

Rick's

at BARGARA
RESTAURANT AND BAR

Today

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EMBRACING THE PERSONAL TOUCH *of a local business*

BY ANGELA NORVAL

Atmosphere.

It makes such a difference, whether it is a restaurant, a retail, fashion or beauty establishment and in particular a wedding venue.

Thankfully when flicking through the pages of this edition of Today Magazine, right from the front cover we are surrounded by examples of business owners who are particularly dedicated to providing a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere for their customers.

They are proud of what they have created

and continue to work hard to provide a place where people know they are going to be greeted by friendly staff, have someone who either knows the details of the menu right down to where the ingredients are sourced, the best ways to bring your skin to life or even make your wedding completely special.

Personally, I can honestly say I have dined a number of times at Rick's at Bargara and each time, I have embraced the opportunity to relax back and look across the road at the ocean and marvel at the menu choices for breakfast, lunch or dinner or just make the most of the company I am with over coffee and cake.



Angela Norval, Today editor.

Content

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RICK'S MAINTAINS *that welcome appeal*

BY ANGELA NORVAL

Looking around Rick's at Bargara on a number of occasions; I realise that it is a place that provides its diners with a sense of contented "aaaah!"

It starts with diners finding that perfect table, one that accommodates their party just nicely, whether they are wanting to take advantage of the stunning ocean views, a little touch of the sun on their skins or the peaceful calm of Rick's newest all enclosed dining area.

It then continues with having a staff member politely tend to their needs, letting them know when they are ready what is available on the menu, but also allowing them a moment to ponder just what they want from the extensive and delicious range on the menu depending on the season or even just from the scrumptious

dessert cabinet.

Then of course it finishes so very well with what is delivered to their table in good time, with plenty of freshness and flavour and of course with a smile.

You can tell in an instant when you visit Rick's at Bargara that owners Rick and Trish Johnstone take great pride in every inch of this business.

Whether it is the range on the menu, what is available behind the bar both for those who enjoy a quiet drop or simply a refreshing smoothie on a hot summer's day, the arrangement of the tables for the different times of the day to suit the temperature and placement of the sun and overall, the pure comfort of their customers.

Both for Rick and Trish, they like nothing better than knowing people by name, seeing their staff provide service that is professional but still personal and being able to welcome people visiting the region back again and again.

This is a place they have built up that welcomes such a variety of people who continue to enjoy it for so many reasons and continue to come back with their family, friends or even each time they visit for a holiday.

It is a place they almost call their own because of the "aaaaah" appeal and complete pleasure from knowing that you are going to have the wonderful experience you want and deserve whether for breakfast, lunch, dinner or a relaxing beverage, some great entertainment and even the opportunity to see whales breaching in the ocean across the road.



Rick Johnstone welcomes the opportunity to make customers feel relaxed at Rick's at Bargara. (Elka Scherer: 498876)



Rick's at Bargara has also become a place for many regulars given its ideal location so close to the Barga Esplanade. (498876)

DINING



Rick often gets the opportunity to meet those who are visiting the region and wanting a relaxing drink in the afternoon. (Elka Scherer: 498876)



The extra indoor dining option at Rick's at Bargara gives diners plenty of choice. (Supplied)



The views from Rick's at Bargara are stunning right from sunrise. (Supplied)

Café by Day - Restaurant by Night Airconditioned Indoor Dining now Available



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SIMPLE TIPS TO SET A *wedding budget*

Who is contributing?

You and your fiancé? Parents? Other family members?

Finding out who's willing to contribute to your wedding is the first step in calculating the wedding budget.

Crunch the Numbers

Once you know if anyone is contributing and how much you will receive, focus on how much you and your fiancé can realistically afford.

Estimate your Guest Count

Per person expenditure will help put costs into perspective. The number of guests will determine the size of your venue, catering, alcohol, the number of items you'll need to pay for, including items such as invitations, favours, cake size etc.

