

TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE MECC 2024



BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) is a 50:50 joint venture between BHP Group Limited and Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd that was formed in 2001.



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A BUSINESS UNIT OF
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PATHWAYS TO PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

- ▶ Information about the 2024 program
- ▶ Application process and cut off dates
- ▶ What happens after approval?

SCHOOL BOOKINGS

- ▶ Making a reservation
- ▶ From reservation to the theatre

NAVIGATING THE WEBSITE

- ▶ Breakdown of the schools section of the website

MECC YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

- ▶ Program information

THEATRE ETIQUETTE & EISTEDDFOD

- ▶ Preparation
- ▶ Tips for teachers
- ▶ Tips for parents

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 BMA and Glencore Hail Creek Mine.

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 *Monkey Baa Theatre*, *Queensland Symphony Orchestra*, 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 tickets for your preferred performance through the MECC via **phone 4961 9777 or email 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**.

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 Engagement Team of the results. The MECC Engagement Team will then advise applicants of their success and next steps.

INFORMATION ABOUT PATHWAYS TO PERFORMANCE

WHICH SHOWS ARE AVAILABLE TO APPLY FOR FUNDING IN 2024?

The below performances in the School Entertainment Season are available to apply for *Pathways to Performance* funding. Please see below for 2024 show dates and application cut-off dates. If you have any questions about your application, please contact the MECC on 4961 9777 or meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au.

SHOW	SHOW DATE	PATHWAYS TO PERFORMANCE APPLICATION CUT-OFF DATE	WEEKS OUT FROM SHOW FUNDING ANNOUNCED
DBCT Kids' Theatre Season - The Beanies	Saturday 20 January (School Holidays)	Wednesday 10 January (School Holidays)	2 weeks
Circa Cairns - The Wet	Saturday 3 March (T1 W6)	Wednesday 7 February (T1 W3)	3 weeks
DBCT Kids' Theatre Season - Peasant Prince	Monday 10 June (T2 W9)	Thursday 2 May (T2 W3)	5 weeks
From Campfire to Stage Light	Wednesday 3 July (School Holidays)	Wednesday 12 June (T2 W9)	3 weeks
DBCT Kids' Theatre Season - You are a Doughnut	Friday 12 July (T3 W1)	Thursday 2 May (T2 W3)	9 weeks
Shake & Stir's Fourteen	Tuesday 30 July (T3 W4)	Thursday 6 June (T2 W6)	7 weeks
DBCT Kids' Theatre Season - The Gruffalo	Tuesday 3 September (T3 W9)	Tuesday 9 July (T3 W1)	7 weeks
Briefs Factory Brats Carnival	Sunday 22 September (School Holidays)	Thursday 1 August (T2 W4)	6 weeks

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.

The MECC Team liaises 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 partner BMA. Thank you for your generous support.

VISIT THE WEBSITE themecc.com.au/schools/pathways



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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 number of students and teachers, e.g. 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 9777

Email: meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au

If you are looking to prepare some lessons, unit work or assessments 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.
- 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

What's on in our School Entertainment Program



SCHOOL BOOKINGS

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.

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

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 4961 9767 or meccsalesandmarketing@mackay.qld.gov.au.

HOW TO MAKE A SCHOOL BOOKING

To support your planning each year, the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre is pleased to offer schools a pre-booking service for relevant shows.

1. Reserve your seats and apply for funding - contact our Engagement Team to make a booking - let us know how many students and teachers will attend, including any special seating requirements i.e. wheelchairs. Take note of your reservation number. Funding is available for schools to apply for as well. Check if your school is eligible to apply for funding to attend the performance through our Pathways to Performance program.

2. Planning - When a booking is made, our Engagement team will send out any Teachers Resources or subject links to assist with planning unit work or assessments you may undertake. Prepare your excursion/permission slips and put the due date at least two weeks prior to the show date.

3. Final numbers and lead up to event - Our team will contact you two weeks prior to the event for your final numbers, this allows for invoicing. We will also ensure you know seat allocations (if applicable) and anything else important for the day.

4. On the day - Aim to arrive at the MECC 30 minutes before the performance. At the box office, a staff member will point you in the right direction of where to go. Students will be asked to leave school bags at a designated area of the North Foyer before entering the auditorium. Enjoy the show!

5. Post-event - Our engagement team will ask you to fill in a post-event survey - this helps us secure sponsorship, allowing our Pathways to Performance program to continue providing funding to attend the theatre! Please also send through any photos you can have for our Educators Newsletter as well!



MECC YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAM?

The Youth Ambassador (YA) Program, run by the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC), is 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 arts 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 will 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.
- Eating and drinking are permitted in the theatre.
- 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!



EISTEDDFOD - TIPS FOR TEACHERS

Eisteddfod 2024

The Annual Macrossan & Amiet Mackay Eisteddfod will once again be held over two separate months.

