

SEPTEMBER 2025

SOUTHERN LIVING & Real Estate



GLOBE-TROTTERING CHOCOLATIER FINDS HOME IN KILLARNEY

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Celebrating Killarney

WarwickToday
StanthorpeToday





September signals the beginning of wildflower season in Girraween National Park.

Head to the great outdoors in spring

Southern Downs is home to one of Australia’s richest native wildflower habitats and our region bursts into bloom at this time of the year, so it is always exciting to welcome the official start of spring on Wattle Day.

With the second highest number of endemic wattle varieties in the country, including rare and vulnerable species like the Wyberba wattle, there’s no better time than spring to lace up the boots and explore the region’s blossoming bushland.

Southern Downs Acting Mayor and spokesperson for Liveable Communities Cr Sheryl Windle said the unique and vibrant floral wonders of the Granite Belt make

the region a premier nature-based tourism destination.

“Spring in the Southern Downs is a season like no other,” Cr Windle said.

“The arrival of spring on 1 September signalled the beginning of wildflower season in Girraween National Park, and Wattle Day is a chance to celebrate the region’s rich biodiversity, explore its wildflower trails and reconnect with the beauty that we are blessed to possess in our own backyard.

“Renowned for its ecological diversity, our region is a sanctuary for more than 900 flowering plant species that transform the landscape into a living canvas with the

change of season.

“Fittingly, Girraween means ‘place of flowers’ and it comes alive at this time of year with spectacular wildflower displays that splash colour across the national park.

“Whether you’re a seasoned botanist, a weekend wanderer or simply seeking a moment of beauty, I encourage you to escape to the high country and witness the seasonal spectacle up close.”

To celebrate spring in all its glory, the Stanthorpe Rare Wildflower Consortium is hosting guided walks through Passchendaele State Forest and Girraween National Park

that offer nature enthusiasts an immersive experience in the region’s floral diversity. Visit www.granitebeltwildflowers.com for more information.

Looking to deepen your appreciation of wattles? The Consortium’s publication, Wattle of the Granite Belt and Surrounds, features full descriptions and localities of each species and is available for purchase at the Stanthorpe Visitor Information Centre.

To discover more ways to explore our backyard this spring, visit Council’s tourism page at www.southerndownsandgranitebelt.com.au.

Art building resilience and hope

BY KARINA DEVINE

Warwick Art Gallery is delighted to present The Tulip Project, a captivating solo exhibition by multi-disciplinary artist, educator, and creative explorer Ruth Ellington.

Deeply rooted in storytelling, symbolism, and personal transformation, Ellington’s work spans painting, printing, soft sculpture, and digital imagery. Each medium provides a different lens through which she explores the ebb and flow of life, offering audiences an immersive and reflective experience.

At the heart of The Tulip Project is Ruth’s alter ego, Tulip – a persona through which she navigates themes of love, loss, healing, and resilience. Flowers and bees,

recurring motifs in her work, symbolise renewal, industriousness, and the delicate balance between perseverance and rest. The repetitive creation of flowers, whether painted or sculpted, echoes the human journey: we adapt, endure, and grow through each challenge.

Materiality also plays a central role in Ellington’s practice. Vintage buttons, repurposed fabrics, and found objects collected over decades are woven into her soft sculptures and mixed media pieces, each carrying stories of their own. These elements become part of a greater narrative, reflecting memory, time, and transformation.

Alongside her own practice, Ruth is a dedicated educator, nurturing creativity and

inspiring others to discover their artistic voices. She encourages students to explore the power of visual storytelling as a tool for personal growth and collective connection.

“Ruth’s work is an invitation to pause and reflect,” says Warwick Art Gallery Director, Karina Devine.

“Through her art she shows us that creativity is not only an act of expression but also a way to heal, discover, and connect with one another.”

The Tulip Project highlights the depth and beauty of Ellington’s creative journey, offering visitors an opportunity to engage with art as a vessel of resilience, transformation, and hope.

Exhibition Dates: 21 August to 27 September



Fleur du Coeur Ruth Ellington 2025. (Christina Lowry)

Finding a new world in Killarney

BY TANIA PHILLIPS

He was born in the middle of a cocoa plantation in Sri Lanka so it's hard not to think that Killarney's Surath Perera was probably destined to be a chef and world-renown chocolatier. To study in Switzerland and France, travel the world, work for royalty and major hotel chains and to sculpt tractors out of chocolate for the Australian Parliament and build chocolate models of the Eiffel Tower.

What might be harder to work out is how he ended up in Killarney – and, until recently, helping out with morning tea fundraisers for the very community-minded ladies of the QCWA and now working as a chef at KLife Aged Care – Killarney's Community-owned and run, not-for-profit aged care and NDIS provider.

"I've done enough," Surath said simply adding that it was an honour to help provide food for the hardworking farmers of Killarney in their older years and he was loving making birthday cakes and bringing joy.

It was his wife that introduced Surath to the Killarney QCWA ladies and to Killarney itself after a lifetime of travelling.

"It was my wife is the one who found Killarney not me," he said.

"I'm a hotelier, I'm a Master Chocolatier myself – I was born in the middle in a Cocoa plantation back home in Sri Lanka then I went to hotel school after finishing schooling to be a chef. I then did the Hilton training program back in Columbo it ended up I got the opportunity to go to Vienna, Austria.

"I was in Austria for many years."

It was there that his passion for confectionery bloomed and he attended culinary art schools and confectionary art schools in Austria, Switzerland, France and Germany.

"Being a chef is like being a Doctor," Surath said.

