# uhat's on tablelands



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THE MALANDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS



4<sup>pm</sup>~ 8<sup>pm</sup> Malanda Town Centre

# THURSDAY NOVEMBER 20















Get ready for the most wonderful time of year! The 2025 Malanda Christmas Festival is returning and promises to be more spectacular than ever before! Join us on Thursday 20th November from 4-8pm for an incredible evening filled with holiday magic, community spirit, and festive entertainment! The celebration will once again transform the area in front of Eacham Memorial Gates, with Catherine Street sections and the entire length of English Street closed to traffic.

Come and experience live musical performances, captivating local entertainment, children's face painting, and the highlight everyone's waiting for - photos with jolly old Santa himself! But the real star of the show is our incredible late-night shopping experience! More than 60

vibrant market stalls and delicious food vendors will line the streets, while numerous local businesses extend their hours to join in the celebration. The Malanda Chamber of Commerce is delighted to present this beloved annual celebration, which officially launches our exciting Shop Local Campaign. Running through to Christmas Eve, this campaign offers the chance to win more than 20 fantastic prizes generously donated by Chamber member businesses, headlined by a spectacular \$1000 SPAR Malanda voucher.

This cherished Street Festival brings our entire community together for a truly magical Christmas experience that creates memories to last a lifetime. Don't miss out - we can't wait to celebrate with you!















































# what's on

# Welcome to Movember's issue of What's On!



This month we are excited to bring you our Shop Local theme. This is something we are very passionate about and we love celebrating the many ways we can

support our community in the lead-up to Christmas.

Events on the Tablelands are not slowing down, with a full calendar to enjoy this month! Our cover features the highly anticipated Malanda Christmas Festival, happening on 20 November. This muchloved event is always a highlight on the community calendar, bringing people together in the spirit of the season with a lively street festival.

Inside, you'll find inspiration on ways to shop local, along with the fascinating story of local potter Jean McMaster, a great guide to junior birdwatching on the Tablelands & plenty more!

Enjoy the warm weather and endless events this November.

Happy reading!

Mia Bain

## Movember issue

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We acknowledge the First Nations people who have owned, cared for, protected and nourished this Country where What's On Tablelands is created and distributed. We recognise their continuing connection to Country and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

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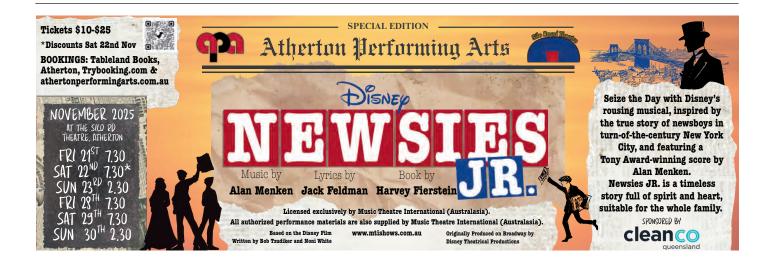


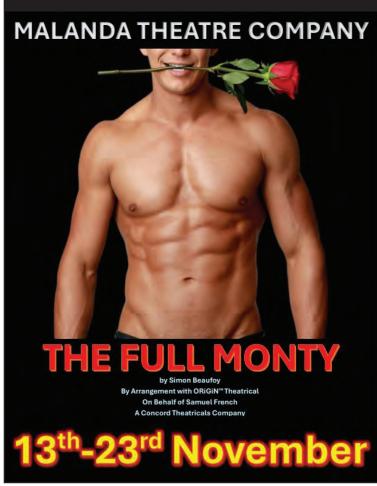
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# Enter to win a \$250 Prize Pack from Cowgirl Country



Entries close 24 November 2025 Enter online at: www.whatsontablelands.com.au \* Terms & conditions apply. See What's OnTablelands website for details.





# The Full Monty at the Malanda Theatre Company

The Malanda Theatre Company is closing out the year with a bang, presenting a classic British comedy that first hit the stage in the 1990s.

Director Nicola Salisbury-Faulkner was first inspired to bring this show to life after seeing it performed in Western Australia. "One day, I'm going to direct this play," she declared — and now, that day has come. Teaming up with Producer Marky Baker, who directed *Steel Magnolias* last year, the duo is excited to share this bold, hilarious production with local audiences.

The cast features a wonderful mix of talent, including many newcomers to the stage and to MTC, adding a fresh energy to this much-loved show.

Written by Simon Beaufoy, *The Full Monty* has earned international acclaim for its blend of comedy, heart, and social insight. While it's undeniably laughout-loud funny, the play also explores deeper themes — unemployment, selfworth, masculinity — with wit and warmth.

At its core, *The Full Monty* is about a group of everyday men, down on their luck, who discover strength, pride, and unexpected friendship in the most unlikely of places. It's a story that breaks the mould, filled with authenticity, charm, and emotional depth.

As rehearsals progress, the creative team continues to "peel back the layers," revealing the heart and soul of each character. "I'm just loving it," Nicola says. "In fact, who couldn't love this story? It's real, it's raw — it's here I am, warts and all!"

