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Boost for the ladies
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Honouring the fallen
PAGES 14-15

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Small Halls... big night

Andrea Kirwin and Clare Evelyn were joined by Tullara and local musician Aido Van De Vorst at the Festival of Small Halls, Summer Tour 2021. The much-loved performers

stopped into the Rainbow Beach Community Hall on their Queensland music tour last week as part of a 20-stop tour schedule.

STORY AND MORE PHOTOS PAGE 12

For the last three songs, Andrea was joined by fiancé Claire Evelyn, Celtic Harpist and it was a performance the audience will never forget.

Gastro gone

Queensland Health (QH) declared an outbreak of gastroenteritis at Inskip Point two weeks ago, and said they were continuing to work closely with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) to reduce the risks and impacts on campers.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) announced camping numbers at campgrounds had been reduced to mitigate the spread of gastro.

Extra rangers were rostered on to provide additional campground services and advice where needed to ensure the health and well-being of campers and were keeping a close eye on the situation and constantly reviewing the outbreak as information came to hand.

"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 is for campers is to bring their own and be self-sufficient," they said.

STORY PAGE 6

No Entry!

There is an area north of the flags at Rainbow Beach, where residents and visitors can walk and swim knowing they are safe from speeding four-wheel drives.

It is the area that extends from the flags north to the access point for four-wheel drives heading to or from Inskip Point.

The stretch of beach is in front of the homes in Rainbow Shores and many residents and tourists, use that beach for their swimming and recreation because there are no cars.

Because there is little to alert drivers to the rules, they speed through some of the time in ignorance, but according to locals, lately there have been a spate of drivers intentionally flaunting the rules putting people in danger.

STORY PAGE 2

Jet ski menace

Locals and tourists watched nervously last weekend as a line of Thundercat's and jet skis made their way along the beach from Rainbow Beach to Double Island Point.

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ends with families set up with their marquees and boards to enjoy safe family time and to enjoy nature as it was intended. The area closest to the point is used by surfers who are there to catch the longest wave in Australia and usually

have a great love of the ocean and nature.

Unfortunately, again, the personal watercraft users chose the lagoon and according to witnesses showed no regard for anyone else in the area and complaints were many.

They said they were racing, showering people on the shore, roaring past boats at high speed who were parked in the lagoon and took the photos to prove it.

STORY PAGE 3

RAINBOW BEACH HORSE RIDES

The awards speak for themselves

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The editor's desk

Getting there alive

We may call it post-pandemic demand, but traffic volumes to and from the Cooloola Coast are through the roof most weekends.

Good for business, but hard on infrastructure, our roads are increasingly crowded with tens of thousands of vehicle-visitors every year.

Despite lower numbers of international backpackers during the pandemic, drive tourism from the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane has boomed at Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach. Roads seem always to be battling to keep up.

As we saw with the old Bruce Highway, before the four-lane motorway reached up from Cooroy to Gympie, even well built roads can be dangerous and unforgiving as traffic volumes grow.

Roads to and from our Coast are getting crowded, fast and busy. As the peak Christmas season looms, this means they are also getting dangerous. It may be true that drivers and not roads are to blame ,but we all make mistakes.

Unforgiving roads mean even minor errors can be fatal.

And we all know it does not have to be your carelessness that causes the crash.

At highway speeds, even a crash 200m ahead can be fatal if you don't have room to stop. And as many have pointed out, it is not only deaths that count. Serious injury and sometimes permanent disability constitute the hidden road toll.

It is all a risk which should be minimised, especially in a state which trades on family tourism. Work on Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach Roads is welcome and necessary, perhaps even overdue.



- Arthur Gorrie



Cars continue to drive through the No Vehicle Access area between the beach flags and the beach entrance for four wheel drive.

Picture: RACHEL MAREE

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No Entry!

By Lee McCarthy

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It is the area that extends from the flags north to the access point for four-wheel drives heading to or from Inskip Point.

The stretch of beach is in front of the homes in Rainbow Shores and many residents and tourists, use that beach for their swimming and recreation because there are no cars.

Because there is little to alert drivers to the rules, they speed through some of the time in ignorance, but according to locals, lately there have been a spate of drivers intentionally flaunting the rules putting people in danger.

This photo by Rachel Maree, shows the area in question and two vehicles driving along the No Entry area north from the flagged area.

Rachel said, "They were travelling at 60kmh at least, flying between beach goers and their

pets all the way down the beach to the patrolled swimming area, and then back up."

President of the Rainbow Beach Community Centre, Elisa Seul, is also a mother and resident of Rainbow Shores has shared her concerns with us and with council regarding drivers not taking the exit when driving from Inskip Point, and driving either intentionally or unintentionally, on the Rainbow Shores section of the beach.

"It used to be a once in a blue moon mistake, but now it's becoming normality, every weekend. I do not need to explain to you the dangers this is causing."

"I was told years ago the only person with the permit for the Rainbow Shores section, were emergency vehicles and surf lifesavers."

She said some drivers use it as a shortcut on their way from Double Island Point heading north speeding to catch the barge and the reason it is so dangerous is because people walking here are not aware that they must check for vehicles.

Elisa said when she was contacted by Council, they said it is, "a police matter under road control and council does not want to put up another sign on the beach."

According to Elisa, the police said: "We can't constantly patrol that section, talk to council. As this is not a Type 1 offence there is no way to force the registered owner to nominate a driver, therefore, establishing the identity is the only way to proceed."

"The issue of vehicles using that section of beach is a common complaint. We are aware of the issue and police from Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach are often in the area. We rarely drive through as it is easily managed visually from either end. Feel free to contact the council and inform them that the signage may not be adequate."

She said she was frustrated on how to move forward, "as usual nobody cares, and it is a game of buck passing until something bad happens."

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Thundercats and Jet Ski's racing in the Double Island Point lagoon last weekend



Locals took photographs of boats and ski's racing in the lagoon



Locals and visitors were shocked last weekend with how close these jet ski's and thundercats were to boats and swimmers

Anger at water hooners

By Lee McCarthy

Locals and tourists watched nervously last weekend as a line of Thundercat's and jet skis made their way along the beach from Rainbow Beach to Double Island Point.

The lagoon area is heavily used on weekends with families set up with their marquees and boards to enjoy safe family time and to enjoy nature as it was intended.

The area closest to the point is used by surfers who are there to catch the longest wave in Australia and usually have a great love of the ocean and nature.

Unfortunately, again, the personal watercraft users chose the lagoon and according to witnesses showed no regard for anyone else in the area and complaints were many.

They said they were racing, showering people on the shore, roaring past boats at high speed who were parked in the lagoon and took the photos to prove it.

Last month, one of the boat owners moored in the lagoon, who has since left the area, sent a complaint to Meaghan Scanlon MP in the hope of drawing attention an "unacceptable and ongoing issue at Double Island Point in the Cooloola Recreation area of the Great Sandy National Park."

"Being a nearby resident and very regular visitor to this area it is extremely disappointing to witness the constant lack of policing of laws and regulations in this once pristine environment."

She said correctly that the "water area around Double Island Point is designated a 'go slow' area where boats and watercraft are required to operate 'off the plane'".

"Unfortunately, this is not being regularly policed by police, rangers or water police. The number of jet skis operating at speed in the lagoon and in the surfing areas is frightening. Not only are they a danger to surfers, swimmers, and children but also to marine life."