"You become a Doctor and then you can specialise to be a heart specialist. It's the same thing with the chefs. You can be a chef and then you can carry on and be a pastry chef, you can be a chocolatier – you can specialise. So being a pastry chef, I always had the artistic touch. I went into the confectionary art schools and got the



Master chocolatier Surath Perera offers his creations. Pictures: SAMANTHA WANTLING

opportunity to join one of the world's most prestigious chocolate faculties in France. So my specialty was chocolate."

He said it was a career that continued taking him around the world working for the different International hotel chains.

"I started my career at Hilton International, then Renaissance, Marriot International, Ritz Carlton, Bulgari – that's all under Marriot International umbrella – they own the Ritz Carlton, the Bulgari Hotel Chain and the Sheraton as well – now it's called the Star Group.

"I came back to Australia in 1997 and then back to the Middle East to work in Dubai and Abu Dhabi and then I came back here and joined the Star Entertainment Group. I have been working for the Star for the past 10 years.

"My family moved to Killarney permanently. They wanted to have a lifestyle change – since 1997 we had always lived on the Gold Coast but the pandemic changed everything. My family found other interests especially my wife – she comes from a farming background in Austria. They fell in love with Killarney and the Southern Downs and moved to this area permanently and then my son moved and I had to follow them so I came here.

"It's such a nice part of the world and I've got a job working as a chef at the Killarney Memorial Aged Care now KLife. You can still be creative – if you're an artist you can always be creative. That's the way I am."

He said over the years he had received a lot of opportunities to create chocolate and made some amazing creations.

"I worked for the royal family in Bahrain, in the Kingdom of Bahrain," he said.

"I have worked for a lot of influential people like Queen Rania of Jordan. The Shek Salman the King of Bahrain at the time. When you are working with a royal

family they associate with a lot of the other royals – they always come to dinner. This weekend there might be someone coming – Prince Albert of Monaco. The only downside of working for the royal family you had to forget your family and be part of their family."

These days he's been enjoying being with his family and being part of the Killarney community. In the past couple of years he has been just at home working with the Killarney QCWA holding a couple chocolate morning teas and late last month – his last event with the group – a high tea at their hall.

"What I do is for the community, I keep them active and I like to be active myself as well," he said though with his job at KLife he is becoming too busy to do too many more of the events.

"I really like working there. All the residents are getting beautiful birthday cakes that I create. I like it, at lunch times I like to do my rounds and talk to them and see how they like the food. I have 30 years of hospitality experience working in different five-to-seven star hotel. That type of experience you have to a lot of confidence and talk to the guests you have to make sure the food is right otherwise you'd be hiding in the back."

QCWA Killarney vice president Bev Hall said the diverse group, who are always looking for more members, has really appreciated his contributions including the most recent high tea.

"We had a very good day it was most success – it was lovely – even though we had a bit of a shower everyone was able to sit in side very comfortably and we didn't even have to have air conditioning," she laughed.

"It was lovely and everyone enjoyed themselves.

"Everybody has been asking 'when's the next one' – well we won't be doing another one because with his work now it's not easy. But we are truly thankful for what he did."

The events have been a major fundraiser for a group that thinks out of the square to help their community - they currently have a big father's day raffle underway and no doubt more ideas in the works.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING CONDAMINE SPORTS CLUB OF WARWICK INC.

will be held at the Club premises 129-133 Palmerin Street WARWICK
Sunday 21st September 2025 at 9am

BUSINESS OF MEETING

1. To receive the Management Committee Report.
 2. To receive the Financial Report to 30th June 2025.
 3. To receive the Auditors Report.
4. Election of Members of the Management Committee.
 5. Appointment of an Auditor.
 6. Close

Nominations for President (2) Vice Presidents Secretary and Treasurer must be in the hands of the Secretary or the Club Manager by Monday 15th September 2025. Nominations forms are now available from Reception

The romance of music

The Vibrant Arts organising team is thrilled to announce the second year of its Romancing the Stones Classical Music Festival in Warwick.

Join them from Friday, 12 September to Sunday, 14 September, for four events held in Warwick's iconic sandstone buildings, with one event at the Warwick Twin Cinema.

The opening night promises a unique experience for regional audiences. St. Mary's Assisi Place will come alive with a Medieval-Share-A-Feast, featuring the lively sounds of the East St Minstrels performing madrigals, alongside the talented harpist: Lissa-Kathe, Jester: Steve Clark, and other vibrant personalities, including the Medieval Bards (acting troop), Trolly Lolly (a medieval trio), actor: Reyna Hadley and the Warwick Ladies only Vocal Ensemble (the LOVE). This enchanting dress-up dinner event is not to be missed. Bookings are essential at trybooking.com.

Saturday morning will introduce a new feature to the festival: the Melomaniacs will showcase their versatility with popular classical songs in a concert titled Songs 'n' Scones at the Warwick Uniting Church on Guy St. After the concert, enjoy a delightful morning tea prepared by the Uniting Church team, while mingling with artists and attendees.

St Mark's Church on Grafton St will



The East Street Singers.

once again host Saturday afternoon's Young Performers Showcase, highlighting the talents of local school-aged musicians (vocal and instrumental) from various studios and schools in town. St. Mark's extends a warm invitation to the audience for a "cuppa"; after the show.

Following the success of last year's Night at the Movies featuring the opera "La Traviata", this year's Cinema treat will be "Chevalier".

"Chevalier is a remarkable story of Joseph Bologne, an 18th-century mixed-race composer and violinist in France, born to an enslaved mother and a French aristocrat.