#### Performances in NOVEMBER

13th Opening Night – 7pm 14th - 15th - 7pm—16th – 3pm 19th Charity Night (\$45) – 7pm 21st - 22nd – 7pm — 23rd - 3pm

https://www.malandatheatre.org





# **QCWA Yungaburra Branch**

#### Yungaburra Queensland Country Women's Association Centenary

100 Years of Women Connecting, Creating and Driving Change in Yungaburra – Be Part of the QCWA's Next Chapter.

November marks a remarkable milestone for the Yungaburra Branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA), as it celebrates its Centenary and welcomes a new generation of members. Established in October 1925, the branch has been a cornerstone of community connection, support, and advocacy for 100 years. Beyond their famed cake stalls, members have made lasting contributions – establishing the Yungaburra Library in 1941, housing evacuees from PNG during World War II, advocating for seatbelt laws in the 70s, and more recently supporting women impacted by domestic violence through DV Connect.

Today, the QCWA continues this tradition through modern initiatives: Make Mend Create upcycling gatherings, weekly open craft days offering connection and companionship, and the health-focused Country Kitchens program delivering cooking classes and nutrition education. Members also support international projects, from birthing

kits in Papua New Guinea to classroom essentials in the Solomon Islands. The branch is now fundraising for a new commercial catering kitchen in the historic QCWA Hall, built in 1938 for £257. This upgrade will secure the much-loved market day Morning Tea while enabling future cookery classes that blend classic recipes with modern, healthy twists.

The Yungaburra QCWA invites the community to celebrate on Saturday November 8 at the historic hall. Open Day begins at 9am, with formalities and speeches at 11am, followed by a private guest gathering at 12pm.

"Come along, connect and discover the joy of friendship, advocacy, creativity and meaningful impact."

Find the **QCWA Yunngaburra Branch** on Facebook for more information.





# Kids on the Tablelands

#### Little Twitchers – Junior Birdwatching on the Atherton Tablelands by **Mia Bain**

Raising kids on the Atherton Tablelands comes with many perks, but seeing your child spotlighting in the backyard and pointing out a rainbow bee-eater roosting high in a tree must be one of the best.

The Atherton Tablelands is one of Australia's richest birding regions and is known internationally as a must-see for birders, but it is not only the pros who can enjoy it. Kids living here or simply passing through have the perfect setting to become "little twitchers," spotting feathered friends and learning about the habitats they call home. Birdwatching can be as simple as sitting quietly in the garden, joining a community bird count, or as adventurous as exploring a rainforest track with binoculars. Either way, it is a hobby that builds patience, observation skills, and a love for the outdoors.

#### Why the Tablelands makes it easy!

Birdwatching is not always easy. It requires patience and quiet, which are not traits kids are famous for. But the Tablelands has an advantage - it is a global hotspot for bird diversity. That means it will not take long before a

Kingfisher perches nearby or a flock of Rainbow Lorikeets zooms overhead.

For something special, kids can set themselves the challenge of finding species found nowhere else on Earth, like the Victoria's Riflebird, or the adorable Atherton Scrubwren.

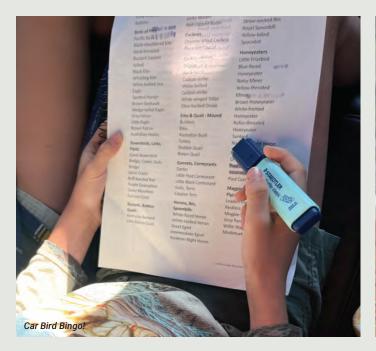
#### **Getting Started**

You don't need fancy gear, although children do love having a pair of binoculars! You could start with nothing but a notebook, pencils, and an affordable set of binoculars will bring plenty of excitement. Encourage kids to jot down colours, sketch shapes, or describe bird calls. Parents can download apps such as BirdLife Australia's Aussie Bird Count or Birdly to help match names with sightings and even listen to birdsongs.

Tip: Start in your own backyard. Spotting the difference between a kookaburra's laugh and a currawong's call is a fun way to tune their ears. Before long, kids will be identifying birds by sound as well as sight, which is half the fun!









# Some Great Local Birdwatching Spots for the Whole Family!

- Hasties Swamp National Park (Atherton): A two-storey bird hide overlooks the wetlands.
- Lake Eacham (Crater Lakes National Park): A gentle loop track, with a shorter route suited to little kids
- Mt Hypipamee (The Crater): Short rainforest walk to a spectacular crater, with lots to spot along the way!

#### **Making It Fun for Kids**

Turn birdwatching into play:

- Bird Bingo: Create a bingo sheet of common local species such as kookaburras, cockatoos, scrub turkeys etc.
- Backyard Haven: Add a feeder, nesting box, or native plants to attract birds. Discuss how plants like Grevilleas will attract honeyeaters, while the hollows of tall eucalypts provide nesting sites for high flyers like kookaburras, cockatoos, and owls.
- **Eye-spy Jackpot:** Turn car trips into a game by getting kids to keep an eye out for specific bird species along the way (a What's On Tablelands HQ favourite is the slightly elusive Cassowary!). The first person to spot one wins a little prize.
- The Aussie Bird Count: a fun way to get kids involved as a backyard scientist and runs every October.

#### **Caring for Feathered Friends**

Birdwatching is a wonderful way to connect children with nature and help them build respect for wildlife. They can learn to stay quiet, keep their distance near nesting sites, and understand why birds should never be fed human food. It also teaches them how to create bird-friendly habitats that are safe from domestic predators.

This provides an opportunity to explain how vital birds are to the world we share with them, from controlling pests to spreading seeds and pollinating plants.

