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## Back in the swim

The Rainbow Beach pool is open and everyone in the community is excited and grateful to the people who made this happen.

STORY PAGE 2



Sports club staff member, Tina Goodwin, with volunteers Brad Hethorn, Michael Brantz and Steve Bennett who have stepped up to help the pool open.

## Volunteers tackle mess

To those who joined the Sunshine Coast Surfrider Foundation at their annual Clean Up Double Island last weekend, we thank you.

Instead of the beach being littered with rubbish it was instead littered with volunteers carrying bright bags and happy to have the chance to be involved.

By early Saturday morning there were already lots of volunteers set up at Zone 3 on Tee-wah Beach for the weekend with a huge haul of broken marquees, fishing net, even a gas heater just left on the beach where it was discarded.

While it is admirable that a group such as the Surfrider Foundation who respect the area and are happy to do the clean up as a community service, it begs the question of why it is left up to volunteers to clean up other people's mess.

STORY PAGE 4

## A slow road

Upgrade plans for the major road access to and from the Cooloola Coast have begun slowly.

A Transport and Main Roads Department plan to widen the Tin Can Bay Rd centreline have begun, in a small way, with removal of the existing centreline near the road's Gympie end.

The widened centreline was part of an early departmental response to calls to widen the road and provide pullover, passing and turnoff lanes, to relieve what some say are dangerous frustrations for motorists.

STORY PAGE 2

Top heavy emergency facility opening leaves the people...

# A bit brassed off

By Lee McCarthy

The new \$2.5 million emergency services facility in Rainbow Beach was opened this month by Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Mark Ryan MP, and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Commissioner

Greg Leach on 6 October under the radar of the community it is to serve.

With the arrival in town of the many uniformed officers and the Minister and Commissioner, word of the opening event was only then made apparent to the community, giving few the chance to attend and inspect the facili-

ties for themselves with the guidance of fire officers and SES personnel.

The other attendees were uniformed officers of active duty and the administrative staff from the regional office along with the attendance of Rainbow Beach SES volunteers.

The small crowd gathered in the garage well

distanced and seated for the opening ceremony.

Minister Ryan said the \$2.5 million emergency services facility would boost delivery of critical emergency service capabilities in the area.

STORY PAGE 3

**RAINBOW BEACH HORSE RIDES**

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The Cooloola Coast may have suffered economically from Covid border closures, but for most businesses it cannot have been that bad. The place is packed nearly every weekend now, not just at concert, Nippers or fishing classic time.

Visitor attraction now may well become residential popularity in years to come, as people decide they can live at the coast, commuting via electronic devices in some cases, retiring in others, or getting permanent work to support a future and family.

This requires a serious effort, once again, from residents, deciding what they want so serious planning can take place - and so that process can be informed by public expectations. This will always be an area of potential conflict, with residents differing from each other, as will business operators, including shopkeepers and accommodation providers, all having their unique and varying perspectives. Hopefully we will see a community-generated and council-backed process, an open one that allows people to disagree respectfully.

Fraser Island inquiry commissioner Tony Fitzgerald QC, showed that this is possible in the early 1990s, basing his inquiry partly on a rationale generated by a forestry inquiry in Tasmania. That inquiry formed a model for Fitzgerald. It recommended and applied an open process, including public submissions, to allow people to become familiar with other points of view, perhaps modifying their own in the process. This is likely to help lead to decisions people will back, because they helped make them.

We probably need to start thinking about it now.

- Arthur Gorrie



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Slip, slop, slide by

By Lee McCarthy

The Rainbow Beach pool is open and everyone in the community is excited and grateful to the people who made this happen.

The Rainbow Beach Sports Club committee have stepped up and made sure this facility is open to the community.

Big respect to the Rainbow Beach Sports Club Committee president Howard Stokes along with all committee members especially Susan Shirtliff who with husband Steve were instrumental in the pool being opened.

Hats off to the four volunteer lifeguards who have stepped up, Rainbow Beach School Principal Steve Bennett, Senior Constable Michael Brantz, Sportspower co-owner Brad

Hethorn and Steve Shirtliff.

All men are busy enough in their day to day lives, however they have all finished their pool lifeguard course and jumped in to volunteer to help because they all want to see the pool open and people using it.

Steve Bennett said: "It's essential for the kids to access a pool to learn to swim for educational purposes. We needed it for the school, for activities and for our kids. If it didn't open we would logistically have to run busses to other towns. It doesn't make sense. The community need access to such a high quality facility.

"It's not just the school who needs it. People are looking to use it for rehab, fitness, mums

and bubs and to help drownproof our kids. "Kudos to everyone involved, especially Sue and Steve for pushing for it and to Howard Stokes the Sports Club President. "We just need people to use it and we can't take it for granted. Just don't forget to come down." Brad Hethorn who is already a volunteer surf life saver and with wife Tracey the owner of Gympie Sportspower said: "We just wanted to help and see it open for the community. I hate to see this great asset sitting empty." Well done to the Sports Club and everyone involved in ensuring our community gets to enjoy this mighty asset. Well done to the volunteers and all they ask is that you use it - easy.

Modest start to Coast road boost

By Arthur Gorrie

Upgrade plans for the major road access to and from the Cooloola Coast have begun slowly.

A Transport and Main Roads Department plan to widen the Tin Can Bay Rd centreline have begun, in a small way, with removal of the existing centreline near the road's Gympie end.

The widened centreline was part of an early departmental response to calls to widen the road and provide pullover, passing and turnoff lanes, to relieve what some say are dangerous frustrations for motorists.

But that is far from the end of the story, according to Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey.

Mr Bailey said planning and community consultation for overtaking lanes on Tin Can Bay Rd would begin in earnest early next year.

He said the government was "delivering record investment on roads and transport infrastructure."

He said the current state budget outlined "a record \$27.5 billion of works programmed



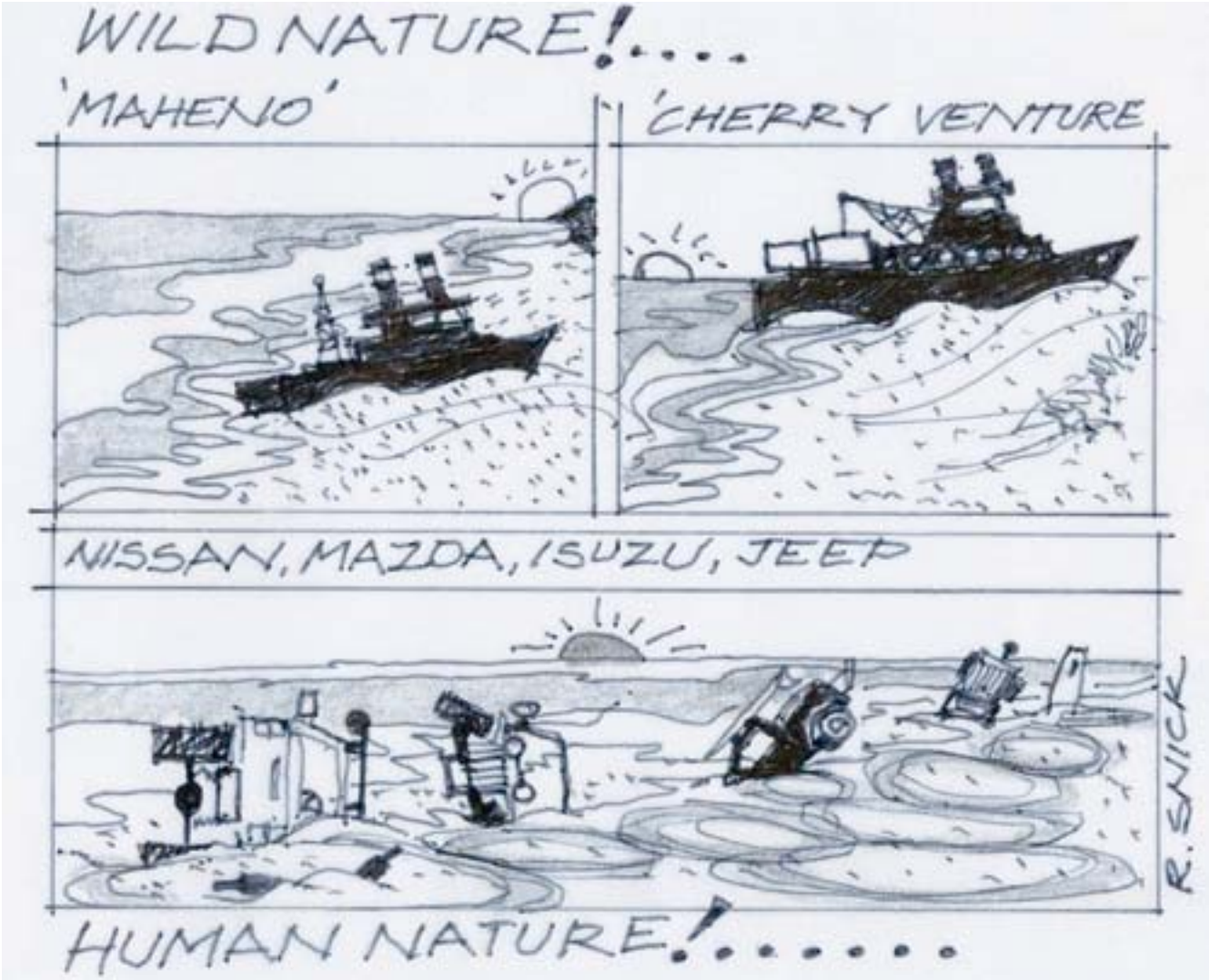
over the next four years."

