

25 Sep – 11 Oct 2026

Townsville, QLD

NORTH AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL OF ARTS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The North Australian Festival of Arts acknowledges the Wulgurukaba of Gurambilbarra and Yunbenun, Bindal, Gugu Badhun, and Nywaigi as the Traditional Owners of the land where our festival takes place. We honour their cultures, ancestors, and Elders – past, present, and future generations.

We recognise that First Nations people from this land and throughout Australia were the original dancers, poets, singers, musicians, and artists. We take pride in our role in supporting and showcasing their stories, history, and culture for everyone to witness, hear and celebrate.



RACHEL BURKE X NAFA 2026

The NAFA 2026 program cover is a creative collaboration with Queensland artist Rachel Burke. The striking jacket and glasses featured in the cover image were designed and handcrafted by Rachel, whose work beautifully embodies the spirit and artistry that lies at the heart of NAFA.

Rachel Burke is a Brisbane-based multidisciplinary artist working across wearable art, installation, performance, and craft. Her practice explores sentiment, memory, nostalgia, and emotional storytelling through labour-intensive, handmade works that blur the boundaries between art, fashion, and craft. Drawing on a lifelong love of collecting, transforming, and making, Rachel creates distinctive artworks that celebrate connection, wonder, and personal history.

Cover Image Photographer: Amber Haines



MESSAGE FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, KYLE PAGE

NAFA 2026 is an invitation to gather, to be here together at this extraordinary moment in time and place.

Our city is changing. Our Festival is changing with it. What emerges is a celebration of community, creativity and belonging. A gathering born of the north, shaped by the people who live here and the astonishing living world that surrounds us.

Across the Festival, spontaneous dancing and singing will collide with moments of reflection. Conversations will shift the way we understand one another and the fragile, magnificent ecosystems we are part of. This year, we're especially proud to present our first dedicated Reef Focus program in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, alongside powerful First Nations-led experiences including Yabu Gugay featuring Ngulmiya and Corroboree, which invite us to deepen our connection to Country, culture and community.

As always, local artists remain at the heart of NAFA, sharing the spotlight with some of the most adventurous creatives from across Australia and around the globe. Across 17 days, audiences can experience everything from intimate storytelling and visual art to large-scale celebrations of music, culture and connection, alongside a vibrant lineup of artists, musicians and storytellers from across the north.

Join us for sunrise gatherings on the beach, full moon drumming beneath the tropical sky, immersive experiences at Tobruk Pool, sunset sessions, and songmen singing up Country. Whether you're dancing at DRIFT, discovering the wonders of the reef, or finding yourself among hundreds of people creating something together, this is a festival designed not only to be witnessed, but to be experienced.

NAFA is a celebration of place like no other. Unapologetically North Queensland in spirit, it reflects the warmth, imagination and courage of the people who call this region home.

This year's program is our most ambitious, joyful and adventurous festival yet. We invite you to spread the word. Bring friends and family. Escape the cool southern winter and venture north for balmy tropical evenings filled with art, music, wonder and connection. From the first sunrise to the last sunset, this is where we gather.

With love,
Kyle X

MINISTERIAL MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2026 North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA) – activating Townsville’s live venues, galleries, streets, parks and public spaces with creativity, culture and community.

Across 17 days this spring, this distinctly northern celebration will feature theatre, music, dance, visual arts, cabaret, comedy, magic and more from hundreds of local and international performers.

Opening with the stirring sunrise concert Yabu Gugay, this year’s Festival showcases North Queensland artists alongside international acts, with performances from the Great Barrier Reef Orchestra and Townsville-based Dancenorth, a major exhibition from local artist Jill Chism, and a concert from Grammy-Award winning soul music icon Macy Gray.

The Festival also includes a number of all-ages events and activities for Queensland families, including Splash at the iconic Tobruk Pool and Australian artist Jessica Wilson’s playful exhibition I See You Like This.

The Crisafulli Government through Arts Queensland and Tourism and Events Queensland is proud to support NAFA, which has become a key event on the state’s cultural calendar contributing more than \$37 million to the North Queensland economy since 2019.

Delivering on our 10-year arts and culture strategy Queensland’s Time to Shine, the Festival enhances access to high quality arts experiences for regional communities and visitors, and platforms local arts and culture to wider audiences, with 60 per cent of this year’s program featuring local creatives and companies.

Backed by our 20-year tourism plan, Destination 2045, the Festival is driving the growth of cultural tourism in the north, supporting local businesses, hospitality providers and tourism operators.

We hope you enjoy this year’s Festival – immersed in creativity and culture, along the Coral Sea.



The Honourable John-Paul Langbroek

Minister for Education and the Arts



The Honourable Andrew Powell

Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation

MAYOR'S WELCOME

Welcome to the 2026 North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA).

From its ambitious early beginnings in 2019, under the banner of Townsville City Council, to its firmly established status as one of the North’s most important festivals today, NAFA continues to be the ultimate celebration of arts, culture and community.

NAFA brings thousands of visitors into our city, supporting local businesses and showcasing everything that makes North Queensland such a remarkable place to live, work and visit.

As a proud major funding partner of the Festival, Council recognises the important role NAFA plays in driving economic activity, creating jobs and strengthening Townsville’s reputation as the events capital of Northern Australia.

The Festival delivers benefits well beyond the arts, generating visitation, supporting local industry and creating opportunities for our community to come together and celebrate our city.

One of the things that makes NAFA unique is the way it showcases our spectacular natural environment. From The Strand and our waterfront precincts to parks, public spaces and iconic outdoor locations, the Festival transforms Townsville into a stage unlike anywhere else in Australia. These experiences shine a spotlight on our city’s relaxed lifestyle, natural beauty and unique character, helping attract visitors while fostering pride amongst those who call this region home.

NAFA also provides valuable opportunities for local artists and creatives, giving them a platform to share their work alongside leading artists from across the country and beyond.

I encourage everyone to explore the program, support local businesses, discover new experiences and enjoy the incredible places and spaces that make Townsville such a vibrant and flourishing city.

Congratulations to the North Australian Festival of Arts team, artists, volunteers, sponsors and supporters who have helped bring this year’s Festival to life.

Enjoy NAFA 2026.



Cr Nick Dametto

Mayor, Townsville City Council

CONTENTS

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS	6
TOWNSVILLE SHOPPING CENTRE – KIDS AND FAMILY PROGRAM	18
FESTIVAL HUB SHOWS	24
OTHER FESTIVAL VENUES	32
GALLERIES	40
REEF FOCUS	42
DAY TO DAY LISTINGS	44
SITE MAP	48
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	49
THANK YOU FROM NAFA	50

REEF FOCUS PROGRAMMING

This year, NAFA turns its gaze toward the Great Barrier Reef. Developed in partnership with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, leading reef scientists and Traditional Custodians, our Reef Focus program brings together ocean, science, art and First Nations knowledge in a celebration of one of the world's most extraordinary living systems. These are stories, conversations and experiences that could only happen here, on the edge of the Reef.

PROGRAM KEY

FREE FREE ACT

We believe the arts should be accessible to everyone. That's why NAFA offers a range of free events and experiences throughout the Festival, creating opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to connect, celebrate and be inspired. Please note that some free events may require registration.

AUSLAN INTERPRETED

We've partnered with Auslan Stage Left to ensure enjoyable and immersive access to theatre and the arts for the d/Deaf and hard of hearing community.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information at the time of publication. However, details are subject to change without notice.

18+ ADULT ONLY

15+ MATURE ACCOMPANIED

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE

G ALL AGES

P PREVIEW

O OPENING



**VIEW NAFA
ACCESSIBILITY
INFORMATION
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU**



DRIFT

Featuring Hermitude, Drifting Clouds, Ben Walsh and Mie Nakazawa

Forget everything you think a concert should be.

As the sun sets, Tobruk Pool transforms into a floating playground of music, art and pure tropical energy. Dive in and drift beneath the changing sky as a genre-bending soundtrack unfolds around you.

Featuring the unmistakable sounds of Hermitude, the soaring spectacle of Drifting Clouds and the infectious rhythms of Ben Walsh and Mie Nakazawa, DRIFT blends live performance, immersive art and poolside celebration into one unforgettable experience.

Expect shimmering lights, euphoric beats, and hundreds of people moving together in and around the water. Part pool party, part live music event and part dreamscape. DRIFT is unlike anything you've experienced before.

Come for the music. Stay for the magic.

Only at NAFA. Only in North Queensland. One extraordinary night.

Tobruk Memorial Baths

18+

Sat 3 Oct

4pm-9pm

\$44.65 - \$54.65

Music

Activities & Experiences



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU

INTERNATIONAL



LA RONDE

STRUT & FRET

The Spiegeltent headline show with an outstanding 42 x 5-star reviews and counting! The world's finest circus performers come together in La Ronde for an unforgettable up-close experience.

Step into the round and surrender to La Ronde – an award-winning, lavish cocktail of world-class circus, cabaret and comedy from the creators of Blanc de Blanc and LIMBO.

Glittering bodies spin overhead in the elevated, cheeky world of the Spiegeltent, where mind-blowing international performers and exceptional artistry collide in a dazzling crescendo of glamour and virtuosity.

All set inside the beautifully carved and mirrored Spiegeltent, where stained-glass windows, brocade-upholstered booths and intimate surrounds evoke the decadence of a bygone era.

La Ronde in the Spiegeltent is the night out you've been searching for.

★★★★★

“glitz, glamour and incredible displays of talent”

– The AU Review

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park

18+

Thu 24 Sep	Ⓟ 7pm-8:10pm
Fri 25 Sep	7pm-8:10pm
Sat 26 Sep	5pm-6:10pm
	Ⓞ 7pm-8:10pm
Sun 27 Sep	7pm-8:10pm
Wed 30 Sep - Fri 2 Oct	7pm-8:10pm
Sat 3 - Sun 4 Oct	5pm-6:10pm
	7pm-8:10pm
Wed 7 Oct	7pm-8:10pm
Thu 8 - Fri 9 Oct	8pm-9:10pm
Sat 10 - Sun 11 Oct	5pm-6:10pm
	7pm-8:10pm

\$63.65 - \$149.65

Circus Cabaret Comedy



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU



I SEE YOU LIKE THIS

JESSICA WILSON

A joyful exhibition inviting us to see parents through the eyes of their children. Created through her internationally acclaimed *I See You Like This* project, renowned Australian participatory artist Jessica Wilson works with children to capture their unique perspective as they transform a parent or significant adult into a playful work of art.

Presented throughout Townsville Shopping Centre, this vibrant exhibition celebrates imagination, family and the creative voice of children. Funny, surprising and deeply heartfelt, every portrait reveals not only an extraordinary artwork, but a moment of trust, connection and rebellion.

Wander through the collection and discover what happens when children become the artists, adults become the canvas, and everyday family connections are transformed into unforgettable works of art. Workshops available with Jessica – visit the NAFA website for more info.