The film delves into themes of identity, racism, resilience, and the significance of art in pre-Revolutionary France, highlighting moments of triumph, heartbreak, and the struggle for a lasting legacy.

Don't miss this exclusive one-night-only screening for Romancing the Stones.

The festival will conclude with Fabulous Classics at St Mary's Church on Palmerin St, featuring the esteemed East Street Singers and the Southern Downs Orchestra, along with beloved local performer, soprano: Jillian Hulme, tenor: Ian Kammholz, and Toowoomba bass: Robert Williams. A special highlight will be accomplished local



A final rehearsal.

pianist, Arlene Bird performing Clair de Lune by Debussy.

"There is nothing quite like the experience of hearing a choir of over twenty voices accompanied by an orchestra in this grand sandstone building. The concert will feature music from Purcell, Handel, Mozart, Schubert, and more recently, Morricone and Lloyd Webber. It truly will be a Fabulous afternoon of Classics to conclude the festival for another year," said Vibrant Arts President, Bronwyn Clark.

Festival Information: 0423 334 402

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Starting young

Sixteen-year-old Chloe Fern has grown up with music in her family and has been singing since she could talk so she is a perfect host and performer for the popular Young Performers Showcase being held at St Mark's Church, Grafton Street on Saturday, 13 September from 2pm.

With her siblings constantly playing music she was naturally drawn to the energy and joy that music brings. There is a not a day that goes by that Chloe isn't sitting at the piano or picking up her guitar and singing throughout the house. She now performs with her siblings regularly and has started doing some solo gigs.

Chloe loves that music brings people together and enjoys seeing the reaction of those that listen. Practice can always be a challenge when it's a song that's difficult to learn, she also finds those initial nerves before performing a challenge to settle but all of this quickly fades once she starts.

She said that the rewards of singing and playing an instrument are endless, it not only makes her feel great but she enjoys being creative, hearing a song and then being able to perform it and of course the way it makes people feel when they listen.

Chloe feels that The Romancing the Stone Festival in Warwick is so important because it brings the community together



The Warwick Ladies only Vocal Ensemble will perform Love - the ladies are standing in front of an exhibit by Ruth Ellington - called The Tulip Project currently on at the Warwick Art Gallery.



Chloe Fern will perform and MC at the Young Performers Showcase being held at St Mark's Church, Grafton Street on Saturday, 13 September from 2pm.

and celebrates the beauty of music. She said it provided an opportunity for local musicians to share their talents and for the younger performers it gives them a chance to build their confidence and allows people to see what a talented community there is in the Southern Downs.

What's on

FRIDAY 12 SEPTEMBER, 6pm
MEDIEVAL SHARE-A-FEAST
(TRYBOOKING.COM ONLY) ~ St Mary's

Assisi Play
▪ Adults: \$30 / Concession and Under 18: \$25
SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, 10am
SONGS 'N' SCONES WITH THE MELOMANIACS ~ Warwick Uniting Church
▪ All tickets at the door \$20
SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, 2pm
YOUNG PERFORMERS SHOWCASE ~ St Mark's Church, Grafton St
▪ Gold coin entry

SATURDAY 13 SEPTEMBER, 6pm
CHEVALIER - SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES ~ Warwick Twin Cinema
▪ (Rated M / English / Running time: 1hr 47min)
▪ Adults: \$20 / Concession & Under 18: \$15 (tickets available now from WTC)
SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 2pm
FABULOUS CLASSICS & Afternoon tea ~ St Mary's Church, Palmerin St
▪ Adults: \$30 / Concession & Under 18: \$25 (tickets available at the door or via trybooking.com)

COST- FREE

Open to Male seniors aged 60 and over, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men aged 50 and over



STAR
Community Services
07 4527 4111

WARWICK MEN'S BBQ

Come along for a relaxed BBQ, enjoy great food, friendly company, and meaningful conversations.

To book or for more information, please call Carly Milnthorpe on 0402 638 581 or email communityconnections@starct.org.au



Join us on 1st and 3rd Monday of each month
Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
at **STAR Community Services**
163 Palmerin Street, Warwick

STAR Community Connection Program is proud to offer this service as part of the Queensland Government Funding to reduce social isolation.



Need assistance with transport? Call STAR on 07 4527 4111 to enquire about subsidised transport options.



Jordan Iker in action. (Supplied, The Wife Creative).



A barrel of fun. (Supplied Chris Munro).

Saddle up for rodeo and campdraft

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From campdraft's uniquely Australian roots to broncs and bulls in the arena, Warwick is set to shine as campdraft and rodeo HQ again this year as preparation continue for our world-famous Rodeo and Gold Cup Campdraft at the end of October with tickets now on sale.

Known as the 'Melbourne Cup' of campdrafting, the Warwick Gold Cup celebrates a sport born from Australia's legendary stockmen and women, making it the nation's most prestigious event of its kind, and drawing more riders and prize money than any other.

With a \$370,000 prize pool, bespoke saddles, gleaming trophies, and an array of awards, it's long been regarded as the Australian Championship Campdraft, where the best of the best go head-to-head with the finest stock in the country.

Then add in the world class rodeo, because of course the Warwick Gold Cup runs alongside the legendary Warwick Rodeo, where the nation's top cowboys take on champion broncs and bucking bulls.

Immortalised in song by country music great Buddy Williams in the 1940s, the Warwick Rodeo carries a proud tradition of horsemanship, set in a town famed for its historic sandstone buildings, rose gardens, and wide, tree-lined streets.

Today, this combined celebration of skill, grit, and heritage draws more than 30,000 spectators, with competitors and horses travelling from every mainland state to be part of the action.