She said there had been an increased number of dead turtles discovered lately, many with damaged and cuts on their shells which was reported in the last issue of Cooloola Coast Today.

"On the very rare occasions that a (very identifiable) water police boat does visit, the jet ski riders see it coming, cease speeding but immediately resume once the police boat leaves."



Photos by locals of jet ski's behaving badly

She suggested leaving the whole area a 'go slow' for boats and making it off limits to personal watercraft like other marine zones "where Jet skis are not permitted within 400 metres of the low water mark."

According to the Queensland Government Maritime Safety Queensland personal watercraft users should avoid operating personal watercraft in a manner that could cause nuisance, noise, or danger to people in the area.

"Consider the environment and peace of others who use or live by the water."

The rules are clear:

The following distances must be maintained or reduce speed to 6 knots (=11 km/h approx.) within:

- 60 metres from people in the water
- 60 metres from anchored or moored boats, boat ramps, jetties, or pontoons
- 60 metres from shore
- 60 metres from the boundary of a bathing reserve

The local police visited the area on Saturday and said the only offence was one jet ski rider

towing kids without an observer.

Local resident Summer Stuczyk who surfs at the point said she was pushing to make people more aware of the Go-Slow Area around Double Island Point which means no wash, no more than 6 knots.

"The reason they have this Go-Slow Area, is because of the flourishing population of marine life that travels through and lives in these waters."

"Every day we see an abundance of sea turtles, rays, and dolphins, and in the season, whales. And every day, we also see watercraft ripping through at full speed in the same place we've just seen all these animals."

She said she believes a lot of people are not deliberately disobeying the rules but are just uneducated and with only one sign displaying the zones and laws, it is easy to miss.

Maritime Safety said high-speed manoeuvres such as wake-jumping, donuts, figure 8's and 360's are examples of freestyling. Always be aware of other water users and find a place away from populated beaches and residential areas.



Jet Ski rules are in place to save people from harm

The photographer for these shots said they feel it is necessary to send their complaints further afield to get any action.

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Wide centreline treatment on Tin Can Bay Rdd.

Pledge to fix road

By Arthur Gorrie

The state government has allocated \$300,000 to be spent over the next 18 months to investigate potential overtaking lane locations on Tin Can Bay Rd, Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey said this week.

Mr Bailey this followed a call by 12,148 petitioners for safety improvements along Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach Rds.

The petition called for urgent action “to provide a proper and safe passage for residents and tourists.”

He said the government had already al-

located \$23 million for safety improvements, many already built, between 2007 and 2021.

This included \$700,000 for the wide centreline treatment already installed over much of the length of Tin Can Bay Rd.

Intersection improvements are due for completion in mid-next year at the Tin Can Bay-Kin Kin Rds intersection, with extended turning lanes and guardrail and signage improvements.

Also due for completion in mid-2022 is a mid-block pedestrian refuge on Rainbow Beach Rd at Rainbow Beach, between Double Island Dve and Cypress Ave and a \$278,000

project to upgrade the intersection of Tin Can Bay Rd with the Maryborough-Cooloola Rd.

An earlier upgrade at the same intersection was completed last year.

Mr Bailey also cited the \$18 million Coondoo Creek bridge replacement project, officially opened in November last year, jointly funded with the Australian Government contributing \$5 million and the Queensland Government \$13 million.

“TMR records indicate there have been four fatal crashes on Tin Can Bay Rd between 2011 and 2019 and 13 for the 18-year reporting period between 2001 and 2019,” he said.

Chamber members get insight into region

By Lee McCarthy

The Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism this week invited Director of Regional Development, Scott Rowe, to be guest speaker at their November meeting.

The monthly meetings are a chance for business owners to catch up outside their businesses and discuss commonalities at a difficult time for tourism operators.

Held at the Rainbow Beach Sports Club with over 35 business owners and staff attending, the event was also a chance for local businesses to learn what is in store for the region and how to leverage opportunities.

Scott has been guest speaker at the Gympie Chamber of Commerce on several occasions and has a wealth of knowledge after seven years with Regional Development.

Prior to taking on the role, Scott held senior managerial positions with regional media

companies across Queensland over 25 years.

He was an award-winning journalist and former newspaper editor plus Enterprise Manager of Fraser Coast Opportunities before joining Regional Development Australia Wide Bay Burnett in October 2014.

Scott has lived and worked in the Wide Bay Burnett for more than a decade and boasts strong community networks. He has a strong understanding of the region's opportunities and challenges and holds positions on business boards, sporting clubs and community organisations.

This will be Scott's last hurrah with the organisation as he has accepted a position with NBN in the Wide Bay after seven years with Regional Development.

With Scott's wealth of knowledge of the region and his interaction with all levels of Government, businesses gained a lot of insight from the event.



Director of Regional Development, Scott Rowe, was guest speaker at the Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism November meeting.



The Tin Can Bay foreshore.

Walkway win for Bay

By Arthur Gorrie

Gympie Regional Council is on track to finish the long-running pedestrian/bicycle path plan for the Tin Can Bay foreshore from Crab Creek to Norman Point, thanks to a grant from the Building our Regions fund.

The council has voted to accept a tender quote of \$1,099,190.40 from Roman Contractors, for the final stages of the project, from Cod Street to Norman Point.

The project will complete the walkway at shared pathway standard, a spokesperson said.

Next step is a shared concrete pathway from Oyster Parade to Cod St, with the boardwalk running from there.

Tender specifications required the successful tenderer to be experienced in vegetation clearing, elevated boardwalk construction and concrete works.

A council spokesperson said this would resolve a hiccup in the process, after the original tenderer, Basalt Constructions Pty Ltd, asked to be released from its \$921,384 tender, after finding itself overloaded with successful contract offers.

The council had been advised that the best way forward was to negotiate with other shortlisted tenderers, the spokesperson said.

The alternative offer from Roman Contractors Pty Ltd was the lowest.

The advice leading to this process came from a procurement panel, established in line with a decision in February to move from a reactive process of responding to specific project needs to a more strategic approach, allowing the council to adopt an overview of its needs and to call tenders in line with an overall plan.

The shared foreshore pathway plan has been a popular improvement for walkers and cyclists.

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A boost for the ladies

By Lee McCarthy

Ladies Day 2022 Rainbow Beach now has a major sponsor thanks to Michelle Agnew from Century 21 Platinum Agents.

The event is on next year on the weekend of 5 March to coincide with International Women's Day and is the second 'Ladies Day' event held at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall.

The 2020 event was an enormous success featuring a stunning fashion parade including Jody Copley couture, professional models, high quality speakers, home-made products, wine, cheese and cake, and special guest was Alison Baden-Clays sister, Vanessa Fowler who is Chair of the Board of Directors, The Allison Baden-Clay Foundation.

Michelle has been an agent at Billy Mitchell's successful Century 21- Platinum Agents team based in Gympie and the Cooloola Coast for four years and her focus has been Rainbow Beach.

She said she wanted to sponsor the 2022 Ladies Day event because she wants to give back after a remarkable year in real estate, wants to support 'local' and is happy to know part of the profit will be given to a local charity.

While Michelle has had much success selling in Rainbow Beach, she also sells throughout the Gympie region.

She said her drive comes from meeting the needs of the people she is looking after and helping them find their next home.