Townsville Shopping Centre

G

Thur 24 Sep – Mon 19 Oct

FREE

Exhibition



MORE INFO
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU



SWAMPLESQUE

TRIGGER HAPPY PRODUCTIONS & CLUSTER ARTS

Far Far Away just got a whole lot naughtier.

The ogre-inspired burlesque spectacular that smashed box office records at Edinburgh Fringe is coming to NAFA, and nothing will ever be the same. Dazzling drag, cheeky burlesque, musical theatre, comedy and larger-than-life characters collide in a raucous, unapologetically silly adults-only night out.

Expect jaw-dropping performances, ridiculous costumes and a cast that absolutely revels in chaos. In 2024, *Swamplesque* became the highest-selling show at the entire Edinburgh Fringe Festival, then came back for more at Edinburgh Christmas. Now it's Townsville's turn.

Don't be green with envy. Grab your friends and get your tickets before they're gone.

'The funniest burlesque show you'll ever see.'

★★★★★ – Lilithia Reviews

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park

18+

Wed 30 Sep – Sun 4 Oct 8:45pm – 9:55pm

Wed 7 Oct 8:45pm–9:55pm

Fri 9 Oct 9:40pm – 10:50pm

Sat 10 Oct 3pm – 4:10pm

8:45pm – 9:55pm

Sun 11 Oct 8:45pm – 9:55pm

\$85.30 - \$95.30

Burlesque Drag Comedy



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU



DAVE HUGHES – COOKED

Token Events

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park



Thu 8 Oct
Fri 9 Oct

6:30pm – 7:30pm
6:30pm – 7:30pm

\$54.65 – \$66.30

Comedy

There is no one else that comes close to the phenomenon that is Dave Hughes. Behind that cooked looking facade is a mind that works like no other.

Dave has carved out a large place in the Australian cultural landscape for good reason. His take on the world around him is unique, ever changing, and not to be missed. His shows are events that live long in the memory.

Now more brutally honest than ever, not only is he Australia's best stand-up comedian, he is as good as it gets anywhere on the planet. Book today.

As seen on I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here and Taskmaster Australia.

"A master of his trade." ★★★★★ The Advertiser



INTERNATIONAL

MACY GRAY LIVE

David M. Hawkins and Tomos Griffiths

Townsville Civic Theatre



Fri 2 Oct

8pm – 9:20pm

\$79.20 – \$89.20

Music

Following her sold-out 2024 Australian tour, one of the greatest R&B and soul voices of her generation returns for her biggest ever run of shows across Australia and New Zealand. Over 25 million records sold, a Grammy Award and two BRIT Awards. Now she's coming to Townsville for one very special night to remind you why.

Expect I Try, Still, Do Something, Sweet Baby and so much more, plus her brand-new single I'm Too Sexy. This is not just a concert. This is a festival of soul.



INTERNATIONAL

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

THE SPACE COWBOY AND ZOE L'AMORE

Never before seen in North Queensland, this jaw-dropping spectacle pushes the boundaries of what's possible.

Round up your friends and prepare to be amazed as 56-time Guinness World Record holder The Space Cowboy presents his devilish cast of world-class freaks, daredevils and misfits. Featuring The Lizard Man (USA) alongside some of Australia's most celebrated sideshow performers — Zoe L'Amore, the Queen of Pain; Katrina Louise, the Flaming Hairealist; The Great Gordo Gamsby, the World's Strangest Strongman; and Ruby Rubber Legs, the Gorgeous Gore Goof.

Expect outrageous comedy, astonishing feats and dangerous acts that defy belief. Swords, sparks, flames, power tools and mind-bending stunts collide in a high-octane night of thrills, laughter and spectacle.

Shocking. Hilarious. Unforgettable. This is sideshow at its most extreme.

Deja Voodoo Tent, Strand Park

PG

Fri 25 Sep	5-5:40pm, 6:30-7:10pm 7:45pm-8:25pm
Sat 26 Sep	6:30-7:10pm, 7:30-8:10pm 8:30pm-9:10pm
Sun 27 Sep	3:30-4:10pm, 5-5:40pm 6:30pm-7:10pm
Wed 30 Sep	6-6:40pm, 7:30-8:10pm
Thu 1 Oct	6-6:40pm, 7:30-8:10pm
Fri 2 Oct	5:30-6:10pm, 6:45-7:25pm 8-8:40pm
Sat 3 Oct	5:30-6:10pm, 7-7:40pm 8:30-9:10pm
Sun 4 Oct	5:30-6:10pm, 7-7:40pm 8:30-9:10pm
Wed 7 Oct	6-6:40pm, 7:30-8:10pm
Thu 8 Oct	5:30-6:10pm, 7:45-8:25pm
Fri 9 Oct	5:30-6:10pm, 7-7:40pm 8:45-9:25pm
Sat 10 Oct	5:30-6:10pm, 7-7:40pm 8:30-9:10pm
Sun 11 Oct	4:30-5:10pm, 6-6:40pm 7:30-8:10pm

\$24.65 - \$29.65

Circus



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU



GRAPES OF MIRTH GOES TROPPO

Australia's favourite touring comedy festival returns to Townsville this October with six award-winning comedians, paired with wine, gourmet food and tunes on the lush lawns of The Ville Resort-Casino.

Grapes of Mirth 'Goes Troppo' is back!

Following last year's sell-out success, Grapes of Mirth returns for another deliciously chaotic day of comedy, wine and good times. And, one thing's for certain, tickets won't last long.

2026 Comedy Lineup: Sammy J, Nath Valvo, Chopper, Nikki Britton, Lizzy Hoo, Merrick Watts and DJ Pedro Moshman

The Ville Resort-Casino

18+

Sun 4 Oct

1:30pm – 7:30pm

\$91.30 – \$157.40

Comedy



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

Based in Tokyo, Canadian artist Juniper Wang has built a practice that moves fluidly between tattooing, painting and illustration. Drawing from the meticulous traditions of Chinese gongbi painting and the quiet elegance of Japanese sumi-e, she brings aesthetic wisdom into the living art of contemporary tattooing. Birds, flowers, insects and wildlife rendered in delicate linework and layered detail, each design shaped by a deep reverence for the natural world and the symbolic stories it carries.

Juniper is the creator of Neo-Sumi, an artistic philosophy she coined to describe the evolution of traditional Asian aesthetics through contemporary form. Not imitation, but inheritance. Grace, harmony, nuance and a profound attunement to nature, expressed through modern subjects and practice.

This is a rare opportunity to receive a unique tattoo from one of the world's most quietly extraordinary practitioners. Spaces are strictly limited.

Ritual Ink Tattoo Caravan,
Strand Park

18+

Fri 25 Sep	12pm-4pm, 5pm-9pm
Sat 26 Sep	12pm-4pm, 5pm-9pm
Sun 27 Sep	12pm-9pm
Wed 30 Sep	12pm-9pm
Thu 1 Oct	12pm-9pm
Fri 2 Oct	12pm-4pm, 5pm-9pm
Sat 3 Oct	12pm-4pm, 5pm-9pm
Wed 7 Oct	1pm-5pm, 6pm-10pm
Thu 8 Oct	1pm-5pm, 6pm-10pm
Fri 9 Oct	1pm-9pm
Sat 10 Oct	1pm-9pm
Sun 11 Oct	1pm-9pm

\$807.40 - \$1507.40

Activities & Experiences



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU



Photo: Pippa Samoya

YABU GUGAY

Feat. Ngulmiya Nundhirribala & Nayurryurr Nundhirribala

WULGURUKABA WALKABOUTS

As dawn breaks across the Coral Sea, Yabu Gugay returns to open NAFA with a powerful gathering of song, story and spirit.

This year, we are honoured to welcome acclaimed Numburindi songmen Ngulmiya Nundhirribala and Nayurryurr Nundhirribala from Arnhem Land, who join Wulgurukaba Traditional Custodians and local artists in a celebration of Country, culture and connection.

Carrying songs that have travelled through countless generations, Ngulmiya and Nayurryurr share ancient knowledge, memory and belonging through voices that resonate far beyond the moment. Set against the rising sun, their songs create a rare meeting of northern cultures, connecting saltwater peoples across waterways, lands, languages and time.

Yabu Gugay, presented in partnership with Dancenorth Australia, is an invitation to gather, listen deeply, and honour the stories carried by Country.

Grounded in Wulgurukaba wisdom and guided by the enduring strength of First Nations culture, we come together at first light as the sun rises, voices carry across the water, and NAFA begins.

Strand Park Beach

G

Sat 26 Sep

5:45am – 6:45am

FREE

Activities & Experiences

Dance

Music



MORE INFO
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU

LOCAL



Photo: Linda Bone

CORROBOREE

BIG EYE THEATRE

Featuring performers from across North Queensland, Corroboree is a powerful celebration of First Nations culture, bringing together dancers, musicians and cultural practitioners in a spectacular gathering of culture, community and connection.

Experience a vibrant program of traditional and contemporary performances alongside storytelling, hands-on workshops, cultural demonstrations, traditional foods and artisan crafts with the Blak Arts Markets. Alive with music, movement and shared experience, Corroboree offers a unique opportunity to learn, celebrate and connect with the richness and diversity of the world's oldest living cultures.

Joyful, welcoming and unforgettable, Corroboree is a celebration for all ages and one of the cultural highlights of NAFA.

Additional workshops available. Registrations essential – visit the NAFA website for dates and times.

Strand Park Beach

G

Sun 27 Sep

5pm – 7:30pm

FREE

Dance Music Activities & Experiences



MORE INFO
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU

What's On TOWNSVILLE



THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN TOWNSVILLE



EVENTS



FESTIVALS



CONCERTS



MARKETS



SPORTS



EXHIBITIONS



WORKSHOPS



KIDS ACTIVITIES

SCAN TO EXPLORE LOCAL EVENTS
AND LIST YOUR EVENT FOR FREE!



What's On Townsville



Circus Trick Tease
North Australian Festival of Arts 2023

North Queensland's #1 precinct for
dining, events and entertainment

The Ville

ARDO



The Show
Goes On

At The Ville & Ardo
NAFA After Party HQ

@thevilletsv

@ardo_hotel

Terms and conditions apply. Visit the-ville.com.au for details.
Drink responsibly. Play safe - know your limits.

Townsville Shopping Centre KIDS & FAMILY PROGRAM



KIDS SPIEGEL WORLD

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park

G

Fri 25 Sep 9am - 9:45am, 10:00am - 10:45am,
11am - 11:45am, 12pm - 12:45pm
Sat 26 Sep 11:30am - 12:15pm, 12:30 - 1:15pm
1:30pm - 2:15pm, ~~6g~~ 2:30pm - 3:15pm

\$39.65

Activities & Experiences

Bluey & Bingo. Circus. Dance Party.

