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## JAN | 2025

A heartfelt Happy New Year to all our Kawana Island residents! It has been a pleasure meeting many of you over the past 12 months, and we look forward to continuing to work in your best interests in 2025. Let's toast to a bright future and un-'cheer'-lievable opportunities this New Year! Here's everything you need to know:

## KIRA Committee 2025!

The KIRA AGM took place on 3rd December 2024, and we were excited to welcome new members into the fold. It was an exciting year for us at KIRA last year as new President Natalie Briggs along with Secretary Alice Farley joined the team with fresh ideas and a determination to increase KIRA's presence in the community. We are pleased to confirm our core roles remain as follows:

<b>President</b>	Natalie Briggs - <a href="mailto:hello@kira.net.au">hello@kira.net.au</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Alice Farley - <a href="mailto:secretary@kira.net.au">secretary@kira.net.au</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Colin Mildwaters - <a href="mailto:treasurer@kira.net.au">treasurer@kira.net.au</a>

### Our New Members:

We are also pleased to welcome new members to the KIRA Committee. Alan Warburton and Matthew Byrne (pictured left) recently moved to the Island from the UK and have joined as committee members for 2025. With their expertise in business development, education, and events, we are excited to have their involvement. They are loving Island life and commented, 'After having only lived here for a relatively short time, we can already see what a vibrant and welcoming community this is, and we're thrilled to contribute to its future.'

### Many Thanks

As we move into 2025, we would like to express a huge thank you to Valerie O'Brien who is stepping down as committee member to take up a role as Director of Women's Golf at Headland Golf Club. Valerie has shown unwavering support to KIRA over many years. Also, thanks to Stuart Kennedy for his contribution in 2024. Both Valerie and Stuart will be dearly missed.



**TERRI-ANNE MURRAY**

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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**





## New Year, New Goals

2025

### KIRA's 2025 Goals: Let's Make Kawana Island Even More Awesome!

Kicking off the year with a bang, KIRA has mapped out some exciting goals to make sure Kawana Island stays the place to be in 2025. Here's what we've got lined up for you:

 **Tech Upgrades** to 'keep You in the loop' with the help of our tech sponsor, Tic Technologies, we're giving our digital presence a turbo boost! We'll be sprucing up our social platforms, website, and mailing systems, making it easier and faster to get information out to the community and respond to your questions. And hey, who doesn't love a good tech upgrade? So, if you're a digital whiz, keep an eye on this space — it's about to get supercharged!


 **Strengthening Our Community Connection** At KIRA, bringing people together is what we do best. In 2024, we had a blast with morning teas and business networking. But guess what? We're ready to take it to the next level in 2025! Here are three areas we're focusing on to keep those connections flowing:

**Kawana Kids** — Because the little ones deserve a place to shine!

**Senior Socials** — Fun isn't just for the young, after all!

**Community Groups** — Where the magic happens when we all pitch in.


Got any ideas for how we can bring even more connection to the Island? We want to hear them! Drop us a line at [hello@kira.net.au](mailto:hello@kira.net.au).

 **Upgrading Island Infrastructure.** This year, we're teaming up with Containers for Change to make the blue fences even better! And guess what? You can get involved too! Just take your empty bottles to your local depot and quote our member number — it's a win-win for the Island.

**WE DONATE OUR  
REFUNDS TO**

**Member Number: C11415165**

But wait, there's more! We're also looking at upgrading Playgrounds/Play Equipment around the Island. We're working with the Council to figure out how to make your kids' playtime even more epic in the near future.

 **Come Join the Conversation!** Our team meets every six weeks to chat about all things Kawana Island. Want to be part of the action? You're welcome to join us at our meetings, or if you can't make it, send us an email at [hello@kira.net.au](mailto:hello@kira.net.au) with anything you'd like us to discuss. Here's to making 2025 the best year yet for Kawana Island — with a little bit of fun, a lot of heart, and all the good vibes!

## A Brew-tiful Success: Let's Keep the Momentum Going!



On 22nd November 2024, KIRA held a morning tea at Gold Sponsor, Vrina Mezze and Bar.

Our VRINA Morning Tea was more than just a chance to enjoy a cup of tea — it was a fantastic opportunity to bring the community together! A big thank you to VRINA for hosting and providing the delicious refreshments. We were also fortunate to hear from Clancy Hall (Lakes and Wetlands Sunshine Coast Council) and Division 4 Councillor Joe Natoli, who shared valuable insights on the wildlife and council challenges facing our Island.

