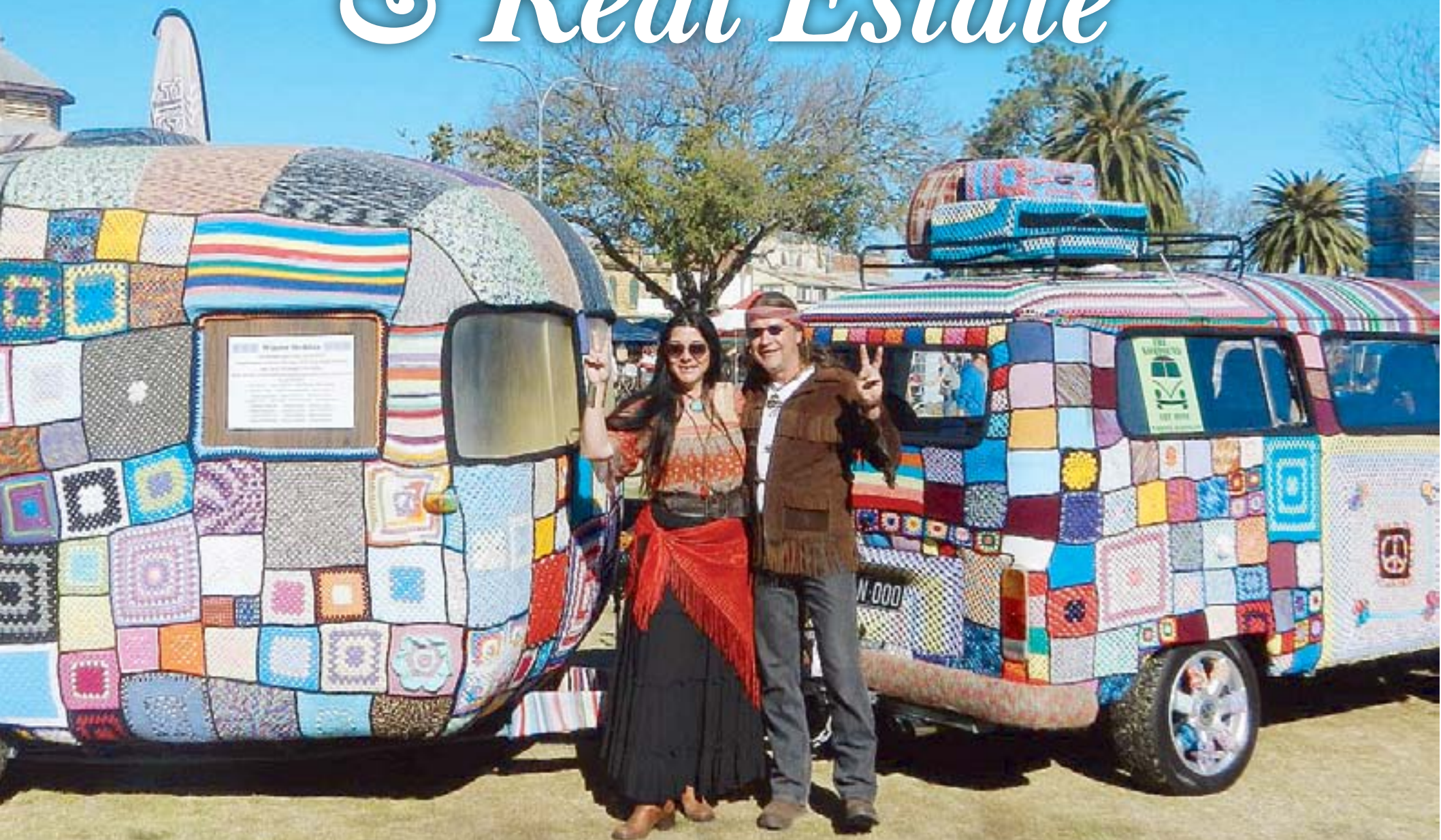


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Train station set to thrive again

BY TANIA PHILLIPS

The Warwick Railway Station precinct is set to become a major community hub thanks to an enthusiastic group of volunteers.

The Southern Downs Steam Railway Association Inc already run steam trains out of the station but they are hoping to expand the operations to include all sorts of activities at the station and the adjacent Brosnan Crescent operation.

Their plans before Council at the moment include Railway Markets, a self-contained caravan, cafe and wedding venue.

Not bad for a group which includes a volunteer membership of 220 members including 75 active members.

Formed in 1995 as 'Warwick Enterprises' the group began the restoration of the Warwick Locomotive Depot with a workforce provided by the Queensland Government through what was then known as 'Training for the Long Term Unemployed' (now called 'Work for the Dole').

During completion of this restoration project, the Warwick Locomotive Depot was renamed the 'Warwick Railway Precinct'.

The long-term goal was to turn the area into a static display of railway equipment and memorabilia and restore 5km of railway branch line between Hendon and Allora (30km north of Warwick) to allow for the possibility of running a regular tourist railway on the line. This mammoth task began in November 1995 and in 1996 the group was renamed Southern Downs Steam Railway, and the railway precinct became their home.

And now with the trains operational, the group have turned their attention to providing a hub for the whole community.

The Association's president Kelvin Hutchinson said it was a pretty busy time for the group as they try and put together something that the whole community can enjoy.

They have already started on that plan, holding weddings on the platform – though they are hoping to have a big inside venue up and running soon because what is more romantic than a steam train? Not many things.

"At the moment we're promoting weddings," he said.

"We can fit 150 people on the platform and have the train in the platform (in the background)," he said.

"We use all local suppliers and things like



that. We're really aiming at that affordable wedding market rather than the big extravaganza.

"Now that we've finished work on the station, we will be having more weddings and events there too.

"We of course have our trains there leaving the station regularly and we're looking now at having meetings and finalising with council about having a fairly significant Saturday markets in Brosnan Crescent with entertainment and lots of incentive to get stall holders there on a regular basis. Lots of publicity and marketing.

"The council are very cooperative and are assisting us to get it up and running.

"We were aiming for September, but we are now probably going to be up and running in late October-November coming up to the holidays."

With the help of local Real Estate Agent Helen Harm, the not-for-profit group are also looking for a railway cafe operator work in with and launch a cafe in the station.

"We're really working hard with the

council to try and convince them to relocate the visitor information centre down there too.

"It's not a given but we're negotiating.

"We think it's the right venue, lots of parking. With the cafe and the visitor information centre it should become a real hub."

He said the station had been a real time capsule when the group had first taken over.

