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Stepping out in style
PAGE 4



Quilt of Valour
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Nightmare on Schoolies Street...

"There is no hope of enjoying a relaxing weekend, when the sound of surf is imperceptible because of the overwhelming screaming, loud music, pool splashing and bomb diving till the early hours".

That's what residents are enduring living next to a house full of visiting schoolies.

Residents call it the street nightmare and say every weekend and often week days, there is a house full of 17 people and with that number of guests "it is a recipe for nuisance and neighbourhood disturbance".

STORY PAGE 5

Deep cleans

Inskip Point is again under the local business spotlight with closures to Inskip Point reducing the number of campers able to spend time in the region.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) last week announced that to contain the spread of gastroenteritis, rolling closures of camping areas at Inskip Point would continue as they prioritise the health and welfare of campers.

A spokesperson said: "MV Beagle and MV Natone camping areas will close from Friday 3 December until Friday 17 December 2021, and SS Dorrigo camping area will close from Friday 17 December until Friday 24 December."

STORY PAGE 2



Members of the Rainbow Beach Community support the international Paint The World Orange initiative to stop violence at the start. Elisa, Brooke, Martine, Sue, Lee, Sarah, Michelle.

Picture: JESS MCKENZIE

Orange crush

Domestic violence is the biggest killer of women under 45 in this country - and people have been encouraged to wear orange as a symbol of defiance against it.

As part of the 16 Days of 'Activism against Gender-Based Violence', an annual international campaign that kicked off on 25 November, a group of Rainbow Beach Ladies put their support behind the initiative with a photo shoot on the beach with photographer Jess McKenzie.

STORY PAGE 6

'Let's keep Cool'

By Arthur Gorrie

The campaign is accelerating to defeat state government plans for privatised tourism accommodation development in leased areas within the Cooloola National Park, it was claimed this week.

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"The proposed lease locations include Double Island Point, Poona Lake and adjacent to Campsite 3 on the Noosa River.

"All of them have extremely high public and/or ecological significance.

"In August this year concerned community members, acting under the banner 'Keep Cooloola Cool', launched a state parliamentary petition calling on the government to stop allowing private development within the national

parks generally, and more specifically to stop the plan for Cooloola.

Community action had now been widened with the launch last week of the 'Protect Our Parks' initiative.

STORY PAGE 3

RAINBOW BEACH HORSE RIDES

The awards speak for themselves

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The Cooloola Coast's biggest cash magnet - its tourism and hospitality sector - faces a challenging Christmas season, with sudden changes in Covid rules causing uncertainty for businesses with unvaccinated employees.

Rain and a pre-Christmas lull have slowed some business down recently, although our lower key Schoolies Week celebrations have helped keep the wheels turning. The lifting, or partial lifting, of state border restrictions will allow the return of interstate visitors, but (just to make things uncertain) will also allow interstate travel to the nearby drive-tourism market, which has become increasingly important as a regular part of our area's weekend economy.

The question many shopkeepers, restaurateurs and publicans are asking themselves is whether these visitors from nearby will continue to come to the Cooloola Coast they have recently discovered (as a result of being locked in).

And they must wonder how many of those now allowed in will choose our part of the world. No doubt they will also be praying for a break in the weather, with just enough cloud cover and breeze to keep things relatively cool.

Progressive partial closures of the Inskip Point camping area will have some impact, campers being a big part of the region's tourism economy backbone.

Local businesses had their best September on record this year, with many saying it was the biggest non-Christmas period they could recall.

It has come on top of a busy year for coast businesses, one that many hope will be topped off by a brilliant big festive season.

- Arthur Gorrie



More deep cleans

By Lee McCarthy

Inskip Point is again under the local business spotlight with closures to Inskip Point reducing the number of campers able to spend time in the region.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) last week announced that to contain the spread of gastroenteritis, rolling closures of camping areas at Inskip Point would continue as they prioritise the health and welfare of campers.

A spokesperson said: "MV Beagle and MV Natone camping areas will close from Friday 3 December until Friday 17 December 2021, and SS Dorrigo camping area will close from Friday 17 December until Friday 24 December."

