

NORTH QLD Games MMXXVI MACKAY

POWERED BY
PEAK^

NORTH QUEENSLAND GAMES 2026 EVENT PROGRAM

Organised by the North Queensland Sports Foundation

With Mackay Regional Council and Isaac Regional Council



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SUSTAINABLE ATHLETE ECONOMY



NORTH QUEENSLAND
SPORTS FOUNDATION.

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Mackay REGION
COUNCIL



Queensland
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The 2026 North Queensland Games are proudly supported by Queensland Government



MAY 1-4 2026

The largest multi-sport festival
in regional Australia

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MESSAGE FROM CEO



The North Queensland Games is a true celebration of our region—bringing together athletes, clubs and communities from across North Queensland. For more than four decades, The Games has created opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to participate, from grassroots to elite level. It's more than just competition, it's about connection. The Games shines a spotlight on our regional clubs, volunteers and athletes, and inspires the next generation to get involved. We are proud to work alongside our sporting bodies, clubs and partners to deliver the largest multi-sport event in regional Australia and continue building a strong legacy for our region. We also sincerely thank our members, directors and staff. As a small team across a vast region, this event would not be possible without your ongoing support and commitment

Alexander J. Fisher

Members



Cr Rhonda Coghlan
CHAIRPERSON



Cr Kristian Price
DIRECTOR



Michael Whiting
INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR



Cr Kate Hastie
DIRECTOR



Cr Ash-Lee Johnson
DIRECTOR



Alexander J. Fisher
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Cr Jane Pickles
DIRECTOR



Cr Niki Flute
DIRECTOR

Operations

Accounts Manager - Kim Williams
Events & Partnerships - Jade Nelson
Sport Officer - Erin Bloor

EVENT OVERVIEW

2026 NORTH QUEENSLAND GAMES

The 2026 North Queensland Games marks over 40 years of regional sporting excellence. Established in 1984, the Games is held every two years and is the largest multi-sport event in regional Australia, bringing together athletes of all ages and abilities—from grassroots to elite level. Delivered by the North Queensland Sports Foundation in close partnership with our members, sporting bodies and clubs, the Games shines a spotlight on regional sports, athletes and communities. Rotating between key centres, it drives participation, celebrates local talent and delivers strong economic and community impact across the region.



150,000

Participants since 1983



40+

Sports



53-62%

Typical percentage of participants from the host city



Our Mission

- To lead and connect North Queensland communities in supporting healthier and active lifestyles.
- Support the development of internal capacities to promote, encourage, represent, develop, manage and communicate sport.
- Eliminate barriers and encourage inclusiveness, whatever the ability, culture, geographical footprint or circumstances.
- Establish active pathways with community and stakeholder collaboration to support sustainable objectives.
- Provide leadership and support that will facilitate a successful events and projects portfolio.

The app for athletes.

PEAK^

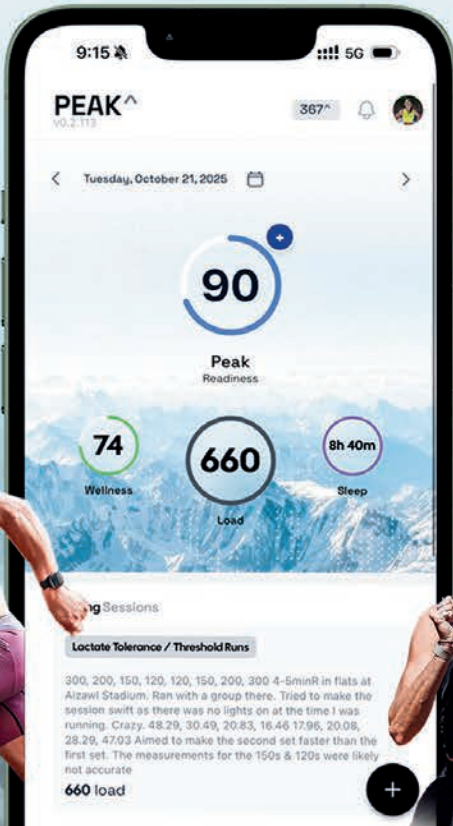


[Register](#)

Train Smarter. Perform Better

Log all your training, health and performance data in one place. Get elite-level insights, powered by modern sports technology combined with old school wisdom.