He was responding to a letter from Gympie MP Tony Perrett in August, asking about planning and community consultation for overtaking lanes on the Tin Can Bay Rd.

"The Palaszczuk Government is committed to maintaining a safe and resilient transport network for all Queenslanders, by delivering record investment on roads and

transport infrastructure," he said. "The Department of Transport and Main Roads has confirmed planning for this project will commence in early 2022," he said. This would be "with community engagement proposed as part of the options analysis phase. "This is expected to occur by early to mid-2023," he said.

CARTOON





## 'Where is cop shop?'

By Arthur Gorrie

Rainbow Beach needs a real police station, not a service operating, as is the case now, from under a house, Gympie MP Tony Perrett has told state parliament.

Mr Perrett said he had encountered Emergency Services Minister Mark Ryan at the official opening of the new Rainbow Beach fire station and had suggested he try to find the police station.

"I am interested to know if it was found," he said.

"It is not good enough. Rainbow Beach needs a properly designated police station," he said.

"The current Police Beat service does not provide the same level of service."

"The Cooloolool Coast's population is 6500. It swells by thousands during the peak tourist season and on weekends, which generates policing issues in popular spots like Teewah Beach. "In the last 12 months, the police have been more active than previously. However, policing is under resourced.

"We need more police officers," he said.

Mr Perrett said the fire station had been a long time coming.

"It has been featured, dropped and then re-emerged in the shiny glossy brochures produced for every budget since 2016.

"In 2016, \$300,000 was allocated towards the estimated \$1.3 million to replace the former station.

"A year later, that was redirected to Bundaberg.

"It disappeared from the 2018 budget, reappeared in 2019 and then removed in last year's budget.

"Delays cost taxpayers precious dollars. Delays and redirection of funds pushed out the estimated price from \$1.3 million in 2016 to a final cost of \$2.5 million," he said.



Tony Perrett.

# Station's now open

By Lee McCarthy

The new \$2.5 million emergency services facility in Rainbow Beach was opened this month by Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Mark Ryan MP, and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Commissioner Greg Leach on 6 October under the radar of the community it is to serve.

With the arrival in town of the many uniformed officers and the Minister and Commissioner, word of the opening event was only then made apparent to the community, giving few the chance to attend and inspect the facilities for themselves with the guidance of fire officers and SES personnel.

The other attendees were uniformed officers of active duty and the administrative staff from the regional office along with the attendance of Rainbow Beach SES volunteers. The small crowd gathered in the garage well distanced and seated for the opening ceremony.

A Welcome to Country was held by Auntie Joyce and Tilly Davis who also sang a welcome song after their descriptive narrative of the environmental qualities of the diverse region in which they have lived and protected through ecological management techniques handed down from their elders of the past.

Minister Mark Ryan acknowledged the welcome and paid respect to the First Nations Community and the significance of the fire facility being centralised to the coastal environments of coastal dunes, the native coastal heath and forest surrounds and the waterways of creeks within the Cooloolool National Park.

It was apparent that this unique environment called for a facility of this dual purpose to train, exercise, attend and protect the built and natural environments of townships, settlements and National Park from fire in a holistic response by SES and the Fire Service together.

The biosecurity issues of the natural environment and ecology is so diverse in a landscape of sand soil, strong winds, cyclones and flammable tree and undergrowth species endemic to the region and sub regions of K'gari, Teewah, Cooloolool and Tin Can Bay estuary, and the Great Sandy Straits.

Of importance to the service is the resident fire officers living within the local Community, supporting the town, experiencing the lifestyle and building their understanding of the issues of the regional environment from first hand experience.

The facility is well resourced with a fit-out that includes a communication room, a joint training room, breathing apparatus room, equipment and personal protective equipment room, as well as a kitchen, toilets and showers.

Minister Ryan said the \$2.5 million emergency services facility would boost delivery of critical emergency service capabilities in the area.

"Built on the site of the former Rainbow Beach Fire and Rescue Station, the new facility will serve as an important hub for the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) auxiliary crews and State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers," Mr Ryan said.

Commissioner Leach said the new facility



Ministers, Commissioner, MP's, staff and volunteers at the opening of the new Emergency services facility at Rainbow Beach this month



Unveiling the plaque at the new Emergency Service Facility, Auntie Joyce Butchulla representative, Mark Ryan MP, Sheryl Doig SES, Liam Gray Fire Captain, Tony Perrett MP, Commissioner Greg Leach



Emily Simpson, Geoff Cochrane, Liam Gray and Julian McMullen in front of the plaque after the unveiling by Mark Ryan MP and Commissioner Greg Leach



Fire and SES volunteers at the new station at Rainbow Beach



And the cake made it official at the opening of the Emergency Services Facility

will enhance QFES' operational capability in the Rainbow Beach area.

"The facility will provide volunteers and operational staff with a modern and functional base from which they can continue to deliver the high standard of service their community relies on," Mr Leach said.

"The facility also features three engine bays and substantial storage to effectively accommodate the FRS Type 2 Urban Pumper truck and the SES vehicle, flood boat and trailers."

Minister Ryan's office said: "Before purchasing the additional land, the state government

registered an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) as the relevant Native Title Party."

"Ongoing consultation with BAC ensured the cultural heritage of the site was preserved, and included relocating several trees of cultural significance to adjoining land."

The flags on the station were at half mast on 10 October to pay tribute to fallen fires on Firefighters Remembrance Day. It is commendable to see the respect given to fallen firefighter Peter Brady as you enter the station with his photo and a plaque in a glass structure to honour his memory.

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Volunteers from everywhere came together to clean up Teewah to Double Island Point thanks to organisers Sunshine Coast Surfrider Foundation



Sifting through the sand tent picking out the micro plastics at the Clean Up Double Island weekend



Thank goodness for freshly brewed coffee and other survival goodies from the Ice Woman! (Ice Man of Teewah)

# Enough mess to sink a ship

By Lee McCarthy

To those who joined the Sunshine Coast Surfrider Foundation at their annual Clean Up Double Island last weekend, we thank you.

Instead of the beach being littered with rubbish it was instead littered with volunteers carrying bright bags and happy to have the chance to be involved.

By early Saturday morning there were already lots of volunteers set up at Zone 3 on Teewah Beach for the weekend with a huge

haul of broken marquees, fishing net, even a gas heater just left on the beach where it was discarded.

While it is admirable that a group such as the Surfrider Foundation who respect the area and are happy to do the clean up as a community service, it begs the question of why it is left up to volunteers to clean up other people's mess.

The message continually being hammered home to people lucky enough to camp in this National Park to take out what you bring in, is

obviously not working.

The money is certainly being paid to camp and drive on our beaches, but some people are not getting the message and the funding does not seem to be coming back into the region to fix this and other issues.

The volunteer weekend removes up to two tonnes of rubbish from the Cooloola Recreational Park of the Great Sandy National Park in the areas of Teewah Beach, Freshwater and Double Island Point.

All vehicle and camping permits were pro-

vided thanks to support from the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services.

Head of the Sunshine Coast Surfriders, Steve James (Jamesy) said over the last few decades and noticeably in recent years, increasing recreational interest and ease of access has put immense pressure on the park's environment and has also raised concern regarding public health safety.

If you were lucky enough to be involved in this clean up, congratulations on giving back to this beautiful part of the Gympie Region.

## Best foot forward: The Storm Bird has been calling

My local storm bird has been calling in the raining and a few good downpours have come through. It's been great for the garden and given the coast a glowing green tinge.

This is also a sign that the parks team will soon have the mowers humming in full force as the grass starts to take off for the warmer months. The downside of having a bit of rain mixed with spring weather is that mosquitoes are loving in the conditions and taking advantage of any water source to breed.

