



JULY | 2025

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Welcome to the July Edition of the KIRA MIRROR!

As your community voice, this issue shines a light on the collective efforts that make Kawana Island such a wonderful place to live. This month, we're proud to celebrate the determined work of the KIRA Committee and our dedicated residents, who — in close collaboration with the local council and police — have successfully tackled the surge in graffiti on our island. Thanks to their perseverance and partnership, those responsible have been brought to justice, helping to restore our neighbourhood's signature charm and sense of safety.

Also in this edition, you'll find the latest updates on our beloved Blue Fence Project, learn more about local initiatives, and mark your calendars for our highlight community gathering: Music by the Bay 2025! Returning bigger and better on Sunday, 14 September, this family-friendly afternoon will showcase Girl Friday as well as a fresh new artist, Sari Abbott, delicious food stalls, kids' activities, and plenty more to enjoy by our beautiful waterfront.

Together, through community spirit and active involvement, we continue to keep Kawana Island vibrant, connected, and thriving. Happy reading — and see you at the bay!

Blast from the Past: KIRA's Inaugural Seniors' Morning

Kawana Island Residents' Association (KIRA) is excited to invite the community to its very first Seniors' Morning – Blast from the Past! This nostalgic gathering promises an entertaining morning of Sixties Trivia and friendly conversation, topped off with a complimentary morning tea.

Join us on Friday, 8 August 2025, from 10 AM to 12 PM at Meeting Room B, Kawana Island Meeting Point. The venue is fully wheelchair accessible, ensuring everyone can take part in the fun.

Entry is free, but **RSVP is essential to secure your spot**. To book your place, simply email hello@kira.net.au.



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With many years experience, and a wealth of local knowledge, Terri-Anne knows how to best market your Kawana Island property, and achieve the maximum results.

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KIRA's Blue-tiful Vision for Kawana Island

If you've strolled around Kawana Island lately and thought, "Wow, the neighbourhood's looking extra sharp!" — you're not imagining things. The iconic name Pillars and "Blue Fences" that once gave our community its signature coastal charm are making a proud return, thanks to a spirited facelift led by the Kawana Island Residents Association (KIRA).

A Tale of Two Blues

Let's rewind. Some years back, Council advised that fences be painted in a colour known as Dulux Juvenile. KIRA ran with it, encouraging homeowners to adopt the sleek, contemporary shade for consistency. But there was one small hitch — despite its name, Juvenile wasn't the blue we remembered. In fact, it leaned more towards grey, missing the cool, ocean-inspired tone that originally defined our streetscape. After fielding resident feedback and chatting with Council (where the colour conversation got a bit... murky), it was suggested that KIRA take the lead.

Enter: Elsa Karga

Cue the hero music. KIRA found inspiration in the stunning fence around Kawana Island Villas, which had been repainted in a colour dating back to the original developer's vision — **Taubmans Elsa Karga**. This bold, beautiful shade has a deep blue base that instantly revived the coastal charm of the neighbourhood.

The first major test? Repainting the pillar at Grand Parade and Maldives Place using Elsa Karga. The verdict from locals? A resounding "Wow!"

Yes, this does mean a gentle pivot from Juvenile — but never fear! The two tones play nicely together, and unless they're side-by-side, most wouldn't notice the difference. If you've already used Juvenile, there's no need to repaint. And if you're starting fresh or updating, Elsa Karga is the new blue on the block.

The Blue Fence Project: More Than Just Paint

But wait, there's more! The Blue Fence Project isn't just about colour swatches — it's about community. KIRA's campaign includes two key initiatives:

- Helping homeowners with paint discounts and support for sprucing up their fences.

- Restoring the Street Name pillars and nearby fencing, breathing life back into these neighbourhood icons.

The first restoration was a triumph of teamwork — involving dedicated locals, Council staff, and funding from the Containers for Change program. A massive shout-out goes to our first fence-fabulous volunteers, Bob Kellar and Laurie Jones, and to Council legends Michael Hunt and Jon Presswell for their work in clearing old greenery and their plan to plant vibrant new gardens.

Want to see the magic for yourself? Swing by the Grand Parade/Maldives Place corner and admire the transformation.

We're Not Done Yet — And We Need You!

This uplifting project has just begun. With 28 more pillars to restore, we're calling on the community to roll up their sleeves. Whether you're handy with a paintbrush, have a green thumb, or just want to be part of something special — we need your help.

Let's bring back the blue, together. Because when the fences shine, so does the whole island.

Interested in volunteering or learning more? Reach out to **KIRA** — and let's keep Kawana Island looking its beautiful, blue best!



After:

 Don't forget to check your colour insert for the full guide on fence and name pillar colours.



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Community Spirit in Action: Mark Puplett Reflects on the Origins of KIRA

Nearly two decades ago, a shared vision of community connection and neighbourhood pride sparked the formation of what is now one of Kawana Island's most enduring institutions: the Kawana Island Residents Association (KIRA). At the heart of that story is long-time resident and early committee member, Mark Puplett.

Speaking candidly to KIRA Mirror, Mark recalls his journey with the island and the association he helped bring to life.