Horse-breaking competitions were recorded at Canning Downs as far back as 1857, on the very first station settled in Queensland in 1840, just east of where Warwick now stands.

Australia's first 'official' rodeo was held at Gayndah, Qld, in 1897, and Warwick's own debut came in 1906 as a Bushman's Carnival at Queen's Park Showgrounds.

It's been held ever since, pausing only for floods, drought, war, not even Equine Influenza could halt the cattle events.

By the 1930s, bigger prize money and more contestants saw Warwick Rodeo recognised as the Australian Championships. Back then, riders brought their own bucking horses, tying them to a



Like a bull at the gate. (Supplied Chris Munro).

central snubbing post, blindfolding them for mounting, and letting them loose when ready.

The wilder the buck, the higher the score. As demand grew, Warwick began assembling its own string of broncs, with legendary secretary EJ "Ned" Portley travelling far and wide during the Great Depression to buy the best.

These Warwick buckjumpers became so famous they were sent by train to Sydney's Royal Easter Show, Brisbane's Ekka, Rockhampton's Rocky Round-Up, and beyond. The era of the committee-owned broncs lasted until 1982, when contract bucking stock began replacing the half-wild local mobs. But Warwick's rodeo spirit had

already been immortalised, from Buddy Williams' 1945 recording Heading for the Warwick Rodeo to hosting the Australian Championships in 1947. By 1955, Warwick Rodeo proudly adopted the title: Australia's Most Famous.

This year's event includes –

Seven days of campdrafting: From the crack of the whip to the final run, the nation's best campdrafters will go head-to-head for the sport's most sought-after buckles.

Four days of rodeo action (Thursday to Sunday): Expect powerhouse performances in the arena as we bring you thrills, spills and world-class competition all week long.

More than a hundred stalls and food: Browse, shop and discover with a massive



The 2024 Warwick Rodeo Princess Belle Meek and Spanner are looking forward to this year's event. (Supplied Peter Wallis).



In the action. (Supplied Sarah Tucker).

range of Western wear, local makers, gifts, art, gear and more, plus a delicious selection of food trucks and stalls means you'll never go hungry – or thirsty.

Two big nights of live entertainment: Let the hair down with live music and a lively crowd – the perfect way to wrap up each day.

Warwick Rodeo and Gold Cup Campdraft: Monday 20 to Sunday 26 October

Australia's most famous rodeo returns in 2025 with a full week of action, adrenaline, and authentic country spirit.

Monday 20 to Sunday 26 October

For tickets head to the Warwick Show and Rodeo Website for more information.



ARIAT

WARWICK RODEO & GOLD CUP CAMP DRAFT



Australia's Most Famous

20TH - 26TH OCTOBER 2025



grab your tickets now



WARWICK RODEO &
SHOW SOCIETY



Festival of flowers grand parade.



Laidley Spring Fest Twilight Feast and Fest.



Gourmet in Gundy.

Spring into the country

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Spring into Queensland Country for a season of colour, flavour, and celebration. Rolling hills, blooming gardens, and vibrant landscapes set the stage for festivals, farmers’ markets, and outdoor adventures. Families and friends gather to enjoy fresh local produce, live music, artisan crafts, and unique cultural events across the region. Wildlife awakens, rivers sparkle, and country roads invite exploration. Whether it’s a hot air balloon ride over scenic valleys, a lively street parade, or a laid-back picnic in a blossoming park, spring in Queensland Country is pure joy.

Rotary Gourmet in Gundy, Goondiwindi Region

■ 5 – 7 September
Set on the lawns of the Goondiwindi Cultural Centre beside the Macintyre River, Rotary Gourmet in Gundy is a springtime favourite. Enjoy local produce, fine wines, boutique beers, and live music in a relaxed country setting. Celebrity chef Clarissa Feildel will host cooking classes on Saturday and join Sunday’s main event, while Mondello the Magician keeps the little ones entertained. With great food, music, and warm hospitality, it’s a day not to be missed.

Laidley Spring Festival, Lockyer Valley

■ 12 – 14 September
Each year, the Lockyer Valley bursts into bloom for the Laidley Spring Festival - a three-day celebration of colour, creativity, and community spirit. Enjoy the much-loved Street Parade, Twilight Feast and Fest, Spring Garden Fair, Orchid Show, Quilt and Craft Expo, and Bee Happy Day. With more than 60 years of history, this vibrant festival captures the charm of spring in the country!

Miles Back to the Bush Festival, Western Downs

■ 11 – 14 September
This festival is Miles from ordinary! Step back in time and celebrate country life with a vintage twist at the Miles Historical Village. This much-loved September festival is packed with bush fun. From the street parade, tractor pull, and markets, to quirky challenges like billy boiling and obstacle races. You will find live entertainment, hearty hospitality, and the charm of the Historical Village as its backdrop. It’s a weekend that captures the true spirit of the bush!

Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers, Toowoomba Region

■ 12 September – 6 October
For 76 years, each spring, Toowoomba



Enjoying a Carnival of Flowers.

bursts into bloom with four spectacular weekends of flowers, flavours and entertainment. From award-winning parks and private garden tours to the iconic floral street parade, live music, and delicious foodie experiences, the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers is the perfect way to celebrate the season in Queensland’s garden city.

Blackbutt Avocado Festival, South Burnett

■ 13 September
Celebrate the cream of the crop at the Blackbutt Avocado Festival, a family-friendly event bursting with quirky fun, delicious food, and country charm. Enjoy avocado-themed games and activities, and sample local treats. With live music,

homemade goodies, and a chance to explore historic Blackbutt, it’s a festive way to support local farmers and savour the best of country life.

