

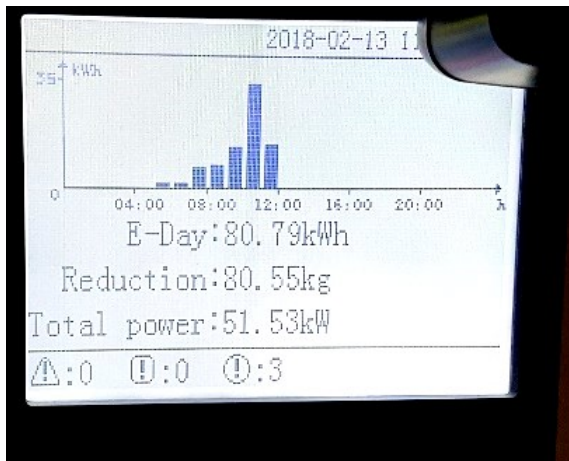


# DONALD SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTRE

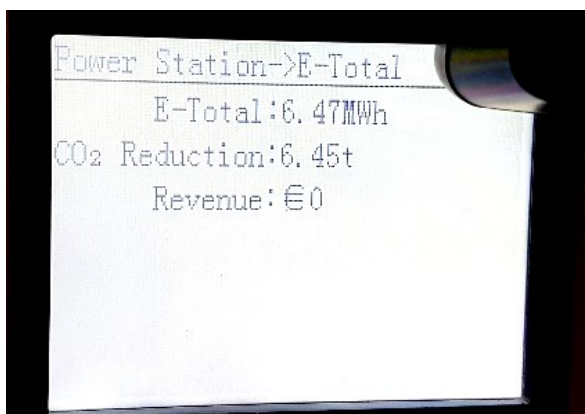
February 2018

## Donald Simpson Power

**The Donald Simpson Community Centre is now powered by its own solar panels.** The photos below show a one-day reading of 80.79 Kilowatt Hours which is near enough to covering our daily usage. The bottom photo shows the total of 6.47 Megawatt Hours produced since the panels were activated in January.



*Reading for one day*



*Reading since activation*

It is anticipated that our system will considerably reduce our electricity bill giving us additional funds to operate the Centre. It is premature to say at this stage what the figures will show but members will be kept informed as information becomes available via our electricity accounts.

## Our Generous Sponsors

One of the strategies on which we embarked last year was to invite local businesses to sponsor the Centre. This program has the potential to provide us with funds and to allow appropriate local businesses access to a market of our members in which to display their services.

As members will see on our internal TV screens, the display board at the entrance to the Centre and in this newsletter, we have a number of businesses which have opted to pay us to sponsor the Centre.

If this program continues, it will contribute funding to replace the operational funding which the Council has reduced in the current financial year and which it will totally cease to provide from 1 July 2018.

The sponsorship program is not a one-sided affair. Our members will decide whether we will retain sponsors and continue the program by giving sponsors the opportunity to bid for their services. Sponsorships operate as a benevolent form of advertising. Rather than purchasing TV, billboard or newspaper space, a sponsor provides funding to an entity (profit or non-profit), non-profit in our case, to assist our operation and in return members can repay the sponsor by including them in the active quotes they obtain for products or services.

Members do not have to guarantee that they will purchase from the sponsor. Sponsors are given the opportunity to display their wares in the usual way and take their chances with the sale just as they do with their other contacts and advertising.

Members can help the Centre to augment its funds by remembering to check our list of sponsors and seek quotes for services from them. If we can develop a harmonious relationship with our sponsors in this way, we will be displaying the working of a true community where businesses provide their support and we, in return, support local businesses.

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## From the Chair

Another year stretches before us bringing the anticipation of new experiences and the uncertainty of what these experiences will be.

At the Donald Simpson Centre, there is certainly a feeling of how certain initiatives will develop and how some other developments will hit where it hurts.

Our lead article refers to potential savings from a new solar array on the roof of the Centre. This has been, and continues to be, a nightmare of regulations which detract somewhat from a development which will assist in the financial viability of the Centre.

There is also the pleasure of seeing our members return to the enjoyment of their activities and social contacts for one more year. New activities will contribute to this enjoyment for some while the only activity which will not immediately continue is our information talks which have not attracted sufficient interest to justify bringing busy presenters to the Centre. The almost full-time use of our auditorium prevents our pursuit of continuing these talks as bigger events because we cannot find the space.

