

**March  
2025**

Image by local resident Charlie Cortis

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**President**  
Natalie Briggs

**Secretary**  
Alice Farley

**Treasurer**  
Colin Mildwaters



## MARCH | 2025

### 2025 – Community & Connection

As we welcome the new year, I am delighted to share with you some updates and important initiatives from KIRA. 2025 is shaping up to be another busy year, with plenty of opportunities for us to come together, celebrate, and grow to protect and preserve the strong, vibrant community we've built; while embracing the evolving future of our neighbourhoods and our island sanctuary.

This year we are committed to embracing more opportunities to connect, with various events designed to bring us closer as a community. From the initiation of our first 'KIRA Kids', community beach clean-up days and Senior Socials - our events are all about building a sense of belonging and offering spaces for everyone to engage. We also want to hear from you, ideas and suggestions for connecting the community are part of our 2025 pledge.

KIRA continues to represent your voice on the current topics facing our community, addressing challenges, embracing new opportunities, and ensuring that residents feel supported and connected. We are committed to working closely with the local council to ensure that every resident's perspective is considered in the decision-making process. Together, we will focus on finding the most effective and inclusive solutions that best support the island as a whole, whether that be in your street, neighbourhood park or supporting small businesses to thrive alongside residential living and engagement.

We will be introducing new communication methods on key matters affecting our community, with a refreshed website and digital presence that allows us to share, gather and communicate in a manner that benefits all, with effectiveness and flexibility.

*Your feedback and input is invaluable as we shape the future of our community.*

We look forward to working alongside each of you to continue making Kawana Island a wonderful place to live and work. Stay tuned for more updates, and please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or ideas.



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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.

**AMBER WERCHON | CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH PROPERTY**



## Local Spotlight: Owen Cavanagh – Master of Sand and Surf Art

Meet Owen Cavanagh, a sunshine coast artist and creative powerhouse who brings inspiration to the community through his diverse artistic talents. Born in Nambour and raised on a strawberry farm in Tanawha, Owen's roots run deep in the region. Over the years, he has turned his passion for creativity into a thriving art career, leaving an indelible mark on the area with his unique sand art and dynamic Studio 53 Art & Surf Culture.



### From Strawberries to Sand Art

Growing up on a farm instilled a love for the natural world, which fuels Owen's artistic expression today. His journey as an artist began in 1999 with the launch of Solearte Australia/Owen Surf Art, specializing in airbrushing and sculptures. However, it was a podcast interview with an American sand artist that inspired him to try something new: sand art.

"Sand art has been very spontaneous from the start," says Owen. "It's inspired by the things around me and symbols that empower me and others."

### The Art of the Sand

Creating sand art involves much more than raking lines in the sand. Owen meticulously plans each piece, starting with the right tide times and often a central feature or symbol. "I began with a standard garden rake, but now I use different sizes and types," he explains. Locations like Coolum, Noosa, Mooloolaba, and Caloundra are carefully chosen for their visibility to the public—and lately, Owen has been using drones to capture his stunning creations from above.

Though his designs are often spontaneous, they always carry a positive message or encourage viewers to think outside the box.

One of his favourite pieces is a large smiling sun, created during only his second attempt at sand art. Another highlight was a collaborative project for a local band's music video, The Remains of Mr. Thompson – "Breathe", which can now be viewed on YouTube.

### Building a Community Hub

Owen's creativity doesn't stop at sand. In addition to his sand art and sculptures, he realized a lifelong dream with the opening of Studio 53 Art & Surf Culture. The studio is a vibrant space showcasing incredible local artists, hosting workshops, and offering booths for rent. It's also a hub for community connection, with events and exhibitions that support local charities.

***"I love collaborating with other artists and sharing my passion for creativity," says Owen.***

### Staying Inspired

Whether creating sand art on the beaches of the Sunshine Coast or curating exhibitions in his studio, Owen's work reflects his dedication to spreading positivity and encouraging artistic expression.

To see more of Owen's sand art, sculpture work, and community projects, visit Studio 53 or check out his Facebook page/website ([www.solearte.com.au](http://www.solearte.com.au)) page for updates and photos.

KIRA are working closely with Owen and the KIRA kids initiative to bring a sand art workshop to the island and sand art at Double Bay. Keep an eye on our social media for more information!

*Photo Credit: Kerry Mulgrew*



### KIRA Residents - Spotlight!

We want to hear your stories and history of living or working on our island. Do you have an interesting hobby or community group you are a part of? Have you moved from afar and what are your experiences of Island life? Email [hello@kira.net.au](mailto:hello@kira.net.au) and share your journey with the community in our KIRA Newsletter.

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[vrinamezzebar.com.au](http://vrinamezzebar.com.au)

## Upgrading Island Infrastructure

This year, we're continuing to team up with Containers for Change to help maintain the appearance of our beautiful Island. We have been able to collect over \$1,700 from donations since we began collecting in 2024, with thanks to Vrina and local residents.