- Wellness
- Training Load
- Performances
- Sleep
- Niggles
- Recovery
- Session / Activity Planner
- Coach's Portal
- AI Insights & Analytics
- Social Feed



OFFICIAL GAMES HUB

HUB INFORMATION

The Harrup Park Games Hub will be open:
Wednesday 29 April – Sunday 3 May.

This is your central location for everything
North Queensland Games.

At the Games Hub you can:

- Collect your pre-ordered merchandise
- Pick up your competitor packs
- Access official programs
- Get event information and schedules
- Special VIP appearances
- Speak with the Games Volunteer Team



MERCHANDISE

If you've pre-ordered merch or are competing, collection will only be available during these dates.

Pre order your merch by 10th April:

<https://struddys.com.au/partner-stores/carnivals/nqg/>

You can pick up your pre-ordered merch, or buy merch at the Struddy's store inside The Games Hub at Harrup Park between Wednesday - Friday, and at Mackay Aquatic and Recreation Centre on Saturday May 2nd





NORTH QLD Games MMXXVI MACKAY

OPENING CEREMONY

CELEBRATE SPORT • FAMILY FRIENDLY • ALL WELCOME

FRIDAY 1ST MAY 5PM HARRUP PARK

What to Expect

- ✓ Food Trucks & Amusements
- ✓ Sporting Competitions with Cash Prizes
- ✓ Drumming Corps and Athletes March
- ✓ Fireworks & Live Entertainment
- ✓ Meet & Greet VIP Athletes

NQGAMES.COM.AU




NORTH QUEENSLAND
SPORTS FOUNDATION.

PEAK[^]



Queensland
Government

The North Queensland Games is proudly supported by the Queensland Government



2026 NQ Games Opening Ceremony

Friday 1st May 6pm Harrup Park

Harrup Park 89 Juliet Street, South Mackay,
Queensland 4740

Gates open – 5:00pm

Community Stalls, Amusements and Food Trucks

Athletes March – 6:00pm

Support our clubs march their way into the opening ceremony

Opening Formalities – 6:35pm

Official welcome and speeches

Lighting of the Torch – 7:15pm

A traditional lighting of the torch ceremony and oath

Fireworks – 7:30pm

A beautiful display to officially open the NQ Games

Live Entertainment– 7:45pm

Entertainment from local band Viva Music

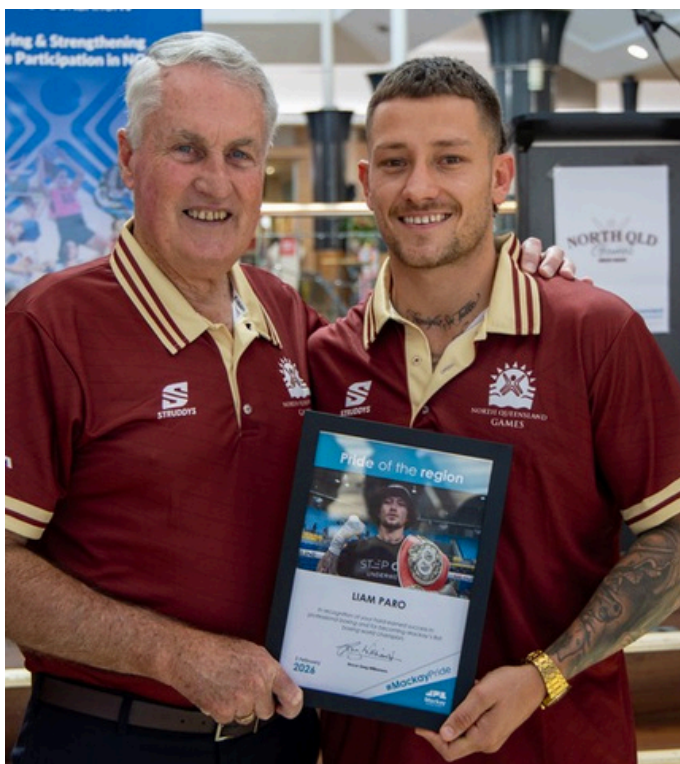
Special Sporting Events to Watch out for:

