

March 2019 Newsletter

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Message from the CEO

Fostering a culture of innovation

Is the Sunshine Coast the entrepreneurship capital of Australia?

Leading social demographer, speaker, business advisor and media commentator Bernard Salt – he of the great smashed avocado viral column sensation – certainly thinks so.

Salt recently called the Coast this lofty title based on the proportion of the workforce who owned their own business.

In addition, in his 2017 report, *The Activated City: Imagining the Sunshine Coast in 2040*, he revealed why he believes the region's workforce, innovation focus, economic diversity, infrastructure and overall growth trajectory means it's one of the most exciting and potentially rewarding business destinations in Australia.



The demographer also cites the new Maroochy CBD as heralding a thriving new centre for commerce in Southeast Queensland.

Of course, our new CBD is far from just all about business - it's also a new thriving hotbed of creativity thanks to the recent launch of The Refinery - the Sunshine Coast's first creative incubator - aimed at helping local creatives to transform ideas into sustainable businesses. Read on, to meet the innovative business creatives powering it.

Importantly, RDA Sunshine Coast is dedicated to supporting regional innovation and entrepreneurship in all its forms - in fact, it's one of our core pillars for 2019.

We are actively identifying and communicating the regional benefits of the International Broadband Submarine Cable and the economic opportunities that it will provide, while continuing to promote the Coast as a destination for entrepreneurs.

Landing at Maroochy by 2020, the cable is expected to stimulate local business, generate new investment and improve telecommunications capacity to Australia's east coast.

This hot topic will also be centre stage at this Friday's *Powering Business to the World* Sunshine Coast Chamber Alliance event at Maroochy RSL - also proudly supported by RDA Sunshine Coast.

There, leading speakers such as Sunshine Coast Mayor Mark Jamieson will discuss how local businesses can best capitalise on this game-changing digital innovation.

Of course, one of RDA Sunshine Coast's major partnerships is with the Sunshine Coast Regional Innovation Pipeline Team (#SCRIPT) - a collaboration of local entrepreneurs, businesses, government stakeholders and community members dedicated to growing innovation and business capacity on the Sunshine Coast.

In this newsletter, we'll also update you on what

exciting and innovative projects #SCRIPT is up to next, plus some further business innovation events you won't want to miss.

There's the Innovation Master Class at the Peregian Beach Digital Hub this March; the Sunshine Coast Business Council Lunch Briefing: Where the Jobs Will Be in 2023 at Maroochy RSL in April; and the National Clean Technologies Conference and Exhibition, supported by RDA Sunshine Coast, at Caloundra this May.

Thank you for your valued input and support.

Paul Fisher

Chief Executive Officer
Regional Development Australia (RDA) Sunshine
Coast



The Refinery launches at Maroochydore City Centre

Talk about innovation: Meet Bronwyn Buksh, Activation Project Manager at SunCentral Maroochydore and Megan Rowland, Team Leader Creative Development, Creative Arts

at Sunshine Coast Council – two of the power players behind The Refinery – the Sunshine Coast's first creative incubator. The 10-week learning platform connects the dots between creativity and commerce and is aimed at helping Sunshine Coast creatives to transform their innovative ideas into sustainable businesses.

[Read more](#)



Chamber Alliance is Powering Business to the World

Find out about digital innovation in the wake of the International Broadband Submarine Cable at this high-powered business breakfast.

[Read More](#)



Innovation Masterclass to boost Coast businesses

Challenge yourself and learn how to grow your business to its full potential at the Innovation Masterclass at Peregian Digital Hub.

[Read More](#)

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#SCRIPT

#SCRIPT Update

The Sunshine Coast Regional Innovation Program (#SCRIPT) is continuing to fuel the culture of innovation in the region by investing in innovative programs which make a difference to our community. Find out more about its latest projects here.

[Read more](#)



Jobs forecast for 2023 at Business Council lunch

Find out the future of employment in the region at the *Where the Jobs Will Be in 2023* business lunch briefing.

[Read more](#)



National Clean Technologies Conference a star attraction

A national cleantech event in Caloundra will greater position the Sunshine Coast as Australia's cleantech capital.

[Read more](#)



Sunshine Beach Surf Life Saving Club and STEPS Group Australia secure BBRF grants

Sunshine Beach Surf Life Saving Club Inc has secured \$2.5 million in Federal Government funding for its Club Redevelopment Project.

Sunshine Beach SLSC was successful in round three of the \$641.6 million Building Better Regions Fund (BBRF) Infrastructure Projects Stream.

The BBRF supports the Federal Government's commitment to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger regional communities.