Locals have been lamenting the issue on Inskip Point for years blaming the toilet blocks for the illness which requires medical attention in many cases and even hospitalisation. Others blame the seaweed, some believe it is brought into the area and yet more say everyone should bring their own toilet.

The toilets were changed some years ago from drop toilets to holding tanks which are regularly pumped and would benefit from a touchless hand washing basin with sufficient liquid soap.

While the current band-aid is to reduce camper numbers again and temporarily close camping areas as part of the ongoing strategy to prevent the spread of gastroenteritis, locals say its time to fix the problem for good.

The flipside to the lack of camping is the lack of business in a town which relies heavily on the tourist trade.

Local business owner Matt O'Connell said they were down 50 per cent this week.

"We are going backwards at the moment really fast, and we are putting it down to restrictions being enforced by government agencies."

"It is smashing our businesses and I don't even have the number of staff on as I did this time last year."

He said he feels sorry for other businesses in the street who are closed from 3pm and who rely on day trippers more than they do.

"They keep closing areas in both Inskip Point and Teewah, so everyone is now all jammed in together. I don't know what the answer is, but this is not it. Maybe it should be run by council?"

"I don't believe we are getting the true story; they seem to just keep cutting numbers and therefore they must be cutting employees too? I would like to see the figures as they were certainly not what they are now."

"We rely on tourism and with no international backpackers due to Covid, and closed camping which is where a lot of our income has come from in the past, we are losing staff and money fast."

He said people had been coming here for forty years to camp and that is what the region is known for and said the town needs more campers, more tourism and if we want doctors and roads fixed, we need more people

visiting not less.

The department said camper numbers will be capped to existing bookings in the remaining camping areas up until Friday 24 December 2021. The camping areas of Sarawak and Sarawak West which were closed on 19 November, are scheduled to reopen on Friday 3 December 2021.

The DES said it was meeting daily and facilities at Inskip Point are being cleaned twice each day and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) rangers continue to conduct daily patrols at Inskip Point camping areas to monitor the mitigation measures.

People preparing to camp at Inskip Point are reminded to pack plenty of soap and fresh water in their camping kit.

QPWS said they apologise for any inconvenience but said the health and safety of people in camping areas is their number one priority.

"It is important for campers to maintain the highest standards of personal hygiene. Wash hands frequently with soap and water particularly after toilet visits and before preparing food or eating."

"Bring your own water supply, soap, and if possible, bring your own portable toilet and ensure every camper has their own personal towel for hand drying and maintain safe physical distancing."

"Make sure you always carry a face mask and wear it if you can't maintain social distancing measures."

Stunning mural updates tired corner

By Lee McCarthy

James Ellis has been changing the landscape of Rainbow Beach lately with his stunning murals and this is his latest work of art.

This mural is featured on the back of the Rainbow Beach Pizza and Grill wall in the IGA complex and is capturing people's attention.

James works on commissions and is gaining visibility in the area and we are hope to see other murals in town to add to the giant Marlin he painted at Sandy Brosnan's Ocean Breeze Seafood business and the Spanish Mackerel on the wall at Drew Gardiners Fishing, Bait and Tackle shop at Karoonda Road.

This mural is familiar to many and features Elisa and Sofia Seul who with chef Sean Seul own the pizza shop and wanted to add some colour to a 'dull' corner.

The story is about the their family lifestyle, but Elisa said it is also about every family that chooses Rainbow Beach as the place to make memories, to live and to visit.

"We loved James' previous artwork in town, and he embraced our story. The composition is a gift to the community from us and is for everyone who drives into town and is the first thing you see as you stop at the shopping centre. It says, 'Welcome Back'."

"The mural represents how Rainbow



A stunning mural painted by James Ellis on the back of Rainbow Pizza and Grill wall is getting a lot of attention

Beach has given us the opportunity to grow, to change and adopt a healthier lifestyle with fishing, surfing, boating, spending quality family time, swimming with dolphins and turtles, time spent in nature, driving along the coloured sands, good food; I mean what else do we need?"

Elisa believes everyone can recognise themselves in the picture, saying we have all

done it and have memories of this.

"The viewer is standing at Double Island Point and admiring the unique landscape and it was Sean's idea to have Sofia and myself included in the picture. You can imagine Sofia's excitement."

