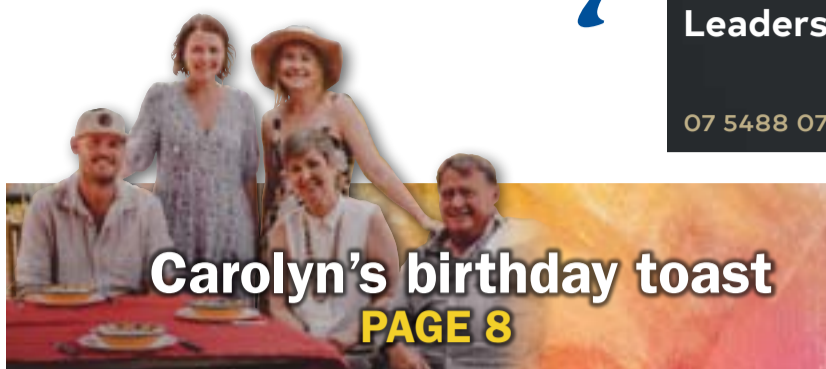




CooloolaCoastToday



Island pearls on the way
PAGE 6



Carolyn's birthday toast
PAGE 8

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Bronco finally gets his chair

By Lee McCarthy

Bronco Jensen can now relax and enjoy the Jack and Jill chair he fought hard for after the timber bench seat was unveiled on 23 September at the Tin Can Bay foreshore.

The seat is to honour his parents Ron and Eve Jensen, who were stalwarts of the Tin Can Bay community since they arrived in 1972.

Mayor Glen Hartwig, CEO Shane Gray, Cr Dolly Jensen, Cr Bruce Devereaux and Cr Jess Milne were on hand to mark the occasion as were many friends and family of Bronco and Tanya Jensen.

Bronco wept as he thanked his family and everyone involved in the process and was so happy to finally be able to show off this tribute to his parents.

Bronco's sister was not able to attend due to ill health but was mentioned in Bronco's speech.

Celebrating the arrival of the tribute chair are, front from left Kay-Jay Green, Bronco Jensen and Garrett Jensen and, back Natori Green, Tanya Jensen, Ronin Green, Arianah Kederer, Bradley Jensen and Ricki Jensen.

Tools on Teewah!

By Rose Astley

Teewah and Double Island beaches are looking more and more like the highway each weekend, a concerning thought for QPWS compliance manager Mike Devery, who says the lack of seatbelt wearing on our beaches is a "fatality waiting to happen."

Mr Devery said it was extremely concerning to see unrestrained children in vehicles in the 80km zone on chopped up sections of the beach at Teewah.

"That is a fatality waiting to happen, as the chopped up sections of the beach can cause vehicles to slide around regardless of driver behaviour," he said.

It comes as an armful of penalty infringement notices have been handed out to "tools" behaving badly on our beaches, five of these included failure to wear seatbelts.

Fourteen penalty infringement notices (PINs) were handed out over the long weekend, a large majority of those went to people who were camping without a permit.

Thankfully this was a step down from the previous weekend where twenty PINs were handed out to campers at Teewah during a weekend compliance blitz by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

STORY PAGE 3

RAINBOW BEACH HORSE RIDES

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The school holidays sure did bring people out of the woodworks and thanks to Annastacia Palaszczuk and border closures, brought them to all Rainbow Beach.

It was fantastic to hear some business owners saying they have had a busy, if not the busiest, September on record. Locals have said they only see this much foot traffic in their busy seasons like Easter or Christmas.

Speaking of traffic, Double Island Point was quite literally a carpark on Sunday, October 3 with vehicles and jet skis as far as the eye could see.

The amount of locals and tourists taking advantage of the warm, sunny weather, the calm and pristine waters and the long weekend was phenomenal.

Operation Sand Strike, a joint effort between Queensland Police and Department of Environment and Science has been an excellent addition to help keep "tools" off our beaches, fingers crossed it is effective enough so their behaviour won't ruin it for all of us.

The Queenslanders, particularly those closer to the southern border, who have discovered Rainbow Beach and surrounds for a holiday location are most welcome, their tourism dollars have been a godsend since international travel ceased almost 18 months ago.

It does beg the question though as to how much longer will the quaint, tight-knit community of Rainbow Beach will remain just that, before it turns into another Noosa or God forbid, another Gold Coast

- Rose Astley



Keep Cooloola cool

By Arthur Gorrie

The generations-old fight to save Cooloola's national park area as a significant community and environmental asset appears set to re-ignite, as campaigners contest eco-tourism plans.

The plans, which involve leasing land near Lake Poona and Double Island Point to private eco-tourism interests, appear to have met a mixed but often negative response from residents and conservation interests.

Others say tourism is the only way national park areas can pay the kind of "resource rent" that will ensure their continued protection in the future.

The newly formed Keep Cooloola Cool action group has launched a petition, accompanied by a public information campaign that incorporates official information as well as the concerns of group members.

"We aim for a future where our governing bodies are transparent, our natural environments are perpetual and our public spaces are free from private infrastructure," the organisation's promotional material states.

In keeping with that objective, the group has a big collection of available information, including official assessments, at its website: <https://keep-cooloola-cool.org/proposal-info>

"Read the Government 'Proposed Plans' for



The walking trail to Lake Poona, site of a proposed privately run eco-tourism resort.

Cooloola Recreation Area to make your own informed decision on the issue," it urges.

The group's website also includes recommended reading by well known environmental campaigners for the area.

"If you would like to support our National Parks and keep them for community not pri-

vate enterprise reach out to get involved, together we can all make a difference," a group representative said.

The group's information package, including access to an electronic petition form can be found at <https://keep-cooloola-cool.org/proposal-info>

More speed plea on Bay road plan

By Arthur Gorrie

Cooloola Coast road improvement campaigner Tony Stewart says he has more than 11,000 backers in his campaign to speed up state government plans for Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach roads.

"There'll be nearly 11,500 in the paper and electronic petitions," he said as he handed over the paper ones to Gympie MP Tony Perrett, who will now present them to state parliament.

"And there's more coming in on the e-petition," he said.

Mr Stewart says the government's current plans are too slow in more ways than one.

"We definitely don't want the speed limit dropped," he said. "That won't work and could make people even more impatient.

"We need overtaking lanes and places for

caravans to pull over.

"They want to be able to so that other drivers can get past. They do try to do the right thing, but there are no verges, just a drop on either side.

"In dangerous situations there is also nowhere for other drivers to take evasive action. If they do, they may well crash and that doesn't help anyone."

Mr Perrett said he had just received a response to a Question on Notice, confirming that planning for the work will begin early next year, including a look at options.

Transport and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey said \$50,000 of the total \$300,000 allocated to the project would be spent in the 2021-22 financial year.

Planning and community consultation for overtaking lanes on Tin Can Bay Rd would commence in early 2022," he said.



Road improvement campaigner Tony Stewart hands over his petition for Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach Rd improvements to Gympie MP Tony Perrett.

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CARTOON



Targetting Teewah's tools

By Rose Astley

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Thankfully this was a step down from the previous weekend where twenty PINs were handed out to campers at Teewah during a weekend compliance blitz by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

Mr Devery said QPWS officers were confronted by the number of PINs issued by his team, many of these included camping without permits and unlawful campfires.

"It was disappointing to see prohibited campfires at three camping areas over the weekend, which is thoughtless behaviour," Mr Devery said.

"Last week, a prohibited campfire at Teewah almost escaped into the dunes and it had to be extinguished by other campers, QPWS rangers and the Teewah Rural Fire Service.



14 infringement notices from the long weekend followed the 20 handed out at Teewah/ Double Island the weekend before.

"Despite campfires being banned at Teewah for almost a year, every weekend rangers are handing out penalty infringement notices (PINs) to people who light campfires.

"My patrol team handed out three \$689 PINs to three people for allegedly lighting prohibited campfires on Friday night.

"I believe people know the rules and are choosing to ignore them, because the campers had attempted to conceal the fires by strategic placement of vehicles and tents, or by placing the fires at the back of the dunes.

"Obviously it is difficult to conceal a campfire at night. They're banned for safety and environmental reasons and anyone who lights a

prohibited campfire is risking a fine.

"We observed a campfire at another camping area and upon our arrival, several people fled into the bush, but were identified during another visit the following morning.

"These campers had set up in a 'no camping' area, they had lit a prohibited campfire, none of them had a camping permit and they were too intoxicated for us to move them on.

"The group were issued PINs for failing to obtain a camping permit, and we directed them to leave once it was safe to do so in the morning."

Mr Devery said QPWS have noticed considerably less evidence of 'circle work' and

'fishtails' in the sand along various parts of the beach that are obvious hoon signatures.

"I hope it is an indication that people are changing their beach driving behaviour due to regular compliance and educational patrols by QPWS and the Queensland Police Service.

QPWS remind people who visit Teewah that rangers and police routinely conduct compliance patrols, and people must follow the rules or risk injury or receiving a PIN.

"Get your camping permits, your vehicle access permits and don't light campfires. Respect Teewah, respect nearby campers and respect the rules."

Coast's Covid boom times

By Arthur Gorrie

An unlikely combination of perfect weather and coronavirus has given the Cooloola Coast tourism sector its busiest September holiday season ever, according to some business operators.

