Today

Merry Macadamias

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JOY OF CHRISTMAS *not lost*

BY ANGELA NORVAL

As a particular fan of Christmas, I am the one seeking out the Christmas light displays, bopping along to the Christmas carols in the aisles of stores, welcoming the community events bringing everyone together and of course embracing the chance to decorate the Christmas tree with my family.

In a year that has been tough economically to say the least, it is wonderful to see the spirit of Christmas still remaining strong throughout the Bundaberg region and business owners working hard to provide a wealth of unique and fun shopping opportunities for customers, while such a large part of the community are coming together to celebrate this festive season through song, Santa and faith.

From the team at Bundaberg Today, we wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hope you enjoy every page of this edition of Today Magazine which may help you win a delicious ham or even find that special gift to tick off your Christmas list.

Christmas is a time for coming together for Angela Norval.

Contents

SUMMER 2023

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Three generations of the Gerry family: Janelle and Andrew Gerry (center) with Luke and Elise Gerry (right), Rachel and Drew McAullay (left) and their baby Sienna.
Picture: Crush Magazine/Paul Beutel

MACADAMIAS AUSTRALIA *the next chapter*

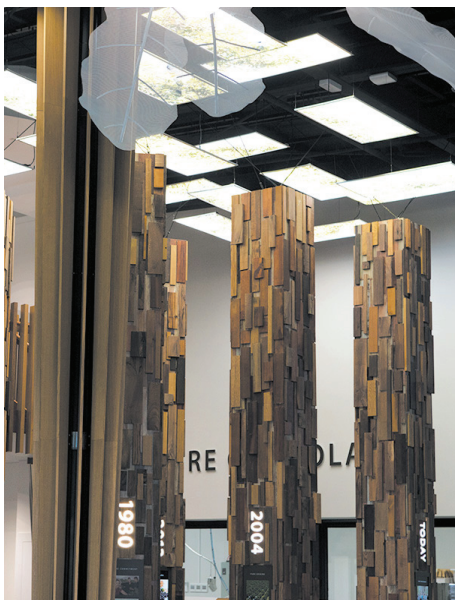
Macadamias Australia: Building on a family legacy.

Macadamias Australia remains 100% family owned and operated after six decades. Embodying a rich legacy of heritage, innovation and growth, Andrew & Janelle Gerry together with their family Luke & Elise, Rachel & Drew are very much looking forward to the next chapter.

Established in 1958 by Janelle's parents Ron and Marion Steinhardt, Macadamias Australia is a testament to unwavering dedication, tireless effort, and an extraordinary ability to adapt to the ever-changing tides of time. The Gerry family's steadfast commitment to cultivating a legacy steeped in quality and care remains the cornerstone of their enduring success.

Cultivating Memories and Quality

Reflecting on her childhood spent on the family farm, Janelle Gerry fondly reminisces about days filled with joy and cherished traditions. Today, the original orchard on Goodwood Road not only serves as their family home but also hosts Farmfresh Fine Foods, Macadamias Australia, and The Orchard Table Café. The recently inaugurated Visitor Experience and Café, unveiled in October 2021, provides a haven for families to create lasting memories while immersing themselves in the rich history of the Gerry family.



Macadamias Australia new packaging, sizes and flavours cater to the evolving tastes of discerning customers.

A Legacy of Innovation

Embracing an "explorer spirit" instilled by their parents, the Gerry family fuels the spirit of innovation, fostering a culture that challenges the status quo, encourages freedom of thought, and embraces new ideas. This commitment to innovation has garnered them prestigious accolades, including the Bundaberg and District Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year and the Hinkler Innovation Award.

The Next Chapter

As the Gerry family embarks on a fresh and exciting chapter of change and expansion, the journey takes a new turn. With Farmfresh Fine Foods, the family business is scaling its operations to meet the escalating demand for their products, transforming local vegetables into roasted and par-fried frozen vegetables, purees, and mashes for a diverse clientele.