"My biggest highlight in Rainbow Beach has been the sale of Surfside for \$3.65 million because it was such a big proposition, and it was just such a no fuss deal. The buyers were great. They were so easy to deal with and it was a pleasure to look after them."

"The other thrill I get, is I feel I have helped a lot of people who have been long term Rainbow Beach residents who have unfortunately had to move out of the area. I think I have tried to understand them and have helped them move to



President of the Community Centre Elisa Seul, with Ladies Day Organiser Lee McCarthy and major sponsor Michelle Agnew, Century 21 Platinum Agents.

their next chapter."

She said it was funny as it has involved cleaning and selling furniture for her vendors but said she likes to be part of the solution and do what needs doing.

With the future of real estate Michelle said, "we still have high demand so now is still a perfect time to sell to get a premium price, however I don't see prices going backwards like they are did after the 2007/8 boom."

"If you are thinking of relocating the one thing in our favour now, is that property is still in high demand which is the one thing we can't predict. That is why we are getting multi offers on properties. When the demand slows, we may not get that premium, we may not get multi of-

fers which pushes the price up for the vendor."

"We can't foresee what someone outside the region is willing to pay but I think the prices will stay but we won't have the frantic demand."

"I'm not doing auctions, because we are getting a lot of out-of-town buyers and not everyone can drive up to be a part of an auction. Our buyers know what price bracket they are in and that means that is a starting point to make sure we get the most for our sellers."

"We now have a lot of interstate buyers and that is what is driving demand as they live in higher price point areas and selling at \$900,000 and buying for \$600,000 which they can easily afford."

She said agents were hearing many com-

plaints about pushing the prices up but said that was not under an agents' control. "If you are a seller, and we are working for the vendor, we get the best we can as openly and honestly as we can."

Michelle thinks Rainbow Beach is fantastic. "It's a dead-end road so you are only going there if you want to be there. I think it's perfect. I love being there because my grandchildren go to school at Rainbow, and I like to be part of their community even though I live between the coast and Gympie."

Organisers are excited about Ladies Day 22 and while a little different in format, it will appeal to all women aged 25 to 95 and women will leave the event proud to have been a part of it.

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No more Inskip gastro?

By Lee McCarthy

Queensland Health (QH) declared an outbreak of gastroenteritis at Inskip Point two weeks ago, and said they were continuing to work closely with Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) to reduce the risks and impacts on campers.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) announced camping numbers at campgrounds had been reduced to mitigate the spread of gastro.

Extra rangers were rostered on to provide additional campground services and advice where needed to ensure the health and well-being of campers and were keeping a close eye on the situation and constantly reviewing the outbreak as information came to hand.

“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 is for campers is to bring their own and be self-sufficient,” they said.

There was plenty of negative publicity around the region, particularly on social media and many theories of its origins.

While Queensland Heath and QPWS continue to believe it is dependent on the persons cleanliness habits, the only campers affected who stayed at the Natone during the outbreak seem to be those who used the toilet blocks.

We were told by one camper she took in her own anti-bacterial to clean the toilet seat, washed her hands thoroughly with soap, and then sanitised them and still had an attack.

Others next door who were self-sufficient, had no symptoms even though the two groups were friends and camped next door to each other. A council spokesperson said they acknowledged the issues at Inskip Point in relation to the gastro cases and are supporting the State Government agencies in this space. They advise visitors to the area to practice extra hygiene measures to limit the chance of sickness.”



Camping at Inskip Point seems to have returned to normal after a quick response and a deep clean

giene measures to limit the chance of sickness.”

During the outbreak, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) continued to engage with Queensland Health, both the Environment and Science divisions of DES and the Gympie Regional Council.

The virus is passed from hand to mouth and extremely contagious.


QPWS said their approach to solving this situation is to base their decisions on science and clear direction from Queensland Health.

Campers are being reminded to:

- Maintain safe physical distancing
- Maintain the highest standards of personal hygiene
- Washing hands frequently with soap and wa-


ter particularly after toilet visits and before preparing food or eating.

- Bring your own water supply, soap, hand sanitiser, and if possible, bring your own portable toilet
- Make sure you always have a face mask and wear it if you can't maintain social distancing measures



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Watch out for turtles

By Lee McCarthy

The Department of Environment and Science have issued an alert for Inskip Point and the Cooloola Recreation Area for marine turtles breeding season.

The alert is in place from 1 November to 30 April when turtles cross the beach to lay their eggs and the turtle hatchlings then make their way back to the water.

They have asked motorists and visitors to the beach areas in these areas particularly to look out for turtles and hatchlings while driving on the beach.

“Motorists should slow down, stop well back and wait for the turtles to reach the ocean or the dunes.

“Avoid driving on the beach at night if possible as this is when turtles will lay their eggs and hatchlings are most likely to be emerging.

They said at night, artificial lights can affect a turtle's ability to see the natural horizon and hatchlings can easily become disoriented, veer from their natural path and head towards the artificial light.

Driving over vegetated dunes is dangerous and prohibited and “on-the-spot fines may apply to visitors disturbing turtle hatchlings or turtle nests.”

According to Cooloola Coastcare who help with coastal rescues of marine turtles, if you have found an injured turtle on Cooloola Coast only

(Inskip Point, Rainbow Beach, Teewah Beach you can call Cooloola Coastcare on 0407 810 510.


For turtle and other marine wildlife stranding out of this area call RSPCA Qld on 1300 ANIMAL (1300 264 625)

For all other animal rescues, the rescue numbers are listed on the website www.cooloolacoastcare.org.au/animal-rescues

Beware of mother and baby turtles who are laying their eggs in the dunes at this time of the year. Picture: COOLOOLA COASTCARE



One of the newly hatched turtles making its way to the water





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84 year old Bill Neal of Tin Can Bay has made many wooden toys for the Rainbow Beach Droughtrunners to take out west for Christmas gift.



Thanks to people like Bev Yeoman of Rainbow Beach who donated four boxes of wrapped gifts for Tony Stewart to take out to families in Winton.

Christmas spirit is alive

By Lee McCarthy

Due to the generosity of the Cooloola Coast community and the work of the Rainbow Beach Drought Runners, people in western Queensland will have gifts to open Christmas morning.

Tony Stewart runs the charity and is based in Rainbow Beach and has been collecting donations and taking supplies, money and necessities out to the western communities for over five years.

While there have been good falls of rain out west, it is still going to be a couple of years be-

fore they get back on their feet again.

Tony said their next trip is their annual Christmas run to Winton in time for the town's street parade and festival.

"I was contacted by Council Family Support in Winton because this is one area still suffering from lack of moisture," Tony said.

"It is a huge area out there which includes Boulia, Middleton, Caulfield to Thargomindah and back towards Longreach. Boulia cracked a storm but in that area it has been patchy."

Tony wanted to thank everyone in the community for being wonderful supporters of the Drought Runners over many years.

"Bill Neal of Tin Can Bay has again made many wooden toys for our Christmas run. Bill is 84 years young and what a great effort."

"Bev Yeoman of Rainbow Beach has again donated four large boxes of Christmas presents all beautifully wrapped and named."

He said morale is low out west of Longreach, Winton, Boulia, and the Thargomindah area "where they have had dust storms and 'roos dropping like flies."

While he said the hampers are now all packed, they are still taking Christmas cakes and puddings as well as any presents marked with boy/girl and the age.

