January 16-18 2026 tunaramafestival.com.au

Bendigo Bank

RAMA RESTIVAL

PROGRAM
26

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Tunarama Festival set to return in 2026 with new energy and local pride

Port Lincoln is preparing for one of its most anticipated summer traditions, as the Bendigo Bank Tunarama Festival returns from 16 to 18 January 2026.

After a brief reset period, the festival is stepping back into the spotlight with a refreshed approach that highlights community spirit, local industry and the region's strong connection to the sea.

Organisers say the 2026 event will feel both familiar and new. Much-loved features will return, including the famous Tuna Toss, the colourful street parade and a packed schedule of entertainment on the foreshore. At the same time, a renewed focus on culture, produce and family experiences

aims to give visitors a broader taste of what makes Port Lincoln unique.

Preparations have been underway for several months, with local businesses, volunteers and community groups already involved. The committee has emphasised that the new direction honours more than six decades of festival history while responding to the changing needs and interests of the region.

The festival's roots date back to 1962, when the town celebrated the local tuna industry with a blessing of the fleet and a small gathering on the wharf.

Over time it grew into a major regional event, drawing crowds from across Eyre Peninsula, South Australia and beyond. In 2026 the core purpose remains the same; to showcase the industries, people and stories that

have shaped Port Lincoln.

Seafood will again be a major drawcard, with demonstrations, tastings and workshops planned throughout the three-day program. Visitors will have the chance to watch chefs prepare local species, learn about sustainable fishing practices and meet producers who contribute to Port Lincoln's reputation as the Seafood Capital of Australia. A number of new food experiences are expected to be added, giving families more variety and more casual dining options on the foreshore.

Live music will run across the weekend, featuring a mix of local performers and visiting acts. Organisers say music has always played a key role in creating the festival atmosphere, and 2026 will continue that tradition with a line-up designed to appeal to all ages. From relaxed afternoon sessions to energetic evening sets, entertainment will be spread across multiple locations to encourage visitors to explore and enjoy the full foreshore precinct.

Another area of focus for 2026 is cultural and community participation. Local groups, clubs and businesses are being invited to become more involved, whether through stalls, performances or collaborative activities. The committee has spoken about giving more visibility to multicultural communities, young people and emerging artists, helping them share their skills, stories and traditions with the wider public.



Since 1962, the Tunarama Festival has been the heart and soul of summer in Port Lincoln.



Early discussions also suggest the return of a stronger workshop and activity program. Family-friendly sessions are being considered, including craft, cooking, environmental education and sport. The idea is to create more free or low-cost options that appeal to residents as well as visitors, encouraging people to stay longer and engage more deeply with the event.

The heart of Tunarama remains the Tuna Toss, a quirky but iconic competition that has become known around the world. Contestants attempt to throw a (rubber) tuna as far as possible, with the crowd cheering on newcomers, past champions and ambitious

challengers.

This long-standing tradition continues to be one of the main crowd-pleasers of the weekend.

Alongside the Tuna Toss sits the annual parade. another favourite with families. Local schools. clubs and organisations take part each year, many spending weeks preparing floats, costumes and performances. For many residents, being part of the parade is a childhood memory that carries through generations. In 2026 the committee hopes to see a strong turnout, with an emphasis on creativity, colour and community pride.

Tourism operators across the region are also preparing for an influx of visitors. Accommodation providers, from hotels to holiday rentals, typically see strong bookings across the festival period. Many are planning special packages to help visitors make the most of their stay, combining the festival with local tours, seafood experiences and outdoor adventures.

The Blessing of the Fleet will once again open the festival. This traditional ceremony pays respect to Port Lincoln's maritime history and the people who work on the water. Held at the Marina Wharf, the event brings together fishing families, community members and visitors in a quiet moment of reflection before the festivities begin. In recent years the blessing has become a

symbolic link between past and present, honouring the contributions of the industry while recognising its future.

Community support continues to be a major factor in the festival's success. Volunteers assist with everything from set-up and pack-down to information booths, logistics, safety and event coordination. The committee has highlighted that the festival would not exist without the dedication of locals who give their time to help the event run smoothly. Recruitment for the 2026 volunteer crew is already open, with roles available for people of all ages and abilities.





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Welcome to Tunarama Bendigo Bank

Celebrating the return of Bendigo Bank Tunarama Festival Port Lincoln is delighted to announce our enthusiastic support for the return of the iconic Bendigo Bank Tunarama Festival to our region's summer celebrations. This world-renowned festival has long been a beacon that draws visitors from across Australia and the globe, creating unforgettable memories for families, locals, and tourists alike. Having proudly supported Bendigo Bank Tunarama Festival for over a decade before

its pause, we recognise the immense value it brings to our community and local businesses.