And of course, there is the simple pleasure of watching birds and the joy they bring to our everyday lives. Children will feel special knowing they have an important role to play in helping birds thrive.

#### **Birdwatching for Teens**

Whilst it might not be the first hobby that comes to mind for teenagers, birdwatching is a wonderful way for older kids to deepen their connection with nature, improve mindfulness, and build a hobby that goes beyond their mobile phone! With more maturity than younger children, teens can really level up their birdwatching. Their patience makes them better suited to spotting rarer species, taking longer walks, and keeping proper bird lists.

One of the biggest attractions for teens is photography. Even with a basic phone camera, they can capture great images of local wildlife, with the opportunity to enter local, national and international photography competitions. Teens on the Atherton Tablelands have a unique geographical advantage, they may just need a gentle suggestion!

So pack a snack (okay lots of snacks), grab the binoculars, and head outdoors. With a little patience and plenty of curiosity, our "little twitchers" will discover the joy of birdlife on the Atherton Tablelands.

Curious about *Kids on The Tablelands?* For any child-related content you'd like to read about, email Mia at **info@whatsontablelands.com.au** 



#### The power of buying local honey, by Laura McAllister

Golden, sticky, and endlessly versatile, honey has been prized for centuries as both food and medicine. Beyond its natural sweetness, honey is celebrated for its antibacterial properties, antioxidants, and soothing qualities. From stirring a spoonful into tea to drizzling it over yoghurt, this simple ingredient carries a long tradition of healing and nourishment.

On the Tablelands, honey is more than a pantry staple, it's part of the landscape. Local beekeepers maintain hives across farms, bushland, and backyards, producing varieties that reflect the unique flora of the region. Each jar reflects the flowers the bees have fed on, from the stronger flavour of ironbark honey to the lighter taste

of eucalypt and wildflower. Health benefits are often linked to locality. Some people find relief from seasonal allergies by consuming small amounts of honey made close to home, exposing their bodies to local pollens in a gentle, natural way. All raw honey is also rich in enzymes and antioxidants, offering a boost to the immune system. A spoonful can soothe a sore throat, settle a cough, or provide quick energy before exercise.

One of the perks of living on the Tablelands is how easy it is to buy honey straight from the source. You'll often find local beekeepers at markets selling jars of all sizes, with the chance to taste before you buy. Roadside stalls are common too, usually just a small shed with a handwritten





sign and an honesty box. These stalls often sell honey in recycled jars, keeping the cost down and reducing waste. Supermarkets and health food stores also stock locally produced honey, giving shoppers a choice that supports local apiarists. You can also experience honey straight from the region's first honey vending machine, at the Rusty Tractor in Biboohra!

Buying local honey means more than enjoying flavour – it supports our amazing local beekeepers who maintain healthy hives, which in turn support the broader ecosystem through pollination.

Bees play a critical role in sustaining crops, gardens, and native flora. By choosing local honey, consumers are also investing in the resilience of the region's food systems. When kept in a cool, dry place, it never really spoils, making it both a practical and versatile addition to any pantry.

Whether discovered at a roadside stall, picked up at a weekend market, bought from a local store or traded with a neighbour down the road, local honey on the Tablelands is more than a treat. It offers natural health benefits, supports local producers, and helps sustain the pollinators that keep farms, gardens, and bushland healthy.







# A Shopping Local Adventure

#### Supporting communities on the Tablelands by Olivia Rowe

There's something timeless about shopping local on the Atherton Tablelands. There are no giant shopping centres with multi-level car parks, shiny tiles, and bright lights where you walk shoulder to shoulder with strangers. Here, you slow down. You bump into old friends, wander through historic buildings and charming villages, and you always get to pat plenty of dogs.

You might pull into a town for lunch, then pick up groceries,

chook food, shoes, and even a mower, all on the same street. What you spend here helps put food on a local family's table, sends their kids to footy training, pays the bill at the chemist, or shouts a group of friends a lunch out. Shopping local props up whole communities. It's a delicate economic balance, but when it works, regional life thrives.

Here are some ways to inspire your next outing on the Atherton Tablelands and a few simple ways to support our homegrown economy.

'Shopping local props up whole communities. It's a delicate economic balance, but when it works, regional

life thrives.'

#### **Plan a Market Morning**

Start your day bright and early with one of the Tablelands' many markets. Depending on the weekend, you might enjoy the famous **Yungaburra Markets** which has an artistic bohemian feel, or the **Tolga Markets**, known for plants, produce, handmade goodies and plenty of locally made condiments and sweets. Smaller markets like

Wondecla, or Mt Molloy are a slower pace but have no

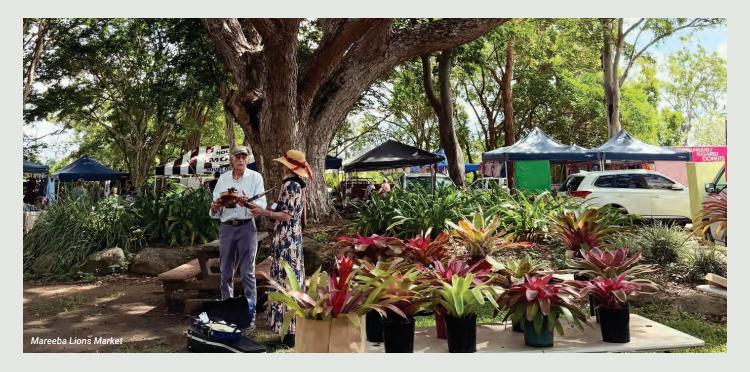
less charm. They have that quintessential country market feel and are worth the drive to support these little towns (a full list of local markets can always be found on the last page of What's On Tablelands magazine or online at whatsontablelands.com.au)

Markets are perfect for a wander with a coffee in hand. You'll find everything from farm-fresh fruit and vegetables to homemade preserves, woodcraft, jewellery, second-hand

books, and live music. Pick up breakfast from a food van or enjoy fresh tropical fruit (everyone looks forward to jaboticaba season!)







