

FLOTSAM FESTIVAL TAKES A RAINCHECK, ANNOUNCING NEW DATE FOR HOMEGROWN EVENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Due to ongoing wet weather and ground conditions at the event site, Flotsam Festival has announced that its closing celebration, Homegrown, scheduled for tonight Friday May 15, will now take place on Sunday May 24 at John Laws Park, Burleigh Headland.

The decision was made to ensure the safety of audiences, artists, crew and equipment, while allowing the festival's signature outdoor finale opportunity to flourish in more favorable conditions.

The postponement also means Flotsam's popular Homegrown competitions will now be extended, giving photographers, filmmakers and emerging creatives additional time to submit work across categories including:

Homegrown Best Photo — Australia and Gold Coast

Homegrown Best Surf Clip — Australia and Gold Coast

Best Independent Surf Filmmaker

Found Objects Photo Competition with Surfrider Foundation

Youth Surf Clip Competition

With thousands of dollars in cash and prizes on offer, entrants now have more time to put themselves on the big screen at Homegrown's rescheduled outdoor screening event on May 24.

While tonight's Homegrown celebration has been postponed, May 15 still marks the final official day of Flotsam Festival's arts trail, with audiences encouraged to head out and experience the final hours of exhibitions, installations and projects still running across the coast.

FINAL DAY HIGHLIGHTS — MAY 15

Walk Surf History at Focal Point

Trace the footsteps of legends along the coastline with Focal Point, placing iconic surf imagery exactly where history happened. Stretching from Snapper Rocks to Burleigh and augmented with AR experiences, the exhibition transforms the coastline into a living timeline of surf culture.

Closing TODAY — May 15 Coolangatta/Rainbow Bay and Burleigh Headland — FREE

See the Gold Coast Differently at Icons

Wrapping the exterior of The Pink Hotel, Icons presents a raw black-and-white portrait of the coastline — from vanished landmarks to enduring surf breaks.

Closing TODAY — May 15 The Pink Hotel, Coolangatta — FREE

Connect with In Her Frame

Hosted by Kirra's beloved Love Street Store, In Her Frame features works from Emy Dossett, Shell Bankier and a collective of female creatives exploring coastal storytelling through photography and art.

Running throughout May Love Street Store, Kirra — FREE

Saltwater People Exhibition

Running through to the end of National Reconciliation Week, Saltwater People shares the largely untold story of Indigenous saltwater people across coastal Bundjalung Country, including Indigenous lifeguard Bernie Curry, who patrolled Greenmount Beach during the 1940s.

Running until June 3 Greenmount Surf Club — FREE

Explore the Coast from Underwater at A Living Ocean

Marine wildlife photographer Evie Wilderness reveals the extraordinary underwater world existing just beneath the Gold Coast's famous waves.

Closing TODAY — May 15 4 Pines, Coolangatta — FREE

HOMEGROWN RETURNS MAY 24

Flotsam Homegrown will now take over Burleigh Headland on Sunday May 24, featuring outdoor screenings, live music, surf films, photography, emerging creatives and a celebration of local coastal culture overlooking one of Australia's most iconic surf breaks. Supported by Cr Josh Martin – Division 13 and Gold Coast Sunset, the free event will transform John Laws Park into an open-air showcase of Gold Coast creativity.

Whether audiences are fans of films, the art, the photography or the ocean itself, Flotsam Festival remains a full immersion into the culture of the coast.

For competition entry, updated event information and the full festival program, visit the official Flotsam Festival website.

ENDS

About Flotsam Arts

Flotsam Arts Inc is a not-for-profit arts organisation that curates experiences at the intersection of surf culture, visual storytelling and contemporary art. Through exhibitions, workshops, residencies and its flagship annual festival, Flotsam champions creators who see the ocean not only as a subject but as a studio. Based on the southern Gold Coast, Flotsam connects local and global talent, grows creative careers, and builds cultural experiences shaped by community, coastline and creative exchange.

The fifth annual Flotsam Festival will take place 1-15 May, 2026.

Flotsam Festival is supported by the City of Gold Coast and Experience Gold Coast.

Flotsam Arts Inc are Art Partners of the City of Gold Coast. The Arts Development Fund is a City of Gold Coast fund that supports the Gold Coast's creative community by fostering professional pathways and skills development, contributing to our city's vibrant lifestyle.

Media room: <https://flotsamarts.pr.co/>

Festival website: <https://www.flotsamfestival.com.au>

Film Freeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/FlotsamSurfFilmAndPhotogra...>

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