It was inspiring to meet so many enthusiastic community members, and we loved learning more about the issues that matter most to you. Let's keep that energy going — we'll be hosting more morning teas throughout 2025, and we'd love for you to get involved! It's a great way to connect with your neighbours, share ideas, and build a stronger community.

Have suggestions for future topics or agendas? Send us an email at [hello@kira.net.au](mailto:hello@kira.net.au) — we'd love to hear from you! Whether it's a burning issue or a fun community initiative, your voice matters.



VRINA  
MEZZE BAR

5 GRAND PARADE,  
PARREARRA, SUNSHINE  
COAST, QLD 4575

PHONE: 07 53569511

[vrina\\_mezze\\_bar](mailto:vrina_mezze_bar)







## Music by the Bay: Thank You for Helping Us Hit the Right Note!

We are truly tuned in with gratitude for everyone who attended **Music by the Bay 2024**! Your presence, enthusiasm, and energy made this event a resounding success. The day was filled with joy, laughter, and performances that really struck a chord with the community.

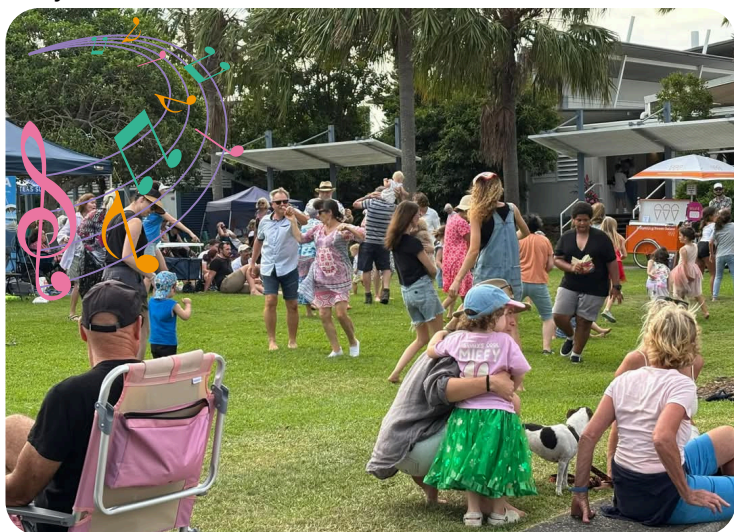
We were thrilled to have **Girl Friday** and **Shaky Razor** grace the stage, each bringing their own unique sound and hitting all the right notes. Their performances were electric, and the vibrant energy they brought to the stage was the perfect soundtrack for the day.

### The Power of Music to Unite

As **John Farnham** once said, *"Music brings people together, it makes you feel things you didn't think you could feel. It has the power to bring us all closer."* This event was a perfect example of how music can break barriers, bring people together, and create lasting memories. From the first note to the final encore, the event offered more than just entertainment; it offered an opportunity for our community to harmonize and celebrate together, creating a bond that will last long after the final song.

### A Family Affair

Music by the Bay 2024 was designed to be a fun-filled day for the entire family, and it was heart-warming to see so many families enjoying the music and activities together. Whether you were tapping your feet, dancing, or just soaking in the atmosphere, it was clear that the power of music brought everyone closer.



### A Melody of Thanks

Thanks to your generous support, we raised over **\$330** for important community initiatives, like the **Fence Improvement Initiative**. Your participation is helping us keep the rhythm of progress going for our Island.

We also want to send a special shout-out to our incredible sponsors and partners who helped make this event possible:

- **Major Grants initiative at Sunshine Coast Council**
- **Division 4 Councillor Joe Natoli**
- **Sunny Ray's Burgers**
- **Something Sweet Gelato**
- **Be Amazed entertainment (for the amazing face painting)**
- **Kawana Surf Club (for first aid support)**

Your support kept the event in tune and made it a truly unforgettable experience.

### Looking Ahead to 2025!

# MUSIC

We're already gearing up for **Music by the Bay 2025** and can't wait to make it an even bigger celebration! Mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 14th, from 13:30 to 17:30** — you won't want to miss it!

Thank you once again for your incredible support, and for being part of this harmonious event. We can't wait to jam with you again next year!