The Macadamias Australia retail range is set for a significant relaunch, boasting new packaging, sizes, and flavours to cater to the evolving tastes of discerning consumers, both in Australia and overseas. Supporting this home-grown family business is made easy for locals and visitors alike, with the option to shop in-store at the Macadamias Australia Visitor Centre on Goodwood Road and a curated selection of local outlets or online at macadamiasaustralia.net.

A Family Legacy Continues

Janelle Gerry, alongside her husband Andrew and the next generation, remains fervently dedicated to carrying forward the family legacy. The Gerry family business endures as a living testament to the enduring power of family bonds, an unwavering commitment to quality, and an insatiable curiosity for exploring new possibilities. As they continue to positively impact the lives they touch, the Gerry family eagerly anticipates the unfolding of the next chapter in their remarkable journey.

Janelle Gerry, her husband Andrew and the next generation will be carrying on the Steinhardt family legacy at Macadamias Australia. Pictures: Lee-Ann Wilson Photography

Amidst this new chapter of growth and evolution, Macadamias Australia remains steadfast in its commitment to sustainability and community engagement. The Gerry family recognises the importance of responsible business practices and environmental stewardship, actively participating in initiatives such as ethical sourcing to reduce their ecological footprint. Additionally, the family engages in community programs, supporting local farmers and businesses, underscoring their dedication to being not just a business but a responsible member of the community.

Looking ahead, Macadamias Australia envisions expanding its footprint not only nationally but also globally. With a focus on exporting their premium products, the family aims to share the unique flavours of Australian macadamias with a wider audience. This global endeavour aligns with their mission to not only meet the rising demand for their products but also to contribute to the promotion of Australian agriculture on the international stage. The Gerry family remains committed to preserving their heritage while embracing the opportunities that the future holds, ensuring that the legacy of Macadamias Australia continues to grow and flourish for generations to come.

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Christmas Gifts $50 and under

1. THE KOLLECTIVE 57 Bourbong St: round grid earrings $14.99 2.THE KOLLECTIVE 57 Bourbong St: white flowers & citrus hand balm gift box $15.95
3. TACKLEWORLD 22 Quay St: yeti 20 oz travel mug $44.95 4. GOLDEN ARROW BARGARA NEWS Bargara Central Shopping Centre: coaster set $19.99
5. THE KOLLECTIVE 57 Bourbong St: ecology clementine tea for one $39.95 6. SURF DIVE N SKI 137 Bourbong St: billabong tides hat $19.99
7. CHA CHA CHOCOLATE 84 Bourbong St: bramble & hedge nougat collection $35.00

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01

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03

04

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FASHIONABLY *fabulous for gifting*

BY ANGELA NORVAL

Finding that perfect overall look from head to toe for this festive season or a special something to pop under the Christmas tree for a certain someone has been made that much easier with thanks to 2 Black Flamingos.