Kids Spiegel World, is where imagination comes to life! Step inside the Aurora Spiegeltent for a colourful world of family fun. See Bluey and her little sister Bingo during their Live Interactive Experience. Catch this adorable duo, with a side of circus and mini dance party.



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU



Presented by



Queensland
Country Bank

SPLASH

Tobruk Memorial Baths

G

Sun 4 Oct 8:30am-12:30pm

\$34.65 - \$39.65

Music, Activities & Experiences

Make a splash at NAFA's most joyful family event!

Featuring the infectious sounds of Hermitude, Drifting Clouds and the playful rhythms of Ben Walsh and Mie Nakazawa, *SPLASH* transforms the Tobruk Pool into a vibrant wonderland of music, art, movement and imagination.

Dive into a morning packed with interactive performances, hands-on activities and plenty of surprises. Swim, play, dance and drift as music fills the air and the pool comes alive with colour, creativity and fun.

Designed for children and their grown-ups to experience together, *SPLASH* is a celebration of connection, curiosity and carefree fun in the water.

Bring your swimmers, gather the family and prepare for an unforgettable pool party unlike anything else in North Queensland.



BLAST LAB

MR & MRS DANGER MAGNUS

Science explodes off the stage in *BLAST LAB* – a high-energy live science spectacular where experiments erupt, curiosity runs wild and audiences become part of the action.

Led by the wildly unpredictable MAGNUS DANGER MAGNUS, *BLAST LAB* transforms the stage into a chaotic laboratory packed with outrageous reactions, surprising experiments and laugh-out-loud moments designed to captivate curious minds of all ages.

Audiences may already recognise Magnus from his sold-out 2024 performances of *Kaboom!*, where he quickly became a crowd favourite with families thanks to his infectious energy, explosive demonstrations and ability to turn science into unforgettable entertainment.

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park

6

Wed 30 Sep	6g 2pm-3pm
Thu 1 Oct	10:30am-11:30am
Fri 2 Oct	10:30am-11:30am
Sat 3 Oct	2:00pm-3:00pm
Sun 4 Oct	2:00pm-3:00pm

\$34.65

Activities & Experiences, Science



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU

BLAST LAB: SECRET SCIENCE

MR & MRS DANGER MAGNUS

You've seen the explosions. You've witnessed the chaos and you want more. Now get involved!

BLAST LAB: SECRET SCIENCE is a special VIP workshop held after the show. With a maximum attendance of 25 participants, junior scientists get extra one-on-one time with Magnus and Brooke in this smaller group experience. To participate in hands-on experiments, ask questions, and explore the science behind some of the show's biggest moments.

Expect exclusive demonstrations, take-home science creations, surprising challenges, and plenty of opportunities to get your hands dirty in the name of discovery.

If you're coming to see *BLAST LAB* and you want to fill your day with even more thrilling lab shenanigans, *SECRET SCIENCE* is your chance to take a step inside the laboratory and become master of your own experiments.

Deja Voodoo Tent, Strand Park

5+

Wed 30 Sep	3:45pm-4:45pm
Thu 1 Oct	12:15pm-1:15pm
Fri 2 Oct	12:15pm-1:15pm
Sat 3 Oct	3:45pm-4:45pm
Sun 4 Oct	3:45pm-4:45pm

\$54.65

Activities & Experiences, Workshop



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU

LOCAL

Photo: Linda Bone



SILENT DISCO

Global Dance Collective

Festival Hub, Strand Park

G

Fri 25 Sep – Sun 11 Oct

Various Times

\$19.65 – \$29.65

Activities & Experiences

Step into a world where the footpath becomes your stage and the sky your spotlight! With wireless headphones and a secret soundtrack, you'll strut, spin, and shimmy along The Strand in a magical moving dance party. Join surprise flash mobs, belt out your favourite tunes, and let your imagination (and feet) run wild. It's part disco, part adventure, all joy. Just bring your dancing shoes. Choose from a range of themed sessions – visit the NAFA website to find your perfect soundtrack.

Photo: Matt Byrne



SEA OF LIGHT

Patch Theatre and Queensland Museum Tropics

Queensland Museum Tropics

G

Sat 26 Sep – Sat 3 Oct

Various Times

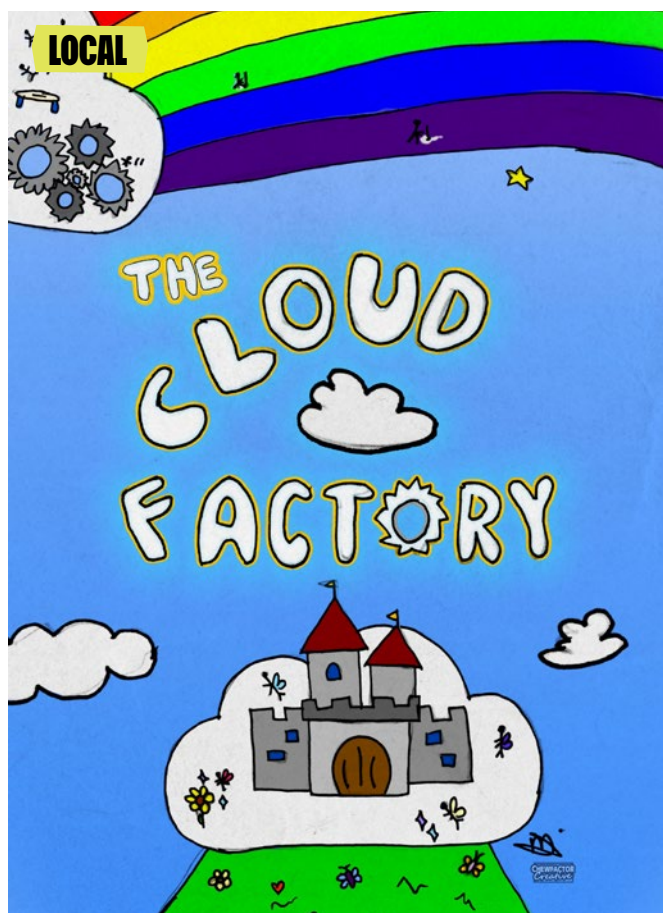
\$29.65

Activities & Experiences

Embark on a journey of light and imagination and dive into *Sea of Light*. Using a UV torch as their paintbrush, participants create their own voyage across the sea floor, painting glowing trails and steering ships that leave shimmering paths in their wake.

Throughout the installation, artworks by contemporary Aboriginal visual artist Elizabeth Close appear in light across the floor. These works speak to connections between land, sea, the earth and waterways and reflect the diversity of the Australian landscape.

With a gentle soundscape by composer Rob Edwards, *Sea of Light* offers a calm and creative experience for the whole family.



THE CLOUD FACTORY

Props Youth Theatre

William Ross State High School Performing Arts Centre

G

Wed 23 Sep	10am-12pm
Thu 24 Sep	10am-12pm
Fri 25 Sep	10am-12pm, 7pm-8pm
Sat 26 Sep	10am-12pm, 7pm-8pm

\$24.65 - \$29.65

Theatre

Deep in a magical laboratory gifted by Mother Nature, children are the cloud makers, the weather wranglers, the keepers of the sky. But when the greedy Boots in Suits come knocking, it will take every young inventor in the factory to unite humans and nature and save their world.

A brand-new theatrical adventure from Props Youth Theatre, *The Cloud Factory* bursts with original songs, live potion-making, masks and joyful, unstoppable young performers. Bold, bright, and brimming with heart, this is the kind of show that sparks imaginations and sends little ones home ready to change the world.

Suitable for all ages. Interactive and unmissable.



SCHOOL ROCKS

CircUP Arts

Emmaus Hall, Ryan Catholic College

G

Thu 1 Oct	6pm-6:32pm
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\$19.65 - \$24.65

Circus

This is not the school day you remember but *School Rocks* is the one you wished for. Classrooms become playgrounds as Townsville's own young artists tumble, juggle, soar and stumble their way through the school day. Acrobatics, dance and physical theatre collide as friendships are made and tested, lessons are learned the hard way, and ordinary moments explode into extraordinary feats of movement and imagination. No scripts. No lectures. Just pure physical storytelling; joyful, bold and made for everyone. A celebration of belonging, resilience, and the magic of growing up. Suitable for all ages and abilities.



TEENY TINY STEVIES BRAIN FART REGIONAL TOUR

DoubleU Artists

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park

G

Sat 26 Sep

10am-11am

\$37.65

Music

Adult friendly kids music played live on stage by real musicians? We got you!

The ABC Kids TV favourites and ARIA winners will entertain the whole family with the most wholesome live gig there is.

Funny stuff for parents, heaps of engagement for kids, the old feel young, the young feel like grown-ups and everyone meets in the middle for a rocking good time.

Get ready for core memories galore.



MARIO THE MAKER MAGICIAN

Nicholas Clark Management

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park

G

Fri 9 Oct

6g 5pm-6pm

Sat 10 Oct

10am-11am, 1pm-2pm

Sun 11 Oct

10am-11am, 12:30pm-1:30pm

\$39.65

Magic

New York's Mario Marchese arrives with credentials as dazzling as his tricks. He's toured the USA, Australia and the UK, appeared on Jimmy Fallon, Sesame Street and Universal Kids, and performed live with David Blaine—who calls him “the best kids’ magician in the world!!” His show is part magic spectacular, part DIY robotics demo and part love letter to science.

Expect stolen shoes, astonishing close-up sleight of hand, and Tim Burton-meets-Heath Robinson robots that dismantle themselves behind his back. Chaotic, irresistible and impossible to look away from, this beautifully crafted all-ages experience has captivated audiences worldwide.

TSV Minis

Free

KIDS CLUB



Join the Club!

Stay in the loop for **free TSV Minis fun** – cheeky events, giveaways, pop-up surprises and much more !

SCAN TO JOIN



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SHOPPING CENTRE

Live Easy, Love Townsville

NAFA Festival Hub Bar by HeyDays

For opening hours -
visit www.nafa-tsv.com.au



JAMIE MACDOWELL

Festival Hub, Strand Park



Fri 2 Oct
Sat 3 Oct - Sun 4 Oct

5pm-8pm
4:30pm-7:30pm

FREE

Music

The drums kick in. Then the bass. Then the keys, the guitar, the vocals. By the time you look up, you're convinced there's a full band on stage. There isn't. There's just Jamie MacDowell. Building entire sets live from scratch, he loops drums, bass, piano, guitar and vocals into something that genuinely shouldn't be possible for one person. Rooted in the groove and swagger of Lauryn Hill, The Roots, Citizen Cope and Childish Gambino, it is as much spectacle as it is concert. A songwriter and storyteller who has sold out Edinburgh Fringe, Glastonbury, Adelaide Fringe, London Southbank and venues across Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia, MacDowell pulls every room into the same moment. No set list. No two nights the same.



