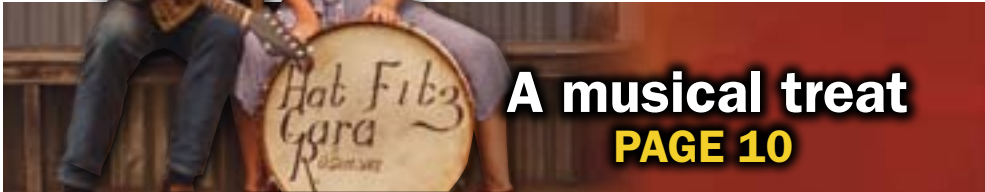


CooloolaCoastToday



A musical treat
PAGE 10



The tri is back!
PAGE 14

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Olympic reflections

With Olympic excitement at fever pitch now Brisbane has been named as the host of the 2032 Olympics, one lady in Rainbow Beach is pulling out suitcases of memorabilia and reliving her Olympic glory days.

Softball phenomenon and deputy principal of Tin Can Bay school, Sandy Lewis starred in three Olympic Games as a pivotal member of the Australian Softball team.

STORY PAGES 4-5



Tin Can Bay deputy principal Sandy Lewis reflects upon her Olympic career as part of the Australian softball team.

FREE - Your first edition

Welcome to the first edition of Cooloola Coast Today.

On the last Friday of every month, Cooloola Coast Today will be included in your copy of Gympie Today.

Today, this edition is free to give you a taste of this exciting new endeavour, then going forward it will be included in the \$3 cost of your Gympie Today.

Thank you for your support, the Today team is very excited to begin this new journey in the wonderful Cooloola Coast.

Upshot of island fires

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STORY PAGE 9

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STORY PAGE 3

RAINBOW BEACH HORSE RIDES

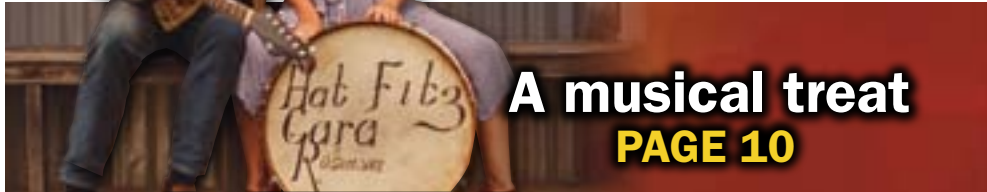
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How exciting to begin our new venture into the Cooloola Coast on the anniversary of Gympie Today's first birthday.

From day one, our mission has been to provide interesting and relevant news to the community.

The Gympie Today team is focused on bringing forward news that is not only relevant to Gympie, but to its surrounds as well.

The Cooloola Coast region is a pinnacle of the Gympie region, its stunning coast line and friendly community attracting thousands of visitors and new residents each year.

We recognise that Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay and Cooloola Cove residents and businesses have stories to tell and as the region continues to grow, so does the need for those stories to be told.

Every month, Cooloola Coast Today will be combined with our Gympie Today newspaper, a dedicated section every four weeks to keep you informed on the most relevant news the region has to offer.

Our team would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our readers and to our advertisers who have supported us so faithfully this last year, we look forward to growing with this awesome community for years and years to come.

To get in contact with the team for a story, a photo submission or just to say hi, email us at newsdesk@gympietoday.com.au or for any advertising queries, advertising@gympietoday.com.au



- Rose Astley

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Welcome to Today

Welcome to our first ever issue of Cooloola Coast Today!

And to celebrate, there will be free coffee from 7am to 11am at the Little Parliament Cafe in the heart of Rainbow Beach.

Gympie Today is very excited to add the Cooloola Coast Today edition to the readers

of the Cooloola Coast, Gympie and Noosa region.

We believe the local newspaper is the heart of the community, and the Today News Group, has always been committed to fresh, quality community-based publications.

We are proud of this publication, Cooloola Coast Today, and proud to be welcomed into

such a warm and evolving community.

The Cooloola Coast is going to play such an important part in Queensland's tourism over the next 10 years leading up to the 2032 Brisbane Olympics and we are excited to be part of it.

Welcome to our first issue!

- Andrew Guiver, General Manager

LENSCAPE



A beautiful little hidden beach at Tin Can Bay with a stunning bird of prey looking for his next meal. Thanks for sending in the image Ken Ferguson.



A new arrival

Nanny Diana Cruickshank, with mum Ashleigh, one-day-old baby Aisha and Auntie Tayla. Little Aisha is the first grandbaby for Rainbow Helicopters owners Glen and Diana Cruickshank.



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Fears on ecotourism plan

By Arthur Gorrie

Coolooloa Coast conservationists have blasted major state government ecotourism plans for the Great Sandy region, with one describing them as a threat to the environmental values they seek to commercialise.

In a rare falling out with Aboriginal interests, the Noosa Greens have criticised the scale of accommodation projects planned for the Double Island Point lighthouse area and the now-pristine Lake Poona area, near Rainbow Beach.

