

Convoy of Christmas Cheer

The festive season is upon us, and Santa's sleigh won't be the only thing lighting up Noosa's streets.

The 2025 Connecting Noosa Christmas Convoy is back for its sixth year, spreading joy and bringing the community together with a parade of emergency services vehicles decked out in festive sparkle.

Queensland Ambulance Service's Noosa Station Officer-in-Charge, Annette Morris said the convoy is all about connection.

"The Christmas Convoy is spreading joy, one smile at a time. During the four-day event we love to bring out our inner child, dress up festive, embrace the friendly spirit, and share laughs, goodwill, and random acts of kindness," she said.

"The festive season can be hard for some family, friends and neighbours. The Convoy team offers help and hope so that together we cope as a community. Remember to check on loved ones - spreading compassion changes lives," Annette added.

Council's Community Connections Manager Alison Hamblin said the event continues to uplift the Shire, celebrating the dedication of emergency workers and volunteers.

Supported by Hot91, Tewantin Noosa RSL and Crackerjack Cooroy, convoy routes are available on Council's website – noosa.qld.gov.au. Don't miss it!



Noosa Christmas Convoy makes its way through the hinterland.

Mayor's Christmas Appeal aims to bring joy to Noosa families experiencing hardship this festive season

Donations of gift cards, non-perishable food items, and presents, will help bring smiles to the faces of Noosa locals who've faced challenges this year

The Mayor's Christmas Appeal is back, calling on the community to support local charities in spreading festive cheer to families doing it tough this year.

"Your generosity will help ensure families in need can share a meal and experience the magic of Christmas," Mayor Frank Wilkie said.

The Appeal seeks donations of gift cards, presents (labelled with the intended age and gender of the recipient), and non-perishable food items. Council will distribute these items to Salvation Army Noosa, St Vincent de Paul Noosa, Santa's Classy Helpers, Youturn and SunnyKids. Haig Deer, Youturn's Program Manager,

Community Services, said the festive season can be especially difficult for people and families facing financial and emotional distress.

Lorraine Kenway of Santa's Classy Helpers, which will provide more than 630 families and 2000 children with Christmas essentials this year, said presents for teenagers, and underwear

for all ages, were needed.

Donations can be dropped off by Monday, 22 December, at Noosa Council, 9 Pelican Street, Tewantin, Cooroy Library, Maple Street Cooroy, and Tewantin-Noosa RSL Club.

Find out more at noosa.qld.gov.au.

Community shapes Botanic Gardens plan

Noosa Council has completed Phase 2 of community engagement on the Noosa Botanic Gardens Draft Master Plan, marking an important step in shaping the Gardens' future.

Council received 122 pieces of feedback, including 80 survey responses, 21 written submissions and conversations with community members during pop-ups in the Gardens and Cooroy. Input was also received from key local groups such as the Friends of Noosa Botanic Gardens, Cooroy Chamber of Commerce and the Noosa Wedding Organisation.

"We're really pleased to see strong community support for the vision," Director of Infrastructure Services Shaun Walsh said. "We're still working through the full consultation reports, but an early look at survey results shows 91 per cent of respondents agree with the Draft Master Plan.

"Phase 1 engagement helped shape the design, and this stage has been about refining it with the community. We've heard support for improvements such as a clearer arrivals zone, better wayfinding and parking, space for a kiosk, nature play, and more shaded spaces.

"People also reinforced the importance of keeping the Gardens peaceful, protecting the plant collection, and maintaining on-lead dog access."

The Master Plan provides a clear framework for Council to seek funding and deliver this shared 25-year vision.