"Not too many people are aware, but in 1975 Queensland rail officials came down one day and said we're closing up and the workers literally got up from their desks and walked out," he said.

"We walked in all their documents, and everything was still on their desks from 1975. It's like a museum in there."

What a lot of people might not be aware of as well is that there is the perfect wedding venue just waiting to be done up and used.

"There is this massive ballroom with a huge, big fireplace at one end of it which we will do up and we plan to have weddings and events in that location.



"At the moment the weddings are outdoor and ultimately what's coming next year is what we call the ballroom or events centre. That will compliment hopefully the visitor's information centre, it will compliment the cafe, we're putting in a new toilet facility in the building and we're in there with our novelty shops and ticket sales. It's going to be quite a facility and we'll compliment that with the weekend markets."

The group has been having a recruitment drive for more members in recent weeks and the existing volunteers are already excited for what's to come.

"We have a lot of excitement among our volunteers, we have about 75 active volunteers," Kelvin said.

"We have about 220 members, but we've got roughly 75 active members – what that means is that on Wednesdays and Thursdays we have about 35-40 turn up and do the restoration, mechanical, registration, administration and our marketing, ticket sales, mowing of the lawns, landscaping, cleaning the train. It's a city.

"On the weekend we have a totally different bunch of volunteers who are in different uniforms, that are carriage attendants, train drivers, guards, firemen and it's quite an enterprise."

The train itself operates its big tours fortnightly but in between that they do mum's and dads with little children – short trips in between on the Saturday and in school holidays.

Interested in helping the group as they turn the precinct into a community hub? Head to their website or pop down on a Wednesday or Thursday to have a look.

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Honey who shrunk the Kombi (and Beetle).



Lisa and Luis and their yern-bombed beasts.



Lisa and Luis with their driveable yarn bombed vehicles.

Kombi collectors spread the love

.....

When Warwick’s Lisa van Slobbe told her car enthusiast partner Louis she liked Kombi’s she had no idea what she’d started.

A short time later three Kombis arrived in their yard and so began the fascination with Kombis.

Lisa and Louis have now created the Kompound Artzone just outside of Warwick - a unique creative space on their property and their Kombi can often be seen around town.

In fact, their yarn-bombed Kombi and vintage caravan were one of the most talked about displays at Jumpers and Jazz in July when they were first displayed together in 2017.

And by popular demand they are back to wow crowds again at the event in 2024.

“We did it in 2017 but the original one we did was just the caravan alone and it was the year before in 2016,” Lisa said.

“I had this old vintage van that I’d planned on doing up but it was just sitting there and I decided to do a yarn bomb. We got people to send us squares from all over the country and we crocheted them together and it worked out really well.

“So, the next year I thought I might do a Kombi as well – why not?”

So why yarn bomb a caravan and a Kombi?

“Because they’re there and during the festival people yarn bomb all sorts of things. They yarn bomb pushbikes and buildings. I thought, because we have Kombis and caravans why not do that.”

Although they had always gone to JJJ every year, the caravan – nicknamed the egg – yarnbombing was the first thing they’d done for the event.

“I just thought let’s do something to participate that year and it was so popular that we decided to do whole outfit the next year,” she said.

“That’s what they will see again this time, though it will be slightly different because a couple of the blankets were given away. I’ll have to fill in a few pieces. I haven’t actually started it yet, I’m about to start but it will be a lot quicker this time because I’ve kept all the pieces and they’re all joined together into really big pieces. So, it’s just a matter of joining the big pieces.

“Whereas before the caravan took about five months and then the Kombi took about five months from the beginning it won’t be



Now here’s a yarn about a car loving couple and their Kombi and Caravan.

nearly as long and I should be able to knock it over in a month.”

So where can you find the Kombi and Caravan during JJJ?

“We’ll be there both weekend’s of the festival,” she said.

“The first weekend we’ll be in the gallery precinct behind the town hall on the Saturday. On the Sunday they have the grand auto display which is the big car show in the main street and we’ll be in that. We’ll also have a few other vehicles on display there. We’ve got a little shortened Kombi and a little shortened Beetle and a couple of other vehicles that will be on display just for that day.

“We’re Kombi fanatics we’ve had them for years, we’ve just got this crazy collection.”

So why Kombi’s – most people collect things like stamps?

“Yeah, it would take up a lot less space,” she mused.

“Lucky we’ve got five acres then.

“We just love Kombi’s and I love vintage caravans so the combination of the two is just great. People seem to really enjoy it.”

The second weekend of the festival, the Kombi and caravan will be on display at the Suitcase Rummage market in the park on the Saturday and then the next weekend they will be at the Potters market.

So where did the Kombi collecting start?

“Well actually probably about 18 years ago – I’ve been with my husband nearly 20 years now and when we first got together – well he’s really into cars – all sorts of cars,” she said.

“I like cars too but he’s a fanatic and I just mentioned one day in passing - you know I really like Kombi Vans. This is before the whole big crush with Kombis, before people started to collect them. They were worth nothing back then but I just always really liked them. The next thing I know I have three in my yard. He’d managed to source these Kombis from different people around town – none of them going. They were in various states of repair. We had three Kombis sitting in a row in our yard for quite some time. We ended up doing one up, which is the one we drive now and the one which we will be yarn bombed. But we have a few others on display in our place.”

The moral to the story is obviously never tell Louis you like something.

“Yeah, that’s very dangerous, because he usually finds it,” she laughed.

After the festival when the blankets come off Lisa has big new plans for her “Egg” van – to finally get stuck into the inside and create something just as creative and interesting in the interior.

It won’t be the first time they have unleashed their artistic talent.

Lisa and Louis – have their amazing eclectic artspace the Kompound Artzone.

The Kompound was inspired by a trip to Melbourne, where they saw amazing people creating incredible art.

“We came home driven to create a unique space to follow our artistic pursuits,” she said.

“So, with our heads full of crazy plans, we went to work for two and a half years, building our dream from the ground up, totally self-funded, and using recycled materials wherever possible.

“Thanks to some very generous locals who helped out with the things we couldn’t do on our own, in late 2017 The Kompound was born.

“The Kompound space itself is a visual feast of oddities, collectables and nostalgic eclectica. Centred around our beloved Kombi vans, each area features a different theme- vintage cameras, 1920’s Shanghai, a Snoopy collection, steampunk workshop, retro kitchen ware, Victorian era oddities, old motorcycles and vintage circus-to name just a few.”

Watch out for Lisa and Louis and their Kombis at this year’s Jazz and Jumpers in July.

