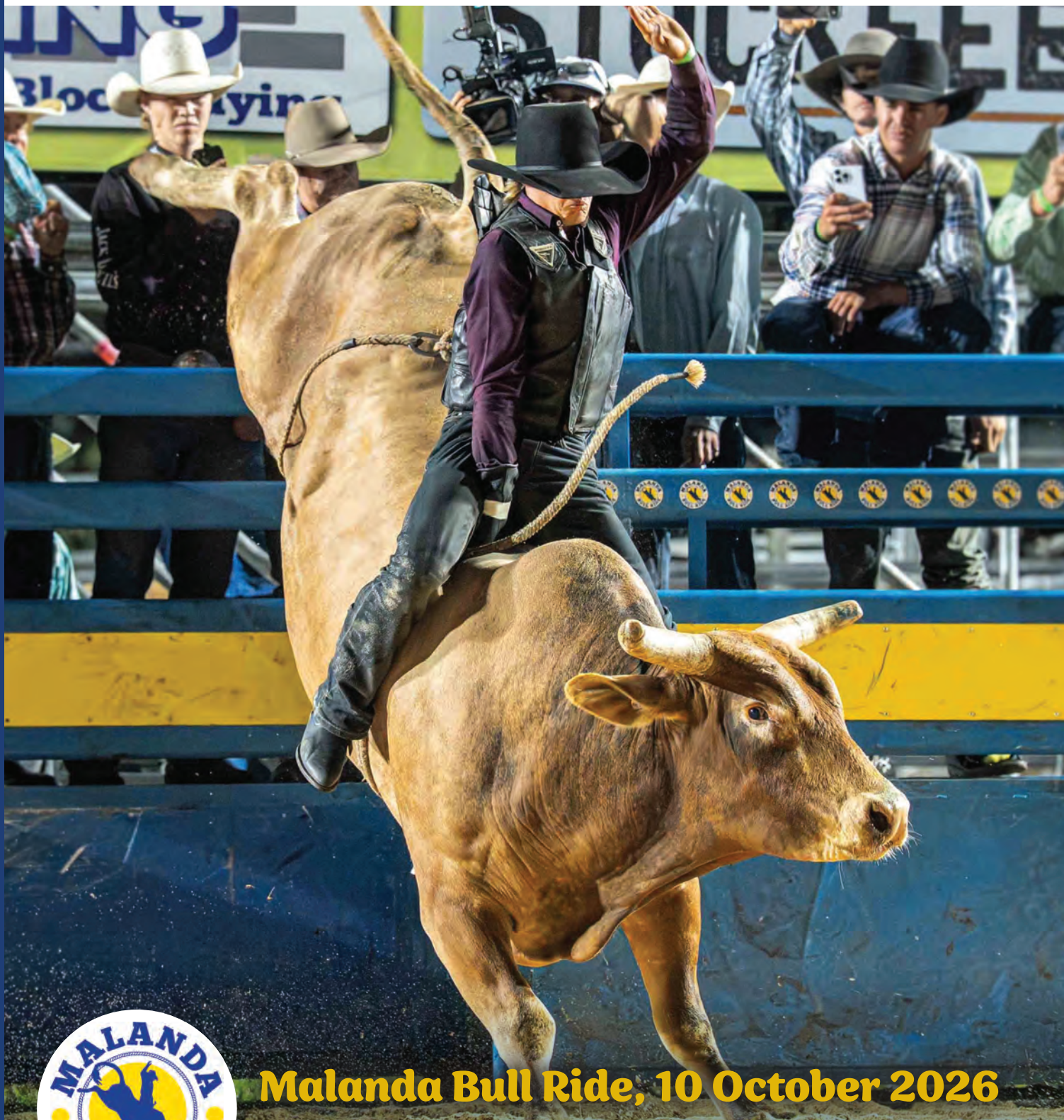


what's on

TABLELANDS



Malanda Bull Ride, 10 October 2026

2026 Tablelands Wedding Guide | Trails – Stargazing
Community Calendar | Event Highlights | Tales of the Tablelands | Markets

THE **BIG** PUB

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MALANDA BULL RIDE



2026



OCTOBER 10TH

MALANDA SHOWGROUNDS



GATES OPEN 2pm • FIRST BUCK 3pm

\$300 - 7-U12 CALF RIDES

Entry \$30

\$500 - U15 MINI BULL RIDE

Entry \$40

\$1500 - 14-U18 JUNIOR BULL RIDE

Entry \$90 AB \$20

\$3000 - NOVICE BULL RIDE

Entry \$110 AB \$20

ADULTS \$35

**AGED
PENSIONER \$20**

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**FAMILY \$80
(2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN)**



Entry \$150 AB \$150

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NOMINATIONS OPEN

13TH SEP - 6TH OCT

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what's on
TABLELANDS

Welcome to SEPTEMBER

Spring has arrived on the Tablelands, bringing plenty to see and do across the region. This issue features our 2026 Wedding Guide, with local ideas and advice for planning a wedding on the Tablelands.

Inside you'll find local events, stories and the people, places, and businesses that make our region so wonderful.

Enjoy the issue!



We love showcasing local people and businesses. If you have a great story, ideas, or would like to be featured, we'd love to hear from you!

info@whatsontablelands.com.au



Find events online anytime:
whatsontablelands.com.au

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Whats On Tablelands



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On the cover

Malanda Bull Ride

Photographer: Gavin Little, The Chute Shooter

Published by

What's On Tablelands

8,000 copies across the Tablelands and surrounding areas.

We acknowledge the First Nations people who have owned, cared for, protected and nourished this Country since time began. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.



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Win a Family Pass to the Malanda Bull Ride!



Entries close 24 September 2026

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Chillagoe Limestone Outcrop, by Paul Curtis

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**Dates - SEPT 24
OCT 1, OCT 8,
OCT 17 Showcase**



www.tablelandsfolkfestival.org.au



The Barra Bash

The ultimate Tablelands fishing showdown!

If you've ever cast a line into our beautiful Lake Tinaroo and felt the thrilling tug of a massive Barramundi, you have the Tablelands Fish Stocking Society (TFSS) to thank. This dedicated group of local volunteers has been the backbone of transforming Lake Tinaroo into a world-class fishing destination.

Over the years, the TFSS have released hundreds of thousands of fingerlings into the lake, including Sooty Grunter and the legendary Barramundi, helping to turn the Tablelands into a premier hotspot for fishermen nationwide and attracting the attention of many celebrity fishermen and prominent fishing television hosts over the years.

The crown jewel of the TFSS calendar is undoubtedly the annual *Barra Bash Fishing Competition*. Held at Lake Tinaroo, this highly anticipated event brings together

hundreds of eager anglers, from young children holding their first rods to seasoned pros. The event isn't just about winning trophies; it's a vital fundraiser that directly funds the next generation of fish fingerlings. The \$10,000 lucky entry is a major drawcard and you don't even have to fish to win!

The Barra Bash is achieved through the dedication and commitment of volunteers and the generosity of local business sponsors. A spokesperson for this year's major sponsor, Tablelands Hardware, said, "We believe in supporting the communities that support us. The Tinaroo Barra Bash is a fantastic community-focused event that brings people together, showcases our region and creates lasting memories. We're proud to play a part in its success."