Photo: Pippa Samaya

FJ SMITH

Festival Hub, Strand Park



Sat 26 Sep
Fri 9 Oct - Sat 10 Oct
Sun 11 Oct

5pm-8pm
6pm-9pm
5pm-8pm

FREE

Music

Part confessional songwriter, part comedic provocateur, Townsville's FJ Smith (Felix Sampson) is stepping out on his own and bringing everything he's got. Blending heartfelt songwriting with sharp satirical humour, Sampson draws on a restless mix of influences — Jeff Buckley, Flight of the Conchords, Neli Frances, Marvin Gaye — to create something hard to categorise. Expect honest poetry, comedic left turns, and the kind of set that gets better the more it surprises you, as the sun goes down over Gurambilbarra. One of Townsville's most hardworking musicians, Felix fronts indie-pop duo Comfort Royale and indie-electronic project Good Grief, whose debut EP *Been Here Before* landed in 2024.



NGULMIYA FEAT.

PAU FIGUERES

Celebrated Yolŋu songman Ngulmiya Nundhirribala and acclaimed Catalan guitarist Pau Figueres have found something rare in each other: a shared reverence for culture, a deep curiosity and a willingness to truly listen. Born from friendship, Catalunya weaves ancient Numburindi songlines with contemporary flamenco and Mediterranean influences into a sound that is both deeply rooted and strikingly original. Ngulmiya's voice carries the stories, language and cultural knowledge of his ancestors. Figueres' virtuosic guitar builds a rich and evocative landscape around every song. Together they create something that transcends geography, language and tradition. A powerful reminder that music remains one of humanity's oldest and most universal languages.

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park



Sun 27 Sep

2pm-3pm

\$29.65 - \$39.65

Music

MobTix available.



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU

LOCAL



Photo: T J Garvie

DEADLY FUNNY WORKSHOP

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

Australia's premier First Nations comedy competition rolls into Townsville looking for the funniest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander storytellers in the country. Stand-up, musical, sketch, physical, character-based, or just a genuinely great yarn, all you need is five minutes of material and the nerve to deliver it. Open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 18 and over, every competitor gets a two-hour workshop with a seasoned professional comedian before hitting the stage. Win on the night and you could be headed to the Melbourne International Comedy Festival National Grand Final, with a \$3,000 prize on the line. Register via the QR code below.

Deja Voodoo Tent, Strand Park

18+

Sat 26 Sep

2:30pm-4:30pm

FREE

Workshop



REGISTER NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU

DEADLY FUNNY SHOWCASE

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

Hosted by Jalen Sutcliffe and Kylan Ambrum

For two decades, Deadly Funny has unearthed the freshest, fiercest, funniest comedians and yarn-spinners from the oldest culture on earth. Melbourne International Comedy Festival's national First Nations comedy competition has launched the careers of some of Australia's most beloved performers, including Steph Tisdell, Kevin Kropinyeri, Elaine Crombie, and Sean Choolburra. Now it comes to Townsville, bringing a new generation of emerging voices ready to make their mark. Be there for the laughs, stay for the storytelling.

Deja Voodoo Tent, Strand Park

15+

Sat 26 Sep

6g 5pm-6pm

\$14.65 - \$24.65

MobTix available.

Stand-Up Comedy



BOOK NOW
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU



THE RHYTHM GATHERING

Alex Salvador – The Rhythm Connection

Strand Park Beach

G

Fri 25 Sep

5:30pm–6:30pm

FREE

Activities & Experiences

Led by acclaimed facilitator Alex Salvador, The Rhythm Gathering invites hundreds of community members to create an unforgettable celebration of rhythm and connection.

Bring a drum, shaker, bucket, cowbell or simply clap along—no musical experience required. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend one of two free workshops prior to the event to learn the rhythms and prepare for this uplifting community music experience.

For more information on the rehearsal workshops - please check the NAFA website for more details.



INDIAN CLASSICAL AND SEMICLASSICAL DANCE

Geetha's Natyalaya

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park

G

Fri 2 Oct

5pm–6pm

FREE

Dance

Forty performers. Two thousand years of tradition. One extraordinary night. Townsville's own Geetha's Natyalaya returns to NAFA with a stunning showcase of Bharatanatyam, one of India's oldest and most revered classical dance forms. Intricate footwork, graceful hand gestures and vivid expressive movement come alive through vibrant traditional costumes, jewellery, and live music in a performance rich in storytelling, culture and breathtaking precision. A feast for the senses and a celebration of one of the world's most enduring living art forms.



ST PADDY'S DAY IN THE PARK

33 1/3

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park



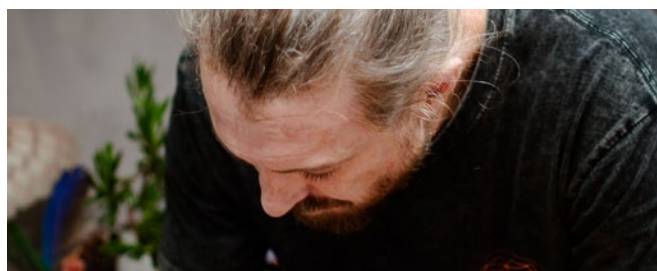
Sun 11 Oct

3:30pm-4:30pm

\$9.65 - \$19.65

Music

What's the craic, Townsville? 33 1/3 are throwing a St Patrick's Day session and everyone is invited. Expect rousing singalongs, lively tunes and fabulous dancers taking you on a musical journey with a very strong Irish flavour. Download the digital songbook on your phone or tablet and join in. Seasoned chorister or first-time singer, long-time local or new to town, this is a family-friendly hour of pure feel-good fun. Wearing green is optional. We both know you're going to wear green.



TATTOOS BY STU STONE

Ritual Ink Tattoo Studio

Ritual Ink Tattoo Caravan, Strand Park



Wed 7 Oct - Sun 11 Oct

8am - 12pm

Various pricing

Activities & Experiences

Sunshine Coast-based handpoke tattoo artist Stuart Stone brings a ceremonial, deeply intuitive approach to his craft. Working machine-free and with a profound respect for personal storytelling, he creates one-of-a-kind tattoos that honour transformation, healing, and self-expression. Every piece is shaped by the person wearing it. Spaces are strictly limited. Join the waitlist at nafa-tsv.com.au.



ONE WORLD, MANY SOUNDS

Townsville Brass Band

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park



Sun 27 Sep

5pm - 6pm

\$24.65 - \$29.65

Music

Brass has always travelled. It has marched through history, drifted across oceans and found its way into the musical traditions of cultures across the globe. Townsville Brass Band celebrates that journey. Featuring music inspired by diverse cultures from around the world, One World, Many Sounds showcases the remarkable versatility and power of brass to cross borders, spark curiosity and pull people together. From stirring melodies to joyful rhythms, this is a concert that reminds you music has no passport.



INNER COMPASS

North Australian Festival of Arts

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park



Sun 27 Sep

10:30am-12pm

\$29.65 - \$34.65

Panel Talk

How do we find our way when the map and compass disappear? Join Professor Judith McLean and Townsville barrister Merissa Martinez, Co-Chairs of NAFA, for a heartfelt conversation on our inner compasses and the role creativity plays in living meaningful lives. Extraordinary women will share intimate, inspiring stories of joy, loss, courage, hope and renewal, reflecting on how creativity helps us make sense of the world and can act as a lighthouse for those who feel lost at sea. In a time when many are searching for connection and purpose, this promises to be a morning of wisdom, warmth and possibility. Sometimes the stories we share illuminate the paths ahead.



SAHN MARKETS

Townsville's Preloved Fashion Market

Festival Hub, Strand Park

G

Fri 2 Oct

5:30pm-9pm

FREE

Activities & Experiences

Townsville's favourite preloved fashion market is back at The Strand, and it's bringing friends. Browse racks of preloved, vintage, and designer fashion, accessories, jewellery, and art, grab a bite from local food trucks, and soak up the festival atmosphere under the stars. Good tunes, market vibes, and the beautiful Strand as your backdrop. It's the perfect Friday night out.



RENEGADE HANDMADE MARKET

Festival Hub, Strand Park

G

Sat 10 Oct

9am-2pm

FREE

Activities & Experiences

Townsville's beloved Renegade Handmade Market returns to the Festival Hub for another gorgeous morning at The Strand. Browse a curated collection of the region's most creative makers, from art and craft to jewellery, fashion, gifts and homewares, soak up the festival atmosphere, and support the local talent that makes this city shine.

NOTHING GROWS ALONE



Atlas Soils




Join Atlas Soils, Boody and NAFA as we turn what a city throws away into microbe-rich living soil that helps new life grow.

Visit the **Nothing Grows Alone** stand at the Festival Hub for The Great Undie Swap - swap your clean old undies, socks or Boody pieces for a **FREE** fresh pair of undies and discover their journey into living soil.

For more information, please visit the NAFA website.





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BREAKFAST SHOW



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JESS & ROHAN

FOR BREAKFAST



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OTHER FESTIVAL VENUES



KATE CEBERANO AUSTRALIAN MADE TOUR

Premier Artists and The Warehouse

The Warehouse Townsville

18+

Sat 26 Sep

7:30pm-11pm

\$65.80

Music

Kate Ceberano returns for encore performances across the nation after last year’s sell-out tour and hit live album. She leads audiences on a thrilling journey through Australian music, mixing her own platinum hits with reimagined Oz classics.

The epic setlist includes tracks from I’m Talking, The Divinyls, Temper Trap, LRB, Skyhooks, INXS, Richard Clapton, Jimmy Barnes, Sia, Icehouse, Renée Geyer, Paul Kelly and more.

Special guests include the prodigiously talented Kathleen Halloran and electrifying multi-instrumentalist Dusty Lee.

“One of the best shows you will see this or any year.” — ROCKPIT



STORIES

Great Barrier Reef Orchestra

Townsville Civic Theatre

G

Sun 11 Oct

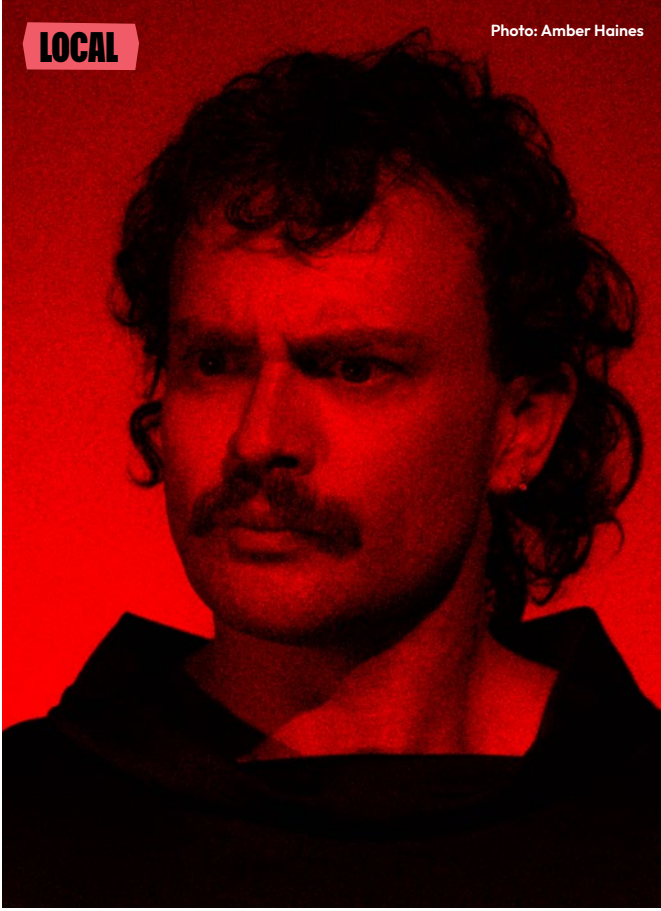
5:30pm-7:30pm

\$15 - \$55

Music

Stories is a special concert by the Great Barrier Reef Orchestra and friends from 1 RAR Band, featuring acclaimed singer-songwriter Graeme Connors. Celebrating the powerful connection between music and storytelling, this unique performance explores the sounds, characters and landscapes that shape life in the tropics.