Knitting needles at the ready

The weather is getting colder and the clock is ticking down to July and so the members of the St Mark's Guild have their knitting needles and crochet hooks at the ready.

You see, preparations are about to start for this year's St Mark's Jumpers and Jazz in July display – though, of course, a lot of the hard work is already done.

For the past two year's the Guild and church community have been decorating the church's stunning tower and turning into a Flower Tower.

For two weeks a net filled with handmade flowers is draped over part of the tower, making quite the talking point in the town and one of the fun displays of this very quirky and colourful festival.

And the St Mark's community isn't sitting on their laurels. With the tower done last year the yarn-bombing was extended to the front columns.

And now the volunteers are back at work creating even more visual excitement to the entrance of the church – though Guild member Elaine Stewart said they are not ready to divulge just what the new addition will be.

"In 2021 we decided we would do something for the 2022 Jazz and Jumpers in July Festival," she said explaining the origins of the flower tower.

"Our church secretary had sent us a



The flower tower up close.

Picture: JODIE LOCKE

photo of a flower tower in England and we thought we could do it on our tower because our church looked very similar to their church.

"The tower is about 18 metres tall and the actual netting goes right from the top to the bottom. It's covered by lots and lots of flowers that were hand-made, not just by St Mark's Guild ladies, but by a wide range of people within the Warwick local area and beyond.

"The flowers came in from everywhere, we used about 2179 hand-made flowers. There are well-over 500 leaves on it and 300 metres rope vine that was hand made.

"The tower went up in 2022 and again last year. We will put it up again this year, it is the same as it was – we're not adding

to the actual netting but last year we added to the front of the church. "We covered the two stone pillars at the front of the church with extra flowers and leaves. It had a design of wattle flowers, gum nuts and gum leaves."

She promised there will be more this time around – though Elaine and the other guild members are keeping just what that is under wraps until just before the festival next month.

"This year we are doing a little bit extra at the front of the church, I won't say what we're doing but we are doing more to the church.

"It's growing every year, over the past three years we've been working on it and quite a few people have been involved but it is mostly run by St Mark's Women's Guild."

And of course creating the flower tower and decorations has been just as much fun for the Guild as watching the faces of people when they see their creation.

"We use to work on it of a morning," Elaine explained.

"We worked on it in workshops in the hall. It took quite some time to get the big tower done – not so much last year. This year we are just starting to meet now every Friday morning with just a few us to put it together."

The whole eye-catching display will go up in Jumpers and Jazz week and stay up for the fortnight.

"There has probably been hundreds to thousands of people who have come past to have a look and take photos," she said.

"It's quite an attraction in Warwick for Jumpers and Jazz."

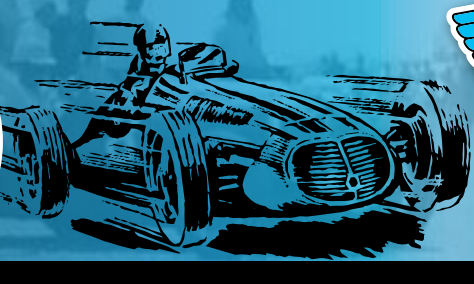
She said it was lovely to be part of such a fun community event like the Jumpers and Jazz festival but it was also nice to be part of the Guild group working on the creations.

"It's been lovely meeting with the ladies of a morning and working together. We have morning tea together. So, it's been a real friendship thing as well."

Creating the yarnbombing fun that adorn the church during the festival isn't the end of the Guild's participation in the festival.

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Italian delight among the vines

.....

BY TANIA PHILLIPS

Adam Penberthy of Ballandean Pub and Dear Vincent Wines has always loved Italian food.

Trips to the country only encouraged his love of the cuisine so it's probably a little surprising that in his year's of owning restaurants that he's never had an Italian restaurant.

But all that is about to change thanks to a food truck called Rosa now open at Dear Vincent Wines.

"We own a few things down here on the Granite Belt," he said.

"We own the Ballandean Pub which is down on the corner but before that we bought a vineyard down here called, well it was called St Jukes Vineyard, but we've renamed it to Dear Vincent which is our new wine label.

"But there is an absolute need for more food and beverage places in this part of the world, particularly as we're now going into the busy season of the year.

"So, Rosa's is our new little Italian pop-up restaurant to provide an alternate cuisine to the market down here and it's going off."

Rosa's is now parked at Dear Vincent winery and serving meals to customers in a rustic outdoor setting with barrel tables and plenty of fire pits.

"It's just a food truck, a regular food truck," he said.

"But I call it an upscale food truck. It's what you'd see at the markets, a rectangular box but we serve everything on plates. It's not takeaway plates. This means consumers have a bit more of an upscale experience. It's really cool, it's just a very casual menu.

"We actually launched the new menu last week which was our first week of proper trade. The menu kind of mirrors a restaurant in Sydney that I love called Toddy's where it's just lots of small plates, all share, grazing style Italian food. So, we've kind of gone down that same path. You can get a plate of prosciutto or a plate of mortadella and things like that.

"There are sardines on the menu- all geared to sharing. We serve it with pillow bread – like a puffed sort of bread. It's very much like a family dining affair, as if you were in a family's residence in Italy."

He said his love of the cuisine and the strong Italian community on the Granite



Adam Penberthy of Ballandean Pub and Dear Vincent Wines.

Belt was the inspiration behind the Rosa's.

"I love Italian food," he admitted.

"We have spent so much time in Italy over the years, it was a no brainer I've always wanted to open up an Italian food outlet so this is my opportunity.

"It's cool."

Given he is such a fan of the cuisine, if Adam was going to eat Italian food – what would he chose?

"Oh, listen I love ragus," he was quick to answer.

"The chef we have there is doing some incredible stuff. She is making this mushroom ragu pasta with homemade with Pappardelle pasta. This is kind of mounted with oodles of marsala liqueur and cream and then oodles of butter and herbs. It's just mouth-watering.

"She has some really cool things that she

is working on down there. But that ragu is my pick of it."

Imagine tucking into a melt in your mouth ragu, with a view of the vineyard.

"It's all very rustic, our cellar door," Adam explained.

"But we have a broader vision and construction to do and development in the next six to 12 months.

"So, this is just a pop-up at the moment. It's up at the vineyard, again it's rustic, it's all old picking bins that the guys have put a tabletop on, and people sit around that. We have firepits up there, it's a great little experience.

"It's been a lot of fun (setting up) and the other side of it is the local produce. We're buying just about everything from the region and the dishes change every week based on the produce availability. We are working with a number farms direct which is pretty incredible. We are doing the same thing at the pub as well, probably not to the same level that we're doing with Rosa.