Lake Poona is slated for 10 large cabins and a communal area, adjacent to what is now a totally undeveloped environmental jewel, requiring vehicle access to an area now only accessible by a low-impact but picturesque walking trail.

Rhonda Prescott, of the Noosa and Hinterland Green Party branch, said it had now become clear the government's plans were far more potentially damaging than what was initially discussed during public consultation.

"It's clear the reality will be quite different," she said.

"Out of five campsites selected, three will have six smallish so-called eco-tents and a communal tent.

"The other two, near Lake Poona and below the lighthouse at Double Island Point will have ten much larger cabins and a communal structure," she said.

These would be 60m from the lake, one of the area's unique perched lakes and highly susceptible to road run-off.

Aboriginal representatives are said to have backed the plans, on the basis that more people would be able to enjoy the area and services could be provided for people with limited mobility.

The plans, first promoted by then Environment Minister Kate Jones appear to have changed drastically since they were first raised as a concept.

Conservationist Lorraine Bird has described the issue as "sensitive" because of First Nations support for plans which she says has



A visitor enjoys the solitude of Lake Poona, just as it is now.



The walking track to Lake Poona, as it is now.

not included full consideration of the project's implications.

She said she understands the development plans, involving villages of tourist cabins at both Coolooloa locations, will increase access for people with disabilities.

But, as someone who believes she could not walk the Coolooloa Great Walk "at our age," she says there are plenty of accessible places already, at Noosa, Sunshine Beach and Rainbow Beach, with camping and access to national park areas.

"Maybe there needs to be some research into 'what is ecotourism, especially if it degrades the ecology of an area?' she said.

She claimed conservationists were upset that the government would ignore what she claimed was a rejection of the idea by the government's own environmental and scientific staff, "in such a fragile ecosystem."

"As this partnering (with) local indigenous people is a test case for future developments elsewhere," she called for conservationists generally to campaign against the idea.

"They are destroying the very reason tourists wish to visit these areas."

Alternatives could be established in the Noosa, Goomborian, Coolooloa Cove & Rainbow Beach areas, where "glamping" could be set up along with cabin areas, instead of building "environmentally disturbing" roads and having to truck in fresh water and take out effluent."

"We would lose the wilderness experience people are so keen to enjoy," she said asking the authorities to consider the impact of multiple cabins and access roads in areas like Lake Poona, now accessible only by a walking track.

Public consultation about the project has revealed government information that guided walk packages would cost around \$3000 to \$4000 a head, with two beds per cabin, with pump out septic tanks.

"The site (at Lake Poona) will not be visible from the lake.

"The site has undergone extensive testing

and option analysis including ensuring any run-off or leak will not go into the lake," government representatives told a community and stakeholder forum on 21 June.

The government expects 5500 people a year to use the facilities, with no available estimate of vehicle numbers.

The site, to be managed privately, will be subject to no-impact provisions requiring waste removal, with a Kabi Kabi ranger to assist with this.

"Native title claimants have been involved right from the start and (are) part of the decision making and ownership of the project," the government representatives said.

Proponents are expected to work closely with Gympie Regional Council on "business opportunities, as well as connecting with industry associations and business groups here, to connect the new walks with existing businesses to expand the experiences on offer."

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Sandy recalls Olympic days

By Lee McCarthy

With Olympic excitement at fever pitch now Brisbane has been named as the host of the 2032 Olympics, one lady in Rainbow Beach is pulling out suitcases of memorabilia and reliving her Olympic glory days.

Softball phenomenon and deputy principal of Tin Can Bay school, Sandy Lewis starred in three Olympic Games as a pivotal member of the Australian Softball team.

Her debut was on home soil at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, then the 2004 Athens Games and then Beijing in 2008. The World Series were also held every four years between the Olympics with Sandy's first in Japan in 1998 then Saskatoon in Canada 2002 and Beijing in 2006.

While not always her goal to attend the Olympics, Sandy said it became her focus when the girls first went in 1996.

"That's when I thought, okay, that's my goal. I made the Olympic team when I was 21 as an outfielder."

Sandy could play in most positions, but she debuted as a catcher, then moved to outfield and second base and thrived as long as there was plenty of action.

"Debuting at home was a buzz as there was so much money and we didn't pay for anything. We were given a free 'coin' to use in the vending machines, five sports bags of branded clothes and fantastic accommodation for training for six months leading up to the games. Prior to the 1996 Olympic and after the 2008 games, the girls had to pay their way.

"The coolest things in Sydney were the athletes' village, shaking Nelson Mandela's hand and Peter Brock would come out to our training sessions. Walking out through the tunnel was such a buzz and so loud. It was the only time you could relax and soak it in. I broke my wrist in the first game of my first Olympics against the Kiwi's though! I stayed on and be-



Sandy and husband Greg Lewis.

came a runner for the team.