The Queensland border closure with New South Wales and Victoria, combined with the Commonwealth ban on overseas travel, has driven Brisbane and Sunshine Coast holiday makers north to Cooloola, they say.

"I've never seen it so busy at this time of year," fish shop owner Sandy Brosnan said on Sunday.

"I'm just exhausted. It's usually only at Christmas and Easter that it gets this busy," she said.

And it is not just the Queen's Birthday long weekend or the school holidays, she said.

"It's been flat out ever since Anastacia (Palaszczuk) closed the border," she said.

Just down Rainbow Beach Rd, in the CBD, Kosta Ladas at the Little Parliament cafe, had no doubt about where the crowds and the traffic had come from.

It was a boom, he said, which might well recur.

"They can't go overseas or interstate, so they came here," he said.

"They'll keep coming too. They've found Rainbow Beach now. Why would they go anywhere else?"

Beach crowds were huge for most of the weekend, despite cool and blustery conditions on the Friday and traffic was heavy and thick, with hardly a parking spot to be seen, in the Beach CBD.

It was a similar story in the accommodation sector, including campsite availability from Teewah to Tin Can Bay.

At Barnacles Dolphin Feeding Centre long queues awaited the morning dolphin visit.



Traffic was thick and parking spots rare at the weekend, as businesses reported what may have been their busiest September holiday season ever.

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Moonboom's on the rise

By Lee McCarthy

The demand for sustainable sources of seafood has grown around the world and the focus on aquaculture in Australia is on the rise.

According to the Department of Fisheries, Australia's consumer demand for seafood exceeds the supply from domestic production and continues to grow. Domestic aquaculture has the potential to significantly expand to help meet domestic and international demand.

Cooloola Coast couple Henry Hewish and Stephanie Sutcliffe nearly fell into their professions while living on Bruny Island in Tasmania.

Out of work and new to the region, Henry got a job at an oyster farm and Stephanie started at Cloudy Bay Lagoon at the bottom of Bruny Island. They were harvesting Pacific Oysters which are native to Japan but are grown commercially around the world. The Tasmanian and South Australian oyster industry grow Pacific oysters on a large scale.

Bruny Island has a long-standing history in oyster farming and the labouring is normally reserved for backpackers who either put up with cut hands, a sore back on the oyster farms or they work in hospitality.

Henry fell in love with the industry. He has started a few University degrees, one of which was marine science and having grown up on the water with his dad a sailmaker and brother a commercial fisherman, it was familiar to him.

After 18 months, they decided to buy the farm Henry was working on. They had 20 hectares of lease in total however only developed around six hectares. When they purchased the lease, it had approximately five hectares developed.

Stephanie said: "While we bought a going concern, we had to modernise it and make it less labour intensive which is how we were able to afford to buy it. It was Henry's passion. We had it for five years and it was very educational and life changing".



The finished product, a work of art, the Moonboon Oyster cultivated in the Oyster Farm near Tinnanbar

"We purchased it when we were only 27 so it was a big undertaking. The shed we built, and our worksite was off grid, down a dirt track and with no phone reception.

"We were fortunate because the previous owner of the farm was our mentor and Henry was the same age as his sons who didn't have a lot of interest in the industry, so they had a nice relationship. It was an opportunity that worked out very well and we sold it just before Covid with Henry staying on as the transitional manager to help."

They moved back to Queensland where both families lived and built a house in Eumundi where they stayed for eight months before selling up and buying in Rainbow Beach.

They started a lengthy application process to purchase an aquaculture site in the Sandy Straits.

"In Tasmania you can just buy a farm but here it is a competitive process requiring DA approval and engineering reports and you really have to have a basis of knowledge to apply."

They achieved their dream eighteen months ago and now have approximately one million oysters in their farms off Tinnanbar and Poona in the Sandy Straits. They chose the area as the Sydney Rock Oysters they are growing have very specific needs of water temperature, tides, water cleanliness and they perform water tests regularly for e-coli or faecal coliforms.

"We needed to be in an intertidal zone where we could essentially train the oysters

to stay shut to give them a longer shelf life. We wanted the best conditions for a young oyster. We needed a naturally good water flow with little development or land farming as the oysters are filter feeders. We had to avoid pesticides, sewerage and any factors that would hinder development. The region has a really good water temperature and is the farthest north to grow this breed."

Oysters start off in a controlled hatchery where they are spawned and grown out to 'spat' size. Some farmers catch wild caught oysters in their leases which don't cost them anything besides their time, but Henry and Stephanie were looking for commercial genetics, with fast growing disease resistant oysters.

"The spat is sourced and shipped to us, and these are then placed in mesh baskets, or sometimes a sock if they are too small, and left in the farm to grow.

"We have already been selling small quantities this month, but we are just getting the processes right. We would like to sell as many to locals as possible. In Tasmania we had to sell mainly wholesale due to our geographical location, but we would love to control our supply here.

"We want to sell oysters harvested 24 hours prior to consumption. We want people to taste the fresh oyster. There is no comparison. For instance, in Tasmania, we sold huge quantities to Queensland, so it took seven days from harvest to table. We want people to know the difference and experience the process of shucking the oyster themselves."

When you buy a processed oyster, it must be rinsed and graded. As with wine which uses the word 'terroir' to describe the wine, its soil, location and climate, oysters are described by 'merroir' which is used to describe the sea influences such as tides, seabed, and the aquatic culture of the oysters.

"People are scared to shuck but it is so common in the USA. It's just like filleting a fish and

once you get the hang of it's easy, but it is not ingrained in modern Australian culture. Oysters get shucked to order in the USA and it is a huge industry. People are used to seeing it and it's about exposure. If you are not raised in that environment, it can be scary, and it's the same as cooking crabs, if you are used to it, its natural. You will have a much better experience of an oyster if you eat it fresh."

Stephanie said all signs were good at the farm and they are getting the oysters to size for consistent turnover. They have husbandry practices in place to ensure the best outcome just like on the land.

Oysters of the same size grow together well. They bring the oyster up after six to twelve weeks to grade for size and put the similar size together or the basket becomes overcrowded with the big just getting bigger. Oysters that are the same size are happy and healthy according to Stephanie.

"We need to grade them and put in the right density to suit the area. It's the same as land farming except we have baskets instead of paddocks."

Stephanie said there were not many women in the foreground of larger scale oyster farms due to the labour and heavy lifting. Most women are in the back of house, grading and looking after the logistics.

"Henry is passionate and organised and we are very focused on different aspects of the business. We both do the jobs that are best suited to us, but it is a male dominated industry. I am the secretary of the Qld Oyster Growers Association and pretty 'work-centric' but we both love the industry that has chosen us, and our real driver is for people to taste freshly shucked oysters."

Henry and Stephanie are in the process of having signage made up for their Tin Can Bay premises at 134 Emperor Street and will soon be ready to teach everyone how to shuck a fresh oyster.

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One of the two oyster lease sites used for the Aquaculture Farm at Poona and Tinnanbar by Stephanie and Henry

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Our scallops 'off the menu'

By Arthur Gorrie

Local scallops might be off the menu for Cooloolooloo Coast seafood lovers, Tin Can Bay-based fishing industry executive Kev Reibel has warned.

Mr Reibel said shortages might apply across Queensland, with consumers forced to accept product transported from interstate or even overseas.

The state government has warned scallop numbers are declining and regulators are looking at closing the fishery for up to five years.

But Mr Reibel, a scallop fisherman and Queensland Seafood Industry Association treasurer, said a total closure would be "devastating" to many coastal communities.

And the industry might be hard to re-start when the shutdown ends, he warned.

"Factories here in Tin Can Bay employ 30 to 50 workers at a time to process scallops," he said.

"Where's the skilled labour going to come from when we open up the scallop fishery again?"

The closure of six scallop areas off Central Queensland had shifted the load to remaining fisheries, including near Hervey Bay and Fraser Island, as well as off Mackay.

Mr Reibel said the Hervey Bay area may need to be closed, but the industry "cannot afford to lose all three."

Fisheries Minister Mark Furner told ABC regional news that fishers had been given plenty of warning.

"Fisheries Queensland has consistently advised fishers, since June 2020, that if the scallop stock did not show signs of improvement, Fisheries Queensland may recommend closure," he was reported as saying.

"Fisheries Queensland will continue to seek feedback on future management options from stakeholders before a final decision is made."

Fishing industry executive Kev Reibel says Queensland's scallop fishery, and its processing businesses at Tin Can Bay, are under threat.



A sure bet on progress: Coast gets \$100k in grants

By Donna Jones

The Coast has nabbed the lion's share of the nearly \$120,000 worth of Gambling Community Benefit Fund awarded to Gympie region associations in the latest round of grants.

Tin Can Bay Country Club were successful with two applications, the first for nearly \$32,000 to install shade sails and a further \$35,000 to begin construction on a mini golf course. Also obtaining a grant of \$35,000 was the Poona Community Progress Association

who have plans to use the money to install acoustic panelling to the Poona Hall.

The final Gympie region recipients were the Goomeri Golf Club who will use their just over \$18,000 to purchase new equipment.

Across the State almost \$11 million is going to 448 not-for-profit community groups in the latest round of the program.

The announcement of the successful applicants was made last Friday, 1 October by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice's office.

Minister for Justice, Shannon Fentiman, reminded organisations that round 112 is open for applications until 31 October and that applicants are just one round away from 2022's round 113 – the super round.

