

# TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE MECC 2021



BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE  
DIRECTOR PETER EVANS

## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

BELL  
SHAKESPEARE

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# INFORMATION ABOUT PATHWAYS TO PERFORMANCE

## WHAT IS PATHWAYS TO PERFORMANCE?

**The *Pathways to Performance Program* is an initiative of the Friends of the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) Inc., with support from Glencore Hail Creek Mine and BHP.**

The program recognises that schools face barriers such as distance, ticketing and transport costs when attending the theatre and associated educational programs. The program aims to assist in breaking down these barriers.

The MECC hosts an annual entertainment season designed to entertain, stimulate and educate. Comprising of a range of genres such as drama, dance, children's and physical theatre, performances are chosen not only for their appeal, but also for their ability to provide capital city experiences in a regional centre.

The MECC hosts leading Australian companies such as *Bell Shakespeare*, *Queensland Ballet*, and *shake & stir theatre co.*, so residents in Mackay and surrounds can access quality programs at affordable prices.

Each year the MECC Engagement team works with local educators to advise which upcoming performances and workshops can enhance aspects of the school curriculum.

Educators may reserve tickets for performances and workshops in advance, then apply for *Pathways to Performance* funding to assist with costs.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Primary and Secondary schools within the Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday Regional Council areas are eligible to apply with the following criteria:

- Must have a reservation to a MECC performance
- One application may be submitted for multiple schools sharing transport (this collaboration is encouraged)
- Educators who can explain how attending a

performance links to their curriculum/lessons

- Recipients may apply more than once in a year. However, once successful, all subsequent applications must be for transport only

**Please note:** The *Pathways to Performance Program* often cannot cover all costs for your excursion to the MECC. Please take your school's budget into consideration when applying, and also the possibility of your school funding tickets or transport to cover the remaining costs.

## HOW TO APPLY

1. Make a booking. Reserve your tickets for your preferred performance through the MECC **phone 4961 9767 or email [meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au).**
2. Obtain a *Pathways to Performance Application* form from: <https://www.themecc.com.au/education/pathways>
3. Obtain two quotes for transport. Ensure the quotes are addressed to the Friends of the MECC Inc.
4. Lodge application forms, transport and other supporting documentation via email: **[meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au)**

## HOW APPLICATIONS ARE ASSESSED

The Friends of the MECC Inc. is an independent incorporated association charged with raising funds for the centre and providing voluntary services such as ushering and ticket taking.

The Friends of the MECC Inc. will assess applications and advise the MECC team of the results. The MECC team will advise applicants of their success and next steps.

# INFORMATION ABOUT PATHWAYS TO PERFORMANCE

## WHICH SHOWS ARE AVAILABLE TO APPLY FOR FUNDING IN 2021?

The below performances in the School Entertainment Season are available to apply for *Pathways to Performance* funding. Please see below for 2021 show dates and application cut-off dates. If you have any questions about your application, please contact the MECC Box Office on 4961 9767 or [meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au).

SHOW	SHOW DATE	PATHWAYS TO PERFORMANCE APPLICATION CUT-OFF DATE	WEEKS OUT FROM SHOW FUNDING ANNOUNCED
Viral	Wednesday 3 March (T1 Wk6)	Thursday 4 February, (T1 Wk2)	3 weeks
The Very Hungry Caterpillar	Tuesday 9 March (T1 Wk7)	Thursday 4 February, (T1 Wk2)	4 weeks
The Midnight Gang	Wednesday 2 June (T2 Wk7)	Thursday 4 March (T1 Wk6)	11 weeks
Appleton Ladies' Potato Race	Thursday 17 June (T2 Wk9)	Thursday 6 May (T2 Wk4)	5 weeks
Margaret Fulton The Musical	Saturday 3 July (Holidays)	Thursday 3 June (T2 Wk7)	3 weeks
Isaiah Firebrace	Saturday 10 July (Holidays)	Thursday 3 June (T2 Wk7)	4 weeks
Opera Australia - Carmen	Saturday 24 July (T2 Wk2)	Thursday 3 June (T2 Wk7)	5 weeks
New Owner	Wednesday 4 August (T3 Wk4)	Friday 25 June (T2 Wk10)	4 weeks
Pete the Sheep	Tuesday 10 August (T3 Wk5)	Friday 25 June (T2 Wk10)	5 weeks
Bell Shakespeare - A Midsummer Nights' Dream	Thursday 9 September (T3 Wk9)	Thursday 5 August (T3 Wk4)	4 weeks
Shake & Stir - Animal Farm	Tuesday 2 November (T4 Wk5)	Thursday 5 August (T3 Wk4)	12 weeks

\*MECC reserves the right to rectify errors or make changes to the above, however applicants will be notified if this occurs.