#### Change it Up

Hop in the car and take a short drive to a town you may not have visited recently, or perhaps never at all. Each community has its own character and plenty to discover.

You could head to Malanda and enjoy lunch somewhere you may not have tried, such as **Pink Pineapple Eats**. Afterwards, take a wander through the unique shops in the centre of town, or grab a drink at the **Big Pub**, Australia's largest timber pub. Don't forget, the **Malanda Christmas Street Festival** is on the 20th of November and is the ultimate way to experience the unique atmosphere of local businesses coming together for their community.

Or perhaps drive out to Millaa Millaa and browse unique little shops such as **Checkered Past Vintage and Collectables**. Then head to **Mungalli Creek Dairy** for a delicious lunch overlooking the rolling hills.

We all get into the habit of going to the same places, but spending the time to try something different is not only a great adventure, it also helps each of our unique little towns.

#### Simply Eat Your Way Around

The Tablelands is known for its outstanding local produce – from freshly roasted beans at **Coffee Works** in Mareeba, to mushrooms from **Golden Oak's** Upper Barron farm, and endless roadside stalls with tropical fruits, seasonal vegetables, free-range eggs, and local honey.

Tourist information centres can provide excellent food trail maps, or you can simply create your own adventure. The *What's On Tablelands* online directory is a great place to start your foodie journey.

#### **Antiques and Thrifting Trail**

Browsing antique stores and op-shops is a way of life for many locals and visitors. Create your own "antique and thrifting trail" by visiting second-hand shops and antique dealers. Most towns on the Tablelands offer some kind of treasure-hunting shop; you are never far from a unique find. Many of these stores are run by volunteers, with proceeds supporting community causes, so every purchase makes a difference. Pair your treasure hunting with lunch at a country pub, and you have the perfect thrifting trail.

#### **End Your Day Right**

After a full day of shopping and exploring, the evening is your chance to relax. Catch a movie at the **Majestic Theatre** in Malanda, one of the oldest continuously operating cinemas in Australia. Or visit the **Mareeba Drive-In** for an old-fashioned outdoor experience.

Both support local families, employ junior staff, and offer an old-world charm that is impossible to replicate.

If you prefer a different pace, visit a local distillery, brewery, or pub to sip something made right here on the Tablelands. Watching the sun set with a local gin or craft beer in hand is the perfect way to end the day.

#### **Remember Country Time**

Life on the Tablelands runs on "country time." Market dates, shop hours, and café opening times can change, especially around public holidays and seasons. Always check ahead before planning your trip to avoid disappointment.

A day of shopping local on the Atherton Tablelands is more than just buying things. It's about discovering new corners of the region, chatting with locals, and enjoying the everyday pace of country life while keeping small businesses strong.



## The Dirt

#### Planting directly vs raising seedlings, by **Jodie Eden**

Let's compare two common strategies for backyard veggie growing: (1) planting seeds directly into garden soil, and (2) raising seedlings.

The first method reminds me of my first garden book, 'Your Vegetable Garden in Australia' (1975), which has beautifully illustrated drawings of how to carefully dig over your garden bed, rake the soil 'to a fine tilth', use a string line to make perfectly straight shallow drills, and sprinkle seeds along the drills.

Apart from the neat appearance, the advantage of this method is that when your seeds germinate (along with all

the weed seeds), your precious seedlings are all in an obvious straight line. This is helpful if you are a beginner who doesn't yet know a broccoli seedling from a wild turnip. Straight lines make it simple (if not easy) to hoe between the rows to remove weeds, and you can then ruthlessly 'thin out' your row of seedlings, discarding most of them and giving each of the remaining plants plenty of space to grow.

I find this method wasteful. It's not just the wasted seed than what you actually need. A seed needs very little to doesn't need deep fertile soil. It needs a medium with a

but all that effort! You do a huge amount of physical work to get a perfect seed bed that is hundreds of times bigger germinate. To put out its first few leaves and roots, a seed perfect balance of moisture and drainage, that is shallow

[seed raising mix] by collecting dried cow manure pats in spring and (using a face mask) I run over them with the mower!'

'I make my own

and fine enough that the fragile shoot can penetrate through to the light.

If you turn your entire garden bed into a perfect seed bed, broken down to a fine tilth, you create conditions perfect for germinating weeds. Exposed soil is vulnerable to sterilisation in the sun and erosion from the rain. The microbial life that gives soil its structure and fertility only thrives when soil is covered by living plants or mulch, so if you constantly dig and disturb that soil community, you will probably need to constantly add fertiliser, compost and other materials to maintain it.