Tableland Fish PRESENTS TFSS TINAROO **BARRA BASH** SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026 LAKE TINAROO

\$10,000 LUCKY ENTRY

FAMILY FRIENDLY FISHING COMPETITION

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ALL ADULT ENTRIES ARE ELIGIBLE TO WIN THE LUCKY ENTRY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO FISH TO WIN!

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FOOD ALL DAY!

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SPONSORED BY TABLELANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

**An incentive to fish the lake is the chance to catch a tagged fish:
a \$10,000 Barramundi or a \$1,000 Sooty Grunter!**

The last competition held in 2023 saw a local family, Steven and Bee Hubbard, compete to retain the title of Champion Angler, with Steven having won the title five times and Bee once. Bee shared that during the competition she was 9 months pregnant and they fished with their young daughter. They spent as much time on the water as possible, including two nights on the boat.

With this year's event being held from 25-27 September, the Hubbards have started planning to get reacquainted with the waters of Lake Tinaroo and the behaviours of the almighty Barra! "The flooding from Tropical Cyclone Jasper changed the lake, and we'll need to get a feel for the Barramundi again."

Another incentive to fish the lake is the chance to catch a tagged fish: a \$10,000 Barramundi or a \$1,000 Sooty Grunter. These prizes will remain available until the tagged fish are caught. This is another achievement of the TFSS volunteers, coupled with local business support.

Registrations are now open at www.tinaroobarrabash.com.au.



2026

OCT 23-25

TABLELANDS

FOLK FESTIVAL



Tickets Onsale NOW



tablelandsfolkfestival.org.au



Tablelands Stargazing

Where, when, and how to enjoy our night skies

The Atherton Tablelands is well known for waterfalls, rainforest, and rolling farmland, but one of its most impressive sights? Right above you!

Come nightfall, the landscape gives way to something just as spectacular. The elevation and open landscapes make it surprisingly easy to find dark skies without travelling too far from home. One of the best things about stargazing is just how easy it is. While telescopes and binoculars can reveal even more, you don't need any special equipment to simply look up and enjoy the view. Just check the weather, choose a suitable spot, and maybe pack something warm.

For the darkest skies and the best chance of seeing faint stars, choose a clear night around the new moon. With less moonlight competing for attention, the Milky Way and dimmer objects can be easier to see, although what is visible will depend on the season and time of night. A bright moon is not necessarily a reason to stay home, though. Moonlight can wash out fainter stars, but it also makes

the moon itself much easier to examine. Even without a telescope, it is often possible to see some of its darker plains and larger craters, particularly through a basic pair of binoculars.

Winter is often a good time to go. The cooler months on the Tablelands are generally drier, increasing the chances of a clear night, although conditions can vary. The night sky also changes throughout the year. Orion is prominent during summer evenings, while Scorpius becomes a familiar sight during winter.

A good stargazing spot can be surprisingly easy to find here on the Tablelands. Look for a public area away from streetlights, with an open view of the sky and somewhere safe to park. Lake Tinaroo is a popular option, while campgrounds in darker parts of the region can also work well for an overnight stay. Recently, we were pleasantly surprised to catch an incredible view of the stars after dinner in Yungaburra, proving you don't always need to

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travel far or plan ahead. Wherever you go, stay within designated public areas, respect private property and avoid stopping on narrow road shoulders. Take extra care when driving at night, particularly where wildlife may be active.

One of the biggest mistakes new stargazers make is expecting to see everything immediately. It can take 20-30 minutes for your eyes to properly adjust to the darkness, so resist the urge to keep checking your phone! If you need light, use a torch with a red-light setting or secure red cellophane over a standard torch with a rubber band. Red light has less effect on night vision than bright white light, making it much easier to return your attention to the sky.

And of course, comfort matters too. If you're making a night of it, pack a picnic blanket or camping chairs, insect repellent, a jumper, and a thermos of hot chocolate. Even during the warmer months, Tablelands evenings can become surprisingly brisk once the sun disappears.

Stargazing is great for families because children don't need much technical knowledge to enjoy it. They can search for the Southern Cross, watch for shooting stars, compare the brightness of different objects and guess what they might be. Older children may become curious about planets, galaxies and the myths and stories behind the constellations.

A pair of binoculars can be useful, but they are not essential. Start by looking for familiar features such as the Southern Cross, bright planets or the broad band of the Milky Way. Satellites can also be spotted moving steadily across the sky, while meteors appear as brief flashes of light. Several astronomy apps can help identify constellations, planets, and satellites using your phone's location and orientation. Popular ones include *Stellarium*, *SkySafari* and *Sky Guide*, and some can even alert you to upcoming astronomical events or satellites passing over. These apps can be useful for beginners, but lower the screen brightness and avoid spending the entire evening looking at a screen. The point, after all, is to look at the sky!

And then there is the romance of it all. Watching the stars together can be a beautiful way to mark an engagement, celebrate an anniversary, or enjoy a quiet moment once the wedding excitement has settled. It also makes for a very affordable date night, either as the main event or a quick stop after dinner or a movie.

The next time the forecast promises a clear night, head beyond the town lights, give your eyes time to adjust and see what appears overhead. Some of the best views on the Atherton Tablelands only come out after dark. Be careful, though – it can be very addictive!

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The Dirt

Spring jobs in your Tablelands garden, by **Kath Salter & Alyson Johnston**

Spring is glorious; everything is abundant and full of life. In the north, it is also our dry season, and it is nice to add a birdbath to the garden for the birds, bees and dragonflies to enjoy a drink. Warmer dry days necessitate a bit more watering, so time to check your irrigation system is operating efficiently, especially if it is your husband!

A well-mulched garden is important all year, particularly in spring to slow down the weeds that are partying due to good growth conditions. So, time to bend the back again and mulch! Topping up the mulch helps keep the soil cool whilst the temperatures increase through spring. It also helps the skinks hide from predators whilst they help us by eating slugs and other pests. We love our skinks at the nursery, and beautiful logs add to the aesthetics of the garden and give the skinks some protection. So don't always throw out your branches after pruning; incorporate a couple in the garden. The skinks also appreciate tufting plants to dart into, and the native dianellas and lomandras look good with the timber.

'Gardens aren't just for us. Many birds, insects, reptiles and animals enjoy our gardens for food and shelter.'

Spring brings growth and flowering, and that means fertilising, and this can be confusing for people. A crash course in the *NPK* on all fertiliser labels will help when deciding what to use. All macronutrients are essential and help a plant become strong, but the ratio will vary depending on the growth stage and plant. Choosing fertilisers is like choosing multivitamins; it depends on your current needs.