## WHAT NEXT?

Educators will be notified whether their application has been successful within the above time frames for each performance. All invoices for transport costs should be addressed to 'The Friends of the MECC Inc.' and emailed to [meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au).

The MECC team liaise directly with Friends of the MECC Inc. to pay ticket, workshop and/or transport costs. Our Engagement team will make contact with successful applicants prior to the performance and/or workshop to confirm participation and advise timeframes for attendance.

## AFTER THE SHOW

Successful applicants will be expected to submit a formal evaluation form, this will be emailed to the educators post-show. This feedback is crucial to ensure this program continues to receive funding from our valued partners. We also request each school places a 'thank-you' acknowledging the assistance of the *Pathways to Performance Program* in their school/ community newsletter. If your school has a Facebook page please feel free to share your experience there as well!

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The *Pathways to Performance Program* would not be possible without the support of our valued funding partners, Glencore Hail Creek Mine & BHP. Thank you for your generous support.



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# HOW TO MAKE A SCHOOL BOOKING

## RESERVE YOUR SEATS

**Call or email our MECC Engagement Team with the following information**

- Event you wish to attend
- The amount of student and teacher numbers eg. 25 students and 2 teachers
- Ensure you have notified staff of any special seating requirements, e.g. wheelchairs
- Provide contact details for the booking, the person responsible for final numbers and payment.
- Take note of your confirmation number. You can quote this number whenever you need to call/ email with any questions. It is a direct link to your reservation in our ticketing system.

**Phone the Engagement Team:** 4961 9767

**Email:** [meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au)

If you are looking to prepare some lessons, unit work or assessment around the event you will be seeing, check the [Links to the Classroom](#) guide found on the MECC website.

**Please Note:** *For events where a large amount of school bookings occur, you may not be able to have allocated seating. In order to accommodate for all school groups, as well as members of the public, it may be necessary to file groups into the theatre, rather than allocate seating to each group.*

## FROM THE RESERVATION TO THE THEATRE

Following these guidelines will ensure a stress-free excursion to the theatre:

- Contact the MECC Engagement Team to see if there is Teachers Resources available for your event, to assist with the integration of this event into your classroom planning.
- Please be aware that we will ask you for your **final numbers two weeks before the event**. This allows time for invoicing.

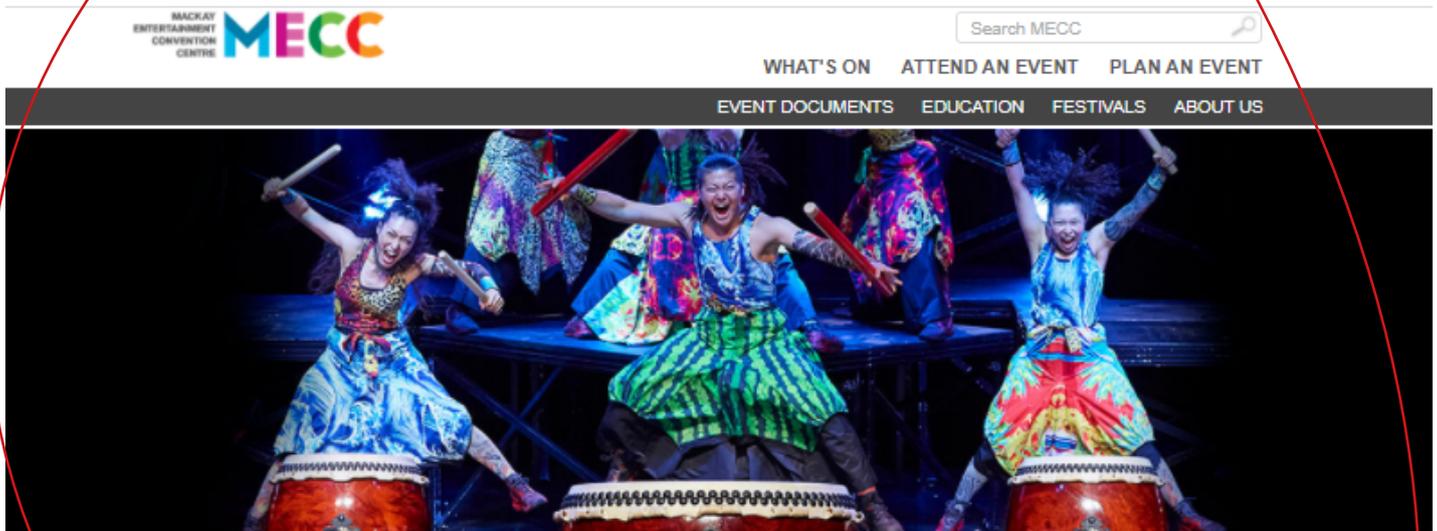
**Please note:** *Schools which have received funding through the Pathways to Performance Program will also be asked to supply final numbers two weeks before the event.*