> So what if you don't do all that digging, but just want to broadcast seed into the garden, or poke seeds into the soil here and there? That's what happens in nature, doesn't it? Planting seeds directly into garden soil works well for large seeds that germinate reliably, like pumpkin, beans and peas (so long as they don't rot or get eaten by rodents). It also works well when you have huge amounts of seed that you can afford to

waste, like when you've collected hundreds of seeds from a dill plant or lettuce plant that you let go to seed.

On the Tablelands, winter is a good time for direct planting. Each week from May to August, I pull back the mulch to expose patches the size of a dinner plate where I sprinkle the seeds of silverbeet, beetroot and lettuce. Usually, I get fine patches of seedlings. Yes, weeds also come up with





them, but I use a trowel to carefully dig them up, separating out the weeds and trying to disturb the seedling roots as little as possible before transplanting. Some plants like carrots and English spinach resent being transplanted, so I always plant them directly, and always need to weed and thin them out.

However, the main way I grow veggies is by raising seedlings in a separate protected area, in quality seedraising mix, then in potting mix, and finally, when they are quite large, I transplant them out into the garden. Most of the year I do this for everything, even large reliable germinators like beans, peas and sweet corn because it's very convenient having a single focused area to regularly water and check for chewing pests. This area can be protected with cages, nets, shade cloth, and sometimes even clear plastic to protect from rain. Pea and bean seeds will rot if they get too much water before germination, and seedlings like tomato and onions struggle with constant rain.

Seed-raising mix is a specialised mix, which is why you pay a lot more for it than for potting mix. I make my own by collecting dried cow manure pats in spring, and (using a face mask) I run over them with the mower! I sift this dried manure and mix it in equal parts with clean sifted river sand. I then put this mix into a metal drum, add a small amount of water and steam the mix over a fire. I do this to kill any weed seeds, but the steaming also sterilizes the mix, killing off all those beneficial microbes. This doesn't matter for germinating seeds, which happily germinate in a tiny amount of sterile, perfectly draining medium. As soon

as they get their first few leaves, I could just transplant the seedlings out into my good garden soil, but I find it convenient to transplant them out into pots of good fertile potting mix instead.

Unlike seed-raising mix, my potting mix is made mostly of compost and is full of microbes and worms. It doesn't matter much if my potting mix has weed seeds in it because, by the time any weeds emerge, the transplanted veggie seedling is large and obvious. Since I have all my pots at a nice working height, it is easy to pick the weeds out by hand as I am watering.

It is true that there is a trade-off in effort growing seedlings compared with the work of turning your garden into a seed bed, and this is the effort of making up the mixes. I realised long ago that I don't much like digging and hoeing, but I really enjoy gloating over my seedlings. When they are quite advanced, I dig a hole just deep enough for each and plant them out, mulching thickly around them. If one day I get tired of this work, I reckon either I will buy the mixes or I will buy quality seedlings so that I can continue growing veggies while looking after my soil microbe community.

For ideas of what to grow on the Tablelands at this time of year, see <a href="https://www.whatsontablelands.com.au/the-loop/">whatsontablelands.com.au/the-loop/</a> for my past article from November 2020, for beginner gardeners growing veggies in hot months, or November 2022 about taking advantage of hot, dry weather for seed saving.

Jodie Eden is a keen local veggie grower who regularly shares her gardening knowledge as a contributor to The Dirt.

### Jobs to do in November

#### **Beginner Gardeners**

Safe bets to plant now: Seeds:

Protect from mice! Pumpkin, cucumber, sweet corn, all types of beans (but snake beans and winged beans do best in hot weather).

Other: Plant cuttings and divisions: lemongrass, garlic chives, sweet potato, cassava, taro, ginger (plant out a whole 'hand' rather than small pieces).



#### Wasting your time!

If planted now, onions and garlic will not bulb, carrots and beetroot will not be sweet and brassicas will get riddled with caterpillars.

Wait until March!

#### Want a challenge?

Tomatoes, capsicum, chillies, egaplant, luffas, gourds and melons germinate well now but by the time they start fruiting, the wet season may cause rots and disease. Even so, the plants may survive into Autumn when they should do well if the weather is not too wet. English spinach and lettuce can be grown in through the heat in rich. well-watered compost under heavy shade cloth.

#### All year, every month

To ensure a continuous food harvest, plant something each month. Plant what you and your family like to eat, in quantities you can use, or be prepared to deal with the excess. Most plants take three months to harvest, so I visualise the year as a continuous circular calendar and look ahead three months from

On the Atherton Tableland all year, every month, I plant zucchini, silverbeet, beans and spring onions. I also plant lettuce and English spinach all year, but I keep them under shade throughout the warmer months (spring and summer). Other veggies must be planted in season.

#### **Especially now (late Spring)**

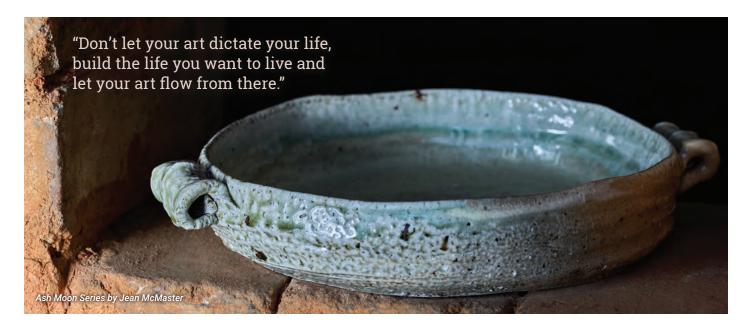
The usual problem this time of the year is hot dry weather. Reduce your garden size to what you can water without effort. Protect seedlings with shade, especially when they are first planted out. Mulch heavily.