Now, Sunshine Beach SLSC's aged clubhouse dating back to 1983 will be demolished, paving the way Evans Built to begin work on a majestic, new clubhouse due to open in November.

The new clubhouse will feature a large-capacity multi-purpose function meeting room, which can be used at no cost for local charities, not-for-profit organisations.

Local charity STEPS Group Australia also received a round three BBRF grant of

\$190,000 to fund the construction of new residential units at the Murphy House extension at its Pathways College in Caloundra, in aid of young adults with a disability.

Up to 330 new infrastructure projects and community initiatives were funded as part of a \$204.3 million investment in this BBRF round. For more information, visit <https://www.business.gov.au/assistance/building-better-regions-fund>.

Noosa Council arts, community and environment grants up for grabs

Calling all Noosa arts and cultural groups, not-for-profits and environment groups! Noosa Council is accepting applications for the next round of Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grants, Community Project Grants and new Environment Grants.

You have until noon, Wednesday, April 3 to lodge an application.

For more information, and details about applying, visit

www.noosa.qld.gov.au/council-grants or email grants@noosa.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 5329 6437.

If you need grant support for a strategic project, email RDA Sunshine Coast Research and Grants Coordinator Sarah Wetton via project@rdasunshinecoast.org.au.

#SCRIPT Advance Regional Innovation Program (ARIP)

The [Advance Regional Innovation Program](#) (ARIP) will provide \$1 million over 3 years to develop innovation and entrepreneurial activities across the Sunshine Coast region.

Visit our [Grants & Funding](#) page for more grants and funding opportunities.

ONE REASON PEOPLE RESIST
CHANGE IS BECAUSE THEY
FOCUS ON WHAT THEY HAVE
TO GIVE UP, INSTEAD OF
WHAT THEY HAVE TO GAIN.

RICK GODWIN





FORUMS & WORKSHOPS

**Channelling Spielberg on a budget:
Creating Video for Social Media
ASBAS Digital Solutions Queensland
workshop, workshop, presented by
RDA Brisbane**

Commentator, business writer and speaker Tracy Sheen, in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council, Maleny Commerce and RDA Sunshine Coast, will cover filming basics and the different platforms you can use for video: FB Live, Insta Stories and Insta TV.

Thursday, 14 March from 5.30-7.30pm
The Orangery Maleny, 4 Panorama Place,
corner Landsborough Maleny Rd and
Mountain View Rd, Maleny

[Details](#)

**Google Ads and Google Analytics:
How to Turn the Data into
Revenue ASBAS Digital Solutions
Queensland workshop, presented by
RDA Brisbane**

Digital entrepreneur and educator Katrina Puranik, in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council, Caloundra Chamber of Commerce and RDA Sunshine Coast, will break down the process of conversion tracking and understanding where your leads are coming from.

Thursday, March 21 from 9-11am
Caloundra Chamber of Commerce, Level
1, 74 Bulcock St, Caloundra

[Details](#)

**Create your Low-Risk, High-Reward
Social Media and Digital Marketing
Blueprint ASBAS Digital Solutions
Queensland workshop, presented by
RDA Brisbane**

Caleb Harry and Jason Button from The

Thursday, March 21 from 5.30-7.30pm
Coolum Surf Club

[Details](#)

Growth Agency, in partnership with Sunshine Coast Council, Coolum Business and Tourism and RDA Sunshine Coast, will educate businesses on how to create a good social media strategy, digital marketing and more.



Where the Jobs Will Be in 2023

The Sunshine Coast Business Council is holding this lunch briefing to educate business clients, colleagues and partners on what drives jobs growth.

Tuesday April 2, 12noon registration for 12.30-2pm
M3 and M4 Ballroom, Event Centre, Maroochy RSL

[Details](#)

National Clean Technologies Conference and Exhibition

Proudly supported by RDA Sunshine Coast, this event is aimed at uniting key industry stakeholders to drive growth, innovation and investment in the region.

May 29-31
Events Centre, Caloundra

[Details](#)



Have your say, good people

We welcome your feedback about any of our projects






Contact us

we welcome your feedback about any of our projects or news items featured in our [monthly newsletter](#).

If you have regional news stories or economic development events relevant for the Sunshine Coast community (or even awesome images of this great place we call home that you would like to share!) - please contact us at media@rdasunshinecoast.org.au

Editorial deadline is by the 28th of each month.

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Regional Development Australia Sunshine Coast is an Australian Government initiative that works in collaboration with the Sunshine Coast and Noosa Councils to support economic development within the region.



An Australian Government Initiative

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