Its return promises a vibrant injection of activity and fun into Port Lincoln, giving everyone a reason to celebrate together during the sunny months. As a true Community Bank, we believe in the importance of events that showcase our region's talented people and unique industries. Bendigo Bank Tunarama Festival offers an opportunity for us all to come together, celebrate what makes Port Lincoln

special, and share our story with the world. Customers who choose Bendigo Community Bank Port Lincoln support our unique model of investment in this community for many diverse projects and community benefits. We are especially excited to see the revival of some beloved flagship activities on the program, providing a chance for old friends and new faces to enjoy the spirit of the festival. Bendigo Community Bank Port Lincoln is proud to stand alongside our community as we welcome back



Rob Donaldson | Chairperson

Tunarama and all the joy it brings. Let us look forward to a summer filled with fun, connection, and celebration. See you at Tunarama!



Welcome to Tunarama Mayor of Port Lincoln

On behalf of the City of Port Lincoln, we are delighted to present the 61st Tunarama Festival.

Tunarama has long been
Port Lincoln's premier
summer celebration,
honouring the heritage of
our fishing industry and the
exceptional seafood and
stories of the Eyre Peninsula.
Over the decades it has
evolved alongside our
industry - from tuna polling
to quotas and ranching
- expanding to reflect
aquaculture, sustainability,
and marine science.

Early festivals featured the Blessing of the Fleet, sail pasts, parades, community stalls and the iconic Miss Tunarama Quest. As it grew, Tunarama became a major regional attraction, with sideshows, competitions, colour and community energy transforming the foreshore each summer. Many memorable moments remain part of our shared history — from Steakarama

and rodeos to Yothu Yindi at Centenary Oval, talent shows, beach competitions and the famous slippery pole.

We extend our sincere thanks to the dedicated volunteers and former Tunarama committees whose creativity, passion and resilience delivered decades of joy and economic benefit. Their legacy has shaped this festival.

The City's acquisition of Tunarama's intellectual property ensures the vision continues – refreshed, rebranded and more exciting than ever. Signature favourites return, including the parade, fireworks, swim-thru, boat building and the world-renowned Tuna Toss, now joined by a revitalised Eyre Square and the new Rock the Bay concert at Centenary Oval.

A personal highlight, the Blessing of the Fleet, now



Diana Mislov | Mayor of Port Lincoln

opens the festival with a family-friendly gathering at the Marina - the heart of our fishing fleet. I hope to see you there.

We acknowledge the Barngarla people, traditional custodians of this land and sea. Their word for Port Lincoln, Galinyala - "place of sweet water" - beautifully reflects the foreshore that hosts Tunarama. Whether this is your first Tunarama or your sixty-first, we warmly welcome you to experience Port Lincoln, enjoy our hospitality, savour our seafood and celebrate where our history meets our horizon.



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Welcome to Tunarama Kyle Chalmers

It's an absolute honour to welcome you to the Bendigo Bank Tunarama Festival. Growing up on the Eyre Peninsula, I've always been proud of the community spirit, resilience, and passion that make this region so special - and Tunarama captures all of that and more.

This festival has been a part of Port Lincoln's identity for generations. It brings people together to celebrate our world-class seafood, our local industries, and the incredible community that supports them.
Whether you're here for the iconic Tuna Toss, the live entertainment, the food and wine, or simply to soak up the atmosphere, Tunarama has something for everyone.

I'm thrilled to be part of this year's celebrations and to stand alongside the people and businesses who make this event possible. Thank you to the volunteers, sponsors, fishers, performers, and local families who give their time and energy to this fantastic event. To everyone visiting from near and far: welcome. I hope you make great memories, try something new, and enjoy everything our beautiful region has to offer.

Have an amazing Tunarama 2026!

Don't miss a special highlight of this year's Tunarama Festival -Kyle Chalmers will be participating in the Swim Thru on Saturday 17th January at 9am, starting from the Town Jetty!











