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Nippers shine

Congratulations to the Rainbow Beach Surf Club Nippers who competed in the Banjo Memorial Carnival at Rainbow Beach last weekend and all the volunteers who made it happen. Competing for the local club were Hunter Eade and Lincolne Lahiff in under 10 boys, Emilie Dwine in under 11 girls, Kai Riehl-Posadowski in under 11 boys, Breanna Hoult, and Kaylee Mendham in under 12 girls, Jordan and Teil Gough for under 12 boys and Oliver Pratt and Bryce Hoult in the under 14 boys.

One of the club's volunteers, Caroline Vielle said all of our region's nippers competed fiercely.

STORY PAGES 18-19



Rainbow Beach competitor Breanna Hoult enjoying the Nippers Carnival.

Inskip gastro outbreak

Campers have been reminded by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) to make hygiene their top priority to help prevent the transmission of any illnesses when camping.

According to information received however, campers at Inskip Point over the long weekend were reportedly taken ill with gastroenteritis and many sought medical help.

Despite extra measures put in place by rangers and reported continued preparation, the area continues to be the centre of gastro outbreaks.

STORY PAGE 3

Dead turtles washed up

Concerned locals and members have expressed anger after finding several dead adult-size turtles washed up on the shore between Double Island Point and Rainbow Beach.

While there is yet no explanation for the distressing scene, locals believe it is due to boat strikes or propeller cuts and is connected to the increase in speeding jet skis and small boat activity at Double Island Point which has a legal go-slow zone.

The Great Sandy Marine Park extends from Baffle Creek in the north to Double Island Point in the south and rules apply for this region.

STORY PAGE 6

A 'Shore' point!

By Lee McCarthy

A group of Rainbow Shores residents is behind serious objections to a residential development plan for what they have long regarded as their golf course.

The land, originally set down for multi-story unit development, is now in line for a lower density, but apparently still controver-

sial subdivision plan.

Last week, equipment and machinery rolled into the Wyvern Road site to begin clearing the land.

Richard Bond, acting for the developer, Dr Allan J Bond and Associates, said Gympie Regional Council had given permission to clear part of the area last September.

"The golf course is being cleared to develop a modern subdivision. To do this it needs to be levelled and filled because at the moment it doesn't drain. There is no standard storm water drainage in Rainbow Shores.

"At present the storm water drain seeps into the ground and runs into the water table. The clearing and engineering works are being completed to ensure there is no run-off so the

water can soak in," he said.

"This is an engineering necessity and essential work prior to a development proceeding.

Locals say the development is turning into one of the most divisive projects seen in the region, since the Rainbow Shores concept was first floated in the 1980s.

STORY PAGE 5

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Care needed to cope with future

Rainbow Shores residents want to know more about what is going on next door, as Gympie Regional Council considers a residential subdivision plan for what had been their informal golf course.

Difficulties achieving community consensus on important planning issues are part of a future we will have, whether we like it or not, especially in areas as pressured by property demand as Rainbow Beach. Land owners want to develop, but people attracted to the area for its natural amenity generally want things to stay the same, as much as possible.

As demand pressure grows for land and housing, there is an obvious pressure for subdivision. What kind of subdivision? That is the crucial question.

And it needs to be answered carefully.

When the Krauchi family originally obtained a development lease for Rainbow Shores, few would have predicted the beautiful place it became and the gentle touch the project had.

The area which became its informal golf course was originally earmarked for multi-storey unit development. That never happened and now a new owner has another development plan, not multi-storey, but still controversial, it seems.

From a local viewpoint, it was a golf course. From a planning viewpoint it was the proposed site of a development project. How that unavoidable conflict works out is the drama we are now seeing before our eyes. The new housing plan is at least not a concrete jungle, but it will have an impact, one that needs to be assessed closely and respectfully.

- Arthur Gorrie



Stories by Mee herself

By Lee McCarthy

Nicky Mee is excited to have published her first book called Stories by Mee, a children's picture book series.

The book 'Hooroo, ta-ta, bye-bye' and is about Nicky's three-year-old daughter Courtney who had to say goodbye to all the little things in her life, and her realisation that it's only goodbye for now and not forever.

Nicky said she is excited her book is a reading resource in Australian homes and is trying hard to spread the word so that families can share their love of reading with their children.

"I was a primary school teacher for fourteen years and have always enjoyed writing and find it easy to write about what I know," Nicky said.

"My husband is my champion and has so much belief in me. He is amazing and encourages me every day to do my best and says there are no limits."

She said she hopes to release her next book before Christmas.

"I am just waiting for the illustrator to finish three more pictures and it is ready to go.

"The next story is about my husband and his fair dinkum favourite 'bluey'. (Jackie Howe). He wears a blue singlet every day and has a cupboard full of them, all hanging up.

"In the book he tries to explain why he has so many blue singlets to our daughter Courtney and why he is wears the same shirt every day."

While Nicky is not from this region, she said she will be coming up for author talks to the Cooloola Coast when her third book is published.

"I am really excited to have this as a plan to bring the Stories by Mee up to Queensland. We now have a Stories by Mee trailer we are preparing to take on the road."

The price is \$14.95, and you can buy a copy through <http://www.storiesbymee.com.au> or follow Nicky at <http://www.facebook.com/storiesbymeebooks>



Childrens book author Nicky Mee with the first of her series of books for young children

Community groups win RADF grants

By Lee McCarthy

Four local Cooloola Coast community groups are grateful recipients of funding in the latest Regional Arts Development Fund Grants Program.

The funds endorsed by Gympie Regional Council will receive financial assistance as part of Round 1 of the Community Development and Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) Grants Programs.

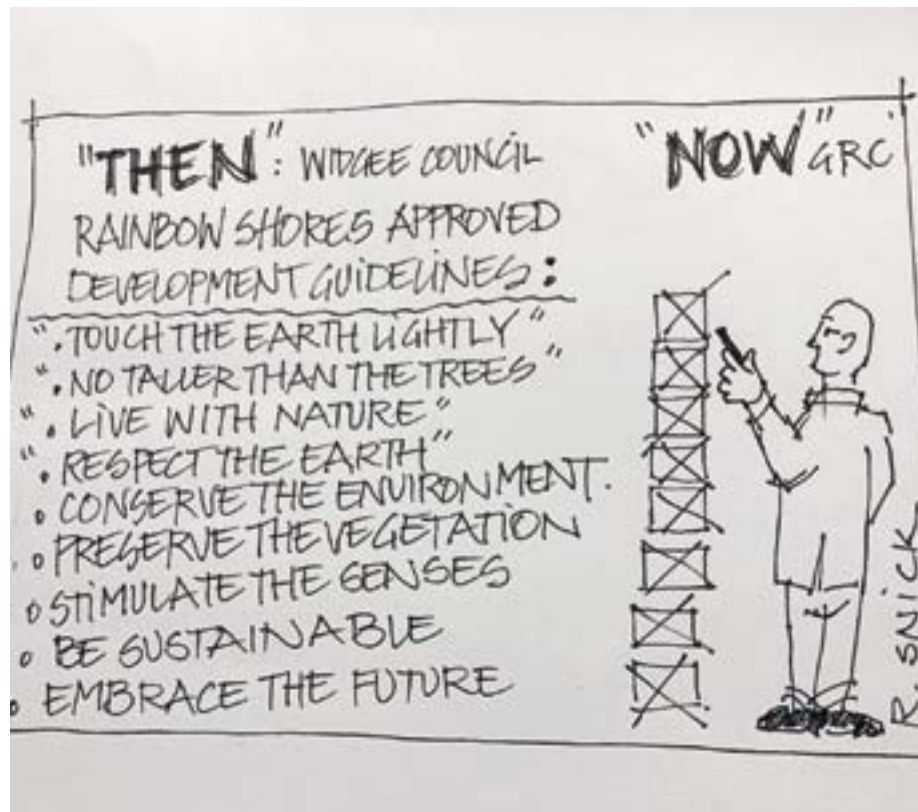
Rainbow Beach Chamber of Commerce and Tourism received \$3000 for the delivery of their new Visit Rainbow Beach website; Tin Can Bay RSL Sub-branch Inc. received \$1,550 for Anzac Day 2022; Tin Can Bay Community and Men's Shed Inc received \$3,000 for a new lathe and Cooloola Cove Residents and Friends Inc. Received \$2,800 for their event Christmas at the Cove.