He will also be taking out ten \$100 IGA vouchers which can be redeemed in Longreach and twenty \$100 VISA cards that can be used on farms for fuel.

Tony wanted to thank everyone for their support which allows Drought Runners to provide this service to the people who need it out west.

If you would like to make a donation to help our western neighbours, Rainbow Beach Drought Runners banking details are Bank of Queensland Gympie; BSB 124047; A/C 22599186.



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Top 50 honour for agent

By Lee McCarthy

One of our local Real Estate superstars, Paul Downman of Century 21, received a huge accolade this week, being recognised by the Real Estate Business (REB) as one of the nation's top 50 dealmakers for 2021.

Based in the Century 21 Tin Can Bay office, Paul said REB's Dealmaker ranking recognises the consistent achievements of agents year on year. This is a nationwide ranking revealing the most consistent performers in Australian real estate across the financial year.

Paul said: "I would like to thank all my clients, past and present, for allowing me to be recognised for this industry award."

"This award is a true testament and credit of the hard work and dedication that has gone into every deal during the last year. Being a Cooloola Coast local, I love the community I live in, and I strive to show everyone else how amazing it can be for them too."

REB said the agents who made the cut in 2021 have proven consistent efforts to keep business – an especially impressive talent given the hardships that hampered much of the profession, thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Those named have successfully navigated challenges over the financial year to achieve individual success, while at the same time setting a new benchmark for consistency that others within the industry can see, and therefore aspire to."

The ranking was open for submissions from 20 September to 8 October 2021 with entrants giving figures from their settled residential sales across 2020 and 2021. Agents were ranked according to specific metrics, including volume of deals in the 2020/2021 financial year, growth of number of sales year-on-year, and consistency of sales month on month.

Principal of Century 21 Platinum Agents Gympie and the Cooloola Coast, Billy Mitch-

ell couldn't heap enough praise on Paul saying what an awesome achievement it was and a credit to Paul's work within not only the real estate industry but also the community of the Cooloola Coast.

"When we launched Century 21 on the coast in 2015, we would never have imagined the growth the region has seen over the past two years."

"Paul has had a big hand in the growth of the company. He is heavily involved in the Tin Can Bay Golf Club, the Tin Can Bay Bowls Club plus he is a local fisherman and very involved in the community. He knows the area and it's no wonder people like to talk to him and do business with him."

Momentum Intelligence research strategist Oliver Stofka said this year's findings reflect the unprecedented market boom-time conditions seen across the country.

"Across the whole suite of REB agent rankings, we have seen unprecedented figures and the REB Dealmakers is yet another addition to this."

"The REB Dealmakers ranking does not take into account the sale prices of properties, only the number of properties settled, and we are still seeing record numbers. This is showing that there is not only a boom in house prices but general demand for housing is like nothing we have seen for a long time."

After the uncertainty of last year, and a rollercoaster full of highs and lows it is a credit to Paul to have won this prestigious award.

Congratulations Paul Downman on being recognised as one of the Top 50 National Dealmakers in the Country!



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Kendall Morton
Director



Praise for SES open day

By Lee McCarthy

The new emergency services facility which opened in Rainbow Beach last month held an open day for residents this week to show off the \$2.5 million facility.

Local resident Kaye Chapman, who took advantage of the opportunity, said it was a great day and a great facility for the region and the staff of SES and the fire department were very professional.

She said, "I just wish there was a full police station in the facility or close by as we really need a proper police station too. The town is getting bigger, and we need the police here operating 24 hours a day with so much happening."

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.

Commissioner Leach who was at the opening of the new facility last month said it 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.



Mascots, a barbeque and a tour of the new facility was a hit with guests.

"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 said last month: "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."



Open day for new Fire SES facility in Rainbow Beach.

Council bashes the bush

Known to out-compete and eliminate native flora along coastal dunes, the Bitou Bush is an invasive weed that was on council's hit list as part of a five-day blitz at Rainbow Beach and Inskip Point earlier last month.

Council teamed up with officers from Biosecurity Queensland, Queensland National Parks and HQ Plantations as part of the biannual Bitou Bush Bash to find, track and treat the invasive weed along the region's dunes and cliffs.

Division 1 Councillor, Jess Milne, said that Bitou Bush is an extremely invasive plant that, left unchecked, would take over our coastal dunes.

"This invasive pest weed is so bad that it is one of the few weeds where sightings must be reported to Biosecurity Queensland with-

in 24 hours," said Cr Milne.

"We cannot risk this weed taking hold and getting out of control."

Originating from southern Africa, this weed can be found in the Wide Bay area and in isolated spots on the Noosa headland, on North and South Stradbroke Island, Moreton Island and southern Moreton Bay Islands, as well as scattered along the Gold Coast beach strip.

"We know that this weed produces up to 50,000 seeds per plant per year and the seeds remain viable for at least two years, so it can easily get out of control," said Cr Milne.

"We are so appreciative of joint initiatives like these that help us to not only deal with the problem but also provide ongoing monitoring and support."



Known to out-compete and eliminate native flora along coastal dunes, the Bitou Bush is an invasive weed that was on council's hit list as part of a five-day blitz at Rainbow Beach and Inskip Point earlier this month.

Ready for twilight concert

The Cooloola Community Orchestra has been warming up and is almost ready for its Twilight Melodies Concert.

The concert has been a labour of love to the orchestra members who have been rosinning their bows and polishing their brass especially for the concert.

A ticketed event, the concert will be held in the sound shell at the Nelson Reserve on Saturday 20 November at 6.30pm.

Tickets are available at the gate for \$5 per person, and attendees are requested to bring their own chairs or blankets.

For more information head to the Facebook page at Cooloola Community Orchestra.

The Cooloola Community Orchestra will be performing a concert entitled Twilight Melodies tomorrow night at the Nelson Reserve.



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Local musician Arwen Van de Vorst opened the show with spine tingling raw sound.



Magnificent Tullara was energetic, and a pure and absolute delight at the Rainbow Beach Festival of Small Halls.



Main act Andrea Kirwin was a showstopper and the audience loved her Tracy Chapman sound.

Oh what a night!

By Lee McCarthy

For the fourth year, the Festival of Small Halls brought their talent and crew to perform at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall.

Thanks to the work by volunteers Elisa, Kelly, Maree, Lyn, Scott, Elaine, Phil, Chris, Neil, Murray, Ze, Gina and Lee who all rolled up their sleeves to help make the night the success it was.

Coffee and Hot Chocolate were in demand from Brooke and her retro coffee cart and sweets by Martine Lokan again were lapped up with people going back for seconds and thirds.

Festival of Small Halls Australia was created specifically to reach out into regions that might not see a lot of touring artists.

Tour producer Eleanor Rigden said the artists on this tour had blown audiences away in some of Australia's largest festivals, but they're also just wonderful people.

The show was presented by veteran festival producers Woodfordia Inc who have established the Festival of Small Halls as a high-quality tour on the Australian scene and internationally.

The Summer Tour 2021 was opened by local musician Aido Van de Vorst who was a sensation with his warm rustic voice and superb guitar skills and set the scene for the night.

Next up was Tullara who said: "After such a rough 16 months of not being able to properly do what I love - which is tour Australia playing music - I am bouncing out of my skin with excitement."

Well, she sure did play, and the crowd were thrilled not just with her talent or her truly delightful stage presence but her connection to everyone in the room. She really did have a finger tapping, guitar playing wizardry and alluring and powerful voice.