Under the Public Health Regulation householders have a responsibility to prevent mosquitoes breeding on their property because some mosquitoes found in and around your house can cause diseases such as Ross River Virus, Barmah Forest Virus and possibly Dengue Fever. Did you know that mosquitoes can also give your dog heart worm?

Make a weekly habit of checking around your home for any items that contain water.



Flush out bird baths, empty containers and buckets then store upside down or under cover and change pet water bowls frequently. Loose tyres should be stored out of the rain and pot plant bases can be filled with sand to stop water pooling but keep moisture. Keep gutters clean and check any rainwater tanks to ensure that there are screen on every opening (including overflow) and they are not damaged or missing. A hole the size of a matchstick end will allow mosquitoes into the tank and the opportunity for thousands

of larvae to develop.

Other things you can do is keep swimming pools clean and chlorinated, increase light and air movement around dark and damp areas, keep ornamental ponds and fountains stocked with fish or create a frog-friendly garden so they can chow down on any mozzies around.

Don't forget to protect yourself by wearing long sleeved shirts and pants (light colours are best), use repellent if outside and spray screens with residual product to deter them from getting inside.

When cleaning up around the home there is sometime the need to dispose of unwanted items. Details about what you can dispose of at our regions waste facilities are available on the Council website at [gympie.qld.gov.au/waste-disposal](http://gympie.qld.gov.au/waste-disposal) as well as facility opening hours.

Did you know that there are numerous

items that can are free to dump including domestic green waste, woodchip and grass clippings, clean soil, metal objects such as roofing iron, engine oil (quantities less than 20L), car batteries, LPG bottles, car LPG tanks, fire extinguishers, cardboard, all items that are accepted in yellow lidded recycling bin (i.e. mixed recyclables), re-sellable/second-hand items (accepted by recycling shop), electronic waste (specific items from residences only) and most paint? You can also pick up mulch for free, just bring your trailer for load your own or arrange for it to be loaded for a fee.

While the majority of people do the right thing please report all illegal dumping activities to the Qld Government Litter and Illegal Dumping Unit by emailing [illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au) or via their online form [qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/management/waste/litter-illegal-dumping](http://qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/management/waste/litter-illegal-dumping) for more information.

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# Record \$1.7m home price

By Lee McCarthy

Andrew Hawkins, who has sold real estate in Rainbow Beach for 14 years, says the current market is going to be the new normal.

Andrew has owned Rainbow Beach Realty for nearly 12 years and before that worked for the previous owner.

He believes this is the town's new normal for holiday makers and property prices.

"The people who are buying now are not buying for investment purposes, they are keeping their homes. The current purchasers are not investors, they are making these purchases to better their lives."

"The Rainbow Beach market has been very strong consistently over the entire calendar year with the trend continuing over the past three months with buyer enquiry.

"Some properties have sold within an 18-month period and the price has increased by over 50 per cent, which might seem high for Rainbow Beach, but you only need to travel 70 km south and we are still a fraction of the price. I believe this is certainly a nicer town than the crowded cosmopolitan complexes on the coast with a better lifestyle and at a cheaper price."

"Our biggest challenge is definitely a shortage of stock because this is everyone's lifestyle destination. Once they have secured themselves something in Rainbow Beach, they are not letting their property go."

"People work all their lives to get something here and once they have it, they keep it, it doesn't matter what price they are offered."

Andrew said about 80 per cent of buyers are from South East Queensland.

"While I am getting inquiries south of the border with video walkthroughs and sight unseen offers, the winning bidders are nearly all from Queensland.

"No one knows what is going to happen in this market. I do think Rainbow Beach has



Only 200 metres from the beach, this four bed, four bath home just sold for \$100,000 over the listed price

well and truly been discovered, and our buyers during the 'Covid boom' are not short-term speculators, they are making the lifestyle move so they won't sell in the near future."

He said they were turning away a half a dozen buyers every day.

"We obviously need more affordable housing but there is no land for this, so I just don't know what the answer is. It's the catch 22 of this strong market."

Andrews' most recent sale at 24 Naiad Court, Rainbow Beach is also his favourite setting a record high for a house in the town.



This Naiad Court property just hit a new record price for Rainbow Beach

local builder Allan McFarlane and it was the first time on the market.

Designed by local architect Walter Dobkins, the property description says: "Built to take advantage of the natural light, ocean breezes and make the most of the outdoor spaces and bush setting. Best of all the beach is just a 200 metre walk from your back gate along the bush path to the sand and swells."

"The house has air conditioning throughout and has been fitted with a 6.5kW solar system as well as solar hot water. Vehicle accommodation is provided with a double lock up garage with remote door and EV charging port, as well as a high carport for the boat or caravan. This home has been meticulously maintained by the owner and is in perfect condition, ready for you to come and make your own."

We hope they do just that and look forward to making them feel welcome in this special community.

Looking to sell within Rainbow Beach? Contact Andrew at Rainbow Beach Realty today 07 5486 3900 / info@rainbowbeachrealty.com

## 'No data' on campfire ban: Perrett fires back

By Arthur Gorrie

Gympie MP Tony Perrett has questioned a state government claim that Cooloolool Coast visitors are too dangerous to be trusted around campfires.

The claim was made by Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon recently, as partial justification for an indefinite campfire ban in the Cooloolool Recreation Area, between Rainbow Beach and Noosa.

She said protecting campers from themselves and protecting the environment from them, were the basis for the continuing ban.

But Ms Scanlon was unable to provide any campfire injury data to back up that part of the ban's justification.

Responding to a Question on Notice from Mr Perrett last month, Ms Scanlon said her department did not collect data on burn injuries.

But there had been "many incidents across Queensland, including in national parks, where people have sustained injuries from campfires," she said.

"For example, in 2018, a six-year-old boy sustained severe burns on his feet after running through a campfire on Teewah Beach, within the Cooloolool Recreation Area.

"These are avoidable injuries and it is important we take practical steps to prevent the devastating impacts of fires and buried hot coals from causing harm to people."

But environmental risks were the trigger for the current bans, she said.

"A fire prohibition at Teewah Beach was implemented following an ecological evaluation of the area in the wake of the 2019-20 bushfires, where escaped campfires were considered a primary cause.

"Analyses of recorded fire history show four wildfires resulting from escaped campfires on Teewah Beach over the last five years.

"The most recent of these occurred in September 2019.

"This burnt approximately 15,000ha under extreme fire conditions.

"The fire posed a major threat to adjacent communities and infrastructure and negatively impacted on environmental and cultural values.

"Some coast dune communities are recorded as having suffered catastrophic effects," she said.

"The fire ban reduces the future risk of bushfires, reduces the risk of people being burned by campfires covered with sand, protects critical habitat of native wildlife and prevents visitors burning inappropriate things in campfires," she said.

"The ban includes all fires that are not fully self-contained, such as open campfires, fires in drums and other open containers where the fire can escape or cause ember drift.

"Gas barbecues are permitted."

Ms Scanlon said campfires were permitted in Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service fire rings at the Poverty Point camping area in accordance with all local directions.

"In addition to environmental benefits, the prohibition of fires has increased the safety of all campers in the Teewah Beach area," she said.

She did not provide any statistics on burn injuries to back up her answer, saying her department did not collect that sort of data.

"While visitor safety is one of our highest priorities, emergency services are first responders to serious burn injuries, and Queensland's health services collate statistics on burn injuries requiring treatment and hospitalisation."

Ms Scanlon said cooking and heating devices were permitted only if fully enclosed, set 20cm off the ground and at least 2m from flammable materials, including vegetation.

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# Prepping to face disaster

By Lee McCarthy

The Cooloola Coast Local Disaster Management Support Group (CCLDMSG) conducted the first of its two training days with Queensland Fire and Rescue personnel in Rainbow Beach this month.

President of CCLDMSG, Terry Steele has been working behind the scenes for many years to facilitate disaster training in Rainbow Beach and with perseverance and the help of motivated Manager of Governance and Emergency Services, Gympie Regional Council, Lorelle Hatch the first two training days have come to fruition.

The first training day was an Introduction to Evacuation and covered areas of disaster management legislation and approaches; local, district and state disaster function and structure; disaster declarations as well as Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR).

The second day covered specific disaster evacuation training relevant to the Rainbow Beach community and training in evacuation procedures.