Council's RADF Grants Program provides financial assistance to eligible individuals, businesses and organisations for projects that respond to local arts and cultural priorities.

Applications for round two of the Community Development and RADF Grants Programs opens on 1 February 2022.

For more information about the Community Development and RADF Grants Programs, visit www.gympie.qld.gov.au/grants

CARTOON



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Outbreak of gastro cases

By Lee McCarthy

Campers have been reminded by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) to make hygiene their top priority to help prevent the transmission of any illnesses when camping.

According to information received however, campers at Inskip Point over the long weekend were reportedly taken ill with gastroenteritis and many sought medical help.

Despite extra measures put in place by rangers and reported continued preparation, the area continues to be the centre of gastro outbreaks.

Opinions vary on solutions including privatisation of the area, better toilet facilities like Freshwater camping ground which don't report the same issues and more money spent on the area.



Campers at Inskip Point have reportedly presented to local medical centres with suspected gastroenteritis. Picture: QPWS

“QPWS advise all campers to maintain a safe physical distance and use the highest standard of personal hygiene, such as wash-

ing hands frequently with soap and water particularly after toilet visits and before preparing food or eating.”

Rangers are also recommending that campers bring their own water supply, soap, hand sanitiser, and if possible, take their own portable toilet.

“Extra rangers are out and about providing additional campground services and advice where needed to ensure the health and wellbeing of campers, including an additional ranger presence at Inskip Peninsula, where a number of campers reported viral symptoms within the vicinity in 2020.

“Rangers and contract cleaners have been deep cleaning the amenities at Inskip in a two-step cleaning and disinfecting process, as per Queensland Health guidelines, to help minimise the risks of viral transmission this season.

“Rangers will be increasing the frequency

of cleaning as a further precaution and amenities will have increased soap and sanitising supplies, but the best advice for campers is to bring their own and be self-sufficient.

“QPWS have been liaising regularly with Queensland Health about measures to reduce the risks and impacts of illness on campers and always considers visitors' health and safety as a priority.

“No matter their health status or conditions, campers staying in close proximity to others need to practice heightened personal hygiene.

“QPWS advises all campers to check park alerts <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/park-alerts> when booking and before leaving for a camping trip.”

Regardless of good intentions, the facts remain, an outbreak has once again disrupted camping over the long weekend and ruined the camping experience in our region for many.



Operation Sandstorm didn't stop this rollover at Teewah Beach.

Pictures: COURTESY RACQ LIFEFLIGHT RESCUE



Emergency services including the RACQ LifeFlight Rescue Helicopter arrived at the scene of the Teewah rollover during the long weekend.

Another Teewah rollover during Operation Sandstorm

By Lee McCarthy

Despite best efforts by Police targeting beach hooning between Noosa North Shore, Teewah Beach and Rainbow Beach during the long weekend there was still bad behaviour and a serious accident.

The Sunshine Coast-based RACQ LifeFlight Rescue helicopter was called to fly a man to hospital, after he was injured in a 4WD rollover at Teewah Beach.

Shortly before 6:30pm last Saturday the

rescue chopper flew to Teewah Beach, after reports a vehicle had rolled several times.

Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) paramedics, Queensland Fire and Emergency Service (QFES) firefighters and Queensland Police Service (QPS) officers were in attendance, when the rescue helicopter arrived.

The RACQ LifeFlight Rescue pilot was able to land the aircraft close to the scene of the accident.

It's believed the driver and passenger

had been able to free themselves from the crashed vehicle, however the driver reportedly fell unconscious a short time later.

Two off duty Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) paramedics were first on scene and administered first aid, before other QAS paramedics and the RACQ LifeFlight Rescue aeromedical crew arrived.

The male driver, aged in his twenties, was treated for multiple upper body injuries, before being flown to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, in a stable condition.

Social media lit up with opinions and criticism of the event calling for changes and penalties to beach driving laws and concern for the driver and passenger.

Operation Sandstorm began in 2020, with increased beachside patrols and enforcement activity at the popular tourist location in the Gympie Region.

The weekend prior 89 Traffic Infringement Notices (TINs) were issued as campers continued to engage in risk taking behaviour with their vehicles on the beach.



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A Cooloola Coast welcome

By Lee McCarthy

In exciting news for the region, refrigeration manufacturing giant, Advanced Refrigeration Technology (ART) has set up premises on the Cooloola Coast.

Local business Rainbow Beach IGA has just installed new refrigeration systems from this Australian owned family company who manufacture and distribute Maslen products internationally.

It is an exciting coup for the region with ART's Managing Director, John Maslen, the inventor of many award-winning commercial refrigeration products and owner of a company with a 'proud history and an exciting future.'

Gympie Regional mayor Glen Hartwig said: "It's great to see businesses coming to the region and giving employment opportunities to residents. This council has always had a strategy to be business friendly and focused on economic growth and it's great to see a company such as Advanced Refrigeration Technology establishing themselves in the region."

The company began in 2004 and is the owner and licensor of technology associated with all Maslen Australia products.

The company serves supermarket owners from Broken Hill to Thursday Island and claims to save the owners thousands of dollars from their electricity bills by fitting glass doors to their cabinets.

ART manufactures the ultra-efficient insulated glass panels used in all Maslen and ART

coolroom inserts, supermarket cases, view windows, and personnel entry doors.

Their company bio states "ART specializes in the manufacture of ultra-low energy supermarket cases, self-contained and remote refrigeration systems, for the Australian market. Our cases are made in Australia for Australian conditions. ART and Maslen Australia provide world class products and first-class service which is second to none."

The company manufactures glass door coolroom inserts, personnel entry doors (manual and automatic), view windows, and shelving systems for the Australian market.

With limited industry in the Cooloola Coast, the news ART is now establishing in the region is a great benefit to the wider Gympie Region.

Tourism has and will remain a major industry and the region is proud to be host to HQ Plantations, Laminex Industries and National Parks who all provide major income streams for residents.

Commercial fishing used to be a dynamic industry and income provider for many local families in its heyday drawing people to the region and helping to enrich the town.

Sadly, a sizeable proportion of its success is now curtailed by state and federal government laws, destroying the livelihood of operators, and seeing a major decline in staffing levels.

So, the news Advanced Refrigeration Technology is setting up camp is excellent news for the whole region. Welcome!



Advanced Refrigeration Technology have set up in Cooloola Cove hiring local specialists.

New ranges and service: IGA chilling at Rainbow Beach

By Lee McCarthy

The O'Connell family who own the Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay IGA are thrilled with their new updated refrigeration in their Rainbow Beach store and happy they were able to upgrade using Australian Made products.

Matt and Bernie, along with son Justin previously owned IGA stores in Noosaville, Chancellor Park, Pacific Paradise and Twin Waters before taking on the two Cooloola Coast stores, Rainbow Beach in 2004 and Tin Can Bay in 2017.

Justin said: "The refrigeration will enable us to provide a better product and a larger variety to our local and tourist customers. We are increasing both our locally sourced and gourmet lines, and the new refrigeration has allowed us to nearly double the meat and delicatessen lines which offers a better service to the community and our customers."