"Rosa is pretty much exclusively local produce and it's great because we operate in a food bowl down here. This is one of the best regions in the country for growing so many things, whether it be tomatoes during the summer period, berries. It's a joy for us to showcase that local produce.

"The team get really excited about that kind of stuff and you know it's good for the economy as well, if we can put dollars directly into a local small business we'll prioritise that."

He said it was definitely achieving a long-held dream for him.

"I've owned lots of restaurants, but I have never had anything Italian focussed," Adam enthused.

"So, this is a bit of a passion project, but it's a passion project with some really talented people who are doing some cool stuff with local produce.

"We have spent so much time in Italy over the years we love it, love the culture, love the people, love the food, love the wine and really some of our most treasured memories from travels are from Italy and include food and wine.

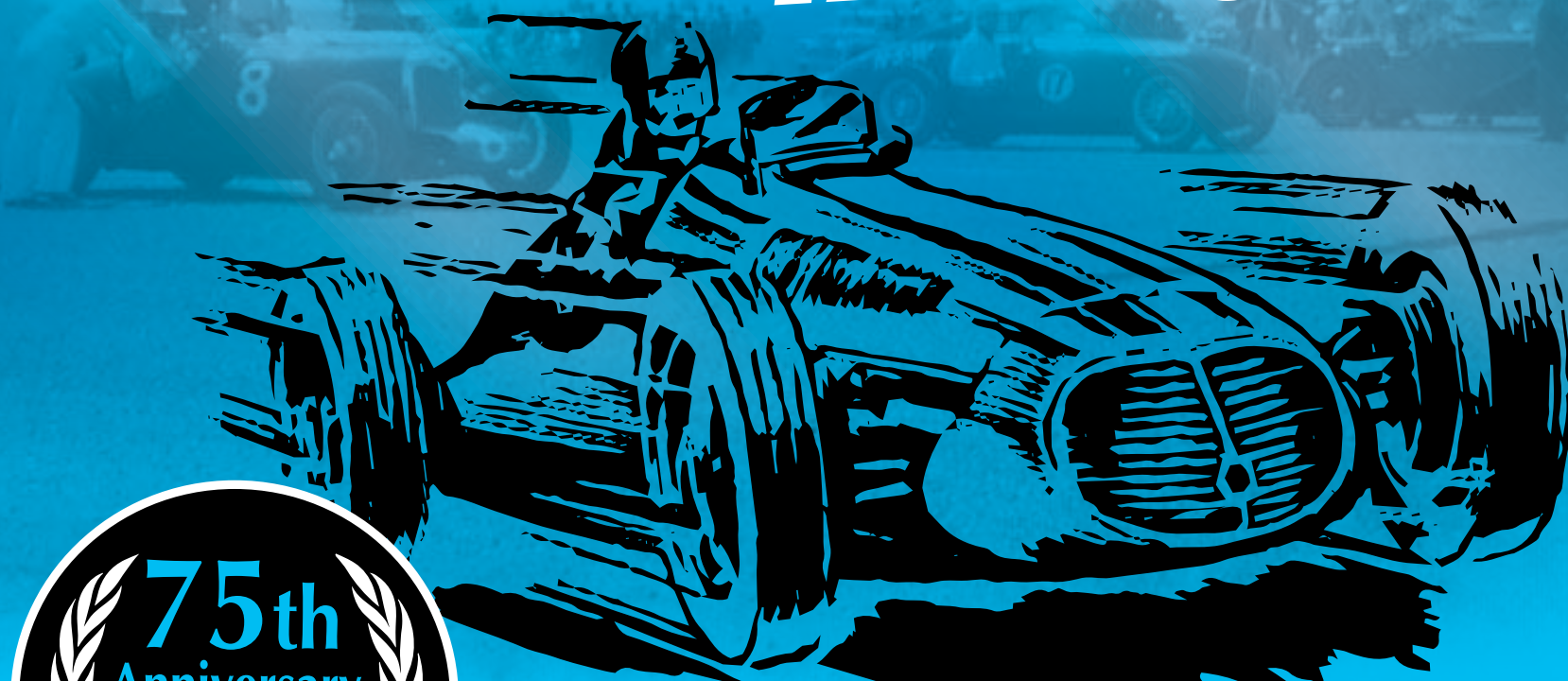
"As I said this is very much a passion project but just with some epic people making very good food."

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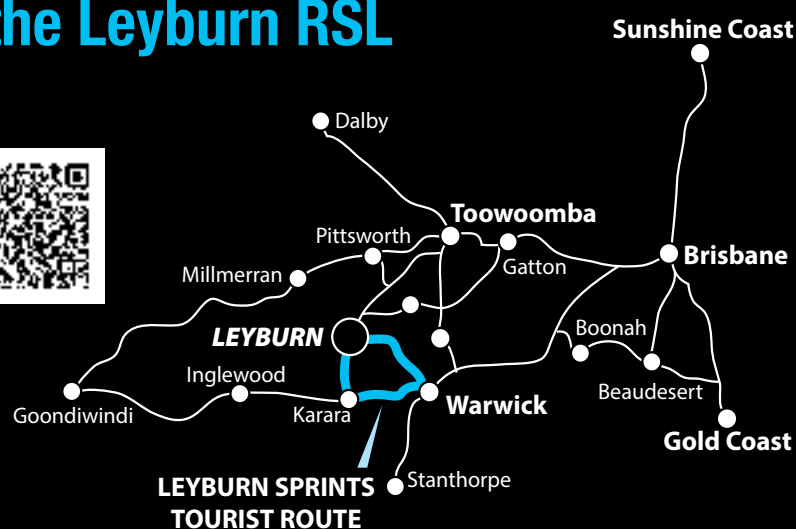
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Running passion starts adventure

BY TANIA PHILLIPS

Extreme sport enthusiast Susie Blissner has fallen in love with the beautiful hills around Killarney where she now lives so it's hardly surprising that when she was looking for something to do in retirement that she decided to organise her own event running event in the region.

Of course it didn't hurt that as well as loving running (and mountain biking) she likes to organize things to the point "I annoy people" and has a background in marketing and accounting.

And so out of all that has come the Untamed Border Run Festival two-days of running in some of the most beautiful country in the world in the hills and properties around Killarney 22-23 June.

The event, now in its second year, is two days of trail running events including a 50km, 21km and two 10km events and will have "the same courses as last year with a little twist".

"Entries are flowing in," she said. "When we started the event last year I said I'd be happy if get 15 and we got 200.