N is for nitrogen and is needed for leaf growth and energy. Indoor plants and lawns love high *N*. Once roots

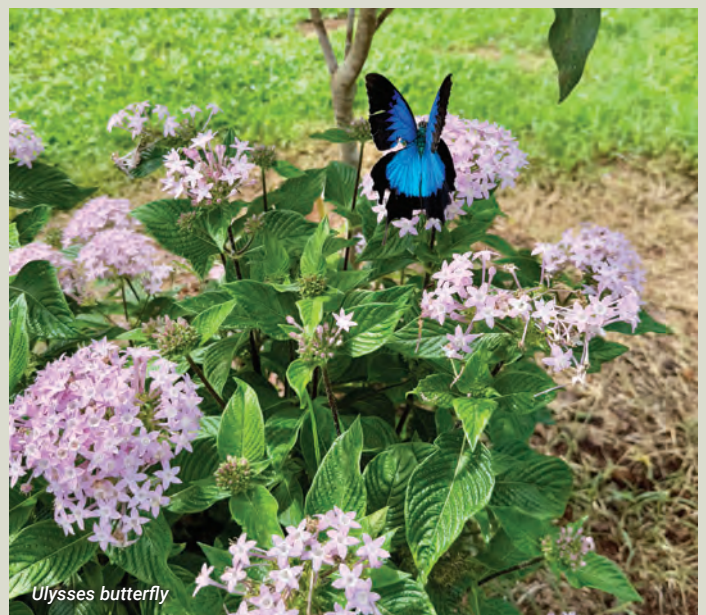
have established, vegies and flowers will appreciate high *N*. Once vegies, fruit and flowers start to bud, they don't want leaf growth, so choose a low *N* fertiliser.

P is for phosphorus and helps with root growth and fruit and flower set. Young seedlings, new lawns and plants will want to

establish strong roots first, so choose a fertiliser with high *P* in relation to the other nutrients. Choose high *P* for fruit trees starting to bud. Most natives do not like phosphorus, so use low *P* for natives.



Welcoming backyard birds



Ulysses butterfly

K is for potassium, and this helps with overall health and resilience, and enhances fruit development and flower vigour. A fruit tree coming into bud and plants coming into flower need high K.

Remember it is about the ratio of the three rather than amounts.

Gardening can be a solitary activity; however, there are many ways to socialise with other gardeners. Spring is a busy time for seed saving, and there is a Seed Savers group at Ravenshoe and Atherton. Enjoy a cuppa, learn the tricks and enjoy the company of other like-minded people. Facebook and the What's On Tablelands page are good places to contact them.

Gardens aren't just for us. Many birds, insects, reptiles and animals enjoy our gardens for food and shelter. The most common request in the nursery is for plants that will feed or house particular birds and animals.

We have a pair of resident sunbirds that have graced us with multiple chicks this year. They love grevilleas, callistemons, syzygiums, and plants with tubular flowers such as Russelia and Aeschynanthus. Encouraging birds helps with controlling naughty insects. Plant some banksias, xanthostemons and lophostemons for the honeyeaters.

A North Queensland garden is not complete without a couple of Aristolochia tagala for the Cairns birdwing butterfly; those caterpillars can eat! Plant Melicope elleryana (tree) and Melicope rubra (bush) for the Ulysses butterfly.

Beauty and productivity go hand in hand. Plant beautiful salvias around your fruit trees to repel aphids, and they are loved by birds and beneficial insects. Whilst the vegies are still growing strong in early spring, remember to hang some fruit fly traps around and welcome dragonflies in the garden as they dine on fruit flies. Add some lime to your fruit trees and vegie patch to help deter slugs.

As spring advances, get ready to plant new shrubs and trees with the first rains, and their roots will be ready for the summer onslaught. Grab a cuppa, relax in your garden, and you will be ready for summer too.

Kath and Alyson welcome all gardeners at The Spotted Quoll Nursery, 1914 Chewko Road, Walkamin. Call 0439 371 399. Open 7 days a week. FB: **The Spotted Quoll Nursery**





everything you need to create your perfect garden

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Jobs to do now in: Spring

what's on
TABLELANDS

Feed & mulch

- ☐ Top up mulch before the weather heats up.
- ☐ Match your NPK fertiliser to your plant's stage of growth.

Water wisely

- ☐ Check irrigation and repair leaks or blocked sprinklers.
- ☐ Add a birdbath for birds, bees and beneficial insects.

Plant now

- ☐ Plant herbs, basil, cucumbers, beans and other warm season vegies.
- ☐ Plant shrubs and trees with the first spring rains.

Wildlife friendly gardens

- ☐ Plant grevilleas, callistemons and salvias for birds and pollinators.
- ☐ Leave logs and tufting plants to shelter skinks.

Fruit & vegie care

- ☐ Hang fruit fly traps before fruit starts to develop.
- ☐ Watch citrus for leaf miner as fresh spring growth appears.

Get ready for summer

- ☐ Stay on top of weeds while they're easy to pull.
- ☐ Refresh compost and prepare garden beds before the wet season.

Take time to enjoy your garden – spring is when the Tablelands comes alive with birds, butterflies, and new growth.





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what's on TABLELANDS 2026 Tablelands Wedding Guide

Welcome to the 2026 What's On Tablelands Wedding Guide—your go-to for planning a beautiful celebration in one of Queensland's most magical regions.



Whether you're a local or planning a destination wedding, the Atherton Tablelands is a pretty special place to celebrate. From rainforest retreats and country properties to garden ceremonies, historic venues and wide open spaces, there's something here for just about every kind of wedding.

The Tablelands is also home to a great mix of photographers, florists, celebrants, venues, caterers and other wedding professionals who know the area and what goes into planning a day here.

In this year's Wedding Guide, you'll find local businesses to help bring it all together, along with practical tips and ideas for making the most of a Tablelands wedding, whatever the weather.

We hope this guide gives you a good place to start and plenty of inspiration for your own unforgettable Tablelands wedding. Happy planning!

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Mini-moon

A few days to unwind, explore, and enjoy newlywed life on the Tablelands

After months of wedding planning and a very big day, heading straight off on a big honeymoon isn't for everyone. A mini-moon gives you a couple of days away together after the wedding, with the bigger trip saved for later. And if you're getting married on the Tablelands, there are plenty of options close to home.

Find your little getaway: Choose a romantic Airbnb, rainforest retreat, glamping stay, bush accommodation, or private cottage. There are some beautiful stays across the Tablelands, from rainforest and rural properties to places by the water.

Slow right down: Sleep in, have a long breakfast, read a book, take an afternoon nap or just enjoy a couple of days without a wedding timeline to follow.

Eat and drink local: Head out for lunch or dinner, visit one of our local distilleries, find a favourite café or pick up some local produce and stay in for the evening.

See a little more: Swim at Lake Eacham, visit a waterfall, take a rainforest walk or go for a drive through the smaller towns. Pick a couple of things you actually feel like doing and leave it at that.

The big trip can wait: If you're planning an overseas or longer honeymoon, save it for when you have the time and energy to enjoy it. A few days on the Tablelands gives you a break after the wedding and another trip to look forward to.

The wedding might be over, but before normal life kicks back in, take a couple of days to enjoy being newlyweds. The Tablelands isn't a bad place to do it.

