



CREATORS' SUMMIT – IPSWICH

The Future Belongs to the *Weird*

SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2026

[#creatorssummitipswich](https://twitter.com/creatorssummitipswich)

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Ipswich City Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



Queensland
Government



TODAY'S JOURNEY

TIME	EVENT	IPSWICH CIVIC CENTRE SPACE
8.00 am – 9.00 am	Attendee Registration	Terrace
9.00 am – 9.25 am	Welcome to Country Mayor Teresa Harding: The Opening Note A Moment in Music with Tim McCallum	George Hogg Auditorium
9.25 am – 9.55 am	Greetings Art-lings!	George Hogg Auditorium
9.55 am – 10.00 am	Session Shuffle	
10.00 am – 10.30 am	An Electronic Manifesto	Cunningham Room
10.00 am – 10.30 am	From Play to Practice, Creativity in Tabletop Gaming	Lockyer Room
10.30 am – 10.50 am	Morning tea + Session Shuffle	Terrace
11.00 am – 11.45 am	Ben Lee in Conversation with Claire Christian	George Hogg Auditorium
11.45 am – 12.00 pm	Sixteen Tons – Performance	George Hogg Auditorium
12.00 pm – 12.30 pm	MOSS – Performance	George Hogg Auditorium
12.00 pm – 1.00 pm	Lunch + Session Shuffle	Terrace
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Spotlight Shorts: The Visual Arts Stage	George Hogg Auditorium
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	We Do It Our Way	Cunningham Room
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Creating Art for Impact	Lockyer Room
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Who Owns This City? A Guided Walking Tour	Terrace
2.00 pm – 2.15 pm	Break + Session Shuffle	
2.15 pm – 3.00 pm	Set and Stage Design	George Hogg Auditorium
2.15 pm – 3.00 pm	The Art of NOT Taking Off – Making Peace with the Unfamous Life	Lockyer Room
2.15 pm – 3.00 pm	The Future Belongs to the Weird... But so Does the Past	Cunningham Room
3.00 pm – 3.15 pm	Session Shuffle	
3.15 pm – 4.00 pm	Weird, Wild & Well: Future-Proofing Creative Brains in an Uncertain World	George Hogg Auditorium
3.15 pm – 4.00 pm	Finding Your Way as a New Artist	Lockyer Room
3.15 pm – 4.00 pm	AI for Event Planning	Cunningham Room
4.00 pm – 5.30 pm	Goodbye Bites with tunes from Caro Francis	Terrace

Welcome to the fifth Creators' Summit – Ipswich 2026, a celebration of the imagination and talent that shape our city's cultural identity.



A thriving arts sector strengthens our community, and supporting local creators remains one of my highest priorities.

This summit reflects what we can achieve through collaboration, passion, and shared purpose.

I am proud to see it grow each year alongside our vibrant arts community.

I hope this year's summit inspires new ideas and connections, enriching the cultural life of our community.

Mayor Teresa Harding



Finding Your Way as a New artist



If you are a new or emerging artist and have those weird feelings of not fitting in or unsure how to begin your art journey, well this talk is for you. Glen has a strong long-standing career in the arts community and would like to share his experience and some easy steps in finding your place and tribe.

AI for Event Planning

Creators are increasingly expected to do everything, from ideas and pitching through to promotion, delivery and reporting. That's a lot of expertise. In this practical, interactive session, Sally Porteous demonstrates how she uses AI tools to support her work without handing over creative control. You'll see real examples of how AI can streamline planning, research and marketing tasks, freeing up time and energy for the work only you can do. This session is about using AI as a capable assistant, not a replacement.



Weaving Workshop Drop In

🕒 1.30 pm – 3.45 pm
📍 Ipswich Civic Centre, Terrace

Auntie Erica is a recognised Aboriginal weaver throughout community.

Step into Indigenous culture where you will have a yarn, connect with each other and country all the while creating a unique woven basket using traditional techniques.



- 1 Ipswich Civic Centre
 - Terrace
 - George Hogg Auditorium
 - Cunningham Room
 - Lockyer Room
- 2 Ipswich Art Gallery
- 3 Ipswich Art Workshop
- 4 Ipswich Community Gallery
- 5 Limestone Gallery and Studio
- Oikos



Greetings Art-lings!

The Ipswich Arts Advisory Group (IAAG) invites you to a first-contact encounter with your fellow Art-lings. Consider this a friendly 'getting to know you' experiment. This gathering is your chance to connect and commune with fellow Art-lings from across the galaxy (or South East Queensland).