Choose your Non-Negotiables

Once you have decided on your top priorities, you can allocate a more significant percentage of the budget to these items.

Do your Research

There are a lot of costs, both obvious and hidden, that you will need to consider.

Do the Maths

After considering all five above, time to do a final reality check.

Ask yourself – Does your budget breakdown match the actual cost of your ideal wedding?

ULTIMATE WEDDING *decor checklist*

Ceremony

- Welcome Sign
- Aisle Runner
- Seating
- Arch Decor
- Aisle Decor

Cocktail Hour

- Bar decor
- Signature drink signet

- Guest Book Table
- High-Top Tables
- Memory Table

Table

- Florals
- Table Numbers
- Chair Decor
- Bridal Table Decor
- Centrepieces

- Placecards

Reception

- Lighting
- Draping
- Wedding Hashtag Signage
- Hanging Decor
- 'Just Married' Signage

BIG CITY STYLE *here in Bundaberg*

BY ANGELA NORVAL

The team at Blush Bridal Boutique and The Hut Menswear pride themselves on bringing 'Big City Style' to Bundaberg.

Those looking for excellent ranges and designer brands no longer need to travel to get your beautiful gown or men's suiting because its right here in Bundaberg.

The Blush Bridal Boutique and The Hut Menswear owner Ulysses Burbano said at the gorgeous Bundaberg store, they have a wide range of top-class designers so you will look stunning on your special day.

"Our friendly, professional staff with extensive knowledge are here to guide you on your journey to find the dress of your dreams or that special look for formal," Mrs Burbano said.

"We appreciate the importance of understanding exactly what each of our customers are looking for to make their perfect day a reality.

"On her special day, the bride or prom girl is clearly identified by her gown.

"It is crucial that she look her best, as she is



The Blush Bridal Boutique and The Hut Menswear making preparing for your wedding that much easier. (Elka Scherer: 499427)

representing more than just herself."

The Blush Bridal Boutique and The Hut Menswear take the stress out of organising your perfect day by scheduling appointments to ensure the perfect fit and assist in organising any seamstress or tailoring needed.

Blush Bridal Boutique at their store have a wide range of top-class designers to cover any bridal, prom or formal wear needs including Tania Olsen, Tina Holly, International Couture

Collection, Jasmine Bridal, Drew Valentine, May Bella, Crux, Purple Fox Bridal.

As well as finding a beautiful gown for the bride, there is also the option of choosing something special for the bridesmaids and also of the bride/groom with Blush.

At the same location, the men of the wedding can be catered for at The Hut Menswear who've been styling the Wide Bay for 59 years.

The Hut Menswear currently stocks RM Williams, Brooksfield, Julius Marlo and Cambridge, Hechter Paris, Christian Brookes, Gerase, Varce, City Club, Sugar, Scoop, Formalaties, Collezione, Buckle, Boston, Maurio,

So, if you have a special event coming up book an appointment with Blush or The Hut to be styled by their lovely staff who go above and beyond to cater to each and every customer.

"We truly believe our customers are the most important people.

"Pop In soon or phone ahead to make a special appointment.

"We appreciate your loyalty over the years and thank you for shopping locally."

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SOMETHING NEW IN BEAUTY ARRIVES *in Bundaberg*

A new era in facial therapy has arrived in Bundaberg, and it's changing the way many think about skin, beauty, and wellness.

Buccal Facial Sculpting Massage – often referred to as the natural facelift is now available locally, bringing with it a wealth of benefits that go far beyond traditional facials.

Unlike conventional treatments that only work on the skin's surface, Buccal massage works from the inside out.

By incorporating intraoral techniques (gentle massage inside the mouth), this treatment directly targets the muscles of the cheeks and jawline.

The result?

A visible lift, improved circulation, reduced puffiness, and the release of deep-seated tension that so many of us unknowingly carry.

Clients often report not only a more sculpted, radiant complexion but also a profound sense of release and relaxation.

What makes this treatment truly extraordinary is the calibre of training behind it.