A Home with Promise—and Patience

Mark first set foot on Kawana Island in June 2005, drawn to its picturesque setting and the promise of a future railway connection to Brisbane. "One of the key selling points at the time was the proposed railway line to Brisbane—which we are still waiting for," he laughs. "No station yet, but it's still a beautiful place to live."

For Mark, proximity to family played a big role in choosing Kawana Island. "With kids and grandkids in Brisbane, that potential rail line was very appealing," he says. After a brief hiatus abroad from 2012 to 2015, Mark returned to the island and has called it home ever since.

The Birth of KIRA

KIRA wasn't just a spontaneous community initiative—it was part of a larger vision for the island's development. "The idea of creating a committee was first suggested by Lensworth Kawana Waters, the original developer," explains Mark. "They hosted regular family events to promote the Island in the early days, and a Residents Association was seen as a way to continue that spirit—to maintain a sense of community and preserve the prestige image of the neighbourhood."

Setting up the association required careful groundwork. "We had to ensure all the legalities were in place, and that committee roles and nominations were formalised properly," Mark recalls.

A Vision for Pride and Participation

From its inception, KIRA was about more than meetings and maintenance—it was about people. "The vision was always to foster pride in a well-presented neighbourhood, to keep the community connected, and to liaise with Council about services and issues," says Mark.

The now-famous "blue fences" of Kawana Island were, even then, a hot topic. "Their maintenance has been a regular item on the agenda from the very beginning," he notes.

Moments That Mattered

When asked what he most enjoyed about being part of KIRA, Mark doesn't hesitate: "Bringing people together. I loved being part of a community that was inclusive, supportive, and safe."

A particular highlight for him was the island's garden competition. "I really enjoyed walking around the island to view the entries and vote. It was inspiring—and great for getting ideas for my own garden, too."

Legacy and Lasting Impact

Mark's contributions helped shape the foundation of KIRA's identity—literally. "One of the original committee members designed the KIRA logo that's still used on the website today," he says proudly. "This was before the days of Facebook, so our newsletter and website were vital for communication and branding."

Looking at KIRA today, Mark feels a sense of accomplishment. "It's great to see KIRA still providing so much for the community—family events, clean-up days, newsletters, business networking mornings. It's all in line with our original goals."

A Call to Future Volunteers

For those considering joining the committee or volunteering, Mark is enthusiastic. "It's a great way to get to know people and build friendships. And it's important to have a diverse committee, so the events reflect the interests of all age groups and family types."

As Kawana Island continues to grow and evolve, the foundations laid by early residents like Mark Puplett remain strong—proof that when a community comes together with heart and purpose, the legacy can last for generations.



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Traffic Signals at Kawana Island Blvd & Melody Ct

In response to residents' concerns about the signalised roundabout at the intersection of Kawana Island Boulevard and Melody Court in Warana, Sunshine Coast Council (SCC) has carried out a thorough site inspection to investigate the issue. A Technical Officer from the Council confirmed that the traffic signals at this roundabout are functioning as intended and in line with their original design.

Here's how the system works: the red signal on the western approach to the roundabout is activated only when traffic builds up on the eastern side — particularly between Nicklin Way and the roundabout itself. Road-embedded vehicle sensors detect when this area reaches capacity, triggering the red light to temporarily hold vehicles and prevent further congestion in the roundabout.

Council continues to monitor this location and has assured KIRA that everything is working as it should. However, if residents witness any instances of driver non-compliance or unsafe behaviour, they are encouraged to report these directly to the **Queensland Police Service (QPS)**, call **Policelink at 131 444**, or email **policelink@police.qld.gov.au** to lodge a report.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday 3 July & Saturday 2 August: KIRA Double Bay Park Beach & Island Park 'Beach Clean-Up' - 7:30am - 8:30am

Friday 18 July: Kawana Island Business Networking event, VRINA Mezze & Bar - 10:30am

Sunday 27 July: Santa Paws in the Park - 10:00am - 2:00pm

Friday 8 August: Seniors Social Quiz at Kawana Island Meeting Place - 10:00am - 12:00pm

Sunday 10 August: AGM Kawana Island Meeting Place - 3:00pm-4:00pm - **COME ALONG AND JOIN THE KIRA COMMITTEE!**

Say
'hello'

Let's make our community newsletter richer with your contributions!

Let us know by emailing us at hello@kira.net.au
N.B. KIRA may not be able to feature all contributions and we reserve the right to edit submissions.

KIRA acknowledges the Gubbi Gubbi people, Traditional Custodians of the land in the area.

KIRA expresses its thanks to the Member for Kawana, Jarrod Bleijie MP, for the printing of this newsletter.

Save the Date

4 PAWSANIMALRESUE

Santa Paws

IN THE PARK

Sunday 27 July 2025

10 am - 2pm

Double Bay Park
Kawana Island

Coffee & Food

Activities for the whole family

Free Entry

Artisan Market Stalls

Photo with Santa

Fun competitions

Meet Local Business Owners and Connect with us!

Where: Vrina Mezze & Bar

When: Friday 18 July 10:30am

Respect one another and no hard sell please.

KIRA will provide free coffee whilst you network. The day's event will be brought to you by our host Mark Paddenburg (<https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-paddenburg-6421121/>).



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