"While I always said I don't have a favourite Olympics, it was probably Beijing because I was most proud of how I played and my journey through the three Olympics. I was proud of my achievement. I was lucky I had an exceptional mentor in Maryanne Walsh OAM and Mizuno sponsored me my whole career."

With the announcement of Brisbane winning the 2032 games bid Sandy said: "I am so thrilled that Brisbane won the host bid. To have the opportunity to watch and to take my kids to watch this elite sporting spectacular in our own backyard is such a huge privilege. How lucky are we! It's a great day for Queenslanders and a great day to be an Olympian!"

Sneaking some time to watch these Olym-

pics, she said that "it wasn't a great first game, but it brought back such wonderful memories. I got home and unpacked a few things I had stored away and was overwhelmed by the feelings".

"I'm very excited for the athletes in the 2021 Games but sad that it's not the whole experience for them. They'll have a great time. They're Olympians and it's such a mind-blowing experience.

"With softball you play the game a million times, but once you get to the Olympics there's this whole bravado that encapsulates the whole thing, the prestige, and people are at risk of taking their eye off the ball because it can be distracting."

The captain of this year's Olympic softball



team, Stacey Porter who was one of the five athletes shortlisted to be the flag bearer was one of Sandy's teammates.

On the question of whether soft ball should be an Olympic sport Sandy said that was a definite yes. "The Olympic Games are the pinnacle of our sport. The World Cup is also held every four years and you keep your skill at world standard but it's the games that are the pinnacle."

Sandy is very level about her time as an Olympic star. "I'm not a closed book, but it's such a big subject. I enjoy talking about it but I don't often. It was a great time but I'm busy being a wife, mother, and teacher now. I am very proud and realise it was an amazing opportunity."

Sandy has donated a lot of her memorabilia to clubs and organisations to help them raise money and even her medals are not on show. There is no Olympic memorabilia displayed in her home and most people don't know her background. It was a privilege to hold Sandy's medals and spend some time with her.

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The Australian team receives the silver medal in Athens in 2004.



The silver medallists - Athens 2004.



Moving in for a catch at the Olympics.



Sandy Lewis slides home to score a run against the US in the Athens Olympics. The ball was hit by Stacey Porter, this year's Olympic softball captain, which allowed Sandy to run from second to home base.

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21

Do you know what your property is worth in this current market?

What is your property worth in Rainbow Beach? With demand being the highest it has been in years which has been brought about by Covid 19 and the fact that people are now valuing space and the great outdoors, I don't think there has been a better time to consider selling.

Houses have always been in more demand however recently we have seen a spike in unit sales, buyers from all over Australia are looking for their piece of paradise. So what is your property worth? Well as the old adage says, it's only worth what someone will pay for it and as an agent I have been surprised at where that value is in this current market. Would you like a current market analysis emailed to you? Then feel free to email me at michelle.agnew@century21.com.au.

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'Illegal, immoral ... useless'

By Arthur Gorrie

Direct action against Cooloola's near-residential flying fox colonies, has been deemed illegal, immoral and potentially worse than useless.

A council staff report last week listed potentially problematic roosting sites at Queen Elizabeth Drive at Cooloola Cove, Snapper Point at Tin Can Bay and in the hinterland, Power St, Neerdie, as well as Gympie city's better known human conflict area at Commisisoner's Gully.

The Neerdie location has already prompted serious concerns from residents, some of whom have been especially worried about the disease potential from bat droppings on the roofs from which they gather their drinking water.

Less likely to conflict with urban residents was the one known site at Inskip Reserve, but the potential for concerns from holiday makers at nearby government-run Inskip Point camping areas remains a serious source of doubt.

Other sites less likely to impact on concentrated human settlement include Anderleigh Rd Goomboorian, Beenham Valley Rd Beenham Valley, Amamoor State Forest Amamoor and Hyne Estate Rd Kandanga.

Councillors at an open briefing were told dispersal via roost disruption should be seen as a last resort, because of possible conflict with state and federal laws, cost and the real risk that the bats would move somewhere else just as bad, or possibly split and re-establish roosts in several other locations (thus making the problem worse).

"The community should be aware that activities that result in disturbance of flying fox camps can result in breaches of the (state) Nature Conservation Act, the Animal Care and Protection Act and the (federal) Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act," the report said.

Staff recommended the council concentrate on council managed land only and consider dispersal as "a last resort in extreme cir-



Clouds of bats fly over Rainbow Beach after the K'Gari (Fraser Island) fires

cumstances," on the grounds that it could be "costly and risky."

The favoured solution in Gympie city seems to be rehabilitating or creating alternative roosting sites which the bats may find more attractive than their current, more problematic, roosting locations in Commisisonert's Gully, near the hospital.

The extent to which this may be possible at the Cooloola Coast is not dealt with clearly in the report, although there have been some complaints in recent years from Cooloola Cove residents.

"Dispersal of flying fox colonies is not considered at this point an appropriate management action for any known roosts within the Gympie Regional Council local government area due to high costs (and) uncertain outcomes (that is, low likelihood of success)," the

report says. There was also "potential to splinter colonies, leading to further conflict with the community and additional operational costs.."