Justin said three of the new refrigeration systems were already in place with the delicatessen and hot boxes being installed next week.

"The upgrade will not only allow more stock but will offer more electricity efficiency and therefore be better for the environment which is important."



The sleek new IGA meat fridge is nearly double the size and much more efficient than the previous meat fridge.

The delicatessen at the Tin Can Bay store was refurbished two years ago and a 'hot box' and gourmet stand were added earlier this year.

"The staff are excited for the changes in



Excited about the new refrigeration in their Rainbow Beach IGA store, just in time for Summer are owner Bernie O'Connell and Rainbow Beach manager Kristy Heit.

the store and it is definitely increasing the morale with everyone happy we can now expand our range in the fresh department."

All the equipment and installation were from the same company, Advanced Refrigeration Technology who have recently set up

a base at Cooloola Cove.

"It is definitely worth a visit to check out the new lines and the easy to access new refrigerated products."

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New plans were drawn up to comply with Council Restriction removing roundabouts and having a clear entry and exit point for the development.



Rainbow Shores residents were in dismay when clearing of the Golf Course began last week

Livability in the balance

By Lee McCarthy

A group of Rainbow Shores residents is behind serious objections to a residential development plan for what they have long regarded as their golf course.

The land, originally set down for multi-story unit development, is now in line for a lower density, but apparently still controversial subdivision plan.

Last week, equipment and machinery rolled into the Wyvern Road site to begin clearing the land.

Richard Bond, acting for the developer, Dr Allan J Bond and Associates, said Gympie Regional Council had given permission to clear part of the area last September.

“The golf course is being cleared to develop a modern subdivision. To do this it needs to be levelled and filled because at the moment it doesn’t drain. There is no standard storm water drainage in Rainbow Shores.

“At present the storm water drain seeps into the ground and runs into the water table. The clearing and engineering works are being completed to ensure there is no run-off so the water can soak in,” he said.

“This is an engineering necessity and essential work prior to a development proceeding.

“The land needs to be filled and maybe 20 years ago you could just build on a block without this amount of preparation, but not anymore, it is not an option.”

Locals say the development is turning into one of the most divisive projects seen in the region, since the Rainbow Shores concept was first floated in the 1980s.

Council Community Sustainability director Adrian Burns said the council was processing a development application over the site and a decision was imminent.

“If approved, vegetation clearing will be necessary to facilitate the development,” Mr Burns said. “However, the site is bordered by existing reserve land which will not be cleared.”

A group of nearby residents, concerned at the impact on their amenity from the proposed development, is opposed to any high-density housing, tree and bush clearing and potential destruction of animal habitats.

The project site is a freehold land parcel of 3.192 hectares at Wyvern Road, 1.5km north of the Rainbow Beach township.

According to the application, the property has historically been identified as precinct C1 on an approved plan of development for the Rainbow Shores development, but that project was not completed, leaving the land as an undeveloped park, which residents used for many years as an informal Par 3 golf course.

“The golf course land was approved for high density accommodation with the previous council, who wanted 750 occupants. We have fought to decrease the density, so it has been a balancing act to get only as much density as required,” Richard Bond said.

“Previous council was pursuing a high rise and six stories, and we were opposed to that and said housing was much more appropriate.

“A DA was originally submitted for the Rainbow Shores Golf Course by Andreas Krauchi and the expectation was the council would keep going taller on the golf course, like Baden, which is what we are opposed to.”

Mr Bond said the developer was “personally opposed to high rise,” although this is understood to have once been a condition of the state government development lease issued to the Krauchi family for the Rainbow Shores area.

“Our view was that we were personally opposed to high rise. There is a place for high rise and taller buildings and that is in town like the Plantation or Ocean View, but it is not right at the Shores,” Mr Bond said.

Objectors say the subdivision as proposed is not in keeping with the existing Rainbow Shores development and will not blend seamlessly with the existing neighbourhood.

“The lots are generally too small to provide house construction with sufficient space to enable vegetation retention and additional landscaping and there are no vegetated easements or natural greenspace areas proposed to provide sound and visual buffers between the streets (as is typical of the remainder of Rainbow Shores),” one objection says.

“Rainbow Shores is an eco-friendly beachside neighbourhood of uniquely designed residences that combine multiple construction and award-winning design elements to blend with the natural ambience and environmental values of their surroundings.

“Most homes are generally large and architecturally camouflaged to blend seamlessly with their neighbourhood and no two adjoining houses are alike.”

Mr Bond said the project included parkland and improved fire safety.

“There has been a lot of concern about bushfire projection at the Shores. There is only one road in and out (and fire) could cut off the exit for the entire population.”

The development would provide for an emergency exit at the top of Wyvern Rd.

“With bushfire management and increased park area we will maintain fire breaks and provide additional access for emergency vehicles,” he said.

He denied any plan to sell off the project.

“We have been here in Rainbow Beach for the best part of twenty years, and we are local people and never intended to sell it off.

“As part of our submission to show demand, we included information on selling the development to gauge interest.

“But (this) has nothing to do with selling the development.

“(That) was never an option and never will be. I have been talking to local real estate agents who will be marketing and selling blocks,” he said.

“Our priority is to get these blocks on sale as soon as possible.

“Of course, there is always the view that people don’t want change and having a high rise is not right but blocks of land are more straightforward and in demand for the town right now.”



Developers had permission to clear land prior to the DA being approved which is expected this week by Gympie Regional Council



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Pru Hansen tells the story of her five day Cooloola Great Walk.



The beauty of the Cooloola Great Walk varies along the trail but the one constant is the stunning landscape.

PRU HANSEN has completed the Cooloola Great Walk and has written a wonderful narration of her five-day journey which she has agreed to allow us to publish here. It has appeared on the National Parks of Queensland Website.

Cooloola walk is a must

A veritable playground for adventure lovers, the Cooloola Recreation Area of Great Sandy National Park truly offers it all, from surfing Double Island Point, to camping, fishing, and my favourite pastime, hiking. The combination of offerings and proximity to major centres make Cooloola one of the most popular destinations in South-East Queensland.

Cooloola derived its name from the Aboriginal name for Cypress trees 'Kululu'. Cypress trees once flourished through Cooloola Recreation Area. However, when early settlers moved in the Cypress were logged and now very few remain.

Nature, however, has an incredible way of overcoming such events and the Cooloola Recreation Area we see now is enchanting with an ever-changing landscape through rainforest, tall eucalypt forest, dry coastal woodland, heath plains and even across some sandy plains.

To fully understand how truly amazing this region is, the best way to experience it is on the Cooloola Great Walk.

This five-day hike through the Cooloola region of the stunning Great Sandy National Park will challenge you and amaze with stunning views.

The near 100km hike starts out from the incredible Carlo Sandblow at Rainbow Beach where it's goodbye to civilisation for a few days.

Day 1

Starting at the northern end of Cooloola Great Walk in Rainbow Beach, within minutes you reach the magnificent Carlo Sandblow which is a part of Cooloola sand mass where weather conditions have transformed a forest into a 'moonscape' of sand covering fifteen hectares. This incredible sandy visage combines with spectacular views over Rainbow Beach, Double Island Point, and Tin Can Bay.

This 15.2 km section of the hike gives a very good taste of the conditions for the next four days. A drop down in elevation during the last quarter of the day takes you to Poona Lake, 12 hectares of fresh water set amongst the bushlands. When the air is still, the reflections off the water are stunning. It is a photographer's



The five day adventure is a challenge but Pru says very rewarding.

dream with the contrast of the tannin-stained water against the white sand, and a great spot for a break.