Seeds planted directly in the garden at this time of the year do badly unless they are large seeds like beans, zucchini and pumpkin. Smaller seeds might survive if you are able to water every day or can cover with a wet sheet that you check and remove after germination. Generally I raise seedlings separately in punnets under shade.

Prepare for the wet season, thinking about where vast amounts of water are going to flow. Dig drains *before* you need them!



#### Lachlan MacKee explores the artistic tale of Jean McMaster



When you walk in this unique region of ours, what is it that you notice? Blessed as we are with an abundance of world-class bushwalking trails and national parks, it's easy to get lost in the beauty of our flora and fauna. But what of the ground beneath your feet? Have you ever wondered about the rock, earth and clay under your boots? Jean McMaster has. And it's this curiosity of local materials formed not over lifetimes, but millennia that drives her creative practice.

Jean McMaster is a potter, artist and educator based in Herberton (Jirrbal Country) who explores the link between local materials and landscape through the art of woodfired ceramics. Her connection to nature stems from a childhood growing up on the waterways of Sydney.

"Reading the pattern of wind on water, was a large part of my childhood. Sailing dinghies on Pittwater north of Sydney, walking home from school along a bush track. Feeling the spirit of the natural world was like breathing. I think a good pot, a spirited pot, can evoke the same feeling."

Jean studied ceramics at East Sydney Technical College (now the National Art School) under some of Australia's Master potters. A strong foundation in clay and glaze technology, kiln building and studio practice propelled her along the path of her clay heroes, Lucie Rie and Hans Coper, across the pond to England, where she landed a job as a thrower for Chelsea Pottery. Here she was paid 'piece work' to throw simple forms such as cylinders, bowls and plates that were passed down the production line to decorators.

Jean recalls, "Learning to throw with speed and accuracy was key! Minimising physical movements so that I could earn enough money to eat!"

After a time, she yearned for the blue skies of home and returned to Sydney to continue post-graduate studies in ceramics at the National Arts School. A year of clay and glaze testing with quick turn-around firings, allowing a deep understanding of how a body of work evolves and how failures are crucial to the learning process. After graduation, Jean took the suggestion from fellow student Peter Thompson (of Kuranda) to catch the train 'Up North' and work as a thrower for Kairi Pottery on the Atherton Tablelands. This would turn out to be a pivotal moment in her life.

Back throwing 'piece work', Jean met the studio technician, Michael McMaster, the first day she arrived, and as they say, the rest is history. Together, Jean and Michael have founded and built two production pottery studios, earning



a living while raising three children. By the end of the 1990's the craft market was in sharp decline, and the decision was made to return to study, this time as a primary school teacher, whilst Michael attended to the building of their homestead in the Herberton Hills.

There is a common trope amongst artists, "Don't let your art dictate your life, build the life you want to live and let your art flow from there".

This couldn't be truer for Jean. Her way of making and living is intentional; their beautiful home, in the Herberton

Hills, is designed with every room leading into the garden and surrounding forest. Studio, kiln shed and homestead meld into one. Clay is sourced right at the front gate, sieved, blended and processed along with local granites and feldspar rocks for glaze ingredients. Living and making are an interconnected cycle.

The end results emerge from the kiln with a distinct local character birthed by wood, ash and flame. After days of cooling, the pots find homes on family dinner tables, in hands for morning cuppas, and in gallery spaces displaying their unique tapestry of local materials and fiery marks.

A solo body of work showing this connection between clay, fire and stewardship of the land will be on display at the Old Post Office Gallery, 86 Atherton Herberton Road, Atherton.

'Earth Poems' by Jean McMaster is showing between the 2 December 2025 and 24 January 2026. The exhibition opening is Saturday, 6 December 2025. Jean will be the Artist In Residence at the gallery during this time and welcomes you to come and have a chat about her work. All works in the exhibition will be for sale.

To view more of Jean's work and her processes, please visit her website <u>jeanmcmaster.com.au</u>

If you know someone you think the Tablelands community would love to learn about, we welcome submissions. Email info@whatsontablelands.com.au with details.







### **EARLY TESTING MATTERS**

- AGE 50- Every 2 years
- AGE 40 Every 2 years (With family history of disease)

# An initiative of the Rotary Club of Atherton



www.rotaryredsocks.com

# November calendar highlights

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

SATURDAY **01 NOV**  **Tolga Scarecrow Festival** 

Activities, costume comps, food and market stalls, live entertainment 4pm-8pm

\$3 entry

Atherton Showgrounds

**Tableland Fish Stocking Society Fishing** Competition

31 Oct-1 Nov Prize categories for all ages Live entertainment, redclaw races, and novelty events

Lake Tinaroo

Kurdaz Country Band - Live Music

**Tablelands Music Lovers** Grainger Lane, Atherton 7:30pm \$20 non-members, \$15 members

**Local People: The Third Series** 

Photography Exhibition by Songriver Photography Group On display until 14 Nov Foyer Gallery, 45 Mabel St Atherton