"This year I said I want 300 hundred – I don't know where that number came from, it was just a dream. We won't get that but we could well go close to the 200 again, But whatever we get is ok, it's a community event and last year we gave away \$5,500 - \$600 to nine small community groups including the men's shed, girl guides, the art gallery and that's what we're all about.

"We want to bring tourist runners to our region. Some people didn't even know where Killarney was which is mind-boogling."

For Susie, who started her love with sport as a six-year-old swimmer in Melbourne and moved Queensland to spend more time outdoors as a triathlete, the event was also a way of staying involved in a sport she had truly come to love – adventure racing.

"My husband Gavin and I met through sport, in the sport of adventure racing," she explained.

"I had been a triathlete prior to adventure racing and I had done marathon running. Gav had always kept himself extremely strong and fit. We both enjoyed Rogaining which is an orienteering based sport, but we met through adventure racing which is quite an extreme sport. "The duration of adventure races ranges from, back when I started, six hours to ten days.

"We raced in Tasmania and down the Eastern seaboard of Australia.

"My interest in triathlon had waned and I hadn't trained for a couple of years. I had to buy a mountain bike to commute to work, because I didn't have a car at the time. But as a result of purchasing a mountain bike I was looking for a more nature-based sport than triathlon afforded so I started orienteering on a mountain bike which led to me becoming very passionate about orienteering maps and compasses which then led me into rogains which is where I first met Gavin but I had already started adventure racing. In fact, we had both done a few adventure races.

"Gav did a ten day one in Broken Hill and I was dabbling in 24 hour adventure races. Gav asked me to join he and two of his work buddies, all firefighters in Brisbane, on a 10-day adventure race in Tasmania which



was in February in 2006.

"I've been doing this for 20 odd years and I can tell you I wasn't young when I switched to adventure racing - I was 48 at the time."

However, she pulled back on training and racing as her parents got older and then both her husband's parents needed help.

"We had moved to South-Eastern Queensland in the country and bought 50 acres to escape the city of Brisbane.

"But his parents lived on the Sunshine Coast. He was still working full-time. I had retired and thus I took on the enjoyable task of helping out his parents. His dad died and I ended up living for almost three months with his mum. Actually the idea of the run came to me as I was washing the floors after we'd sold her house.

"I thought, I need to get back into my sport into my passion, I need to get my fitness and strength back. But my body was telling me I was a little bit older and couldn't do that so I decided that if you can't do something, organise it for other people can enjoy it."

And for Susie, her husband Gavan and friends the best part about the event has been in the organising, the getting out on the tracks and exploring the countryside with the help and consent of local farmers.

"I had come with the idea of the run but together Gav and I started to think about holding it here," Susie explained.

"He at first thought I was crazy but then we decided to make it a community event.

"In the township of Killarney, which

is the closest township to where we live, there were horse events, motorbike events, rodeos, shows, polocrosse but there was no sport like marathon running.

"We did organise a couple of cycling events as well, basically orienteering on mountain bikes, "We realised I had time, passion and experience. I did a lot of volunteering at adventure races and we felt that we were in a good position to put on an event.

"We chose running because there's not a lot of tracks in this area to stage a long-distance mountain biking event or indeed an adventure race. Adventure racing incorporate paddling and obviously we don't have enough water ways or lakes here to do that. So thus the idea of the run was born.

"I really wanted an ultra-marathon, I had done a couple in my running years and I just loved the challenge of them and we wanted to showcase the southern downs region - the mountains down to the flat country."

The first one on last year was an adventure in it's self, with the organising group trying to work out where to stage it.

"We spent countless hours up in the mountains walking and mountain biking through the farmers properties. The farmers, who once we explained to them what we wanted to do, I think they felt our passion and realised we were very experienced. We were safety conscious and we were also very respectful of their land.

"We spent countless hours measuring tracks. Trying to find new tracks, visualise

where we might slash tracks across cow paddocks which was all a heap of fun I must say.

"For our inaugural event last year we staged a 50km a 21 km and 10 km. All three races started at remote locations so we bussed the runners in. We kept the locations secret to ensure the privacy of the property owners. A lot of long-distance runs, the courses will be advertised but we kept it all a secret. Some people guessed where we might go but that was our adventure racing ethos, coming out that you keep it a secret as long as you can."

If they had any doubts about staging the event the were pretty quickly dispelled thanks to the support from the locals and from the running community.

"We received emails saying 'I'd been looking at that area for years and wondering why somebody hadn't staged a race up there in those beautiful mountains,'" she said.

"And then we had 200 racers on race day, volunteers who came from within the community of Killarney and Legume. The property owners volunteered to open and close the gates – we had 49 gates that had to be opened and closed on the 50 Km course so that was huge and then the finish line was at the showgrounds for all three courses.

"The show society did food and drinks and we had a presentation.

"I have to say we were thrilled, the compliments from the very experienced 50km runners who came was just wow."

And now they're set to do it all again.



WEDDINGS



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A family-celebration long weekend

Carrissa McEvoy and Brendan Harvey chose their 10th anniversary (or close to it) for their beautiful wedding ceremony at Hidden Creek Winery Ballandean and reception at Eukey Hall in March.

"Our 10-year anniversary was the following day 9 March, that's why we chose that day so we can forever celebrate both important moments on one weekend," Carrissa said.

Carrissa daughter of Michael and Lisa McEvoy while Brendan's parents are Alexia and Warren Harvey.

Photographer for the day was Brittany Jayne photography, Warwick.

"We are both the youngest of our families and the last to be married on both sides," the bride explained.

"I have two brothers and a sister, Brendan had one brother and a sister.

"We included our three boys in the bridal party along with our youngest niece and nephews - all the cousins on my side of the family. They were ring security."

Carrissa was attended by her big sister matron of honour- Kimmi O'Hagan, maid of honour Bec Reed, Netisha Allan (best friends since high school), junior bridesmaid Madison McEvoy Lopez (Carrissa's eldest niece). While Brendan's best man was big brother Justin Harvey and his groomsmen were school friends Liam Reidy and Groomsmen- Nathan Reardon and groomsmaid was his eldest niece and god daughter Taryn McCosker.

"Our day was magical, we were introduced by family and we never looked back," Carrissa said.

"It was the social and outgoing city girl dating the quiet county boy - no one was really sure what was going to happen, but we



Carrissa McEvoy and Brendan Harvey celebrated 10 years together by tying the knot.

took the chance.

"I moved without hesitation and embraced my new life with Brendan in the country and farm.

"Ten years and three boys later our day had finally arrived.