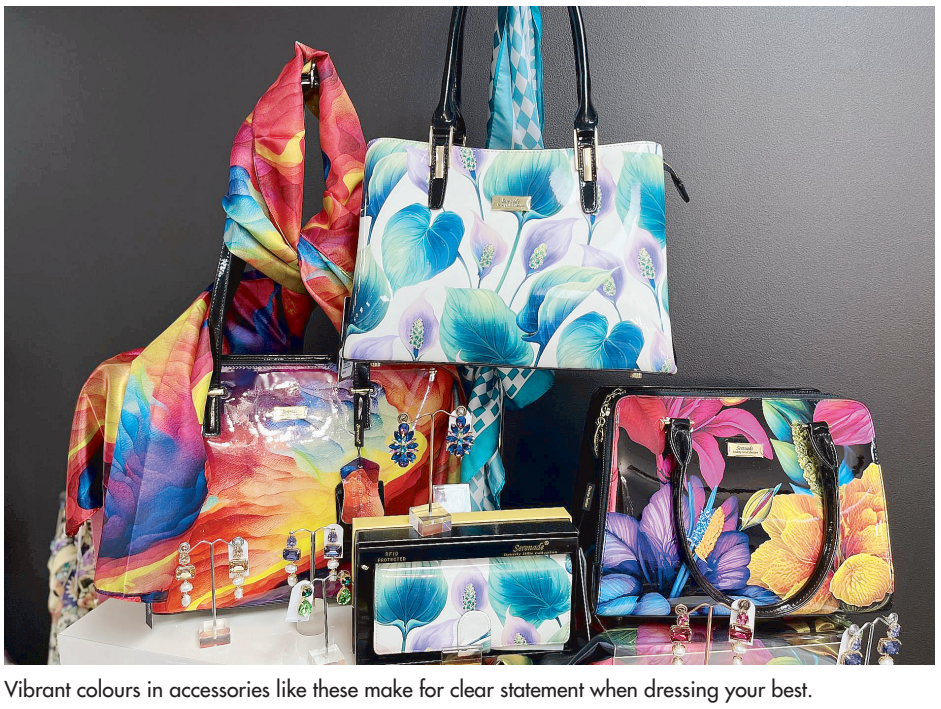
2 Black Flamingos owner Anne Canniford said accessories including shoes, handbags, wallets, jewellery and scarves were an integral part of 2 Black Flamingos along with their clothing ranges.

"We love good quality leathers for our handbags and wallets and are always trying to find interesting and on trend pieces," she said.

"Necklaces and earrings are a particular passion of mine and I love sourcing and buying them, knowing they are great for accessorising an outfit or especially as a gift.

"It's a great time to pop for a new Christmas outfit or a gift of a dress, handbag or jewellery.

"We are more than happy to gift-wrap a purchase for you and if choosing is too hard, a gift voucher is sure to be welcomed."



Vibrant colours in accessories like these make for clear statement when dressing your best.

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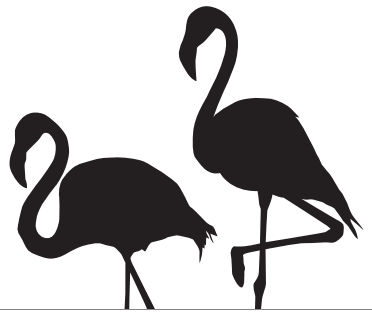

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3. GARRICKS CAMERA HOUSE 102 Bourbong St: fujifilm instax square sq1 instant camera $199.00 4. INN STYLE MENSLAND 23 Electra St: country road heritage wallet $129.00
5. NICOLAS CRAIG JEWELLER Target Arcade 58 Bourbong St: custom design ring poa 6. GIANT BIKES 23 Targo St: kids bmx bike $479.00
7. CHA CHA CHOCOLATE 84 Bourbong St: 16 pack anthon berg chocolate cocktails $30.00

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Christmas Gifts for him

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1. BATTERY BARN 3 Walla St: wireless charger $49.00 2. THE KOLLECTIVE 57 Bourbong St: golf green socks $10.95
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9. THE KOLLECTIVE 57 Bourbong St: men's republic beer chiller $25.12

COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR *Christmas celebrations*

BY ANGELA NORVAL

Christmas season celebrations in the Bundaberg region feature a number of Bundaberg Regional Council events, complimented by community-led celebrations with the 2023 Christmas program.

There are 28 events in total for the program which is happening right up until 22 December.

Christmas in the Precinct, on Saturday 9 December, is a free, festive extravaganza with first class entertainment, festive food, Mumma's Nest Markets, activities, rides, jumping castle and Ferris wheel at the Bundaberg Recreational Precinct. It will be an evening filled with exceptional entertainment from popstar Ricki-Lee, Australia's leading lady of musical theatre Marina Prior and ever enchanting The Diamonds.

There will also be a special visit from Santa and his real-life reindeer but be careful because the Grinch and his mischievous antics may make an appearance. The event will kick off at 2 pm with the concert to begin at 6 pm and Christmas in the Precinct is a free event with no tickets or bookings required.

