



SEPT | 2024

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## Fire Ants: The Uninvited Guests We Can't Afford to Host

If you've noticed new signs around Kawana Island, here's the scoop: fire ants have been spotted nearby, and we don't want them moving in. These tiny invaders are aggressive, painful stingers that threaten our environment and outdoor fun. Originally from South America, fire ants spread quickly, hitching rides on cargo and even floating on water during floods.

The good news? Kawana Island is still fire ant-free, and we want to keep it that way. Learn to identify their nests — mounds of disturbed soil, and report any sightings immediately.

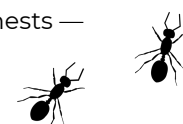
Don't let these uninvited guests crash our island. Stay alert, and let's keep Kawana safe! **Learn more at [fireants.org.au](http://fireants.org.au).**

## Get to Know Your Neighbours

Looking for an easy way to boost your mental health and reduce loneliness? It might be as simple as knocking on a neighbour's door! Building connections in your community can lead to stronger bonds, better life outcomes, and even a few new friends to share a cuppa with.

Start with a friendly introduction and share a bit about yourself. You can also offer to help with small tasks—like walking their dog or mowing the lawn. Just remember, timing is everything; be mindful of when you reach out and respect their commitments to keep things friendly.

**So, go on—make that first move!** You never know, a quick chat could lead to a stronger, happier community for everyone.



**TERRI-ANNE MURRAY**

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With many years experience, and a wealth of local knowledge, Terri-Anne knows how to best market your Kawana Island property, and achieve the maximum results.

**AMBER WERCHON | CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH PROPERTY**



## VRINA Morning Tea: A Brew-tiful Success!

The morning sun welcomed a vibrant community spirit as local residents and the KIRA community came together for a successful morning tea gathering on Friday, 2nd August. It was an impressive turnout, with both long-time residents and newcomers mingling in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity for the community to connect, share stories, and strengthen local ties over delicious tea and treats, hosted by KIRA's Gold Sponsor, Vrina Mezze & Bar.

Conversations flowed freely, and many attendees expressed their appreciation for the chance to connect in such a stunning beachside setting. KIRA are thrilled with the strong turnout and the positive feedback received. "We look forward to hosting many more gatherings to foster community connections."

Residents are encouraged to stay tuned to our social media channels for updates on upcoming events, including an evening wine and nibbles event. Keep an eye out for details and join us in continuing to build a vibrant and connected community.



## New Dog Laws: Keep Your Paws in Check!

Attention, Kawana Island dog owners! As of July 31, 2024, new state-wide laws are in effect to ensure all pups are properly controlled in public places.

In public areas (excluding designated off-leash zones), dogs must be on a leash, tethered to a fixed object under supervision, or kept in a temporary enclosure while supervised.

Even in off-leash areas, your furry friends need to be supervised and responsive to voice commands.

Failure to comply could cost you..... a hefty on-the-spot fine of \$806!

While some local rules haven't changed—like dog-prohibited zones and the duty to clean up after your pet—it's crucial to be aware of these new regulations. Remember, this is a state government mandate, not a Council decision, the council and the community need to adhere to these new laws.

For more details, check out the Sunshine Coast Council's website. And don't worry, there are still two fantastic dog parks nearby—one on the north of the island and another just off the south on Nicklin Way.

So, let your furry friends have their fun, but keep those leashes handy! 🐾

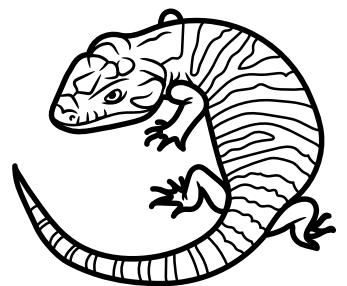


## Watch Out for Blue Tongue Skinks: Our Local Sun Seekers!

With the sunny weather here, our local blue tongue skinks are out and about, basking in the sunshine. Unfortunately, several have been found dead on the roads recently, so let's all stay vigilant to protect these unique reptiles!

Blue tongue skinks are known for their bright blue tongues, which they use to scare off predators. They're territorial creatures and can live up to 20 years, often sticking around the same area. Plus, they're great at controlling garden pests like insects and snails.

If you're driving, please slow down and watch for skinks, especially on sunny days when they're most active. A little caution goes a long way in keeping our local wildlife safe. Let's give these sun-loving skinks a chance to thrive on our beautiful island!



VRINA  
MEZZE BAR

NEW SEASON'S MENU!

5 GRAND PARADE, PARREARRA,  
SUNSHINE COAST, QLD 4575

PHONE: 07 53569511

vrina\_mezze\_bar





## Future Engineers Club: Where Young Minds Build Big Dreams!

Attention young inventors and builders! The Future Engineers Club at Kawana Library is the place to unleash your creativity!