"From proposing in the Paddock at Sugarloaf, to getting ready in family homes, and having the wedding at a place that holds a special place to Brendans family made everything about our day full of love and all about us and our family.

"Everyone in our lives had been waiting for this day for a long time and made the trip from all around to attend. So naturally it wasn't just a day event. Everyone arrived the Thursday for dinner, for the wedding on Friday, to celebrate again with us Saturday back at the hall before the final

goodbyes on Sunday.

"A weekend event was exactly what i had dreamed off!

"It was sentimental holding the reception at the Eukey Hall considering it was something my sister and I joked about when I first started to date Brendan. That the hall would be the perfect place to have a wedding. And we weren't wrong.

"We were lucky enough to be blessed with all seasons in one with weather from sunshine, wind and rain but nothing could put a damper on our day."

"We were lucky to have a beautiful back drop for photos in our own backyard, so we didn't have to go far.

"We have always done things backwards so having our boys at our wedding was the most special thing we will always remember.



Just married - beautiful wedding photographs on the couple's farm.

"They were more excited than us for the day and loved every minute of being a part of the ring security and even writing and reading a speech at the ceremony.

"When we decided we wanted to have a wedding, we wanted a full event of celebrating not just us, but everyone who had helped us get to where we were today. "It was pretty amazing to be able to incorporate and honour both our styles, have everything close to home and just a big party.

"Its hard to sum up how full of love our day was, the smiles couldn't be bigger and at the end of the night we both sat and just took in our amazing it was that everyone we love was all in one place just for us and how we will probably never get that again.

"And that in itself is pretty spectacular"

BRIDAL DIRECTORY



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12637997-RR40-23

Mustering up time for farming

BY TANIA PHILLIPS

James Blundell is balancing two of the most fickle industries in the world – music and farming but the Stanthorpe-based country music star couldn't be happier.

James loves his farm and his music, he loves mentoring young singers – something he has been doing increasingly and it's clear he loves the Granite Belt, where he was born and continues to live and farm.

"I have actually committed my adult life to the two most fickle industries known to man kind which are music and farming and it's still about a 50-50 split," he said.

"I still don't know which is the most fickle because while they can both be very demanding they both also have incredible rewards.

"I do spend more of my time on the property now than I have in the past 30 years.

"There's several reasons for that – A) because I want to and I love running the place but also touring as I knew it during the middle of my career simply doesn't exist anymore.

"We used to go away for 12 weeks at a time and play five nights a week or six nights sometimes and the night you had was by choice.

"I work a lot with young artists and I'm very frustrated for them that the opportunity for to perform is simply not there.

"You have to have a venue that's prepared to take a risk on you, they're fairly scarce and there's an American model that you're obliged to follow, if you are going to perform at a venue you have to bring 20-30 of your own patrons.

"It's all arse about that's my belief. The venues should provide platforms for the artists to play at and the strength of the artists will draw a crowd.

"That's the correct value of that equation and they are few and far between and consistent touring wow – I was only reading an article about major festivals, established for 15-20 years are finding it impossible to make the sums add up which is concerning."

Two festivals that are doing well and are close to Blundell's heart are the Gympie Muster, August 22-25 and Country on Keppel, 12-14. He loves them both and will be heading to both of them during the next two months.

Country on Keppel is particularly close to James' heart as it was the brain child of his late brother, former Southern Downs Regional Council Mayor Peter Blundell who died of cancer in late 2021 after a battle with cancer.

"It is, it's funny, I was just thinking of him," he said.

"I'm just driving home from town to get some cattle feed ,I think about Pete all the time.

"He and I, were very close but we actually didn't see much of each other, we had very different lives but Pete was a very good musician and a great consumer of music.

"When he approached me ten years ago saying he'd moved to Keppel and he was working up there, that was the happiest period of his life.



Stanthorpe-based farmer and entertainer James Blundell.

"He said I've suggested we have a country festival on Keppel, what do you think? I said – that is the best idea of heard in about 20 years.

"The festival and management on Keppel they perpetuate Pete's memory and if Pete would have wanted a legacy of any sort it would have been to do with music so it's very special."

"I love the Gympie Muster – that's a matter of record from the first time I went there thirty years ago (not so late last century)," he laughed.

"I expected it to be quite a small affair, 4-500 people with picnic baskets and blankets and went over the hill, well before it was the size event it is now, and there were 8,000 people and I thought oh my god. But I've just loved it ever since, it's just always been a great vibe."

And while Blundell shakes his head at the state of the touring music scene these days it might surprise you to know he classes himself as one of the few members of the music industry who believes that the Covid Lockdown had a positive side too- particularly for his home region and State.

"I am one of the handful of people in the

entertainment industry who think covid was singularly the best thing that happened to regional Qld because we are adventurous travellers that's what we do but not enough of us have a look around home before we compare it to other places," he said.

"At my stage in life and having been really fortunate and travelled extensively for my adult life, once you've done that you come back to Australia and you really recognise the quality of life that we have and the vast array of opportunities available to travel domestically..... (during Covid) people had to have a look around home they are suddenly discovering things."

One of those things is the Granite Belt.

"I got to Sydney in the 80s I watched the Southern Highlands, Berrima, Bowral blow up, they were just quaint little destinations in the mid 80s and within five years you couldn't get a bed there all year, it wasn't just weekends or summer or winter.

"And the granite belt region is doing the same. I feel quite privileged to watch it happen twice in a lifetime."

He said he was really enjoying people "finding" the region and discovering the joys of the area, that locals have

enjoyed all along.

"All the locals laugh, we love it, we don't want to leave here but locals (and I was born in the Stanthorpe Hospital) we love the fact that while we're bracing and making sure we have plenty of inside firewood, you'll see the weather report – Stanthorpe is minus six and people turn up in droves," he said.

"You go are you mad? Do you know what minus six actually feels like?

"But it's interesting, the Warwick region I think has been a sleeper for ages around Killarney and Yangan there's some gorgeous places there.

"And obviously as a primary producer the other thing I'm very favourable towards is paddock to plate and produce between the Southern Darling Downs and the Granite Belt, there's nothing better.

"We have some of the best vineyards in Australia now and the boutique market meat and livestock quality is second to none. I'm fortunate enough to be old enough now to know quality does count and it is it's own promotion and people are discovering the region and I get very proud of it."



Style and space

This Killarney dwelling features a spacious layout in a modern ranch style brick house.

It is air-conditioned and features a four-bedroom, two bathroom and open plan living layout. There is a large living/lounge area and a well-appointed kitchen with all the mod cons and electric appliances. The house has a laundry/utility room and has higher ceilings.