"Next year is an exciting year for the GCBF, with the first-time inclusion of a super round when grants of up to \$100,000 will be up for grabs," Minister Fentiman said.

"I can't wait to see the fruits of the hard work of these community groups, with a little

help from their GCBF grants, in the future."

Please visit justice.qld.gov.au/initiatives/community-grants/successful-applications for more information, including funding guidelines for round 112 and more information on the super round (round 113).

For any questions about an application or using the grant, please contact cbf@justice.qld.gov.au or 1800 633 619 (free call) and follow them on Facebook to receive regular updates.



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Get set for Island pearls

By Lee McCarthy

While the Great Sandy Straits have an array of disused and discarded oyster beds from leases over the past two decades, the region has not been synonymous with pearl farming.

The remains of oyster beds can be found in Tin Can Bay and Tuan and wild oysters abound, however the region is said to have ideal conditions for marine aquaculture.

According to the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) the QX disease caused impacts to the oyster industry in the region. It was originally called 'Queensland Unknown' until scientists found the disease was caused by a protozoan parasite (*Marteilia sydneyi*)

The Great Sandy Marine Park encompasses the sheltered waters of the Great Sandy Strait inside Fraser Island, and it is here after much research, Nusqe Spanton and Lisa Hutchins have established their Fraser Island Pearl Farm.

Having had pearling assets in Indonesia and Fiji over the past 20 years they were looking around the Fraser Island-Cooloolooloo Coast region, doing their research and applying for leases before becoming established in Rainbow Beach in 2016.

Spokesperson and General Manager of the project Greg Lewis said: "They chose this region for the ideal growing conditions which is a combination of high water quality, temperature, salinity, water flow and current and the oysters like shallow protected waters."

"The leases are pre-set by Qld Parks so ideal sites within those criteria have been identified as being suitable for scallops, oysters and pearl oysters."

Nusqe and Lisa approached local investors to be part of the venture and secured the leases, permits, and then set up the infrastructure.

"The beds are in ideal conditions of four to six metres of water with good salinity, no heavy metals, and the right temperature."

"We started with oyster 'spat'. 'Spat' is the baby oyster which we source from the DPI at Port Stephens in NSW. We pay them to grow the spawn and they live in the hatchery for a month.

"They start the size of a sandfly and then after about eight weeks they are the size of your thumb. At the spat stage they are put into the sea, and we settle them on the 'collectors'."

"It takes another 12 to 18 months to reach maturity. We don't touch them in that time except to clean the outside of the shells with a high pressure hose every ten to 14 days to remove the 'fowling' on our seven-metre punt farm boat."

"At the farm, the floats are above the water and the nets are 1.5m below the float. We are creating a floating reef, a fish habitat so the fishermen love it because we are increasing fish stocks; it's like a reef system and historically they were taken and not replaced."

"At 18 months they are about 5cm wide, and we can seed them. We bring them out of the water and into the processing raft and Lisa operates on them. It is a unique profession and there are only a handful of 'seeders' in Australia. The nuclei are shell which have been ground down to a little ball which we source from West Australia. We peg the shell open about 1cm and use a tool to insert the nuclei into the shell."

"After we have operated, we put 24 into one panel and we check back about two weeks later to see if they are positive or negative."

"Our testing results after four operating periods have been extremely promising with a high-quality pearl. The two most recent operating periods have been the best we have had so we are getting high quality saleable pearls."

"Normally to get a pearl it takes four years. Two years is optimal to operate and two years to harvest. With quality growth rates and testing every three to six months, the last two operating periods are producing by far our highest quality pearls to date."

"We had to go into hibernation during Covid, but we are ready to take the pearl business out of hibernation again when the market can support it. A pearl 7-9 mm in diameter is the optimum size we are seeking. We could leave them longer to be bigger but that also increases the risk factor."

Nusqe and Lisa's original plan was to produce 15,000 oysters a year. The species they are farming is the AKOYA pearl which is the same farming technique as the world renowned Mikimoto pearls.

The team wants this product to be a 'destination' product, they want visitors to come to Rainbow Beach to get the Fraser Island Pearl.

Greg said due to Covid they are also diversifying into edible pearl oysters. It is still a Pearl Oyster like more well-known eating varieties such as the Sydney Rock Oyster, Coffin Bay Oyster, Pacific Oysters. However, the Pearl Oyster is a different family and has different characteristics.

The common name for the native species of pearl oyster is the "Quampi" and both the Quampi and the Akoya will be produced for eating and create pearls.

Greg said: "We want to give Rainbow Beach another industry. It will be great to be renowned for other industries as well as tourism. The demand for locally sourced products is unfathomable."

"We are now finding a market for the pearl meat. We are working on getting our accreditations and training as we are going from a luxury jewellery item to the seafood industry, so we have had to transform the way we operate."

"There is an air of excitement with this new direction now that we are more comfortable with the opportunity of what is before us. There is a real opportunity to produce edible pearl oysters to a market that loves seafood.



Greg Lewis with the Fraser Island Pearl cultivated in the Sandy Straits.



Diversifying into Pearl Oyster meat is next on the agenda for Fraser Island Pearl Farm.

Pearl meat has been a delicacy in Asia for centuries."

"There is a need for an east coast product and really we want to be the leaders in the field of East Coast Pearl Oysters. We will have a unique freshness as we will be able to farm to freeze by freezing the product down to -8 degrees on the boat in a salt ice brine which

brings it down instantly to negative 8 degrees. Then we mechanically freeze it after that and box it up frozen."

"We want to pave the way and we want it to be our flagship product that puts Rainbow Beach and Fraser Island on the map for pearl meat oysters. We hope to be marketing the product in 2022 - watch this space!



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Art for town's sake

By Arthur Gorrie

When James Ellis and his dog Max drove into Rainbow Beach recently, he asked fish and chips shop owner Sandy Brosnan if he could paint her wall.

After she saw online representations of some of his earlier murals in other Queensland centres, she readily agreed.

Now, her Ocean Breeze Seafood and linked laundromat business feature one of the region's most striking examples of public art, in the form of a giant marlin, painted with spray cans and a roller.

"And he did it in three days," an amazed Mrs Brosnan said on Monday.

The impressive mural has prompted a new hunger for art in the oceanside town, starting with a new commission at the school.

"I put it on Facebook and had more than 306 responses and 12 shares," she said.

Mr Ellis has already made a big impression out west, after spending the winter in places like Goondiwindi and Moree, places where the temperature sometimes failed to reach even 10C on cooler days.

"It was freezing every day and I was just dreaming of sunny days at the coast."

Then he went to Bowen and Yeppoon.

"I've painted at a lot of places up and down Queensland," he said.

And the contrast in weather conditions seems to have brought about a change in his art career strategy.

"Pretty much now I just want to work at the beach full time," he said.

"I'm pretty happy with the reaction, especially with his new job at the school.

"We'll see what happens. But if nothing turns up, I'm not worried. I'll just try it again somewhere else."

Now 25, he says he has been doing public



James Ellis and the giant marlin mural he painted, "with some spray cans and a roller" at Sandy Brosnan's Ocean Breeze Seafood business at Rainbow Beach.

murals for about five years, after deciding to give his full attention to the art he loves.

"I studied at TAFE for a year, and by the time I'd finished that, I had mural jobs coming through.

"I didn't bother with uni after that, even though the TAFE course graduation counts as the first year of a degree.

"The goal has always been to be an artist," he said.

"I realised a long time ago that of you want

to be an artist or whatever you want to do, you have to dedicate all your time to it and make it happen somehow.

"If it's the only thing your do and you're reliant on it, you'll make it work."

Meanwhile things are gradually getting busy.

"I have to go back to Brisbane for a job in about two weeks time, so I might get more work at Rainbow Beach in the meantime, or I might call in at Tin Can Bay.

"I haven't really made a decision yet," he said.

Mr Ellis says he has already done some prominent work in Gympie, including at "the mower shop at the Fiveways."

He has also worked several centres between here and Bundaberg, "but I'd never been to Rainbow Beach before."

Increasingly, his internet presence is augmented by what he says is his best promotional device, word of mouth.

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Director

Carolyn's celebrating 60

By Lee McCarthy

Happy Birthday to Carolyn Simpson, who celebrated her 60th birthday on 5 September at the family home in Rainbow Beach.

Surrounded by the great loves of her life, husband Shane, son Michael, daughters Laura and Jessica and her grandchildren, Carolyn enjoyed a weekend of celebrations.

The event was catered by Arcobaleno on the Beach and Caroline said the food and Kingsley were amazing.

Photography for the event was by Aimee, owner of Photo's by Tigerlily.

Carolyn said: "My 60th weekend with my family was everything! Beginning with a day retreat with daughter Jess at 'Spirit of Rainbow', then partying with family and friends on Saturday, followed by an Italian Long Lunch on Sunday catered by Arcobaleno on the Beach in our Bombala Garden.

We had a feast for our eyes and stomach with daughter Laura's birthday gift, a 60th cake by Royal Cakes by Nadia. Spectacular on every level. It was a magic weekend in paradise."



Carolyn Simpson celebrated her 60th birthday with family and friends.

