

# QUEENSLAND LOCALS LOCALS HERVEY BAY



# KEEP IT LOCAL!

Welcome to the first issue of Queensland Locals – Hervey Bay. We aim to showcase the services and products of the wonderful local business owners who make such a positive difference to our lives in this fantastic community. Do give them support by dropping by and saying hello!

Among the people featured are Belinda Lorimer, who has brought the site of The Vinyard back to life. Her restaurant Thyme @ The Vinyard provides a memorable dining experience with a Modern Australian menu, a fantastic setting and superb service.

If you or someone you know is beginning to struggle to get around, do call in on Kal Chandler of ASAP Mobility. He stocks a wide range of scooters and will advise on which model is best suited to your specific needs.

And if you are out and about, do stop off at The Baker's Room. Master Baker Nick and his wife Louise provide the best selection of fresh breads, sandwiches, pastries, pies and sweet treats – you will be spoilt for choice!

Nigel Squires, Editor  
**Queensland Locals – Hervey Bay**  
 0474 509 156  
 nigel@queenslandlocals.com.au  
<https://queenslandlocals.com.au>



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## HERVEY BAY TIDES

**Tides sponsor: Ashley Easton**  
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 15a/8 Pier Street,  
 Urangan QLD 4655  
 0478 814 268  
[www.eastonsanglersden.com.au](http://www.eastonsanglersden.com.au)

MON 15 Sep	TUE 16 Sep	WED 17 Sep	THU 18 Sep
2:29 am 2.43m	4:17 am 2.48m	6:34 am 2.72m	12:34 am 1.02m
8:50 am 1.3m	10:19 am 1.22m	11:27 am 1.03m	6:26 am 2.97m
3:37 pm 3.21m	4:56 pm 3.35m	5:54 pm 3.54m	12:20 pm 0.85m
10:28 pm 1.45m	11:44 pm 1.23m		6:40 pm 3.69m
FRI 19 Sep	SAT 20 Sep	SUN 21 Sep	MON 22 Sep
1:14 am 0.85m	1:50 am 0.76m	2:21 am 0.71m	2:48 am 0.58m
7:07 am 3.17m	7:44 am 3.3m	8:17 am 3.58m	8:48 am 3.41m
1:05 pm 0.73m	1:45 pm 0.68m	2:23 pm 0.69m	2:58 pm 0.74m
7:19 pm 3.77m	7:55 pm 3.78m	8:27 pm 3.74m	8:56 pm 3.54m
TUE 23 Sep	WED 24 Sep	THU 25 Sep	FRI 26 Sep
3:14 am 0.67m	3:37 am 0.7m	4:00 am 0.76m	4:26 am 0.88m
9:17 am 3.41m	9:45 am 3.38m	10:14 am 3.32m	10:43 am 3.21m
3:30 pm 0.84m	4:02 pm 0.97m	4:34 pm 1.14m	5:09 pm 1.33m
9:24 pm 3.5m	9:49 pm 3.32m	10:15 pm 3.11m	10:44 pm 2.58m
SAT 27 Sep	SUN 28 Sep	MON 29 Sep	TUE 30 Sep
4:53 am 1.04m	5:27 am 1.24m	12:04 am 2.42m	1:48 am 2.27m
11:17 am 3.06m	12:05 pm 2.9m	6:13 am 1.44m	7:47 am 1.58m
5:51 pm 1.53m	7:00 pm 1.7m	1:30 pm 2.78m	3:12 pm 2.81m
11:17 pm 2.64m		8:44 pm 1.75m	10:07 pm 1.64m



Rick Watson

## PROFESSIONAL TILING

*Whatever the nature or scope of your project, Rick Watson will deliver a superior service*

In 38 years as a professional tiler, Rick Watson's job has taken him to some unexpected places. 'I worked on the bathrooms for the bungalows around the pool at the US Embassy in Canberra,' he recalls. 'That was right after September 11th. When I was on the premises, a security guy had to with me every second. If he wasn't there, I could have been shot by a sniper!'

Tile choice can totally transform the look of a bathroom or kitchen. From crisp white porcelain to multi-coloured ceramic, tiles add a unique stamp of personality to a room. So, it's worth ensuring that they are fitted with precision and to the highest professional quality finish.



Rick is the owner of Watson's Tiling and Bathroom Services and he provides a comprehensive residential and commercial service specialising in fitting wall and floor tiles.

'I have the experience and expertise to handle every aspect of a renovation process from demolition to installation – and I do it with an eye for the smallest detail of even the most complex designs.