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Tunarama Program Week of Tunarama Events

Thursday 15th January

11:00am - 5:00pm

Oysters and Champagne on the Lawn

Teakle Wines

Thursday 15th January 6:00pm - 8:30pm

RecFish SA Knot Tying Workshop

Port Lincoln Yacht Club

Thursday 15th - Sunday 18th January

Port Lincoln Bendigo Bank Art Prize

Nautilus Arts Centre

Friday 16th - Sunday 18th January

Barossa Helicoptor Rides

Friday 16 - Sunday 18 January

One and All - Open Day & Bay Cruise

Brennen's Wharf

Tunarama Program Friday 16th January 2026

4:00pm - 11:00pm

Market Lane Open

4:00pm - 11:00pm

Eyre Square Open

4:00pm - 11:00pm

Sideshow Alley Open

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Kids Zone Open

Kids' activities galore!

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Kids Face Painting

Foxy Face Painting brings a burst of colour, with creative face designs, glittery magic, and playful makeovers turning kids into their favourite characters and fantastical creatures.

Kids Zone

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Lawn Games

Outdoor fun for everyone! Family-friendly games and laughter awaits!

Kids Zone

4:00pm - 6:30pm

Blessing of the Fleet & Launch of The Bendigo Bank 61st Tunarama Festival

An official ceremonial opening proudly brought to the community by the Seafood Industry of South Australia.

Port Lincoln Marina Wharf

4:15pm

Live Music by Owie Paroz

Eyre Square

4:30pm - 6:00pm

Pout-Pout Fish Screening

Family-friendly fun on the big screen! Dive into the Pout-Pout Fish film screening.

Lincoln Cinema

5:00pm

Tasting Session with Jump Ship Brewing at the Eyre Square tasting marquee.

Eyre Square Tasting Marquee

5:15pm

Live Music by Rumble Trio

Featuring Jayde Whittaker & John Murray

Eyre Square

6:00pm - 11:00pm

Taste of Eyre Gala Dinner

A menu curated by Eyre Peninsula's top chefs Jono Sweet, Marion Trethewey, Jay Fajardo, Chelsea Christian, and Marvin Lattrez.

Tickets available at tunaramafestival.com.au

Foreshore

6:20pm

Live Music by Josh Phillips

Eyre Square

7:30pm

Live Music by Jake Horton

Eyre Square

8:30pm

Live Music by Jake Daulby

Eyre Square

9:30pm

Seafood Industry South Australia Fireworks Display

A major fireworks show lighting up the Port Lincoln foreshore by Event Fireworks.

Port Lincoln Foreshore

9:45pm

Live Music by Jo Page Duo Eyre Square

11:00pm

Tunarama Closes

Tunarama Program

Saturday 17th January 2026

9:00am

Swim Thru Event

Morning open-water swimming event with Tunarama Ambassador, Kyle Chalmers.

Town Jetty

9:00am - 1:30pm

RecFish SA Fishing Competition

Land-based competition from North Shields to Tulka with RecFish.

10:00am - 5:00pm

SA Water Colouring Competition

Visit the SA Water marquee at the Kids Zone and take part in the kids colouring activities.

10:00am - 11:00pm

Market Lane Open

11:00am - 11:00pm

Eyre Square Open

10:00am - 11:00pm

Sideshow Alley Open

10:30am

Spencer Gulf and West Coast Prawn Association Prawn Toss

Calling all 5-10 year olds to come and have a go at becoming the 2026 prawn tossing champion.

Limited to 50 participants
– register at the Tunarama
Information Marquee before
10am.

Tuna Toss Arena

10:00am - 6:00pm

RecFish SA Fishing Simulator

Interactive catch-and-release fishing simulator.

Port Lincoln Foreshore

10:00am - 11:00am

Storytime, Singalongs & Frozen Treasure Hunt with Elsa & Anna

A themed kids entertainment hour with character performers.

Kids Zone

11:00am

Sashimi Cooking Demonstration with Lukina Lukin

Eyre Square

12:00pm

Tasting Session – Teakle Wines

Eyre Square Tasting Marquee

12:00pm

Bendigo Bank Tunarama Parade

The much-loved annual parade through Tasman Terrace. Prizes will be announced with prizes for Bright Future (individual up to 18 years), Best Community Float, Best Business Entry, Most Humorous Float and Best Music Float

Tasman Terrace

1:00pm

Kingfish Cooking Demonstration with Craig McCathie

Eyre Square

1:45 pm

Live music by Margaux Santos. *Eyre Square*

2:00pm - 6:00pm

Face Painting

Foxy Face Painting brings a burst of colour, with creative face designs, glittery magic, and playful makeovers turning kids into their favourite characters.

Kids Zone

2:00pm - 3:00pm

Roving Bluey & Fairy/Superhero Characters

Once Upon A Time brings your favourite characters to life as they wander the grounds, ready for giggles, magical greetings, and picture-perfect moments.