The main act for the night was Andrea Kirwin who said how she had been trying to be included on a Small Halls tour for years and it is her "dream gig".

"I love playing in character buildings and to be invited to tour my home state of Queensland during this time is a really special opportunity."

Andrea has a smooth soulful sound like Tracy Chapman and does perform Tracy Chapman tribute shows and delighted the crowd with her rendition of Fast Car.

With a strong connection to the audience and putting everything into her performance she was rewarded with strong applause and a demand for an encore.

Andrea was joined on stage by her fiancé Claire Evelyn on Celtic Harp and together they were mesmerising.

Guests said they felt a real sense of community at the event and felt it was an honour to be there.

You can catch the festival on their way back down the Queensland coast.



Aido Van de Vorst, Andrea Kirwin, Claire Evelyn, Elisa Seul, Tullara, and tour manager Kate Atkinson.



No show without volunteers - Kelly Smith looked after the bar while Martin Lokan create sweet masterpieces.



Ze looked after the guests with style and a smile.



Tea, Coffee, Chai with Arwen, Brooke and Tina.



The setting was perfect for a small hall concert typical of days gone by.



Roberta Muzzarelli from Rainbow Naturals showing her natural products to Sue Fitzgerald and Cherie Mason.



Gympie man Rene with his exotic olives he flavours himself - try the sun dried tomato and fetta green olives...



Manning the BBQ for the markets were volunteers for the School P & C, Clay, Trevor and Nikkita.

Sensational day for market

By Lee McCarthy

While surfers and water enthusiasts proclaimed Saturday as the best beach conditions of the whole year, market goers said the strawberries were better.

A great crowd came along getting their goodies for Christmas at the Community Hall and the variety of home-made crafts were a credit to organisers.

Freshly picked strawberries, blueberries and pineapples, marinated olives, local honey, homemade clothing, paintings, candles, leather work and gifts galore scattered the green and inside the Community Hall.

It was a great success with most content to start the day with one of Brooke's famous coffees accompanied one of Martine's sweet treats – also famous.



Adam from Aussie Timber Products came from Maryborough to show off his stunning timber products.



Ray and Dawn King having been selling their house made leather products for years. All proceeds from the sales go to Multiple Sclerosis and Cancer. They have donated nearly \$25,000 over the past five years.

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3rd Sunshine Mitre 10 voucher Valued at \$300.00

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We will remember them

By Lee McCarthy

A well-attended and respectful audience enjoyed the Rainbow Beach Remembrance Day service with a guest from RAAF Amberley joining local returned service members and guests. President of the Rainbow Beach RSL Sub-branch, Greg Walker, welcomed guests in his usual professional manner mixed with a dose of good humour.

His wife Wendy orchestrated the sound and music without a hitch as she does every service beginning with the song Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines, to honour the RAAF 100-year anniversary.

Laying wreaths were for Rainbow Beach RSL Sub Branch, John Molkentien; Royal Australian Navy, Pat Nayler OAM; Australian Army, David Collins; Royal Australian Air Force, WGCdr Justin Cockcroft CSM and Jeff Sutton; Young Veterans, Ming Roberts; Open Arms, Veterans and Families Counselling, Benjamin Smith and James Overall, Gympie Regional Council, Councillor Dolly Jensen; Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club, John Greaney; Rainbow Beach State School, School Captains James Bergin and Teil Gough, Pam Dorman for the Late Rev Dorman; Peace Keepers and United Nations, Jeff Mulhall.

Royal Australian Air Force, WGCdr Justin Cockcroft CSM from RAAF Amberley said he was honoured to attend the service and celebrate the Air Force Centenary and has allowed us to publish his speech below.

“On this, the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month we gather to remember those who served in World War I, the Great War; one of the bloodiest wars in history, with some 40 million military and civilian casualties.”

“From a population of less than five million, almost 417,000 Australians served during the Great War. Of those, 330,000 served overseas; 62,000 died; and 156,000 were gassed, wounded, or taken prisoner. To our modern society, the scale of death, casualties, and suffering caused by the Great War is incomprehensible.”

“On Anzac Day, Australians reflect on our nationally defining moment at Gallipoli. Less attention is paid to the Australians who fought on the dreadful battlefields of the Western Front, which 103 years ago grew silent of gunfire with the signing of the Armistice.”

“The Western Front ran for 760 kilometres, from the English Channel to the French-Swiss border. Along its length, barbed wire, trenches, mud, and shattered villages despoiled the beautiful rolling countryside with its fields of poppies. Armies had fought over this ground for centuries, but the ghastly conditions endured by the combatants of World War I elevated the horror of attrition warfare to a new level of destruction. On the Western Front, the waste of human life was so terrible that some said victory was scarcely discernible from defeat.

“The Great War was the first time that the air domain became part of the battlefield. From enthusiastic amateurs in flimsy, hand-built aircraft in 1914, by 1918 the sky was filled with mass-produced, purpose-built aircraft, flown by experienced combat aviators. Among this crowded sky were units of the Australian Flying Corps, with Australia fielding eight squadrons overseas.”

“With No 1 Squadron serving in the Middle East, Number 2, 3, & 4 Fighter Squadrons



A stunning day with a stunning backdrop to remember those who served for their country

were on the Western Front, and a further four training squadrons operated from the United Kingdom. Australian squadrons distinguished themselves in all aspects of flying operations: reconnaissance, bombing, artillery observation, ground attack, offensive patrolling, and the emerging capability of battlefield resupply.

“Australian airmen also earned a reputation for skill, resourcefulness and determination. 800 officers and 2,840 men served in the Australian Flying Corps and 175 lost their lives. Many Australian Flying Corps veterans helped to lay the groundwork for the future Royal Australian Air Force, and after the war others would enter industry to make significant contributions to civil aviation.

“As well as the Australian Flying Corps, many Australians also joined the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, transferring to the Royal Air Force when it was formed in April 1918. In January 1920, the Australian Flying Corps was replaced by the Australian Air Corps, which became the Australian Air Force on 31 March 1921, with the King’s consent given on 13 August 1921.”

“From these beginnings, the Royal Australian Air force would be formed 100 years ago and go on to distinguished service around the world.

“Following World War I, a strong sense of national pride was built around the pervasive loss of life that touched every community across Australia. Today, there are more than 10,000 memorials, small and large, all over the country, inscribed with the names of Australians who so unselfishly gave their lives.”

“We are gathered here at one such memorial to remember their service to Australia. We

should all stand in admiration and respect at the discipline, determination, and endurance of the combatants from both sides of the Great War. As the guns fell silent 103 years ago today, the survivors described the carnage and suffering as ‘the war to end all wars’; yet, unfortunately, history has proven them wrong.”

“The debt we owe the fallen of World War I is for our society to learn that winning peace, harmony and equality are just as important as winning the war. We should never forget the sacrifices made by the countless thousands who have lost their lives in foreign battlefields, and for those who have returned home, carrying the scars of war. We will remember them. Lest we forget.”

We also share the poem Fr. Shaji Joseph recited titled ‘The Brutal Game’ written by Alex Cockers who was a Royal Marines Commando and served on Operation Herrick 5 and 7 in Helmand province for a total of fourteen months while serving in Afghanistan.