Drawing on a curated selection of symphonic classics and a selection of Connors’ most beloved songs, the orchestra brings rich new dimensions to stories that have become part of North Queensland’s cultural fabric. Blending the grandeur of orchestral music with the authenticity and artistry of one of Australia’s finest songwriters, Stories offers a moving and memorable musical journey. This is a one-of-a-kind concert experience not to be missed.



SLEEPLESS ONES

Dancenorth Australia

Dancenorth Australia	8+
Thu 1 Oct - Fri 2 Oct	7pm-8pm
Sat 3 Oct	7pm-8pm, 9pm-10pm
\$30 - \$40	Dance

Bodies drift through detailed worlds where beauty emerges from unrest. Inspired by the emotional intensity of Renaissance imagery, Sleepless Ones inhabits invented realms charged with light; cloaked in shadow; and alive with quiet chaos. History and myth are reimagined as restless souls find themselves haunted by their own potential, suspended between who they are and who they long to be. Epic themes. Intricate detail. Absurdity that echoes current times. Award-winning artists Michelle Heaven and Ben Cobham deliver a cinematic-like dance experience with Townsville’s celebrated Dancenorth Ensemble.



100 KEYBOARDS

ASUNA

Dancenorth Australia	8+
Sat 10 Oct	1pm-2:25pm
\$24.65 - \$29.65	Music

More than 100 toy keyboards. One extraordinary, shimmering wall of sound. Each keyboard plays a sustained note at a pitch defined by the performance space, and because no two cheap instruments are perfectly in tune, the result is something unexpectedly beautiful. Complex resonances, interference patterns and shifting sonic textures ripple through the air as the sounds collide and interact. Move through the space and the music changes around you, different pitches, different harmonies, a different experience depending on where you stand. Immersive, hypnotic, and unlike anything you have heard before. Come and lose yourself in it.



NIMBUS

Helipad Studio

HeyDays Cafe	PG
Sat 10 Oct	2pm-midnight
\$56.30 - \$66.30	Music

A fertile spot in a desert, where water is found. You are free to be exactly who you are. No earthly tethers. Just permission to be unleashed, to let go, to fall into the abyss together and be caught by the pillow of a cloud. NIMBUS returns for its fourth annual instalment, enveloping Heydays Cafe in colour and noise, taking the venue from cafe to bizarre-art-house-party. Ten hours of left-field music, immersive art installations and obscure performance art. Calm into chaos, as only NIMBUS can. Landing on the final weekend of the Festival, this is the after-party for our beloved NAFA season. Leave reality for a little while and join us in the oasis. Parental guidance recommended.

LOCAL

Photo: Sonia Warrell (Hello Muse)



TRUE NORTH

Amberley Robinson

Townsville Choral Society Hall

G

Thu 1 Oct – Fri 2 Oct

7pm–7:50pm

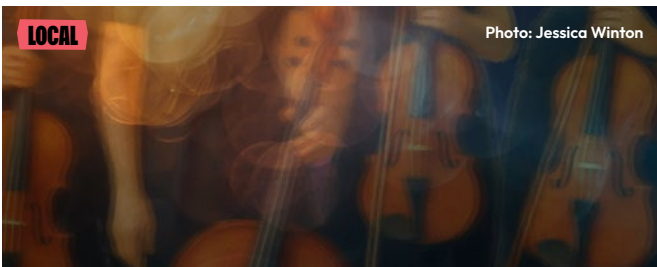
\$14.65 – \$24.65

Music

True North is a live music experience inspired by the people, places and stories of life in North Queensland. Through original songs, personal storytelling and collaborative performances, Amberley and her guests reflect on life in Gurambilbarra/Townsville and the communities that shape it. The performance celebrates connection, belonging and the unique character of the region with the help of local voices and their experiences. Reflective and uplifting, True North invites audiences to see the familiar places of Townsville through fresh eyes and discover the stories that connect us.

LOCAL

Photo: Jessica Winton



UNPLUGGED AND RESTRUNG

Melaleuca Strings

The Manhattan, Flinders Lane

G

Tue 6 Oct

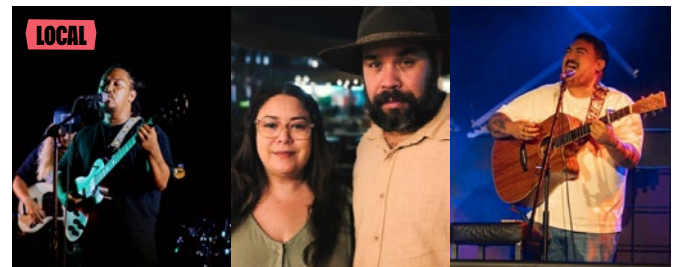
3pm–4pm, 7pm–8pm

\$32.65 – \$61.30

Music

Melaleuca Strings is a Townsville-based ensemble of professionally trained musicians with over 30 years' experience performing at weddings, events and special occasions across North Queensland. In this intimate chamber music concert, the ensemble steps into the spotlight with a vibrant program of contemporary pop favourites arranged for strings.

Showcasing their versatility and artistry, this performance is a rare chance to experience Melaleuca Strings beyond the event stage, blending the sophistication of chamber music with the familiarity of popular songs.

LOCAL

A SONGWRITING SHOWCASE

The Lanes

Riverside Gardens Community Centre

G

Songwriting Workshop: Sat 3 Oct

3pm–4:30pm

Community Concert: Sat 3 Oct

6:30pm – 8:30pm

FREE

Music

Four of Townsville's own gather at Riverside Gardens for a free evening celebrating original music, storytelling, and the art of the song. The night begins with a 90-minute interactive songwriting workshop open to all, offering practical creative skills and space for collaboration. The evening concert follows with Sarah Lane, Joshua Lane, Rudy Matoy and Jimmy James performing original songs drawn from personal experience, community, culture and place. Inclusive, welcoming and rooted in the stories of this region. Workshop registrations essential: nafa-tsv.com.au.

INTERNATIONAL



CARCASS (UK)

Putrefying Down Under

Soundworks Direct and The Warehouse

The Warehouse Townsville

18+

Wed 30 Sep

7pm-10pm

\$89.25

Music

Ferocious and uncompromising in their execution, CARCASS's ability to intricately dissect the innards of death metal and display them for us to sonically understand has been their point of excellence for nearly four decades. Whether it was inventing gore-grind or creating the template for melodic death metal, Carcass has always made records by which bars were set and rules were broken.



ESKIMO JOE + 28 DAYS

Wasteland and The Warehouse

The Warehouse Townsville

18+

Fri 9 Oct

6pm-til late

From \$80

Music

Two iconic Australian albums. One unforgettable night. The ultimate double-header!

Join Eskimo Joe as they celebrate 20 years of their landmark album 'Black Fingernails, Red Wine', the record that propelled them to national acclaim with its unforgettable hooks, soaring melodies and era-defining anthems.

Sharing the stage are 28 Days, marking the 30 years of their breakthrough album 'Upstyledown' - a genre-bending release that became a cornerstone of Australian punk and alternative music.

Experience two celebrated bands performing songs from these classic albums alongside fan favourites from across their careers.

A rare double-header event honouring two records that helped shape a generation of Australian music.

LOCAL



JALEN SUTCLIFFE - YARNIN UP

Otherwise Bar

18+

Fri 9 Oct

8pm-9pm

\$24.65 - \$29.65

Comedy

Jalen Sutcliffe returns to Townsville for a long awaited homecoming show, celebrating the community that raised him. A proud Darumbal, Kalkadoon, and Papua New Guinean performer, Jalen has spent years honing his craft across Australia, excelling in comedy, acting, and music. Now, he's back for one night only with a loud, lovable, and unfiltered stand up set that leaves no stone unturned. NAFA audiences will witness one of the region's most exciting performing arts talents on the rise. Through humour, culture, and connection, Jalen brings people from all walks of life together for a night of big laughs and shared community pride.

LOCAL



MIND YOUR BIZNESS

Freaky Bizness album launch with special guests Tropical Low and Otto

Otherwise Bar

18+

Sat 10 Oct

6pm-10pm

\$19.65 - \$29.65

Music

Townsville favourites Freaky Bizness launch their debut album, *Just Around the Corner*, with a high-energy night of groove, brass and feel-good vibes. After nearly 15 years lighting up stages across North Queensland, the horn-powered collective returns with a fresh collection of original songs.

Joining them are Magnetic Island indie-rock trio Tropical Low, serving up garage-rock grit and infectious hooks, while local rapper Otto opens the night with original hip hop and freestyle flair.

Photo: Kismet



EDGE OF LIFE

Kismet Movies

BCC Cinemas

15+

Wed 7 Oct

7pm-8:50pm

\$22.65 - \$26.65

Film Screening

Death is the last great frontier, one we intellectually accept but rarely face. Two Australian doctors are using psilocybin to ease the anguish of dying patients, with remarkable results. Seeking to understand this ancient practice at its source, they journey to the Amazon, where traditional medicine confronts them with realisations they can't explain. Do the world's oldest cultures hold answers not just about plant medicine, but about death itself? *"This is not new knowledge; this is lost knowledge."*



Photo: Morgan Roberts

CALAMITY JANE

Townsville Civic Theatre and Queensland Theatre Company

Townsville Civic Theatre

PG

Fri 9 Oct – Sat 10 Oct

7:30pm-10pm

\$57 - \$85

Musical Theatre

Cabaret daredevil Naomi Price stars as Calamity Jane in this bold, immersive reimagining of the beloved musical. In the rough-and-tumble town of Deadwood, the legendary sharpshooter's swagger and wit mask a longing for something more.

Pull up a seat at an on-stage saloon table and become part of the action as Calamity's piano-fuelled posse brings the Wild West to life. Featuring favourites including Secret Love and The Black Hills of Dakota, this stripped-back revival trades buckskin for grit, delivering a fresh, funny and heartfelt take on the frontier icon. Hailed as "outstandingly clever" and "gut-bustlingly funny", this intimate production is Calamity Jane as you've never seen it before.