Kids Zone

1:30pm

Spencer Gulf Kingfish Toss Competition – Heats

If you're aged 11-15 this is your chance to step up and see if you've got what it takes to make it to the Kingfish Toss finals.

Entries are limited – register at the Tunarama Information Marquee before 11am on Saturday 17 January.

Tuna Toss Arena

2:15pm

Parade Prizes Announcement Eyre Square

3:00pm

Cooking Demo and Storytelling with Zach Green

Experience the flavours and stories of Country with Zach Green, The Storyteller Chef at Eyre Square. A proud Gunditimara and Palawa man, Zach brings Indigenous culture to life through food, using native ingredients and traditional knowledge to craft dishes that connect people with heritage, land, and community.

Eyre Square

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Spencer Gulf Kingfish Toss Competition – Finals

The top competitors face off for the longest throw to crown the 2026 King Fish Toss Champion.

Tuna Toss Arena

3:00pm - 5:00pm

Norwood F.C. Football Clinic

Join some of the Norwood F.C. players and get stuck into drills, skills and heaps of active fun.

Kids Zone

3:30pm

ASBTIA Tuna Toss - Heats

A highlight of the festival is the famous World Championship Tuna Toss with people from all over the world coming to have a go at tossing a tuna for their chance to win and be crowned the Tuna Toss champion.

Register prior to 12pm on Saturday 17th January.

Tuna Toss Arena

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Roving Entertainment, Balloon Twisting & Bubbles

From magic bubbles to balloon-bending with your favourite characters, Once Upon A Time Entertainment keeps the whole family entertained.

Kids Zone

4:00pm - 11:00pm

Rock the Bay Concert

A full evening concert with live bands and entertainment. Tickets available at moshtix.com.au

Centenary Oval

4:45pm

RecFish Fishing Competition Prizes Announcement

Eyre Square

5:00pm

Live music by Jo Page Duo

Eyre Square

6:00pm

Cooking Demonstration with Tony Ford

Tony Abalone is hitting the Eyre Square Stage to show off the mystical world of abalone... plus a few laughs along the way!

Eyre Square

7:15pm

Live Music

Eyre Square

8:30pm

Live music by Jake Daulby at Eyre Square.

Eyre Square

9:45pm

Live Music

Eyre Square

11:00pm

Tunarama Closes



Tunarama Program Sunday 18th January 2026

7:30am - 8:30am

Yoga

Join Emma Varney from Port Lincoln Yoga Studio for a free outdoor yoga class on the foreshore. Please bring your own mats

Tuna Toss Arena

8:00am

Triathlon

Swim. Bike. Run. Push your boundaries and achieve an incredible goal at the Tunarama Triathlon on 18th January 2026. Register through tunaramafestival.com.au

Laguna Reserve

9:00am - 11am

Bunnings Boat Building Competition – Build

Competitors have just two hours to build a plywood boat using strictly limited materials. See competitors put their vessels to test alongside the Town Jetty at 3pm. Entry forms available at Bunnings Port Lincoln. Registrations are limited - register instore at Bunnings Port Lincoln. \$25 sign up fee.

Tasman Terrace Carpark

10:00am - 2:00pm

SA Water Colouring Competition

Get creative with SA Water! Kids are invited to unleash their imagination with hands-on colouring fun.

Kids Zone

9:30am

RecFish SA Fishing Clinics

Junior and Womens Fishing Clinics. Register via tunaramafestival.com.au

Brennen's Wharf

10:00am - 12:00pm

Mad Hatters Tea Party

Step into Wonderland! Alice and the Mad Hatter host a morning of fun, games and giggles at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

Kids Zone

10:00am - 7:00pm

Market Lane Open



11:00am - 7:00pm

Eyre Square Open

10:00am - 7:00pm

Sideshow Alley Open

10:00am - 2:00pm

Face Painting

From magical creatures and beloved characters, to superheroes and fairies, Foxy Face Painting brings every child's imagination to life!

Kids Zone

11:00am

Japanese Drummers – Live Performance

Eyre Square

11:00am - 1:00pm

SA Water Sand Sculpture Competition

Two hours to create your own masterpiece on the beach in front of the Tuna Toss Arena.

Categories:

Kids under 12 up to 2 participants

Kids up to 12 up to 4 participants

Family

Open category 4 people in group

Port Lincoln Beach

11:30am

RecFish SA Fishing Clinics

Junior and Womens Fishing Clinics. Register via tunaramafestival.com.au

Brennen's Wharf

12:00pm

Tasting Session - Teakle Wines

Tasting Session with Teakle Wines at the Eyre Square tasting marquee.