Drive-in Christmas movies will play at the Bundaberg Recreational Precinct on 15 December,

Throughout the Bundaberg region there are a wealth of wonderful Christmas celebrations.

Childers Showgrounds on 17 December, and Gin Gin Sports and Recreation Ground on 16 December.

Events are planned across the region, including the Childers Mingle and Jingle Street Party on Thursday 7 December, A Moore Park Beach Christmas on Saturday 16 December, and a Cookie Decorating Workshop at Gin Gin on Monday 11 December.

The Childers Chamber of Commerce and the local community invite everyone along to Mingle and Jingle Christmas Street Party on 7 December from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in the main shopping area.

Santa will be there for the little ones along with choirs from the Childers area and other music will fill the street. A selection of food shops and a sausage sizzle will keep everyone fed along with local businesses open on the night and $1900 of vouchers to use in our local shops will be won by members of the community.

Christmas in the Park on Thursday 7 December will be held at Alexandra Park in Quay Street Bundaberg from 5.30pm until 9pm and will feature local music talents, a variety of food options, activities and carols, making it a Christmas celebration for the whole family. Pack your picnic rug and join the Restoration Centre for a relaxed evening of food and music.

Moore Park Beach Arts, Moore Park Beach Community Association and Moore Park Lions present the very merry seaside event that is A Moore Park Christmas with Christmas Carols, markets, stage entertainment, kids' fun and sandcastle competition. Starting at 4pm, there will also be a special visit from Santa with surprises for the kids and fireworks at 8pm.

SAVE THE DATE FOR SOME *great festival action*

Save the date for the Agnes Blues, Roots and Rock Festival held from 16 to 18 February 2023.

Live music, licensed bar, a variety of food vendors and markets to suit all tastes, plus an intimate vibe, are highlight features of this all-weather event, with plenty of undercover space to chill out or dance your socks off.

Brought to life and power-housed each year behind the scenes and front of house by a dedicated and passionate team of volunteers from across a vibrant local community, the Agnes Blues, Roots and Rock Festival experience is unforgettably intimate, while showcasing high calibre performers in a beautiful coastal destination.

One very special opportunity to discover new music, rock out to Festival favourites and get up close and personal learning new skills in one of the unique and inspiring performer-led festival workshops.

With more being added regularly, the amazingly talented performer line up currently includes legendary sister-force Vika and Linda, Dillion James, Sugarbag Blonde, Carl Wockner, Jack Raymond alongside his duo partner Jay Bischoff, Boi&eSKae, Daryl James and Mitch King, each bring their unique sounds to the stage.

Australia's most loved duo, legendary sister-force Vika and Linda will be a headline act for Agnes Blues, Roots and Rock Festival 2024. Picture: Lisa Businovski

The Agnes Blues, Roots and Rock Festival is supported by Gladstone Regional Council and by the Queensland Government through Tourism and Events Queensland and features on the 'It's Live! In Queensland' events calendar.

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Karen Frahm from Golden Arrow Bargara welcomes sharing with customers the weather of gift options they have available in store.

LOCAL BUSINESS HAS *gifts lined up*

BY ANGELA NORVAL

The beauty of a local newsagency is that it is the place for the latest news, social interaction and thankfully for Bundaberg and Bargara residents some pretty incredible gift lines ready for Christmas.

Golden Arrow Bargara and Bundaberg News owner Amanda Shield said they prided themselves on having a vast range of gift wares not seen in larger stores.

"This includes wooden Christmas decorations from a couple of talented South East Queensland woodworkers who have provided Australian Animals, Nativity Scenes and Christmas baubles," she said.

"If you or a loved one is in need of some relaxation after a hard day shopping or winding up for the end of year, Bargara aromatic candles, diffusers and wax melts are a sweet range of aromatherapy related items.

"Penned Petals zodiac sign featuring Australian flowers and natives to highlight our glorious Australian natives flowering this time of year.