Vanish Skin and Laser owner Megan



Buccal Facial Sculpting Massage is often referred to as the natural facelift. (Supplied)

O'Donnell has been intrinsically trained by Isabella Loneragan, a globally recognised authority in facial sculpting.

Isabella's training is considered world-class, blending advanced anatomical knowledge with a holistic, hands-on approach that ensures both results and safety. Few practitioners hold this level of expertise, making this offering not just a treatment, but a rare experience.

Megan said in an industry where quick fixes

often dominate, Buccal massage stands out for its authenticity and depth.

"It's not just about chasing youthful skin – it's about reconnecting with your body, restoring balance, and experiencing beauty that radiates from within," she said.

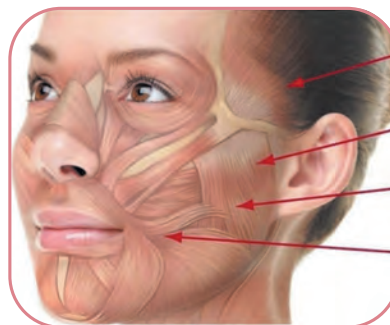
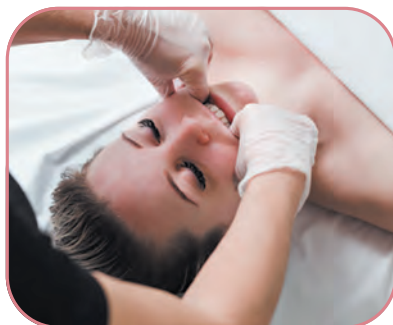
"Buccal Facial Sculpting is more than a trend – it's a transformative ritual that clients are already calling life-changing."

Why You Need Buccal in Your Life – 25 Reasons to Book That Appointment

At Vanish, we specialise in working with mature women who want more than a quick fix—they want care, connection, and results that feel natural.

It's the treatment that has women whispering, **"What have you done with your skin?"**—and no, it's not a facelift or filler. Buccal is a deeply therapeutic facial massage technique that works from the inside out—literally. Fingers gently glide inside the mouth (gloved, of course) to sculpt facial muscles, release tension, and lift from within.

Your skin tells your story. Let's help you love every chapter.



You'll love it because it:

1. Defines your jawline
2. Softens nasolabial folds
3. Reduces puffiness
4. Increases circulation
5. Boosts lymphatic drainage
6. Relieves jaw tension
7. Aids TMJ discomfort
8. Improves skin tone
9. Stimulates collagen production
10. Reduces fluid retention
11. Detoxifies the skin
12. Gives your face a "post-holiday" glow
13. Minimises fine lines
14. Releases emotional stress stored in the face
15. Encourages natural lift
16. Brings symmetry back to the face
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18. Encourages mindful relaxation
19. Combines beautifully with holistic and clinical facials
20. Enhances confidence without injectables
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23. Aligns with ageing gracefully—not hiding your age
24. Supports skin from within
25. Leaves you looking radiant, rested and lifted

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MARRIAGE CELEBRANT LINS SIMPSON IS *here to help*

BY ANGELA NORVAL

Given that marriage celebrant Lins Simpson believes that love is love and everyone has the right to marry their true love, it is appropriate her celebrant service is named Love Wins With Lins.

Having been a celebrant for over three years, Lins was drawn to this profession because she wanted to offer all couples the opportunity to be married by a celebrant that was organised and friendly as well as their biggest cheerleader on the day.

Lins said her point of difference was that she has been very involved in the LGBTQIA+ community for 13 years as a proud mum, ally and activist.

"I therefore love officiating weddings for couples in the community where they know a true flag flying ally is marrying them," Lins said.

"I know they really appreciate this from the feedback I have received afterwards.

"When couples come to see me to sign the initial paperwork, a connection is made and that contact continues throughout the following months."