Present at the training were Peter Harkin, Emergency Management Coordinator at Queensland Fire and Emergency Services; Senior Sergeant Paul Algie, District Disaster Management Officer Queensland Police Service; Lorelle Hatch, Governance and Emergency Services, Gympie Regional Council (GRC); Terry Steele, President, Cooloola Coast Local Disaster Management Support Group (CCLDMSG); David Lewis, Director Corporate Financial Services, Gympie Regional Council; Ian Curley, CCLDMSG; Sheryl Doig, Group Leader, Rainbow Beach SES Group; Elisa Seul, President of Rainbow Beach Disaster Management Group; Chris Keen, Rainbow Beach representative of CCLDMSG; Kelly Smith, Rainbow Beach Community Centre and Rainbow Beach Surf Club; Rob Gough, UHF 7 responder group; Sacha Smith, Disaster Management



Some of the attendees at the Disaster Management training held at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall were Peter Harkin, Sheryl Doig, David Lewis, Lorelle Hatch, Paul Algie, Elisa Seul

Officer Gympie Regional Council; Lee McCarthy, President Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism; Kevin Summerville, CCLDMSG and Cooloola Coast Medical Transport and Dr Bruce Whelan and Margie Moore representing the Tin Can Bay Fishing Club.

Peter Harkin and Paul Algie presented the information from the Disaster Management Act 2003 which makes provision for the establishment of disaster management groups at State, district and local levels.

The training covered information on who is responsible for the preparation of plans and guidelines for emergency situations and declaring of disaster situations.

At a local level the major stakeholder is the local government, the GRC which is primarily

responsible for managing events in the local area and specific disaster management at the community level.

GRC are responsible for providing communities like ours with information to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. They stress it doesn't end with the evacuation; there are the after-effects even years later that bring psychological and financial devastation.

The Act outlines the principles for disaster management in this region and the roles and responsibilities of disaster management stakeholders again stressing the importance of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Mitigation including land use planning, building controls and infrastructure availability along with preparedness including train-

ing, exercises and communication were highlighted.

Warnings and alerts intended to inform the community of an impending or current threat were discussed at length due to the uniqueness of the Rainbow Beach profile.

With mobile systems including SMS, texts, calls, emails and websites disabled during a power outage which is common during an emergency, the modern channels to alert residents and visitors are of no use.

With the local UHF Channel 7 now operational as an emergency band, it was suggested an alarm or siren, plus a loud speaker and door knocking in an emergency situation was the best solution for this town during an emergency.

The key takeaway from the first training session was that there is structure in place around preparation and it is also vital for all home and holiday homes to know the risks and preparations needed should a situation arise.

Terry Steele said: "The latest advice from the Bureau of Meteorology said the oncoming season is going to be one of high storm and large cyclone activity."

Make sure all members of your family know your emergency plan. For information to understand your risk, prepare a household emergency plan and pack an emergency kit go to [getready.qld.gov.au](http://getready.qld.gov.au) or [facebook.com/GetReadyQueensland](https://www.facebook.com/GetReadyQueensland)

Get ready Queensland say being prepared before a disaster hits could be the difference between staying safe or putting yourself and those you love in danger.

Get familiar with the Disaster Dashboard at [disaster.gympie.qld.gov.au](http://disaster.gympie.qld.gov.au) for fires an all disaster events.

If you would like to be more involved at a local level message The local Cooloola Coast Disaster Management page on [facebook.com/CCCLDMSG](https://www.facebook.com/CCCLDMSG)

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Scott said his objective when sketching is to catch his subjects character and personality.



Scott loves capturing the essence of the animal like this Dalmatian he painted.

# Scott and his mates

By Lee McCarthy

While Scott Taylor has worked and collaborated with Arnold Palmer, Graham Marsh, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player as a landscape architect he has always had a love of watercolours and capturing people's pets on canvas.

Scott graduated QIT in Architecture for a Bachelor of Applied Science (Built Environment) and was then awarded a Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture.

After starting a landscape architect business in 1987 he grew the business to 27 staff working on major Residential and Resort Projects, with the main office in Brisbane and branch offices in Townsville and the Gold Coast.

Scott and his company designed the Townsville Mall and Southport Mall Projects initially and was the Landscape Architect for major Resorts and Golf Course Resorts such as Sanctuary Cove, Palm Meadows, Lakelands and Hope Island.

They went on to design the Broadbeach Mall and its Commercial Precinct and were chosen as the Landscape Architect for Grand Mariner which at the time was the tallest building between Sydney and Brisbane.

After being invited to work on projects in Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the UAE Scott returned to Australia to work on Urban Development Projects and Eco Tourism Retreats and Coastal township housing projects.

Now, while also continuing his commercial work, he is also able to follow his passion as a life drawing artist.

Scott said: "I draw dogs, animals and humans but I particularly love drawing pets. I started painting dogs in watercolour from meeting them at coffee shops and noting their characters from their behaviour and that of their masters".

"It was after returning from working overseas where there were few pets, and certainly



Scotts work with daughters dog 'Gump' was a work of love.

not in the streets that the interest grew.

"My favourite has always been 'Gump', my daughter's dog that I have cared for over many years on and off.

"His profile is my favourite work, with two others close behind, the bulldog and a Dalmatian.

"I have a 'dog magnet' and dogs often come straight up to me, and even in traffic they will turn and look directly at me from their car windows.

"My objective is to catch their character and personality; not as a photograph, but through expression and a little abstraction. I love catching this in their faces and more so in their eyes, the windows to their souls.

"Watercolours are dictated by the moisture/drying times and areas of colour on the

paper. You cannot be continuous in your work.

"This means that the average cost is \$75-120 for a full portrait of 60x40cms on quality paper and un-framed.

"Framing style, colour and size is for the client to select to their liking, but I do recommend colours and sizing for backgrounds and frames so as not to compromise the artworks.

"Normally I will meet the dog in person which is important to me, then ask some questions about their personality and traits and value to the owner."

Scott still works as a landscape architect but his art business is called Animates Artworks. He is based in Rainbow Beach and works from home and can be contacted on Mobile 0407766411 if you are looking for a special gift or a personal Christmas present.



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A beautiful day for best friends John and Amanda to marry at Tin Can Bay



After eight years together, John and Amanda were married at the beautiful Tin Can Bay Foreshore



The wedding party of Brooke Carnellor, Lilly Hellmuth, Hayley Carnellor, Amanda and John, Zac Hellmuth, James Robinson Mitchell Cooper joined family and friends to celebrate John and Amanda's wedding

# Their greatest catch

By Lee McCarthy

Congratulations to John Hellmuth and Amanda Carnellor, who were married on Saturday 2 October on Tin Can Bay Foreshore at Tom Impey Park.

Now partners in life, but Amanda and John are also partners on their trawler operating out of Tin Can Bay called North Queen, with John the skipper and Amanda his deckhand.

John decided last New Years it was time to seal their relationship and he proposed, although they say it wasn't a quick decision and their relationship grew as they worked together.

Amanda said: "All each of us wanted was our forever person and I think we have found that".

"We knew each other previously and were broken souls from past marriages so when we entered our relationship we were frightened of commitment and unsure of how to move forward or to begin a new relationship."

Like many couples, these two have had their ups and downs but Amanda said they have always been there for each other as much physically possible.

"A trip to Thailand was a turning point and the start of our real commitment in being there for each other. We even got a couple of tattoos to signify our commitment. John got a boat steering wheel to guide and I got an anchor to always hold.

"With John always being at sea it's not always easy, but when the opportunity presented itself for me to join him, it seemed 'foreseeable' so this new journey began.

"After eight years together with four of them at sea, the success of our seafood van business, our four beautiful grown children now, we are so proud and delighted at all our accomplishments."

John and Amanda also run a seafood van out of the Tin Can Bay Tourist Park called North Queen Seafoods bringing in fresh seafood from their last couple of nights catch to provide and showcase their product to locals and tourists.

Amanda said: "Our Facebook page North Queen Seafoods, was set up to not only promote and advertise our seafood van and local catch, but also to educate people on trawling and what is involved in catching and bringing in local seafood and to help support and pro-

mote other local businesses."

"We are finding it difficult at times to keep up with demand from our local buyers and restaurants, along with our Facebook customers who all strive to buy and support local seafood."

"We are also finding it hard to source fresh local fish, as Government imposed restrictions limiting our quota which has seen a lot exit the industry, but we strive to provide fresh and local products wherever possible."

"These restrictions though are now also starting to have an impact on us."

"We would like the public to try to understand we are not a seafood shop and as such do not have fresh seafood available at all times to the public."

"Lee's fishing is our local co-op for this and we are not trying to compete with them, just provide a service within our local tourist park showcasing what Tin Can Bay has to offer."

"We rely entirely on the weather and it decides when it will allow us to get out and back in with our catch, along with the tides and moons."

We wish Amanda and John every success in business and their new life together.

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# Pink Ribbons for the cause

By Lee McCarthy

The Pink Ribbon Awareness Day was held again this year at Cooloola Berries and organiser Annette Bailey was thrilled with the numbers and the amount raised.