LOCAL



CHOOSING HOPE

A walk of honour and remembrance in support of bereaved families

Bears of Hope Pregnancy & Infant Loss Support

Burke Street Headland, The Strand

G

Sun 11 Oct

7:30am-11am

FREE - \$30

Charity Walk

A walk of honour and remembrance for families who have experienced the loss of a baby during pregnancy, birth or infancy. Held each October to coincide with Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month, Choosing Hope brings together a community of families for a group walk followed by a remembrance service. A gentle, inclusive and deeply meaningful gathering for all who wish to attend. All ticket sales and donations go directly to Bears of Hope Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support.

North Australian Festival of Arts presents

WEEKEND ON THE ISLAND

Magnetic Island 2027



**Queensland
Government**

This project is supported by the
Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Image: Tourism and Events Queensland



Townsville City Galleries

EXHIBITIONS

July – December 2026

Pru Morrison, *A tribute to a Holy Man*, 2023, earthenware and terra sigillata, 50 x 21 cm. Winner of the EV2 Sportswear Award, *North Queensland Ceramic Awards 2024*. Image courtesy of Townsville City Galleries.



PUNQ 2026

A PLACE-BASED CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL
NORTH QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA
23 SEPTEMBER – 11 OCTOBER 2026



PREFACE Zane Saunders



PLACELESS Jill Chism



GUNDIL RELEASED Wulgurukaba
Walkabouts & Big Eye Theatre

OVERTHINK



OVERTHINK Justin Bishop

SEE THE FESTIVAL PROGRAM



Images: *Preface* by Zane Saunders, 2026, Performance Installation. Photograph: Russell Milledge. | *Placeless* by Jill Chism, 2024, Discarded carpenters' wood, mirrors, sticks and engraved board; life-sized. Photograph: Kerry Trapnell. | *Overthink* by Justin Bishop, 2025, Custom-made lightbox installed in the Vault, 30 × 160 × 9cm. Photograph: Amanda Galea. | *Gundil Released*, by Wulgurukaba Walkabouts & Big Eye Theatre. Photograph: Nicole Zicchino. | *PUNQ* is produced by Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts and presented in partnership with the North Australian Festival of Arts. The festival is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and receives funding from Creative Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund. Townsville City Council is a funding partner of PUNQ.



A SHIFTING REALITY

Jill Chism

Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts



Thu 24 Sep – Sun 1 Nov

FREE

Visual Arts & Design

A Shifting Reality examines the ongoing transformation of forms, identities, meanings, and perceptions. The exhibition connects environmental concerns with philosophical questions about existence and change, expressing how images, language, and materials evolve. At its centre is the humble stick, reimagined as a new sculptural vernacular / linguistic form. Reclaimed materials reveal social, historical, and metaphorical insights into identity, while chamfer-board sculptures invite reflection on Australia's urban expansion, environmental loss, and the idea that change is a fundamental condition of life.



QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ART AWARDS TOURING EXHIBITION

Flying Arts

The Drill Hall Studio



Sat 12 Sep – Sun 11 Oct

Artist Talk: Sat 3 Oct

10am–11am

FREE

Visual Arts & Design

Established in 2011, the Queensland Regional Art Awards (QRAA) celebrate the creativity of artists across regional Queensland. As Australia's largest regional art awards program, QRAA showcases outstanding new work and offers cash prizes, professional development, solo exhibitions and artist residencies. The theme for 2026 is momentum. Forward movement takes balance, and art gives us space to reflect and innovate in a fast-paced world. Every resolved artwork builds on what came before, carrying history and legacy forward.



71ST TOWNSVILLE ART SOCIETY ART AWARDS

Townsville City Council

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery



Sat 19 Sep – Sun 18 Oct

FREE

Visual Arts & Design

The Townsville Art Society is proud to present the 71st Townsville Art Society Art Awards. Since its founding, the Society has hosted an annual or biennial exhibition, with the Art Awards now recognised as a significant event in the city's cultural calendar.

Presented at Perc Tucker Regional Gallery, the exhibition showcases the work of North Queensland artists affiliated with regional art societies, providing an opportunity to exhibit in a leading public gallery while competing for a range of prestigious awards.



2026 BIENNIAL NORTH QUEENSLAND CERAMIC AWARDS

Townsville City Council

Perc Tucker Regional Gallery



Sat 19 Sep – Sun 17 Jan 2027

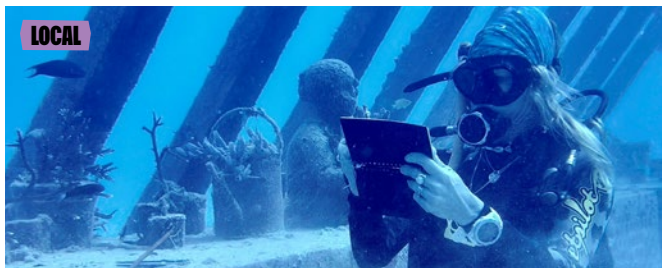
FREE

Visual Arts & Design

The biennial North Queensland Ceramic Awards has long aimed to increase public exposure to a high standard of ceramic artwork from around the nation. A showcase for both well-known and emerging artists, this competition displays the diversity of ceramics currently being produced in Australia.

The City of Townsville Art Collection Award of \$10,000 continues to provide the opportunity for artists to become a part of one of the nation's most significant ceramic collections, as well as ensuring the continued growth of this important subsection of the City of Townsville Art Collection.

REEF FOCUS



DISCOVER DIVE DRAW

Adrenalin Snorkel & Dive and Museum of Underwater Art (MOUA)

MOUA at John Brewer Reef

PG

Sun 27 Sep, Tues 29 Sep, Thu 1 Oct,
Sun 4 Oct, Tues 6 Oct, Thu 8 Oct, Sun 11 Oct

7am - 5pm

\$509 - \$560

Activities & Experiences

Immerse yourself in a unique Great Barrier Reef experience with Discover Dive Draw at MOUA. Designed for certified divers, this full-day adventure combines scuba diving, creativity and marine conservation at John Brewer Reef. Guided by MOUA Director and artist Kerrie Horrocks, participants will explore the iconic underwater sculptures while sketching beneath the surface.

Enjoy 10% off certified diver MOUA day trips with Adrenalin Snorkel & Dive during NAFA – use code NAFA10.



OCEAN SONG & HIDDEN TREASURE MAGNETIC ISLAND

Rike Wolf, Lawrence Scheele, Kaspia Blewett, Oliver Scheele

Mary Who? Bookshop

15+

Wed 7 Oct

6pm-9pm

FREE

Documentary Screenings

Discover the beauty and biodiversity of our oceans through two inspiring short documentaries. Experience a stunning tribute to the Great Barrier Reef, blending whale song, cello, didgeridoo and breathtaking underwater imagery by Rike Wolf, before diving beneath the waters of Yunbenun (Magnetic Island) with Dr. Leon Zann to explore its vibrant marine life and fragile reef ecosystems. Together, these films celebrate the wonder of the ocean and the importance of marine conservation.

Australian Government
Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority



Reef
Authority

SEE THE
LOVE THE
PROTECT THE **REEF**

EVERYONE CAN LEND A HAND TO PROTECT THE REEF



Scan to discover
simple ways to help
protect the Reef



LOCAL

INTO THE BLUE

Jan Malkin, Lawrence Scheele, Oliver Scheele, Kaspia Blewett

Jan Malkin Originals Gallery, Magnetic Island

G

Fri 25 Sep – Sun 11 Oct

FREE

Visual Arts & Design

Into the Blue showcases artworks inspired by the Great Barrier Reef and Australia's unique marine life, celebrating the beauty, diversity, and wonder of the ocean.

Featuring Jan Malkin, mixed-media artist; Lawrence Scheele, marine biologist and underwater photographer; Oliver Scheele, drone photographer; and Kaspia Blewett, underwater photographer and mosaic artist.

This is an exhibition not to be missed, presenting stunning, never before seen works of art inspired by the underwater world.



LOCAL

WRITERS ON THE REEF AT THE SPIEGELTENT

Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing, JCU

Aurora Spiegeltent, Strand Park

G

Sat 3 Oct

12pm-1:30pm

\$14.65

Activities & Experiences

What happens when art and science come together in conversation about our most precious marine environments? Join marine scientists and celebrated authors from across Australia who have participated in JCU's Writers on the Reef residency as they explore the role of stories, place, imagination, and creative attention in deepening our relationship with the environment.



LOCAL

TIDAL WRITING RETREAT

Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing, JCU

Various Locations, Magnetic Island

G

Sun 4 Oct – Wed 7 Oct

\$150 – \$500

Workshop

Immerse yourself in a four-day creative writing retreat on Magnetic Island led by writers Rose Michael, Rachel Hennessy, Paul Hardisty, Manisha Anjali, Lucy Christopher, and Mia-Francesca Jones. Through guided workshops, field-based activities, and reflective sessions, develop creative work inspired by tides, reefs, island ecologies, and tropical northern landscapes. Accommodation and transport separate.



LOCAL

PUB READING

Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing, JCU

Ankah by the Bay, Magnetic Island

G

Mon 5 Oct

7pm-9pm

FREE

Activities & Experiences

Cap off your King's Birthday holiday with a literary showcase featuring readings by the Tidal Writing Retreat faculty. Grab a feed (last orders by 8pm), have a drink and enjoy a full line up of storytelling, including a guest appearance by celebrated local author, Nicole Crowe (The Wash Up).