The Brutal Game
*I’m sitting here now
Trying to put pen to paper
Trying to write something
That you can relate too
It’s hard to relate
To my personal circumstances
I’m out here in Afghanistan now
Taking my chances*

*Read what you read
And say what you say
You won’t understand it*

*Until you’ve lived it day by day
Poverty-stricken people
With medieval ways
Will take your life without a thought
And now we’re all the same
Each playing our part in this brutal game*

Councillor Dolly Jensen spoke of her husband’s great Uncle, Private Harold Freshney, of the 47th Infantry Battalion, and the story of an old inkwell, which was a birthday gift intended for Harold, for his twenty-ninth birthday.

Although he made it back from the war, he became ill after a few short months at home and was treated for malaria first and then had his appendix removed.

Because he had spent the last so much time in New Guinea, it was discovered he didn’t have appendicitis at all but Ascaris Lumbricoides, a very large tapeworm that lives inside humans.

“He would have picked this up from drinking the filthy water in the jungles of New Guinea. He died three months after coming home and three months before his 29th birthday,” she said.

“The Australians turned out to be an absolutely formidable force against the Japanese. Totally outnumbered they still forced the Japanese to retreat at Port Moresby where they had stretched them to breaking point and saved Australia from being invaded.”

“RIP Uncle Harry, you paid the supreme sacrifice. At the going down of the sun, we will remember them, Lest we forget.

Students show their respect to the fallen

By Lee McCarthy

The Tin Can Bay school held their own Remembrance Day Service on 11 November with the all teachers and students participating.

Don Holland, President of the RSL, Tin Can Bay Sub Branch was invited to join the service, along with School Liaison Officer David Grice,

Cherryl Mossman, Councillor Jess Milne and P and C President Natalie Walker.

School representatives said: “The Tin Can Bay School student body are to be congratulated on their respectful participation. Our student leaders did an outstanding job hosting this service. Two of our student leaders, Blake Hale and Mark McIntosh, proudly rep-



A field of poppies by students at the Tin Can Bay State School for Remembrance Day

resented the school at the town service, held at the Tin Can Bay Memorial.”

“We were honoured to be able to share our field of poppies with the community, with each poppy having been painted by a student from our school.”



A powerful service for the community at the Tin Can Bay School.



James Overall (Corporal ret.) Open Arms, WgCDR Justin Cockroft CSM and Benjamin Smith (Sapper ret.) Open Arms.



Rainbow Beach State School, School Captains Teil Gough and James Bergin paying their respects.



Amberley based RAAF Wing Commander Justin Cockroft spoke at the moving Remembrance Day Service.



WgCDR Justin Cockroft CSM with Jeff Sutton at the Rainbow Beach remembrance day service.



John Greaney laid a wreath on behalf of the Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club.



Pam Dorman laid a wreath for her husband the late Rev Bruce Dorman with Fr. Shaji Joseph.







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Friday, 19 November, 2021 **COOLOOLA COAST TODAY 15**

Park founded after battle

By Arthur Gorrie

Gympie region's first wildlife ranger, Ron Turner, recalls one of the most audacious and successful lobbying efforts in Queensland political history, including a historic legal case in the Privy Council.

The Noosa Parks Association, the Queensland Branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society, the Caloundra branch of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland and a group called the Cooloola Committee literally intimidated the government of Joh Bjelke-Petersen into preserving the area, via a campaign which included sending 15,000 postcards to the premier, protesting against mining and a campaign which targetted marginal electorates, causing a revolt of sorts within government ranks.

"Nervous back-benchers demanded opposition to sand mining and over-ruled the Cabinet. Premier Joh used his casting vote to keep his position, and sandmining was blocked."

Sand mining companies then sued the Queensland Government, alleging nonperformance of contract and seeking compensation of over \$28 million for loss of profits.

"The issuing of writs stifled public discussion and prevented the government from declaring a national park in the area.

"The matter was heard in the Supreme Court in Queensland, then proceeded to the Privy Council in London, where it was again rejected in 1974.

"This was the last Australian matter to be heard in England. From then on, all such matters would be determined in Australia.

"One month before Cooloola National Park was gazetted, Widgee Shire Council was granted perpetual water mining leases from 'Tewah'[1] and Seary's Creeks, sufficient to supply 20,000 people at Tin Can Bay, Rainbow Beach and the newly approved development at Bayside Village (now Cooloola Cove).

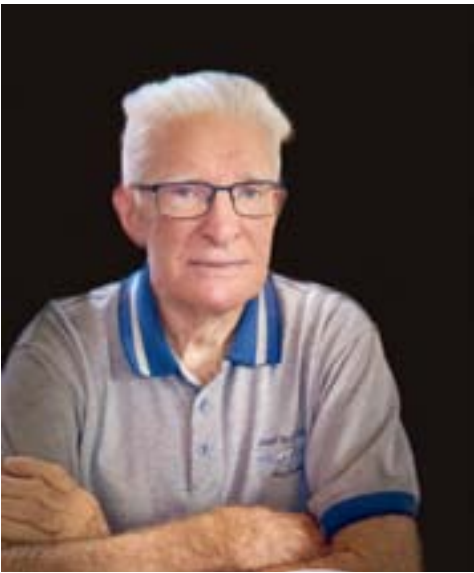
"Proponents of this scheme included the Shire Engineer, Don Clarkson, and the Shire Chairman, Neil Buchanan.

"The creation of Cooloola National Park was not greeted with local enthusiasm, but as I met more people, I was introduced to the treasures of natural, Aboriginal and European history that the park held.

"I quickly came to respect and care deeply for Cooloola.

"With the advent of cheaper 4WD vehicles, such as the Hilux and Suzuki, there was a rapid increase in vehicular use of internal tracks, which damaged their soil structure, perhaps irreparably.

"With improved public access along the Freshwater Valley, undesirable activities be-



Ron Turner.

gan to occur, and, in November 1979, (it was reported that 700 marijuana plants had been discovered at Lake Freshwater.

"Northern Cooloola had a rapid staff turnover. It was an awful place to work, with poor accommodation and inadequate equipment. Staff attitudes were abrasive, and construction of a 2WD boarded road to Freshwater made matters worse.

"(Staff) treatment of equipment was harsh, maintenance was not being carried out, and there were many complaints..

"(Our) early 4WD vehicles at Cooloola were not roadworthy. A Toyota Landcruiser should have been put off the road, but no replacement was forthcoming. Its mudguards were eaten away as a result of driving the vehicle through salt water, which was the employees' way of forcing the issue.

"Its exhaust system had been obtained from the 'supermarket', as staff called the Rainbow Beach dump.

"A head office instruction was circulated, advising all staff to cover the QNPWS logo on the door if they were going to the dump.

"Some graduates who had joined the staff made an issue of the Toyota, and I was instructed to attend a union meeting in head office. Despite our previous pleading for assistance, Secretary Bill Chadwick reprimanded us, saying that if he had known how bad the vehicle was, he could have done something.

"QNPWS also had a yellow 4 tonne Bedford 4WD truck for use on Fraser Island and sometimes Cooloola. "In poor condition, it was sold by tender to Bob Elmer, a local identity, who

stripped it and rust-proofed the metal parts. Handled with care that was not forth-coming from QNPWS staff, it was still operating thirty years later.

"A change-over system was instituted, whereby a vehicle from either Bunya Mountains or Noosa would be transferred to Cooloola after twelve months. This gave Cooloola a run-in, well-maintained but second-hand vehicle annually. The system had a lot going for it – until an Overseer at Freshwater complained that they never got a new vehicle!

