way.

WHALE SONG BY CURIOUS LEGENDS

Whale Song is an unforgettable outdoor theatre procession from Curious Legends celebrating the magic of our humpback whale migration season. Arrive early and step into a world of wonder as you explore our beautifully crafted whale puppets before they awaken! Then... As night falls, these breathtaking creations transform into a spectacular live performance featuring a mesmerising narrative, giant illuminated puppets, and imaginative community-made sea creatures. Guided by a powerful, moving soundscape woven throughout the show, the procession comes alive inviting you to follow, feel, and be part of the journey! Come join our Whale Song – an immersive theatre experience taking you into the depths of the ocean!

Performance | 8.15pm – 8.45pm

Workshops | See website for times

📍 Civic Centre Grounds

All ages

Free event

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals



BRIAN ROBINSON

Brian Robinson is a Waiben (Thursday Island) artist who also has Maluyilgal and Wuthathi heritage. His work explores imagery drawn from ancestral iconography of the Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait), and he uniquely interweaves this with images from popular culture and science fiction.

HIDDEN SPECTRUMS LIAM FOLIE

This dual-experience installation transforms from a daytime mural into a glowing nighttime artwork. Inspired by the gills of local mushrooms, it celebrates fungi that sustain our environment. At night, colour-shifting LEDs animate the mural, making elements appear, disappear, and move – creating an illusion that echoes how mushrooms emerge and vanish in nature.

RIVER KIN DONNA MAREE ROBINSON

River Kin transforms local children's science-inspired drawings of river flora and fauna into animated light across the Pioneer Shire Building. Fish, mangroves, insects and currents flow together, celebrating the Pioneer River's living ecosystem and our shared responsibility to care for it.

PATRICK THAIDAY

At dawn, Saltwater People gather by misty waters. An Elder summons Kadal, the crocodile, as a digital projection by Torres Strait Island artist Patrick Thaiday illuminates the scene. Day turns to night; reflections transform the people. The evening star becomes the Dhari, as Kadal is revealed – Ancestor, glowing with enduring kinship.

ALIZA KROEGER

Aliza Kroeger is a mixed-media artist whose practice has expanded into stop-motion animation. Born in Saskatoon, Canada, in 2011, she moved to Mackay with her family in 2015. Her early passion for making art continues to shape the way she engages with and questions the world around her.

WHITSUNDAY WEALTH FESTIVAL HUB



Feel the rhythm, taste the flavour and soak up the energy at the Whitsunday Wealth Festival Hub! Set on the stunning waterfront at Bluewater Quay, this buzzing festival precinct is your go-to destination for four unforgettable nights of music, food and fun.

Every evening brings a fresh sound, with a new band and genre lighting up the stage and setting the vibe. From crowd-pleasing favourites to exciting new discoveries, there's something to get everyone moving.

Come hungry and curious – indulge in mouthwatering street eats and sip on locally crafted brews from Red Dog Riverfront as you explore the atmosphere. Step beyond the ordinary, discover your next favourite artist, and experience the festival magic.

Thursday 23 July – Sunday 26 July

6pm – 9pm

📍 Bluewater Quay, Mackay City

All ages

Free event

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals



A responsible parent and/or guardian will need to supervise children at all times. This is a fully licensed event, strictly no BYO and ID required for the purchase of alcohol. Get the facts at drinkwise.org.au



THURSDAY KICKSTART: ROCK & RIOT

Kick off your night at Thursday Kickstart with The Orangutans! This energetic cover trio delivers rock classics and feel-good hits with powerful vocals and guitar-driven anthems for a night of unstoppable, crowd-pleasing energy.



FRIDAY SOIREE: GATSBY & GLAM

Step into a Friday night of Gatsby & Glamour. Brisbane duo Electro Swiggety, led by Ms Tara Trumpet and Big K Daddy, blend jazz, swing, rockabilly, pop, and electronic beats into a high-energy performance with infectious retro-modern flair.



SATURDAY REWIND: JAZZ, JIVE & ROCK 'N' ROLL

Hit the dance floor at Saturday Rewind! Hot Hot Hot's 5-piece band brings retro hits to life with up-tempo jazz, Latin rhythms, and iconic 50s-80s pop and rock, promising an energetic, fun, and unforgettable night for all.



SUNDAY RESET: REGGAE & RHYTHM

Unwind at Sunday Reset with Pluto Tango. Blending reggae, RnB, funk, and soul, Pluto Tango delivers groove-driven sets with live looping, rich vocals, and infectious energy – an uplifting escape to relax, dance, and carry the feel-good vibes into the week.



Whitsunday Wealth



Get the facts
DrinkWise.org.au

THE DAY THE MUSE-IC DIED

Ten years after its debut, The Day the Muse-Ic Died returns to Mackay Festival of Arts, reimagined with a high school cast, celebrating creativity, music, literature, mythology, nostalgia and chaos.

Friday 24 July – Saturday 25 July

See website for times

📍 Metropolitan Hotel

All ages

Ticket Cost: \$35 – \$65

Includes two course meal

→ trybooking.com/DLCPL



MACK POPCON

Mackay Region's local Pop Culture Convention – a one-day celebration of cosplay, anime, comics, collectibles, gaming, art, medieval reenactment and so much more! Keep an eye on Mack PopCon socials for updates on special guests, artists, vendors and entertainment.