'I will also liaise with any other tradies, I never forget customers need their bathroom or ensuite back in action as soon as possible and I give a six-year guarantee on every completed project. If you have a tiling job in mind, I would be delighted to come and quote on it.'

**Watson's Tiling and Bathroom Services**  
 0418 642 811  
[info@watsonstiling.com.au](mailto:info@watsonstiling.com.au)  
<https://www.watsonstiling.com.au>



Bev, Kal and Bazz

# RECLAIM YOUR FREEDOM!

*'Kal has a wealth of experience as a scooter technician. He helped me pick the perfect model for my grandma who is losing her mobility. I can't recommend ASAP Mobility enough.'* - Brenton Taylor

'I love seeing our customers smiling when they suddenly realise that they have got their independence back,' says Kal Chandler, the owner of ASAP Mobility. 'Scooters are ideal for anyone with mobility issues caused by ageing, injury or disability - and they can make such a practical difference to daily life.'

'Suddenly people are able go where they want when they want, be it shopping, catching up with friends for coffee or just taking a ride along the Esplanade. Recently, I delivered a scooter to a gentleman who hadn't been able to leave the house since his wife passed away. As soon as he had it, boy did he take off!'

At his Torquay store Kal stocks an extensive range of scooters of all types and with a host of different features: long range capability (up to 40-45km on a single charge), advanced suspension systems, powerful motors, intuitive user-friendly controls, customisable seats and tiller angles for optimal comfort, compact chassis giving a tight turning radius, electro-magnetic brakes for added security and peace of mind, integrated rear and front storage options...

With so much choice, it's all the more crucial for customers to select the model that best suits their specific needs. That's where Kal and his experienced team come in: they ask

a series of questions which will help them give advice and pinpoint the ideal option. 'We need to consider factors such as intended usage, the usual terrain that will be encountered, the desired distance range, specific accessories and, of course, the budget available,' he explains.

'Most importantly, before we make any personal recommendations we also take into account customers' physical capabilities. For example, how high can they lift their legs, can they hold their wrists like a motorbike throttle, are they left or right-handed...

'If someone is unable to visit us in person, I'm always happy to drive to their home or Lifestyle Village with some scooters so that they can pick out which one they prefer. Some people even organise a "Scooter Party" where friends and neighbours will gather together for a group viewing. They are always great fun.'

That reflects the fantastic sense of camaraderie in the local mobility scooter scene. Hervey Bay holds the Australian record for the largest mobility scooter convoy - it was set in 2021 with 172 participants - and the Fraser Coast region has made several unsuccessful attempts to break the world record, which is still held by Canada with 159 scooters. That's something Kal is determined to change! (The 2025 Mobility Scooter and Wheelchair Convoy was held on 13 September at Scarness Park).

'If the sheer number of mobility scooters on the market feels overwhelming, rest assured our friendly experts will simplify the buying process and save you countless hours of research and the uncertainty of trial and error,' says Kal. 'Just come down to the store for a complimentary consultation or we can chat over the phone. We are dedicated to helping you ride away on the perfect scooter without any hassle.'

**NDIS, My Aged Care and HCP welcome.**

.....  
**ASAP Mobility**  
 Shop 1/2 Cypress Street  
 Torquay 4655  
 0413 444 590  
 asapmobility365@gmail.com  
 https://asapmobility.com.au  
 FB: @asapmobility  
 Insta: @asap\_mobility

Feature in the next issue. Call Nigel: 0474 509 156





Corey and Kieran

## MAKING I.T. SIMPLE – YOUR LOCAL TECH SUPPORT

*‘I cannot fault the service provided by the team at InfinIT Computers. Their knowledge and customer service are second to none... and the entire process was smooth and professional.’ – James Wilson*

Brothers Kieran and Corey Braden, the owners of InfinIT Computers, have had an “interesting” year. The floods in March literally put their successful Pialba-based business underwater, causing severe damage to the shop and stock.

‘What got us through was the support of our friends and the local community,’ recalls Corey. ‘We asked for help cleaning up the mess and were inundated with offers. It was really inspiring and gave us hope.’

Working across the Wide Bay Region since 2015, InfinIT Computers has built an excellent reputation for trouble-shooting expertise and friendly, reliable customer service. The team of dedicated tech experts has the experience to set

up any Internet connection or device – Mac, PC, Smartphone, tablet, laptop, desktop or printer – demonstrate how to use it with one-on-one tutorial sessions and diagnose and resolve operating issues.

‘Our philosophy is to make IT as straightforward as possible for both home and business users, and no problem is ever too big or small,’ says Kieran. ‘We work on site and customers are also welcome to bring in their devices to the store or use our Pick up-Drop off service.’