Every Tuesday afternoon, from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM, the library buzzes with the excitement of young minds at work, designing and building with LEGO, magnetic tiles, and geometric shapes.

If you're aged 6 to 12, this is your chance to let your imagination soar and create something amazing. Don't miss out on the fun—bring your big ideas and get ready to build! For more fantastic events at Kawana Sunshine Coast Libraries, check out the event calendar and choose Kawana.

The Future Engineers Club is waiting for you to join the adventure!

## Spring into Fitness on Kawana Island!

Spring has sprung, Kawana Island! It's time to dust off those joggers, pump up the bike tires, and hit the beautiful paths that wrap around our island. Whether you're cycling, jogging, or just taking a leisurely stroll, there's no better time to enjoy the great outdoors.

For those looking to mix things up, check out the fitness equipment at Double Bay Park for a fun workout with a view. Or, if you prefer to be on the water, grab a kayak and paddle around the scenic Parrearra Canal.



Remember, our shared walkways and cycle paths are for everyone, so be mindful of fellow walkers, runners, and cyclists.

Get out there and make the most of this beautiful spring weather!



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## Warning: Magpie Season Alert!



Heads up, Kawana Island residents! It's magpie season, and our feathered friends are nesting and getting protective.

Watch out for swooping magpies, especially around common breeding spots like local parks, playgrounds, and along the pathways near Double Bay Park and Parrearra Canal.

Stay safe by wearing hats, sunglasses, and keeping an eye out. Avoid known nesting areas if possible, and let's all make it through magpie season unscathed!

## Stay Crime-Safe on Kawana Island!

With the warmer weather here, it's a great time to enjoy the outdoors on Kawana Island, but it's also important to stay vigilant about safety.

Recent statistics show that the Sunshine Coast is facing its highest crime rates in over 20 years, with 28,664 recorded offences in 2023—a 35% increase since 2013

### To help keep our community safe:

- Secure all doors, windows, and garages, especially at night or when you're away.
- Hide car keys and valuables out of sight.
- Install security cameras for added protection.
- Keep an eye on your neighbor's homes if they're away on holiday.

Crimes like unlawful vehicle use have more than doubled, highlighting the need for vigilance.

Even though the overall offence rate decreased slightly last year, offences against persons rose by 4.8%.

By taking these simple precautions and looking out for each other, we can help keep Kawana Island safe this summer.

For more information, visit the Queensland Police Service's website or the Sunshine Coast News.



## Is It Time to Ditch the 'Bin Chicken' Name?

Is it time to rethink the ibis's reputation? Often dubbed the "bin chicken" for its dumpster-diving habits, this resilient bird might deserve a more flattering name. Researchers at the University of the Sunshine Coast think so, and they're inviting you to help rename the ibis with suggestions like "Survival Swan" or "Furiosa Phoenix."

The university is tracking up to 500 ibises tagged with pink and blue markers to study their movements and behavior. You can join in by scanning a QR code to help track these birds and even suggest new names.



### Fun Facts About the Ibis

Despite their reputation, ibises are symbols of adaptability, thriving in urban areas by eating scraps and insects.

Historically, they were revered in ancient Egypt as symbols of wisdom.

### Want to get involved?

Look out for tagged ibises and scan the QR code to contribute to this fascinating study.

Let's give the ibis a name that celebrates its resilience! For more details, visit the University of the Sunshine Coast's website or scan.....



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## Upcoming events...



### Tuesday 3rd September

Committee Meeting at Kawana Island Meeting Place 7.10pm

### Thursday 10th October

Knock Off Drinks at VRINA 4.00pm

### Tuesday 15th October

Committee Meeting at Kawana Island Meeting Place 7.10pm

### Sunday 10th November

MUSIC BY THE BAY! From 13:30

### Friday 22nd November

Morning Tea at VRINA 9.30am

### Tuesday 26th November

Committee Meeting at Kawana Island Meeting Place 7.10pm

### Sunday 1st December

KIRA AGM - VOTING IN NEW MEMBERS - at Kawana Island Meeting Place 3.15PM



Let's make our community newsletter richer with your contributions!

Let us know by emailing us at [hello@kira.net.au](mailto:hello@kira.net.au)

N.B. KIRA may not be able to feature all contributions and we reserve the right to edit submissions.



You can also stay up-to-date by following us on Facebook.

[www.facebook.com.au/kawanaisland4575](https://www.facebook.com.au/kawanaisland4575)

KIRA acknowledges the Gubbi Gubbi people, Traditional Custodians of the land in the area. KIRA expresses its thanks to the Member for Kawana, Jarrod Bleijie MP, for the printing of this newsletter.