Poona can also be accessed as a 2km hike from Bymien Picnic Area if you are not up to the full Great Walk.

After Poona Lake you drop down gradually to about 90 meters of elevation. Then it's well UP at an angle that feels similar in inclination to the trajectory of a NASA launch. Take it slow and steady and let the magical sounds of the lush rainforest envelop you.

That evening we slept at Kauri Walkers Camp – named for the Kauri pines growing in the region. It is hidden away in an area that feels a million miles from anywhere, deep in the rainforest.

This campground is generally the busiest of all four campgrounds due to its proximity

to Rainbow and Teewah Beaches, providing a great opportunity to catch up with fellow hikers and shoot the breeze over dinner before retiring for the night.

Day 2

One of the more challenging days both physically and mentally, being 20.5 km, it is the longest of the days. You will travel mostly through rainforest full of strangler figs, massive Kauri pines and plentiful wildlife before coming across Lake Cooloomera just north of Litoria Walkers Camp

Lake Cooloomera, whilst pretty, is not a place to swim, with snakes plentiful in the reeds as well as being home to many 'acid frog' species and birds.

About 600m uphill past the lake lies Litoria Walkers camp. Litoria – meaning 'shore' or 'beach' – is the name given to Australia's largest genera of frogs. The high-pitched sounds of the Cooloola sedge frog (*Litoria cooloolensis*) who have adapted to the acidity in the nearby lake may be heard.

Day 3

A day full of rapidly changing landscapes, from rainforest beside the beach to swamp as you near the Noosa River. Experiencing these changes over such a short distance helps you really appreciate how nature responds to slight environmental changes.

Keep an eye out for Ramsey's hut along the way, an old timber cutters hut which was abandoned prior to the region being classified National Park in 1975... look but do not touch.

Dutgee (the Aboriginal word for Boronia shrubs which grow through Cooloola) Walkers Camp is on the Noosa River, making a fantastic way to mark the middle of Cooloola Great Walk with a swim, if you are game.

Day 4

What an incredible day despite it being the second longest day. A nice and easy start to the day with a flat walk along the banks of the Noosa River is a stark change in landscape to the previous days' landscape. The contorted shapes of the trees native to the low-lying flats of the Noosa River are beautiful in a macabre

kind of way. It is a spectacle to behold for sure.

Up into the hills again with a climb of about 190 meters and then BAM, the Cooloola Sand Patch...wow! This mini desert, complete with its own oasis must be seen to truly appreciate it. It is a 1km hike to get across it... thankfully mostly downhill when heading north to south.

After crossing this desert, it's back into the bush and a long walk through valleys between massive sand dunes with constant presentation of viewpoints in differing directions and incredible breezes to the final camp of the trip, Brahminy walkers camp.

It is a great spot with a picturesque view of the sunset over Lake Cootharaba to the west, the sunrise over the Pacific Ocean to the east, and infamous Noosa in the south from the common area. It is definitely a favourite camp spot and an incredible place to spend the final night.

Day 5 – The last day

Only 17.3km to go and it's almost all downhill to the pub from here!

Despite the elevation not being anywhere near as high as it is on any of the previous days, the views and sounds of cars driving along the beach gently re-introduce the modern world.

You will initially travel through lush rainforest before hitting the sand for a short section and back in through the coastal heath plains of Arthur Harrold Nature Reserve.

Giddy with achievement, head to the pub, pull up at a table out the back so as not to scare other patrons and settle in for the best feed you have had in days and a well-earned beverage.

For more information on the Cooloola Great Walk go to <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/great-walks-cooloola> or contact Outdoor Adventure Australia who offer a range of guided walking tours.

The author has endeavoured to ensure the information presented here is as accurate as possible. However, they, nor the National Parks of Queensland accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by any person guided by this article.

Rebecca on a sea change

By Lee McCarthy

Virtual assistant Rebecca Amy took her sea change to a new level moving from an apartment in Brisbane City to a yacht in Tin Can Bay.

The 38-year-old with little knowledge of sea life other than a week-long P&O Cruise, has taken to the pirate life with gusto.

Moored in the bay waters since August, Rebecca made the change after suffering allergic reactions which put her in hospital along with a stressed body and mind.

Looking for a healthier lifestyle she originally considered the Sunshine Coast but one of her clients mentioned he had a yacht at Tin Can Bay he was willing to rent out.

After a 24-hour lesson on boat living, Rebecca was left to her own devices and gently fell in love with sea life. She does come to shore quite a lot though to mix with the locals and has taken on work with a local hospitality company.

"You can't get anything more serene than being on the water, especially sunrise and sunset," she said.

"In the middle of the day I work using mobile data and connect via hotspot and work virtually. I work Monday to Friday or when I am needed, sometimes after hours and weekends depending on what needs to be done.

"My work is mainly setting up email, YouTube channels and writing copy, then posting the work to social media, so it's easy to do from anywhere."

"The challenges so far, the only challenge really, is learning to use the tinny which I call Sunny. I had to learn to dock it and it was tricky going to shore the first time in the dark. I now have fairy lights along the boat so I can recognise it when I come back.

"It's been interesting facing things for the first time, getting comfortable steering and using the throttle.

"At the start I would be trying to sleep and



Rebecca Amy swapped city life for sea life and now lives on a yacht in Tin Can Bay.

hear a gasping sound and didn't know what it was. Now I know it's just a dolphin or a turtle.

"I'm in such awe of this place. Since I was

offered the opportunity and I took it up, it's had its difficulties, but I have had no regrets whatsoever.



Rebecca preparing a meal in her new kitchen with a view most would swap their world for too.

"One other area that is tricky is to ensure I have enough power to work so on cloudy days I have to work in town. I do have a generator to charge my electronics, but it takes ten litres of petrol to fuel and is quite tricky. I use that more for the days I can't get ashore.

"There is a water community, and everyone has been absolutely amazing, friendly and helpful. If I have a question, I can ask anyone, and they'll help."

Rebecca said she was here to discover her next step and was open to what comes. She has started a double degree in Japanese and music and wants to finish that.

"If life is daunting or something comes across your path that you think is daunting, do it anyway. We think once we have made a decision, we can't change it, based on your current information. But it could be your calling, just give it a go."

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Kendall Morton
Director



Bec Baker with her signed book by speaker Angie Mansey



Join the ladies again on 19 November at Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach for the next luncheon. Bookings Eventbrite Cooloola Coast Women in Business



Heather Stevenson, Elissa Keen, Glenda Sambell, Chris Gudge, Robyn Lynn, Paivi Lobigs are looking forward to the next CCWIB event on 19 November

Networking ladies lunch

By Lee McCarthy

An enthusiastic crowd of women looking for entertainment, tasty food and a mix of incredible guests were not disappointed at the inaugural Cooloola Coast Women in Business lunch held last month.

Thirty ladies joined together to listen to guest speaker Angie Mansey and make new friends while networking for business.

The next event is on Friday 19 November from 11.30am at Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach and is a Greek Mezza lunch with traditional Greek cuisine.

All ladies are welcome to come along to learn more about what opportunities are in the region, celebrate each other's successes and meet new colleagues.

The cost is \$37.50 which includes the luncheon, guest speaker, lucky door prizes and a chance to collaborate with other women to achieve success for yourself and the region.

Sponsors for the October event were Oska + Willow; Kelly Fredline Florist, Salty Basket Co, Modere and Hippy Happy Health.