Annette announced this week \$876 was raised to help the Cancer Council free the future from women's cancers and fifty-two men and women enjoyed the event.

The event was an afternoon tea from 2pm to 4pm and the room was beautifully decorated in pink, as you would expect, with a note from Annette at each place setting wrapped in a pink serviette ribbon.

Every cancer story is different and diagnosis and treatment gets better each month thanks to the funds raised by people like Annette who have been touched by cancer and gone on to help.

Glenys Kidd, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2001, said: "I don't think I believed the diagnosis at first but it did play on my mind. At the time all the marketing was targeted to women over 50 and I was only 47 and there were three of us in the room with cancer - all under 50. I'm glad the message has now changed".

"I originally went because I had a swollen lump like mastitis so I got antibiotics. Another time, I had hard sore lumps and then finally leakage from the nipple. This was over several months so I first received my Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) diagnosis in 2001 by a specialist who visited Gympie. I then had biopsies and it was so small it was missed so by the time I got the diagnosis it was throughout the breast so I had to have a mastectomy."

"I just thought one step at a time. I didn't go into panic mode as I had a husband and three kids who were 11, 13 and 15 so it was busy. I had the operation, then I had another three and they happened in a short time.

"I didn't get a reconstruction, I did go to a doctor but I only wanted the type where you could take your own tissue into the breast as I wasn't interested in an implant.

"I have major scarring from my caesareans so he couldn't use my tummy tissue. He could have taken it from my back and I thought no thank you. I chose not to and am pleased with that decision.

"I later got an infection in my wound and thought if I had decided to have a reconstruction it would have been worse.

"Different people react differently to a mastectomy. It depends on personality, body image and what has been thrown at you before. At the time I didn't think about those things. I just thought about my husband and three kids.

"The specialist always thought it would go into the other breast so I always had mammograms and ultrasounds in Brisbane and then in Gympie when the machines became much better.

"Many years ago, everyone just had a mastectomy and I know women now who have had three different sorts of cancer in one breast so each cancer is treated differently.

"Because I had a full mastectomy and nodes taken I haven't had to take any more treatment or drugs so for me it was a good decision.



Organiser of the Pink Ribbon Fundraiser, held at Cooloola Berries, Annette Bailey



Cancer survivor Glenys Kidd, says to be conscious of your body and don't be scared to get a second opinion



Everyone's favourite, Cooloola Berries Kim Lewis who with husband Jason own and operate the farm and café



The team from the Tin Can Bay school, taking time to remember colleague Debbie Bloomfield who the event was in honour of this year



Doing their bit for Pink Ribbon Day Kerry, Andrea, Toni, Sue, Cherie, Debbie and Jessica from Rainbow Beach

"I was more terrified of lymphedema than anything. About three years later I got sick a lot and even went to a specialist as my arm was getting tight and I was terrified. I ended up going for a lymphedema massage, which was so new then, and I kept going and it didn't blow up any more. Now they have special physiotherapy and treatment is much more preventative now for lymphedema.

"At the time a cancer diagnosis was unusual and I didn't know anyone else who was going through it. When I was diagnosed, a friend of a friend had a mastectomy and she was so relaxed with it that she helped me. I just think now the McGrath Foundation and the breast care nurses are brilliant.

"Ross's support was important. He went with me to every appointment and he has al-

ways supported me and I am so grateful. No-one should do it by themselves.

"At the time I was a teacher at Mary Valley College and the staff were so supportive. I was very self conscious of the prosthesis as you have to heal before you can get a proper prosthesis. These days the bra's have a pocket in, but in those days they could just slip out so it was embarrassing.

"One of the biggest changes today besides awareness is there are a lot more female doctors and specialists. Everyone who is concerned now has options and there are top women oncologists if you are worried or self conscious."

Glenys advice to women is: "It's important to be vigilant and be preventative. If you have any sign or symptom don't wait till some mag-

ic age. Go and see about it. Don't be afraid. Be very aware of what is normal for you and have check ups. And if you don't think it's right - get a second opinion."

BreastScreen Queensland Sunshine Coast medical director, Dr Alison Roper said "Our service is free and available to women 40 years and over who have no breast symptoms. I recommend women visit the BreastScreen website and use the location finder."

BreastScreen have a permanent service in the Goldfields Plaza in Gympie and are able to provide a year round service with some early, late and Saturday appointments.

For more information or to make an appointment with BreastScreen Queensland visit [breastscreen.qld.gov.au](http://breastscreen.qld.gov.au) or call 13 20 50

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# SES Week recognition

By Lee McCarthy

Sheryl Doig is one of thousands of volunteers who respond to local, state and national emergencies as a member of the State Emergency Service (SES) and we are lucky to have her in our region.

Last week, the top SES volunteers were recognised at an awards ceremony to officially launch SES Week at the Pavilion in Gympie.

Sheryl was one of those recognised for 'Special contribution to the State Emergency Service through high level commitment in the Gympie Regional SES unit.'

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Minister Mark Ryan said SES Week recognised SES members, groups and units who provided outstanding service to their community in times of need.

"The Queensland SES has a proud history of helping, protecting and educating our communities," Mr Ryan said.

"Whether it's first aid, flood boat operation, technical rescue or land search, SES volunteers can often be the difference between life and death.

"SES Week is an important event in our calendar, as we honour the hard work and outstanding efforts of staff and volunteers across Queensland.

"To back our SES, the government has increased its funding commitment this year by over seven percent bringing it to record levels.

"We will continue to support the SES now and into the future."

Sheryl said: "To receive this award was very humbling and so not expected. I am very passionate about being a member of the State Emergency Service. I know from personal experience how important the training is when it comes to helping families in their time of need, whether it's during searches (missing a loved one or finding crucial evidence to assist police) or assisting families due to storm damage and floods."

"I was lucky enough to have some wonderful and people who have helped me become the leader I am today. In my earlier years, Frank Devlin was an amazing Deputy Controller/role model and showed me how to be a true leader with compassion as well as authority. Without his guidance and support I would never have reached the level that I did in Toowoomba."

"Finally, the support from my Local Controller Steve Clough and the awesome Rainbow Beach Group. They make it an honour to be their Group Leader. They make my position look easy and are the true reason I am blessed to receive this award. The commitment, respect and love they show when it comes to wearing the orange uniform makes it a privilege to be a part of this team.

"I have been in SES for roughly seventeen years now. I first joined the Tuesday night after I graduated year 12. I spent approximately fifteen years in Toowoomba and left due to family commitments and re-joined in 2019.

"During my time in Toowoomba, I went from being a recruit to Training officer of the unit and later Lead Instructor in the Darling Downs District."

I asked Sheryl why she first joined she said: "This is hard to answer because there are so many reasons why I'm in SES now. I laugh at the original reason I joined SES. It was because my Mum. She always wanted to and couldn't because we lived so far away from the closest group. On the day of graduation, I rang the SES number, and they gave me Frank's number (who at that time was the Deputy Controller). I told her we had an appointment, Tuesday night at 7:30 without telling her where or why.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do once I left school, so joining SES gave me the chance to gain qualifications and licenses (that would have cost a lot of money) for free. I learnt more about myself and what I could achieve, which led to me gaining a boat license before my car license. Frank taught us the art of searching. It's not as simple as just walking through an area, that there is a difference between looking and seeing.

"The best part of being a SES member is the variety of people who joined; nurses, ex-military, prison guards, mechanics, shop assistants, ex-police, accountants, government workers, sales just to name a few. It was a great way to learn about what other people did on a day to day."

"I re-joined in 2019 as I realised that some of my best and fondest memories were during the time I was in orange overalls, whether it was camping out and helping with community events, training weekend exercises, being gently encouraged into trying new things with amazing instructors' guidance or being totally drenched and having a ball helping those people who need help."

She said: "A lot of methods have changed over the years regarding how we train and what we can and can't do, however people's love of helping their community has not. The best thing you can do is be trained on how to handle a situation correctly, rather than waiting till it happens and then realising you can't deal with it."

"During the darkest part of my family's history, it was knowing that I had my friends and people I trained in SES that allowed me to know that everything would be okay. This is what I hold close to my heart. I remember crying so hard, not because of the incident, but because the acts of determination and commitment from my fellow SES members in support of my family and me."

Deputy Commissioner Wassing who presented a number of awards said: "Awards given today include the National Emergency Medals and Clasps, the National Medals and Clasps, and the SES Meritorious Service Medal and Clasps."

"It's the dedication and selfless commitment of people like these that enable QFES to provide a service a community can depend on," Mr Wassing said.

"To those thinking of volunteering with QFES, I encourage them to take the next step and enquire what role may be suitable for them.

Congratulations Sheryl, an honour well deserved.