‘We can fix small frustrations like faulty screens and keyboards and features that aren’t working correctly and also deal with more complex jobs, such as cleaning up viruses, data recovery and

transfer and installing a comprehensive new office set-up. And we always provide the best solutions at competitive prices.’

Five years ago Kieran was working for a major telecommunications and technology company, but looking for a fresh challenge. That prompted him to establish InfinIT Computers and the new business took off so quickly that Corey soon came on board as a partner – his primary role is now Showroom Manager – and before long there was a full-time team of seven, including another brother, Riley.

‘Stocking such a wide range of products means that we’re able to customise our approach to suit individual requirements,’ adds Corey. ‘That ethos goes right across the business: we offer advice, helping customers make exactly the right decision for their specific needs, and we appreciate that some people are intimidated by computers or just don’t have that much knowledge, hence we never speak industry jargon!’

‘At the store we also have an extensive range of current-generation gaming and office PC components and we can custom-build to suit

just about any use case or budget. We’re also disability friendly. Computers are an essential life-line and connection to family, friends and the outside world and our door is always open to anyone with a challenge, be it vision or hearing impairment or another personal issue.

‘We have the know-how to find the most suitable computer, hardware, software and accessories to help everyone achieve their goals.’

‘The fact we are now back in business is only thanks to the phenomenal support we have received from our community and, for that, we are very grateful,’ says Kieran. ‘We’re already trusted by many locals to supply and repair their equipment, so come down and let us get you up and running online and resolve your IT-related headaches.’

### **InfinIT Computers**

Shop 6/5 Torquay Road

Pialba 4655

(07) 4192 7171

info@infinitchcomputers.com.au

https://infinitchcomputers.com.au

@infinitchcomputerswidebay





Belinda Lorimer

## AN EXCEPTIONAL DINING EXPERIENCE

*'The food was absolutely delicious - so fresh and full of flavour. You can tell they really care about what they serve. The vibe is great too - relaxed, stylish and welcoming - and the staff are super-friendly.'* - John Allen

Nine months ago restaurateur Belinda Lorimer and her son Jake brought the site of the former Vinyard restaurant back to life. 'I just fell in love with the premises and the amazing location on the Esplanade, with its sweeping panoramic views to the islands,' she recalls. 'I had a vision of what I wanted and now, with Thyme @ The Vinyard, my dream has come true.'

'Hospitality is in my blood. My parents owned restaurants in Sydney, and my Dad was a classically trained French chef. From a young age, I was fascinated by the creativity and care that went into every dish - and of course, the best part was tasting them. Those experiences gave me a real love and respect for the industry.'

Belinda's philosophy for Thyme @ The Vinyard is simple: great food, excellent company and a welcoming atmosphere. She uses fresh, high quality ingredients to create delicious dishes made in-house and all presented in a relaxed setting with friendly, attentive service that makes you feel right at home.

'Our food is Modern Australian,' says Belinda. 'That gives us the freedom to bring together flavours and ideas from all over the world and we aim to serve something exciting and cater to most dietary requirements.'

Among the menu highlights are Beef Cheek which has been braised for 12 hours and is

served with a Port Jus, Parsnip Puree and Salsa Verde, and a popular Duck Bacon dish. The Duck Breast is cured for three days and then hot smoked in the oven and served with Organic Honey, Pistachios, Ricotta and either fresh Figs or Cherries depending on the season.

For fish lovers, there is Barramundi with a Brown Butter Dashi sauce, capers and shallots and, for vegetarians, Roasted Cabbage, Lentil sauce, Blue Cheese and Sunflower seeds (check website for the current menu - the team is working on a new Spring menu - gift cards and details of wine and beer tasting events).

'Moving on to desserts, we offer a Banana Pudding served with homemade Banana Ice Cream and a Salted Caramel sauce, as well as a delicate Basque Cheesecake with fresh Orange segments and citrus gel,' adds Belinda.

'Our drinks menu has been carefully chosen and features exclusive wines sourced from boutique wineries. I'm always happy to recommend food and wine pairings to enhance the experience.'

'We also have a tempting selection of cocktails, including our house-made Limoncello - it is dangerously easy to enjoy - and the Strawberry Cheesecake cocktail, a clear white rum-based cocktail that tastes just like boozy Cheesecake.'

With seating for up to 50 in the restaurant and 25 in the bar and space for 100 people for canapés and cocktails, Belinda and her team can cater for all types of functions and events, including weddings, birthday parties, baby showers and corporate events.

'We love meeting new customers,' she says. 'We will provide a stylish, memorable occasion, whether that's an intimate dinner for two, a night out with friends or a special family celebration.'