Elisa hopes that the whole community will enjoy the art work and that visitors will be attracted to come and see the mural.

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Protests moving forward

By Arthur Gorrie

The campaign is accelerating to defeat state government plans for privatised tourism accommodation development in leased areas within the Cooloola National Park, it was claimed this week.

“A large and growing number of local people are deeply concerned,” according to Rainbow Beach resident Greg Wood.

“The proposed lease locations include Double Island Point, Poona Lake and adjacent to Campsite 3 on the Noosa River.

“All of them have extremely high public and/or ecological significance.

“In August this year concerned community members, acting under the banner ‘Keep Cooloola Cool’, launched a state parliamentary petition calling on the government to stop allowing private development within the national parks generally, and more specifically to stop the plan for Cooloola.

Community action had now been widened with the launch last week of the ‘Protect Our Parks’ initiative.

The new campaign platform is not so much a community group as a banner which can be used as a focal point by other existing community groups with concerns about the government’s eco-tourism plans.

“This initiative and its objectives are described at ‘www.protectparks.net’ and that site links directly to the parliamentary petition and to the sites of the groups supporting it.

“Protect Our Parks is endorsed by a number of local and State community groups, including Keep Cooloola Cool and Cooloola Coast-care.

“It offers an assembly point for all existing groups and individuals who are commonly concerned at the severe and irreversible threat this current development plan imposes upon Queensland’s national parks.”

He said this would provide a mechanism for discussion on the vital issue of what national



The campaign is growing to protect Cooloola National Park from private tourism development, including a site at Lake Poona (pictured).

parks are for.

“Protect Our Parks enables groups to add their voice to the issue without having to engineer their own campaign and volunteer effort amidst all of their existing obligations.

“Concerned community groups and citizens are encouraged to contact Protect Our Parks regarding anything relevant to the development proposal and the community opposition to it.”

Mr Wood said the new umbrella campaign would seek to promote other vital national park functions, including diversity protection and restoration is essential to our effective response to climate change.

“This vital conjunction has been identified and validated by a joint workshop convened between two United Nations expert panels, one being the IPCC.

“The knowledge highlights the short-sighted destructiveness of hawking out their rem-

nant beauty to a wealthy private development market.

“The narrow profit possible from doing this is trivial compared to its immense and broad cost.

“Protect Our Parks will conduct information stalls at the Rainbow Beach market on Saturday 11 December and at the Tin Can Bay market on Saturday 18 December. Market stalls are also scheduled for a number of markets in the Brisbane area,” he said.

Two women sought in connection with break-in

By Donna Jones

Police are keen to speak to two women in connection with a break-in that occurred on Cooloola Drive, Rainbow Beach late last month.

Police allege at approximately 6pm on Friday, 29 October, two unknown women damaged and removed an unsecured toilet window and climbed into a residence on Cooloola Drive, Rainbow Beach.

Once inside, one of the women opened the doors to the garage and entered while the other unknown woman moved towards the kitchen and dining room.

Both then later exited the residence via the main entrance door after the home occupant received a security alert and triggered an alarm.

gered an alarm.

The first woman is described as caucasian, slim build, early twenties with below shoulder length light coloured hair.

Her left arm has a distinctive tattoo extending to the left shoulder blade, and further tattoos on the inside of her right arm, left thigh and upper left shoulder blade.

The second woman is described as caucasian, proportionate build, early twenties, short dark hair, wearing glasses, a black watch on her left wrist, bangle on her right wrist and a neck chain.

Police believe the two women in the photo may be able to assist with this investigation.

If you know their identities or have any information about this offence, please contact Policelink and quote QP2102020952.



Police are keen to speak with these two women in connection with a break-in at Rainbow Beach at the end of last month.



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Town must make it happen

By Lee McCarthy

According to Scott Rowe, speaking to Rainbow Beach business owners last month, if you want change, then you must make it happen yourself.

Scott is the Director of Regional Development Australia, Wide Bay and was speaking at the Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism monthly meeting.

He stressed the message to stop waiting for government to help, and said it is up to each business and the Chamber to lobby for change.