Eyre Square Tasting Marquee

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Roving Character & Mascot Entertainment

Snap, play and laugh! Meet your favourite characters as they roam the Kids Zone spreading fun and smiles.

Kids Zone

1:30pm

RecFish SA Fishing Clinics

Junior and Womens Fishing Clinics. Register via tunaramafestival.com.au

Brennen's Whart

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Chess Time-Handicap Play
Port Lincoln Library

2:00pm

Live music by The Cookie Farmers

Eyre Square

2:00pm - 3:30pm

Craft Activities with Characters

Let your imagination run wild with fun, playful, and magical hands-on crafts led by Once Upon a Time Entertainment.

Kids Zone

2:00pm

ASBTIA Tuna Toss - Final

See how the fish really fly here in Port Lincoln. 10 men and 10 women selected in yesterday's heats will be tossing to see who will be the 2026 ASBTIA Tuna Toss World Champion.

Come down and find out first hand - who knows, a record might even be broken! Male 37.23m & Female 22.15m

Tuna Toss Arena

3:00pm

Bunnings Boat Building Competition - Race

See competitors from the boat building competition put their vessels to the test in the waters alongside the Town Jetty.

This highly entertaining event is not to be missed.

Port Lincoln Beach next to Town Jetty

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Chess Q+A

Port Lincoln Library

3:00pm - 5:00 pm

Lawn Games

Outdoor fun for everyone! Family-friendly games and laughter awaits!

Kids Zone

3:15pm

Live music by Drew Cornell.

Eyre Square

4:00pm

Bunning's Boat Building Competition Winners Presentation

Official winner announcements for the Boat Building competitions.

Eyre Square

4:00pm - 6:00pm

Roving Princesses & Mermaids

Meet, greet, snap photos, and make magical memories with our roaming characters.

Kids Zone

4:15pm

Live music by Owie Paroz. Eyre Square

5:00pm

ASBTIA Tuna Toss and Spencer Gulf Kingfish Toss Winners Presentation.

Official winner announcements for the throwing competitions.

Eyre Square

5:30pm

Sax & DJ Duo

Eyre Square

6:45pm

Closing remarks for Tunarama 2026.

Eyre Square

7:00pm

Tunarama 2026 closes.



Friday 16th January Port Lincoln Marina Wharf 4pm - 6:30pm

Blessing of the Fleet



The Blessing of the Fleet is one of Tunarama's most cherished traditions, bringing the community together to honour Port Lincoln's fishing heritage and the people who work on the water every day.

Held at the Marina Wharf, the ceremony is open to the public and welcomes locals, visitors, families, and anyone who wants to share in this special moment. It's a chance to pause, reflect, and wish our fleet a safe and successful season ahead.

Alongside the formal blessing, you can enjoy live local music and delicious seafood tastings - all generously donated by the fishing industry and prepared on site by Chef Damien Mrdjen, with help from local fishers. It's a true showcase of the region's world-class seafood and the people behind it.

Come down early, take in the atmosphere, and be part of a long-standing Port Lincoln tradition that continues to bring the community together year after year.



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Taste of Eyre Gala Dinner

Friday 16th January Port Lincoln Foreshore 6pm - 11pm

Set against the stunning Port Lincoln foreshore on Friday 16 January, Taste of Eyre is your opportunity to immerse yourself in an ocean-inspired dining experience celebrating the very best of Eyre Peninsula seafood, produce, and regional talent. Arrive from 6pm to enjoy pre-dinner drinks and soak up the coastal atmosphere before being seated at 7pm for a three-course feast crafted by some of the Eyre Peninsula's top chefs, including Jono Sweet, Marion Trethewey, Jay Fajardo,

Chelsea Christian and Marvin Lattrez. Each dish showcases world-class flavours, creativity, and the unmistakable character of the region's renowned ingredients. Every course will be thoughtfully paired with exceptional local beverages from Jump Ship Brewing, Port Lincoln Brewing Co, Boston Bay Wines, West Coast Distilling Co and Teakle Wines, offering a truly authentic taste of the Eyre Peninsula.

Guests are encouraged to embrace the occasion with our Oceanic dress theme, blue, white and silver.

Ticket price includes dinner and beverages, along with a prime viewing spot for the spectacular 9:30pm fireworks, after which guests are welcome to continue the celebrations within the Gala Dinner marquee.