There are verandahs on four sides to capture the sun. While outside there is a two bay detached garage plus workshop a workshop and even a chook run, herb/kitchen garden, fire pit with seating and fruit trees on the 2,102m² block.

The property has rain water and town water and is also Wheelchair friendly if needed.

Fastidious buyers will appreciate the attributes on offer at this property.

Contact Helen Harm on 0408 457 496 for inspection. Go to www.helenharm.com for more photos

Features at a glance

- Air-con and ceiling fans
- Double door entry has foyer
- Four Bed, built ins
- Two Bathrooms
- Open plan living/dining
- Large family lounge living



- Well-appointed kitchen, mod cons, electric appliances
- Laundry/utility
- Higher ceilings

Outside

- Shed two cars plus workshop
- Fire pit with seating
- Chicken coop out the back
- Herb/kitchen gardens
- Fruit trees
- Rain water plus town water



Address: 26 Anemone Street, KILLARNEY Description: 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2+ car Price: \$650,000 Inspection: By appointment

Contact: Helen Harm 0408 457 496, HELEN HARM





A private castle

The old Butter Factory at Inglewood is full of history and now needs new owners. It is situated on 3,194 m² of land with leasehold title (application can be made to freehold). Agent Helen Harm says it has easy access to rail line which may suit astute investor with Inland Rail Project gaining momentum. Current owner is disposing of this Inglewood asset due to family commitments and is ready to talk. “The property would suit warehouse, tourism, museum or any number of uses, or just make it your own private castle,” Helen said. “The Butter factory was the original power station for Inglewood and Cooper Bessemer engine is still on site.” Contact Helen Harm on 0408 457 496 for inspection. Go to www.helenharm.com for more photos.



Address: 114 Queen Street, INGLEWOOD Price: \$159,000 Inspection: By appointment
Contact: Helen Harm 0408 457 496 Agent: HELEN HARM

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HENDON Half Acre

Investors opportunity!!

- 2023 m² (½ Acre) with rural views
- Power in Street
- 23K (20 mins) North of Warwick

Half Acre Lot

\$ 65,000



RIVERVIEW ESTATE

NEW subdivision off Junabbee Road with all amenities overlooking the Condamine River. Country lifestyle only minutes to Warwick CBD.

- 7 Lots LEFT - from 1157 m² to 1401 m²
 - Power available
 - Bitumen road access
 - Curb and channeling
 - Street lighting
- Price from \$180,000 to \$220,000

\$ 180,000



Ready to Build

MARYVALE is zoned township. No road work required to build your dream home on this lot! Less in rates - no town water or sewerage. Both neighbours' have their own bores.

- 1012 m² on all weather road
- Views are 360 degrees
- Road is to Council standard to build
- Power is next door in the street

\$ 150,000



On a Creek

GREYMARE – 2251 m² (.55 Acres)

- On the banks of Greymare Creek
- Level block, slopes gently to the creek
- Bitumen road frontage
- Ideal spot, privacy, relaxed country lifestyle
- Escape the hustle & bustle of city
- Live in picturesque Southern Down Region
- Direct access to main highway
- 20 Mins west of Warwick

\$ 150,000+

- BUSINESS OWNERS -

No rental vacancies?

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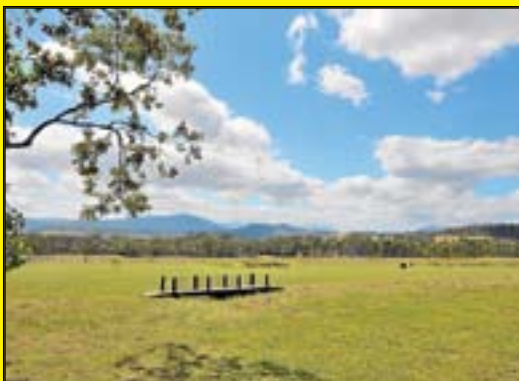
Solar Estate

Warwick Solar Estate is an innovative housing estate that takes living with renewable energy to a new level!

While the effects of every natural disaster cannot be totally provided for, one thing that can help in these situations is being independent of the electricity grid.

Solar panels alone will not meet household requirements if the grid goes down. 5 Lots left!

From \$150K



Panoramic Views

COTTAGE

- 2 Bed • 1 Bath • Air conditioning in living
- Kitchen has gas stove • Covered entertaining
- 10.5 KVA solar system

OUTSIDE

- 2.17 Ha • Bamboo sanctuary • 2 bay Shed
- Extra storage sheds • Rain water tanks
- Bore- windmill & electric pump (potable water)
- Hustler 60" ride-on mower • UHL 4x4 tractor

\$ 995,000

For Rent: 4661 3663

- 3 Brm, 2 bath, kitchen/dining, lounge, outdoor entertain, 2 car..... **\$ 480 p.w.**
- FURNISHED 3 Brm, 2 bath, kitchen/dining, lounge, outdoor entertain, 2 car **\$ 750 p.w.**
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Workin Wear WARWICK

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- Steady growth since 2008
- Easily run by Owner + 1 or 2
- \$ 199,000 + Stock

\$ 199,000+



40 Wood Street

- Business Office with reception & rest room, concrete storage yard.
- Zoning is "Mixed Use" which permits – Residential, Low Impact Industry, Commercial Office, Childcare
- Home – 4 Bed, 1 Bath, carport
- General Development Requirements please contact our office
- Land Size is 1897 m²

\$ 1,300,000



155 Palmerin Street

BUSINESS PREMISES

- 3 x 3 yr lease in place with long established business
- Main Street frontage
- Parking at the rear of building
- No asbestos
- Business renting is for sale
- Buy Premises and Business ????

\$ 400,000



2 Street Frontages

Great opportunity for a light industry venture, establish new business or upgrade to higher profile site near Black Toyota, Top Two Motorcycles, Beta Storage.

- Corner of Murphy Street & Ogilvie Road. Both are bitumen roads with 300m or more frontage.
- Power, water sewerage nearby.
- Zoning is Specialised Centre
- 2.6 Ha off Cunningham Highway.

\$ 2,210,000

www.helenharm.com

0408 457 496

Helen Harm
Licenced Principal





Potential to subdivide

Expressions of interest are being sought during the next two to three weeks for this property near the TAFE College in Warwick according to Agent Helen Harm.

“Off Dragon Street near the TAFE College on the corner of Flitcroft Street and Regency Drive, this is a great level building block,” Helen explained.

“This lot has three (3) street frontages. Strata title for a community estate of subdivide, lots of possibilities for an entrepreneur with vision for future development.