"Feral dogs were common throughout the park, particularly near camp-grounds, tips and water supplies. These animals would enter camps – even tents – at Freshwater, seeking food. They would also remove footwear and items of clothing left lying about.

"An Honorary Protector advised that he had counted 27 feral dogs at the Teewah dump, and a 1080 poisoning campaign took place there.

When a light aeroplane passed overhead, one or more dog packs in nearby bush would set up an eerie and prolonged howling. I noticed the same cause and effect on Fraser Island, and once at home on the outskirts of Gympie. The dogs would not howl when low-flying F111s or helicopters flew along the beach.

"A small girl was bitten by a feral dog at the mouth of Freshwater Creek, resulting in unfavourable publicity for QNPWS. One of the senior head office staff made an unannounced visit and used a ?22 rifle to shoot some of these dogs. Local staff were incensed, as wounded animals were encountered later. I continued to apply for a permit to shoot feral dogs, and when this arrived, I eliminated some of them.

"In 1975, water was over-flowing from Freshwater Lake, providing a supply for the camp ground 1km down the valley. In 1978, I noticed the water level in the lake falling.

"We were able to maintain water to the toilets and camping areas, but the flow and volume in the creek fell away. The water level at the draw-off point adjacent to the camp remained constant.

"In the early 1970s, Freshwater Creek ran strongly across Teewah Beach and had been vital to the operations of the sand miners who established their treatment plant on the creek in 1972.

A popular feature nearby was known as the Bubbler. This was an upwelling of fresh water onto the beach. Many visitors liked to stand in this and sink slowly into the quicksand. As Freshwater Lake

started to go down, the Bubbler started to shrink and eventually disappeared, suggesting a direct underground connection.

"I became concerned at a scum occurring

across the surface of Lake Freshwater, and a head office staff member came to investigate. We had been receiving criticism from Rainbow Beach, accusing Cooloola National Park QNPWS of polluting the lake, which often smelt of sunburn lotions, stale beer and urine. The scum was found to be a naturally occurring algal bloom.

"Uncontrolled camping and dune driving occurred along the length of Teewah Beach. Large numbers of people camped on the foreshores, invariably leaving rubbish and sometimes fires that had not been extinguished.

"Motorbikes, 4WD vehicles and home-made beach buggies drove everywhere possible.

"The foreshore dunes were a favourite place to test these vehicles.

"North from Teewah Village, along the full length of the beach, were two sand mining leases, 20m and 10m wide.

"Closer to Double Island Point, a third lease had been granted to cover a broader area of beach terrace.

"A question immediately arose: Where was the legal boundary of the national park? No one in Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service could state definitively, and even licensed surveyors would roll their eyes, as if seeking inspiration from the heavens. Our gazettal map merely showed a theodolite surveyed boundary along Teewah Beach (and) it appeared that most camping was occurring on State Forest and was not ours to control.

"Jutting into the ocean, the sandy isthmus of Double Island Point is capped by a headland of hard volcanic rock. The stupendous views from the Point reveal how fundamental this rocky area was in the formation of the Cooloola sand mass.

"Ocean currents have transported sand along the coastline from major New South Wales rivers. "Flowing around the headland, the currents have slowed, sand has accumulated, and then been shaped by wind into high dunes. Two beautiful surf beaches have been created – Rainbow Beach to the north and Teewah Beach, formerly known as Noosa, Laguna, Forty-mile or Cooloola Beach, to the south.

"The Double Island Point lighthouse was built by the Queensland Government in 1884.

"The lighthouse was constructed using a design where a wooden frame was bolted to a concrete base and clad with light iron. This design was used along the coast because of poor foundation material such as sand or coral, and was relatively cheap and quick to build. A telegraph line was connected from Inskip Point to the station in 1904 and some old telegraph poles can still be seen along the access track."

Rainbow Beach Pizza serves up milestone with the lot

By Lee McCarthy

Congratulations to Rainbow Beach Pizza and Grill who are celebrating their two-year anniversary this month.

The business owned and run by Sean and Elisa Seul is a labour of love for this couple with Sean as head chef and wife Elisa looking after the business and marketing side and their five-year-old daughter Sofia.

Having lived in the town for ten years they now call Rainbow Beach home and Elisa says it reminds her of her hometown in Sardinia.

Elisa said: "We have come a long way since we opened. We started from scratch and completely renovated the shop with Sean designing the whole kitchen by himself.

"He is still happy with the layout, and it works well. It was a big win during Covid because we have been able to put a lot of food out while respecting the guidelines of safety and distance.

"We were able to continue our contactless deliveries which was already part of our strategy when we opened.

"After three months of being open we went into lock down and it was pretty stressful and we couldn't have done it without the locals.

"That's one of the things Sean is proudest of, how much the locals have supported us.



Congratulations Rainbow Beach Pizza & Grill on your two year anniversary. Pictured owners Sean, Elisa and Sofia.

We are so thankful because it helped us get through.

"It is not a family-friendly industry because of the long hours and long days and because Sean is always cooking at dinner time, he is never at our table.

"It hasn't been easy. We have had to face

challenges with restrictions, lockdowns, change of tourist demographics and staffing issues.

"The staffing is a major problem because we love to serve great food and it is hard to find someone who is willing to commit.

"There are also accommodation prob-

lems. We literally just had a chef and he sounded fantastic, but he couldn't find accommodation and it's the same with floor staff.

"We haven't had the international workers we used to have who work to survive and are happy to commit for six months.

"While we are grateful to be busy, we cannot operate and work as much as we want without staff.

"We were working seven days a week and also serving lunch but we had to cut that back because it is a physical impossibility, so we now work Wednesday to Sunday from 4pm.

"We also own Rainbow Beach Weddings and because the wedding industry has been hit hard there has been a lot of rescheduling."

"We are extremely proud of our business. We have been in this town for ten years and we felt confident enough to start our own businesses with the knowledge we have of the area.

"This is not Sean's first restaurant, but this time it's different because he is part of a team. I can do the paper and computer work and he is there producing and doing what he loves.

"We decided to open the business and buy a house because we wanted to stay here and raise our family. We feel it is a good place to grow up safely and we feel at home here."

Fishing

Cooloola Coast



Neil Moy, has been harassing the local jack according to Chris Rippon from The Chandlery.



Mitch Martens, with a banger of a nanny on a slow pitch jig.

The Jacks are biting again

ON THE CHEW By Chris Rippon

G'day Grew!!

As always, I hope you have all been able to get out on the water to catch a feed and have some fun out on our beautiful water ways the last couple of weeks. Didn't we get some rain last week! Out the front of the shop was like a river for about an hour and the water was well up over the gutter, I thought the shop was going to be washed away and one point. The creeks will be thankful for a good flush out that's for sure.

With the rain comes the hope that the crabs will start to move around and get flushed out by the fresh water. Judging by the amount of crab bait and crab pots we've been selling, there must be a few crabs on the move lately. While there were no record-breaking catches in the last couple of weeks, just ones and twos, there were a few reports of legal crabs being caught in the upper reaches of the creeks prior to the rain, with most of the crabs being A-Grade quality.