This event proudly celebrates (and is made possible by the generous support of) our produce partners: Port Lincoln City Council, South Australian Tourism Commission, Seafood Industry Australia, Australian Southern Bluefin

Tuna Industry Association,
South Australian Northern
Zone Rock Lobster
Fisherman's Association,
Yumbah Aquaculture,
Spencer Gulf Kingfish,
Spencer Gulf & West Coast
Prawn Association, South
Australian Sardine Industry
Inc, Lincoln Meat Services,
The Marine Fishers
Association, Rumi on Louth,
L'Anse French Cafe and
Santis

Celebrate the region, its flavours, and its people at this truly special Eyre Peninsula dining experience.













































Chef Highlights

Meet the incredible chefs bringing the flavours of the Eyre Peninsula to life. Each chef combines passion, creativity and local ingredients to craft dishes that celebrate the region's world-class produce.

Taste of Eyre Gala Dinner

Marion Trethewey

Locavore, organic and seasonal have been Marion's culinary style from long before they became the catchcries of the food industry. Years of travel after leaving her childhood family farm, immersing in various cultures and cuisines led to the establishment of a number

of catering and dining ventures, until discovering the abundance of Eyre Peninsula and beauty of Coffin Bay. Honing her skills at The Oysterbeds for almost a decade, Marion now enjoys cooking for small private events and the occasional showcase dinner.



Jono Sweet

Jono Sweet is the Executive
Chef at Samphire, the
two-hatted restaurant
at Rumi on Louth - a
private-island luxury
retreat off South Australia's
Eyre Peninsula. Known
for his refined Modern
Australian style with
Mediterranean and Asian
influence, Jono celebrates

the region's pristine
seafood and native island
produce. A champion of
sustainability and precision,
his dishes embody
Rumi's island-to-table
philosophy and showcase
the Eyre Peninsula's finest
ingredients with elegance,
vibrancy, and a deep
respect for place.

Marvin Lattrez

Marvin began his culinary career in France, training under Michelin-starred chefs and working in luxury restaurants where he refined his craft and passion for high-end gastronomy. In 2022, he and his family relocated to Port Lincoln, a move that allowed them to grow

their team and maintain the high standards they're known for. With more space to create, Marvin now produces a full range of handmade French pastries at L'Anse French Bakery in Port Lincoln, alongside the intricate dishes that have become his signature.





Taste of Eyre Gala Dinner

Chef Highlights

Meet the incredible chefs bringing the flavours of the Eyre Peninsula to life. Each chef combines passion, creativity and local ingredients to craft dishes that celebrate the region's world-class produce.

Jay Fajardo

Jay Fajardo learnt to cook from a young age, spending hours in the kitchen watching his mum and soaking up the way she cooked from instinct and heart. Largely self-taught in commercial kitchens, he went on to open his first restaurant in Port Lincoln after falling in love with the town and now proudly owns Santi's. Jay is known for his

passion for championing under-utilised local produce, giving it new life through big, bold Southeast Asian flavours. His food reflects both his upbringing and his travels - blending childhood memories of his mum's cooking with modern influences to create dishes that are nostalgic, vibrant and full of character.



Chelsea Christian

Chelsea Christian is a local Port Lincoln freelance chef who started in the kitchen at 15, inspired by the West Coast's incredible catch-and-cook lifestyle. She focuses on keeping food simple, healthy, fresh, and proudly local. Known as the "Smiling Yes Chef,"

she brings a positive, can-do approach to every service and every plate.



Friday 16th January Port Lincoln Foreshore 9:30pm

Seafood Industry South Australia Fireworks

The Seafood Industry South Australia Fireworks Display is one of the most loved moments of the Tunarama weekend, lighting up the Port Lincoln foreshore and bringing the whole community together.

On Friday 16 January 2026, the sky above the foreshore will come alive with colour as fireworks launch over the water and reflect across the bay. It's a special end to a big day of celebrating. If you're a local, you'll know to get in early - the good spots go fast. Find a place along the foreshore, throw down a rug or set up a chair, grab something to eat and enjoy the build-up as the crowd rolls in.

It's one of those simple Tunarama moments that never gets old, and a great way to kick off a fun weekend in Port Lincoln.







Bendigo Bank Tunarama Parade

Saturday 17th January Tasman Terrace 12pm

A highlight of the Bendigo Bank Tunarama Festival not to be missed, the Bendigo Bank Tunarama Parade brings the streets of Port Lincoln to life with colourful floats, vehicles, and local businesses, community groups, and organisations.

The parade kicks off at 12 noon on Saturday 17 January, heading across Tasman Terrace.

Follow along and tune in to Tuna899 for live updates.