While a lot of his statistics and presentation were based on the whole Gympie Region, he said the effects of work being done on the Bruce Highway Bypass, new projects in sustainable energy sources and the timber indus-

try value adds, will flow on to Rainbow Beach and the Cooloola Coast.

When giving an overview of the area he said we have a population of 52,935 with an average age of 46 while Queensland average is 37; the median weekly household income is \$936 where Queensland is \$1392 and eight per cent have a university qualification, 24 per cent with a trade and 48 per cent of our residents are in the workforce.

Gympie Regional Council's Gross Regional product was \$2.24 billion in June 2020 and growing at 1.7 percent on the previous year during Covid.

He highlighted total businesses registered with Gympie Regional Council (GRC) in agriculture, forestry, and fishing, stood at 27 per-

cent compared to under eight per cent for the rest of Queensland.

While we were neck and neck in construction we are left behind in professional, scientific, and technical services.

However, there was a marked increase in registered businesses from 2019 to 2020 in manufacturing; health and social assistance; accommodation and food services; transport, postal and warehousing and rental, hiring and real estate services which was pleasing and means we are growing.

Building approvals rose from 75,000 in the 2012-2013 financial year to 200,000 in the 2020-21 financial year.

Scott encouraged all business owners to have input into the Wide Bay Burnett Regional

Plan and have a say in the future of our own region.

He also said there are opportunities in the region with the inland rail proposal; 2021 Olympic and Paralympic Games; Housing Opportunities; Specialised health precincts and involvement in the economic development strategy of local council.

Things the chamber needs to focus on are creating a tourism vision and plan with evidence and data to support the submission. He said not to wait for government, and as industry leaders this should start with individuals.

For more information visit: <https://haveyoursay.dsdilgp.qld.gov.au/wide-bay-burnett-regional-plan> or <https://planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/wbbamendment>

TCB students shine as sun sets on year

By Lee McCarthy

Congratulations to the class of 2021 from Tin Can Bay P-10 State School who held their year 10 formal at the Tin Can Bay Country Club last week.

The event was attended by staff and parents and as Tin Can Bay ceases at year 10 most of the students will be attending Gympie High Schools next year to complete their senior years.

Well done to all students from Tin Can Bay.



Ending their school years, students from Tin Can Bay P-10 State School celebrate with their formal.



Saying goodbye to their year at Tin Can Bay students. Back - L-R. Ethan Edwards, Mark McIntosh, Blayd Watt, Rakeen Masri, Bali Pamenter, Jordan Roche, Lachlan Nix, Blake Hale, Jackson Heard, Jesse Hawkins. Front - L-R Courtney Brennan, Isla Gallego, Kelsey McAndrew, Tarleshya Jewell, Gracie, Hannah, Elsie Tarrant-Gray.

Tips to stay safe online

By Lee McCarthy

For those worried about cyber security, The Cooloola Coast community will soon be hosting events with a guest speakers from IDCARE which is Australia and New Zealand's national identity and cyber support service.

ID care will have a free business privacy and cyber health check and consultation which all businesses on the Cooloola Coast should be doing according to Managing Director Dr David Lacey.

He said it only takes a few minutes, but could literally save the business.

"We find most of the cyber security basics will get businesses out of trouble, but the challenge is that the basics aren't taught or communicated well by those who know. At IDCARE we are determined to fix that!" he said.

"During calendar year 2021, IDCARE's national scam and cyber crime victim support service has seen a surge in demand by 43 percent when compared to 2020.

He said many people who fall victim to scams say, 'I always said it could never happen to me'.

"They kick themselves, feel embarrassed and are ashamed of their actions. What many don't realise is that scammers are masters of deception and use many psychological tricks to engage our subconscious."

The Privacy & Security Health Check is free and results in a score and opportunity to book in for free consultation with one of ID Care specialist team – see <https://healthcheck.id-care.org>

"We just want businesses to invest 5 minutes of their time which could just save their business."

IDCare will be visiting the Cooloola Coast on 17 December and will speak at a number of locations including the Cooloola Coast Women in Business luncheon offering cyber scam support.

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Living beside ‘nightmare’

By Lee McCarthy

Being a popular tourist destination, the Cooloola Coast, similar to Noosa and Byron Bay have to balance the needs of tourists and those of locals.