Sheryl Doig receiving her award from Assistant Commissioner North Coast Region Gary McCormack for her services to the SES

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# Music gets live and local

By Lee McCarthy

With the dearth of live music across the country since early 2020, the news of the Live & Local mini festivals is music to the ears of performers and fans across the region.

The Live & Local program is led by the Creative Arts Alliance (CAA) and supported locally by the Gympie Council.

The project lead and Gympie curator Emily Murphy said: “It’s really exciting to be presenting live original music in existing venues, as well as introducing new businesses”.

As well as performance opportunities, Live & Local is connecting all musicians from the region and interested venues with two days of free, high-quality professional development delivered in partnership with Queensland’s peak body, QMusic.

Creative Arts Alliance Chair, Phil Smith said: “These powerful connections are exactly the building blocks needed for Gympie to build a sustainable music industry”.

“Live and Local is a unique project that combines the strategic connections of our national partners the Live Music Office and APRA/AMCOS and state partners QMusic with deeply localised knowledge of council and our music industry.”

Gympie’s Live & Local program has been driven by Emily through consultation with both existing and new music venues.

Emily said: “The Gympie region has a diverse music scene, while it may be thought of as ‘country’ there is a vibrant hip hop, roots, indie and jazz ecology across the region. The region is as diverse in landscape as it is in businesses wanting to champion live and local original music makers, which is so exciting for not only our creatives here but our neighbours and national and international touring acts that will start to see the region as a viable option for gigging with plenty of scaled options for presenting their work.”

The Live & Local Gympie Micro-Festival gigs are family friendly, absolutely free and no bookings are required. However, there is limited seating so early arrival is recommended.

**The pop-up gigs will be at:**

- Rainbow Beach Community Centre & Hall and Soma Soma Gympie, Friday 22 October;
- Alchemy Southside and The Bunker Smokehouse & Bar Gympie Saturday 23 October;
- Soma Soma, Gympie, Sunday 24 October;
- SNAP Fitness Gympie, Monday 25 October
- Little Parliament Rainbow Beach, The Two of Us Gympie and Cooloola Berries Wolvi Saturday 30 October featuring 24 different acts



Nizami is just one of the Live & Local performances you can enjoy at the Rainbow Beach Community Centre on Friday October 22 and Saturday 30 October at Little Parliament

from soloists to bands.

President of the Rainbow Beach Community Centre (RBCC) and Hall, Elisa Seul said:

“Our Friday Community Catch Up at the Rainbow Beach Community Centre will host one of the two Live & Local performances”

“Since Covid lockdowns we have implemented music events in our venue as a platform of Arts expression. Since 2020 we have paid music performances both at the markets and at the Friday Catch Ups.”

“The Music Industry has been suffering and nothing supports mental health like listening to live music, outdoors under blue skies while

feeling the ocean breeze. As the RBCC has also held its first Spring Musical Fest and we are getting ready to welcome for the fifty year in a row the Festival of Small Halls we cannot wait for the 22nd October live performances.”

“Our musicians will be Mason Hope and the Nizami Band, with music starting at 10am. We will have our usual Coffee Cart, free books share, markets stalls, raw vegan cakes and plenty of space to safely enjoy the music. We are proud to become more and more an active space for people of all ages, locals and visitors, which is alcohol free in a neutral environment that belongs to the community.”

Carly Ladas from Little Parliament said: “We are really thankful to the Creative Arts Alliance for putting the event together and for choosing Little Parliament as a host venue. Local artists and musicians have been heavily impacted by Covid restrictions and it’s fantastic to be able to support and promote some live and local music in Rainbow Beach.”

Get behind this initiative and enjoy at The Rainbow Beach Community Centre who welcome Nizami and Mason Hope on Friday 22 October and Little Parliament Rainbow Beach who present Gar MacLeman, Phoebe McLennan, Kate Airey and Beans on Saturday 30 October.

## Only good vibes on Coast

By Lee Mccarthy

This week marks 12 months since Bonnie Hollander and Andii Stewart set out on an adventure and moved to Rainbow Beach.

Twelve months since they sold their ‘resort’ style home in Gympie and took a leap of faith to buy the venue in Rainbow Shores previously known as The Pavilion.

Bonnie said; “I can’t believe it’s been 12 months, it’s been such a journey. Andii and I are just following a path and seeing where it leads for us, plus we have been so busy trying to adapt to so much change we haven’t stopped or come up for air!”

“What we can tell you is that we purchased this amazing complex on one acre of freehold land that was in desperate need of some love and re-creation. The building, situated in Rainbow Shores (1.7kms from the main town), had sat vacant amongst tropical gardens and only 300m walk to a beautiful private section of Rainbow Beach for some time, and she (yes she) was waiting patiently for someone to come along and breathe life and love back into her. And this is what Andii and I (with a lot of help and inspiration from other beautiful souls) have been doing.”

“We started renovating prior to moving here as we felt we could move into the complex and live there until we found other more suitable homes (we have Andii’s mum Joan along for the ride as well and three dogs between us!) This didn’t last long as we had the

opportunity to purchase adjoining properties to the complex – it was perfect!”

“We set about getting to know and enjoy the area we now call home and many people we met who knew the complex when it was operating as a bar and restaurant would comment on what “Good Vibes” the place had. And she does have good vibes, great vibes in fact...therefore the name Vibes @ Rainbow Beach was born.”

“We were told that to be able to succeed in any business here we needed accommodation for staff, so our first project was to convert the two story office building into a boarding house which we now have operating as shared accommodation for workers.

“We set about planting over 1,000 plants and trees to help re-establish the grounds as this will be one of the main features of the property.

“Our initial thoughts were to clean up the bar and restaurant and reopen, however we discovered that it needed a complete overhaul and we have now gutted it and are waiting on costings and advice for a complete new kitchen and bar which is scary stuff but we are ‘feeling the fear and doing it anyway.’

“In the meantime we have painted the outside fresh white with black trim, added new shade sails, and have completed many other parts of the renovation, and finding more parts to do along the way.

“The whole time in the background we



Bonnie Hollander and Andii Stewart have found paradise at Rainbow Beach

are brainstorming ideas and working on creating what “Vibes” will be. She is still a work in progress, and we haven’t set an open date as she will open when she is good and ready. However we do know 2022 will be a good year with good vibes.

“It has been a roller coaster and so much has happened in the last twelve months for us. We are so nervous about moving forward but excited at the same time but ultimately we are looking forward to bringing Vibes to

life in 2022 and sharing her with many others.

“In the meantime if you are visiting Rainbow Beach come say hi and give us some inspiration or ideas that you would like to see happen here. But remember it has to be good vibes only.”

For those who remember the Pavilion and those who now live at the Shores, there is a lot of excitement about the next chapter of this venue’s book.



# Rough beginning for trail

By Arthur Gorrie

The Cooloola Wilderness Trail was a pioneering eco-tourism effort in the Cooloola Recreation Area, before there was such a word as eco-tourism. The region's first wildlife ranger, Ron Turner, records the early days of the area's visitor industry and the multiple attempts to build a crossing of the sometimes shallow, sometimes flooded Kin Kin Creek.

The original trail was built in such a hurry, Mr Turner recalls, that when walkers reached Kin Kin Creek, they often had to swim about 10m across.

"Local staff began to receive comments bordering on complaints about the crossing," he recalls in his memoir, *First Ranger*.

"Some hikers were poor swimmers, or could not handle a pack while swimming, or the pack wasn't waterproof."

"Chatting with my Army officer son about his training, in particular building bridges, the concept emerged of the Army building a bridge across Kin Kin Creek to link both sections of the Cooloola Wilderness Trail.

Citing the recent example of the use of Army personnel to clear rubbish on one of Brisbane's off-shore islands, my son felt there was general dissatisfaction among enlisted people in that type of work. Building a bridge, however, would be constructive training, and if it had a post-construction community use, that was even better.

Clarrie Millar, the Member for Wide Bay,

lived in Gympie at this time. In August 1987, he and his wife Dorothy accepted my invitation to visit Kin Kin Creek. The day went well, although next day I noticed a small amount of dried blood on the floor of the vehicle. Clarrie later told me his wife had collected a leech, and he had decided to call on the Army to 'drop napalm on the place and wipe it off the map'.

"He said he would speak to his friend, the Minister for Defence, and a short time later I received a call from Army engineers to arrange an inspection.

"Having flown in helicopters previously, I was interested to be a passenger in an Army helicopter.

"This was combat flying. We overshot Kin Kin Creek, hidden in the forest, before the pilot realised he had reached it, and he banked sharply, skidding around at speed, before looping back for a landing.

"My stomach then settled back to where it should have been.

