



THE REAL FILM FESTIVAL

STORIES OF PORT STEPHENS

Homegrown in the Hunter, the Real Film Festival launches its eighth consecutive year in 2019, transforming spaces in Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and Port Stephens with bold films of real stories and cutting-edge documentaries.

The contemporary programming of the Real Film Festival, positions it as one of regional Australia's leading documentary film festivals and is the region's only event which celebrates the art of storytelling through film.

The Festival launches on 15 November in Newcastle, travels to Lake Macquarie and Maitland before coming to a close in Port Stephens on 5 December, with two remarkable documentary films.

Screening from 6pm at Scotty's Cinema, Raymond Terrace, is a short film directed by Ramon Te Wake, about 30-year-old Ashley Treseder, who in January 2019, dove off a pier at Shoal Bay in NSW, broke his neck, and became a C4 tetraplegic. After six months of rehabilitation, Ash is starting from scratch in his new home with the support of family and friends.

The screening of *Bulletproof: Ashley* will be followed by the Advanced Screening of *Defend, Conserve, Protect*. The feature film length documentary unfolds as three very distinct annual migrations take place in the cold and furious Southern Ocean; the illegal Japanese Commercial Whaling Fleet; the Sea Shepherd Anti-Whaling Fleet; and the whales. Despite the three vastly different reasons for undertaking these journeys, all are inexplicably entwined and can no longer be separated.

There will be a Q&A after the films with Ashley Treseder from *Bulletproof: Ashley* and Acting Coordinator Sea Shepherd Hunter & Central Coast Karina Micheli. Continue the conversation afterwards with drinks and canapes. Event runs 6-9pm.

Book tickets here: <https://realfilmfestival.com.au/port-stephens/>

Port Stephens features in another session of the Real Film Festival program. On Saturday 16 November, short film *Tomaree: An Ancient Summit* will screen as part of the Real Film Festival Shorts, held in partnership with the University of Newcastle's Festival X.

Mt Tomaree: An Ancient Summit by local filmmaker Lachlan Carney, takes a journey through Tomaree National Park exploring educational messages, intriguing stories and the surreal beauty of the famed location. After the screening of this and other short films, industry panellists; actress Rachael Blake, director David Caesar, producer Scott Hartley and cinematographer Don McAlpine will discuss the films, bringing together their diverse and extensive screen industry expertise to provide feedback to the film makers.

The Real Film Festival is homegrown in the Hunter. Screen practitioners participate in the festival at all levels, and each year it attracts screen industry professionals who share expertise, skills and screen stories with each other and the broader community.

Thanks to the support of Port Stephens Council, the Real Film Festival expertly combines unique offerings for the Port Stephens community with workshops for filmmakers and film screenings for film lovers!

“The workshops on offer this year are delivered by the highest level of screen industry professionals and we are thrilled to bring this calibre of industry to our own growing regional screen sector.” said Real Film Festival Director Annette Hubber.

Tickets are now on sale for Port Stephens workshops *Film like a Pro on a Smartphone* and *Building Virtual Worlds* 9am - 1.30pm on Thursday 5 December at Port Stephens Council building, 116 Adelaide Street, Raymond Terrace and the Film Screenings 6 - 9pm at Scotty’s Cinema, Raymond Terrace.

For the full program, which includes screenings, Q&As, masterclasses and workshops with leading screen practitioners – as well as tickets and multi passes, go to realfilmfestival.com.au.

Don’t miss it!

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