While the town needs the tourism dollar, it also needs to service and support the locals who are the bread and butter of the town.

To cater for tourists there is a mix of short term rentals, hotel style accommodation, backpackers, Airbnb and camping and the tourists support the 1200 permanent residents with work and tourism dollars.

Unfortunately, as seen in other regions, it is not always paradise for the home owners who live next door to an exuberant group of guests who are celebrating schoolies or a milestone when the house sleeps 17.

While they are paying big dollars for the luxury of staying in a beautiful location, rules still have to apply for everyone to get on.

One such house is repeatedly receiving complaints and causing grief for residents who say the noise and offensive language every weekend is too much.

Residents call it the street nightmare and say every weekend and often week days, there is a house full of 17 people and with that number of guests “it is a recipe for nuisance and neighbourhood disturbance.”

One nearby resident, Elisa Seul said: “There is no hope of enjoying a relaxing weekend, when the sound of surf is imperceptible because of the overwhelming screaming, loud music, pool splashing and bomb diving till the early hours”.

“The Real Estate does the only thing in their power. They inform the guests of the neighbourhood rules and blacklist them afterwards if they do not comply.”

Elisa said she had reported the situation to Gympie Regional Council (GRC) as have other residents in the same street and the



Keeping everyone happy in a tourist destination is not always easy with visitors coming to let their hair down and locals buying in the region for a quiet seachange.

Council answer was:

“Council wishes to advise that this matter is not something that Council can assist with. The nuisance laws will not apply to some activities that are already covered by other State Government Legislation.

“Examples of these activities include:

“Noise from music, parties - Queensland Police Service

Noise from motor vehicles (including motorbikes) – Queensland Police Service

Noise from licensed premises including pubs/clubs/hotels – Office of Liquor and Gaming

“Please contact the local police who may be able to assist with this matter.

“Council also have no restrictions over the amount of people per residence. Queensland

Health may be able to help regarding a Covid concern.”

Elisa said: “Police haven’t said anything yet, they never answered the times I rang. I lodged an online report on 23 October when I rang 13144 through the QLD police website, and never got a follow up.”

When Elisa spoke to the managing agent, they said it was the owners decision to keep so many guests and they keep them informed of the residents’ complaints.

The managing agent said: “It is unfortunate that a minority of people do the wrong thing and do not respect others by being noisy and selfish. Neighbours can contact our office or after hours number at anytime and we will respond. We occasionally get phone calls complaining about noise and respond accordingly. In the unlikely event that a guest does not

respond to our request to reduce noise; they get one warning and we then evict the guests with no refund of monies as per our Terms and Conditions.

“It is very frustrating that a minority of people decide that the rules do not apply to them and they can be as noisy and ignorant as they want. They don’t realise that the people that live in Rainbow permanently have to put up with weekends and holidays of revelling by visitors whilst they still have to go to work and their kids still have to go to school the next day. However, the overwhelming majority of people that come to Rainbow are considerate, love nature and the beach and the laid back vibe of Rainbow.”

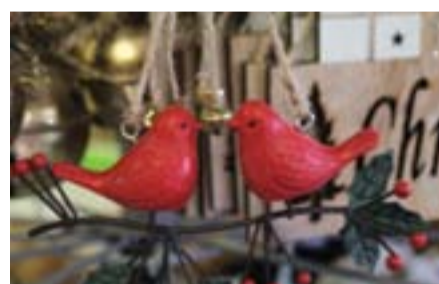
Luckily, most guests across the region, have respect and visit to enjoy the natural beauty of the region.

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Painting the world orange

By Lee McCarthy

The 16 Days of 'Activism against Gender-Based Violence' is an annual international campaign that kicked off on 25 November, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

It is used as an organising strategy around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls and everyone is encouraged to wear orange to highlight support.

The Gympie region is host to a range of activities across the sixteen days to let women know about services and initiatives available to support them.

The walk to launch the campaign in Gympie started at the 'red bench' near the police station and culminated in a meeting at the stage area in Mary Street and was attended by local councillors and supporters to raise community awareness about ending gender-based violence.

Cr Dolly Jensen attended the event and said domestic violence against women is a violation of basic human rights.