Breaches of state or federal laws could result in the council being investigated and even prosecuted, it said.

The open councillor workshop focused on providing information, draft policies and promoting discussion among councillors and the public.

The draft policies aim to present a mechanism "to assist council in engaging with the community and demonstrate council's management intent.

The major policy proposal is the draft Statement of Management Intent.

Staff told councillors adoption of a Statement of Management Intent would "establish

the council's direction for managing flying fox populations" and would provide a "platform for communicating with the community... in compliance with legislative obligations."

What you are allowed to do:

Where flying fox roosts impact on homes, particularly where they are established close to private property, residents are still allowed to mow their lawn and undertake "weeding, mulching or minor trimming of roost trees and do not need a permit."

However, they do have to adhere to state guidelines for "low impact activities," details of which are available at 'environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/bats/flying-foxes/roost management#toc=1'.

Management of roosts on privately owned land remains the responsibility of landowners, who can apply for a roost management permit, as is also the case if they are dissatisfied with the council's approach.

Information on flying fox-related health concerns can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries or Queensland Health.

Detailed further information on flying foxes and their management can also be found on the Department of Environment and Science website.

Council policies can be found by contacting the council on 1300 307 800 or by email to 'environment@gympie.qld.gov.au'.

The three main species of flying fox in the Gympie Regional Council area are:

The grey-headed flying fox (rated "vulnerable" nationally and "least concern" in Queensland) is the largest Australian bat, with a wingspan up to 1m and dark grey body hair;

The black flying fox (common in near coastal areas) is about 26cm and 1kg with short black fur; and Little Red Flying Fox (common in sclerophyll and rainforest) reddish brown or light brown and between 200g and 600g.

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Chamber's fighting fit

Plans are already afoot for the newly elected Rainbow Beach Chamber of Commerce executive committee voted in at the July AGM.

Secretary Diana Cruikshank of Rainbow Beach Helicopters, treasurer Kristy Pamenter from Pippies Rainbow Beach and president Lee McCarthy from Womens HQ have taken on the top jobs for the next 12 months and thanked the outgoing office bearers for their work over the past year.

Following the AGM, the general meeting was handed over to Tim Sayre from CCIQ who introduced speakers to present on the investigation into the K'Gari fires.

Headed by Corinne Mulholland from the Inspector-General's Emergency Management (IGEM), the event was an opportunity to present findings that arose from meetings held in Hervey Bay and Rainbow Beach by stakehold-

ers (full article in this issue).

Gympie Region Mayor Glen Hartwig and councillors Dolly Jensen, Bruce Devereaux and Jess Milne all attended the meeting along with local business operators.

The new Rainbow Beach Chamber team urges all businesses to become financial members of the chamber and come along to the once a month meetings to help give the town a strong voice in all levels of government.

The meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at local venues and everyone is welcome to attend. The next meeting is on 17 August from 5.30pm.

Keep an eye out for chamber casual coffee catch ups once a month which everyone, member or not, is invited to attend. The team values any feedback and welcomes new members and new ideas.



The new chamber committee Diana Cruikshank, Lee McCarthy and Kristy Pamenter.



The Cooloola Coast, where the water can be just a bit too salty

Old salt - environment blamed for sewage taint

By Arthur Gorrie

In an unusual turnabout, Gympie Regional Council has blamed the environment for polluting its sewage, but only with salt.

A report to councillors says the problem of poor quality effluent from two of its Cooloola Coast sewerage treatment plants is more a result of salt water getting in than anything noxious getting out.

The report says the failure of effluent to meet state-mandated quality standards is not a health related concern, being limited exclusively to excessive salinity.

And that, the report says, is a result of a saline environment and is caused by salty water leaking in, not by anything which could damage the area's pristine marine and estuarine eco systems

The report says this has caused excess electrical conductivity, a salinity measure which has indicated a consistent failure

to meet the salinity standards specified in state government regulations.

The problem is a continuing one which was also reported in an early issue of Gympie Today last year.

Better news is that over the past 12 months, the Cooloola Cove plant achieved 100 per cent compliance with relevant environmental standards.

But Rainbow Beach was only compliant 25 per cent of the year, in October, May and June.

Tin Can Bay did slightly better over the same period, achieving 33 per cent compliance by passing the standard in August, October, May and June.

The result compares well with overly frequent failures of council sewerage infrastructure elsewhere in the region, along with water supply failures from ruptured mains in older parts of Gympie city.

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8 COOLOOLA COAST TODAY Friday, 30 July, 2021



The Fraser Island fires



A satellite photograph shows the burned area.

Better communication call

By Arthur Gorrie

The state government's K'Gari (Fraser Island) fire investigator has told of a need for better communication by state government agencies, including the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Service.

In a report to the Rainbow Beach Chamber of Commerce last week, representatives of the Inspector General Emergency Management (Alistair Dawson) told of recommendations for

"more proactive messaging" by the QPWS and a trial of live vision from the fire front to QFES controllers "to increase situational awareness during events."