“This is a prestige residential lot which has nearby underground power, kerb and channeling, street lights, town water, sewerage, phone, nearby parkland and is next to the Regency Park Retirement Village.

“Level lots with minimal or no development costs are rare.

Features at a glance:

- Off Dragon Street near TAFE College, corner Flitcroft St and Regency Dr and is great level building block.
- Three street frontages.
- Strata title a community estate
- Subdivide



- Lots of possibilities for an entrepreneur with vision for future development.
 - Prestige residential lot - nearby underground power, kerb and channeling, street lights, town water, sewerage, phone, parkland
 - Next to Regency Park Retirement Village. Level lots with minimal or no development costs are rare.
- Contact Helen Harm on 0408 457 496 for inspection. Go to www.helenharm.com for more photos



Address: 2 Flitcroft Street, WARWICK Price: Expressions of Interest
Inspection: By appointment Contact: Helen Harm 0408 457 496 Agent: HELEN HARM

ESSENTIAL PLUS HOME LOAN

6.14% p.a.
Variable rate*

6.29% p.a.
Comparison rate**

<70%LVR ✓

Owner Occupied and Investment ✓

Principal & Interest or Interest Only ✓

Minimum Loan \$100,000 ✓



*Credit eligibility criteria, term and conditions, fees and charges apply. The discounted interest rate is 0.25% p.a. below the normal Essential Plus Standard Variable Rate, currently at 6.39% p.a. The discount commences on the 30/11/2023 and expires on the 31/05/2024. Warwick Credit Union Ltd reserves the right to amend or remove the promotion at any time.

**This comparison rate is based on a \$150,000 loan over 25 years with Principal & Interest payments. WARNING: This comparison rate is true only for the example given and may not include all fees and charges. Different terms, fees or other loan amounts might result in a different comparison rate.

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Larger yard for caravan, family, pets & hobbies.
 • Airconditioned living, ceiling fans in bedrooms
 • 4 Built-in Bedroom – king size master
 • Bath & separate shower • Separate Toilet
 • Separate laundry • Plenty of hall storage
 • Undercover entertaining
 • Double detached garage, 1193 m² fenced yard
 Elevated position -
 7 mins to CBD & 5 mins to Leslie Dam.

\$ 475,000+



Potential Subdivide

We are seeking EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
 Off Dragon Street near TAFE College, corner
 Flitcroft St & Regency Dr is level building block.
 • 3 Street frontages.
 • Strata title a community estate or subdivide
 • Lots of possibilities for an entrepreneur with
 vision for future development.
 • Prestige residential lot - underground power,
 kerb and channelling, street lights, town water,



Riverview Estate

NEW subdivision off Junabee Road with all
 amenities overlooking the Condamine River.
 Country lifestyle only minutes to Warwick CBD.
 • 7 Lots LEFT - from 1157 m² to 1401 m²
 • Power available
 • Bitumen road access
 • Curb and channelling
 • Street lighting
 Price from \$180,000 to \$220,000

\$ 220,000

- BUSINESS OWNERS -

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Style & Space

KILLARNEY - Spacious layout to modern,
 wheelchair friendly, 4 bed, 2 bath, open plan
 living, verandahs on 4 sides, 2 bay + workshop
 detached garage, chook run on 2,102m².
 • 4 Bed, built ins • Aircon & Ceiling fans
 • 2 Bathrooms • Open plan living/dining
 • Large family lounge living
 • Well-appointed kitchen, mod cons, electric
 appliances • Higher ceilings

\$ 650,000



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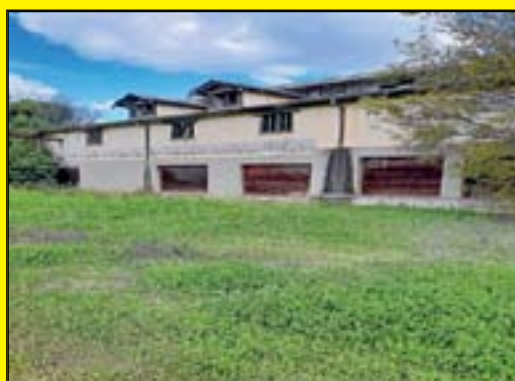
WARWICK -3 Bed, 1 bath, 2 car....\$ 500,000+

CONTACT HELEN ON 0408 457 496

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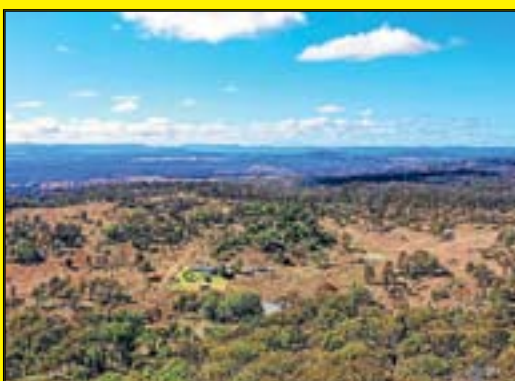
LIST YOUR PROPERTY WITH US NOW!!



Your Private Castle

Old Butter Factory full of history, now needs new
 owners.
 • 3,194 m² with leasehold title (application can
 be made to freehold).
 • Easy access to rail line may suit astute
 investor with Inland Rail Project
 • Current owner is disposing Inglewood asset
 due to family commitments and is ready to talk.
 • Suit warehouse, tourism, museum or???

\$ 159,000



Multi-Million Views

On QLD/NSW border, 20 mis to Warwick
 Training centre, retreat, glamping, paintball park
 • 3 Bed • 2 Bath • Fully furnished
 • Air conditioning in living
 • Kitchen dining with woodfire
 • Bar setup for entertaining
 • Deck overlooks dam & play area
 • 64.77 Ha • 3 bay Shed • 2 Dams
 • Solar + Mains Power • Rain Water Tanks

\$ 890,000

LAND

WARWICK : 3223 m², 3 street frontages, NEW development Expression of
 Interest
 WARWICK : 672 m² to 1114 m², Warwick Solar Estate, NEW development From ..\$ 150,000
 WARWICK : 1157 m² to 1401 m², Riverview Estate, NEW developmentFrom ...\$ 180,000
 WARWICK - 25930 m², High profile, 2 street frontage, Zoned specialised\$ 2,210,000
 HENDON - 2023 m², power 500m approx, rural fence... UNDER CONTRACT\$ 50,000
 MARYVALE - 1012 m², power in street, corner block, all weather road\$ 150,000
 GREYMARE - 2251 m², bitumen road, power on street, on Greymere Ck\$ 150,000

See www.helenharm.com for more listing

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