Marriage celebrant Lins Simpson is exceptionally proud of what she does and enjoys every second. (Supplied)

For Lins, marrying all couples is truly a privilege and a joy, describing that seeing their faces as they say their vows was truly priceless.

"No two couples are the same, so the ceremony I write is totally personalised to suit them and their special day.

"I have also officiated ceremonies for couples with a disability, and I can tailor the service to suit their needs."

Having moved to Bundaberg from Brisbane

late last year, Lins has made lots of new friends including other celebrants in the area.

"When couples come to meet me, they often don't know where to start in the wedding process. I ask them what they want their ceremony to "feel" like - whether that is relaxed, traditional, fun, laid back. I will then tailor their ceremony to suit them.

"I meet my couples at my home office in Bundaberg South - which is also suitable if they need to bring their children along which is often the case and I am also happy to meet my couples at a time that suits them.

"Once my couples see I am friendly and organised - this helps them because they know the ceremony will run smoothly and will be exactly what they want."

Lins' tip for preparing for a wedding in a unique and calm way is to get as much done as possible as early as possible, such as don't leave writing your personal vows until the week before, get them written then you can "tick" them off your list.

For more information view Lins's website at lovewinswithlins.com or phone her on 0408 909 005



Lins Simpson
Marriage Celebrant

Serving Bundaberg, Bargara, Childers, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, and the Wide Bay region. Lins Simpson is a passionate and inclusive Marriage Celebrant, proudly supporting the LGBTQIA+ community and embracing the belief that *Love is Love*. Whether you're planning a traditional ceremony or something a little different, Lins offers warm, personalized wedding experiences tailored to reflect your unique love story.

Let's create a ceremony that feels truly **you!**

Call me today on 0408 909 005 or visit www.lovewinswithlins.com

HILLVIEW COTTAGES, THE PERFECT CANVAS *for your celebration*

Less than three hours from Bundaberg, nestled in the South Burnett, just minutes north of Kingaroy, Hillview Cottages has hosted weddings for over 30 years.

Hillview Cottages is set on 57 acres and is situated about 609 metres above sea level and is a stunning venue for a wedding or other event.

With its rolling hills and varying shades of colour that seem to go on and on to beyond, the peace, calm and space of the countryside make for a glorious backdrop to ease the mind, relax the soul and provide special memories.

Hillview provides the canvas and atmosphere all ready for the hosts of the day to splash on their special touches to create that perfect wedding or event.

There are a number of different sites and packages to choose from, from indoor or outdoor or even a wedding gazebo set up on the 4.5 acres of open grassed paddock that look out to the stunning views.

The Hillview Barn with its old country rustic charm is a beautiful backdrop for the creation of that perfect celebration.

With its many lights that light it up like fairy



Hillview Cottages has hosted weddings for over 30 years in its beautiful surrounds. (Supplied)

land, the stage in the corner with its cypress pine floor and matching cypress pine tables, it is perfect for dancing, a band, DJ or USB music.

If you want your music and band bigger and better outside, there is also the mobile trailer stage available for hire.

The uses of this great space is only limited by your imagination and has plenty of room for whatever style of catering is organised from finger foods and cocktail style to camp oven cooking, to full sit down served dinners.

Depending on the time of day, the spectacular South Burnett sunsets will ease you into the evening enjoyment.

Then after the celebration and party has subsided, there is accommodation for up to 10 people in the three locally historic cottages to wander back to or for those who have fully self-contained caravans or motorhomes, there are six powered and six unpowered onsite spaces available only a short walk in the fresh air, away from the activities of the day and evening.

Hillview Cottages Kingaroy is available on appointment to offer couples, event organisers and those wanting to host an event, a guided tour of the property and cottages, (if unoccupied), with a full explanation of what they have available and offer any tips they think may assist in creating that special wedding day or event.

Daniel and Sheralyn at Hillview enjoy sharing their tranquil piece of paradise with others and seeing the smiles from the great memories created from their time spent at this beautiful location in the South Burnett.