Pictures: PHOTO'S BY TIGERLILY

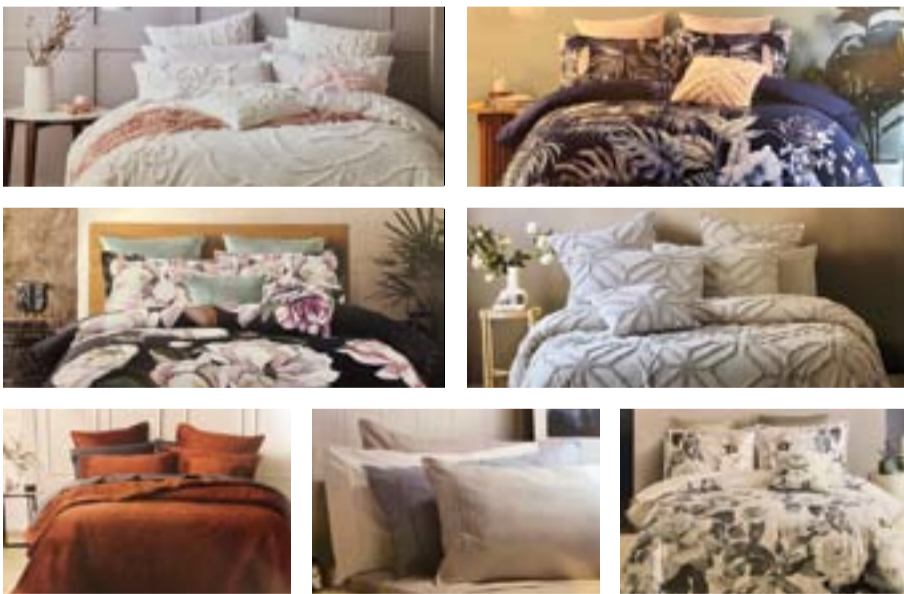


Carolyn with husband Shane helping celebrate Carolyn's 60th.

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This 2000 acre block is back on the market at Tin Can Bay calling for offers over \$4 million from Paul Downman Century 21 Tin Can Bay.



This 3 bed 3 bath home at Skyring Place, Tin Can Bay is being marketed by Century 21 Tin Can Bay for \$895,000.

Demographics changing

By Lee McCarthy

We know the property market is soaring, and buyers are set on getting a foot in the door of a sea change property while they still can.

Local agent, Century 21 Paul Downman has been given the golden opportunity to sell a property twice in as many months which is rare, especially when we are talking about property looking at offers over \$4 million.

According to the property description: "This is the last large land site left in the region of Tin Can Bay. Set along the Tin Can Bay Road it runs from the Cooloola Cove turn-off to the Rainbow Beach Road. There are 2 Titles - Lot 66 is 395HA and Lot 67 is 476HA. Currently Zoned Rural/Rural Activity. This Land is perfect for a rural subdivision with some 200 x 5 acre blocks possible (STCA requiring an application to council for change of use). The property is not fenced and has treed areas across a vast array of the overall property"

Paul said: "It has just re-listed with offers over \$4 million and we have already had interest from about twenty parties from everywhere from Rainbow Beach to overseas. People are searching from all over Australia and looking at options. It is zoned rural with just over 2000 acres and we expect it will be settled before the end of the year."

"It was last sold in June to buyers who were going to run cattle but decided to go elsewhere so they put it back on the market."

"Everything has gone up thirty-plus percent in the last twelve months. Prices at Cooloola Cove are regularly over \$500,000 now. I just did some listings today and they are all over \$500,000 but some are on a quarter of an acre."

"The price in Tin Can Bay is the same with some blocks of land \$600-800,000 each. There is a new unit development happening now and new subdivisions beside it, but there is still a shortage of listings, with everything selling in under 30 days."

He said: "There is a broad range of people, and they are seeking both houses and units



This 3 bed, 2 bath, 3 car home at Beattie Court, Tin Can Bay is on the market with Paul Downman for \$1,100,000.

with no fixed demographic."

"There are a mixture of families and retirees but there is definitely a different demographic of people coming into the region and different cultures have moved to the area. We haven't been getting many sales from interstate buyers yet, there is a lot of enquiry but most of our inspections and sales are from Queenslanders."

"It's a different market altogether with a lot from Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast and a lot of investors as the returns are so good. We have rented several homes in the last month for over \$500 a week."

"Most of the investors in Cooloola Cove and Tin Can Bay are using their purchases as

permanent rentals and getting at least 25 applications for each home.

"The most popular price range is between \$400 - \$600,000. Most are pre-approved by banks or brokers, but a big percentage of sales are cash buyers."

"I wouldn't say we have a housing crisis here at the Bay yet, but we do need land subdivision here. There is land here that should be opened up. There are 20 and 40 acre lots that could be subdivided. New parcels of land need to be subdivided and developed."

"I think the potential for the area is huge and the prices are still reasonable. We live on the coast, we are fifteen minutes from Fraser Island K'gari by water, 20 minutes from one

of the best beaches in the world, fishing and crabs are still plentiful and the living is easy. The lifestyle is good and it's a quiet peaceful area and we have more eating venues now where the food is good."

"We would love more retail in the area but there's not very many vacant shops and builders are tied up till the middle of next year so the demand at the moment is on established homes and units."

Paul is born and bred in the local region and has a great knowledge of the local area whether you are looking for Residential, Rural, Commercial or Vacant Land Sales. If you would like to inspect a property, contact Paul on 0407 181404.




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Business tips over lunch

By Lee McCarthy

How does this sound? A two-course meal on the waterfront at Quay Carlo Point, Rainbow Beach listening to guest speaker Angie Mansey, author of *How I Made Lemonade*.

And what about if you are surrounded by 40 fabulous women who have all come to network, make friends, and spend some time just enjoying each other's company?

Then mark Thursday 21 October in your diary for the inaugural Cooloola Coast Women in Business lunch being held at Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach.

Our special guest, Angie Mansey, is a gregarious and generous woman who has found herself quite the centre of attention Australia wide, due to her work for charities, her collaboration with Love Your Sister Samuel Johnson OAM, winner of the 2019 Telstra Queensland Business Women's Small Business Award, her first novel *How I Made Lemonade* and her etiquette busting social media presence where a spade is definitely a spade.

An Hour with Angie is a chance to learn from this author, mum, wife, and business-woman, who has triumphed in business and life despite some major life hurdles.

She is a multiple award-winning business owner; mother of four; wife; charity founder and director of Driven by KM; Australian of the Year Qld Nominee for Local Hero 2021 ...and a witty, warm and wonderful human being.

Find out how this refreshingly honest woman fits three days' work into every single day and still smiles.... most of the time.

Cooloola Coast Women in Business monthly networking events are proud to launch with this special woman as their special guest.

The cost is \$35 which includes your meal,



Special guest Angie Mansey is the author of *How I Made Lemonade* and will have copies of her book for sale at the networking event on 21 October

An Hour with Angie, and a chance to meet other women of all ages and all walks of life. You will have the opportunity to buy Angie's book at the launch.

Capped at only 40 guests for the inaugural event, Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach will open at 11.30 am for registration and a chat then the event begins at noon.

Owners of the venue, Chef Darren and wife Clare along with daughters Phoebe and Georgia have prepared a superb light meal menu to suit most tastes. If you have special dietary



Angie Mansey, the 2019 Telstra Queensland Business Women's Small Business Award winner is joining the Cooloola Coast Women in Business 21 October at Quay Carlo!

requirements, please let the organisers know prior to the event.

The menu is alternate drop of cold poached salmon on a cucumber dill salad with hot buttered chats or Chicken Ballotine, a herb cream cheese stuffed chicken breast wrapped in Serrano ham and seasonal vegetables.

Dessert is an alternate drop of Tiramisu or Lemon tart with Chantilly cream. Tea, Coffee, and drinks are available for purchase.

The restaurant will cater for those who prefer vegetarian serving a roast mushroom ragu

with rice pilaf. Please advise on booking if you prefer the vegetarian option.

The Cooloola Coast Women in Business look forward to meeting you and know you will enjoy the zany, energetic, smart, accomplished and truly inspirational Angie Mansey at Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach for lunch and a chat on Thursday 21 October from 11.30am.

Tickets on sale now at Eventbrite/An Hour With Angie by CCWIB or go to CCWIB on Facebook

So much support for new Senior's Expo at Tin Can Bay

By Lee McCarthy

Kudos to the committee from the Cooloola Cove Residents and Friends group who have put their skills together to organise the Cooloola Seniors Expo at Tin Can Bay to celebrate Queensland Seniors Month.

Being held at the Cooloola Coast Bowls Club on Saturday, 23 October from 10am to 1pm, the event is gaining momentum with committee spokesperson Theresa Fear fielding calls from groups to exhibit at the expo.

Theresa said: We have had so much support. It has been amazing. When you say what you are doing, businesses are offering it for free or at a reduced price so what we budgeted for we have been able to use on other things."

The committee applied for a grant from the Council of the Ageing and the Queensland Government for up to \$1000 and has been able to use that money to host the expo.

"We went to the council to ask about the recreational grant for our Christmas Celebra-



Don't miss the Cooloola Seniors Expo at the Cooloola Coast Bowls Club this month

tions and mentioned we had received the 'senior's month' grant and they included our event in all their advertising too."

"We just want people to come along and get information about what they are entitled to. Some are 'fee for service' but it will show seniors what services are available to them and what they are entitled to. We have a lot of

information to share."