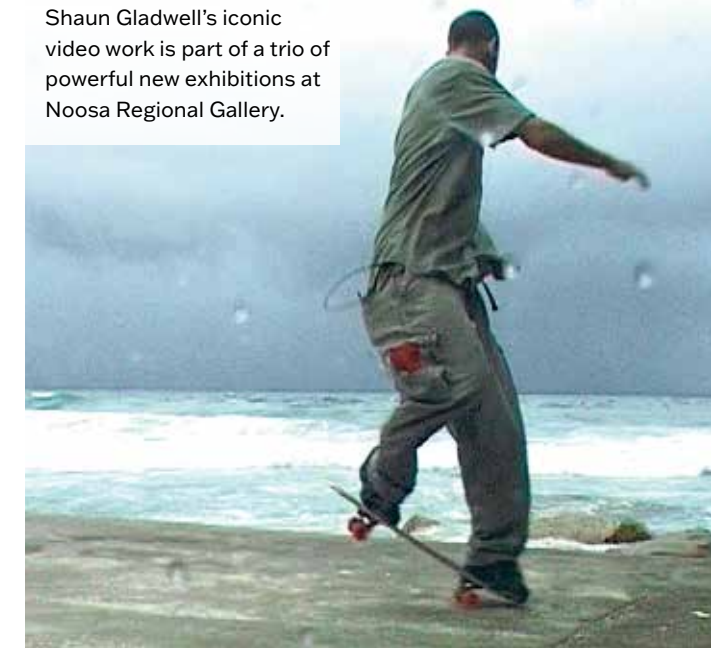
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Exhibition reveals skate stories of strength

Art and grit collide in Noosa's skate showcase

Shaun Gladwell's iconic video work is part of a trio of powerful new exhibitions at Noosa Regional Gallery.



Storm Sequence rolls into Noosa, with Shaun Gladwell's iconic video work anchoring a trio of powerful new exhibitions at Noosa Regional Gallery. Shot at

Bondi Beach in 2000, *Storm Sequence* captures a lone skateboarder pushing against the force of an approaching storm, a slow-motion study of grit, movement, and the human mind under pressure. Gladwell's career-defining piece sets the tone for a season where skateboarding becomes a language of freedom, identity, and resilience.

Alongside it, Gaza Skate Team offers an unexpected window into life within a war-torn landscape. Through video and photography, Rajab Al Reefi reveals how a battered street can become a skatepark, and a moment of defiance. As Gallery Director Michael Brennan explains, "Rajab and the rest of Gaza Skate Team have been living in the most trying of conditions... But amidst all of this, they still try to bring brief moments of joy and hope to the children of Gaza through skating."

Rounding out the trio, *Refuse*, by local artist Warwick Gow, explores the Sunshine Coast's underground skate culture, celebrating creativity carved from forgotten spaces.

Free tickets are available on the Gallery's website – noosaregionalgallery.com.au

In Brief

Pool safety reminder

As summer approaches, Council is urging pool owners to check their fencing and safety compliance.

Building and Plumbing Manager Allan Hazell said all pools 300mm or deeper must be registered with the QBCC and meet strict safety standards.

Fences must be at least 1200mm high, gates self-closing, and resuscitation signs clearly displayed.

Portable pools are exempt only if under 300mm deep and 2000 litres, with no filtration system. A Pool Safety Certificate is required when selling or leasing a property. Visit noosa.qld.gov.au for more information.

Meanwhile, the Pomona State School Pool has reopened to residents for learn-to-swim programs, lap swimming, aqua classes and casual recreational use.

The pool is open from 3:15pm to 7pm Monday to Thursday, and 7am to 12 noon on Saturdays, offering a safe and inclusive space for fitness, skill development, and family fun.

Holiday fun awaits

School holidays are almost here, and Council facilities have plenty to keep kids entertained. At Noosa Leisure Centre, children can shoot hoops, enjoy the playroom and café, or enrol in swim lessons at Noosa Aquatic Centre. Noosa Libraries offer free Games Mornings and F5F Waterplay sessions for younger children.

Creative fun awaits at Noosa Regional Gallery, with workshops to paint skateboard decks, make puppets, craft decorations, explore oil painting, or decorate bird houses. Bookings are essential at noosaregionalgallery.com.au. Visit Council's website for details – noosa.qld.gov.au