August 2024 will host performances from the following categories:

- Choral + Vocal
- Piano + Instrumental

October 2024 will host performances from the following categories:

- Dance + Solos
- Speech + Drama

Please note: Dates and categories to be confirmed via the Eisteddfod Committee closer to the event.

When preparing your excursion note for parents:

When naming a time for your students to be at the MECC, be very careful and give yourselves LOTS of time. Unexpected cancellations from contestants in previous Sections (or yours) can often mean that your section will begin ahead of schedule.

Parents who are visiting Eisteddfod for the first time, can often find the process very confusing. We encounter many stressed and lost parents at the Box Office during Eisteddfod. What is the difference between a Section and a Session? How much does it cost? Where do I have to go? To assist parents with having a less stressful visit to Eisteddfod, it may be worthwhile attaching our 'Beginner's Guide to the Eisteddfod' document (found on the next page) to your permission notes.

Be sure you tell your parents these three important things, in order to help them purchase their tickets:

Date of their child's Session

Time the Session (not Section) starts

Venue of the Session

It is very important that your note clearly instructs parents which venue their child will be performing at. For example - MECC Theatre, Lynette Denny Space, Plenary Halls, CQCM Theatre. Please don't just tell them the MECC.

Please remind your parents to arrive early to ensure they do not miss out on watching their performance. When a performer is on stage, our door ushers will not allow access into the auditorium – this is in respect to the performer and gives them the best opportunity to perform without distraction.

Ticketing:

If you are unsure if your student group will require a ticket, please contact the Eisteddfod Committee, who will be able to give you the best advice in this regard.

If you are supporting a solo competitor, please remind them that there are no longer competitors passes available from the committee, if they wish to watch the Session, they will be required to purchase a ticket.

As a teacher, if you will be visiting the Eisteddfod quite a lot, we strongly encourage you to pre-purchase your tickets for all of the sessions you need to attend. If you have not pre-purchased and the venue becomes sold out, you may miss being in there to support your students.

At the MECC:

Please keep in mind that the start of any session is a busy time at the Box Office. If you are visiting the Box Office to purchase a series of tickets for other sessions, it may be wiser to do this after a session has started and most people are seated.

The Eisteddfod Committee have an office at the Eisteddfod. This is located at the top of the stairs near Door 3.

The MECC is a busy professional venue. It is very likely that an event will be occurring in the Convention Centre while the Eisteddfod is on. With this in mind, please do not bring your groups into the Convention Centre foyer for your warm-up, as this may disturb another event.

Contacts:

Mackay Eisteddfod Website –
www.mackayeisteddfod.com.au

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE EISTEDDFOD

1. The Eisteddfod is a ticketed event, so you will need a ticket to enter the venue. To purchase tickets, contact the MECC Box Office (4961 9777) or visit www.themecc.com.au

2. When you purchase your tickets, you will need to know three things in order to complete the purchase:

Date of your child's Session

Time the Session starts

Venue of your Child's Session

3. The Eisteddfod is conducted via three Sessions a day, over various venues:

A morning Session

An afternoon Session

An evening Session

Within these Sessions are smaller Sections. Your child will be competing in one of these smaller Sections. See the below example from the Eisteddfod Program.

The entire Session begins at an allocated time, however, the exact time the Sections within a Session will start, is unknown. Example below:

Session 4 begins at 6pm, however when Sections 11 & 15 start times are unknown and can only be estimated.

4. It is strongly recommended that you pre-purchase the tickets to your child's session, as sessions with many child competitors can sell out or result in large line-ups at the Box Office.

5. Remember to arrive early to ensure you do not miss out on watching your child's performance. When a performer is on stage, our door ushers will not allow access into the auditorium – this is in respect to the performer and gives them the best opportunity to perform without distraction. We recommend arriving prior to a Session starting to ensure you do not miss out.

6. If you anticipate visiting the Eisteddfod quite a bit, Mega Passes are available from the Eisteddfod Committee, and Programs are available from the MECC Box Office.

6. Further information can be accessed via:

- www.mackayeisteddfod.com.au
- Ph: 49530747
- E: office@mackayeisteddfod.org

SESSION 4 - MECC THEATRE	
THURSDAY 10TH AUGUST 2023	COMMENCING 6:00PM

11 Choral Singing for Secondary Schools Open (minimum of 10 voices)

(a) Own Choice (b) Own Choice

Adjudicator's Trophy donated by Mackay Eisteddfod Association Inc.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Holy Spirit College Choir | 3 Catherine McAuley College Mackay |
| 2 St Patrick's College Choir | 4 Mackay North State High School |

1st..... 2nd..... 3rd..... HC.....

15 Jazz/Modern Vocal Group for Secondary Schools (Any number of voices)

Own Choice

Perpetual shield donated by Catherine McAuley College Mackay

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 Holy Spirit College Choir | 4 Catherine McAuley College Mackay |
| 2 Whitsunday Anglican School Snr Vocal Ensemble | 5 St Patrick's College Choir |
| 3 Mackay North State High School | |

1st..... 2nd..... 3rd..... HC.....