"When we approached the Cooloola Coast Bowls Club, they were more than happy to help us out with the venue. Kids Bizz and the C & K hopped on board as did the two family-day-care mums creating 'grandparent' artwork for display. Kids Bizz are making a trip to an aged care facility to work on the artwork that is going on to our welcome sign.

"The great news is because we have sponsorship there is no fee for the public, exhibitors or the presenters. Lunch will be available to purchase from the club. To book in for lunch call the club on 07 5486 4836."

"The bowls club are lending us their courtesy bus for free, so we will be able to pick up and drop off our guests from Cooloola Cove, Tin Can Bay and Wallu for a gold coin donation."

"We have exhibitors from Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Bundaberg as well as local businesses and community organisations plus an advocacy group have contacted us to

see if they could participate too."

Theresa said they also have the 'cars 'n coffee' group setting up a display of their prized vehicles plus acoustic entertainers will be on hand to provide a relaxed environment.

The public are invited to come into the club through the main entrance to complete the Check-In Qld details. This event will be COVID Safe. Any restrictions, as a result of Covid, will be adhered to.

The exhibitors will be set up inside the function area and the guest speakers will be presenting on the verandah so people inside can enjoy the exhibitors while our special guests are speaking.

The event is on Saturday 23 October, at the Cooloola Coast Bowls Club at 4 Amity Place, Tin Can Bay. Booking details are on the Cooloola Cove Community Facebook page or email the Cooloola Coast Residents and Friends Committee on ccrnf103@bigpond.com

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Let's all be water savvy

Did you know that water is the most common substance found on earth? There is about the same amount of water on earth as there was millions of years ago. Over 96 per cent of water on earth is undrinkable being saltwater in our oceans. About 68% of the freshwater available is locked up in glaciers or ice and 30 per cent is located underground. If all water on earth was represented by a full 4 litre jug then the freshwater available for use would equate to a tablespoon from that jug.

Australia is the driest populated continent on earth however did you know that per person, Australia uses more water than most other countries in the world. Water usage is an issue that we can all have a hand in addressing. Our brain is about 70 per cent water so the way we think about water is vital to being able to think.

Urban water supply is a convenience that should not be taken for granted as it's how we all use water that can have an accumulative saving effect therefore positive impact on future water supply. Reducing water usage around the home can be as simple as us-

COUNCIL UPDATE

with CR JESS MILNE



ing water-efficient products such as washing machines, taps and toilets. Showers can make up 20 per cent of a households water use so a water efficient shower head can really make a difference.

Develop daily habits to make water savings such as using bowls to wash fruits and vegetables, turning off the tap when not in use (such as brushing teeth), choosing half flush in the toilet and running washing machines and dishwashers when full. Also regularly check your home for water leaks by doing the water meter read test.

Gardens can also be very thirsty so avoid

watering in the heat of the day or when it is windy, utilise mulch and drought tolerant native plants, use a broom instead of hose to tidy outdoors areas and install a properly fitting cover on pools and spas to reduce evaporation loss.

Reducing water consumption reduces the need to build new water supply infrastructure, protects source water health by reducing extraction and reduces the impacts of treating and disposing of wastewater.

Also being conscious on how rain and runoff can collect and distribute rubbish, pollutants and other items is also important for water supply security as managing surface runoff and stormwater pollution helps river, wetlands and ocean ecosystems from degrading so Are You Ready for the upcoming storm season?

Get Ready Week is 10-17 October and this annual awareness campaign is a timely reminder that when a disaster occurs you will count on emergency services but they need to count on you to be prepared. Have you got a household emergency plan and prepacked emergency kit

and do you know your emergency risk? Jump online and search Get Ready Queensland for more information because preparation is not just about living through the event, it's about how well you recover afterwards.

Strong communities are built on community passion. While Council has a role to play in strong community development the real drivers are those in the community. Our area is blessed to have very active groups, organisations and individuals that are the backbone of the community. Many volunteers work tirelessly to keep wheels in motion from providing meals and social support to assisting local services and providing social connection.

The recent Flower Show hosted by the Cooloola Coast Local Ambulance Committee is a shining example of an organisations efforts to provide support to a service that every single member of the community has access to, but hopefully will not require, being the ambulance. Well done to those involved and thank you to everyone that supported the event.



Kalarny Sheridan, the Junior Flower Show U 10 years Champion for 2021



People's Choice Junior under 10 years winner Bonnie Bate

Another blooming success for ambos

By Lee McCarthy

The Cooloola Coast Ambulance Committee held their annual flower show on the weekend at the Cooloola Community Centre.

The venue was full of stunning blooms, flower and photography competitions, plants for sale, raffles and stalls and all who attended had a great day.

The event is held to raise funds for the Local Ambulance Committee each year and the committee draws on volunteers to hold the show.

YAP in partnership with Kids Bizz Tin Can Bay and Barbara Rooks Family Daycare inspired the next generation of budding florists with over 20 entries to the Flower Show.

Keep an eye out for our next issue of Gympie Today where we will publish all the winners.



Cut blooms in an array of colours looking stunning at the flower show



Funds raised from the flower show are for the Local Ambulance Committee



Flowers on display at the annual Ambulance flower show last weekend.



Beautifully prepared natural bouquets ready for judging last weekend

Capturing the emotion

By Lee McCarthy

Your wedding day is often called the most important day of your life, so you want to ensure your wedding photographer goes the extra mile.

Esther Visser owns Eevee Photography and while only taking up photography nine years ago, it is her inner desire to capture one special moment that is making her work stand out. It is Esther's work we have been showcasing in previous editions of Cooloola Coast Today.

Esther said: "I was bought a camera by my husband nine years ago because I bought one for my daughter for her 21st birthday and he saw me pick it up and look at it and decided to buy one for me."

"When I saw it, I thought 'I want to learn how to use this', and find out what all these dials mean. I started with birds and scenery as you do, and with my children who wanted me to take photos. I realised I really enjoyed taking people more and learning to 'pose' people and then people started asking me to take their photos.

"I found, women in particular were saying how much they hated themselves in photos and I wanted to learn how to make women feel beautiful, so I also do boudoir photography. That really is what motivated me to learn how to work on the pose and lighting and spend thousands of dollars on education."

Esther is from the United Kingdom and came to Australia in 1982. After a few years in Victoria and with a young son, she moved to Gympie.

"Victoria wasn't like I thought Australia would be. I took a trip north and as I drove through Gympie, I straight away loved the warmth, the pine trees and kangaroos - all the things you'd expect. I fell in love with it and we now have a studio and five acres of bush and rocks at The Palms.

"I also work in emergency at the Gympie Hospital and have been nursing for eleven years. I did my degree and graduated in Australia in my forties and completed my graduation year at Nambour. It's pretty full on and we are under a lot of pressure in the department as Gympie has grown so much, especially in the last few years. But I love it and work my photography around my hospital hours.

"It's impossible to say what is next as this career has evolved and I've not really set out to create a business, it has just evolved the way it has. I'm proud of it and I love it, it's a different way of giving. As a nurse I serve people, but this is a different way of giving.

"Every photo shoot I do, I'm trying to get better at it. My biggest passion was being able to do that for women. I want to get better and better at that. I want women to look at themselves and see the beauty. It's an empowering



Arlia by Eevee Photography.



Engagement photos by Eevee Photography of Emma Monley and Braden Ruttley at the Carlo Sandblow at sunrise.



Maternity shoot with Trynity by Eevee Photography.

thing to do in your 30's and 40's to have a photo taken of yourself you love.

"I absolutely love maternity photography too. When I was expecting, we didn't do those types of photos, but I would have loved to have photos of that time in my life. It's such a short time and such a special time and important to have those memories and realise you do look beautiful when you are pregnant.

"It's those moments, each moment in time is important to preserve, as life passes by so quickly.

"I love to photograph breastfeeding as that's another part of your life that passes by quickly. It's good that most women are not embarrassed about doing something so natural anymore."

Esther's drive is summed up on her website: "I want to curate memories with emotion. I want to capture human interaction and connection. I want the narrative of my images to speak of love, feeling, human touch and emotion."

"Photography is my passion, my love, my

dreams. I want to create beautiful images. I spend my free time dreaming of ways to do this. I educate myself constantly to get better and better at my craft.

"I want to provide impeccable service to my clients. I want you to have a great experience with me and go away with images that will go on your walls and be keepsakes for the future."

To contact Esther at Eevee Photography, please go to www.eeveephotography.com or eeveephotography19@gmail.com

Two events designed to help Bomb the Blues

By Lee McCarthy

The Cooloola Cove Residents and Friends is having a busy time with two new events planned for the region this month.

Along with the Seniors Expo on 23 October at the Cooloola Coast Bowls Club, the group also has an event on the 10 October called Bombing the Blues.

Secretary-treasurer Theresa Fear said Mental Health Awareness Week ran from 9-17 October and because of Covid, people were suffering.

"We actually wanted to paint a dead tree blue like the national Blue Tree Project, but we couldn't get permission, so we thought outside the box and are doing a blue yarn bombing. Bombing the Blues," she said.

"We want people to come on down and start thinking and talking about raising awareness of mental health."

Theresa said she can't believe the generosity of the region. "I just had three different community members drop in squares for our project."