Saturday 1 August

9am – 4pm

📍 Mackay Showgrounds, The Big Shed

All ages

Ticket Cost: \$5 – \$10



mackpopcon.org.au



MACKAY INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Step into the joy of world cinema! This year's program features extraordinary films from around the globe that inspire, entertain, and celebrate creativity, cultural diversity, and the art of storytelling

Friday 31 July – Sunday 2 August

See website for times

📍 BCC Cinemas Mackay, Mt Pleasant

Age restrictions – see classification

Ticket Cost: \$15 – \$40



→ filmartsmackay.weebly.com



BLUEPRINT ARTSPACE PUBLIC ART OPPORTUNITY

Are you an emerging artist living in the Mackay region?

You could be eligible to apply for BLUEPRINT – a six-month exhibition showcasing artworks in public locations across Mackay.

BLUEPRINT is a public art opportunity for emerging Mackay artists, offering paid commissions and the chance to showcase original work in high-traffic locations through this Artspace Mackay initiative.

Call for submissions now open!

14+ | www.artspacemackay.com.au



'TRANSFORMATION: THE LANGUAGE OF WATER' AT CEDAR GALLERY

Experience an intimate evening of contemporary art by local artists, inspired by the Pioneer Valley in The Language of Water. Presented by Transformation Artists Collective, the exhibition explores water, landscape and transformation through diverse materials and practices. Set at Cedar Gallery, a beautiful hilltop gallery in Eungella, guests will enjoy nibbles, a complimentary drink, artist-led tours and floor talks, with return transport provided via an event bus.

Saturday 1 August

3pm – 5.30pm (Bus departs Mackay at 1.15pm)

📍 Cedar Gallery, Eungella Dam Road, Broken River

Ages 18+

Ticket Cost: \$32

→ trybooking.com/DJZQH



Return transport is included via an event bus, departing from designated bus stops at Mackay, Mirani, Marian and Finch Hatton. Guests must all arrive via the event bus – please note there is no self-drive option.



FRIENDS OF THE MECC JAZZ BRUNCH

Start your day in style at the Friends of the MECC Jazz Brunch – a vibrant celebration of great food, sparkling conversation, and live entertainment. Enjoy a delicious buffet brunch with a refreshing drink on arrival, as the atmosphere comes alive with music and storytelling.

Adding star power to the morning is award-winning Australian performer Catherine Alcorn with her brand-new show Midler and Me, celebrating the legendary Bette Midler, known as The People's Diva. From her first season in Wagga Wagga to tours across the United States, Alcorn shares stories, songs, and personal connections from her acclaimed tribute. Delicious brunch, sparkling company, and show-stopping music make this a Sunday experience not to be missed.

Sunday 2 August

11am – 1pm

📍 MECC, North Foyer

All ages

Ticket Cost: \$78 – \$82

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals



GCCM GOLD COAST MACKAY YACHT RACE 2026

The third GCCM Gold Coast Mackay Yacht Race returns in 2026, bringing some of Australia's most competitive racing yachts to Mackay! Come be part of the official Race Village, markets and activities at the Mackay Marina and welcome the fleet on the first weekend of August.

Thursday 30 July – Wednesday 5 August

See website for times

📍 Mackay Marina

All ages

Free event

→ goldcoastmackay.com



GCCM
GOLD COAST MACKAY
YACHT RACE 2026

SPLASH FEST MACKAY

The Slade Point Progress Association Inc proudly presents a connection of culture, art, music and environment as we welcome the humpback whale migration and turtle nesting seasons.

Saturday 8 August

10am – 8pm

📍 Ram Chandra Park,
Pacific Avenue, Slade Point

All ages

Free event

→ ourmackay.com.au/festivals



ECHOES OF THE GORGE A CREATIVE COMMUNITY SUNDAY

Bring Finch Hatton to life for a day of creativity! Celebrate local artists and artisans and enjoy free workshops for all ages, art and artisan markets, art exhibition and busking musicians. Join in and be part of the launch of a vibrant Community and Creative Hub.

Sunday 9 August

9am – 3pm

📍 Old Finch Hatton Railway Station

All ages

Free Event

→ finchatton.org.au



WOOLLAM ART ON SHOW AWARDS AND EXHIBITION

The Woollam Art on Show Awards and Exhibition, presented by Mackay Art Society, invites emerging and established artists from the Mackay region and across Australia to take part in this four-day celebration of art. The exhibition features a \$12,000 non-acquisitive prize pool and artists-in-residence presenting live demonstrations throughout Saturday and Sunday.

Opening Night: Friday 7 August | 6.30pm
Exhibition: Saturday 8 - 11 August | 10am - 4pm

📍 Mackay Showgrounds, 500 Pavillion

All ages

Ticket Cost: Opening Night: \$20
 Exhibition: gold coin donation

→ mackayartsociety.com.au



EVERLY BROTHERS AND ROY ORBISON

Australia's #1 vocal duo, the much-loved Robertson Brothers, join forces with the internationally acclaimed Dean Bourne - the world's greatest Roy Orbison tribute artist - and the Variety Show team for an unforgettable two-hour audio-visual spectacular.

Saturday 8 August

7.30pm

📍 MECC, Auditorium

All ages

Ticket Cost: From \$74.95 - \$79.95

→ robertsonbrothers.com.au



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👉 ourmackay.com.au/festivals



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