Bookings are online at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/201444665417> or Facebook/ Cooloola Coast Women in Business



Jessica Haring from Modere, Dr Lindy Orwin, of Cooloola Coastcare and Marie Gee owner of Rainbow Beach Safety Supplies



Helping out at the event were Bec Baker and Janine Fawcett



Special guest speaker Angie Mansey Author of How I Made Lemonade



Guest Lindy Orwin took time out from Cooloola Coastcare to enjoy the ladies luncheon



Artist Net from Net Rae Art with daughter Lisa Ward of Lisa Emily Photography



Dr Heather Stevenson with Author Dr Sue Pillon aka Dr Suzie Starfish



Rainbow Recovery are on the job rescuing the yachty.



Yachtie runs out of water.

Pictures: RAINBOW RECOVERY

Yachtie set back on course

By Lee McCarthy

A 36-foot yacht weighing 8.5 tonnes recently ran aground at Dundubara on the eastern side of Fraser Island.

Dean Hayes and the salvage team from Rainbow Recovery went to the aid of the 27-year-old skipper, who had fallen asleep and then slept through his alarm clock.

Dean said: "He ended up on the beach and was stuck there for four days before we could salvage him due to the tides and the weather."

"After the salvage, we had to leave him at Eurong for four days on the trailer until the beach was good enough to get around Hook Point. The beach conditions were too bad, so we were waiting for the beach to heal up."

According to Dean, the Melbourne skipper had been living in Queensland for some time and decided to buy a boat and sail it back

home. Unfortunately, none of his mates could join him to help crew the vessel due to Covid, so he had to do it on his own."

"There was not much damage to the boat, and he worked on it for a week doing minor repairs at our depot, and then he headed off again."

"He is still down at the lagoon at Double Island Point sitting it out until the weather improves and then he will sail on to Victoria."

Dean said they used two trucks, a crane, three men and a trailer over two days to do the salvage. They needed one day to prepare the site and one day to salvage the yacht.

He said they have performed three boat recoveries in the last six months. One was a yacht that was OK to go back into the water again and the third was an 18-foot centre console pleasure boat which rolled over on the bar. All sailors were OK.



On its way to be fixed.



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Keeping the coffee rolling at Little Parliament Live & Local, Kirstie and Amy.



Kate Airey wowed the audience with her stunning vocals at Little Parliament during Live & Local.



Plantiful Raw Food Eleonora Manzi with Sofia and mum Elisa Seul, President of the Rainbow Beach Community Centre.

Great talent on great day

By Lee McCarthy

The Live and Local music program reached the Cooloola Coast last week with free performances at the Rainbow Beach Community Centre and Little Parliament Cafe.

The project led by the Creative Arts Alliance (CAA) and supported locally by the Gympie Council was designed to connect musicians from the region delivered in partnership with QMusic.

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.”

The Community Centre hosted Nizami and Mason Hope and President Elisa Seul said: “It was a great way to discover musicians to bring to future events. The best part was watching many local kids dance and learn new rhythms.”

Gar MacLeman, Phoebe McLennan, Kate Airey and Beans performed to a packed house at Little Parliament Cafe to an appreciate audience.

Spokesperson and manager of the popular cafe, Carly Ladas, said: “How nice was it to enjoy live and local music with good company and tasty food! It’s a simple pleasure that was somewhat overlooked pre-Covid. A huge shout-out to Emily Murphy and the Creative Arts Alliance team for putting together such a wonderful mix of musicians for us all to enjoy. Thank you to all of our patrons for coming along and supporting the event and the artists. Live music has been heavily impacted by Covid restrictions and it was so nice to have some semblance of normality and support our creative artists. A special mention to my incredible team for their unwavering efforts on a very hot and very busy day. All in all, an incredible event!”

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



Loving the food and entertainment were Janine and Dave Fawcett with Bec and Richard Baker.



Nizami were full of energy and passion and one of the live acts performing at Rainbow Beach for Live & Local.



Everyone jumped in to service the hundreds of customers who enjoyed the live music at Live & Local at Little Parliament.



Plantiful Raw Food owner Eleonora Manzi and daughter take a break during Live & Local at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall.



All hands on deck and working as a great team, the Little Parliament team did it well for Live & Local.



Jordan and Maddie kept the smiles on during the successful Live & Local event at Little Parliament.



Locals, tourists and supporters enjoyed the live music during Live & Local.



Craving a coffee P & C President Jed Elmer at Live & Local.

Shelter Sheds get a needed facelift

The weather has been quite variable lately from hot and sticky, rainy and cool to blowing winds. These elements are one of the factors that determine the lifespan of assets and unfortunately there have been a few picnic shelter sheds on the coast that have needed either some TLC, removal, or renewal.

Lions Park in Tin Can Bay had one shelter removed as it was beyond repair however the table setting remained. The larger shelter was revived with new posts however the BBQ has been removed due to lack of use. Options for placement of another BBQ in a high use area are being investigated.

The last timber shelter in Rainbow Beach was in Phil Rogers Park and it has been removed and will be replaced by a slightly larger shelter and keep in theme with the existing structures in the park. There will also be an access path for accessibility added at a later date.

Viv Mason Park in Tin Can Bay is getting a complete overhaul renewal as the shelter sheds are at end of useful life. The five covered areas are being replaced with four however the seating capacity will remain as one is going to

COUNCIL UPDATE

with **CR JESS MILNE**



be a double shelter to cater for larger gatherings. The new aluminium structures will be longer lasting and reduce ongoing maintenance costs.

Council has noted that this section of the foreshore is extremely popular therefore will be increasing the seating capacity with an additional uncovered table setting as well as backed seats to enjoy the water views. And for those wanting to enjoy a dinner while watching the full moon rise, there will be at least two shelters fitted with solar lighting for night dining.

The Cod St to Norman Point boardwalk project has been slightly delayed due to contract changes however it is back on track. The 430m

raised walkway will meander through the bush reserve and will bridge the last gap in foreshore connectivity from Crab Creek to Les Lee Park.

There are numerous places to enjoy the Cooloola Coast such as the beachfront, foreshore and parks. These spaces are very inviting to sit and enjoy a cuppa, munch on some lunch or perhaps spend the day out with friends and family. Activities sometimes result in waste production and Council supplies public bins to dispose of things such as drink containers, takeaway, and food packaging.

These public bins are not there to be used for domestic overflow therefore household waste and rubbish is not allowed to be disposed of in the bins. Also, if bins are full you are required to take your litter home with you as it is an offense to place waste beside the bin.

National Recycling Week is 8-14 November so it's a great time to think about what we throw away. The theme of the 25th year of the Planet Ark initiative is 'Recovery- A future beyond the bin', so take the time to find out how you can reduce, reuse and recycle. Check out the Gympie Regional Council website for ways to do the three 'R's' at home.



Work is starting this week to replace the timber shelters with new aluminium shelters at Viv Mason park.

New shelters for Viv Mason Park

By **Lee McCarthy**

Gympie Regional Council has announced works are to commence on Viv Mason Park at Tin Can Bay in the first week of November.

A Gympie Regional spokesperson said: "The Shelter Replacement Project will see the removal of the five timber shelters replaced with four aluminium shelters. The new aluminium shelters will be better suited to their life next to the ocean, have a longer life and require significantly less maintenance."

"The new design will also provide improved

experiences for users and better access for disabled or elderly persons. The first two shelter sheds are scheduled for removal on Wednesday, 3 November with the remaining shelters removed on a staggered timeline to reduce disturbance to park users.

"It is a fantastic spot for families, dog walkers and wildlife enthusiasts. It's also a great spot to pull up at one of the shelters and take in the natural scenery. Recently residents and visitors may have noticed the poor condition of the Viv Mason Park shelters, two of which

have been barricaded off to the public in recent months."

Council is hoping to have the replacement works completed in time for Christmas, weather and construction conditions permitting.

The project is expected to cost \$120,000 and is funded by Gympie Regional Council's Capital Works Program.

"Council would like to thank the public in advance for their patience."