We are currently examining our future prospects which is a continuing exercise for a not-for-profit venture. With the small increase in activity fees, electricity savings from use of solar energy, much trimming of costs and the \$25,000 provided by the Department of Communities, we are financially sound for at least a couple of years.

We are unable to be complacent as there are emerging costs which have to be met and we need the revenue to cope.

Recently, the Board had to find \$10,000 to put with another \$10,000 it had put aside to replace the auditorium stage curtains. The Council had promised to help out with \$10,000 but their internal financial arrangements led them to withhold the payment. The urgency is that we were advised over a year ago that the present curtains are not compliant with fire safety and are a fire risk. The Board felt that it could not responsibly delay this replacement any longer. We could not risk the pain of having regrets if an accident did occur.

In looking at our future needs, the Board has also retained an architect to draw up plans for renovation of the Centre to cater for our growing future needs. Members will see this when the Board has obtained a final plan.

Members can help, as can their families and friends who may be future users of the Centre or sympathetic to our needs in a number of ways. The front-page article on sponsors suggests one of these ways with regard to acknowledging our generous sponsors. Encouraging new members, supporting our events and maintaining your participation in Centre activities is helpful.

One other way that we have always been reticent to mention for obvious reasons is for those who can manage to make donations or bequests to the Centre.

In all these ways and with hard work and clear thinking by the Board our Centre can continue to grow and prosper.

**Tony Christinson Board Chairman**

## From the Manager

Greetings to all readers

2018 is quickly running away. They say there is no slowing down for us at Donald Simpson Centre. Beginning of this year we were fortunate to commence a number of musical activities. We have Guitar tutoring on Tuesdays (3pm-4pm) and Ukulele on Wednesdays (10am to 11.30am). I have also sourced a tutor for Brazilian Drumming, which will commence from 14<sup>th</sup> March on Wednesdays from 4pm to 5pm. So, I invite all music lovers that are looking for a new hobby or wanting to hone your skills, join us in one or all of these activities.

This year is already gearing up to be a special one, as for the first time DSC will be promoting Harmony Festival in Redlands. This newsletter includes its poster, and some members have participated in our online cookbook which we are intending to bring out soon. As the poster details, a number of events are planned to promote harmony and multiculturalism in the Redlands. I trust members will enjoy these events and we value your participation.

As of January, we have officially enrolled over 2000 financial members; however, I would like to request members to welcome your family, and friends to join the centre. The centre thrives on its membership and the activities it provides, however, although we have a 30 year old history and presence in the Redlands, it's amazing how people are still just hearing about the centre and the array of activities, trips, concerts, wellness programs etc. that we do. So don't keep the centre and its activities as a secret anymore. Even if you have young families in the Redlands, ask them to join and by doing so they are supporting the centre and secondly you would soon find things to do together enriching your bond with your loved ones. Memberships until 2019 or half-yearly membership options are now available.

I hope you all have managed to remain cool during our peak summer period. To provide maximum benefit for members hope you now enjoy our café area that is now air conditioned to enjoy a meal or coffee at the café. Also, we now have completed the solar installation project and are making full use of it. The Board and management hope to see some cost savings soon on this investment in the long run.

Those of you who are frequent visitors to the centre must have learned about a secure bin that is placed in our foyer. This is just another added service to our members, to give you the opportunity to securely destroy any confidential documents or records you no longer need. This is a service offered to us by Grace Record Management. To know more about Grace please visit the website <https://www.grace.com.au/information/>. On behalf of the Board and Management, I extend my sincere thanks to Grace for rendering such a support.

Lastly, our Over 90's luncheon is coming up on 28<sup>th</sup> of March. If you are 90 years and over, please don't forget to RSVP for this event by 22 March.

**Thomas Jithin  
Manager**



*First cabaret for  
2018 with your  
favourites the...*



**Saturday March 17 from 6pm to 9pm**  
*at the Donald Simpson Community Centre*



*Rock and Roll* night with  
an early **BEATLES** tribute  
numbers from 1962 to 1966

*Tickets \$15 available from Donald Simpson Centre  
Includes light supper. CASH BAR*

*Tickets will be available at door unless sold out (it is advised that you purchase tickets early)  
For further information, contact the Donald Simpson Centre on 3821 1089*



## Some advice on scams from the Homepage of the ABC.

### Why you should never trust a call from an unknown number and other tips for identifying scams

By Lucia Stein

#### Have you been getting missed calls from overseas numbers or people pretending to be from Centrelink or the Australian Taxation Office?