- When you prepare your excursion/permission letter, please ensure the note is due back before the final numbers due date.
- After final numbers, the MECC will email the school an invoice for what is owed. We cannot offer any refunds or exchanges after an invoice has been issued, however we can add numbers (pending availability).
- If applicable, the MECC team will be in contact prior to the show to let you know seat allocations and anything else important for the day of the event.
- After the show, provide the MECC Engagement Team with a list of names of the teachers who attended, in order to receive your Certificate of Attendance for your Professional Development records.
- Don't forget – if at any stage you need assistance with any of the above steps, contact the MECC Engagement Team, we are here to help!

# SCHOOL BOOKINGS - THE WEBSITE

Find a 'Links to the Classroom' guide for every event in the School Entertainment Program. Subject Links, Assessment Ideas, Resources and more.

What's on in our School Entertainment Program



## SCHOOL BOOKINGS

Please note: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, some of the dates for events in the below brochures may have changed. Refer here for updates to event times.

Taking students to the theatre is not only fun, it promotes literacy, teaches history, improves comprehension and encourages critical thinking. Students who regularly attend the theatre are said to be more compassionate and empathetic. A trip to the theatre can be used as an authentic assessment opportunity or the perfect culminating activity!

Special school group pricing is on offer from \$15 to \$25 per student (depending on which show) with teachers receiving one free ticket for every 10 students attending.

Leading Australian companies such as Bell Shakespeare, Queensland Ballet and shake & stir theatre co are brought to Mackay by the MECC to ensure residents of the Mackay region and surrounds access quality programs at affordable prices, in the same manner as their capital city counterparts.

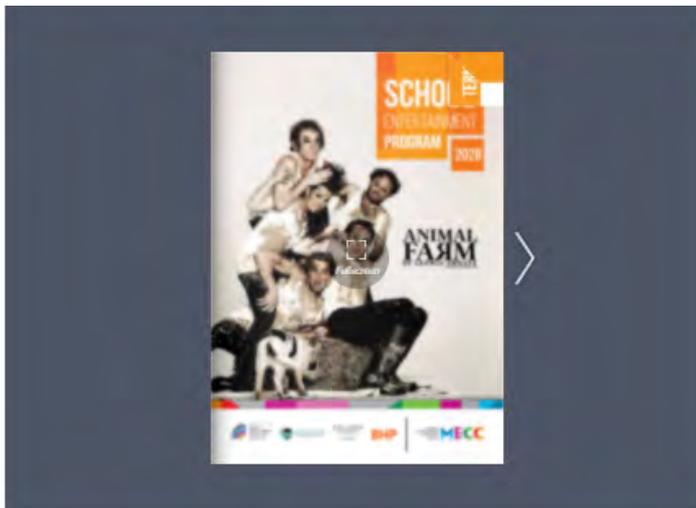
Funding is available for schools to access the theatre through the Pathways to Performance Program. If you have any enquiries about upcoming shows or want to make a booking for a show, please contact the Engagement Team on 4981 9767 or meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au.

- SCHOOL BOOKINGS
- INFORMATION FOR EDUCATORS
- YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
- FUNDING APPLICATIONS
- BURSARIES

Find out more about Pathways to Performance applications here.