SHOWS BY DAYS

EXHIBITIONS

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ART AWARDS TOURING EXHIBITION

Sat 12 Sep – Sun 11 Oct / The Drill Hall Studio
G FREE Visual Arts & Design p. 41

2026 BIENNIAL NORTH QUEENSLAND CERAMIC AWARDS

Sat 19 Sep – Sun 17 Jan 2027 / Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
G FREE Visual Arts & Design p. 41

71ST TOWNSVILLE ART SOCIETY ART AWARDS

Sat 19 Sep – Sun 18 Oct / Perc Tucker Regional Gallery
G FREE Visual Arts & Design p. 41

A SHIFTING REALITY – JILL CHISM

Thu 24 Sep – Sun 1 Nov / Umbrella Studio
G FREE Visual Arts & Design p. 41

I SEE YOU LIKE THIS

Thu 24 Sep – Mon 19 Oct / Townsville Shopping Centre
G FREE Exhibition p. 8

INTO THE BLUE

Fri 25 Sep – Sun 11 Oct / Jan Malkin Originals Gallery, Magnetic Island
G FREE Visual Arts & Design p. 43

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

THE CLOUD FACTORY

10am – 12pm / William Ross SHS PAC
G Theatre p. 21

THURSDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

THE CLOUD FACTORY

10am – 12pm / William Ross SHS PAC
G Theatre p. 21

LA RONDE

7pm – 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ P Cabaret p. 7

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

KIDS SPIEGEL WORLD

45min sessions
 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Kids & Family p. 18

THE CLOUD FACTORY

10am – 12pm / William Ross SHS PAC
G Theatre p. 21

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

4hr sessions
 12pm, 5pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p. 13

SILENT DISCO – KIDS

4:30pm – 5:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p. 20

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
 5pm, 6:30pm, 7:45pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p. 11

THE RHYTHM GATHERING

5:30pm – 6:30pm / Strand Park Beach
G FREE Activities & Experiences p. 27

SILENT DISCO – GENERAL

6:30pm – 7:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p. 20

THE CLOUD FACTORY

7pm – 8pm / William Ross SHS PAC
G Theatre p. 21

LA RONDE

7pm – 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p. 7

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

YABU GUGAY

5:45am – 6:45am / Strand Park Beach
G Activities & Experiences p. 15

SEA OF LIGHT

30 min sessions
 9:15am, 10am, 10:45am, 11:30am, 12:15pm, 2pm, 2:45pm, 3:30pm / Queensland Museum Tropics
G Kids & Family p. 20

THE CLOUD FACTORY

10am – 12pm / William Ross SHS PAC
G Theatre p. 21

TEENY TINY STEVIES

10am – 11am / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Kids & Family p. 22

KIDS SPIEGEL WORLD

45min sessions
 11:30am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, ~~6g~~ 2:30pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Kids & Family p. 18

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

4hr sessions
 12pm, 5pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p. 13

DEADLY FUNNY WORKSHOP

2:30pm – 4:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
18+ Workshop p. 26

DEADLY FUNNY SHOWCASE

5pm – 6pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
15+ 6g Stand-Up Comedy p. 26

FJ SMITH

5pm – 8pm / Strand Park
G FREE Music p. 24

LA RONDE

5pm – 6:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p. 7

SILENT DISCO – KPOP DEMON HUNTERS

5:30pm – 6:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p. 20

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p. 11

THE CLOUD FACTORY

7pm – 8pm / William Ross SHS PAC
G Theatre p. 21

LA RONDE

7pm – 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ G Cabaret p. 7

KATE CEBERANO

7:30pm – 11pm / The Warehouse
18+ Music p. 32

SILENT DISCO – MICHAEL JACKSON

7:30pm – 8:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p. 20

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

DISCOVER DIVE DRAW

7am – 5pm / MOUA at John Brewer Reef
PG Activities & Experiences p. 42

SEA OF LIGHT

30 min sessions
 9:15am, 10am, 10:45am, 11:30am, 12:15pm, 2pm, 2:45pm, 3:30pm / Queensland Museum Tropics
G Kids & Family p. 20

INNER COMPASS

10:30am – 12pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
PG Panel Talk p. 28

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

12pm – 9pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p. 13

NGULMIYA FT. PAU FIGUERES

2pm – 3pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Music p. 25

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
 3:30pm, 5pm, 6:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p. 11

SILENT DISCO – KIDS

4:30pm – 5:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p. 20

CORROBOREE

5pm – 7:30pm / Strand Park Beach
G FREE Dance p. 15

ONE WORLD, MANY SOUNDS

5pm – 6pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Music p. 28

SILENT DISCO – GENERAL

6:30pm – 7:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p. 20

LA RONDE

7pm - 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

SEA OF LIGHT

30 min sessions
9:15am, 10am, 10:45am, 11:30am, 12:15pm, 2pm,
2:45pm, 3:30pm / Queensland Museum Tropics
G Kids & Family p.20

TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

DISCOVER DIVE DRAW

7am - 5pm / MOUA at John Brewer Reef
PG Activities & Experiences p.42

SEA OF LIGHT

30 min sessions
9:15am, 10am, 10:45am, 11:30am, 12:15pm, 2pm,
2:45pm, 3:30pm / Queensland Museum Tropics
G Kids & Family p.20

WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER

SEA OF LIGHT

30 min sessions
9:15am, 10am, 10:45am, 11:30am, 12:15pm, 2pm,
2:45pm, 3:30pm / Queensland Museum Tropics
G Kids & Family p.20

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

12pm - 9pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.13

BLAST LAB

2pm - 3pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G **6g** Activities & Experiences p.19

BLAST LAB: SECRET SCIENCE

3:45pm - 4:45pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
5+ Workshop p.19

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
6pm, 7:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

CARCASS (UK)

7pm - 10pm / The Warehouse
18+ Music p.35

LA RONDE

7pm - 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

SWAMPLESQUE

8:45pm - 9:55pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Burlesque p.9

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER

DISCOVER DIVE DRAW

7am - 5pm / MOUA at John Brewer Reef
PG Activities & Experiences p.42

BLAST LAB

10:30am - 11:30am / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Activities & Experiences p.19

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

12pm - 9pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.13

BLAST LAB: SECRET SCIENCE

12:15pm - 1:15pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
5+ Workshop p.19

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
6pm, 7:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

SCHOOL ROCKS

6pm - 6:32pm / Emmaus Hall
G Circus p.21

LA RONDE

7pm - 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

SLEEPLESS ONES

7pm - 8pm / Dancenorth
8+ Dance p.33

TRUE NORTH

7pm - 7:50pm / Townsville Choral Society Hall
G Music p.34

SWAMPLESQUE

8:45pm - 9:55pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Burlesque p.9

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER

SEA OF LIGHT

30 min sessions
9:15am, 10am, 10:45am, 11:30am, 12:15pm, 2pm,
2:45pm, 3:30pm / Queensland Museum Tropics
G Kids & Family p.20

BLAST LAB

10:30am - 11:30am / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Activities & Experiences p.19

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

4hr sessions
12pm, 5pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.13

BLAST LAB: SECRET SCIENCE

12:15pm - 1:15pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
5+ Workshop p.19

INDIAN CLASSICAL AND SEMICLASSICAL DANCE

5pm - 6pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G **FREE** Dance p.27

JAMIE MACDOWELL

5pm - 8pm / Strand Park
G **FREE** Music p.24

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
5:30pm, 6:45pm, 8pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

SAHN MARKETS

5:30pm - 9pm / Strand Park
G **FREE** Activities & Experiences p.29

SILENT DISCO - MICHAEL JACKSON

5:30pm - 6:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

SLEEPLESS ONES

7pm - 8pm / Dancenorth
8+ Dance p.33

LA RONDE

7pm - 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

TRUE NORTH

7pm - 7:50pm / Townsville Choral Society Hall
G Music p.34

SILENT DISCO - GENERAL

7:30pm - 8:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

MACY GRAY LIVE

8pm - 9:20pm / Civic Theatre
PG Music p.10

SWAMPLESQUE

8:45pm - 9:55pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Burlesque p.9

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER

SEA OF LIGHT

30 min sessions
9:15am, 10am, 10:45am, 11:30am, 12:15pm, 2pm,
2:45pm, 3:30pm / Queensland Museum Tropics
G Kids & Family p.20

QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ART AWARDS - ARTIST TALK

10am - 11am / The Drill Hall Studio
G **FREE** Visual Arts & Design p.41

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

4hr sessions
12pm, 5pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.13

WRITERS ON THE REEF AT THE SPIEGELTENT

12pm - 1:30pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Activities & Experiences p.43

BLAST LAB

2pm - 3pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Activities & Experiences p.19

A SONGWRITING SHOWCASE WORKSHOP

3pm - 4:30pm / Riverside Gardens
Community Centre
G **FREE** Workshop p.34

BLAST LAB: SECRET SCIENCE

3:45pm - 4:45pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
5+ Workshop p.19

DRIFT

4pm - 9pm / Tobruk Memorial Baths
18+ Music p.6

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER CONTINUED

JAMIE MACDOWELL

4:30pm – 7:30pm / Strand Park
G **FREE** Music p.24

SILENT DISCO - KIDS

4:30pm – 5:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

LA RONDE

5pm – 6:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
 5:30pm, 7pm, 8:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

SILENT DISCO - GENERAL

6:30pm – 7:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

A SONGWRITING SHOWCASE

6:30pm – 8:30pm / Riverside
 Gardens Community Centre
G **FREE** Music p.34

LA RONDE

7pm – 8:10pm / The Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

SLEEPLESS ONES

7pm – 8pm / Dancenorth
 8+ Dance p.33

SWAMPLESQUE

8:45pm – 9:55pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Burlesque p.9

SLEEPLESS ONES

9pm – 10pm / Dancenorth
 8+ Dance p.33

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER

DISCOVER DIVE DRAW

7am – 5pm / MOUA at John Brewer Reef
PG Activities & Experiences p.42

SPLASH

8:30am – 12:30pm / Tobruk Memorial Baths
G Kids & Family p.18

GRAPES OF MIRTH GOES TROPPO

1:30pm – 7:30pm / The Ville
18+ Comedy p.12

BLAST LAB

2pm – 3pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Activities & Experiences p.19

TIDAL WRITING RETREAT

4 Oct – 7 Oct / Magnetic Island
G Workshop p.43

BLAST LAB: SECRET SCIENCE

3:45pm – 4:45pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
 5+ Workshop p.19

SILENT DISCO - KIDS

4:30pm – 5:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

JAMIE MACDOWELL

4:30pm – 7:30pm / Strand Park
G **FREE** Music p.24

LA RONDE

5pm – 6:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
 5:30pm, 7pm, 8:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

SILENT DISCO - KPOP DEMON HUNTERS

6:30pm – 7:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

LA RONDE

7pm – 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

SWAMPLESQUE

8:45pm – 9:55pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Burlesque p.9

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER

PUB READING

7pm – 9pm / Anka by the Bay
G **FREE** Activities & Experiences p.43

TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER

DISCOVER DIVE DRAW

7am – 5pm / MOUA at John Brewer Reef
PG Activities & Experiences p.42

UNPLUGGED & RESTRUNG

3pm – 4pm / The Manhattan
G Music p.34

UNPLUGGED & RESTRUNG

7pm – 8pm / The Manhattan
G Music p.34

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER

TATTOOS BY STU STONE

8am – 12pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.28

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

4hr sessions
 1pm, 6pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.13

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
 6pm, 7:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

OCEAN SONG & HIDDEN TREASURE MAGNETIC ISLAND

6pm – 9pm / Mary Who? Bookshop
15+ Documentary Screenings p.42

EDGE OF LIFE

7pm – 8:50pm / BCC Cinemas
15+ Film Screening p.36

LA RONDE

7pm – 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

SWAMPLESQUE

8:45pm – 9:55pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ **Gg** Burlesque p.9

THURSDAY 8 OCTOBER

DISCOVER DIVE DRAW

7am – 5pm / MOUA at John Brewer Reef
PG Activities & Experiences p.42

TATTOOS BY STU STONE

8am – 12pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.28

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

4hr sessions
 1pm, 6pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.13

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
 5:30pm, 7:45pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