EVER AFTER

A Romantic Rainforest Escape

Some celebrations deserve more than just one day. Whether you're escaping before the wedding, honeymooning in Far North Queensland, eloping somewhere beautiful or simply looking for the perfect place to stay while attending a wedding on the Tablelands, *Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat* offers a romantic rainforest escape designed for two.

Private treehouses, uninterrupted rainforest and nowhere you need to be. Hidden amongst the tropical rainforest of Butchers Creek, Rose Gums offers the kind of privacy that's hard to find — your own secluded treehouse surrounded by nature, with sweeping views towards Mount Bartle Frere.

Inside, a freestanding fireplace, generous spa bath and fully self-contained kitchen make it easy to settle in, switch off and enjoy the occasion long after the celebrations are over.



Wake to the sounds of the rainforest and enjoy a complimentary breakfast hamper, included with every stay, from the privacy of your treehouse balcony. For an extra touch, add an artisan cheese platter with a bottle of wine of your choice — ready and waiting for an evening in, a honeymoon arrival or a special celebration.

Perfectly placed for weddings and elopements across the Atherton Tablelands, Rose Gums is close enough to the celebration, yet feels completely removed from it all. For wedding guests, newlyweds and honeymooners, it's more than somewhere to stay — it's part of the occasion.



Scan QR code and book direct for exclusive direct rates.



With rolling hills, open paddocks, lakes, mountain ranges and big country skies, the Tablelands can put on a pretty spectacular show as the sun goes down. If you're getting married here, it's worth leaving a little room in your wedding day plans to make the most of it.

You don't need to go far: A nearby paddock, country road, lakeside spot or the grounds of your venue might be all you need. Local photographers will often know some great spots nearby too.

Don't fear the clouds: Tablelands weather can change quickly, but clouds aren't necessarily bad news. Soft cloud cover, mist over the hills or a dramatic afternoon sky can create some incredible photos.

Trust your photographer: Let them keep an eye on the light while you enjoy your day. When they give you the nod, grab each other and go!

Even without the perfect sunset, those few quiet minutes together can end up being one of the nicest parts of the day.





Weekend Weddings

Come for the wedding, stay for the Tablelands

If your guests are travelling to the Tablelands for your wedding, encourage them to make a weekend of it. With great food, local markets, waterfalls, lakes, distilleries and plenty to explore, there's lots to do either side of the big day.

Check the markets

A wander around a country market is a great way to spend the morning before or after a wedding. Depending on your date, guests might catch the Yungaburra, Atherton, Tolga, Malanda or one of the many other markets held across the region. Grab breakfast, browse local produce and handmade goods and enjoy a relaxed morning out.

Make a day of our local food and drinks

Gather a group for a tasting at Mt Uncle Distillery or Eventide Hills Distillery, both great options for groups. Coffee Works is an easy addition to a Mareeba day out, or settle in for a meal and a catch-up at the Atherton International Club.

Give them somewhere good to eat

Our Place Restaurant in Yungaburra is a lovely option for a meal out, while Mungalli Creek Dairy Cafe is well worth the drive for lunch, coffee and those views. There are plenty of cafés, pubs and restaurants dotted between our towns, so give your guests a few favourites to try while they're here.

They're coming for your wedding, but there's plenty worth sticking around for while they're here.



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0428 392 399



Show off the Tablelands

Lake Eacham is an easy favourite for a swim or walk, while Lake Barrine, the Curtain Fig Tree, the Waterfall Circuit and Historic Village Herberton are all good options for visitors with a little more time. Organise an outing together or simply give guests a few suggestions and let them do their own thing.

Make the accommodation part of the weekend

Rose Gums Wilderness Retreat offers a beautiful rainforest stay, while Tinaroo Lake Resort is a great option for guests wanting to stay together by the lake. There are also plenty of cottages, lodges and stays around Yungaburra, Atherton, Malanda and beyond.

See what else is happening

Check the What's On Tablelands Save the Date and online event calendar before the weekend. You might find your wedding lines up with a festival, live music, market or major local event that guests can check out while they're here.

And don't feel like you need to entertain everyone from Friday to Sunday. A couple of suggestions, maybe a casual catch-up before or after the wedding, and guests can take it from there.

They're coming for your wedding, but there's plenty worth sticking around for while they're here.



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IN THE
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Saying 'I Do' as a Family

Thoughtful ways to involve children in your wedding, with **Tamara Anderson**

For many couples, weddings happen before children come along. But for others, the family is already well established before they say "I do". Whether it's a toddler pulling at a wedding dress, a teenager walking Mum down the aisle, or siblings helping choose the cake, weddings with children are becoming increasingly common – and they often become even more meaningful because of it.



When children are already part of the family, the wedding isn't just about two people making a commitment. It's an opportunity to celebrate the family they've built together and the future they're creating.

Many couples choose to include their children in the ceremony in ways that go beyond the traditional flower girl or page boy role. Older children might walk a parent down the aisle, act as witnesses, deliver a reading, or help welcome guests. Some families include a special set of promises to the children during the ceremony, recognising that marriage is strengthening the whole family, not just the couple.

These moments often become some of the most memorable parts of the day. While no one can predict exactly how young children will behave, those unscripted giggles, cuddles, and curious questions are often the moments everyone remembers most fondly.

Of course, planning a wedding with children does bring a few extra considerations. Choosing a ceremony time that works around naps, having familiar snacks on hand, packing a few quiet activities, and arranging a trusted family member to step in if little ones need a break can make the day far less stressful. Many couples also choose venues with open spaces where children can play safely



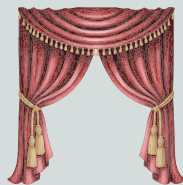
while adults enjoy the celebrations.

For blended families, a wedding can also be a beautiful opportunity to acknowledge new beginnings. Taking time to involve each child in the planning process, whether that's helping choose music, decorating tables, or simply sharing ideas, can help everyone feel included and valued.

Perhaps the biggest reminder for parents planning a wedding is that perfection isn't the goal. Children rarely follow a schedule, and that's perfectly okay! A flower girl who decides she'd rather wave at the guests or twirl down the aisle, or a ring bearer who needs a helping hand along the way, often adds warmth and personality that no amount of planning could create.

Years from now, it's unlikely anyone will remember if every detail went exactly to plan. They'll remember the laughter, the hugs, the happy tears, and the joy of seeing a family celebrating together.

After all, a wedding marks the beginning of a marriage, but for many couples, it's also a celebration of the family that has already begun. And when children are part of the story, the day becomes about far more than saying "I do". It becomes a celebration of love, belonging, and the next chapter together.



Tales of the Tablelands

From the classroom to the majestic – the remarkable life of **Gill Harrington**, by **Maja Amanita**



Amanda Albon, Gina Raccanello and Gill Harrington

Gill Harrington is an imposing woman in the warmest possible way. Drawing herself up to her full height, she strode up our staircase with a nimbleness that belied her years. After just minutes of chatting, it became apparent that the personality behind the physicality was just as impressive. Energy ripples through her like lightning, and although she officially retired in 2011 from the teaching career that cemented her as a Tablelands figure, she continues to ignite creative fires in the community through her work at Malanda's Majestic Theatre.