Come down, cheer on your favourites, and enjoy all the colour and fun of the Bendigo Bank Tunarama Parade!

There will be prizes for:

Bright Future (individual up to 18 years)

Best Community Float

Best Business Entry

Most Humorous Float

Best Music Float







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"Congratulations to the Tunarama committee for bringing the Festival back."



AUTHORISED BY SAM TELFER MP 36 WASHINGTON STREET, PORT LINCOLN



Tuna Toss

sponsored by Australian Southern Bluefin Tuna Industry

A Tradition Born in Port Lincoln

The Tuna Toss didn't start as a stunt or a spectacle it began as a light-hearted way to celebrate what Port Lincoln does best: fishing. Long before it became a festival highlight, the idea was inspired by the work done on the docks, where tuna were once unloaded by physically throwing them from the boats to waiting trucks, and local youths were sometimes hired based on how far they could throw the fish. When the Tunarama Festival was established in 1962 to mark the start of the tuna season and promote the local industry, this tradition eventually found new life, becoming an official competition around 1979 or 1980 as a fun way to showcase local skills.

What started as a bit of friendly fun quickly grew into one of the festival's most loved events.

Year after year, the Tuna
Toss drew bigger crowds,
stronger throwers, and
more attention, eventually
putting Port Lincoln on the
map for one of the most
unusual competitions in
the country. As it grew, the
rules became more official,
records began to matter,
and the competition
gained a serious edge –
but its spirit never changed.

At its core, the Tung Toss remains a celebration of community pride, the seafood industry, and Port Lincoln's sense of humour. Today, it's recognised far beyond the Eyre Peninsula and is often talked about as one of Australia's most iconic and quirky events. And while distances get longer and techniques evolve, the meaning behind it stays the same: honouring a region built on the ocean and celebrating its traditions.





20 Proper Bay Road, Port Lincoln SA 5606 (f) (a) @freshfishplace



Factory Outlet & Seafood Eatery ingredients less travelled

Heats Saturday 17th January 2026 3:30pm **Finals Sunday 18th January 2026** 2pm

Tuna Toss



A Tunarama weekend staple, the world-famous **ASBTIA Tuna Toss draws** competitors from across Australia and beyond, all keen to see how far they can launch a 10kg tuna.

The competition is open to men and women aged 16+, and entry is completely free. Spots are limited to 40 men and 40 women, and all entrants must register at the Tunarama Information Marquee before 12pm on Saturday 17 January. Competitors will need to be available for heats at 3:45pm.

Each competitor gets one throw in the heats, so

make it count. The top ten men and top ten women will return for the finals on Sunday 18 January at 2pm, where finalists will have two attempts to secure the longest distance.

Competition Details:

Competitors typically throw a Southern Bluefin Tuna weighing around 9 to 10 kilograms (20 pounds). Up until 2008, a fresh or frozen tuna was used; since then, a weighted, plastic tuna is used for initial heats, with a real, frozen tuna (undersized fish that died naturally) used in the finals.

Technique and Records:

The most successful

competitors use a hammer-throwing technique, spinning multiple times before releasing the fish.

Men's Record: Sean Carlin, an Olympic hammer thrower, set the unbeaten record of 37.23 metres in 1998.

Women's Record:

Commonwealth Games gold medalist Brooke Krueger-Billet set the unbeaten record of 21.25 metres in 2002.

Come down, cheer them on - you might even witness a new record in 2026.







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Spencer Gulf Kingfish Toss sponsored by Yumbah Aquaculture

Saturday 17th January **Tuna Toss Arena** 1:30pm

This fun and competitive event gives 11-15 year olds the chance to show off their skills - and maybe even start their journey to becoming a future Tuna Toss champion.

Entries are limited to 20 participants, so make sure to register your child at the Tunarama Information Marquee before llam on Saturday 17 January.

The top five competitors from the heats will advance to the finals, held at 3pm on Saturday 17 January, with prizes to be won.





Bayside Tunarama Weekend

LIVE MUSIC ALL WEEKEND

FRI 16 KBEEZ GANG | 8:30PM

SAT 17 JOHNNY & FRIENDS | 8:30PM

SUN 18 JAKE HORTON | 1PM - 4PM



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Saturday 17th January Tuna Toss Arena 10:30am

Prawn Toss

sponsored by Spencer Gulf & West Coast Prawn Association



The little ones can join in the Tunarama fun with the Prawn Toss at 10:30am on Saturday 17 January.

Children aged 5-10 will each get three throws, with the best three throws winning prizes.