Murphy’s Creek Chilli and Craft Carnival, Toowoomba Region

■ 21 September
Spice up your spring with the Murphys Creek Chilli, Craft & Cake Carnival. Sample over 350 chilli sauces, local jerky, cakes, crafts, and international street food, all while enjoying live music and family-friendly fun. With quirky competitions, chilli challenges, and a festive country atmosphere, it’s a flavoursome day out supporting local producers and charities in the scenic Lockyer Valley.



Waiting for the train - Miles Back to the Bush Festival.



Miles Back to the Bush Festival.

CelticFest, Southern Downs and Granite Belt

■ 3 – 5 October
Celebrate Scottish and Irish heritage in the heart of the Southern Downs at CelticFest in Warwick. Held over the King’s Birthday weekend in October, at the Warwick Showgrounds. The festival features Highland Games, pipe bands, Celtic markets, traditional food and drink, and even Highland cows. With live music, medieval encampments, and community-run CelticFringe events across Warwick, it’s a weekend of culture, fun, and heritage not to be missed.

Warwick Rodeo, Southern Downs and Granite Belt

■ 20 – 26 October
Experience the thrill of Warwick’s iconic rodeo and campdraft, celebrating the skill and determination of riders since 1928. Watch bulls and horses fly out of the gate, admire the bond between rider and steed, and enjoy a week-long festival of country food, trades, live music, and local stories. With opportunities to meet rodeo stars, shop for authentic gear, and soak up true Aussie country spirit, it’s a high-energy event you won’t want to miss!

FOCUS ON CELTIC CELEBRATIONS



Graeme McColgan (aka The Scotsman) makes a welcome return to CelticFest this year too.



Australian Celtic Women open the festival with a feature CelticFringe concert at Club Warwick

A hundred thousand welcomes

BY TANIA PHILLIPS

It's time to grab your tartan/medieval garb and your favourite clan members to head to Warwick for this year's CelticFest Warwick over the Kings Birthday Weekend in October (3-5 October)

The bi-ennial CelticFest Warwick celebrates the rich Scottish and Irish cultural heritage of the Southern Downs, Australia with the main Celtic Gathering staged in the Warwick Showgrounds and including a full program of Scottish and Irish music on the Main Stage, Highland Games heavy events in the Main Arena, Medieval Arena with workshops, re-enactments and Viking combats and battles Vikings and Medieval Villages massed pipe bands, Irish and Highland dancing, lost trades, Celtic Dance and markets, Celtic themed markets, food and drinks - joined by the magnificent Highland Cows (Coos) and Clydesdales. And a whole list of Fringe Festival events.

This is a chance for locals and visitors to immerse themselves in the contemporary Celtic culture of the region's towns, villages and breathtaking natural landscapes with CelticFest Fringe events staged pre and post the main festival.

And let's face it where better to hold such a festival but the Southern Downs -bordered by the Great Dividing Range with hills reminiscent of Scotland's high country and valleys exuding that Irish feel, so much so that early Celtic settlers named one beautiful village, Killarney

Pamela Clark-Dickson - one of the coordinators of the events said it promised to be a lot of fun with plenty to see, do, buy, eat (don't worry it won't just be Haggis), drink and experience in a day which has something for the whole family. And to encourage even more families CelticFest Warwick offers free entry for kids under school age and also allows ticketed adults to bring their children under 18 free of charge to the showgrounds.

And of course like any Celtic event - music is right at the heart of things.

"We are a community event - the ticketed event is for two days run at the showground," Pamela explained adding



Get ready for the Gathering who are back again to get the event rocking.

that many local community groups were helping out across the weekend in all sorts of different ways.

"That event will go from 10am to 10pm on the Saturday. We will have music on the main stage and into the evening and then again on the Sunday just during the day. We have our Main Stage Marquee and our Meadows Marquee. The Meadows Marquee is new for this year and will be a smaller more intimate venue. We will have some of our duos and soloists going in there.

"Mick McHugh from the Gathering, he's released two Celtic Kids music albums so he and his family will do a Celtic Kids show on the Saturday and the Sunday. That was just beautiful when the did it at Glen Innes - they have bubbles for the kids. We're expecting the stage to be low enough on the grass that the kids can just run around underneath on that meadow's marquee and hopefully have a great time and engage with Mick and his family."

She said the Queensland Irish Choir are coming down from Brisbane on the Sunday for a couple of performances.

"They are going to do a pop-up Celtic Choir where people can go along and learn an Irish tune and during their second performance of the day they will get people up from that to form a pop-up Celtic

Choir and perform the song in front of the audience," Pamela enthused.

"That's an exciting thing. Then we will have Kurrajong Song performing in there and Moreton Celtic Fiddle Club - they are a group of musicians ranging from kids to older people. They have a variety of instruments that they play.

"We'll have some workshops in there as well - Kurrajong Song as well as performing they are going to have a workshop on the Bodhrán (the Celtic drum) and then we have Lorna Warne who is going to run workshops on Irish language and Scottish Gaelic. She will also be performing - she's a beautiful harpist as well."

There will also be "Sessions in the Round" on Saturday run by Donald Mackay - who is also performing on the main stage with partner Rebecca Wright earlier in the day. On the Sunday Kejafi will run the event and also perform on the main stage during the day both days.

"Kejafi are also providing the music for our Ceilidh (Callie) on the Saturday night," she said.