The IGEM also recommended use of the Check-in Queensland app, as now used in shops, restaurants and hotels across Queensland, to help track and manage island visitors.

The chamber, which includes representatives of businesses with investments on the

island, as well as mainland businesses supplying island visitors with goods such as ice, groceries and fuel, heard a detailed report on what the investigation found.

The IGEM also recommended early fire detection technology, including drone aircraft, and the provision of risk information, "easily understood and readily available to the community." It also called for "greater community involvement in planned burn programs."

An improved local government evacuation

plan should include a further information plan and there should be a collaborative review of firelines, tracks and trails, campfire locations and signage and a public awareness campaign.

The IGEM report and the Queensland Government response, which endorsed all 38 recommendations in principle, were both tabled in state parliament on 27 May.

Government departments had already begun implementing the recommendations, the chamber was told.



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Hat Fitz and Cara.

Reggae, blues, folk and fun

By Lee McCarthy

Pack your bags and make sure you have your tickets for the inaugural roots, reggae, blues, and folk music Rainbow Beach Spring Fest 2021 on 4 September.

We are in for a treat with outstanding national acts Oka and Fred Leone along with talented couple Hat Fitz & Cara and emerging star, The Lyrical, all coming together to perform at this one event.

Held on the first Saturday of September, the festival will celebrate the new season, the connection to nature, connection to people, connection to music. The event is family friendly, held outdoors in a Covid safe environment in the heart of Rainbow Beach. The location is sponsored by Gympie Regional Council.

Originally from Sardinia, Italy, the creator of the Spring Fest Elisa Seul, brought with her the passion and interest of folklore, traditions, arts, and cultural expression.

Elisa moved to Rainbow Beach eight years ago and is now a business owner and dedicated to her adopted community. She has embraced the discovery of both modern, multicultural Australia and Ancient Aboriginal Heritage.

Elisa, who is also president of the Rainbow Beach Community Centre who are hosting the event said: "We are committed to building a community that sees past the colour of our skin,



Oka performing.

our differences in language and costumes."

"The day is all about music, culture and good vibes. Music allows us to get to know each other, discover talents and to reinforce a feeling of belonging.

"This event is a fund-raiser for our not-for-profit association. By purchasing the tickets not only will you enjoy these talented profes-

sional artists, but you'll also spend time in magnificent Rainbow Beach and contribute to our community.

Headlining will be the amazing OKA band, who draw upon their indigenous connection to place and country to create their signature feel good Australian earth sound, an irresistible blend of influences spanning house, big beat, reggae-dub, roots. Their most famous

song is "Music Makes Me Happy".

Along with OKA will be sensational Fred Leone, an Australian Indigenous Hip Hop artist and founder of the state's only Indigenous owned and operated record label Impossible Odds Records.

According to Ted X Sydney: "He has developed over a 20-year career working across the Australian Hip Hop scene, Community Cultural Development, Education and Youth sectors to become an established MC, arts and cultural facilitator, educator, youth worker and creative producer. Through his music, language and dance, and body of work Fred takes audiences on a rare journey into cultural knowledge".

Aussie bluesman Hat Fitz and Irish-born folk singer Cara Robinson are a striking pair. The blending of pre-war hill country and delta blues with early Australian folk and traditional Celtic styles has produced a truly unique sound and has enhanced their reputation as one of the world's most interesting and musically appealing combinations.

The Lyrical is an acoustic, roots, hip-hop musician with a unique blend of beat-boxing meshed with folk guitar and socially conscious lyrics.

To buy your tickets go to www.trybooking.com/BSGGY or check out Rainbow Beach Spring Fest on Facebook.



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Scan, swap, drink, refresh

By Lee McCarthy

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time.

How do you become more sustainable? One step at a time.

As Plastic Free July wraps up, Little Parliament Cafe in Rainbow Beach has combined with Green Caffein to do their part for the environment.

They will become the first cafe in the Gympie Region to adopt the Green Caffein initiative and in collaboration with Green Caffein, will host a Free Coffee Day on Friday 30 July from 7am to 11am.

“One little step that can have a significant impact is the Green Caffein initiative. By getting rid of single use cups, we can all play our part,” managing director Carly Ladas said.

“This will add to Little Parliaments list of sustainability initiatives including refusing to sell or use any non-biodegradable single-use plastics, donating milk bottle lids to Lids for Kids, and collecting recyclable cans and bottles with funds going to a community cause.”

Green Caffein is a free reusable cafe cup system for eco-focused cafes and coffee lovers across Australia.

Founder of Green Caffein Damien Clarke said: “I think the launch at Little Parliament is just as important as when we launched our first coffee shop, three years ago in Kiama in NSW.

“Green Caffein was a solution to the single use plastic epidemic. We wanted to make it irresistibly easy to ditch disposable cups, reshape the Aussie coffee culture -and cut the landfill.