If you have any queries, or want to know more on this project, please call council on 1300 307 800.



Congratulations to Emily and Tex on their stunning wedding and marriage.

Picture: JD ROOS PHOTOGRAPHY

Emily marries her prince

By **Lee McCarthy**

Congratulations to stunning bride Emily Murphy who married the love of her life Tex O'Neill at a memorable ceremony last month.

Emily owns EM Media and Events and was recently instrumental in bringing Live & Local to Rainbow beach and has recently taken over as the production manager of The Gympie Muster.

Emily said: "I started EM Media and Events to support, manage and mentor musicians that I saw as exceptional. My passion for their music allows me to help them build a narrative, grow their fanbase and establishes them as some of the most sought-after artists in their field. During this time, I have had the pleasure of working with many that have supported my growth and journey as a music manager and inspired me to continue to do what I do."

Emily and Tex honeymooned in far north Queensland but returned home in time to help ensure the Live & Local events went off smoothly.

Emily said: "I married the person I have complete trust will always have my back, always challenge me, a man who drives me to be my best and stand up for myself. Thank you, Tex, for loving me so completely and believing in us. I'm proud to be your wife and love our young man, Joey."

The wedding was photographed by wedding and family portrait photographer Jai Roos, of JD Roos Photography in Gympie and the groom's ring was created by friend Andrew Gall.

Emily said: "Our friend Andrew Gall created Tex's wedding band from a dream we had and wood we cut from where we each grew up. He has called it Piya Mukuminya. Mukuminya is palawa kani for "tracks" or "native roads"

"Andrew's artist statement reads: 'It represents the tracks and journeys that Emily and Tex have travelled individually and beginning new tracks that will be travelled together. Emily grew up on Weaerai country which is represented by the Ironbark from those lands. Tex's people, the Kamillaro, are represented by the Gidgee from their lands. At the centre of Mukuminya, the Gidgee and Ironbark being strengthened by each other.'

Photographer Jai Roos said: "I was honoured to be a part of such a momentous day for Emily, Tex and their family from all over Australia, even those that couldn't make it due to border closures. Congratulations Emily and Tex."

Congratulations Emily and Tex on your marriage and for your work bringing more live music to the Cooloola Coast.



Santa is back in Rainbow on 11 December for the Community Christmas party!

Party time with Santa

By Lee McCarthy

Lock in the date and bring the family along to the Santa Comes to Rainbow community Christmas party at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall and centre block.

This is a free family event being held on 11 December and for the third year in a row it is hosted by the Community Centre.

Starting at 3pm with Santa arriving at 3.30pm, there will be twilight markets, live music, raffles, and a Santa photo booth

President of the Committee, Elisa Seul said: "Come along to see the kids' faces and the smiles which makes the whole effort worth it. Santa is also extremely excited

and already feeling the connection and building the magic of this special time of the year."

"The kids will get a present thanks to Boomerang Bags, and Rainbow Beach Helicopters will be on hand to help Santa arrive. Events and Tents are sponsoring the tents, the stage, and the complete set up for the community."

"Jess McKenzie from Rainbow Beach Wedding Photography will be volunteering her expertise again and the volunteers from the community centre, as always, will be setting up and organising the event."

"There will be markets, live music, a holiday atmosphere and everyone is welcome to dress up as long as they enjoy themselves."

"Even the kids from the Rainbow Beach school will be performing a dance at the opening of the event and entertainment will be from Tina Goodwin, Joel Mak, and Aspy Jones!



A great event for children thanks to the many volunteers who share their holidays spirit with the community like Kirstie.



Have your photo taken with Santa and get a free gift from Boomerang Bags.

There will be delicious food including Martine Lokan's home made delicacies to a volunteer sausage sizzle and plenty of choice for everyone.

Come along, it's free, it's fun, it's family time and Santa will be there! Let's kick-off the summer holidays!

Join the Cooloola Cove community for celebration

By Lee McCarthy

Cooloola Cove Residents and Friends, together with the Gympie Wesleyan Methodist Church, will be hosting Christmas in the Cove on Saturday 11 December 2021.

Christmas in the Cove will incorporate the annual Christmas carols held in Cooloola Cove for the past four years. This event is possible through funding assistance by the Gympie Regional Council.

The event will start at 3pm at the Veterans and Community Hall, Cooloola Cove

There will be games and activities, a craft market, a craft competition, Karaoke, a visit from Santa, the lighting of the Christmas Tree and Christmas carols from 6pm led by the Gympie Wesleyan Methodist Church

Food and drinks will be available to buy, and organisers are suggesting you bring a

chair or picnic rug to enjoy an afternoon of fun and music and sing along to your favourite carols.

Rainbow Beach has their community Christmas celebration on the same day. It is wonderful that the Cooloola Coast community has a choice on where they go for their community Christmas.

Christmas craft competition information and entry forms are available from Cooloola Coast Furniture and Bedding, Tin Can Bay Library and at our market stall at the Tin Can Bay Markets.

Everything at the event, except for food, drinks, the raft competition entry, and market stall products will be free.

For further information or to enquire about having a stall at the craft market please email ccrnf103@bigpond.com



Music, markets, food, carols and lots of fun are being organised for the community by the Cooloola Coast Friends and Residents Inc.



Join Santa and your friends at the Cooloola Cove Christmas party 11 December.

Small Halls heading back to Rainbow

By Lee McCarthy

Festival of Small Halls Australia has announced Andrea Kirwin and Tullara will be performing at the Rainbow Beach Community Centre as part of their November's Queensland Summer Tour 2021.

President of the Community Centre, Elisa Seul said: "This is the fourth year we have hosted the Festival of Small Halls and we invite everyone from the region to come and enjoy the concert."

Tour producer Eleanor Rigden said: "Festival of Small Halls Australia was created specifically to reach out into regions that might not see a lot of touring artists. The artists on this tour have blown audiences away in some of Australia's largest festivals, but they're also just wonderful people. There is no doubt in my mind that this tour is going to be great fun for both the artists and the communities who host them."

Famous for their larger-than-life folk festivals over the last three decades, Woodfordia have established the Festival of Small Halls as a high-quality tour on the Australian scene and internationally.

One of this year's star performers is Andrea Kirwin, an Australian-Fijian Artist/Producer based in Nambour. With a warm stage presence, retro soulful sound, and a knack for storytelling, Andrea has been steadily building a national following since the release of her first album, 'From the Ground Up' in 2013.

Having self-produced five independent albums, she has continued to build a sustainable music career and has now opened a shop front for her record label, Peace Run Records in Nambour. Andrea will be joined by special guest harpist, Claire Evelyn, throughout the tour.

With her percussive finger tapping, guitar playing wizardry, not to mention the alluring power of her voice, is Tullara who has an undeniable, uniquely endearing stage presence full of raw, powerful honesty, and swagger.

This northern NSW homegrown artist raised on a parrot farm and now based in Townsville, is taking the genre of Folk/Roots to a whole new level.

Adding to the line-up is local talent Aido Van de Vorst who will open the show. With his heavy-handed guitar style and powerful vocals Aido's raw acoustic folk rock has an old school

busker feel and is sure to get your toes tapping. After nine years in south-west Western Australia playing at wineries and breweries in a duo with his wife Tina, they moved back home to southeast QLD and set up in Rainbow Beach and they have been entertaining the community since."

Eleanor Rigden said: "Festival of Small Halls celebrates the best in communities – the courage, the hospitality, the sense of kinship and looking out for your mates. We're so privileged to be welcomed by each community and shown the best of their town."

"What's created by putting world class artists into these traditional, familiar venues is something quite unique, incredibly moving and almost spiritual to witness."