7 News 100m Sprint

Cricket Match

Woodchopping Tournament

AMBASSADORS



Liam Paro

Liam Paro is a former world champion professional boxer, born and raised in Mackay, and one of North Queensland's leading sporting exports. Consistently ranked among the top contenders in the super lightweight and welterweight divisions. Competing in the super lightweight and welterweight divisions, he has built an international reputation for his skill, discipline and consistency. Boxing since childhood, Liam's journey began in regional Queensland, including competing at the North Queensland Games as a teenager, before rising to the world stage through years of hard work and commitment. Paro is campaigning in the welterweight division, aiming to become a two-division world champion. He is a strong advocate for grassroots sport and is passionate about inspiring the next generation of athletes across North Queensland.

Career Highlights & Achievements

- Mackay Regional Council "Pride of the North" Award
- IBF Super Lightweight World Champion
- IBF Super Lightweight Regional Champion
- WBO Super Lightweight Regional Champion
- Professional Record of 27 wins, 1 loss, including 16 wins by knockout

Upcoming Title Fight

Scheduled to face undefeated IBF Welterweight World Champion Lewis Crocker in Australia in 2026



“ I'm proud to be from Mackay and looking forward to be leading the torch in 2026. If I can inspire even one young athlete to dream bigger and take that step onto the world stage then that's what it's all about ”

AMBASSADORS

Many of our ambassadors and elite athletes once stood exactly where you are now — starting their journey at the North Queensland Games. All of our 2026 ambassadors once competed at the NQ Games before going on to represent Australia at the highest level. The NQ Games played a formative role in their sporting journeys, creating lasting memories and opportunities that helped shape their paths. Today, they share powerful stories of grassroots beginnings, regional pride, and what it means to dream big from North Queensland.

MEET OUR OTHER 2026 NORTH QUEENSLAND GAMES AMBASSADORS



Natalie Cook OAM OLY

Founder of Aussie Athlete Fund

Five-time Olympian, Gold & Bronze medallist in Beach Volleyball from Townsville, committed to supporting athletes across the region to reach their green and gold dreams through the Aussie Athlete Fund.



Photo by: @chiammonte / @australianathletic

Tori West OLY

Founder of PEAK^

Olympian and North Queensland's Sportstar of the Year in 2024, Tori has a strong history with the North Queensland Sports Foundation supporting athlete development and participation across the region through modern sport technology.

EVENT SCHEDULE



100m Sprint

1 May

Great Barrier Reef Arena



BMX

2 & 3 May

Moranbah BMX Club



56er's Torch Bearers 1500m Prized Race

3 May

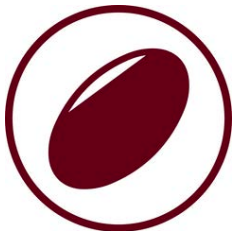
Mackay Aquatic & Recreation Complex



Boxing

30 April, 1, 2 & 3 May

Goosies Sport & Recreation Club



AFL Masters

3 May

Harrup Park



Cricket

1 May

Harrup Park



Athletics

3 & 4 May

Mackay Aquatic & Recreation Complex



Disc Golf

31 May

John Breen Park



Baton Twirling

30 May

*The Rockhampton Grammar School -
Duggan Hall*



Equestrian

2, 3 & 4 May

Mackay & District Hack & Pony Club



Beach Volleyball

1, 2 & 3 May

Citbeach Volleyball Mackay



Gymnastics

23 & 24 May

Mackay Gymnastics

EVENT SCHEDULE



Indoor Bowls

2, 3 & 4 May
Holy Spirit College



Mountain Bike Riding

2 May
Rowallan Park MTB Tracks Mackay



Outrigger Canoe Racing

2 & 3 May
Sunset Bay Outrigger Club



Para Powerlifting

2 May
St Catherines Catholic College Hall,
Proserpine



Pickleball

26 April
Mackay Tennis Association



Special Olympics

1, 2 & 3 May
Mackay Basketball, 418 Shakespeare
St, ZeroW Mackay & Mackay Leisure
Centre