“The average Australian drinks 500 single use coffee cups a year which is 7.5kg of single use plastic. So that’s just for the average coffee drinker. The problem is using disposable cups, and this is a simple solution for a big problem.”



Help save the environment with Green Caffein.

Picture: ISOBEL OWERS @LIFE_OF_ISO

“We all have our part to play, and we have found Australians have supported us and want to be part of the solution.

“We believe that educating our next generations about single use plastic is both important and timely. While we provide the solution, we believe it’s our businesses and our local users who are the real heroes.

From 1 September, the ban on single use plastics comes into effect in Queensland. That includes all plastic, including cutlery,

straws plates, polystyrene.

Green Caffein keep-cups are offered in over 712 cafes throughout Australia saving in excess of 830,000 takeaway from landfill.

“Little Parliament was born with the locals in mind; not just the local patrons but also the local environment and we are thrilled to be teaming up to provide this service for our customers,” Carly said.

This is how it works. You sign up and purchase your drink at a participating cafe, con-

sume your drink, then return the used cup when you’re finished. You can return your used cup to the same cafe or any other participating cafe. Then grab a fresh cup the next time you order.

And yes, it is cleaned in a commercial dishwasher the same as those china cups we all love to drink our almond double shot cappuccino from.

Download the Green Caffein app to get started! www.greencaffeine.com.au



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Fishing

Cooloola Coast



Nadia looking happy with her first ever squid.



Jye Treloar with a good swag of TCB squid.

On the bite in the Bay

G'day Crew! Hope you have all been keeping warm and wetting a line somewhere in our fabulous state.

I guess that wintertime for a lot of fishos' in Tin Can Bay means some pretty dam good squid fishing is on offer. While they are in The Bay all year round the cooler months sees an explosion in the numbers.

Most of the squid in the inlet are found in slightly deeper water and most crew will run a squid jig on a paternoster rig with a single dropper about 400mm from the lead. The squid seem to hold on the rubble beds in deeper water so getting your jig down on the bottom is paramount. I like to dead stick a jig

on the paternoster out the back and cast a jig ahead of my drift and fish the jig in a somewhat more traditional way.

If you need a little more weight for this, a small ball sinker tied in a loop knot on the nose of the jig works well. So, what jigs have been working the best I hear you all asking...? The standout jig of choice would have to be the Yamashita Sutter R in 2.2 & 2.5 with most customers gravitating towards pinks & oranges. Myself, I tend to buck the trend and roll with more natural colours, like prawn (NEB) & pilchard (NMI).

A few likely spots you can hit up would be the waters around the Lady Woodward, drift-

ing a few hundred metres each side of the powerlines and the deep hole off Norman Point. Drifting between the Carlo leads and the moored yachts closer to Tin Can Bay would also produce the goods.

Ensuring you have some tidal flow is key. Lately the run-out tide has been producing better numbers of squid. Whether you are chasing a feed of these tasty guys or some fresh bait squid, they're great fun to catch and winter is a cracking time to be on the water in The Bay.

So, if you are in the area and want to have a look at our range of squid jigs or our extensive fishing and tackle department or just have

a chat about what is on the chew in The Bay, pop in and say G'day. All our team fish and are pretty clued up on what's been going on in our waterways and will be more than happy to point you in the right direction.

Also, just to let everyone know that we run a monthly fishing photo competition on our Facebook page with a \$100 in-store credit up for grabs each month for the best pic. Just post your pictures on our wall or message our page to go in the draw.

Cheers and tight lines.

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The Classic is back!

It's on again and it's bigger and better than ever; capturing the spirit of adventure with over a week of activities including a twilight fishing and outdoor expo.

The Rainbow Beach Family Fishing Classic is still one of Southeast Queensland's most iconic and largest annual events, now in its 35th year and still one of the few remaining fishing tournaments on the eastern seaboard.

The six-day festival will be held from 2pm Sunday 15 August to Saturday 21 August at the Rainbow Beach Sports Club.

Proudly run as a family and community event, the event is aimed at all ages and levels of experience with an emphasis on enjoyment of the great outdoors.

Held in beautiful Rainbow Beach, the event attracts more than 650 local and interstate competitors and their families each year.

The event includes loads of live entertainment, prizes and promotions. Everyone is catered for, and you don't even need to catch a fish to win a prize.

Encompassing such a large fishing area

makes the event environmentally viable and sustainable. The event includes offshore and inshore water fishing from the Maheno Wreck on Fraser Island in the north to Noosa's North Shore River in the south.

To protect the Grey Nurse Shark habitat, there is a 1.5km radius restriction of fishing around Wolf Rock.

The huge stretch of pristine beach offers plenty for beach anglers and four-wheel driving. The safe launching ramp at Carlo Point and Bullock Point cater for vessels of all sizes and there are kilometres of protected waterways reaching up through the Great Sandy Straits.

Along with the fishing competition, the entertainment and family fun make this year's event another celebration of surf, sun and sand and is guaranteed to create some special memories and a great event for a family holiday each year.