An Electronic Manifesto

A fast-paced conversation with electronic artists Moss and Scraps on building audiences for electronic music in regional communities, breaking barriers and growing new scenes, followed by an open Q&A.



MOSS



SCRAPS

From Play to Practice, Creativity in Tabletop Gaming

Ever wondered what draws people to tabletop gaming, from board games to role-playing games? This session explores the creativity, storytelling and shared experience behind play.

Spotlight Shorts: The Visual Arts Stage

A series of fast talks and videos from artists, creative organisations and the creative community offering a snapshot of their practice, projects and current focus.

Ben Lee in Conversation with Claire Christian

Ben Lee is one of Australia's most distinctive and enduring creative voices, a songwriter, performer and cultural experimenter who has been shaping the sound and spirit of Australian indie-pop for over three decades. This conversation explores why arts and culture matter and how creativity shapes community.



BEN LEE

Sixteen Tons

Sixteen Tons is a powerful performance centring the lived experience of the coal miner. Developed for the Ipswich Civic Centre's 50th Anniversary, it reflects Ipswich's deep coal-mining history.

We Do It Our Way

Punk band Daylight Vandal share an honest look at life in the local music scene as young artists. They unpack how to get started, build connections, organise all-ages gigs and navigate venues. The session also covers self-care, fair pay and sustaining creative momentum. The conversation is followed by a short live performance.

Creating Art for Impact

This hands-on mini workshop guides creatives through designing participatory arts experiences that aim to stimulate social change. You'll learn a structured approach to developing projects with impact at their core, from initial concept through to evaluation.



MANDI
MCINTYRE

Who Owns this City?

Neo-urbanism, public art and the power of community-led placemaking. This guided walking tour explores Ipswich through the lens of neo-urbanism, revealing how communities shape places. Participants are invited to rethink ownership, responsibility and possibility, to challenge passive consumption of space and to see the city not as something delivered to us, but something we actively create together.

Set and Stage Design

Designing Worlds offers a behind-the-scenes look at set design as a creative practice. Drawing on work across stage, public projects and commercial design, Benitta shares her creative journey, including highlights from children's productions such as Paw Patrol, SpongeBob, Shimmer and Shine and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

The Art of NOT Taking Off – Making Peace with the Unfamous Life

The Art of Not Taking Off is a reflective workshop on making peace with a creative life that doesn't follow the fame-and-fortune narrative. Damien J Johnson explores how artists can sustain joy, purpose and meaning in their work, navigate expectations and keep creating with integrity, even when success looks different than imagined.

The Future Belongs to the Weird... But so Does the Past

Take a peek behind museum doors with an insider to explore the weird quirks, accidents and passions that shape personal and institutional collecting. Discover what these stories mean for storytellers and creators.



JOSH
TARRANT

Weird, Wild & Well: Future-Proofing Creative Brains in an Uncertain World

This session shares practical tools for staying mentally well in fast-paced creative industries, informed by Hey Mate's work. Participants will learn simple strategies to manage burnout and sustain their creativity into the future.



AIMEE
DAVIES

SIDE QUESTS



Around the Table

A relaxed drop-in session at the Ipswich Art Workshop where visitors can see tabletop games in action, meet players and experience how creativity, storytelling and collaboration unfold through play. Participants are encouraged to try tabletop games from local creators and to even have a go at making their own games – with materials, advice and play-testing support all provided. Take home something you have created!

🕒 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm

📍 Ipswich Art Workshop

Exhibition: Angle of Incidence – Cynthia Copley

🕒 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

📍 ****NEW**** Limestone Gallery and Studios

A space created by Ipswich local Rebekah Walkarden. Explore this new gallery space and studio. Please note that due to the historic nature of the building, it does not have wheelchair access.

Exhibition: Machine, Man – Christopher Bentley

Machine, Man explores the fragility of digital memory and the inevitability of technological obsolescence.

🕒 10.00 am – 5.00 pm

📍 Ipswich Art Gallery

Exhibition: Lost in Palm Springs

A national touring exhibition that brings together the creative minds of 14 internationally recognised artists, photographers and thinkers from America and Australia.

🕒 10.00 am – 5.00 pm

📍 Ipswich Art Gallery

Hannah Gartside – Hear Your World

Join this workshop for a unique opportunity to learn from one of Australia's most exciting contemporary artists and leave with a playful wearable artwork of your own. Seats limited to 25 attendees on a first in, best dressed basis.

All attendees must remain for the full two-hour session.

🕒 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

📍 Ipswich Community Gallery

CANCELLED