The group will be putting yarn and yarn squares on the trees near the Cooloola Sands Office on Sunday 10 October from 8am to 10am and invite people to visit to open the discussion on mental health.



Community members Maureen, Lynelle and Jodie along with Cooloola Coast Residents and Friends Inc members have contributed their time and skill into making these squares for Bombing the Blues on 10 October.

"We have been collecting donations for Head Space in Gympie by selling our 'worry worms' which our members and volunteers have made. Cooloola Cove Takeaway next to Woolworths in Cooloola Cove will also donate a dollar for every coffee sold on the 10th.

Bombing the Blues is being held on Sunday 10 October 8am - 10am at the Cooloola Sands Real Estate Office to mark Mental Health Awareness Week.

The Cooloola Cove Residents and Friends

can be contacted through their Facebook page Cooloola Cove Community or by emailing: ccrnfl03@bigpond.com

INFORMATION

- The Blue Tree Project is a national project set up to help kick the stigma of mental health. To find out more about The Blue Tree Project search www.bluetreeproject.com.au

Their mission is to 'help spark difficult conversations and encourage people to speak up when battling mental health concerns. By spreading the paint and spreading the message that "it's OK to not be OK", we can help break down the stigma that's still largely attached to mental health."

- Headspace is the National Youth Mental Health Foundation providing early intervention mental health services to 12-25-year-olds. Headspace can help young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health) alcohol and other drug services, and work and study support. <https://headspace.org.au>

- Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing emotional distress with access to 24-hour crisis support and suicide prevention services. If life is in danger call 000 and for crises support Call 13 11 14 www.lifeline.org.au



Volunteers are making 'worry worms' for the Bombing the Blues event at Cooloola Cove.

Flavours of Florida a treat

By Lee McCarthy

Looking for a way to ensure your dining experience is that perfect mix of quality, ambience, and price?

The already super popular Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach is proving slow and steady wins the race while delivering on all three.

With the stunning vista of Carlo Point as your backdrop, views over to Tin Can Bay, and boats lapping the water two metres from your table, fish and chips might be your obvious choice.

But as proven by their other successful businesses across the world, this hardworking hospitality family has a lot more tricks up their sleeves.

With chef Darren master of the kitchen with help from daughter Phoebe, and wife Clare and daughter Georgia looking after the coffee and dessert bar, drinks, and table service they reveal no sense of the pressure they are under opening a new venue.

Fast and friendly customer service and high-quality food are key to their early success with customers happy to share their 'find' with friends and family.

Diner Heather said: "The ambience of the restaurant, overlooking the water, created a sense of relaxation and serenity, especially if you arrive in time for the sunsets. The food was delicious with an interesting and varied choice on the menu. The service was excellent and reasonably priced. Worth the short trip out of town to try this fabulous new restaurant."

Previously head chef and owner of restaurants in England, France and Brisbane, Darren's broad range of culinary skills is evident in the wide spectrum of Florida Keys inspired dishes he produces.

Darren said: "The menu is based on Floridian style food with Hispanic, Caribbean and South American twists. It's quite a broad spectrum but it suits this place. House made curries, with roasted spices, locally sourced protein like our traditional blackened steak accompanied by Florida pink slaw.

"At the moment I've got the Jamaican Pepper Pot and a Beef Rendang slow cooking and we also serve a Malaysian Coconut Curry using homegrown lemongrass, chilli and kaffir lime leaves off our own trees and locally sourced ginger and other ingredients.

"The Mojo Shredded Pork is a Cuban inspired recipe flavoured with Cajun spices, a little citrus undertone and slow cooked in fruit juice.

"Our Pumpkin Good Boy soup is a warm spiced roasted thanksgiving pumpkin soup, peppered with Jamaican jerk seasoning and Caribbean all spice.

"We will be changing the menu every six weeks to reflect seasonal produce and because we have so many ideas. We've spent a lot of time on the menu and have dozens of really nice dishes we want to show off, but we are a small team and can't cook everything at once."

"There will be dishes like Bahamian Fire Engine, Succotash and things like that coming and they will be swapped over when we get going. Eventually we want to open for breakfasts where we will also have normal expected dishes like the Eggs Benny. At the moment we are open from 11am."

"We also have Chicken Balti today, a medium curry with rich flavours plus turmeric and galangal and which originated in the mountains of India."

"The Florida dish, Gator Bites are a bit of fun and one of our big sellers and we serve them with the Spicy Swamp sauce which is a real fusion of flavours.

Everything from the tender but crunchy calamari to his twist on the popular Seafood Penang is created to be a winner and has been rated highly amongst guests.

Guest Michelle said: "We went on a busy night however the staff didn't miss a beat. The calamari was perfectly cooked with a light crispy batter and tender meat. The curry surprised me as it was served with a succulent fillet of crispy fish. The curry flavours were delicious and had just the right amount of bite and fresh vegetables with just the right amount of crunch."

With the average meal around \$20, Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach is delivering great value, an abundant ambience and superb service and has found the key to delivering what



Owners of Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach Darren and Clare Emmett on their deck



The view adds to the Florida Keys vibe of the new Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach restaurant



A local book club met at the new venue at Carlo Point for their monthly meeting and gave it an A plus - Maree, Heather, Elissa, Glenda, Lee, Rita, Kim and Michelle



Bec, Glenda and Elissa pop in to Quay Carlo for a morning coffee - open from 11am at Carlo Point

the public wants.

This is not a restaurant wanting to turn over as many covers as it can in an hour, you are the Emmett's guests, and they are happy for you to enjoy the experience in an unhurried atmosphere.

After 30 years on the knives, chef Darren said: "We have been looking for a suitable venue for two years and when we found this, we couldn't let it go. It's lovely looking out here every morning with a smile on your face. The family is good to work with. My wife Clare never stops, and Phoebe is going great in the kitchen and Georgia is so good with people and doesn't get stressed."

Clare said: "I was ready for a change from the tranquility of the fish farm we have in Childers and our daughters were a big influence in us relocating. They were keen to get involved in the family business."

"We do recommend booking in though because we have a small team, and we like to look after everyone. It's a fun, casual place. We might increase our takeaway menu once we get geared up for the summer."

The family have sourced locally roasted coffee from the Sunshine Coast and have different milk options and desserts to suit most patrons.

Quay Carlo is licensed, drinks are cold, service is quick, orders are correct and all are

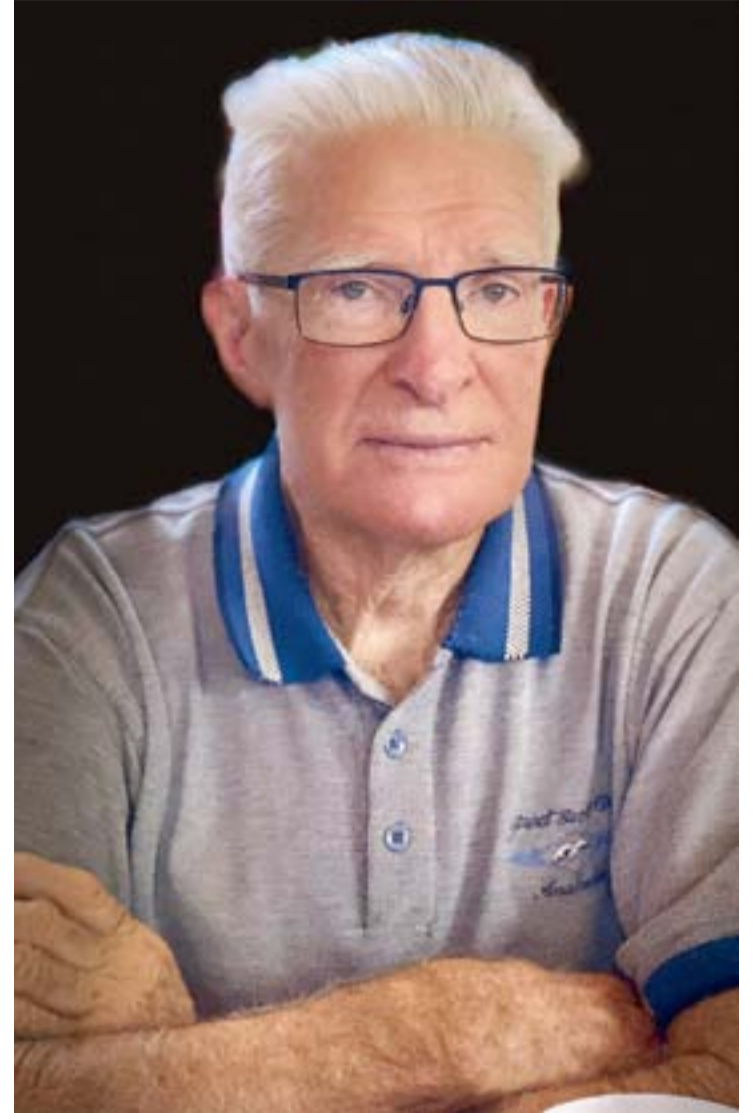
served with a smile.

Darren said: "It is a perfect place for weddings and functions and brides could arrive via boat or on a longboard! With functions we can take our time and make sure everything is bang on and we are able to express some really nice stuff."

Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach has the vibe of an oyster shucking bar in Florida with the lapping water at high tide, families pumping yabbies on the flats, fishing charters returning from a day out, holiday makers wandering along the strip and pelicans and dolphins waiting for a handout from the tinnies coming back to shore with their catch. Well worth a visit or two. Bookings on 07 5486 8809.