"My concept was to have a bridge wide enough to enable a small tractor to cross for maintenance of the Cooloola Wilderness Trail from our southern base at Elanda.

"A short time later the Army moved in with trucks, equipment and manpower.

"There had been 575 mm of rain in the lead up to Easter, and the plains south of the creek were still saturated. The Army earned good experience in driving vehicles in wet conditions and in the recovery of bogged units.

"It was a terrible time to be working in the

Kin Kin Creek area, for on-going rain made conditions almost impossible.

"With my daughter Tracey and youngest son Mark, I travelled by boat into upper Kin Kin Creek.

"Rounding the last bend, we were startled to hear a distinct crash, and there, in front of us, was a sad looking bridge. Clamps at the end of one of the two suspension cables had slipped. The Sergeant was furiously shouting instructions. Soon after, he commented, 'I looked around to see the bridge falling and the second thing I saw was a female. It's bad news to have a woman in the camp – that's why the cable slipped.' (Tracey was fourteen.)

A few days later, Tracey and I visited the temporary Army base at Elanda. I informed the Sergeant: 'You have offended my daughter. She would accept being called a tomboy, but not a woman.'

"Offering him a chocolate cake she had made, Tracey said 'My older brother is in the army and he likes my cakes. I thought about putting poison in this one, but I didn't.' We left, to the amused expressions of the troops within earshot, and the Sergeant holding the cake.

"The bridge was constructed during June 1988, and in August, Clarrie Millar returned for its official opening, together with Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service minister Geoff Muntz and local member Gordon Simpson.

"The 32 Army sappers of 20 Divisional Engineering Support Squadron were represented by Lt Col Brown and Major Mackay. A plaque

recording the occasion was mounted on a bollard on the north side of the creek.

"Not long afterwards, I visited the bridge with volunteers to paint the timbers with oil and carry out maintenance on the new Boro-nia walking track.

"Forestry staff and local residents spoke of 'big floods' in the Kin Kin-Noosa River, but data to establish rainfall and river heights was elusive. Not long after the bridge was constructed, a 'big flood' came down Kin Kin Creek and undermined the bridge supports.

"The bridge was closed, rebuilt, and reopened by Minister Muntz in 1991, after I had left the district.

"Floods again damaged the site, which was finally abandoned in favour of a concreted causeway a short distance upstream.

"I had frequently used cable bridges, flying fox cages or two and three plain wires to cross high above flooded rivers in New Zealand and loved the sense of challenge and adventure. By contrast, using the new causeway across Kin Kin Creek was a cheap and disappointing – but functional – expedient.

"It is easy to say that the engineering aspects of the bridge were the responsibility of Army engineers. In my enthusiasm and haste at the time, the choice of site was mine alone.

"Neither the engineers nor I had solid data on which to base flood heights. However, I give great credit to the Army personnel who constructed the original bridge under atrocious conditions, and to Clarrie Millar, who facilitated the 'training exercise'.



James Nelson, Finnigan Nelson, Jane Goward, Nora Nelson, Emily Simpson excited about their new Nitrox!

## New location: Deeper dives now at Wolf Rock

By Lee McCarthy

Located in Rainbow Beach, Wolf Rock Dive is a popular scuba diving site for grey nurse sharks and in the past divers have travelled here from around the world to experience this dive site.

Owned by James and Fiona Nelson, the team have recently moved to a new location at Carlo Point which James says is very therapeutic with birds, trees and right on the water.

Like a lot of businesses in this tourism mecca of South East Queensland, Wolf Rock Dive has had its ups and downs since March last year due to border closures and the lack of international visitors.

James said: "While we are in uncharted waters with Covid we have been pleasantly surprised. We have had full boats and visibility is about 15 metres which we can't complain about. But it has been a terrible winter for us though but we are chugging along."

Their exciting news is that they are able to finally announce they now have added Nitrox to their diving service.

Owner of Wolf Rock James Nelson said: "The tanks for diving are normally 21 per

cent regular oxygen and when people get the bends it is from too much Nitrogen. This allows us to add more oxygen. The beauty of having Nitrox is that it allows divers to go deeper and have extended bottom time."

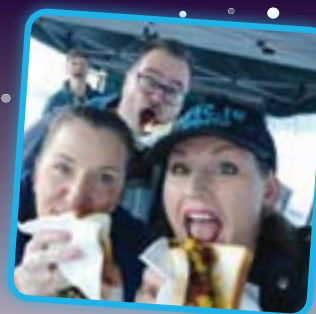
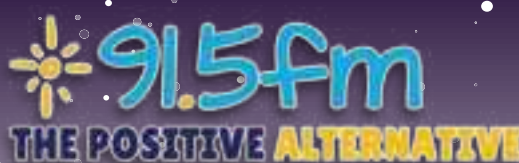
"We dive 30 metres at Wolf Rock so it makes it safer and allows us to have 20 minutes at 30 metres where before we would only have 10 minutes."

"We have an advanced dive site with more specialised dives and the advanced divers are seeking longer time in the water."

"It's taken us a long time to get the Nitrox. We ordered it from Germany in August 2019 and it didn't arrive so it was again due to arrive on 18 March 2020 and of course that was a bad time so we decided not to buy it at that time, and it has now just arrived which is why we are so excited; it has been a long time coming."

"It gives more people the opportunity to join us and it adds an extra safety feature we can offer which people want."

The Wolf Rock Dive site is now located on the left as you go to Carlo Point Boat Ramp at Rainbow Beach. Their website can be found at [wolfrockdive.com.au](http://wolfrockdive.com.au)



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# Fishing

## Cooloola Coast

# Tag a Jack competition on

By Chris Rippon

### G'day Crew!!

I hope you have all been keeping well and getting out for a fish the last couple of weeks. I know the team at The Chandlery Bait & Tackle have all been getting out and I have even managed to wet a line a few times myself! It's great seeing the whole crew here get out and bag a few good fish!

I guess with these warmer days a lot of fisho's minds in the Bay and Southeast Queensland (SEQ) for that matter, start turning towards hunting Mangrove Jack. Jacks, Jacky, The Red Dogs, Red Bream what ever you like to call them, we love to catch them.

We love them that much we made them our logo when we bought the shop! Sometimes, they come easy, but a lot of the time in SEQ, they do take some effort to get boat side and there is no cure like time on the water to increase your catch rate.

In the last few years that I have been living in Tin Can Bay, I have seen the trend toward targeting these hard fighting fish slowly change from a bait eating only species to an achievable lure and fly target.

Early in the piece, I was told by a gentleman in the shop that "you can't catch a Mangrove Jack in this town on a lure and they definitely don't bite during the day." To which I replied, "but they are only fish mate." To prove old mate wrong, I went out and caught my first one in Tin Can Bay, at midday, on a soft plastic, LOL!!

I am by no means dissing bait fishing for Mangrove Jack, they are a great fish to target how ever you like to fish for them, I just prefer the challenge of using fly or lure to hunt them.

The last few weeks have seen plenty of people getting keen to chase a few. Fresh strips of local flicker mullet are always a winner for those that like to soak a bait. 5/0 -8/0 size hooks fished as light as you can go on the lead with about 40/60lb leader. Small live baits will also see you bag a few.

An unweighted or lightly weighted livey flicking around the mangrove edge is sure to get some attention. For the lure chucker, the lure of choice the last few weeks has definitely been the 4" Zerek Live Cherabin. These are a pre-rigged plastic with a weighted weedless worm hook in it and are ready to fish straight out of the box.

Another hot favorite on the plastic front would have to be the Molix 4.5 RT Shad. These are a great plastic for skip casting under the overhanging structure and firing them right up into the back of the mangroves. I prefer to rig them up on the GT 1500 5/0, 1/4oz hooks. The plastic paired with the weight of the hook gives enough weight to load the rod and skip them in tight. A 20/30lb outfit with 30/40lb leader will do for most of the fishing we do in the Great Sandy Straits. I personally prefer a baitcaster over a spin outfit for this type of fishing. Helps me be a little more accurate with my casting in tight quarters.

For the fly fishers out there if you are keen to target them, I would normally run an 8wt/9wt set up with a floating line with an intermediate tip. 30lb tippet. Flies of choice would be, Pink Things, Chartreuse Things, Black n Barred (with weed guards) 2/0 Tan & White Clouser and the old fashion Bentback Deceiver, they are such a great fly!

My preferred time to target them would have to be the last couple of hours of the run-out tide, this is when all the bait is condensed and only really has one place to go. You also get to see all the gnarly snags and structure the creek has to offer, and hides, at high tide. I will fish the first two hours of the flooding tide, looking for back eddies where they fish can wait and ambush bait pushing in with the tide. If I happen to see any bait being scattered, I'll also quickly fire a couple of casts into the area and hope for a hook up. If bait is flicking on top, there is usually a predator of sorts underneath them causing the commotion.



