

Tudgee adds his spin on tourism appeal

By Angela Norval

Tudgee Creative's Robert Tedge has shown his commitment to promoting the region through some custom illustration work with Bundaberg Tourism for a series of 3 custom self-inking passport stamps for the region's Visitor Information Centre.

Add to that, he also welcomed the opportunity to refresh the Childers Historical Walk brochure with some incredible illustrations.

Robert said he had always wanted to the chance to work on some tourism projects.

"Aside from art and design, my next big love is the great Aussie outdoors – road-trips, camping, hiking, the kind of fresh air I've only ever experienced on cool winter mornings stumbling out of the tent for a warm kettle coffee, while doing the dragon breath," he said.

"One day someone will pay me to do my white-fella walkabout, drawing everything beautiful I find along the way, but until that day, it's an incredible honour to be given the opportunity to leave my little mark on the history of our local region, sharing my feelings through my work."

Asked how he got the inspiration to develop the stickers especially which appeal to a variety of age groups and visitors from Australia and overseas, Robert admitted that he doesn't believe we ever grow up.

"Our bodies may age with time, but we never lose our sense of play.

"Whether you're a toddler building a blanket fort, a thirty-something besting your mates on the X-Box, or a Grey Nomad seeking out all the adventures you missed while you were providing for your family, we're all adventurers, explorers, and dreamers.

"What I wanted for the illustrations on this project, was simply to inspire what's already there inside all of us – that sense of wonder, adventure, and play.

"When working on the Childers Historical Walk brochure, I definitely had a home ground advantage, to know the hidden corners that sometimes go unexplored.



Robert welcomed the help of his dad Mark Tedge with his photography skills. (Supplied)

"Interestingly, sometimes when you're used to walking past something every day in your daily routine, you can start to underappreciate some of the really cool little hidden treasures we have – the things that would really excite someone who's visiting our town for the first time.

"I'd actually love to collaborate with another artist, who may not be a local and share our thoughts, perspectives and creations with each other.

"That being said, I think it's really great that our local tourism body has gone out of their way to support a local creative.

"I'd really like to share my appreciation with Bundaberg Tourism, for supporting our local business and creative community and giving me the opportunity to share little pieces of "me" with travellers and tourists exploring our wonderful slice of paradise in this beautiful place we call home.

"Also, a shout-out to my Dad, Mark Tedge, for helping me grab some photos of the region that could accompany my art.

"As I become more mature in business, I realise I can't be everything to everyone.

"I've always been incredibly independent and self-reliant, but age has taught me that it's okay to ask for help, and we do our best work when we share with each other what's God-given."

As Robert's business begins to grow, he still



Tudgee Creative's Robert Tedge has embraced working with Bundaberg Tourism and sharing a region he loves. (Supplied)

remains a firm believer that good business starts with doing business for good, sharing that he founded his business on a vision to help make the world a brighter, more colourful place to be.

"At the end of the day, I want my work to mean something.

"It's not enough that my designs are successful at communicating a message.

"I want people to feel something when they see my work and I want my designs to help business owners and organisations achieve things they never thought possible.

"One of the reasons I love working with small, local businesses, is the giant smile I see on their face, and sometimes the excited profanities I hear when they see what their business can become.

"You present something to a small business owner or bright young entrepreneur that they never thought possible for themselves, and sud-

denly the world doesn't seem so big, suddenly that big dream they had to become the next Apple or Nike, doesn't feel so far-fetched.

"There's nothing like that moment, when you see that spark in someone's eyes – when they start to believe in themselves and their dream.

"Every project is a collaboration and we're best when we work together.

"Some clients I work with I would call visionaries – they have just as many creative ideas and need someone with the technical skills to bring their vision to life.

"I also work with clients who know what they want and just have trouble visualising what "that" looks like.

"But for the work to be successful, I believe there should be room for a sharing of ideas.

"Nothing truly remarkable or special happens in a vacuum."

Celebrate Seniors Month with pottery joy

On Friday 21 August from 9am to 11am, the Bundaberg Pottery Group are sharing something fun and creativity for the community – Clay Mates.

Here is the perfect opportunity to celebrate Seniors Month by discovering the joy of hand-building pottery in a relaxed and social environment.

Guided by experienced ceramic artists, participants will learn basic clay hand-building techniques while creating imaginative clay creatures.

No prior pottery experience is required,

just a willingness to get creative and have fun.

As part of this special intergenerational project, the clay creatures created during the workshop will be fired and donated to local kindergarten children, bringing joy and sparking imagination in young members of our community.

Enjoy the opportunity to:

- Learn introductory pottery hand-building techniques.
- Connect with other seniors through a shared creative experience.

- Support local children through a meaningful community art project.
- Explore creativity in a welcoming and supportive setting.

All materials are supplied.

Please wear closed-in shoes and advise any dietary requirements at registration.

Who can attend: Seniors aged 50 plus.

- Cost: Free.
- Location: Bundaberg Pottery Club / Bundaberg Pottery Group Inc, 95C Walker Street, Bundaberg.



Clay Mates is not only fun, but creative and ideal for a different event for Seniors Month. (Supplied)



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Simply scan the QR code below for your chance to enter. Entries close at 12 noon on Friday, 7 August, with the winners drawn and notified by close of business the same day.