Escaped feral buffalo on Teewah beach.



Picture: QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT Cooloola's first ranger, Ron Turner.

Recalling 'Buffalo Wars'

By Arthur Gorrie

Gympie region's first ranger Ron Turner recalls a time of challenge and ham-fisted bureaucracy as the authorities cracked down on the vexed issue of escaped domestic water buffalo, a non-native animal, running amok in the precious Cooloola National Park.

The buffalo became escapees from private properties, much to the chagrin of nearby landowners, very much invoking the old saying that good fences make good neighbours.

Removing them was never going to be easy, Mr Turner recalls in his book, *First Ranger - A Memoir*.

"Early on 24 July 1985, the telephone rang.

"Paul Sheehy, the wildlife officer in Maryborough, advised that a herd of water buffalo had been seen wandering north along Teewah Beach adjacent to Cooloola National Park "Most of the buffalo had crossed the Noosa River near Lake Cooribah, and walked through Teewah Village, alarming the residents. Heading north as far as King's Bore, they were turned back by Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service staff.

"At 7am a large bull buffalo had wandered through a service station in Tewantin.

"Others had been seen walking along the Tewantin-Boreen Point Road, and two had wandered as far away as Kin Kin (adjacent to the boundary between Noosa and Gympie council areas)."

Stockmen returned most of the buffalo to the property from which they had escaped. The owner also hired professional shooters, who flew in a helicopter and shot the remaining animals in swamps near the Noosa River."

The situation quietened down and a year later, landowner Simon Reed applied to extend the permit to keep his remaining 22 buffalo.

"Simon's property was heavily overstocked, and hungry buffalo were beginning to walk through fences to graze the surrounding countryside, splitting into small groups. I inspected the fences, and Simon agreed to carry out necessary repairs and install electric fencing."

But as dry weather continued to create a pasture shortage, more complaints came in.

"The buffalo were roaming the district, looking for pasture, tearing down fences and terrifying the neighbourhood," Mr Turner recalls.

"In Brisbane, the senior wildlife officer

pushed the threat of uncontrolled stock disease such as brucellosis and tuberculosis.

Legislation was changed, and water buffalo became Prohibited Animals, as defined in the Fauna Conservation Act.

"This meant that all buffalo in Queensland – including the domestic farm stock around Gympie – had to be destroyed, which imposed a heavy penalty on other buffalo owners.

"Official pressure was then applied to destroy the Cootharaba herd. Simon procrastinated. He sent some buffalo to the knackery, and I was instructed to follow them and ensure no fudging of figures.

"The remaining buffalo again broke through the boundary fences."

"Simon advised that he was going to get a private shooter to dispose of the herd. However, some of his neighbours decided to take direct action, and a fusillade of unauthorised shooting was heard near his property.

"The animals split into smaller groups and scattered far and wide.

"Two dead buffalo were noticed on an adjacent property. Following a complaint from Simon, the Noosa police became involved. Photographic evidence was taken and a veterinarian conducted an autopsy on the carcasses, but the matter never came to court.

Overseer Dave Batt wrote an article about the buffalo for the QNPWS staff magazine *Brushtale*.

Regional Director Noel Dawson was not amused, and the senior wildlife officer (who was definitely not amused) decided to take remote control of the situation. He demanded action and sought daily updates of events.

"An unknown number of buffalo were living in the Australian Paper Manufacturer's adjacent, extensive pine forests, grazing on their well grassed fire breaks. As part of a plan to eliminate these animals, I obtained written permission from both Simon and the manager of APM forests.

"I was then ordered to seek assistance from the Police Stock Squad to use horses for a round up. After a brief inspection, they advised they weren't available for a fortnight and suggested the Police Special Weapons Anti Terrorist Squad with a helicopter.

"I took this to mean they weren't interested. Their role is to investigate stolen stock and these animals weren't stolen.

"On 8 June, officers from the Police Tactical Response Group inspected the area with me and an evening ambush was to take place on Simon's property. At the request of the police, I asked for an ambulance to be stationed nearby, and I notified all neighbours, telling them to stay away.

"My vehicle was to be used as a shooting platform and control centre.

"Those poor tame buffalo came out of the scrub back to their home territory and into the waiting ambush. "In the still evening air, it seemed as though World War III had broken out. After the 'cease fire', the officers claimed to have hit five buffalo, but there were no dead animals.

"Next day, I realised that the police had used ammunition intended to disable instead of kill.

"There was no money to hire a helicopter to finish the job from the air. I borrowed my son's .303 rifle, and, complete with soft-nosed sporting ammunition, entered the heavy woodland and swamp country.

"Splashes of blood on vegetation confirmed my fears: many animals were wounded.

"Simon was understandably upset at the fusillade of shooting and the disastrous result.

"He advised he would not have the police on his property again, and they declined any further involvement.

"The senior wildlife officer ridiculed my son's .303 rifle and soft-nosed ammunition as 'useless', and sent two of his wildlife officers from Brisbane, equipped with rifles, to resolve the issue over my head.

"Years earlier, I had sat public service entrance examinations with one of these men. He informed me he was taking over, and said that, if Simon got in his way, he would arrest him. I then had the ignominious task of showing these men around the area.

"Returning home well after dark, I telephoned a protest at this development, and especially the threat to arrest the owner. I said I was disgusted, and wanted nothing more to do with the matter, refusing to have my name associated with what would be a potential embarrassment.

"Next morning I received a brief message that the wildlife officers would be withdrawn, but there was still no money to hire a helicopter. At Cootharaba, I was offered a 308 rifle and appropriate ammunition by one of the wildlife

officers. Paul Sheehy then approved my use of a helicopter, and on 19 June I was finally authorised to shoot the buffalo.

"I then approached Jim Campbell, the pilot of the helicopter with whom I had flown on fuel reduction burns in Cooloola.

"He agreed to assist, even though we had no money to reimburse costs.

"I could, however, obtain (on next year's budget) two 200 litre drums of Jet A1 aviation fuel.

"On the ground at Lake Flat Road (later), I waited in ambush and shot the last two animals. I had finally resolved the matter my way, but I really felt sorry for the buffalo. The herd had been eliminated without adverse publicity, though an interesting letter in the local newspaper advocated the hunting of big game animals in local swamplands to attract tourism.

"QNPWS, said the writer, should 'leave the buffalo alone, and let them breed!' I presented Jim Campbell with 50 of our coloured wildlife posters, and he passed these on to the Nambour Hospital, where they were displayed on the walls.

"The buffalo saga moved south of Gympie, where a property owner had not destroyed his animals, and now wanted to keep them for dog food. He estimated it was going to take more than two years for his dogs to eat that amount of meat. I told him that Wildlife Rangers had called on him two years earlier and told him to obtain permits from both the QNPWS and the DPI, but he had not complied.

"I had given him plenty of time, but the matter was out of my hands and an official legally enforceable order was now being prepared. I allowed him three months to destroy the animals. "

"The buffalo wars involved me in a sensitive area of animal control, and I made some enduring enemies. These people had long memories! At Moggill, five years later, I discovered a memorandum, blaming me for the buffalo saga.

"I believe that Queensland lost a budding rural industry. Time has moved on, and with the restoration of common sense, the current Department of Environment and Science now allows buffalo to be farmed in Queensland under the Nature Conservation Act (1992), with a permit."



Rainbow Beach offshore fishing fired up last weekend with favourable weather in play. Leevi and his crew went wide and added this cracking Red Emperor to their ice box. At 81cm and 12.86kg. Picture: GARDINER FISHERIES

Best tailor season ever

By Drew Gardiner and Ash Little

What a month of seasons September has been. It's as though someone flipped a switch and we shifted from cool winter starts to overnight temperatures in the low 20s and daytime temperatures over 30.

Mother Nature did give us a gentle reminder that she is in charge though with one day of intense 70km/h westerlies, a chilly 7 degree start and then she backed it up with 50km/h winds from the south. As I type this article, we have severe thunderstorms on the forecast. So how has all this impacted our waterways and fishability?

September started with some fairly strong and persistent South Easterly winds. Apart from making fishing on Teewah Beach difficult, sustained winds from the southeast will shift a lot of sand and change the fishing landscape. The beautiful deep fishable gutters and a beach normally loaded with pippies becomes a clean slate.

When the wind dropped out, conditions were almost too perfect with amazing water clarity making any fish easily spooked. Fishing the Teewah stretch was very tough going during daylight hours. As the sun dipped below the sand dunes, we did see some good quality fish such as Sand Whiting, Dart, and Bream and there have still been some cracking Tarwhine over the 1kg mark. Night fishing on the run-out tide was most productive using live beach worm as bait.

The southeast winds and higher temperatures provided a great opportunity for land based and boat fishos to get into the estuary and it has been firing. Quality Sand Whiting and Flathead have been abundant on the sand flats, again favouring the run-out tide.

Walking or drifting the sand flats slowly in knee deep water, using freshly pumped yabbies or our beach or blood worms, has consistently produced fish above 30cm. Whiting are also a very aggressive top water fish and will smash surface lures such as the Bassday Sugapens or Nomad Dartwings.