Born in London in the shadows of WWII, resilience and adaptability were hallmarks of Gillian's childhood. She recalls the stoic nature of her mother, a woman who raised two children alone. "I would never have asked her to buy me anything," she remarked, laughing freely and drawing comparisons to the kids of today. Gill would know. She has taught science to more than half of Malanda and a sizeable chunk of Atherton too.

Her route to teaching was circuitous. Gill fell into education after studying biochemistry at university. There she met Graham and her path wove itself. Graham left England for Uganda in 1965, and Gill promptly followed, where they married. Gill, determined to stay busy, placed her own

dreams of a research career by the wayside as she began teaching at the local girls' school. She described it as "an idealistic country on the way up", but the rise of dictator Idi Amin set them off again in 1972.

Australia beckoned next and Gill and Graham arrived in 1973 with two small children in tow. Rhidian was five years old and Dominic just three when they settled in Deniliquin, NSW. Graham set off for work at the CSIRO and Gill, again, threw herself into teaching science at the local school. Working was important to her. "I would much rather be doing things than watching TV," she said, her eyes clear and fixed. Even though Gill had given up her own ambitions, she gained so much through educating. "I loved teaching, working with kids and teachers. Happy, positive people make happy kids," she said.

Gill has always kept ahead of regrets. When her husband's career drew them to Atherton in 1987, she started teaching science at Atherton High School, where she stayed for four years. "The Tablelands were very welcoming. It's a small community with warm, friendly people." Gill and her family soon fell in love with the rainforest, and they started building a home on a large rainforest block. "We fitted in well," she said before turning to community resilience.

"As a group, we must support each other. Support small businesses, local supermarkets, pharmacies..."

She took up the role of deputy principal at Malanda State High in 1991 and continued to teach chemistry for another twenty years. "Science is really important for everybody. Understanding how it works and the implications it has for us as a society and environmentally." Gill joked warmly about how her most effective parent-teacher interviews were usually conducted in the aisles of the supermarket.

But those who know Gill know her work is not purely set in the rigid confines of science. An actor in the theatre since her university days, she has always found enrichment and creativity in the theatre scenes of all the towns she dropped into, finding whole new families in creative spaces. At Deniliquin Dramatic Club, she picked up her directing chops. "I never learnt how to direct; I just gave it a go." She swung towards musicals at Malanda's Majestic Theatre from 1994, where she acted, directed and produced. The Malanda Theatre Company does around three productions a year, and Gill was one of the directors with several others, including Graham. Mamma Mia and Oliver stand out as her favourites. "Theatre gives Malanda fun, entertainment, getting together, and

builds the community," she continued passionately. "It's a team sport!"

In 2029, the Majestic Theatre turns 100 years old, and Gill and her co-directors are already planning the celebrations even as they are in the throes of producing their next production – *The Rocky Horror Show*. She and the theatre team are pulling together the twenty actors and over forty folks behind the scenes for a November launch. Gill loves these large-scale productions. Her vigour is unmatched as she continues to volunteer over 30 hours during rehearsal weeks. Her focus now is youth. "I'd like to see our young people have opportunities in sport, science and the arts. I believe we should be focusing on things like the arts rather than just roads. Tap into the things that people remember and that give people meaning."

As she calmly descended back down my stairs after our meeting, her words rang like a bell. Stoic advice to children and creatives: "Go for it. Don't accept you can't do it. You can always produce something. Challenge yourself... Do it cos it's fun!"

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September calendar highlights

Please be advised that event details are subject to change. Confirm details with organisers prior to event.

More events are added each week!
Follow **What's On Tablelands** on social media to stay up-to-date.

FRIDAY 04 SEP	Artisan Farmers Night Markets Local art, crafts, jewellery, plants, produce and more. 5-8:30pm Priors Creek Parklands, Atherton	SUNDAY 06 SEP	Spring Art & Craft Fair 8am-12:30pm Handmade art, crafts, plants, gifts, homewares and local treats. Atherton Showgrounds FREE ENTRY Iron & Steam Fair Historic Village Herberton Steam exhibitions, classic cars, diesel and working demos 9am-5pm Normal admission prices apply The Big Bike Film Night An action-packed showcase of cycling short films from around the world, filled with adventure, humour and inspiration. 2:30-5pm Majestic Theatre Malanda Tickets: trybooking.com/1567397
SATURDAY 05 SEP	Artists of the Atherton Tablelands Photography and film exhibition by Samantha Kucurs Frond Gallery, Lake Eacham 5:30pm FREE EVENT Don Winsor Father's Day Concert 5 Sep, 7.30pm & 6 Sep, 2.30pm Atherton Performing Arts, Silo Road \$10-\$35 trybooking.com or Tableland Books Millaa Millaa Art Exhibition 5-13 Sep (opening night Friday 11 Sep) Exhibition and sale of works by emerging, amateur and established regional artists Millaa Millaa RSL Hall FREE ENTRY Mareeba Bracelet & Cup Race Day Horse racing, fashions on the field, live music, food and licensed bar. Gates open 11am Mareeba Turf Club Adults \$15/Pensioners \$10/Kids free Herberton's 80th Annual Flower & Craft Show 5 Sep, 12pm-5pm 6 Sep, 9am-12pm Displays of cut flowers, floral art, pot plants, orchids, garden produce and crafts. Herberton Community Hall Adults \$5, children free (to 14 yrs) Arts workshop – Paper cut-out animals with Karina Talbott Create an A3 abstract paper cut-out artwork inspired by Henri Matisse. No experience needed. 10am-1pm Old Post Office Gallery Tickets \$30 Bookings: Eventbrite	FRIDAY 11 SEP	Roller Disco 6pm-7pm under 10's & Beginners 7pm-9pm over 10's & Intermediate Atherton High School FB: Tableland Roller Derby League \$10 entr, \$5 skate hire Live music – 8 Ball Aitken Doors open 6pm for 7:30pm start Tablelands Music Lovers Grainger Lane, Atherton Tickets \$30 online: tiny.cc/8ball2026 or \$35 at the door
		SATURDAY 12 SEP	The Annals Ball Formal ball featuring the 2026 Melbourne Cup Trophy, dinner, live entertainment, racing awards, fashions and licensed bar. From 5pm Atherton Turf Club trybooking.com/DMGOK (10% of all ticket sales go to Dolly's Dream) Cairns Youth Orchestra – Yungaburra Performance by the Cairns Youth Orchestra 4-5pm Yungaburra Hotel Ballroom Tickets: TryBooking or at the door
		SUNDAY 13 SEP	Cairns Youth Orchestra – Atherton Performance by the Cairns Youth Orchestra 3.30-5pm Atherton Performing Arts, Silo Road Theatre Tickets: TryBooking or at the door

Have an event planned for 2026?