And guess what? You can get involved too! Just take your empty bottles to your local depot and quote our Member Number. Your contributions will go directly towards the 'blue fence' upgrade initiative.

**Member Number: C11415165**



## My Ferry Adventure

### Kawana Waters to Mooloolaba with Mooloolaba Ferry

Hop on board the new Mooloolaba Ferry Service; operating every *Thursday through Sunday* between 9am - 5pm - with extra services at the weekend.

Check out the timetable at [www.mooloolabaferry.com.au](http://www.mooloolabaferry.com.au)

"I'm not usually one for early starts, but when a boat ride is involved, I'll make an exception. Stepping onto the Mooloolaba Ferry, I was greeted by a crew so cheerful I suspected they lived on sunshine and sea breezes. I found the perfect seat—one that encapsulated the essence and beauty of Kawana's waterways.

As we glided through the canals, I couldn't help but admire the waterfront mansions, the swans frolicking nearby and the sun shimmering off the water. The whole scene was so peaceful I nearly forgot I was technically "commuting."

We made a quick stop at La Balsa Park, where more passengers hopped on, before passing Point Cartwright Lighthouse, the ocean peeking through the headland, and the salty air filling my lungs. There's something about being on the water that instantly clears the mind—maybe it's the fresh breeze, or maybe it's the fact that there's no Nicklin Way traffic out here.

Before I knew it, we were pulling into Mooloolaba Wharf. I stepped off the boat and was immediately surrounded by the buzz of cafés, restaurants and tourists and locals alike in search of their next adventure.



Would I do it again? Absolutely. 🇦🇺  
Who needs a car when you can cruise in style?"😊  
**As recommended by a Kawana Island Resident**

## Kawana Kids Easter Hop

兔 🐰 Kawana Island Kids Easter Hop! 🐰 🐰

📅 21 April 2025 ⏰ 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM📍 Kawana Island

Hop into Easter fun at the Kawana Island Kids Easter Hop!

Join us for a morning packed with egg-citing activities, including games, an Easter egg hunt, and a special screening of Hop! 🎬 🎉

This **free community event** (12yrs & under) is open to Kawana Island residents—but donations are always appreciated to help keep the fun going!

Bring your baskets, bring your friends, meet us at Kawana Island Meeting Place and get ready for a hoppy good time! 🐰 🎉



A yellow chick icon is on the right edge of the box.

## Double Bay & Island Beach Local Beach Clean-Up Days

Join KIRA volunteers on the first Saturday of every month at Double Bay Beach and Island Park Beach for an hour of cleaning of our beautiful beaches and be treated to a free sausage sizzle, freshly prepared by one of our residents. Just bring your gloves, a refuge bag and lots of energy! From 7:30am until 8:30am.

Next Clean Up: **Saturday 5th April**





## Help KIRA Help You

Support Your Community – Donate to KIRA Today!

Kawana Island Residents' Association (KIRA) volunteers work together regularly to bring our community together through events, activities, and advocacy. However, we do rely on the generosity of locals like you to keep things running!

Your financial donations help us cover essential costs such as public liability insurance and the resources needed to organise the fantastic events that make Kawana Island such a vibrant place to socialise. Without financial support, these events and initiatives simply wouldn't be possible. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference.

### How You Can Help:

- ✓ Make a financial donation to KIRA today
- ✓ Attend our events and spread the word
- ✓ Get involved and support your local community

Thank you all donors and sponsors that support KIRA.

## Upcoming Events:

**Saturday 1 March & Saturday 5 April:** KIRA Double Bay Park Beach & Island Park "Beach Clean-Up" - 7:30am - 8:30am

**Friday 28 March:** Community Morning Tea & Sunshine Coast Council Speaker Series - VRINA Mezze and Bar 9:30am - complementary tea & coffee and morning tea platters

**Monday 21 April:** Kawana "KIRA Kids" Easter Hop at Kawana Island Meeting place 9:30am - 11:30am - free Easter event!

**Monday 17 March & 28 April:** KIRA Committee meeting at Kawana Island Meeting Place 6:00pm - 7:00pm

**SAVE THE DATE: "MUSIC BY THE BAY 2025"**  
Sunday Afternoon - 14 September 2025 - Times to be announced

Say  
'hello'

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

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

## Spotlight on 'Doggy Home from Home'

🐾 A Loving Doggy Holiday Home on Kawana Island! 🏠 We're lifelong dog lovers with 30+ years of experience, offering personalised care for up to 2 small or medium dogs at a time. Your pup will be part of our family, never left alone for more than an hour, and enjoy 24/7 garden access in a safe, loving home.

🌿 Spacious garden & walks near beaches & parks

📸 Daily updates (or as preferred)

✓ Fully vetted & certified



We'll love your dog like our own! 🐾 ❤️ Book now!



You can also stay up-to-date by following us on Facebook.



😊😊😊

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.