Tickets are on sale at www.festivalofsmallhalls.com with admission \$20; Concession (Pensioners, Children Aged Under 18) – \$10 and Children (ages 4 and under who must be accompanied by an adult) free

Alternatively, you can buy tickets locally at Rainbow Beach Community Centre Office.

The doors open at 6.30 pm and the show starts at 7pm and is supported by the Rainbow Beach Community Centre.



What a way to celebrate live music with the return of Small Halls Australia this month.

The Rainbow Beach Community Hall is wheelchair accessible and has accessible bathroom facilities.



Cr Jess Milne and Sarah Booth both working at the expo.



Sarah Booth from Cooloola Coast Pilates and Health hosting one of the expo Tent Talks



The local tennis club got in on the action encouraging people to join.



Fiona Hawthorne and Nancy Haire from Cooloola Coastcare.

Expo well supported

By Lee McCarthy

The Cooloola Seniors Expo held at the Cooloola Coast Bowls Club in Tin Can Bay last week attracted over three hundred people who enjoyed the exhibits and information on show.

Cooloola Cove Residents and Friends Inc (CCRAF) hosted the event and Secretary Theresa Fear said the mood was upbeat, as was the humidity and the temperature.

"The aim of the expo was to ensure the Cooloola Coast residents were aware of the services available to them and the opportunities to make a connection with the community.

"We had about 300 people visiting the expo and another fifty people manning the exhibition tables and five event staff."

There were twenty-four exhibitors with information ranging from services for the whole community on social activities, health and rehab and local sports and community groups.

"The expo was free event thanks to the funding received from a grant from Queensland Seniors Month 2021 – Social Connections. The Council of the Ageing Queensland administer the grants, on behalf of the Queensland Government.

"We received great support from Gympie Regional Council and Cars 'n Coffee members provided a display of eighteen cars."

"There were six presentations in our 'Talk Tent' and while the numbers were low, those who attended the talks learnt a lot."

Kidz Biz and Barbara Rooks Family Day Care provided the welcome stand at the en-

trance to the expo.

"Kidz Biz had been to the retirement village the day before and the artwork created during this visit was on display."

"The Tin Can Bay Lions Club provided support during the event by collecting feedback and helping where needed."

"Gympie Volunteer First Aid Service was on site and thankfully was only needed once, by someone who had injured themselves before coming to the expo."

State member for Gympie, Tony Perrett, opened the event and said he was pleased to see the community taking the initiative with these types of events saying it all starts with the community.

The Cooloola Coast Bowls Club provided the venue and Theresa said Alan and Garry went to great lengths to support the event and to ensure the day was a success both on the day and in the lead up to it.

"The CCRAF members were fantastic from assisting with check-in, handing out goodie bags, promoting different activities, co-ordinating the talk tent, marshalling and co-ordinating the exhibition space; they all got in and got on with it.

"The event could not have been possible without the support and attendance of the fabulous exhibitors. We have some lessons to learn, but it was the first time we have ever attempted to organise this type of event or an event of this size."

Theresa said they needed to thank the Cooloola Coast community for their support.



The Cooloola Coast Ukulele Club were one of the clubs hosting a stall at the expo.



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Fishing

Cooloola Coast

Still time to enter whiting

By Lee McCarthy

We reckon the whiting are on fire at the moment just like our whiting competition.

In case you have missed the competition details here they are again.

The Gardiner 2021 Whiting championship consists of three separate divisions for competition: Open Adults, Open Juniors and three-person team division.

We re-introduced the Junior's division to ignite the fishing passion in the next generation of fishos.

We have also modified the team's division. Previously restricted to QLD amateur fishing clubs, this year any three people can register as a team with the aim of enticing all women teams to compete.

Once registered, anglers can fish at their leisure as often as they like between 1 August and Midday 20 November.

This provides a four-month duration which allows fishers to choose their favourite moon phase, weather conditions, and compete around work and family commitments.

Entrant's fishing in Open Junior and Adult divisions are only allowed to weigh in one whiting per day. For the Team division, all three team members must be present at weigh-in and only weigh one whiting per person per day for that division. Competitors in both team and open divisions can weigh in both divisions once per day but must use different fish.

Thanks to the absolute legends at Australian Marine Centre and Aquamaster Alloy Boats this year we're giving away a wicked Barra punt package as a lucky prize for one entrant in this year's Gardiner Fisheries Whiting Championship

Spanking brand new on a trailer with a cracking 4 stroke Mercury outboard, this little fishing weapon will be perfect for zipping around the straights chasing big whiting in the shallows.

To win all you have to do is enter and be at Gardiners in person for the draw! The odds are awesome, and you don't even have to catch a fish!

Also, thanks to our other amazing sponsors: Alvey Reels Australia; MJF Fishing Rods; Salty Gear Fishing Brand; In & Out Couriers; Australian Marine Centre; Aquamaster Alloy Boat

The competition is open to teams, adults, and juniors. To register in the Competition, just give us a call on 0404 853232 or drop into our shop

It's surprising to see just how strange fish behaviour is compared with previous years. This is our third annual Whiting Championship, and their behaviour is completely out of whack to that of the past competitions.



Die-hard junior fisho Sophie Carey with Dad and their catch.

Just when you think you've got them worked out something changes. I think it really rings true the saying that "fish are where you find them."

This week, on the back of the dark moon we've had an influx of quality fish weighed. The majority weighed have spawned and are skinny long fish or "whipped" as we say commercially. Fish 37-39cm have been the average.

Live worms have been the top bait to date both in the surf and in the estuary. It's also been awesome to see competitors have an open mind during this competition. Many competitors have come in to chat tactics and perhaps tried a new style of hook, introduced fluorocarbon into their rig for the first time or perhaps tried fishing different depths and for-

mations then their usual.... all have instantly improved their catch rates. Don't be set in your ways chasing these golden rockets, mix it up a little and have fun.

We've had another team weigh in and Team Brantz have bumped the all-ladies team "The Girls" into third with a three fish bag for 1.045 kg. Well done.

There's been lots of movement on the leader board in all divisions so keep an eye on it.

This year's Whiting Competition ends on 20 November so there are still heaps of time to nail a big elbow slapper.

Over the last two years of the whiting competition, all the heaviest winning fish have been caught in October and November. After taking note of lots of already spawned skin-

ny fish over the last few weeks we're seeing a steady increase in both length and weight in fish over the last full moon phase.

Die-hard junior 'fisho' Sophie Carey has her finger on the pulse and has been keeping track too.

Knowing there's only four weeks left to hunt down a big elbow slapper, Sophie and her father are putting the hammer down. Weighing in a solid healthy Sand whiting last week, they are obviously hunting in the right area.

Sophie jump-started herself on the board with 389g so now holds 2nd and 3rd spot in the junior's division.

We recommend as the quality improves this month, to keep an eye on the leader board updates.

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

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comp

That said, there is still heaps of time to enter and get into the Aquamaster Alloy Boats final draw.

One of our gun female anglers competing in this years whiting competition is Catherine Kirkwood who has travelled from Toowoomba to get amongst the action. Catherine is chasing whiting in the surf and she's now sitting in third position. With a solid whiting of 423g gilled and gutted she's also bumped the boaties back down the ladder and put the beach Fisho's back in the game. Awesome work Catherine.

'Team Sods' also moved the board in the team division over the weekend. Bumping the all-ladies team 'The Girls' from the board team Sods is now in 3rd position with a 3 fish bag for .662g. C'mon girls, there's plenty of time to get back into the fight.

On another note, reports are coming thick and fast about the tailor at Fraser they are on fire this year. I did a quick reconnaissance mission on the island a few days ago and the weed was there but very patchy. The bottom of the island looked extremely fishy with lots of good tailor, jew and big dart. From North Spit to just south of Dilli it's crystal clear and looks prime. Lots of low tide drains to chase whiting in also.