Snapper, Kauri, Gwarrn and Browns creeks have been producing lately. I had a handful of customers tell me that just before the rain hit, they were getting some great sandies up around three drains in Snapper. We say it all the time, fresh bait is going to serve you best, so keep those frames from your last trip and try to upgrade them to a feed of crab next time you are out on the water.

Mangrove Jack continue to be caught in



Owner of The Chandlery and author of this article, Chris Rippon, with a nice nanny on a Palms Slow Blatt jig.

good numbers and this rain is only going to fire them up! Our Tin Can Bay Tag-a-Jack Competition starts at midnight on the 20 November and runs for four weeks. There are 31 anglers in this event and I'm sure it's going to be a close one to call. Entries are now closed for the competition so watch this space and keep an eye on our Facebook page to keep up to date with the live scores.

Flathead have also been making themselves known the last few weeks. The bigger girls have been active lately and we have seen some nice fish caught in the mid to high 800's.

Fishing the last couple of hours of the run-out tide as the bait is draining out of the mangroves or off the flats and targeting the drain should see you find a few fish. I also like the first of the flood tide and targeting the flats as the bait begins to move back onto the flats.

The hot seller in the shop has been the Biwa Deus 4" in Pink Ice and rigged on a 3/0, 1/4oz TT jighead. For the guys into trolling, the Samaki Redic MS60's (also a great Jack lure) has been getting the job done and the two stand out colours have been Pink Lady & Pearl Perch.

Queenies and big GTs have been on the

chew in the straits, and up to and over a meter are being caught! Live baiting around Inskip on the bigger tides with a lightly weighted baits have been producing some epic fish. The spotty mackerel shouldn't be too far away either, so 10gm, 15gm & 20gm Halco Twisties or a 1/0 Clouser is going to be the best bet for making your cast count.

Offshore there have been some great catches of nannygai, cod, tusk fish and some ripper cobia being landed the last few weeks. Don't forget that if you don't have big enough boat to get offshore there are several local charter guys that run out of Tin Can Bay and Carlo Point and they are all sure to put you on to a good haul of reef fish.

The couple of inshore wrecks like the Tai-pan Star have been a bit of a go to for Cobia of late. Using slow pitch jig or 5" jerk shads have seen anglers getting buckled by good fish. The trick is to try and get past the teal leaf trevally that can be there in plaques at times. You have a pretty good chance of getting a few nannies or a jewie if you can get your offering to the bottom without hooking up.

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

**Tight Lines,
Chris**

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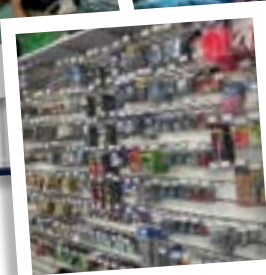
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Nippers learn CPR skills

By Lee McCarthy

Nippers from the Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club were given the opportunity to learn CPR as part of their training this month.

The Under 10 to Under 14 nippers got a taste of what it is to become a fully qualified surf lifesaver. For nearly two hours, they got a full lesson on the human body and got to learn and practice how to deliver CPR safely.

Age Manager Kirsty McCarthy organised for qualified nurse Greg Nott to deliver the information and the nippers were thrilled to get such high level information. All of this is part of their journey from small nippers to SRC then Bronze members and patrol members of their club.

Being a Nipper is a great way for children to learn about beach conditions and safety in the surf, acquire new skills, have fun riding nipper boards, meet new friends, learn how to save lives and it's great for parents too.

Many parents have started as nipper par-

ents and decided to become volunteer life savers to spend more time with their children in a fun and healthy environment.

The nipper program introduces children aged 5 to 13 to Surf Lifesaving and if you take your children to the beach or live on the coast, they should be equipped with the best skills and knowledge for their safety.

If you want to become a member of the surf club and be involved in this rewarding organisation, no matter your age, this is a great time as the club is running an external adult bronze camp starting in December. Places are limited so reach out to the club today to be part of the next bronze team.

In this group, it is much easier for people who are working to complete the theory as you can do it in your own time instead of a live-in camp and it is open to all adults. It is a great club to be involved in so contact Kelly Smith on surf@rainbowbeachsurf.com.au for more information.



Joel Douglas and Luke Richardson learning CPR as part of their training with Rainbow Beach Surf Club.



Greg Nott teaching Breanna Hoult how to perform CPR.



Tabitha Pernezel, Hannah Cruikshank, Dalla Smith and Emilie Dwine attending CPR training at the surf club.
Pictures: JULIE PRATT

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As part of being a Rainbow Beach Lifesaver, you can complete your IRB training like the latest crew who qualified last weekend with President, Shane Handy.



Club president Shane Handy teaching the new IRB trainees.



Once the trainees are awarded their IRB certificates they are able to be crew members during patrol.

New crew helps save lives

By Lee McCarthy

Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club has five newly qualified IRB crew members to add to their patrol teams, after a weekend of assessment.

Surf club president Shane Handy said members must be 15 years or over and hold a bronze medallion to apply to do the course. “They volunteer to complete the training and try out for the award during one of our

IRB courses we hold through the year,” he explained. “The benefit to the club is that we have more qualified IRB members on each patrol team to service our community more effectively.”

Shane said it was a great group of applicants and he was very surprised on the athleticism of the active patrolling members, “and they all passed the course and assessors on the day were very pleased with their efforts.”



Using their expertise the trainers can show trainees how to avoid mishaps while using the IRB.



Learning is not all bad....



Teamwork rescuing a ‘patient’ during IRB training.

Big bowls day for winners

By Lee McCarthy

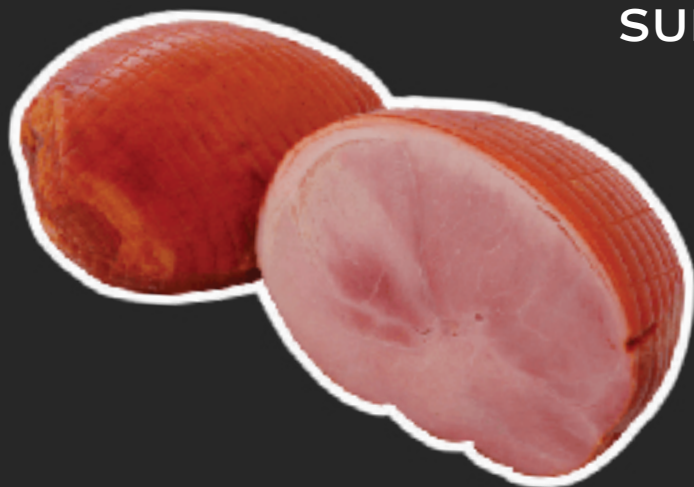
The Rainbow Beach Classic 4’s was hosted by the Rainbow Beach Sports Club last weekend with the event once again drawing players from across Queensland. The carnival, held annually over the last weekend in October, boasts some of the best players from around Queensland, who compete for \$8000.00 in prizes. It was a great game for spectators and highlighted the skill of competitive bowling with players from the Gold Coast, Bundaberg, Toowoomba showing their style on the green. The Classic brought 64 competitors into the region with accommodation houses saying they had a great weekend. The winning team of Don Hebberd, Steve Garforth, Micheal Sorrensen and Troy Somerville were thrilled with their win and will be back to defend their title next year. The event has been held at the Sports Club for 28 years and is a major event on the states bowling calendar.

The winning team of Troy Somerville, Steve Garforth, Micheal Sorrensen, Don Hebberd with life member and patron Col Mills



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