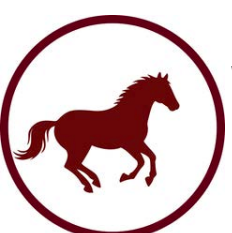
Sprint Triathlon

3 May
Mackay Harbour



Swimming

2 May
Mackay Aquatic & Recreation Complex



Western Horse Performance

1, 2, 3 & 4 May
Nebo Showgrounds



Sport Direct Contacts

SPORT	CONTACT NAME	CONTACT NO. or EMAIL
AFL Masters	Ken Fuller	E: mackayseaturtles@gmail.com P: 0403 795 154
Athletics	Mel Thomas	E: events@athleticsnorthqld.org.au
Baton Twirling	Susie McDonald	E: susie@migjet.com.au P: 0418 284 903
Beach Volleyball	Joselyn Faulkner	E: info@mackay.rslqld.net.au
BMX	Owen Matthews	E: moranbahbmxclub@bigpond.com P: 0411 316 112
Cricket	Luke Kennedy	E: luke@harruppark.com.au
Disc Golf	Craig Perkins	E: mackaydiscgolf@gmail.com
Equestrian	AJ Single	E: mackayponyclub@gmail.com P: 0427 463 057
Gymnastics	Nicky Ticconi	E: gom@mackaygymnastics.org.au P: 07 4952 0032
Indoor Bowls	Palmina Rae	E: palminann@gmail.com
Mountain Bike Riding	Pauline Green	E: treasurer@madmtbc.net P: 0439 706 210
Outrigger Canoe Racing	Andrew Batterson	E: abatterson@gatewayohs.com.au P: 0410 329 939
Para Powerlifting	Leanne Knox	E: lkstrengthcoach@gmail.com
Pickleball	Brett Walz	E: mackaytennis@hotmail.com P: 0437 546 915
Special Olympics	Kimberly Doyle	E: mackay.mentor@specialolympics.com.au P: 0474 747 778
Swimming	Theresa Manning	E: swimmingnq@gmail.com P: 0402 776 299
Triathlon	Stephanie Allen	E: president@mackaytriclub.com.au
Western Horse Performance	Danni Murray	E: SWPEC@hotmail.com P: 0408 762 285

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



SAFETY & HEALTH

Stay hydrated, wear sun protection and listen to your body. Please follow all event safety guidelines and directions.



TRANSPORTATION

Plan your travel in advance. Be mindful of fuel availability and travel distances across venues.



PHOTO AND MEDIA

Photography and filming will take place throughout the Games and may be used for promotional and commercial purposes.



MERCHANDISE

Pre-orders close 10 April. Limited merchandise will be available during the Games — once sold out, items will not be restocked.



REGISTRATION PACKS

The first 3,000 registered competitors will receive a NQ Games hat and bag as well as in the draw for exclusive signed merch from our ambassadors.



PRIZES & GIVEAWAYS

Enjoy registration prizes, competition prize money, medals and more. Visit the website for full details.

Important Event Information

Sports, venues and times are subject to change. All participants must confirm details with their sport host to ensure correct times for their division. Visit the website for the latest updates.

TRAVEL DISCOUNTS

GIFT VOUCHER

PROMO CODE: 2026NQG.
VALID 15TH APRIL - MAY 5TH 2026

WWW.QUESTAPARTMENTS.COM.AU/PROPERTIES/QLD/MACKAY/QUEST-MACKAY-ON-GORDON

15% OFF



QUEST

APARTMENT HOTELS



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VALID 29TH APRIL - 6TH MAY 2026

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BEACH SUNRISE

WITH THE

Wallabies

NORTH QLD Games

MMXXVI MACKAY

10% DISCOUNT

CODE: NQGAMES
VALID APRIL-MAY 2026



MACKAY

Adventure

TOURS AND TRANSFERS

Chase waterfalls in the ancient rainforests of Eungella National Park one day, then rise early for a picturesque Australian beach sunrise at Cape Hillsborough National Park the next. See Mackay in comfort with these two fully guided, award winning, nature adventure tours.