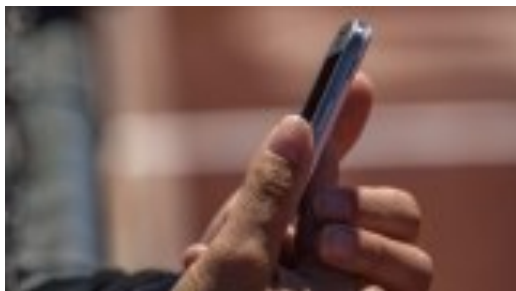
These are just some examples of common phone scams that have occurred over the past few months, which have conned many Aussies into parting with their hard-earned cash.

Here's what you should do if you think a phone call sounds like a scam.

Almost 40 per cent of scams in Australia committed over the phone

Yep, according to Scamwatch, phone calls are the **most popular for scammers in Australia**.

That's followed by email at 26.5 per cent and text messaging at 15 per cent.



"[Phone calls are] so easy, it's very cheap and in countries where labour is cheaper, you've got whole call centres devoted to doing these sort of scam calls and I think that personal touch gives them a greater likelihood of getting more victims," Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) deputy chairwoman Delia Rickard said.

Anyone can be targeted

**Scammers target indiscriminately** — no matter your age, income level or background.

Lately, an international scam dubbed "wangiri fraud," roughly translated to mean one ring, has seen **scammers use phone numbers**, possibly bought legally or on the dark web, to dial phone users in other countries. They usually disconnect the call after a few rings, hoping you will call them back.

ACCC's Scamwatch said they had 277 reports last week about the scam — which was a 794 per cent increase.

But it's not the only one. Scamwatch also said they had received complaints about scammers pretending to be from Centrelink or the ATO.

In August, **scammers impersonating National Broadband Network (NBN) staff were cold-calling**

**unsuspecting consumers** and conning them into handing over sensitive personal identification details.

So, how can you tell if a phone call might be a scam?

Ms Rickard says there are a few ways you can tell you might be on the phone with a scammer, including:

- "Microsoft, Telstra, etc. are not remotely checking your computers unless you have been in contact."
- If they claim to be from a **computer software company** wanting access to your computer.
- If the **overall quality of the call is poor**
- Calls made on behalf of government agencies asking for **bills to be paid in the form of pre-paid gift cards** — such as iTunes
- If the caller is **applying inappropriate pressure** — including threats and potentially inappropriate language, as part of their scam
- Any calls **asking for financial details** (such as credit card or banking details)

Telstra has also warned its customers on its website to avoid callers that claim to be from the Australian Federal Police, wanting you to help them "track down criminals".

"In these calls you're often asked to transfer money abroad using international wire transfer services," the telco said.

What should you do?

It might seem obvious, but Ms Rickard says the best thing you can do to protect yourself during a dodgy call is **HANG UP**.

Otherwise, the ACCC recommends the following options:

- Don't respond to numbers supplied in an automated call or from numbers you don't recognise
- Always be sceptical and if you're unsure the person on the end of the phone is not who they say they are, hang up and call the organisation directly on an independently verified number
- Don't give someone who calls you out of the blue any money, personal details or access to your computer
- Don't return calls to international numbers unless you know them
- Don't pay with an iTunes gift card. No legitimate business in Australia is going to be asked to be paid this way
- Delete any messages left on your voicemail

Speak to someone you trust about the scam call

If you do think you've been scammed, it's unlikely you'll get your money back.

However, there are some ways you can limit your losses — including contacting your financial institutions, reporting the scam to authorities, changing your computer password or attempting to recover your stolen identity.

How does the scam work?

The scammers are quite sophisticated in the techniques they use to con people out of money, often pretending to be from an organisation that intimidates people. *(continued on next page)*

(continued from previous page)

"Talking to people who have been scammed, people are very nervous of Centrelink, they're terrified of any impact on their pension or whatever it is and they tend to do unquestioningly what they are told," Ms Rickard said.

In some cases, the **scammer will try to convince someone they've done something wrong, and then demand payment** as part of a solution to the problem.