Saturday night headliners, The Gathering - the 'kick-arse Irish party band' fronted by Dubliner

Mick McHugh, will take over the Main Stage Marquee at the Showgrounds



Beck Sian is making her CelticFest debut.

with other entertainment coming from Australian Celtic Women who will open this year's festival with a feature CelticFringe concert held in the historic King's Theatre at Club Warwick RSL on the Friday evening. Limerick MCB will bring their passion for high-energy Celtic music back to the main stage after last joining the festival in 2022 and will also play a Fringe event at the Sandy Creek Hotel.

Melbourne based Beck Sian, a talented guitarist, harpist and vocalist will also perform while Graeme McColgan (aka The Scotsman) makes a welcome return to CelticFest from Glasgow via Sydney; he will perform on the Main Stage and on the Saturday evening The Scotsman will call the family fun of a Ceilidh with 'Celtic bush dances' in the Doug Feez Pavilion.

To close out CelticFest Warwick 2025 with a bang, Highlander, the Scottish Celtic Rock Band from down-under will rock King's Theatre at Club Warwick RSL with heart stomping bagpipes, fiddle and rocking rhythm, while Limerick MCB will host a rollicking CelticFest after-party at the Warwick Hotel on Sunday 5 October.

For more information on ticketing, where to stay, what to do and a whole list of the amazing Fringe events head to the CelticFest Warwick website.



WEDDINGS



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What does a celebrant do?

Everyone is an important person at your wedding, but your marriage celebrant is the person who will ensure the legalities of your wedding ceremony and do much more.

A celebrant is a person who conducts and officiates formal ceremonies in the community. In Australia, a marriage celebrant must have a Certificate IV in Celebrancy from a registered training organisation or another qualification in celebrancy and be Commonwealth-registered.

Choosing a celebrant is more than finding someone who can competently prepare the paperwork. Each celebrant has their own style, life experience and skills and they will have a huge hand in shaping how your ceremony will feel and flow.

Find someone you genuinely connect with and trust early in your planning, and take advantage of their “no obligation” meet-and-greet to help you, and then, decide how you can work together.

In Australia, couples can choose either a civil or a religious celebrant to solemnise their marriage. Celebrants can be found online, on social media, or through searching the Register maintained by the Commonwealth Department of the Attorney General to locate all authorised celebrants for a location, and the form of their marriage licence. Ask your celebrant also if they are able to travel.

Celebrants manage their own business and will provide you with their fees, booking arrangements, refund policy, how to contact them, how often to meet, information needed to complete the legal paperwork as well as design the ceremony content that aligns with your preferences. Your celebrant helps to get your wedding day off to a



IMAGE: Powerful Moments Life Celebrant Services.

cracking start!

Things to remember

- There must be two witnesses over the age of 18 at your wedding ceremony for it to

be legal. An interpreter must be at your wedding ceremony as well if one or both of your witnesses cannot understand or speak English

- Your Notice of Intended Marriage application must be lodged 1 to 18 months before your wedding - your celebrant can help you organise this.

BRIDAL DIRECTORY



Does your business help couples create a day to remember?



THEN ADVERTISE AND BE SEEN | Contact Samantha on 0439 420 289 for more information

12637997-RR40-23



A short walk to schools

This is a mid-century 1950s home that has a revamped Hardiplank exterior in Grafton Steet, Warwick – just a short walk to the schools, shops, business and sport facilities.

There is an east-facing enclosed verandah that would make a great family area, according to agent Helen Harm.

“The eat-in kitchen has electric stove and ample cupboard space.

“There is a versatile utility storage room at the back door and another office-cum-larder off this area.”

The bathroom has a bath, separate shower, vanity and toilet next door while the lounge room is in the centre of the home with a hallway around to the four bedrooms.

The polished floors throughout are one of the original highlights of this home

There is an old timber floor shed that needs attention in the larger 1,166 m² backyard.

The house features double block frontage on one title – which makes it possible to build a unit complex on the block which Helen believes



would be in demand due to the proximity to all amenities.

At a glance

- Four bedrooms
- Large kitchen – electric stove
- Separate lounge
- Enclosed sunroom
- Bathroom has bath, separate shower, vanity
- Separate toilet
- Large yard 1166 m²



- Three Carports

- Close to Primary school and shops.

INVESTORS: Currently has a tenant paying \$460 per week

Please allow 48 hours to give tenants notice of inspection.

Contact Helen Harm on 0408 457 496 for inspection. Go to www.helenharm.com for more photos

Address: 150 – 152 Grafton Street, WARWICK **Description:** 4 bedrooms, 1 bath, 3 cars. **Price:** \$650,000 **Inspection:** By appointment

Contact: Helen Harm 0408 457 496 **Agent:** HELEN HARM REAL ESTATE





Well located

Helen Harm Real Estate have for sale a commercial shop for in a prime location at 85 Grafton Street in Warwick.

The property has a prominent street position with high traffic exposure in the commercial precinct of Warwick City.

“Ample car parking for customers and staff both on street and city carpark,” Helen said.

“The premises has a 93 sqm floor area providing versatile retail or office space with a 6.2m frontage which has excellent visibility for signage and displays.”

The building has ducted air-conditioning, plenty of power points, data points, phone and telecommunication system and also has a toilet wash room.

It is conveniently located just off the main street, attracting foot traffic and easy access.

“It is perfect for retail, professional services, or a boutique office looking for a well-positioned premises in Warwick’s commercial heart,” she said.

“It is for sale or for lease.”

The lease is \$425 per week plus outgoings.

Go to www.helenharm.com for more photos.

It features – at a glance.

