




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Yeppoon, CQUniversity Village Festival

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.23 pm): Arts, music and culture are the beating heart of the Capricorn Coast. Last week our heart exploded with some off-the-hook tunes, seriously fine art, street theatre, workshops, food and market stalls, tasty beer and good vibes at the 19th annual CQUniversity Village Festival. Set on the Yeppoon foreshore with the sparkling blue water, Woppaburra land and sea country and the southern Great Barrier Reef forming the festival's world-class backdrop, the village festival lights up our coastal town, our home Yeppoon.

The week-long festival kicked off with the Speakeasy Prohibition Party. Can I just say that when someone says 'dress-up party in Yeppoon', we really take it seriously! We were entertained by wailing guitars, funky basslines and smooth grooves supported by the heavenly vocals of charismatic frontwoman Amelia. Emu Park was abuzz for Park Sessions, with the very talented Brad Butcher, Anna Farquhar, Amanda Heartsong and Murphy Road putting smiles on so many faces.

Through the week artists like Kate Mahood delighted at Tides and Tunes as we slid into the festival's headline weekend. The eighties and nineties tribute band took us right back to our youth with their stacked two-part set on the Friday night, supported by talented locals like the beautiful Sophie Rose Blackman and her band Raining Roses, Zac Cross and Chris Bax.

Accomplished local artist Helen Kavanagh hosted a welcome to watercolours workshop and kids workshop at the Fig Tree Galleries on Saturday; an hilarious cast of comedians had us all belly laughing at the Funniest Night in the Village; and the liquid gold was flowing at the Crafternoon Village on the foreshore, showcasing Yeppoon's very own Yepp Brewing Co.

New Nectar, Forty-Five K and Dawn and the Sax kicked off the afternoon as locals and visitors filtered down to the foreshore amphitheatre. One of my personal favourites, Side Hustle, absolutely lifted the roof off the amphitheatre, followed by Core, Lunar and, as the sun set in the west, 10-piece high-energy cover band Indigo Electric, with lead vocalists Angelo Conway and Amanda Hock, took centre stage. Local band Maddi and the Hoopers hit all the right notes and proved just how topnotch our local talent is.

Local band Relic, made up of Chris Bloxsom, Howard Johnston, Con Galvin, Mark Steedman and Eric Denham, got the frenzied crowd jumping as they knocked out some seriously good retro rock anthems. The amphitheatre was packed and the anticipation was high for Australian rock legends and festival headline act Choir Boys. Yeppoon definitely 'ran to paradise'.

This not-for-profit community festival, which attracts over 20,000 people over the week, is run and managed entirely by volunteers. It would not happen without the team of the dedicated festival board including: the affable chairman Danny Carr; Tanya Lynch and Callan Buchholz; and committee members Emily Van Riet, Veronica Campbell, Nathan Harold, Maddi Kovac, Skye McLauchlan, Tim Loydell and Peter Delaney. I thank all of the festival partners and sponsors. The 19th village festival was absolutely amazing and I cannot wait to celebrate the festival's 20th anniversary next year. It is going to be big!