**TUESDAY 04 NOV**  Casino Rovale - Melbourne Cup 2025

Black tie to win best dressed, platters, champagne on arrival, live music, casino tables, charity auction Atherton International Club

Tickets \$75 Book online SATURDAY **08 NOV**  Handmade & Grown Market

Millaa Millaa Hotel 9-12pm

Yungaburra QCWA Open Hall Day

Historical displays from the past century Kehoe Place, Yungaburra

9-11am

**Great Northern Bullriding Series Finals** 

Gates open 5pm - show starts 7pm Atherton Showgrounds Tickets online or at the gate

**THURSDAY 13 NOV**  The Full Monty - theatre production

Malanda Theatre Company 13th-23rd Nov

Tickets: Trybooking.com/1456679

**FRIDAY 14 NOV**  Harem Scarem - musical theatre production

14-15 Nov & 21-22 Nov Mareeba Theatre Group Mareeba International Club

Tickets \$75: Trybooking.com/1460990

SATURDAY **15 NOV**  **Living Well Expo** 

Family activities, food stalls, demonstrations

9am-3pm

Merriland Hall, Atherton Showgrounds

**FREE EVENT** 

Hillbilly Goats - live music

School of Arts Hall, Irvinebank

5:30pm-9pm

Tickets: Trybooking.com/1453750

PREP - YEAR 6

**Leadership Opportunities** Small Learning Environment, Caring Staff Hands-On, Individualised Learning

Only 10min from Malanda Phone 4096 8135 to enrol or to book a tour!







## THURSDAY **20 NOV**

#### Malanda Christmas Festival

Market stalls, food, music, photos with santa, jumping castle, and more Malanda Town Centre 4pm-8pm FREE EVENT

## FRIDAY **21 NOV**

#### Newsies Jr. - musical theatre production

Atherton Performing Arts 6A Silo Rd, Atherton 21-23 Nov & 28-30 Nov

Tickets: Trybooking.com/DFREG

#### PechaKucha Night Atherton, Volume 12

Locals connecting and building community through shared stories The Atherton Hotel Function Room 6:30pm-9:30pm FREE EVENT

#### Polymantra - Live Music

Tablelands Music Lovers Grainger Lane, Atherton 7:30pm \$15 non-members, \$10 members

## save the date

#### **DECEMBER 2025**

- 5 Xmas in the Park, Julatten
- 6 Carols by Candlelight, Atherton
- 6 QCWA Christmas Cent Sale, Atherton
- 31 New Year's Eve, Herberton
- 31 NYX Festival, Mungalli Falls

#### **JANUARY 2026**

26 Australia Day Celebrations



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

# Don't miss your opportunity to advertise in next month's What's On Tablelands!

Our **Where To Go Issue** will be out in December

Advertising deadline is approaching!

## Hurry! Don't miss out!

Contact us today: info@whatsontablelands.com.au



#### YUNGABURRA BOWLS CLUB

Friendly bowls in the heart of Yungaburra village!



Mixed Social Games Wednesdays & Saturdays at 1pm Sign Up Outside the Clubhouse

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Cedar Street, Yungaburra Phone for bookings and info: 40953596

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## what's happening, when & where!



#### **HEALTH • WELLBEING • SPORT**

Atherton parkrun – 7am (Sat) Cnr Herberton Rd & Weaver St, Atherton. P 0409 958 129 facebook.com/athertonparkrun

Awareness Through Movement (Feldenkrais) 6.15pm (Tue), online, 1.30pm & 5.30pm (Wed),

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. P Grace 0428 451 679

Indoor Bowls Atherton – 8.30am (Thu)
Masonic Hall, Golf Links Rd, Atherton P 4091 1381

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

Pickleball – 4:45pm (Tue), 6pm (Thu), 8:30am (Sun). Malanda High School Hall. \$5 per session. Equipment provided. P Frances 0419 792 786

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

**Sound Meditation** – 6pm (every 2nd Wed of the month) @ CWA Malanda. P Debbie 0427 559 142 FB: debbiesavagetherapies

**Tableland Bush Walking Club** – (every 2nd Wed & Sun). New Members welcome. View program online: tablelandsbushwalking.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. P Annette 0427 581 482 Tai Chi Yungaburra – 4.30pm (Mon), Yungaburra Community Club, 8.30am (Fri). Yungaburra Rec Shed. P Maria 0414 302 759

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

Yoga with Gillian, Tolga – 5.45pm-7.15pm (Tue) Tolga CWA Hall, opp. Post Office. All levels, Hatha incorporating stretch, strength, breathwork and meditation. P Gillian 0407 171 537 FB: HappyFeetYoga

Yoga/Qigong with Lyndel – Malanda, 5pm (Tue) Uniting Church Hall, 10am (Wed) Chair Yoga, CWA Hall. \$15 per class. P 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. P 0402 208 377

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

#### **SOCIAL • MUSIC • DANCE**

**Bingo** – 9:15am (Tue), doors open at 8:45am. Atherton International Club. Proceeds go to Atherton Hospital FNQHF. P 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. P 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. P 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. P 0428 913 512

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

**Tableland Music Lovers** – 2-6pm (Sun) Fortnightly. Open mic night, Grainger Lane, Atherton. Everyone welcome.. \$5 entry fee. FB: 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. P Annette 0488 954 202