### Thyme @ The Vinyard

552 Esplanade,  
Urangan 4655  
hello@thymeatthevinyard.com.au  
https://thymeatthevinyard.com.au  
@thymeatthevinyard

Feature in the next issue: 0474 509 156





Oscar and Chris

# SHADE AND SECURITY WITH STYLE

*'We are very pleased with our security doors and screens. The process from quoting to installing was seamless and professional... we have no hesitation in recommending Chris, a job well done.'* - Leigh McPharlin

'We supply and install plantation shutters, security screens, fly screens, internal and external blinds, awnings, pet doors and even wardrobe doors! If it provides shade, keeps you safe and deters the creepy-crawlies, we're all over it,' smiles Oscar Lister, co-owner with Chris Hudson of Hervey Bay Screens and Blinds.

Oscar and Chris and their families are living the dream in Hervey Bay. 'I'm originally from the UK where the weather can be dull, to put it mildly,' says Oscar. 'After 15 years in Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast, it was always my dream to live and work in a beautiful location and we have it all here: fantastic beaches, lovely people and sunshine!'

Professional tradies like Chris and Oscar - they have a combined 50 years' experience in the industry and have worked together for many years - are in demand in Hervey Bay to meet the needs of the growing population.

'The building trade for new homes was one of the reasons that prompted me to move several years ago from the Sunshine Coast,' explains Chris. 'We are very busy fitting screens and blinds for residential and commercial clients and, in particular, in the over-50s lifestyle and RV villages. When people move to Queensland, they definitely do need shade, a lot of shade.'

'Some customers contact us knowing exactly what they want while others will outline their

personal requirements and ask for advice based on our knowledge of the market. We're always happy to research the latest products in order to deliver aesthetic and functional solutions that will enhance a home or office space while addressing concerns relating to security. And we show samples and explain all the options in simple terms - there's no trade jargon.'

'Currently, we're seeing a high demand for security screens,' adds Oscar. 'We offer a stainless Steel woven mesh, 316 Marine Grade Saltwater series with a 20-year warranty against rust and corrosion. Also, we are regularly called in by customers who have new pets and need a pet door fitted, usually when they are tired of being a full-time doorman!'

'We're proud of our friendly, courteous customer service and it's very pleasing when new clients are referred to us by their friends and neighbours - and many are. Also, if we stop off for a coffee (The Baker's Room of course!), someone will spot our signage and wander over for a chat.'

Oscar and Chris handle every aspect of their service themselves - they never use sub-contractors - from the first enquiry call or email to the job quote and the measuring-up and full installation process.

'We will look after you from start to finish and get the job done on time and on budget, so do get in touch for a free consultation,' says Chris. 'We look forward to meeting you.'

### Services include:

- \* Security Windows & Doors
- \* Plantation Shutters
- \* Interior and Exterior Blinds
- \* Pet Doors \* Flyscreens
- \* Wardrobe Doors
- \* Exterior Awnings
- \* Zipscreen and Automated Blinds

### Hervey Bay Screens and Blinds

07 4128 0032

admin@herveybayscreens.com.au

https://herveybayscreens.com.au

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Feature in the next issue: 0474 509 156





Louise and Nick

# BAKED WITH LOVE AND PRIDE

*A tempting choice of authentic artisan sourdough breads and sandwiches, pies and sweet and savoury pastries – all made fresh every day at The Baker's Room*

Wander into The Baker's Room, situated in the historic General Store building on the corner of Dayman and Pulgul Streets, and you will be immediately seduced by mouth-watering culinary aromas and sights. If you weren't feeling peckish beforehand, then be warned: you soon will be!

Owner Nick Smith is the Master Baker and he works with his wife Louise and a close-knit team of bakers, baristas and friendly front-of-house staff. Nick is particularly proud to be continuing the ancient tradition of sourdough fermentation and baking, which is said to date to the origins of agriculture in Egypt over 3500 years ago.

'Sourdough is made with a natural yeast and ferments, whereas "normal bread" uses baker's yeast and added "improvers" to speed up the process,' he explains. 'Our dough is made over an eight hour period, then it's fermented for 48 hours before being baked. Sourdough is more natural and additive-free, tastes better and has proven health benefits, such as a lower GI (the Glycemic Index ranks carbohydrate-containing foods based on how quickly they raise blood sugar levels after consumption).'

The Baker's Room offers a fantastic selection of artisan breads made on the premises – among them a house White Sourdough,

Country-Grain loaf, Miller's loaf, Olive and Rosemary loaf and Ciabatta – as well as a delicious menu of sandwiches and croissants all with fresh ingredients – the Loaded Vegetable, the Prosciutto and Brie and Chicken and Avocado sandwiches are favourites. There are also Danishes, sweet and savoury pastries, muffins and, always popular with the kids, the Choc Chip and the OREO cookies.