But in the case of the wangiri scam, the scammers make money by using companies that sell premium numbers, allowing purchasers to work out how much they want to charge people calling them back.

That means callers who ring the international number back will be calling a premium service — meaning the telephone provider will be charged at a normal rate as well as whatever the scammer determines that call is worth — with some of the money also going to the premium number provider. In this case, the wangiri scammers want the caller to stay on the line as long as possible, thereby increasing the amount of money they make. If people I know have been targeted, does that mean I'm next? Not necessarily, some of it is a result of **scammers using an automated system**, which allows them to call random phone number combinations.

"But, it could come through multiple ways," she says.

"We know on the dark web all sorts of lists are sold, including people who have ever shown any interest in scams and so are more susceptible to these things," Ms Rickard said.

"When you go online and put your name in competitions, surveys that are doing the rounds on social media, sometimes they are put up by people who sell this information onto scammers."

**People can report scams and get information at [www.scamwatch.gov.au](http://www.scamwatch.gov.au)**

## DONALD SIMPSON COMMUNITY CENTRE

### 2017-18 BOARD MEMBERS

*Board Members elected at the Annual General Meeting on Monday 25 September are listed below. In brackets after each name is the number of years to finish their current terms.*

**Chairman:** Tony Christinson (1 Year)

**Deputy Chairman:** Glen Morgan (2 years)

**Secretary:** Chris Sheehan (1 year)

**Treasurer:** Paul Barnes (2 years)

Jenny Chesher (1 year)

Laraine Dillon (1 year)

David Ferguson (1 year)

John Frith (2 years)

Marcell Gorman (2 years)

Peter Mann (1 year)

Noni Silman (1 year)

Frances Taylor (2 years)

The Board meets at 2.00pm on the 4th Thursday of each month except December.

## Steps to Living Well

This group has been set up following our Information Session on "What Do You Know About Depression".

All are welcome to attend and discuss, in group session, anything related to good living, from how to enjoy visits to the Centre more and whatever else is appropriate to your health.



The group will meet at the Centre  
on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month

**Retired Psychologist**

**Sue Garnett, will support the group.**

## The Donald Simpson Walking Group



The Donald Simpson Walking group held our second Christmas breakfast at the Centre after our usual walk on Thursday 14th December. Twenty-five walkers were present and thanks go to chef Ann for providing us with an excellent brunch which was enjoyed by all. Small gifts were later given to all who attended.

Thomas thanked the group for their continued support to the Centre and presented a certificate to Gail Pratt who had recently completed 100 walks with the group. Gail is the first lady to pass the 100 mark and joins three men who have completed up to 157 walks.

New members are always welcome and can meet the group in front of the centre at 7.00am every Tuesday and Thursday. Peter can be contacted on [0417706849](tel:0417706849) or Trevor on [0402353632](tel:0402353632).

## COMING EVENTS

- February 22** Board Meeting
- March** Is it time to Downsize? (see p. 7)
- March 17** Rock and Roll Cabaret (see p.3)
- March 21** Harmony Festival Online Cookbook Launch (see p. 8)
- February 28** Over 90s Lunch
- March 26** New Members' Morning Tea
- April 7** Art Exhibition Plants Feature (p8)
- April 9** Children's Harmony Day (p. 8)
- April 11** Dance and Wellness with a Difference (p.8)
- April 19** Taste of the World Dinner (p.8)
- April 21** Multicultural Festival of Song and Dance (p.8)

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## Property renovations that are not worth your time and effort



**Ben Hocking** 6th Feb 2018

**YourLifeChoices**  
Simplifying retirement

Reality television has made property renovation more popular than ever and with some extra time on your hands in retirement, home improvement is always an attractive proposition.

(continued on page 7)



Many retirees take the option to give their home a makeover with the ultimate goal of improving their property value when the time comes to downsize.

There are a number of renovation traps which can end up costing you more money than you will earn.

### Making impulse purchases

Sticking to your renovation budget requires applying the same rules as any other shopping budget: you have to avoid impulse buying. Other impulse choices like making design changes once you have accepted a quote from your tradesman can also prove expensive. Try not to spend too much money on frivolous fittings.

### Replacing instead of repairing

If you have a period property, a lot of unnecessary work can be prevented by adopting a 'repair not replace' approach.