Find out all you need to know about the MECC Youth Ambassador Program. Nomination forms available here.

Keep informed. The MECC Educators Newsletter is available here.



# MECC YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

## WHAT IS THE YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM?

The Youth Ambassador (YA) Program is run by the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC), designed to open a direct link from the facility and its opportunities to the arts students of Mackay.

The MECC team believes in the value of arts education and is striving to support students, teachers and schools in their delivery of quality arts curriculum and programs.

The YA program allows students, teachers and schools easier access to opportunities, such as grant monies, scholarships, internships and anything else that may arise, which supports regional art students in receiving quality and authentic experiences with professional artists and arts organisations.

## MECC YA ROLE DESCRIPTION

A MECC YA is an advocate of the MECC within their school community. A YA strives to motivate their peers to become actively involved in the arts.

The MECC Youth Ambassador would be someone who has a strong desire to contribute to the arts in the region as an adult.

## QUALITIES NEEDED TO BECOME A MECC YA

- Reside in Mackay, Isaac or Whitsunday Region
- A passion for the Arts
- Year 10 minimum, senior students (Year 11/12) are preferred
- Time to devote to attending shows and being a committed Ambassador
- An obvious enthusiasm and self-motivation to set an example as an arts-involved student
- Leadership qualities and public speaking skills
- A strong desire to meet and network with other arts-inspired students from their region

## LIST OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A MECC YA

- Act as an advocate for the MECC, demonstrating public support of the venue and its youth programs.
- Express a desire to contribute to the arts in the Mackay region as an adult.
- Attend shows and promote upcoming events and opportunities.
- Attend shows and assist Friends of the MECC in greeting patrons as they arrive at the show and helping direct patrons to their seats.
- Use social media to help promote MECC events and opportunities.
- Promote opportunities at the MECC within their school community. This can include articles in their newsletter, speaking to the school's Cultural Committee, speaking on assembly and providing information to senior arts classes.
- Attend workshops and Q & A sessions, assisting attendees, making all feel welcome and included.

## APPLY ONLINE!

[Click here](#)



# THEATRE ETIQUETTE

## PREPARATION

The most effective way to prepare students for a trip to the theatre is to discuss with them what it is they will see, feel and experience.

Many students who attend theatre events with their school group have never been to the theatre before and simply don't know what to expect.

They may have other experiences to draw from, like attending a football game, school assembly or going to the movies. A discussion about what is 'okay' at different types of events and venues may help them feel comfortable and prepare them for an enjoyable excursion to the theatre.

## VISITING THE THEATRE : GUIDELINES

- Arrive well before the start of the show. You need enough time to go to the restroom, have a drink, collect your tickets, find the correct door and find your seats.
- Listen carefully to the announcements that are made prior to the show. It will include information that will assist with making your experience at the theatre more enjoyable.
- If you do arrive late – be aware that some shows have a 'lockout' period at the start. This is a period of time the promoter/artists stipulate that the door is not allowed to be opened once the show has begun. If you are late, you will have to wait for the 'lockout' to end before you can be guided to your seat.
- Make sure your mobile phone is off. Please don't just set it to vibrate, the screen lighting up at any point during the show may impede other audience members' view or distract the performers.
- Photos and video are definitely not allowed in the theatre, so no taking pictures of the performance or snapping quick theatre 'selfies' before the show (feel free to do so in the foyer before the show!).
- Don't speak during the performance...and yes, whispering is speaking. Some performers may

encourage you to 'join in' with singing, vocal responses or dancing, but make sure you are invited to join in before doing so.

- Do not put your feet up on the seats or kick the seats in front of you.
- There is no eating permitted in the theatre, however drinks are welcomed.
- Do not take any pens or pencils into the theatre.

## THINGS YOU DEFINITELY MUST DO AT THE THEATRE

- Laugh when it's funny!
- Applaud when you think something is great!
- Join in when the performers invite you to!
- Stand and applaud at the end if you thought the performance was fantastic!

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

You can receive a Certificate of Attendance when you attend any event in our School Entertainment Program.

Certificates of Attendance are also available when you attend any workshops or sneak peek sessions.

Simply email the MECC Box Office with a list of those who were in attendance at an event:

[meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au) or fill out the sign in register at the Box Office when you attend your event.