Add it to our save the date today!
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TUESDAY 17 SEP	Food Safari Sample amazing local produce from across the region 10am-12pm Atherton Tablelands Visitor Information Centre FREE
FRIDAY 18 SEP	Mt Garnet 125th Anniversary 18-27 Sep Two weekends of celebrations marking Mt Garnet's 125th anniversary, the preschool's 50th and the CWA branch's centenary. FREE ENTRY
SATURDAY 19 SEP	Bushy Creek Makers' Fair 19-20 Sep Two-day community festival with local food, live music, theatre, art, workshops, markets, a flower show, campfire singalongs and dinner dance. Geraghty Park, Julatten FREE ENTRY Annual Cup Race Day Horse racing, fashions on the field, live entertainment, hobby horse races, food and licensed bar. Gates open 11am Atherton Turf Club, Tolga Tickets at trybooking.com/1586216
FRIDAY 25 SEP	Tinaroo Barra Bash 25-27 Sep Family-friendly fishing competition for all ages, with major prizes and proceeds supporting fish stocking in Lake Tinaroo. Tinaroo Foreshore
SATURDAY 26 SEP	Yungaburra Heritage Tractor & Machinery Day Display of heritage tractors, trucks, engines and machinery, raising funds for the Lions Club's Medical Aid Equipment Project. 9am-1pm Tinaburra Drive \$5 per adult, under 15's free

save the date

OCTOBER

- 4 Gem Festival, Tolga
- 8-11 Savannah in the Round
- 8 Great Northern Bullriding Series, Mareeba
- 11 The Spring Plant Spectacular, Atherton
- 10 Malanda Bullride
- 10-24 Torimba Festival, Ravenshoe
- 17 Jacaranda Festival, Herberton
- 23-25 Tablelands Folk Festival, Yungaburra
- 31 Halloween, Malanda

NOVEMBER

- 7 Great Northern Bullriding Series, Atherton
- 19 Malanda Christmas Festival, Malanda

DECEMBER

- 5 Carols by Candlelight, Atherton Showgrounds
- 31 New Year's Eve Street Party, Herberton



* Dates are subject to change without notice. Please confirm event details with organisers prior to event.

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Our October issue features
Seniors Month

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HEALTH • WELLBEING • SPORT

Atherton parkrun – 7am (Sat)
Cnr Herberton Rd & Weaver St, Atherton.
0409 958 129. [facebook.com/athertonparkrun](https://www.facebook.com/athertonparkrun)

Awareness Through Movement (Feldenkrais)
6:15pm (Tue), online, 1:30pm & 5:30pm (Wed),
8:45am (Thu). Malanda Men's Shed Hall, Mary St,
Malanda \$15. Suits all levels of fitness.
Grace 0428 451 679

AYA YOGA (As You Are) – Tolga: CWA Hall,
Tues 5:45-7:15pm. Atherton: Thrive Yoga Tribe,
Main Street, Fri 6-7am. All levels, incorporating
stretch, strength, breathwork and meditation.
FB: AYA Yoga. Call Gillian 0407 171 537

Indoor Bowls Atherton – 8:30am (Thu)
Masonic Hall, Golf Links Rd, Atherton. 4091 1381

Meditation & Discussion – 2pm (1st Sun of the
month). Meditation, followed by discussion on a
spiritual theme. Free. 4095 4689

Pickleball – New players welcome. Malanda High
School Hall. Various session times. Equipment
provided. Frances 0419 792 786

QiGong Halloran's Hill – 9.30am (Thu).
A U3A class. Lesley 0447 825 554

Sound Meditation – 6pm (every 2nd Wed of the
month) @ Hallorans Hill, Atherton. Debbie 0427
559 142
FB: debbiesavagetherapies

Tableland Bush Walking Club – (every 2nd Wed
& Sun). New Members welcome. View program
online: tablelandsbushwalkingclub.org

**Tableland Dog Obedience Club Dog Training
Classes** – 6pm (Wed) @ 44 Mabel St, Atherton.
Enrolments 1st Wed of the month. Check FB or

tablelanddogobedience@gmail.com

Taekwondo/Self Defence – 4pm & 5:45pm
(Tue & Thu) Merriland Hall, Atherton Showgrounds.
Annette 0427 581 482

Tai Chi Yungaburra – 4:30pm (Mon),
Yungaburra Community Club, 8:30am (Fri).
Yungaburra Rec Shed. Maria 0414 302 759

Walking Group – 9am (Mon/Wed/Fri) ECHO,
13 Eacham Pl, Malanda. Free. All welcome.
4096 6634

Yoga/Qigong with Lyndel – Malanda, 5pm (Tue)
Uniting Church Hall, 10am (Wed) Chair Yoga,
CWA Hall. \$15 per class. Lyndel 0488 559 281

Yoga with Carina
9am (Wed) Stretch Yoga Seniors Class @ CWA
Millaa Millaa, \$5 per class. 9am (Fri). General class
\$10. 82 Sheehan Rd, Tarzali. 0402 208 377

Zumba Gold – 9am (Mon), 9am (Fri) @ Tolga
CWA Hall. Dance fitness suitable for beginners &
older participants. \$11 class. Ann 0418 826 168 or
anniemc9@gmail.com

SOCIAL • MUSIC • DANCE

Bingo – 9:15am (Tue), doors open at 8:45am.
Atherton International Club. Proceeds go to
Atherton Hospital FNQHF. 4091 4970

Bingo – 9:30am-12pm (Wed), doors open at
8:30am. Yungaburra Hotel Ballroom. Proceeds
go to Yungaburra Beautification.

Bingo – 9am (Sun) Anthill Motel, 79 Byrnes St,
Mareeba. Proceeds go to Friends of Mareeba
Hospital. 0439 754 380

Learn to Play Canasta – 12pm-4pm (Mon)
Have a coffee and play with friends. Atherton
International Club. Free.

Malanda Bridge Club – 1pm (Mon & Wed).
Bridge sessions at Malanda Bowls Club. All visitors
and new players welcome. 0428 775 671

Tableland Bridge Club – 9am (Thu) & 1pm
(Sat). Room 14, Community Centre, 42 Mabel
St, Atherton. Visitors and new players welcome,
lessons provided. 0428 913 512

Tableland Country Music Club – Last Sun of
the month. Different venues, contact for details,
free entry, new entertainers welcome.
0400 885 586

Tableland Music Lovers – 2-6pm (Sun)
Fortnightly. Open mic night, Grainger Lane,
Atherton. Everyone welcome. \$5 entry fee.
FB: [tablelandsmusiclovers](https://www.facebook.com/tablelandsmusiclovers)

Tableland Social Dancers – 6:15pm Lesson,
7pm Social Dancing (Wed). Merrilands Hall,
Atherton. Learn many styles of ballroom sequence
dancing. \$5, join the fun. Annette 0488 954 202

Tableland Ukulele Group – 1-4pm (1st &
3rd Sat), Carinya Wellness Centre, 1 Mazlin St,
Atherton. 2nd & 4th Sat at Old Post Office Gallery,
Atherton-Herberton Rd, Atherton. All welcome.
tablelandukulelegroup@gmail.com
Dale 0407 651 090

YBI Concert – 4pm (2nd Sun of the month), live
music at the Yungaburra Rotunda (Yungaburra
Hotel if wet). Free event. FB: YungaburraRotunda