Marquis Chapman has been on fire lately. A cracker QLD Grouper on the 15lb outfit fishing a Zerek Live Cherabin The fish was resealed safely once the hook was removed

If you have not already been Jack fishing it's great fun and if you are looking for a few pointers feel free to come down to the shop and have a chat with any of the staff. We all fish and are happy to point you in the right direction to help you catch a few!

Now if you have not yet heard, we're running the 2021 Tin Can Bay Tag-A-Jack competition between 20 November and 19 December. This will be a catch, tag, photo and release competition.

This sustainable competition is limited to only fifty anglers to help keep the overheads low with an entry cost of \$50.00 per angler.

You will receive an 80cm custom brag matt, a hand tagging applicator, 10 Suntag tags (more will be allocated if you use all 10 tags), a stubby cooler and some sponsor's merchandise.

There will be five main prizes up for grabs, with Shimano Reels NS, Black Hole Amped Rods, Garmin Sounders, Spotter Sunglasses, \$2000.00 cash monies!!!

Also, a heap more awesome prizes up for grabs with lucky registration number and a

weekly photo competition for each week the comp is running.

- 1st Prize Longest Jack tagged
- 2nd Prize Longest amount of Jack tagged (combined total lengths)
- 3rd Prize Biggest other species tagged
- 4th Prize Mystery length
- 5th Prize Photo of the comp

If you would like to be a part of this cool little comp, pop in and register in store or give us a call to secure you place and remember the comp is limited to 50 anglers. Registration will close on 10 November at midday. Phone us on 07 5486 474; email us on [chandlery@bigpond.com](mailto:chandlery@bigpond.com) or go to our website at [www.tcbchandlery.com.au](http://www.tcbchandlery.com.au)

Well, that's me done for this week crew. Stay safe and get out on the water!!

### Tight Lines

Chris

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Mitch Cooper with a nice Mangrove Jack





Nadia from The Chandlery Bait & Tackle with a great Tin Can Bay Queenfish



Marquis with a nice Jack caught using the Zerek Live Cherabin



Jayden Lee with a solid coral trout



The author, Chris Rippon with a Jack on the Zerek Live Cherabin

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# It's Nippers in the sun

By Lee McCarthy

Don't miss the chance to watch the Nippers carnival at Rainbow Beach this weekend and support our own competitors.

The events scheduled for Nippers aged from under 8 to under 15 will be the Surf Race, Board Race, Beach Flags, Beach Sprint, Iron-person, Wade Race (U8 & U9 only), Cameron Relay.

A group of local Nippers and their families headed to Mooloolaba last weekend for the first round of the Qld Beach Series.

Julie Pratt said: "A small but enthusiastic group of Rainbow Nippers attended the Round 1 Beach series at Mooloolaba yesterday. It was a lovely day at the beach

with a wonderful win by Sienna (Arthur) in the flags, retaining her state 'gold' status! It was great to see Helen Brown officiating once again - always proud of the efforts by the Rainbow crew.

Well done everyone and especially Caroline for setting up the tent early and the Hoult family for returning it."

She said they were all looking forward to the Nippers carnival on the weekend at Rainbow Beach and said: "It's a fantastic opportunity to see some talent in action. If you're thinking about entering your child, it's a friendly comp and could give them an insight into what these events are like. To spot the Rainbow crew, look



Don't miss the chance to cheer on our local competitors in the nippers carnival this weekend at Rainbow Beach.

carefully for the club cap - yellow, white and black."

Thanks to Nippers mum and huge supporter of the club, Julie Pratt, who was on the spot to take this great photo and to all the parents who travel miles with their children to support them and the club.

If you are interested in competing or joining the Nippers or want to get involved in helping, please email [jac@rainbowbeachsurf.com.au](mailto:jac@rainbowbeachsurf.com.au)

Read the full wrap up of the carnival in this issue of Gympie Today and don't miss out on watching our athletes perform this weekend! Good Luck Rainbow Beach.



Congratulations to the latest bronze squad at the Rainbow Beach Surf Club with instructor Justin Schooth

## New SLSC lifeguards

By Lee McCarthy

The latest Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificate course has just wrapped up at the Rainbow Beach Surf Club.

Congratulations to the nine newly qualified bronze medallion holders who are now able to join patrol teams along with their fellow volunteers to help protect our swimmers.

Anyone 13 Years and over can participate in this one of a kind experience where you get to make a difference in the local community and learn how to save a life.

If you would like to become a part of the Rainbow Beach SLSC, give the club a call and they will let you know how to join.

Contact Kelly Smith on Monday 9am to 3pm or Wednesday 9am to 3pm on 07 5486 3249

Please always swim between the flags.

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Sponsor Billy Mitchell from Century 21 with Fay Whittaker whose team were the first round winners



The second round winners were Tewantin Team



Third round winners the Slatter team from Landsborough



Fourth round winners Ray McShane's team from Rainbow Beach

# Hosts with the most

By Lee McCarthy

The Tin Can Bay Bowls Club hosted their two day Century 21-Platinum Group mixed Open Fours Bowls last weekend at the Country Club.

The event attracted quality players from across South East Queensland with 128 players competing for \$7200 in prize money.

Secretary and Games Director Tony Broom said so many people worked hard behind the scenes to ensure the day was a success and the perfect weather was an advantage.

“It was the best event we have held because we usually only get 20 teams registered as its men's only event. This year we decided to make it open and we got inundated. The maximum number of teams we can manage is 32 teams of 4, and we had that in a month with five reserved teams.”

The winning team was led by Gary Andrews from Jimboomba with team members Roy Howard, Clayton Foster, Wayne Green, with four wins and a draw.

Tony said: “The best thing about the event is that it benefits the whole community. When you have 128 bowlers coming from South East Queensland and staying the weekend and some staying for the week it is great for the town. The takeaways, restaurants and cafes were booming and accommodation houses were full.”

“The camaraderie was great and everything went smoothly with absolutely no complaints.”

“Tin Can Bay Country Club's Chinese restaurant fed everyone within a half hour both days of the competition and the winner of the day declaring it was the best mongolian lamb he had ever eaten in his speech.”

Tony thanked the sponsor of the event, Century 21- Platinum Group which was represented by Billy Mitchell and Paul Downman who also competed and had a win in the 5th round.

“The players were top notch and we attracted some quality players from South East Queensland because of the prize money.”

“A lot of the bowlers keep coming back for the carnival and virtually every player said after this event, please make sure we get an invite for next year.”

One of the prizes was a 2002 Bottle of Grange, worth \$900, which was won by Wendy Ryan from Cooloola Cove who is not quite not sure what to do with it. The bottle was donated by Tony Broom.

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The winning team was led by Gary Andrews from Jimboomba with team members Roy Howard, Clayton Foster, Wayne Green with sponsors Billy Mitchell and Paul Downman



Sponsors Century 21 won the 5th round with the team of Jeff Mulhall, Billy Mitchell, Paul Downman and Alan Cox



With sponsor Billy Mitchell the 4th place winners were Tony Broom's team from Tin Can Bay. Tony Broom, Ann Hudson, Barry and Tin Andersen

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One of the prizes was a 2002 \$900 Bottle of Grande which was won by Wendy Ryan from Cooloola Cove who is not quite not sure what to do with it being a non-drinker The bottle was donated by Tony Broom who said it was ready to drink now.

## The Results:

- 4th place Tony Broom team Tin Can Bay
- 3rd place Allan Newman team Sunshine Coast
- Runner up Gibbs team from Maryborough



Runner up for the weekend competition were the Gibbs team from Maryborough and Tin Can Bay



3rd place winners Allan Newman team Sunshine Coast

- and Tin Can Bay
- 1st Place Gary Andrews team Jimboomba
- Winners of the rounds:**
- 1st round Fay Whittakers team
- 2nd round Tewantin Team
- 3rd round Slatter team from Landsborough
- 4th round Ray McShane from Rainbow Beach
- 5th round Century 21 team

“It was a credit to our greenkeeper Dusty and his staff with only good comments on how good that a country place like this has the greens and surroundings looking so good.”

“Everybody that helped out in some regard from the people who tidied up, to the scorers to the caterers made it a great day and we thank them for making this such a great carnival.”

Tony also thanked the Country Club who had cold drinks, quick service and supported the event.



# THANK YOU



to all the bowlers who supported the

Century 21 Platinum Agents Bowls Carnival at the Tin Can Bay Country Club.

It was an amazing weekend and we appreciate the support from the whole community and all those spectators who came to the event.



## HOT LISTINGS

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