The bulk of the tailor at present are coming from approx. the Maheno to Indian with the boys from fisheries Research informing me the largest, best quality fish have all been recorded coming from the southern side of Indian head. Even though the weed is hanging around the tailor have been extremely thick. The humble 'pilly' have been working well dawn and dusk but the lure guys have been smashing them during the day. Try moving from gutter to gutter and spin the corners of the suck outs or any white water that's covering the bank behind the gutters.

Stop in on your way to the barge. We have a massive stock selection of fresh quality bait and a HUGE selection of stick baits, slugs, plugs and poppers to nail every type of fish on the island
One more for fun

When Harrys not fishing, he's fishing. Harry and his crew have been nailing some lovely jacks out of the local Rainbow Beach creek. Live bait such as herring or fresh as flesh baits have been doing the damage

If you haven't tried them, drop in and check out the Teflon coated DX series of hooks from Black Magic. These hooks in 3/0 & 4/0 are super strong yet reasonably thinner gauge than other varieties of live bait hooks. The Teflon coating is ridiculously slippery and combined with the DX point penetration is effortless.

For advice, information, supplies, bait, or a chat, just text or call the shop during business hours on 0404 853 232. Gardiner Fisheries, 1 Karoonda Rd, Rainbow Beach. your Fraser Island Specialists



Swarms of big cobia hanging around at the moment and Liam a kayak fisherman even had one slap his ski.



Meet Harry who has been grabbing some lovely jacks out of the local Rainbow Beach creek.



If you haven't already entered Gardiner Whiting Competition there is still time to beat these entrants.



Get into our shop to weigh you whiting in, you might win the major prize of a Barra Punt!.

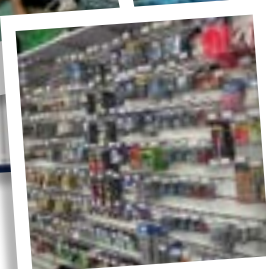
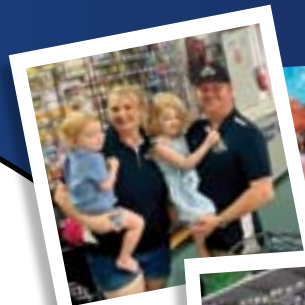
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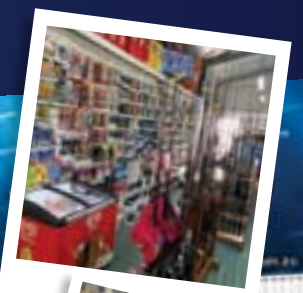
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Nippers shine at Rainbow

By Lee McCarthy

Congratulations to the Rainbow Beach Surf Club Nippers who competed in the Banjo Memorial Carnival at Rainbow Beach last weekend and all the volunteers who made it happen.

Competing for the local club were Hunter Eade and Lincolne Lahiff in under 10 boys, Emilie Dwine in under 11 girls, Kai Riehl-Posadowski in under 11 boys, Breanna Hoult, and Kaylee Mendham in under 12 girls, Jordan and Teil Gough for under 12 boys and Oliver Pratt and Bryce Hoult in the under 14 boys.

One of the clubs' volunteers, Caroline Velle said all of our region's nippers competed fiercely.

"Our under 10 boys, Lincolne and Hunter had a red hot go at their swim race for their first competition this year and Hunter did an excellent job in his board race in the early afternoon with challenging conditions with dumping waves.

"Emilie reached the semi-finals in her sprint race with a huge effort! She also finished with the pack in a surf race.

"Kai got a great wave to finish off his board race, he also showcased his skills in sprint and surf races.

"Breanna and Kirra participated in the under 12 girls' events, with Breanna reaching semi-finals for her sprint and finals for her board race. It was Kaylee first ever carnival and she give it all.

"Our under 12 boys Jordan and Teil Gough were also participating in their first carnival, and got into it in flags, sprint, surf, and board races.



Bryce Hoult representing Rainbow Beach in flags at the carnival.

Picture: JULIE PRATT

"Our under 14 boys Oliver and Bryce were quick on the sand as usual, with Oliver finishing 5th in the final of the sprint race! A great achievement in an extremely competitive field of nippers from the Sunshine Coast Clubs! Oliver was able to give our club points in the carnival.

"Bryce also competed in the board race with the cream of the Sunshine Coast under 14 boys!

"Natalie Hoult was our team manager and ensured our nippers were on time for their races. The Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club members made sure the day runs smoothly.

So much work and time goes into this event which is one of the biggest nippers' competitions in Queensland!"

Julie Pratt supplied all the photographs of the day and as this is her final year as a Nipper mum, her volunteer hours will be greatly missed.

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Member of the Rainbow Beach RSL were on hand to look after the barbeque; Greg Walker, Jeff Sutton, Trevor Ansell and John Molkentien.
Pictures: JULIE PRATT



Under 12 boys and girls, from left, Teal Gough, Breanna Hoult, Kaylee Mendham and Jordan Gough.



Our Rainbow Beach competitors did us proud at the Nippers Carnival last weekend.



Breanna Hoult after her board event.



Breanna Hoult getting her flag.



Teil Gough almost at his flag.



Emilie Dwine, Under 11 Girls.



Jordan Gough racing for his flag.



Under 14 Oliver Pratt diving for flags.

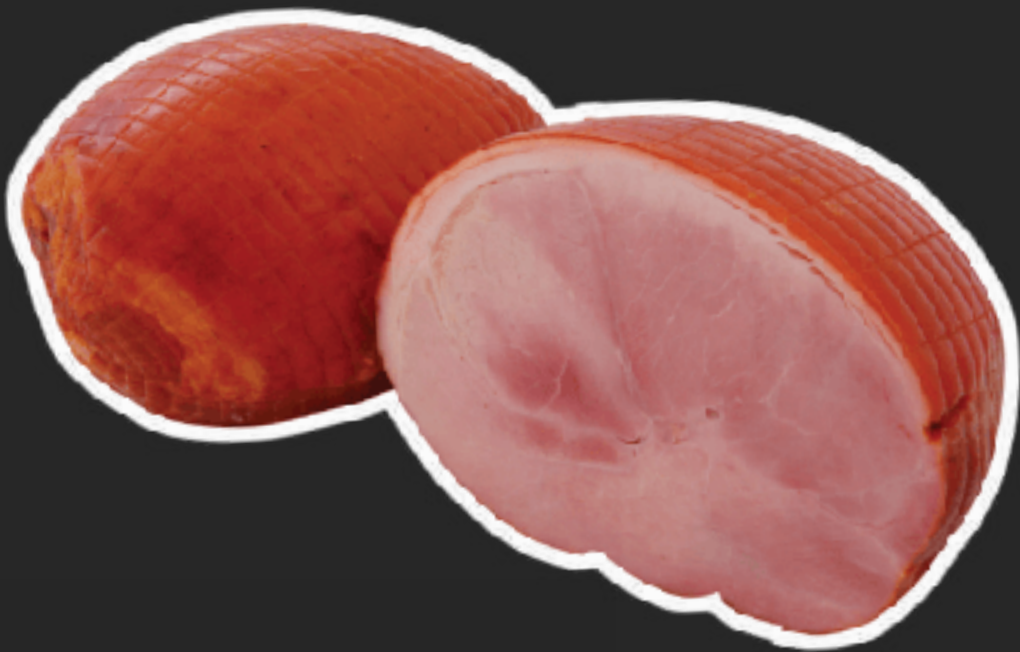


Oliver Pratt (number seven) in his sprint final. Oliver finished fifth overall!

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