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COMMUNITY

Access Place/Treasurers Op Shop – Tue-Fri 9:30am-2pm, 72 Main St, Atherton. Community op shop raising funds locally. Free cuppa, street library and monthly Cuppa, Craft & Chat. All welcome. 0468 794 110

Alcoholics Anonymous – 7:30pm (Mon) CWA Hall, Wilkes St, Mareeba. 6:30pm (Tue) CWA Hall, Malanda. 10am (Thu) & 7pm (Sat) CWA Hall, Jack St, Atherton. Support group for people wanting to stop drinking. 0419 757 035

Alliance Française d'Atherton – 4-6:30pm (Tue) & 4:30-6:45pm (Thu). Atherton Community Centre, 42 Mabel St. French conversation and language classes. French themed events. alliancefrancaise.atherton@gmail.com 0407 708 435

Atherton Tableland Mineral & Lapidary Club 5:30-9:30pm (Mon), 8-4pm (Wed), 8am-12pm (Sat). Racecourse Rd, Tolga. 0417 746 630 atmlc679@gmail.com

Board/Cards Games Group – 9am (Thu), ECHO, 13 Eacham Place, Malanda. All welcome. Free. 4096 6634

Family Drug Support – 5:30-7:30pm (4th Thu of month), Atherton Community Hall, Jack St, Atherton. Shammah 0490 799 180

FNQ Community Exchange (Tablelands LETS) – Meet regularly to barter and exchange skills and knowledge. Find out more at fnqces.org

Highland Restorers Club – 7-9am (Sun), Yungaburra Pit Stop Servo. Vintage and classic

motorcycles and cars. Don 0417 707 693

Atherton Lions Club – 6pm for a 6:30pm start. (2nd & 4th Tue of the month). Atherton International Club. 0419 547 146

Malanda Lions Club – 6:30pm (1st & 3rd Wed of the month). The Top Rail, Malanda. 0456 368 245

Mareeba Lions Club – 6:30pm (1st & 3rd Tue of the month). Mareeba Leagues Club. 0488 591 318

MAS Choir – 3:30-4:30pm (Thu). Accompanied, non-audition group performing several times a year around Herberton. Free to participate. Chapel at Herberton Historic Village. Mary 0418 182 197

Tolga Lions Club – 7pm (3rd Tue of the month). Tolga Tennis Courts Clubhouse. 0459 088 059

Men's Shed Atherton – 8am-12pm (Mon-Fri). 1 Railway Ln, Atherton. 0403 560 440

Men's Shed Herberton – 7am-2pm (Tue & Thu). Herberton Railway Station, John St, Herberton. John 0418 428 418

Men's Shed Malanda – 9am-12pm (Mon, Wed, Fri). 21-23 Mary St, Malanda. Clem 0457 885 737 or Mike 0436 360 044

Men's Shed Mareeba – 8:30am-12pm (Mon, Wed, Thu). 26 Lloyd St, Mareeba. 0499 229 986

Men's Shed Ravenshoe – 9am-3pm (Wed-Fri). 52-56 Herbert St, Ravenshoe. G.Rae 0467 960 362

Men's Shed Yungaburra – 2-6pm (Tue & Thu). Yungaburra Memorial Shed, 7 Barrine Rd.

Jeff 0448 168 674

QCWA Malanda Craft Group – 9am (Thu) Catherine St, Malanda. Morning tea provided. All welcome. Daune 0458 499 129

QCWA Ravenshoe – 12pm (every 1st Tue of the month) 15 Herbert St, Ravenshoe. ravenshoebranch@qcwa.org.au

Rotary Club of Atherton – 6pm (every 2nd & 4th Tue of the month), Atherton International Club. 0448 750 353

Seniors Group – Meet twice monthly. Various social activities. Singles and couples welcome. Heather 0458 316 081

Soroptimist International – 5:30pm (2nd & 4th Tue of the month), Atherton Hotel, Main St, Atherton. Elspeth 0418 728 614

SWELL (Senior Women Enjoying Later Life) 9:30am (Fri) Baptist Church Hall, Cnr Gibson and Lloyd St, Atherton. Guest speakers, excursions, laughter. Rene 0400 675 729

The Grove Activities Centre – 9am-2pm (weekdays), 11 Grove St, Atherton. See calendar: tclink.org.au/thegrove/

U3A Atherton Tablelands – 9:30am (Mon). Room 22, Community Centre, 42 Mabel St, Atherton. Check website for event details. 0400 660 026 or athtablends.u3anet.org.au

Women's Survivor Group – Meet fortnightly at Atherton CWA. For women of all ages impacted by violence or harm. Coffee, connection, craft. Free. Tablelands Sexual Assault Service 4091 4036



INGREDIENTS

265g White Flour, sifted	¾ cup Granulated Sugar
1 tsp Cornstarch	1 large Egg + 1 Egg Yolk
1 tsp Baking Soda	1 tsp Vanilla Extract
½ tsp Salt	1 cup White Chocolate Chips
170g Unsalted Butter, melted and slightly cooled	120g Macadamia Nuts, roughly chopped
¾ cup Brown Sugar	

Recipe of the month

Chocolate Chip Macadamia Cookies

METHOD

1. In a large bowl, whisk the flour, cornstarch, baking soda and salt together. Set aside.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk the melted butter, brown sugar, granulated sugar, egg, egg yolk and vanilla extract together until combined.
3. Pour the wet mixture into the dry ingredients and mix with a spatula until completely combined. Fold in the white chocolate chips and macadamia nuts. Cover and chill the dough in the refrigerator for 2 hours.
4. Preheat the oven to 175°C and line baking trays with baking paper. Roll the cookie dough into balls, using about 1-1½ teaspoons of dough for each, and place 5cm apart on the trays.
5. Bake for 12-13 minutes, or until lightly browned around the edges. The centres will still look soft. Remove from the oven and cool on the baking tray for 5 minutes before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Recipe of the month courtesy of Tablelands to Tabletop



what's happening, when & where!



KIDS • YOUTH

Atherton Basketball Assoc – from 4pm (Tue, during school terms). Atherton State High School Hall, Maunds Rd, Atherton.
athertonbasketballassociation@gmail.com

Atherton District Girl Guides – from 3:30pm (Mon during school terms), ages 5+, Girl Guide Hall, Robert St, Atherton. 0428 914 758

Atherton Junior Golf – 8-11:30am (Sun) competition day, 4-5:15pm (Wed & Thu) practice. Ages 5-17yrs, Atherton Golf Club.
athertonjunorgolf@outlook.com
FB/web: atherton golf club

Atherton Mainly Music – 9:30-11am (Mon) Atherton Baptist Church Hall, Gibson St. Early childhood educational playtime and activities. Morning tea. \$6 per family. Coral 0414 380 263

Tablelands Home Education – Gatherings for homeschooling families (every Thu). Times and locations vary. FB: Tablelands Home Education
tablelandshomeed@gmail.com

Early Years Place (EYP) Playgroup – 9:30-11:30am Tues, Wed (fortnightly) & Thurs. Ages 0-8, all welcome. Dimbulah Community Centre, 16C Raleigh St, Dimbulah. FREE. Find us on FB or 4093 5444

NATURE • PLANTS

Atherton Seedsavers & Gardening Group – Meet every 2nd month, various locations.
athseedsavers@urbanfox.com.au

Let's Grow Julatten & Molloy Garden Club – 8am (Tues), Ahoy Mt. Molloy Coffee Shop or a member's garden.
Ying Tee: eatgrowlove75@gmail.com

Malanda Community Garden – 9am (Mon), ECHO, 13 Eacham Place, Malanda. All welcome. Free. 4096 6634

Millaa Millaa Garden Group – 8am (Mon), Meet to maintain gardens and finish at 10am for coffee/cake at Rumours Cafe.