**Credits:** Photographs courtesy of Mayor Rosanna's Facebook Page



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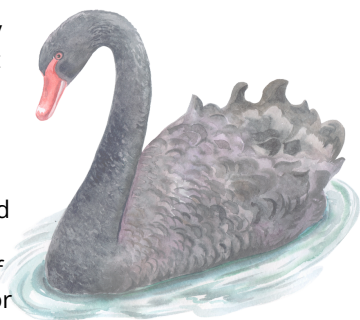


## Kawana Wildlife Watch

Following the presentation by Conservation Officer Clancy Hall at our last morning tea of 2024, we have collated all insights to share with our community:

### Caring for our Swans:

Residents are reminded not to feed the black swans, especially processed food and bread, as it can lead to dependency, health issues, and other negative impacts. Should residents still wish to feed the swans, alternatives like frozen peas and lettuce were recommended by Clancy. Prioritizing the health of our local waterways is crucial for the well-being of the swans.



### Flying Foxes

Our Island wildlife includes a healthy population of flying foxes, which are important pollinators and seed dispersers for many plants and fauna.

The [Sunshine Coast Council website](#) offers comprehensive information on flying-foxes, including their habitats, behaviours, and the vital roles they play in the ecosystem. The site provides detailed insights into the activities in nearby roosts and offers residents access to interactive BatMaps, which show the locations and statuses of various roosts.

### Turtles

The Sunshine Coast is home to several species of marine turtles, including the loggerhead turtle (\*Caretta caretta\*), green turtle (\*Chelonia mydas\*), and occasionally the leatherback turtle (\*Dermochelys coriacea\*). Each species has distinct characteristics and plays a unique role in the marine environment.

Despite ongoing conservation efforts, marine turtles face numerous challenges, including climate change, marine pollution, and habitat destruction.

Community participation is crucial for the success of marine turtle conservation. We encourage residents looking for new ways to support the community in 2025 to sign up to the [TurtleCare](#) program via the Sunshine Coast Website.

## Kawana Island Residents' Association: Let's Play!

At the **Kawana Island Residents' Association** (KIRA), we're swinging into action with the Sunshine Coast Council to review and upgrade our parks and play areas. Our goal? To make sure our local recreational spaces are the best playgrounds they can be — fun, safe, and ready for everyone to enjoy!

But while we work to slide our improvements into place, if you're itching to find somewhere fun to play on the coast, check out the brand-new play park in **Mudjimba**! This swinging addition to the coastal landscape is packed with endless fun and family-friendly activities. It's the perfect spot to climb to new heights and enjoy some outdoor adventure.

The **Mudjimba park** is a true source of playground inspiration for our community. Thoughtfully designed for kids of all ages, it features modern equipment, from swings and slides to climbing frames, all set within beautifully landscaped surroundings. Plus, there's plenty of shaded seating for parents to relax and keep an eye on their little monkeys.

Back on **Kawana Island**, the **Kawana Surf Club Play Park** has recently received a bright and bouncy upgrade, making it a prime spot for your kiddos to burn off some energy! And while the kids are going wild, why not grab a coffee or freshly squeezed orange juice from **Sandy Feet Cafe** hut? Conveniently located by the Kawana Surf Club, they're open from 6am to 10am daily — perfect for a little pick-me-up while your little ones play their hearts out or for a refreshing morning walk on the beach.



### What's Next for KIRA?

We're not done yet! Throughout 2025, we'll continue to update you on our progress as we work with the **Sunshine Coast Council** to make Kawana Island the playground capital of the coast.

Stay tuned, and let's keep having fun together!



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## Healthy Sunshine Coast



### Sunshine Coast Council Promotes Health with "Healthy Sunshine Coast" Program

The Sunshine Coast Council is encouraging residents to embrace a healthier lifestyle through its **"Healthy Sunshine Coast"** initiative. This flagship program offers a range of holistic, low-cost health and wellbeing activities designed for all ages and abilities.

Did you know that just 30 minutes of physical activity a day can significantly reduce the risk of chronic diseases, improve mental health, and boost overall energy? This program is designed to help you do just that – move well, eat well, sleep well, think well, connect well, and enjoy time in nature.

#### Affordable & Accessible for Everyone

The program is accessible and affordable, with sessions costing just \$10 for adults, \$5 for Health Care or Pensioner card holders, and \$5 for children under 18 when accompanied by an adult. Activities include community walking and running groups, with popular weekly events like parkrun and Heart Foundation walks that are completely free to attend.