Call or email to check in and see how Hillview Cottages can help make your dream come true.



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TIPS FOR *seating charts*

- Decide on table shapes
- Keep your friends close
- Figure out where your parents will sit
- Enlist your parents to help to seat their friends
- Organise guests by groups
- Consider a kids table (if applicable)
- Skip the singles table
- Keep the venue in mind
- Make a digital or physical seating chart
- Consider assigning tables only
- Convey all table assignments clearly

EMERGENCY KIT *must-haves*

Any recently married bride will tell you that it's important to keep an emergency kit with you on your wedding day. Here's what to pack:

- Tissues, bobby pins, hair ties and hairspray
- Wedding day itinerary and necessary phone numbers
- Clear nail polish
- Water and health snacks
- Deodorant, perfume and make-up
- Phone Charger
- Sanitary napkins/tampons/
- Hand sanitiser
- Earring backs
- Mints and chewies
- A sewing kit
- Money
- Facial/hand wipes
- Nurofen or paracetamol
- Band-aids
- Stain remover pen
- Hayfever tablets



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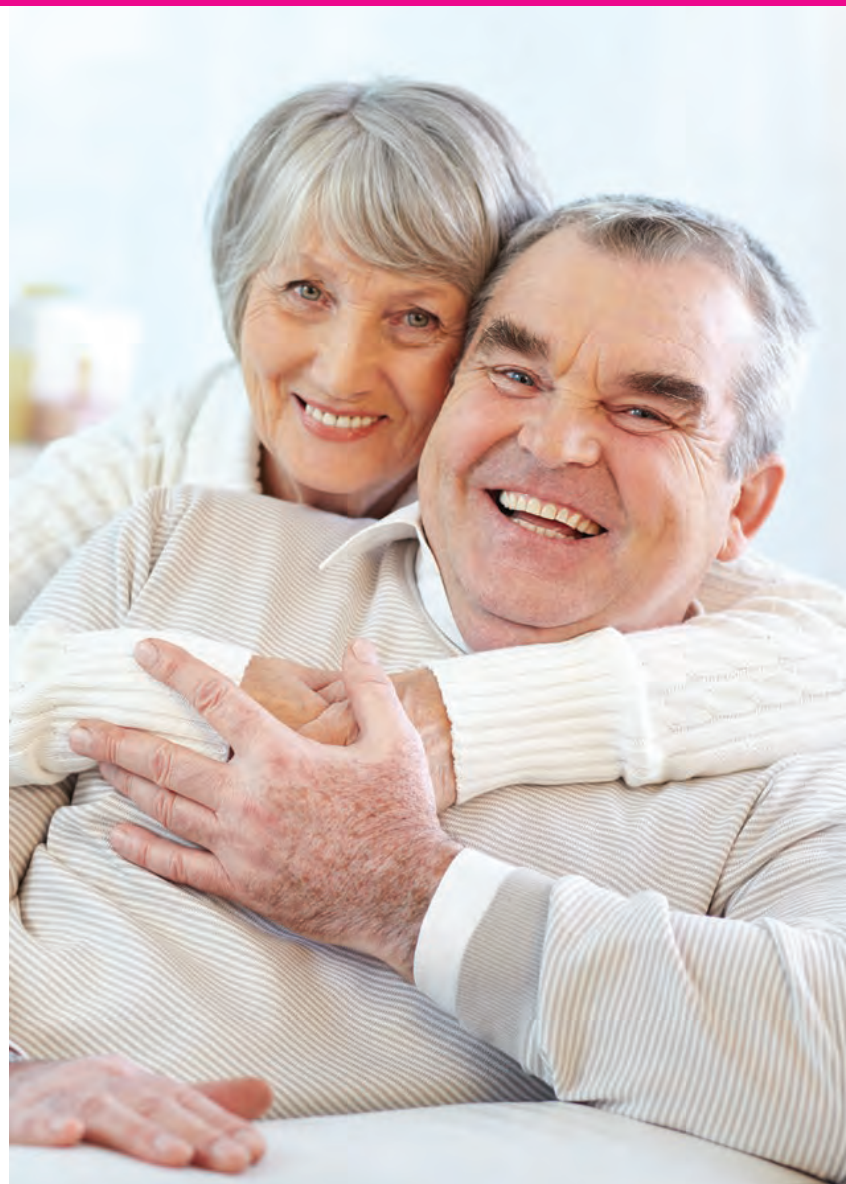
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HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION



Everything is considered in the design of the 1770 Lagoons Central Resort. (Supplied)

HOMEGROWN HOSPITALITY: *local returns to lead*

“Creating unforgettable experiences for our guests is always our top priority,” says Hayden Payne, general manager of 1770 Lagoons Central Resort.

A proud local, Hayden has come full circle—returning to his roots to lead the region’s largest and most iconic resort.

“Behind the scenes, it’s all about managing the many moving parts of 1770 Lagoons to ensure every stay is seamless.

“That’s what keeps our guests coming back time and again,” he adds.

The resort, as is the Agnes Water region, is steeped in history. Agnes Water and Town of 1770 are rich in both indigenous and colonial history, natural beauty and cultural significance.

The area was the traditional home to the Meerooni Clan and part of the Gurang nation.

The town’s name came from the schooner Agnes, which was lost at sea off the coast in 1873.

The growth of the region accelerated in the 1980s and 1990s due to a sea change movement.

Fast forward to the mid 2000’s and the dream of building a new destination resort to service the region came to a crashing stop.

This 121-unit, \$50 million development fell afoul of the GFC, and stood dormant for a number of years as a half-built shell.

In 2013 the project was sold to an investment fund where construction re-commenced and by 2015 Lagoons 1770 Resort was born, providing a holiday retreat to local, national and international guests looking for a regional retreat.

In 2019 Brisbane based Central Apartment Group secured the management of the resort and building on the name, now known as Lagoons 1770 Central Apartment Resort.

The resort forms part of the group’s national chain of apartment hotels.

“The day to day running of a such a large resort, including our Plantations Restaurant,



Given its modern appeal, but spaciousness and cleanliness, the 1770 Lagoons Central Resort is the ideal place for families or some couples time alone.

Anjea Day Spa and conference centre is never without challenges”, says Mr Payne, a local who came back to the region to manage the resort after, like many people in their 20s/30s, ventured further afield build his career pathway.

“With upward of 25 employees working in guest services, housekeeping, maintenance, restaurant, day spa and the conference centre, it seems like my days are 24 / 7,” Mr Payne said, who with partner Tessa Gifkins, form the senior management team to run the resort.

“Tess brings her own touch of creativity and connection to the resort, managing the resort’s social media, overseeing the day spa, and curating fun activities that turn a stay into a cherished memory.”

With a hands-on approach to his role, Mr Payne’s day can go anywhere from management meetings with department heads, working with regional tourism bodies and troubleshooting maintenance issues, checking in guests or groups from coach companies or corporate conferences, through to supporting HR shortfalls where needed within the resort.

“Every day is so diverse and different,” Mr Payne said.

He went on to say Agnes Waters is the known

gateway to the southern barrier reef, where from July to November guests can witness the awe-inspiring sight of humpback whales breaching offshore, or where bird watchers can enjoy bursts of colour and song from the local birdlife, which Agnes Water is recognised nationally as the bird watching capital.

Mr Payne says an approachable personality and genuine love for the region sets the tone for every guest’s experience.

“1770 Lagoons Central Resort is at the epicentre of these world class attractions.

“We are the resort of choice who service business, give rest and relaxation to leisure guests, with many of our visitors originating from Bundaberg, Gladstone and Rockhampton in addition to our rural farming guests.

“We want to ensure they go away with a memorable experience.

“This is what I love about my work.

“Every day is different, and seeing the smiles on our guests’ faces, and seeing them come back time and again.”

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