Overhauling original doors and windows and retaining period features is often cheaper than replacement, adding value in the process by enhancing character. In many cases, the original door and window timbers and joinery were of far better quality than today's equivalents.

### Being too cheap with materials

Buying materials that are incredibly cheap is usually a false economy. For a start, anything obviously 'cheap and nasty' is likely to detract from the value of your renovation. Quality can be difficult to determine from blurry online product photos, so it is always better if you are able to see the materials you would like to purchase in person.

### Improving the wrong areas

Some renovation options may make your living experience in the property much nicer, but they

won't add a lot to your eventual sale value. Electrical work and plumbing are two prime examples. If these repairs are required to get your property back to being fully functional, you should still proceed, but do not expect them to add much value to your property when the time comes to sell.

### Overcapitalising your renovation

Adding high-end finishes to a low-value property can result in spending more money than can ever be made when selling. Landscaping is a massive trap in this regard, with many expensive options available that will increase the attractiveness of your property but will rarely translate into rewards on the market.

### Gardeners Needed

As we continue to expand the Centre's gardens and cooler weather approaches, there is a need for more weeding, raking of leaves, watering and the many other tasks associated with trying to make the Centre surrounds more attractive.

If you can help, please leave name and contact details at Centre.

ljhooker.com.au

## IS IT TIME TO DOWNSIZE?



Have you thought about having less maintenance, less debt, perhaps no stairs and more time to enjoy life? Come along and find out the facts at this FREE NO OBLIGATION information session.

- How to choose a Real Estate Agent
- The process of selling your home
- Costs involved to sell and buy
- Extra services available
- Options of freehold, body corporate and retirement living

DATE: 7th March 2018    TIME: 10:30 - 12:00pm    RSVP: Donald Simpson Centre - 3821 1089

VENUE: Donald Simpson Centre - 172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland

Hosted by your local trusted Real Estate Agent Louise Denisenko.  
Join us for a complimentary morning tea, gift bag and raffle prizes.



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**Louise Denisenko**                      **0423 110 555**

All information contained herein is gathered from sources we consider to be reliable. However, we cannot guarantee or give any warranty about the information provided. Interested parties must solely rely on their own enquiries.

cleveland.ljhooker.com.au                      LJ Hooker Cleveland 07 3286 2500



# Redlands Harmony Festival

21 March to 21 April 2018

*To celebrate Harmony & Multiculturalism in the Redlands,  
Donald Simpson Centre has put together a number of great events.*

*All Are Welcome!*

- **21 March** (Wed) – 10.30am to 12 noon:  
Launch of Harmony Festival and online COOKBOOK – *Free Event*
- **7 April** (Sat) – 9am to 12 noon: Art Exhibition & Plants Feature – *Free Event*
- **9 April** (Mon) - 9am to 12 noon:  
Children's Harmony Day – Fun activities – *Free Event*
- **11 April** (Wed) – 10am to 3.30pm: Dance & Wellness with a Difference
- **19 April** (Thurs) – Taste of World Dinner:  
Must RSVP for the event by 6 April – Cost \$35.00
- **21 April** (Sat) – 10am to 12noon:  
Multicultural Festival of Song & Dance – *Free Event*

*For more information call*  
Donald Simpson Centre  
172 Bloomfield Street, Cleveland  
Phone: **07 3821 1089**



This project is  
supported by the  
Queensland  
Government





# Out With a Difference

**Friday, 23rd March - 4 1/2 hour River Cruise** on the Tweed River. Enjoy a leisurely cruise on the "Golden Swan" to along the river while learning about the history of the amazing rainforest, Mt. Warning and the "Green Cauldron". We stop at Stott's Island to feed the local birds of the area. Morning tea will be served on the way and a barbeque lunch will be served after a stop at Tumbulgum. Bookings close 2nd March, 2018. Members cost \$94.00



**Tuesday, 27th March - Bribie Island Butterfly House** - A new venue for us, this is where you can learn about the life cycle and how to care for these amazing creatures. These beautiful and peaceful insects will bring a lot of peace into your life. Morning tea will be at Kat-Ma-Kuta Park, Sandstone, and lunch at the Bribie RSL. Bookings close 6th March, 2018. Members cost



**Friday, 20th April - Mystery Tour** - To who knows where. These trips are very popular so book early. Morning tea and lunch included. Bookings close 2nd April, 2018. Members cost \$ 57.00