DAVE HUGHES - COOKED

6:30pm – 7:30pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
15+ **Gg** Comedy p.10

LA RONDE

8pm – 9:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

TATTOOS BY STU STONE

8am – 12pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.28

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

1pm – 9pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.13

MARIO THE MAKER MAGICIAN

5pm – 6pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G **Gg** Kids & Family p.22

SILENT DISCO - KIDS

5pm – 6pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
 5:30pm, 7pm, 8:45pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

ESKIMO JOE + 28 DAYS

6pm – til late / The Warehouse
18+ Music p.35

FJ SMITH

6pm - 9pm / Strand Park
G **FREE** Music p.24

DAVE HUGHES - COOKED

6:30pm - 7:30pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
M Comedy p.10

SILENT DISCO - MICHAEL JACKSON

6:30pm - 7:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

CALAMITY JANE

7:30pm - 10pm / Civic Theatre
PG Musical Theatre p.37

JALEN SUTCLIFFE - YARNIN UP

8pm - 9pm / Otherwise Bar
18+ Comedy p.36

LA RONDE

8pm - 9:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

SWAMPLESQUE

9:40pm - 10:50pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Burlesque p.9

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

TATTOOS BY STU STONE

8am - 12pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.28

RENEGADE HANDMADE MARKET

9am - 2pm / Strand Park
G **FREE** Activities & Experiences p.29

MARIO THE MAKER MAGICIAN

10am - 11am / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Kids & Family p.22

MARIO THE MAKER MAGICIAN

1pm - 2pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Kids & Family p.22

100 KEYBOARDS

1pm - 2:25pm / Dancenorth
8+ Music p.33

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

1pm - 9pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.13

NIMBUS

2pm - midnight / HeyDays Cafe
PG Music p.33

SWAMPLESQUE

3pm - 4:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Burlesque p.9

SILENT DISCO - KIDS

4:30pm - 5:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

LA RONDE

5pm - 6:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
5:30pm, 7pm, 8:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

FJ SMITH

6pm - 9pm / Strand Park
G **FREE** Music p.24

MIND YOUR BIZNESS

6pm - 10pm / Otherwise Bar
18+ Music p.36

SILENT DISCO - GENERAL

6:30pm - 7:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

LA RONDE

7pm - 8:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

CALAMITY JANE

7:30pm - 10pm / Civic Theatre
PG Musical Theatre p.37

SWAMPLESQUE

8:45pm - 9:55pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Burlesque **18+** p.9

SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER

DISCOVER DIVE DRAW

7am - 5pm / MOUA at John Brewer Reef
PG Activities & Experiences p.42

CHOOSING HOPE

7:30am - 11am / Burke Street Headland
G Charity Walk p.37

TATTOOS BY STU STONE

8am - 12pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.28

MARIO THE MAKER MAGICIAN

10am - 11am / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Kids & Family p.22

MARIO THE MAKER MAGICIAN

12:30pm - 1:30pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Kids & Family p.22

INK: TATTOOS BY JUNIPER

1pm - 9pm / Strand Park
18+ Activities & Experiences p.13

ST PADDY'S DAY IN THE PARK

3:30pm - 4:30pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
G Music p.28

DEJA VOODOO SIDESHOW

40min sessions
4:30pm, 6pm, 7:30pm / Deja Voodoo Tent
PG Circus p.11

SILENT DISCO - KIDS

4:30pm - 5:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

FJ SMITH

5pm - 8pm / Strand Park
G **FREE** Music p.24

LA RONDE

5pm - 6:10pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

STORIES (GREAT BARRIER REEF ORCHESTRA)

5:30pm - 7:30pm / Civic Theatre
G Music p.32

SILENT DISCO - KPOP DEMON HUNTERS

6:30pm - 7:30pm / Strand Park
G Activities & Experiences p.20

LA RONDE

7pm - 8:10pm / The Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Cabaret p.7

SWAMPLESQUE

8:45pm - 9:55pm / Aurora Spiegeltent
18+ Burlesque p.9



BOOK TICKETS
NAFA-TSV.COM.AU

SITE MAP: FESTIVAL HUB, STRAND PARK



KEY

A FIRST AID

B ACCESSIBLE TOILETS

C FOOD + DRINK

D BOX OFFICE/INFO

E STRAND PARK BEACH

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

100 KEYBOARDS

Presenting Partner: Experience Gold Coast
This project is sponsored by Playkng Foundation.



71ST TOWNSVILLE ART SOCIETY ART AWARDS

Presenting Partner: Townsville Art Society

A SHIFTING REALITY

Jill Chism - A Shifting Reality is presented by Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts as part of the North Australian Festival of Arts.



CALAMITY JANE

A Queensland Theatre Company production
Directed by Richard Carroll

By arrangement with Music Theatre International (Australasia) Pty Ltd

Presented in association with One Eyed Man Productions, Neglected Musicals and Hayes Theatre Co

This Project is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



CORROBOREE

Corroboree is presented by Big Eye Theatre in partnership with the North Australian Festival of Arts.



Corroboree workshops are proudly supported by Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC).



DRIFT

Presenting Partner: Rackley Swimming



I SEE YOU LIKE THIS



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.

NORTH QUEENSLAND CERAMIC AWARDS

Presenting Partner: North Queensland Potters Association

Sponsors: EV2 Sportswear, Rainford Family



QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ART AWARDS

Flying Arts acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands and seas on which we work, live and create. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Flying Arts is honoured to acknowledge the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Dr Jeanette Young AC PSM as our Patron. We also acknowledge Mr Tim Fairfax AC and Mrs Gina Fairfax AC as our Cultural Patrons.

Flying Arts is a not-for-profit organisation inspiring the appreciation, practice and professional development of the visual and media arts as a lifetime interest or career throughout regional and remote Queensland.

Flying Arts is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland. Flying Arts is supported by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and receives funds from Creative Partnerships Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund. Flying Arts is supported by corporate partners and benefactors.

Flying Arts is the administrator in Queensland of the Regional Arts Fund (RAF), an Australian Government program provided through Regional Arts Australia



PUB READING

Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing JCU



SEA OF LIGHT



The original Sea of Light was commissioned by the Art Gallery of South Australia and Illuminate Adelaide in 2021.

SLEEPLESS ONES

Sleepless Ones is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and the Ian Potter Foundation.

Dancenorth Australia is assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, and the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and by Townsville City Council. Dancenorth is supported by the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation and receives funding from Creative Australia through the Australian Cultural Fund.

A SONGWRITING SHOWCASE

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and the Townsville City Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



SPLASH

Presenting Partners: Queensland Country Bank and Rackley Swimming



TIDAL WRITING RETREAT

Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing JCU



WRITERS ON THE REEF AT THE SPIEGELTENT

Copyright Agency, Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing JCU



YABU GUGAY FEAT NGULMIYA

This project is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.

Presenting Partner: Dancenorth Australia



PROGRAM PARTNERS

Adrenalin Snorkel & Dive
Big Eye Theatre
BLEACH Festival
Dancenorth Australia
Flying Arts Alliance
Great Barrier Reef Orchestra
Helipad Studio
Melbourne International Comedy Festival
Museum of Underwater Art
Queensland Museum Tropics
Roderick Centre for Australian Literature and Creative Writing
The Rhythm Collection
Umbrella Studio Contemporary Arts
Wulgurukaba Walkabouts

VENUE PARTNERS

HeyDays Café
Jan Malkin Originals Gallery
Mary Who? Bookshop
Otherwise Bar
Rackley Swimming
Ritual Ink
The Drill Hall Studio
The Ville Resort-Casino
The Warehouse Townsville
Townsville Civic Theatre

FESTIVAL TEAM

BOARD DIRECTORS

Prof. Judith McLean – Co-Chair
Merissa Martinez – Co-Chair
Julie Englefield
Wesley Enoch AM
Ashley Saltner Jnr
Johnathon Coco
Debbie Rains

FESTIVAL TEAM

Fabienne Cooke – Executive Director
Kyle Page – Artistic Director
ToniLee Luck – Marketing and Development Director
Anamari Goicoechea – Creative Director
Kathryn Deyell – Head of Strategic Partnerships
Christine Kellie – Marketing and Development Manager
Gemma Campbell – Marketing Manager
Sam Ferguson – Festival Manager
Neighbourhood Productions – Production Management
Jala Goikoetxea – Producer

THANK YOU FROM NAFA

MESSAGE FROM CO-CHAIRS

Inspired by the extraordinary beauty, cultures and communities of North Queensland — from the Great Barrier Reef to the people who call this region home — NAFA continues to champion the artists, stories and experiences that make this place unlike anywhere else.

On behalf of the Board, we extend our sincere thanks to our funding partners, Townsville City Council and Arts Queensland, our supporters, donors, Festival Friends, artists, volunteers and staff. Most importantly, thank you to our audiences. Your curiosity, enthusiasm and belief in what NAFA can become make this festival possible.

This is your festival. Thank you for being part of the journey.



Judith McLean & Merissa Martinez

Co-Chairs, North Australian Festival of Arts

OUR PARTNERS

The North Australian Festival of Arts is made possible through the generous support of our partners. Their commitment to arts, culture, and community helps us deliver a world-class festival experience for all. We proudly acknowledge and thank our sponsors, collaborators, and supporters who share our vision and help bring NAFA to life each year.

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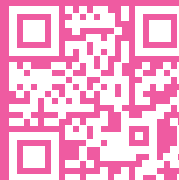
Since 2019, NAFA has transformed North Queensland into a vibrant celebration of art, culture and community, bringing people together through extraordinary experiences shaped by the stories, landscapes and creative spirit of our region.

At the heart of NAFA is a growing Giving community united by a belief in the future of arts and culture in North Queensland. More than financial support, their generosity reflects a shared commitment to culture, connection and place. We are delighted to acknowledge our 2026 philanthropic supporters on the Giving Program page of NAFA's website.

SUPPORT NAFA

If you value what NAFA brings to our region, we invite you to be part of its future. Every gift helps create ambitious artistic experiences and strengthen the cultural life of North Queensland.

To learn more about the NAFA Giving Program or make a tax deductible donation, please scan the QR code below or visit our website.



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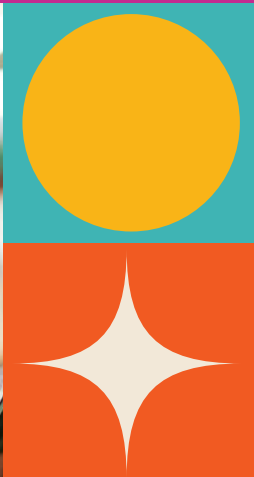
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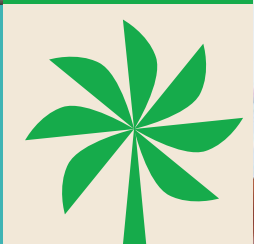


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