Entries are limited to 50 participants, and registration must be completed at the Tunarama Information Marquee before 10am on the day.

Who knows - this junior competition might just reveal the next generation of Tuna Toss champions.



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Rock the Bay

Saturday 17th January Centenary Oval 4pm - 11pm

We're shaking things up at the Tunarama Festival with an exciting new addition - ROCK THE BAY. An outdoor Music event featuring some of Australia's biggest and most loved artists. Expect a massive night of live music, energy, and summer vibes right here on the Eyre Peninsula.

Join us on Saturday 17
January 2026 at Centenary
Oval, as we bring together
music, community,
and sunshine for an
unforgettable evening.
Whether you're a local or
travelling in for the festival,
this will be one of the
standout moments of the
Tunarama weekend.

Brought to you by SRO and proudly supported by Port Lincoln City Council, Open Eyre Events, South Australian Tourism Commission and the Port Lincoln Football League.

We acknowledge the
Barngarla people as the
Traditional Custodians of
the land where Rock the
Bay takes place. We pay
our respects to Elders past
and present, and recognise
that sovereignty was never
ceded.

The Living End are an iconic Australian rock trio known for their explosive, punk-driven energy.

They first broke through with the landmark single "Second Solution / Prisoner of Society," cementing themselves as a national force. Decades later, they continue to deliver powerful live shows and remain one of Australia's most influential rock bands.

Hot Dub Time Machine

is a globally touring
DJ act famous for its
unique, decade-spanning
"time-traveling" party sets.
His shows blend massive
hits from every era into
one seamless, high-energy
performance. With a huge
festival presence, he has
become one of the world's
most in-demand feel-good
acts.

The Dreggs are a Sunshine Coast indie-folk duo known for their warm harmonies and acoustic storytelling. Their heartfelt songs have helped them build a loyal and growing national fanbase. With regular festival appearances, they continue to shine as a standout act in Australia's modern folk scene.

Teenage Joans are a rising Adelaide punk-pop duo

celebrated for their sharp songwriting and powerful live energy. Since winning triple j Unearthed High, they've quickly become one of Australia's most exciting young bands.

With major tours and festival slots, their momentum continues to accelerate.

Vyce Verso is an Adelaide DJ known for his vibrant, uplifting house and dance sets. His style blends modern beats with nostalgic anthems to create feel-good energy wherever he plays. With growing demand at clubs, parties, and events, he's become a standout name in Adelaide's DJ scene.

Tickets available at: www.moshtix.com.au



Sunday 18th January Boat Build: 9am

Tasman Terrace Carpark

Race: 3pm

Port Lincoln Beach

Bunnings Boat Building Competition

Get ready for a race of skill, creativity, and a little chaos in the Bunnings Boat Building Competition! Teams of two will have just two hours to construct a plywood boat using a strictly limited set of materials before testing their design on the water.

Build time is from 9am-11am on Sunday 18
January, with competitors returning later in the day to put their creations to the test alongside the Town Jetty from 3pm.

Prizes are awarded to the first team to make it back to shore without sinking - with all team members still aboard! Categories include Open Class and Family Class, and there's also a prize for the best themed team, so creativity is highly encouraged.

Entry forms are available at Bunnings Port Lincoln, with a maximum of 25 teams able to participate.



Entry fee is \$25 per team, apply now in store at Bunnings Port Lincoln.





Kids Zone

Friday 16th January 4pm-6pm Saturday 17th January 10am-6pm Sunday 18th January 10am-6pm



The Kids Zone is where the fun starts for little legends at Tunarama. Set along the foreshore, it's a bright, busy space made for kids to run around, get creative and soak up all the fun of the festival, all for free.

There's plenty happening all weekend, including face painting, silent discos, the SA Water Colouring Competition, lawn games, crafts and loads of other hands-on activities. Keep an eye out too - there'll be daily visits from some

familiar faces to keep the smiles coming.

Whether it's dancing, drawing, face painting or just enjoying the buzz, there's something for kids of every age. It's also a great spot for parents to take a breather while the kids are happily entertained.

Pop it on your must-do list the Kids Zone is a favourite every year and a sure way to keep the whole family happy at Tunarama.







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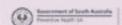
FREE Type 2 Diabetes Screening for people from our Aboriginal and multicultural communities

Join Diabetes SA at the **Tunarama Festival!**

Market Lane, 16 – 18th January 2026

Scan the QR code to check your risk before the day and bring along your result to have a conversation with one of our health professionals or complete the screening with us on the day.

Everyone who completes the screening and has a conversation will be entered into the draw to **win daily prizes!**







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