**Sunday, 29th April - Old Petrie Town Markets** - This colourful village with its historical village as a backdrop, is a pleasant way to spend a Sunday morning. This pedestrian friendly township with stalls selling a variety of goods is a relaxing place to wander. There are plenty of outlets for you to purchase morning tea with hawkers selling everything from German sausages to Nasi Goreng and waffles and pancakes. After our morning shopping we will go into Redcliffe where you can relax and purchase lunch by the bay. Bookings close 16th April, 2018. Members cost \$35.00

***Out With a Difference reserves the right to alter or omit any part of the itinerary or change the reservation, features and/or means of conveyance without notice. OWAD reserves the right to cancel the tour should it not reach minimum numbers and clients will be notified prior to departure should this occur.***

**Check [www.donaldsimpsoncentre.com](http://www.donaldsimpsoncentre.com) /trips calendar for further details**

# Out With a Difference

**Sunday, 6th May - Danny's Seafood Smorgasbord Lunch - Tweed Heads** - a Pre-Mothers Day Trip - This early Mothers Day touting lets you celebrate this special day twice. The Sunday seafood selection at this restaurant at the Coolangatta - Tweed Heads Golf Club is not to be missed with enough variety to suit every taste. Morning tea will be at Nerang. We will stop at Yatala Pies on the way home so bring along your eskies. Bookings close 13th April, 2018. Members cost \$64.00



**Wednesday, 9th May - Law Dogs Australia** - "The Dog Show with a Bite" - Stanthorpe. This trip to Stanthorpe will be a longer day than usual but it will be worth it to visit Australia's first original Law Enforcement Dog show. You will see personal protection dogs, security patrol dogs and truffle detection dogs. This facility helps create balanced dogs as they progress during their training. We will be on site for approximately 90 minutes after which we will then go into Stanthorpe where you may have a wander and purchase your lunch. Bookings close 10th April, 2018. Members cost \$70.00

**Wednesday, 13th June - Bremer River Junction Day Cruise** - After we board the "Lady Brisbane" at Mowbray Park we travel down river past Indooroopilly, Jindalee and Mogill to the mouth of the Bremer River. During this cruise you will be able to witness the never-ending changes to the Brisbane skyline while listening to the interesting commentary about the history of the river and environs. Morning and afternoon tea and a bar-b-que lunch will be served on the trip. Bookings close 23rd May. Members cost \$99.00



## BOOK NOW FOR

**Saturday, 23rd June, 2018** - Franz Lehar's Opera - "The Merry Widow"

**Wednesday, 15th August, 2018** - "Beautiful" - The Carole King Musical

**Saturday, 20th October** - Qld Pops Orchestra presents - Amigos Para Siempre



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# Away With A Difference



**The Savannahlander & Tropical North Queensland - 9th - 17th June 2018 - Fully Booked.**

**Spectacular Canada & Alaska - 24 days/23 nights - August 4th - 27th** - Tour highlights include Butchart Gardens, Jasper, Banff and we travel on the "Going to the Sun" Road in Glacier National Park in Montana\*. Visit a silver mine in Idaho then on to Washington State where we spend a night in Spokane. We then journey on to take in the sights of Seattle. After an overnight here we travel back to Vancouver via the Capilano Suspension Bridge where we board the "Star Princess" for our cruise to Alaska. Ports of call include Juneau, Skagway, and Anchorage where we visit Wildlife Cultural Centre.

**\*Montana Glacier Park is listed as one of 16 places in the world you must visit before they disappear. In 1900 there were 150 glaciers in the park, now there is only 26.**



**Exploring Yamba & the Clarence - 5 days/4 nights - November 19th - 23rd** - We travel to Yamba taking the scenic coastal route via Cabarita and Pottsville. There will be a stop at Bangalow with time for a stroll and byo lunch. Tour highlights include Yamba Golf Club, Ross McLeod Bell Collection, Aranyani Bison Adventure Tourist Park, New Italy Museum, Clarence River Cruise, Schaeffer House, Lanbruk, Gunyah. We also enjoy luxury coach travel whilst touring, 4 nights accommodation at the Yamba Motor Inn, all meals as per itinerary and entry to attractions as per itinerary.

Cost \$1385.00 per person twin share.

Bookings open for all tours; Brochures available.