"Bargara Bangles resin jewellery includes earrings, bangles and bracelets to complement a stylish look, while to add some colour to a Christmas table, Bargara stocks flowers from Farm to Vase.

"To bring a local vibe that is easy to post, there are embroidered towels from Kalicogirl, while other unique fantastic gifts is pottery from Belly Fire Pottery or the earrings from Bella Button Earrings and of course, a myriad assortment of local art prepared by talented artists."

Although not locally sourced, Amanda herself does have her own favourite pieces which provide a festive spirit and are battery operated snow globes that resemble different lantern designs setting a snowy Christmas scene.

The instant scratch-it trees and gift packs have already proven to be a popular early gift idea this early into the festive season.

"The general vibe of Christmas begins when the foot traffic increases and a lot of new faces in town to holiday in this region.

"To see what my local sales representatives have available and bring to Bundaberg is always a wonderful start to the season and then to see the creativity of my staff at work as they develop a beautifully themed Christmas display for the festive season.

"We are already seeing a lot of Christmas cards being purchased as the festive season sees an uptick in mail as people wish to connect with distant family and friends via the traditional Christmas card offering well wishes for the season and the new year.

"While people are on holiday, the news never ends and they come to use for the paper which is a source of information for events occurring in the world.

"We are an essential service that is open every day across the festive season (excluding Christmas day), so if you require a last-minute gift idea or a fun game or puzzle book to be amused in long car journeys or inclement weather predicted this season, a newsagency will have your needs covered."

Looking to the new year, Amanda remains optimistic thanks to the local community's continuing focus on shopping local.

"Without the community spending money in Bundaberg, local business couldn't thrive, nor could we give local arts and crafts people the opportunity to showcase their amazing talent."

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Tony Mills and Marguerite Conroy-Mills and Bobby Boon from Red Shed Seafood are ready to celebrate Christmas.

SIMPLE TOUCHES MAKE *seafood great*

BY ANGELA NORVAL

While throughout Australia, many of us are feeling a little stressed out when it comes to the economy, thankfully local businesses in the Bundaberg region are continuing to show a commitment to providing only the best for their customers, especially to help make Christmas that much more special.

When it comes to Red Shed Seafood, seafood is in the blood of owners Tony and Marguerite Mills, who are proud to have a wealth of delicious options coming in between now and Christmas.

Marguerite said fresh, local seafood continued to be an iconic part of Christmas celebrations for many Queenslanders.

"We encourage those looking for special seafood additions to their Christmas menu with family and friends to start planning now," she said.

"The beauty of our range is that we have plenty of fresh/frozen local products that are available now for those who are super organised and wanting to beat the crowd.

"Just as many of our farmers around the region are celebrating the rain that we have had, so are we as this glorious rain means we will be seeing plenty of tasty mud crabs which are also a customer favourite, along with prawns, Moreton Bay bugs, sand crabs, pacific oysters, Western Australian lobsters, beautiful reef and estuary fish and plenty more."

Needless to say, Red Shed Seafood themselves are particularly organised in making Christmas shopping that much easier both for those looking to fulfil their Christmas menu, but also for those who are looking for a different Christmas gift with gift vouchers available at any dollar value.

Another welcome Christmas gift can also be cooler bags, bucket hats and stubbie coolers, while the beautiful Emelias sauces compliment the seafood perfectly and have to be tasted to be believed and are free of preservatives and gluten.

The Red Shed Seafood team welcome having the opportunity to share such an abundance of fresh seafood with their customers.

"We are proud that our customers know they will always be greeted with a smile in our shop, because we pride ourselves on good old fashioned customer service.

"We appreciate just how busy the festive season is for us, especially given it is our 11th Christmas in retail so have plenty of extra staff on and offer free water and a chair for anyone who might need it.

"We will have fresh local cooked prawns from $18kg and going up from there and there is no need to place orders unless they are frozen orders as we will have plenty of fresh stock coming through daily, while platters must be preordered.