**Tableland Ukulele Group** – 1pm (1st & 3rd Sat of the month), Carinya Wellness Centre, 1 Mazlin St, Atherton. All welcome. tablelandukulelegroup@gmail.com

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

WE ARE FULL!
Contact us to join the waitlist

## local business directory

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#### **COMMUNITY**

Alcoholics Anonymous – 7:30pm (Mon) CWA Hall, Wilkes St, Mareeba. 6:30pm (Tue) CWA Hall, Malanda. 7pm (Sat) CWA Hall, Jack St, Atherton. Support group for people wanting to stop drinking. P 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 P 0407 708 435

Atherton Tableland Mineral & Lapidary Club 5:30-9:30pm (Mon), 8-4pm (Wed), 8am-1pm (Sat). Racecourse Rd, Tolga. P 0417 746 630 atmlc679@gmail.com

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

Family Drug Support – 5:30-7:30pm (4th Thu of month), Atherton Community Hall, Jack St, Atherton. P 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. P Don 0417 707 693

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

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

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

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

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

Men's Shed Herberton – 7am-2pm (Tue & Thu). Herberton Railway Station, John St, Herberton. P Judy 0411 279 152

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

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

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

Men's Shed Yungaburra – 2-6pm (Tue & Thu). Yungaburra Memorial Shed, 7 Barrine Rd. P Jeff 0448 168 674

National Servicemen's Assoc. – 10am (2nd Sun of the month). Rocky Creek War Memorial Park Nasho Shelter, Tolga. Bring a chair and picnic lunch. Also Tableland WWII History Tour group bookings. P Terry 4095 4154 or 0409 924 711

**QCWA Malanda Craft Group** – 9am (Thu) Catherine St, Malanda. Morning tea provided. All welcome. P 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. P 0448 750 353

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

**Soroptomist International** – 5:30pm (2nd & 4th Tue of the month), Atherton Hotel, Main St, Atherton. P 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. P 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. P 0400 660 026 athtablands.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. P Tablelands Sexual Assault Service 4091 4036

Women's Welcome & Well-being – 9am-12pm (Tue) Girl Guides Hall, Robert St, Atherton. Different activities each week. P Sue 0400 885 586



#### **INGREDIENTS**

2-3 fresh tomatoes 1 punnet (250g) cherry tomatoes

125g fetta

2 cloves crushed garlic

Olive oil

A few basil leaves 1/4 tsp Italian herb mix A pinch of salt and pepper

# Recipe of the month

#### **Roasted Tomatoes and Fetta**

#### **METHOD**

- 1. Preheat the oven to 170°C and line a small tray with baking paper.
- Roughly dice the whole tomatoes and place them in the tray. Score the cherry or grape tomatoes and add them in.
- 3. Place the fetta pieces among the tomatoes.
- 4. Drizzle over olive oil, then scatter over the crushed garlic, basil, salt, pepper, and Italian herbs.
- Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until the tomatoes and feta are lightly browned. Allow to cool slightly before serving.



Recipe of the month courtesy of Mungalli Biodynamic

#### what's happening, when & where!

# 13

#### **ART • CRAFT**

**Handwork Craft Group** – 9am-12pm (Tue) Old Post Office, Herberton Rd, Atherton. P 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. P 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 PI, Yungaburra. Uncover the secrets of sewing with expert tips! By donation. P 0438 572 207 vberry@westnet.com.au

Social Stamping Papercraft – 1-4pm (4th Sat of the month, exc. Dec and Jan) Venue TBC. \$5pp, BYO projects. Tea and coffee provided. RSVP please. P Lauren 0408 913 677

#### **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. P 4096 6634

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

**Tableland Branch of Native Plants Qld** – 7:30pm (4th Wed of the month), Tolga CWA Hall. Bush excursion following Sun of the month.

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. P David 0400 005 085 or Paul 0419716196

**Tableland Garden Group** – 2pm (2nd Sat of the month), tablelandgardengroup@outlook.com Peter 0418 719 748 or Chris 4091 3082

#### 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. P 0428 914 758

Atherton Junior Golf – 8-11:30am (Sun) competition day, 4-5:15pm (Wed & Thu) practice. Ages 5-17yrs, Atherton Golf Club. athertonjuniorgolf@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. P Coral 0414 380 263

**Tablelands Home Education** – Gatherings for homeschooling families, (every Thu). Times and locations vary. FB: Tablelands Home Education tablelandshomeed@qmail.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 P 4093 5444

## local business directory

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#### artistreegallery.com.au

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#### cowgirlcountry.com.au

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# Faces of the Tablelands

Maize Festival Street Parade, Main Street, Atherton, 30 August 2025





















#### **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 6am-12noon Lutheran Church, Golf Links Drv

#### Atherton Undercover Markets

- Atherton Lions Club

2nd Sunday of the month 7am-12noon Atherton Showgrounds

#### Dimbulah QCWA Markets

3rd Saturday of the month 8am-12noon Dimbulah QCWA Grounds

#### Julatten Markets

3rd Sunday of the month (Apr-Dec), 2pm-5pm Geraghty Park Hall

#### **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 (closed Jan, Feb, Mar) 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

#### **Mt Molloy Markets**

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

#### 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 Park

Contact the market organisers for more information







Dinner: Thursday to Monday from 5.30pm Lunch: Friday to Monday 12pm to 2pm Bookings Essential 17 Eacham Rd. Yungaburra ourplacerestaurant.net

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