'And don't forget to come and try our speciality Cruffins,' says Louise. 'They have a muffin base, are baked with a flaky croissant dough and have sweet fillings, for example Lemon Pie, Biscoff and Apple Pie.'

Nick and Louise provide 18 different pies, including Chunky Steak, Beef Curry, Chicken and Leek and Lamb Rosemary Shiraz, kids-sized mince steak pies, sausage rolls and quiches. 'We also have vegan options, a range of gluten-free meat, chicken and vegetarian pies, a Chocolate and Walnut Brownie and Peach and Passionfruit and Blueberry and Lemon muffins (all gluten-free) and a Pecan and Honey biscuit,' adds Louise. 'And on Sundays we bake gluten-free bread and rolls containing rice flour – they may need to be ordered in advance as they are always very popular with our regulars.'

With superb coffees for all tastes, plenty of comfortable indoor and outdoor seating and excellent service, The Baker's Room is the perfect place to take a break and meet up with friends – it is a short stroll from Dayman Park and Urangan beach and marina – as well as pop in for your morning coffee and freshly baked bread.

'We are so grateful that Hervey Bay has supported us from day one and continues to do so,' says Nick. 'You will find our foods at many local restaurants, clubs, pubs and cafés, and they kindly display our name on their menus. For us, there's nothing better than seeing customers enjoying eating and drinking with their friends and family: that's why we love what we do.'

## The Baker's Room

18 Dayman Steet  
 Urangan QLD 4655  
 (07) 4125 6257  
 info@thebakersroom.com.au  
 https://thebakersroom.com.au  
 @thebakersroomhb

Advertise: nigel@queenslandlocals.com.au 0474 509 156





Roy Gomes

# THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING?

*Property Consultant Roy Gomes of @realty offers expert local market knowledge, free no-obligation property appraisals – and low agent fees!*

'Hervey Bay's property market continues to demonstrate strong growth, with rising prices and robust rental demand set against the context of a limited housing supply,' reflects Roy Gomes, independent Property Consultant at @realty.

'In the first quarter of 2025 median house prices reached \$722,500, that's an 11% annual increase, while unit prices reached \$520,000, a 16.4% increase. With house sales decreasing by 23% and unit sales by around 36% compared to the corresponding quarter in 2024, there's less choice for buyers. This level of under-supply for both property types means that we are now in a seller's market.'

Working as part of the @realty national network, Roy provides a dedicated personal service to his clients and, one significant point of difference between him and other agents, is his low 1.5% commission fee.

'When it comes to sales, valuation integrity is fundamentally important. While some properties may be slightly unusual in layout or design, and so take longer to match with the right buyer, in most cases the asking price is the primary deciding factor.'

'Some agents will provide an artificially high valuation purely to get a property on their books:

of course, in time reality comes into play and that initial price is inevitably lowered. In contrast, I provide an accurate valuation from day one.'

To maximise exposure and generate buyer demand @realty provides each client with a customised marketing strategy tailored specifically to their needs and budget (includes photography and drone footage uploaded to *domain.com.au* and *realestate.com.au*). In addition, in-house mortgage broking and conveyancing are available to help buyers achieve a quick, simple settlement and the @realty property hub allows 24/7 access to updates on a property's progress.

Roy himself is a familiar figure in the Hervey Bay community. He plays lawn bowls, sings in music groups and has regular stalls at Torquay market on Saturdays and Nikenbah market on Sundays. 'They are a fantastic way to meet local people and visitors – everyone is so friendly and there's always an interesting conversation to be had.'

'There's no doubt that Hervey Bay is a very attractive destination. Buyers re-locating from other parts of Queensland, interstate

and overseas are attracted by the mild, subtropical climate and pristine environment, the area is perfect for families needing a larger home for their budget – there are excellent public and private schools – and we also have retirees and investors seeking rental yields or Airbnb income.

'With a superb selection of restaurants, pubs and cafés and five safe-swimming beaches along the 16km Esplanade foreshore, each with beautiful views towards K'gari-Fraser Island, the area really does have something for everyone.'

'Naturally, every seller wants to achieve the highest possible price for their property, and that's my focus. I always offer a free no-obligation appraisal and I look forward to meeting up with new clients.'

.....  
**Roy Gomes BSc(Hons)UK, MBA(UK)**  
 Property Consultant  
 @realty  
 0421 906 072  
 roy.gomes@atrealty.com.au  
 www.atrealty.com.au





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