For those who love outdoor adventures, the Sunshine Coast offers a plethora of activities including mountain biking, bushwalking, horse riding, and water sports. The local waterways are perfect for paddle sports like kayaking, while the region's tracks and trails offer stunning backdrops for those looking to connect with nature.

#### Did You Know?

- **Engaging in nature-based activities can reduce stress levels and improve overall mental wellbeing.**
- **Exercise boosts brain function and is one of the most effective ways to combat mental fatigue.**
- **Walking just 30 minutes a day can enhance cardiovascular health and improve mood.**



#### Get Active at Double Bay Gym Park

For those closer to Double Bay, why not take advantage of the outdoor gym park for a simple and effective workout?

Here's a quick exercise routine you can do, designed to improve strength, flexibility, and cardiovascular health:

- **Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)** – Start with a brisk walk around the park or some light stretching to get your body moving.
- **Squats (3 sets of 12)** – Stand with feet shoulder-width apart and squat down as if sitting in a chair. This targets your legs and core.
- **Push-Ups (3 sets of 10)** – Use the bar or ground to perform standard push-ups. These work the upper body, especially the chest, shoulders, and arms.
- **Step-Ups (3 sets of 10 each leg)** – Use a low platform or bench for this exercise to strengthen your legs and glutes.
- **Plank (Hold for 30-60 seconds)** – A great exercise for core stability.
- **Cool Down (5-10 minutes)** – Finish with some stretching or deep breathing to relax your muscles.

This routine can be done in the outdoor gym area, using the available equipment, and is suitable for beginners and intermediate fitness levels. It's the perfect way to get moving while enjoying the fresh air!

#### Program Resumes on 28 January, 2025

The Healthy Sunshine Coast program will resume on 28 January, 2025, and registration is completely free! The council encourages all community members to join this initiative and take advantage of the wide range of activities aimed at improving overall health and wellbeing. For more information and to register, visit the **Sunshine Coast Council's website**.



# KIRA MIRROR



## Deck the Halls 2025



Get ready to deck the halls and spread the Christmas cheer with the **Kawana Island Christmas Decorating Competition 2025!** It's time to transform your home into a festive wonderland and make this Christmas season extra special for the whole community.

This year, the house with the most dazzling outdoor decorations will win an **exciting prize** – a little extra holiday cheer to make your Christmas even brighter. But that's not all! The **best-decorated street** will also be rewarded with a **sharing meat platter** – perfect for a street party to celebrate your collective **festive spirit!**

To be entered in the competition, simply email us at **hello@kira.net.au** to register your home and include your address. Don't forget – all participating homes will be added to the **KIRA Deck The Halls Decorations Map** for 2025, making it easy for families and little ones to take a magical Christmas tour of the island and soak up all the festive vibes.

Let's come together and light up Kawana Island with festive fun, creating the perfect Christmas spirit for all to enjoy!



## Spotlight On Bluewater Vessel Management

BlueWater Vessel Management and Pontoon Maintenance Sunshine Coast, operate a small business based on Kawana Island, specialising in maintaining, repairing, and managing vessels. From one-off vessel repairs to monthly monitoring and total management of your vessel, BlueWater ensure your boat is always ready for its next voyage. In addition Bluewater offer an array of services for Pontoon Docks, including various repairs, carpet replacements and waterline cleaning just to name a few!

Call Kawana Island Local, Mechanic and Commercial Skipper, Mike, today to discuss all your vessel and pontoon needs.

**0412101214**



## Own a Boat or Pontoon Dock?

### COMPLETE VESSEL MANAGEMENT

- ✓ **COMPLETE** management of your vessel from safety, mechanical checks, engine service, antifoul and so much more.
- Own a boat? We take care of all of the hard work for you! With monthly monitoring and maintaining of your vessel, ensuring it is always ready to be taken to sea, safely and reliably.

### PONTOON DOCK REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Pontoon Dock repairs and maintenance
- ✓ Pontoon Dock carpet replacement
- ✓ Pontoon Dock cleaning
- ✓ Gangway staining, painting and repairs
- ✓ Electrical work

**And so much more!**

Call Kawana Local, Mike TODAY



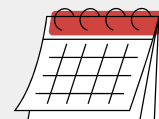
**0412101214**

[www.bluewatervm.com.au](http://www.bluewatervm.com.au)

**Contact Us!**



## Upcoming events...



**Monday 2nd February** KIRA Committee meeting at Kawana Island Meeting Place 6.00pm

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Sunday 14th September** MUSIC BY THE BAY 2025



**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.



**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.