SCAN

Platypus
Paradise
Adventure
Day Tour



Sunrise
with the
Wallabies
Tour



Spot platypus

www.mackayadventure.com.au

The Mackay Isaac Region

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VISIT THEIR WEBSITE AND SOCIALS FOR MORE INFORMATION

**WWW.MACKAYISAAC.COM
#VISITMACKAY #OURISAAC**



SPONSORSHIP

We thank our valued partners for their support in delivering the 2026 North Queensland Games and continuing to invest in the future of regional sport.

Major Sponsor

Queensland Government

Gold Partners

Mackay Regional Council, Isaac Regional Council, PEAK^

Silver and Bronze Partners

Aussie Athlete Fund, Origin Energy, Struddys, MTP

Media Partners

Channel 7, ARN (STAR Mackay), Bishopp

Tourism Partners

Gallivanter Travel, Discovery Parks, Mainstay Suites, QUEST, Mackay Isaac, Mackay Adventures



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



When and where will the Opening Ceremony take place?

The Opening Ceremony will be held on Friday 1 May 2026 at Harrup Park, Mackay. This free community event kicks off the Games with the March of Athletes, official torch lighting, entertainment and fireworks.



How can I participate in the March of Athletes?

All clubs that want to participate in the march must sign in at the designated marshalling station at 5:30pm. Clubs must be in position at 5:45pm before the official games opening.



How can I prepare myself for my competition?

We recommend downloading the PEAK app to support your training and performance. Simply log your training and wellness daily to unlock personalised insights, monitor your training load, and better understand how your body is responding in the lead-up to competition.



Who should I contact for information about my specific sport?

Each sport is delivered by its host organisation. Please refer to your sport-specific communications for exact times and locations. For event-specific enquiries, please contact your sport coordinator directly using contact details page 14.



What about official North Queensland Games merchandise?

STRUDDYS will be at our Games hub at Harrup park Wednesday 29th April- Friday 1st May and at the Aquatic Recreational Centre Saturday 2nd May. We recommend pre-ordering to avoid missing out, as stock is limited. Once items are sold out, they will not be restocked. [Pre-orders close 10 April.](#)



Where can I collect my competitor pack?

Official NQ Games merchandise will be available for purchase at select venues and during the Opening Ceremony. Stock is limited, so be sure to get in early.



When will key events and headline competitions take place?

Key events, including the Opening Ceremony, Channel 7 100m Sprint Cup and major competitions, will run across 1–4 May. A full schedule is available on the NQ Games website.



Where can I access travel and accommodation discounts?

Exclusive travel and accommodation offers are available for participants and spectators. Visit the NQ Games website or refer to your registration information for discount codes and booking details.



How can I meet the ambassadors?

Event ambassadors will be making appearances across the Games, including at the Opening Ceremony and selected sporting events. Keep an eye on the event schedule and announcements for opportunities to meet them, take photos and attend signing sessions.

North Queensland SPORTSTAR AWARDS



Founded in 1991, the prestigious annual NQ Sportstar Awards are the longest running and most widely recognised dedicated sports awards in regional Queensland, celebrating the dedication and achievements of athletes, coaches, volunteers and sporting clubs.

NQ Hall of Fame

Celebrating and honouring the greatest athletes originating from regional Queensland, the NQ Sports Hall of Fame includes NQ legends such as Cathy Freeman, Brad Bevan, Laurie Laurence, Pat Rafter, Karrie Webb, Sam Thaiday and Vern Daisy.



Move It NQ

Established in 2028, the award winning initiative encourages community participation in easy access, low or no cost physical activity programs, plus an interactive health and wellbeing app for the development of positive, life long health behaviours for healthier and more active lifestyles



65,560+

Total attendance

5,330+

Free events delivered



\$1M

Funding for free physical activity events since 2018



16%

Indigenous participants



74%

Participants who report an improvement to their health



App launched mid-2025 with links to 1,000s of sport clubs








NORTH QUEENSLAND SPORTS FOUNDATION.

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events@nqsports.com.au
PO Box 347 Belgian Gardens Qld 4810

Scan the code for access to our contact details



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