For more details and to enter go to www.rainbowbeachsportsclub.com.au/rainbow-beach-family-fishing-classic-2021



Jim Cole on Double Island Fishing Charters last Classic.

Win a punt at the 2021 Whiting Comp

Keen angler and owner of Gardiner Fisheries, Drew Gardiner wanted to get the town fishing.

He identified a largely uncatered-for market for a region-specific bait and tackle store. Supported by his partner Catherine they created Gardiner Fisheries in Rainbow Beach in 2018.

Catching BIG sand whiting is one of his obsessions and he quickly realised that it was not well known that these amazing fish can

be caught year-round.

He wanted to promote the region's remarkable whiting fishery and encourage people to target these incredible sport and table fish.

In 2019 the inaugural Gardiner Fisheries Whiting Championship was launched. The competition is well supported by the Rainbow Beach community and they have seen how it is bringing the town together.

Drew said: "Last year we welcomed competitors from as far afield as Toowoomba in the south, Bundaberg in the north and Kingaroy in the west.

"We were so grateful to be backed by iconic Australian made Alvey Reels Australia from the start and the 2019 competition attracted 63 entrants.

"The 2020 championship saw competitor numbers almost triple with 176 entrants. With a total prize pool around 20 thousand

dollars, interest in this year's event has forecast competitor numbers to exceed 250."

This year's prizes include a 3.7m Aqua Master V Nose Barra punt with Suzuki 9.9 Hp 4 stroke out board & Redco Trailer valued at over \$9,500.00

The competition opens on Sunday 1 August and runs until Saturday 20 August. You can enter online at www.gardinerfisheries.com or from Gardiner Fisheries at Rainbow Beach.

Register for the Gardiner Fisheries Whiting Comp and you could win a NEW BOAT!

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Action from last year’s Rainbow Beach Triathlon.

Tri back at Rainbow Beach

It’s an action packed two months on the Coloolool Coast with plenty of quality cultural and sporting events for everyone to enjoy.

One of these is the 2021 Rainbow Beach Triathlon, which will be held over two days on 31 July and 1 August.

In a huge boost to the town each year, the athletes and families book out the town, filling cafes and restaurants and grabbing fuel and snacks for the trip home.

Race organiser Phil Hungerford said: “We couldn’t do these events without the local support and the businesses here have been terrific as has the local council and police. It’s a great event and we love Rainbow”.

“The Rainbow Beach Triathlon is a unique event. Athletes can choose to compete in an Olympic distance event over two days by completing a sprint distance triathlon on Saturday afternoon and then another of the same distance on Sunday morning.”

“I came to Rainbow to set up last week and didn’t want to go home. We’ve got fantastic weather and it’s going to be like a millpond out the front. The numbers are similar to last year and we are happy with that with all the Covid hotspots.

“Except for the elite guys who are in Tokyo or Europe we still have all the semi-profes-



sionals from South-East Queensland coming.”

He said there would be no competitors from the hot spots competing and the organisers work hard to ensure their event is Covid safe.

“All preparations have been made to keep

athletes safe and all the protocols we implemented at the 2020 event have since been used throughout Australia.

“We do a rolling presentation, so when you finish you put your mask on and look online for the results then go to the table for the medal, so no one is standing around in a big group.”

Phil is excited to watch the local people from Maryborough, Bundaberg, and Gympie who are coming particularly Nicola Welding from Hervey Bay who is running in her first individual event.

She has always competed in the team event, so he is keen to see how she performs.

“The first race of the season, the Queensland Championships were held in Toowoomba last weekend and at this stage we have half of them competing at Rainbow.”

It is such an exciting spectator sport with high-ranking athletes competing and many vantage points to watch the action.

The only disruption to roads will be from 2-5pm on Saturday and 7-10am on Sunday when Clarkson Drive will be closed to traffic.

Assembly is at the Corner of Griffin Esplanade and Clarkson Drive, next to the (old) SES building on Saturday. www.rainbowbeachtriathlon.com.au



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The Trail Festival held each year at Rainbow Beach excites and tests runners.

On fundraising trail

Booked out weeks in advance every year, the Rainbow Beach Trail festival to be held on 7 August has this year raised \$3000 for the SES.

Joe and Ann Raftery were the founders of the event and according to events and marketing director for Run Queensland, Brett Standing, they are still a big part of it today.

"They are great people with great hearts," he said.

"The Trail is in great shape. QPWS have a stunning trail and one we love to share with

the runners.

"I love the Rainbow Beach Trail Festival. It's a great place to run with one of the best trails to play on. Most runners enjoy a weekend away and the event injects a lot of money into the local economy.

"We have 500 competitors, so the event is sold out. We are proud to have raised \$3000 for the local SES. SES run the checkpoints and are huge part of the success of the event and we couldn't do it without their support or the sup-

port of the local community"

The event is based at Phil Rogers Park and comprises three events; the 11km run, the half marathon and the full marathon with all races finishing at 19 Rainbow Beach Rd.