As the tide drops, walking towards the spoon drains that feed the deeper channel is where you will find the flathead. Flathead 'Lays' are the giveaway sign. The dropping water level leaves the whiting and baitfish no option but to leave the safety of the shallows. Being ambush predators, the flathead literally 'lay' and wait for their next feed. Our blue baits and pilchards have been a favourite for the flathead along with soft plastics like Gobblers Croc Baits and Zman Minnows in 2" and 3" in white or pink. The addition of scent has definitely resulted in improved strike rate with flathead.

Bream have been around in huge numbers, almost a pest to people targeting other species. We have had numerous reports of School Mackerel in the straits between Teebar Creek and Inskip Point along with some Longtail



Being ambush predators, the flathead literally 'lay' and wait for their next feed. Picture: FLATHEAD LAYS

Tuna busting the surface between Inskip and Fraser Island. Mangrove Jack are on the bite and numbers will only increase as water temperature rises. Regarded as a trophy catch and rather elusive, the very aggressive Mangrove Jack will inhale large mullet strip baits, whole flicker mullet and diver whiting along with a huge variety of surface and shallow diving lures. If you are yet to catch your first Mangrove Jack, come in and chat to our team.

Fraser Island and the Tailor fishing has been HOT! Weed earlier in the month made it tough going but the reports have only got better and better. Thirty to forty fish in one session have been frequent with great fishing from Waddy Point to Ngkala Rocks. Tailor season is now in full swing, and this is one of the best seasons we have seen in many years. Whole pilchards have been the go-to bait and once they start biting, switching to metal slugs in the 40 - 60-gram range saves time with re-baiting. We provide quality Individually Quick Frozen (IQF) pilchards in packs of 400 grams, 1KG, 2KG, 4KG and even 15KG bulk boxes. You won't find any freezer burn on any of our quality baits.

Offshore fishing when conditions allowed has seen amazing quality and variety of fish caught. Cracking Amberjack, Pearl Perch, Snapper, Sweetlip, Cod, Nannygai and even some thumping Jewfish have hit our filleting table this month. Buy your bait where the Charter guys do and we will do our best to help you fill your esky.

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The Brooker family has traveled over eight hours from Miles to compete in this years Whiting Competition and first session they have a esky full of fish and young Lachlan is on the juniors board.

Picture: GARDINER FISHERIES

Did you know we provide the only dedicated fish cleaning facilities in Rainbow Beach? All we ask is a small donation to one of our chosen community groups, Rainbow Beach Amateur Anglers Inc or QF17 Tin Can Bay Coastguard. Depending on cold room space and required species, we may also be able to retain your fish frames as we are a collection point for the Department of Fisheries, 'Keen Angler Program'.

We have had a lot of locals and visiting tourists ask about the large fish kill that occurred at Double Island Point on the low tide of Tuesday September 21st. We have seen this occur on several occasions and without claiming to

be scientists, it seems to occur when several natural factors happen all at once. The outer bank of the lagoon at Double Island has been progressively extending north toward Rainbow Beach. This created smaller pockets of water, lagoons within the lagoon. As long as these smaller lagoons remain tidal, then sea life is free to enter and leave and the water is flushed and replenished with oxygen rich sea water at each tide change.

Sunday the 19th saw a northerly wind blow in. This has the effect of pushing all surface algae and floating coral spawn right into Double Island Point where it pools up with nowhere to

go. The high tide of 2.01 metres and the northerly wind pushed all this surface material into the smaller lagoons. Over the next 24 hours the algae and coral spawn died and with the next high tide lower than the previous, this section became landlocked. The bacteria that eat the algae and coral spawn consumes oxygen. This results in low dissolved oxygen, and unfortunately oxygen levels become too low to sustain fish life. As sad as it is to see such losses, it is also amazing to observe what a diverse variety of sea life lives in the lagoons at Double Island and why it is so important to minimize our footprint. All we ask everyone to do is leave

only footprints and whatever you take in, take it back out with you.

If the forecast storms come through and we see the thermometer rise, then expect the fishing in October to crank up. A quick run up Teewah on Wednesday 29th showed some great gutter formations returning so it might be time for the beach fishos to get it back over the estuary folks.

For the best local bait, product range and genuine local knowledge drop in and see the team at Gardiner Fisheries. 6AM – 5PM 7days. 1 Karoonda Road, Rainbow Beach on the way to the Carlo Point boat ramp.

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Multiple rescues at beach

By Lee McCarthy

While beach conditions looked peaceful enough on Rainbow's main beach over the long weekend, volunteer lifesavers performed many saves and rescues.

Conditions were perfect apart from the rips that formed on the turn of the tide at the southern and northern ends of the swim area.

Rainbow Beach Surf Club President Shane Handy said: "This emphasises why you should swim behind the flags."

"Several rescues were performed and shows once again the importance of listening to the lifesavers on patrol as there were a lot of flash rips."

"We performed close to 20 rescues, and it was people getting into trouble in an instant. One minute they were fine, the next they lost their footing."

He said many were confident, some were children, but they all needed help because the rips happened so quickly.

Swim between the flags and stay alive.



All hands on deck over the long weekend with patrol teams on high alert due to flash rips



Swim between the flags is the message from Rainbow Beach Lifesavers after a big weekend of rescues

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Rainbow Beach local, Sienna Arthur is the Qld Number 9 player for the Qld state volleyball championships at the Gold Coast.



Sienna Arthur from Tin Can Bay State School representing Queensland at the Gold Coast Championships

State silver for Sienna

By Lee McCarthy

For a small school, Tin Can Bay has brought home more gold than its bigger rivals, thanks largely to the dedication of the dynamic coaching from the Arthur family.

Dave with wife Suzie Arthur and brother Tony Arthur have been instrumental in raising the quality of the region's volleyball stars at both James Nash State High and Tin Can Bay State School.

Now it's Dave and Suzie's daughter Sienna's turn to shine as she donned the number nine Queensland jersey for the Queensland state volleyball championships at the Gold Coast, finishing with a silver medal. They made the grand final and won the first set before dropping the next two to earn silver, a great achievement.

Sienna's position as outside hitter is one of the most important positions in the attacking strategy of the game. They have the strongest hit and are usually the most athletic person on the team.

Sienna said: "I am the outside hitter, so I play the outside position. I only started this year with Uncle Tony and Dad coaching me. I have been playing in the Gympie Women's Comp which is so much fun every week. I play with a whole bunch of Tin Can Bay and James Nash students at Gympie High on Tuesday nights."

Sienna is in Grade 7 at Tin Can Bay State School and was originally supposed to compete in the Australian Youth volleyball championship in Bendigo last week which was cancelled due to Covid.

For the three-day Qld competition, Sienna who turns 13 in November, is playing up in the Under 15 division.

"I love team sports and love to make new friends and good friends for life. I do see this in my future, and I really want to go for it and keep progressing to maybe the Olympics one day."

The school team won silver in beach volleyball this year playing for Tin Can Bay against other schools on the Gold Coast. Sienna is also looking forward to the school indoor volleyball state titles which will be held on 23 October and which she is also training hard for.

Dave said: "It is wonderful to see. We have a good sporting culture, and it makes us really proud she is doing what she loves. This is what she has been prepping for. The travel is insane as we go to Brisbane every second



Rainbow Beach resident Sienna Arthur, a member of the U15 State Qld Volleyball team

week-end, into Gympie twice a week for soccer and once a week for volleyball so it takes commitment."

"Sienna is also starting nippers again but at least that is at home. Sienna's sister Keira is also a Wide Bay Rep so with two sisters at one

time in high level sport, we are pretty busy but proud."

"Volleyball is the largest school sport in Queensland and the fastest growing sport in Australia. I started coaching in 2005 and started playing after that. It was growing but nowhere near as big as it is now. After soccer, it's the world's largest team sport with crowds of 100,000 watching volleyball matches overseas.

"A lot of Tin Can Bay kids have followed career paths because of volleyball. Six are Australian representatives with some receiving offers of US scholarships. They are certainly on a path to see doors open.

"Sienna is just at the beginning of her journey. She was asked to pair up for another Qld team, but the commitment is too great at the moment, maybe next year. Sienna is lucky enough to be athletic and able to jump and was the regional winner for long jump which helps her skills in volleyball.

"As parents, you have to pass it forward. Our parents did it for us and it's our turn. Team sport has suffered over the past ten years. It's a cultural thing with more the focus on individual fitness which is greater than team sports."

Sienna has a long career ahead of her. With the Olympics at home in 2032, Sienna will be in her early twenties, the prime age to compete at that level. Dave said that nowadays volleyball is well funded through the AIS but unfortunately our women's team has not made the cut for this year's Olympics, but they will certainly be there for 2032.

The costs of committing to representative sport quickly adds up. While the Arthur family have been able to support Sienna in her journey, it would be great to secure some corporate sponsorship for her local team at Tin Can Bay. There are always kids that miss out due to the cost.

"We do get support and a lot of kids have come out of Tin Can Bay over the years that have really used volleyball as a pathway in their careers. Sport develops a lot of things. It teaches players to take criticism, be part of a machine, you learn how to do your job, and everyone does their job and see how your part affects the rest of the team."

Both Dave and Suzie Arthur are remarkable supporters of the sport and have been coaching these kids both at Tin Can Bay and James Nash for many years. By sharing their passion for the game and support of the players, the game is in good hands in this region.

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