- Ducted air-conditioning
- Carpeted floors
- Toilet and wash room
- Double power points
- Data points
- Telecommunications system



Address: 85 Grafton Street, WARWICK Price: \$425,000 + GST Inspection: By appointment
Contact: Helen Harm 0408 457 496 Agent: HELEN HARM REAL ESTATE



Under Contract

3 Street Frontages

Industrial buildings, located in the Industrial estate just 2.7K off interstate highway through Warwick & close to Morgan Park Complexes. 2000 m² lot fronts 3 streets, Zoned Industrial.

- 3 Phase power to 9m x 18m workshop
- Insulated roof • 270m sq Floor space
- Aircon offices lower & mezzanine levels
- Kitchen & Toilet areas on both levels
- Instant security alarm system

\$ 880,000+



Under Contract

Endless Possibilities

'Kurrajong' 518 Ha country haven, top of Herries Range. KARARA is halfway between Warwick & Inglewood on Cunningham Highway. Sheds, shearing setup with power. Lean-to for tractors & equipment, rainwater tanks, water holes, cattle yards, fencing round property.

- 4 Bed, 2 built in • Bathroom, shower over bath, vanity • Open plan living, aircon/woodfire • Kitchen- gas cooktop, electric oven, rangehood,

\$ 900,000+



SOLD

Settlers Cottage

YANGAN - Overlooking Swanfels Valley, is a rustic timber cutter's cottage on 2,125 m².

- Deck across Cottage front
- Open plan living dining with woodfire
- 2 Beds • Electric appliance kitchen
- Clawfoot bath, shower over, vanity & toilet
- Timber frame shed, 3 bay + shipping container
- 6m x 6m shed, 2 x 3 m roller doors
- Town water & multiple rain water tanks

\$ 350,000

- BUSINESS OWNERS -

No rental vacancies?

Have you considered housing as part of your employment package?

CALL HELEN TODAY!



Commercial Site

Commercial building, well located just off Albion St, main highway, zoned Mixed Use. 65 Grafton St –

490 m² - LEASED til 2026 at \$350 p.w.

- Reception area • 5 rooms • Kitchen, toilet & powder room • Room has plumbing for toilet/ bathroom • 4 reverse cycle air-con • Building at rear has 2 rooms • Parking for 5 vehicles

\$ 400,000+



Prime Location

Prominent street position, high traffic exposure in Warwick City commercial precinct.

- Ample car parking - on street & city carpark.
- 93 sqm floor area providing retail/office space
- 6.2m frontage, visibility for signage & displays
- Ducted aircon, plenty of power points, data points, phone. Telecommunication system
- Toilet wash room
- Conveniently located for main street foottraffic

\$ 425,000+



Commercial Site

Spacious commercial building, well located just metres off Albion St, main highway, plenty of off-street parking available, zoned Mixed Use. 67 Grafton St –

297m² - Currently vacant - FOR LEASE \$400 p.w.

- Reception/office area
- Workshop at rear

BUY both 65 & 67 Grafton for \$ 800,000 + GST if applicable

\$ 400,000+



This could be advertising for your property

Call Helen today!

WANTED FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS

Unit 2-3 bed, 1-2 bath, garage...Up to \$400,000

100+ Acres, 2 deeds...\$600,000+

Acreage to run 110 breeders, water...\$900,000+



MotoX, SuperX

FOR SALE due to ill-health. Track unused few years - needs some attention. Within 2.5 hrs of Brisbane - 20 mins to Warwick on 47.11ha. Established shed, lined, self sufficient + extras

- 1.5K MotoX & SuperX track, dams, irrigation/ sprinkler. • Freestyle motoX area
- Fencing 3 side boundary & bore pump
- Solar system 12V 52W 560amp hrs 1kw inverter • 2 shipping containers, awning

\$ 600,000+



40 Wood Street

- Business Office with reception & rest room, concrete storage yard.
- Zoning is "Mixed Use" which permits – Residential, Low Impact Industry, Commercial Office, Childcare
- Home – 4 Bed, 1 Bath, carport
- General Development Requirements please contact our office
- Land Size is 1897 m²

\$ 1,450,000



2 Street Frontages

Great opportunity for a light industry venture, establish new business or upgrade to higher profile site near Black Toyota, Top Two Motorcycles, Beta Storage.

- Corner of Murphy Street & Ogilvie Road. Both are bitumen roads with 300m or more frontage.
- Power, water sewerage nearby.
- Zoning is Specialised Centre
- 2.6 Ha off Cunningham Highway.

\$ 2,210,000



History for sale

It's not every day that someone offers you a yacht as part of a real estate deal but the current owners of the Butter Factory in Inglewood are doing just that.

"The old Butter Factory is full of history and now needs new owners," agent Helen Harm said.

"The owner is also offering the Sydney to Hobart yacht, "Witchdoctor" as a bonus to the purchaser of this historic Butter Factory with Power House beside it.

"He is no longer able to make use of the yacht so is letting it go in the hope the buyer will enjoy another chapter in the boat's rich sailing adventures."

Witchdoctor competed in the Sydney to Hobart Yacht Race for more than a quarter of a century and has almost as much history as the factory itself. According to Helen the yacht is not only a former winner of the iconic race but also many other events and it is still an ocean-going vessel.

The butter factory is situated on 3,194 m² of land with leasehold title (application can be made to freehold).

Easy access to rail line which may suit astute investor with Inland Rail Project gaining momentum.

Current owner is disposing of this Inglewood asset due to family commitments and is ready to talk.