Ravenshoe Seed Savers
9:30am (1st Sat of the month, excluding Jan). Various locations. FB for updates.

Tableland Branch of Native Plants Qld – 7:30pm (4th Wed of the month), Tolga CWA Hall. Bush excursion following Sun of the month. Peter 0418 719 748 or Chris 4091 3082

TREAT Rainforest Tree Nursery & Revegetation – 8-11am (Fri) QPWS Nursery, McLeish Rd. Lake Eacham.

Yungaburra Landcare – 8-10am (Fri), Allumbah entrance, Penda St. Morning tea afterwards. David 0400 005 085 or Paul 0419 716 196

Tableland Garden Group – 2pm (2nd Sat of the month), tablelandgardengroup@outlook.com

ART • CRAFT

Handwork Craft Group – 9am-12pm (Tue) Old Post Office, Herberton Rd, Atherton. Karen 0427 698 267

Mareeba Craft on the Fringe – 9:30am-12pm (Tue) Centenary Park, Byrnes St, Mareeba. pederulla@hotmail.com

Mareeba Art Society – 10am-2pm (daily) MAS Gallery 58 and shop open. 345b Byrnes St, Mareeba. 0415 852 744

–9am-12pm (Mon) Painters in the Park
–9am-12pm (Tue) Craft & Cuppa, Craft Share
–9:30am-12pm (3rd Sun of the month)
–Beginners Painting 5pm (every 3rd Tue of the month). MAS monthly meeting, all welcome.

Mend Make Create – 9am-12pm (1st Sat of the month), CWA Hall, Kehoe Pl, Yungaburra. Uncover the secrets of sewing with expert tips! By donation. 0438 572 207 or vberry@westnet.com.au

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Faces of the Tablelands

Maize Festival High Tea, Yungaburra Community Hall, 8 August 2026

Photos supplied by the Tablelands Maize Festival



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Markets

On the Tablelands



Archer Creek Markets

- Ravenshoe Lions Club

2nd Sunday of the month
7am-12noon

Archer Creek Rest Area,
Kennedy Highway

Atherton Markets

1st Saturday of the month
7am-12noon

Lutheran Church, Golf Links Drv

Atherton Undercover Markets

- Atherton Lions Club

2nd Sunday of the month
7am-12noon

Atherton Showgrounds

Koah Monthly Market

1st Saturday of the month
8am-12noon

Koah Hall, 322 Koah Road

Kuranda Community Market

2nd Sunday of the month
9am-1pm

Kuranda Amphitheatre

Kuranda Markets

Original Rainforest Market:
Daily, 10am-3pm

Kuranda Heritage Markets:
Wed-Sun, 10am-3:30pm

Malanda Markets

- Malanda Lions Club

3rd Saturday of the month
7am-12noon

Malanda Showgrounds

Mareeba Markets

- Mareeba Lions Club

Every 2nd & 5th Saturday
of the month, 7am-12:30pm
Centenary Park

Millaa Millaa Market Day

Bi-monthly, first Saturday
(May-Nov)

Main Street, Millaa Millaa

Mt Molloy Markets

1st Saturday of the month
(Mar-Dec), 8am-12noon

Fraser Road, Mt Molloy

Priors Creek Artisan & Farmers Night Market

1st Friday of the month
5pm-9pm

Priors Creek Parkland, Atherton

Tolga Markets

1st Sunday of the month
7am-12noon

Morrow Park Racecourse

Tumoulin Country Markets

4th Sunday of the month
(Jan-Nov), 8am-1pm

Tumoulin Railway Station

Wondecla Markets

3rd Sunday of the month
7am-12noon

Wondecla Sports Ground

Yungaburra Markets

4th Saturday of the month
7:30am-12:30pm

Bruce Jones Market Grounds

Contact the market organisers for more information



- Gifts for Her • Gifts for Him • Children's Toys
- Home Decor • Souvenirs

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MALANDA MOVIES

04 Sep – 06 Sep

Spa Weekend (M), The Dog Stars (MA)

11 Sep – 13 Sep

The Dog Stars (MA), Practical Magic (CTC), Spa Weekend (M)

18 Sep – 23 Sep

Practical Magic (CTC), Paw Patrol: The Dino Movie (CTC),
Forgotten Island (CTC)

24 Sep – 30 Sep

Paw Patrol: The Dino Movie (CTC), Forgotten Island (CTC),
Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom (G)

September Movies

For session times, go to majestictheatre.com.au
or call the movie info line on 4096 5726

Majestic Theatre Malanda, 1 Eacham Place, Malanda

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EMERGE Tablelands Youth Exhibition

Call for entries!

Between Worlds

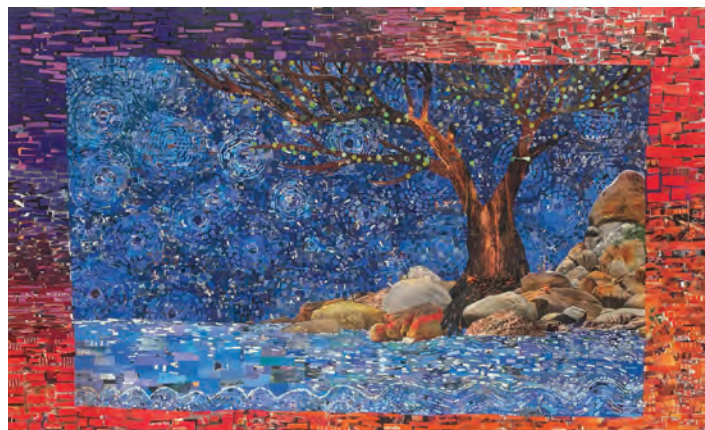
Tablelands region youth aged 15–25 are invited to enter a work of art for the **EMERGE Tablelands Youth Exhibition** at the Old Post Office Gallery in Atherton.

The theme for the EMERGE Tablelands Youth Exhibition 2026 is **Between Worlds** — inviting a diverse range of responses that could encompass cultural, environmental, social and fantastical experiences of being in-between worlds, and could even imagine what future worlds might be like.

Exhibition Entries

Artwork deadline: Wednesday 16 September

Entries: trc.qld.gov.au/emerge-youth-exhibition



© Alarna Denigan

Exhibition

Exhibition Opening Event

10.30am Saturday 17 October

Exhibition on display

Wednesday 7 October to Saturday 21 November



Old Post Office Gallery
86 Atherton Herberton Rd, Atherton

trc.qld.gov.au/galleries



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