If you want to catch some of the action, the sign-on is from 3-6pm Friday 6 August and from 5.30am Saturday 7 August, with racing starting from 6.30am Saturday.

For more information have a look at www.runqld.com.au/rainbow-beach

A chair in their honour

By Lee McCarthy

After a long battle, foundations have finally been poured for a beautiful memorial seat in honour of two local volunteers who helped shape the community of Tin Can Bay.

The chair is a memorial to his parents Ron and Eve Jensen, a dynamic pair well known in the local community for their work starting up and volunteering at many community groups.

When they moved to Tin Can Bay, they helped with the formation of the Tin Can Bay Ambulance, Lions and Lioness clubs, Meals on Wheels and the Tin Can Bay Youth Club.

They worked together for Endeavour Foundation in the 1980's and were always together, always happy and always looking out for the young people with disabilities in their care.

Ron and Eve's son Bronco Jensen received Council approval to have a chair in his parents honour last September.

Over many years Bronco had tried everything, even holding a one man protest in front of the Gympie Town Hall which brought little success.

He offered to buy the chair, lay the foundations, look after the surroundings - he just wanted permission.

Bronco's sister Donna was unwell so there was an urgency to have the seat and plaque established so she could enjoy it too.

And now - nearly five years later, the slab for the seat has been poured at Crab Creek ready for the chair which will have a plaque on it in memory of Ron and Even Jensen.

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Sam Carlson presenting the Cliff Kuhn Award to Justin Schooth.



Cr Dolly Jensen with winner of the outstanding first year award, Mason Bignell.

Well done to our rescuers

By Lee McCarthy

The Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving club held its annual awards recently with the best and fairest recognised for their efforts.

Held at the newly renovated surf club with MC Don Reid kept the crowd under control while the kitchen served up top quality meals.

The night is held at the end of each season to thank the volunteers for the many hours they spend patrolling the beaches and award the dedicated members for their time and efforts.

Tony Perrett MP and Cr Dolly Jensen were invited to present awards during the evening.

Cr Jensen said: "I was honoured to be a part of their night. In my eyes they are all winners. Volunteers are the backbone of our community and my heartfelt thanks to all for keeping our waterways and our people safe."

Some of the members have been patrolling for 45 years but alas, they were not the winning team this year. That title went to Team Two with members: Justin, Vicki, Abigail, Sophie and Emily Schooth, Emily Simpson, Mitchell King, Isaac Emery, Hugh Gilmore, Hayley Keep, Chynna Mallie, Emma Worthington, Mahli Bowman-Brookes, Jerome Mallie & Em-merson Mitchell.

While there was a lot of merit in the awards, there was also a lot of fun and the hotly contested dunny seat award was won by a margin by Dustin Kenman and Roscoe Wilsch. No one will reveal what the most unusual experience award was won for.

Congratulations to all winners and thank you for continuing to keep our beach and community safe.

And the winners are:

- Outstanding first year lifesaver: Mason Bignell



Winners of the Patrol team award - Team 2.

- Encouragement Award: Amanda Wroe
- Best Junior Patrol Member: Liam Pratt
- Best Junior Member: Jack Dwine
- Peter Bargaquast Award: Mason Bignell
- Best Senior Member: Rob McCarthy

- Best Club Member: Dan Robertson
- Champion Lifesaver: Anton Klekar
- Most Efficient Patrol Member: Kieran Clancy
- Cliff Kuhn Award: Justin Schooth
- IRB Award: Roscoe Wilsch

- Best Patrol Team: Team two
- Harden Up Award: Hayley Green
- Dunny Seat: Dustin Kenman and Roscoe Wilsch.
- Most Unusual Experience: Kieran Clancy



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10 year service awards to Campbell Handy, Vicky Schooth, Anton Klekar, Brad Hethorn, Rob McCarthy.



Tony Perrett MP presenting Rob McCarthy with the Best Senior Award.



Champion Life Saver awarded to Anton Klekar by Hon Tony Perrett.



Winner of the Encouragement Awards, Amanda Wroe.



Cr Dolly Jensen presenting Liam Pratt with the Best Junior Patrol Member award.



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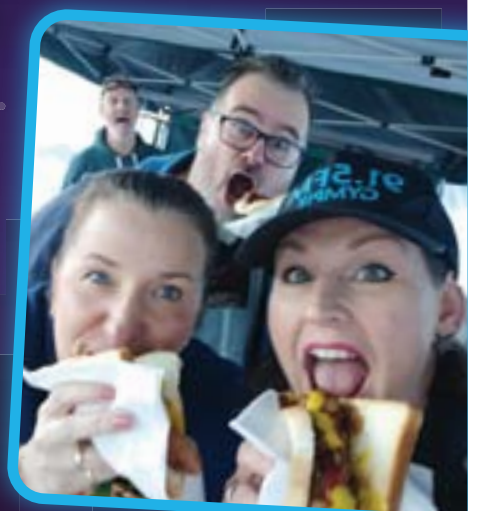
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