The Butter Factory was the original power station for Inglewood and Cooper Bessemer engine is still on site.

Helen believes the factory will suit



warehouse, tourism, museum or any number of uses.

"Or just make it your own private castle -you'd have the castle and all you'd need is a moat for the boat," she joked.

The old Butter Factory is listed with Goondiwindi Regional Council as a local Heritage site.

Contact Helen Harm on 0408 457 496 for inspection. Go to www.helenharm.com for more photos.



Address: 114 Queen Street, INGLEWOOD Price: \$159,000
Contact: Helen Harm 0408 457 496 Agent: Helen Harm Real Estate

Warwick's goto local bank

LOCAL BRANCHES

HEAD OFFICE

101 PALMERIN STREET WARWICK

ALLORA

66 HERBERT STREET ALLORA

KILLARNEY

CNR WILLOW & IVY STREETS

CALL US:

1300 72 44 33



12653264-HC51-23




Brick & Tile

Open plan living brick & tile, 4 bed, 2 bath, 2 car.

- 4 Bedroom, built ins
- King sized Master has ensuite, walk in robe
- Bathroom – bath, separate shower, vanity
- Separate toilet next door
- Mod con kitchen with pantry
- Aircon tiled living, slider to u/c entertaining
- Separate laundry • 472m² lot • 2 Car garage

INVESTORS: Rent is \$500 p.w. till 22/08/25

\$ 600,000+

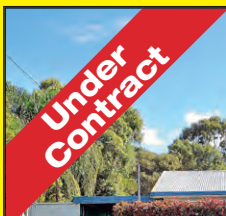



Special Features

Elevated views of NE aspect from deck off living areas. Street level entry.

- 4 built-in bedroom • Kitchen- electric stove, elevated oven, dishwasher & pantry • Dining/ living- R/C aircon • Decorative dado- living & hallway • Laundry- storage • Bath, separate shower, vanity • Separate toilet • Garage on house currently rumpus • Carport • Detached garage, powered • Rear access, fenced 840 m²

\$ 575,000+




Possible Options

Family home, reorganize extra 2 beds + office.

- 3 Bed, built-ins • Lounge Living with aircon
- Bathroom, bath, separate shower, vanity
- Separate toilet • Dining has servery to kitchen
- Modern kitchen with electric appliances
- Rumpus - (2 bedrooms) • Office/nursery
- Laundry/storage • Undercover entertaining
- 2 Bay detached garage • 2 Carports
- Garden sheds • 840 m² backyard

\$ 525,000

WANTED FOR QUALIFIED BUYERS

Unit 2-3 bed, 1-2 bath, garage...Up to \$400,000

100+ Acres, 2 deeds...\$600,000+

Acreage to run 110 breeders, water...\$900,000+



This could be advertising for your property

Call Helen today!



Your Private Castle

Old Butter Factory full of history, now needs new owners.

- 3,194 m² with leasehold title (application can be made to freehold).
- Easy access to rail line may suit astute investor with Inland Rail Project
- Current owner is disposing Inglewood asset due to family commitments and is ready to talk.
- Suit warehouse, tourism, museum or???

\$ 159,000



Ground Level

Single storey air conditioned 2 bed brick terraced home near hospital, with own courtyard.

NO BODY CORP FEES – Separate title

Extras:- NEW cooktop, Gas Hot water, 1.5 KVA Solar system, low maintenance Stramit cladding

- Aircon 2 built-in Bed • Shower, vanity & toilet
- Open plan – kitchen, living, dining & lounge
- Laundry & storage • Remote single garage

INVESTORS: Rent is \$450 p.w till 20/04/2026

\$ 450,000



Optional Extra for Your Private Castle

Old Butter Factory full of history, now needs new owners. The owner is also offering the Sydney to Hobart yacht, "Witchdoctor" as a bonus to the purchaser of the historic Butter Factory. He is no longer able to make use of the yacht so is letting it go in the hope the buyer will enjoy another chapter in the boat's rich sailing adventures.

Optional



Central Location

Short walk to schools, shops, business and sport facilities. 1950's home has hardiplank exterior.

- Double block frontage on one title – possible to build a unit complex
- 4 bedrooms • Large kitchen
- Separate lounge • Enclosed sunroom
- Bathroom with separate toilet
- Large yard 1166 m² • 2 Carports
- Close to Primary school and shops

\$ 650,000

WE'RE IN A SELLER'S MARKET!!

Take advantage of this unprecedented timing.

BUYER interest from Interstate and across Queensland.

LIST YOUR PROPERTY WITH US NOW!!

For Rent: 4661 3663

HOUSE – 2 bed, 1 bath, Open plan, lounge living, u/c outdoor, 1 car, shed..... **\$ 450 p.w**

NEW reno 3 bed built-ins, 2 bath, living, kitchen/dining, u/c outdoor, 2 car **\$ 600 p.w**

BRAND NEW 3 bed, 2 bath, Open plan living, 1 car **\$ 550 p.w**

NEW House – 3 bed, 2 bath, Open plan living, 2 car **\$ 650 p.w**

URGENT !! WE NEED RENTALS IN GOOD REPAIR

LAND

WARWICK - 25930 m², High profile, 2 street frontage, Zoned specialised \$ 2,210,000

HENDON - 1922 m², frontage 40.2m, power next door, fence.....SOLD\$ 150,000+

PRATTEN - 47.11Ha, MotoX, shed, solar power, rural fence\$ 600,000+

WILDASH - 49.36Ha, shearing shed, NEW shed, power, ruralSOLD \$ 675,000

See www.heleharm.com for more listing