"We are very excited to be serving our fabulous loyal customers at Christmas time once again."

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Marguerite

Tony

Bobby

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Sat 9am-2pm & Closed Sunday
Look out for our extended hours over the Christmas period

Prawn and mango salad with dash of lime

RECIPE COURTESY OF LOVE AUSTRALIAN PRAWNS

SERVES 4

This will easily become your new favourite summer salad, fresh Australian prawns sourced from Red Shed Seafood paired with fresh Australian mangos - delish.

INGREDIENTS:

- 12 cooked Australian prawns, peeled
- 2 mangos, peeled and cut into wedges
- 2 pink grapefruits, peeled and segmented
- 1 Lebanese cucumber, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 cups baby mâche leaves or watercress
- 1 cup mint leaves
- Toasted coconut and fresh lime, to serve
- Lime and coconut dressing
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp grated palm sugar
- ¼ cup coconut milk
- 2 tbsp lime juice.

METHOD:

1. To make the dressing, place all ingredients into a bowl and mix to combine.
2. Place the prawns, mango, grapefruit, cucumber, mâche leaves and mint into a bowl, drizzle with dressing and toss to combine.
3. Top with toasted coconut and serve with extra lime.

Fresh prawns with fresh mangos, what a delicious combination.

Bean brownie for a quick Christmas treat

RECIPE COURTESY OF QCWA COUNTRY KITCHENS

SERVES: 12

- Prep time: 5 minutes
- Cook time: 15-18 minutes
- 1/2 serve per portion

INGREDIENTS:

- 400g can black beans, drained
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Zest of 1/2 orange or 1 tablespoon espresso coffee
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons chocolate chips
- Natural yoghurt, to serve (optional)
- 1 cup seasonal fruit, to serve (optional)

METHOD:

- Preheat oven to 170°C. Line a small slice tin with baking paper.
- Combine all ingredients except chocolate chips, yoghurt and fruit in a food processor. Blend until smooth.
- Spoon batter into lined slice tin and sprinkle chocolate chips over the top.
- Bake in oven for 15-18 minutes, or until a skewer comes out clean. Cool before slicing.
- Serve with a dollop of yoghurt and your choice of seasonal fruit on the side (optional).

So utterly delicious for dessert at lunch or dinner time.

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Christmas HAM GIVEAWAY

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Bundaberg Today and Zacs Meats are giving you the chance to win 1 of 10 $60 ham vouchers to redeem at Zacs Meats on/before 22 December 2023. To enter complete the Entry Form online or inside Bundaberg Today on Friday 17 Nov, Fri 24 Nov or Fri 1 December and submit by one of the entry methods below:

POST TO
HAM GIVEAWAY
Bundaberg Today
107 Targo St
BUNDABERG QLD 4670

PLACE IN THE ENTRY BOX:
Bundaberg Today - 107 Targo Street,
Bundaberg QLD 4670
NB: Office will close early at 12pm Friday 1 Dec & reopen 8:30am Mon 4 Dec.

ENTER ONLINE
Today's Code Word: **HONEY**
Complete the online entry form and today's codeword at:
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ENTRY FORM

Entrants must be 18 years and older to enter.

Name..... Phone.....

Address.....

Email.....

❑ I consent for my personal details to be collected and used for the purpose of determining the outcome of the competition only including draws and publishing winners' details.

❑ I agree to the Competition Terms and Conditions and Privacy Policy.

Competition starts 17/11/23 and ends 1pm 08/12/23 and is drawn 2pm 08/12/23 at Bundaberg Today Office 107 Targo Street Bundaberg QLD 4670. Winners published in Bundaberg Today on 15/12/23. Full competition terms and conditions available online at bundabergtoday.com.au/competitions.

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4. BUNDABERG BREWED DRINKS 147 Bargara Rd: spiced ginger beer 375ml x 24 $38.00
5. HELLFIRE GLOBAL SAUCES 11 Princess St: 13 angry scorpions bloodhound sauce $20.95
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