"One woman per week in Australia dies at the hands of her current or former partner. Today, we march for them. For the victims, their children, their family, their friends, the whole community."

She said domestic violence is the biggest killer of women under 45 in this country.

"There's one domestic violence complaint reported every two minutes. And those figures are only based on what's reported and there's many that are not and ten women per day are hospitalised after being assaulted by their partners."

She said we need to break the silence and said it's up to us to teach respect to our young ones.

"It is time to stand up and speak out against domestic violence. We must show that it will not be tolerated. That it's unacceptable. We



Walking in orange to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Pictures: GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

cannot excuse behaviours or remain silent any longer and it's time it's addressed. To stand up and say 'wait a minute – this is wrong. Don't do that'"

She said we need to end the cycle, and stop it at the start, and that starts with us.

A group of Rainbow Beach Ladies put their support behind the initiative with a photo shoot on the beach with photographer Jess McKenzie.

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse or domestic violence, help is avail-

able. Always contact 000 if in danger or in an emergency.

For free confidential online and phone help and counselling 24/7 contact DVConnect Womensline 1800 811 811; DVConnect Mensline 1800 60 0636; 1800RESPECT 1800 737 732.

For more information – please call Talia van Gils, Manager & Community Partnerships, Gympie Region Domestic & Family Violence Service on 5413 8088 Community Action Link or email talia@communityactiongympie.com.au



Supporting 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence were Cr Bruce Devereaux, Deputy Mayor Hilary Smerdon and Cr Dolly Jensen.

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Pat’s Quilt of Valour

By Lee McCarthy

Following the Remembrance Day Service held by the Rainbow Beach RSL Sub-branch on 11 November, a Quilt of Valour was presented to a RSL member Pat Naylor OAM.

President Greg Walker and Cr Dolly Jensen shared the presentation to Pat which is an honour awarded for valour, service and sacrifice to country.

On the back of all the quilts there is a badge. ‘Wrapped in love by Australians’.

Cr Dolly Jensen was instrumental in organising the presentation of the quilts and shared her message of thanks to Pat and the guests at the Rainbow Beach Surf Club.

“We award this quilt to you to acknowledge your Valour, Service and Sacrifice for our country. The quilt has been made with love for you by your sisters and mother to wrap you in warmth and care. The top of the quilt represents the communities and the many individuals we are. The wadding, the filler, is the centre of the quilt – it’s warmth. It represents our hope that this quilt will bring warmth, comfort, peace, and healing to you. The backing is the strength that supports the other layers. It represents your strength, the support of communities, and our nation. Each stitch that holds the layers together represents love, gratitude and sometimes the tears of the maker.”

Four quilts were awarded after Veterans Day

ceremony in August and Queensland Coordinator of Quilts of Valour, Barbara Kenny said at the August event: “The Quilt makes such a difference to people to be acknowledged. To date there have been 3000 quilts - all donated for the veterans.”

Pat served in the Royal Australian Navy and received the Medal of The Order of Australia in the 1990 Queen’s Birthday Honours List for services in the fields of Marine Engineering, Diving and Recruiting.

He was also awarded the Australian Service Medal 1945-1975 for his involvement in the Far East Strategic Reserve during the Malaysian confrontation.



Veteran Pat Naylor receiving his Quilt of Valour from President Greg Walker and Cr Dolly Jensen.



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Based in Maryborough Benjamin Smith and James Overall work for Open Arms providing counselling to Veterans.

Helping with Open Arms

By Lee McCarthy

Among the guests at last month’s Veterans Remembrance service held at Rainbow Beach, were two representatives from Open Arms, who were invited by the Rainbow Beach RSL sub-branch to the event.

Ex Serving (Ex.) Army Corporal James Overall and Ex Serving (Ex.) Army combat engineer/sapper, Benjamin Smith are based in Maryborough and joined fellow Veterans to mark the occasion.

Both men look after the Wide Bay region and attended the event to raise awareness of the counselling services and support they offer.

Open Arms – Veterans AND Families Counselling (formerly VVCS) provides free and confidential counselling to anyone who has served at least one day in the ADF, and their families.

Since being established in 1982 as the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service, Open Arms’ purpose has been to provide world-class counselling, support, and innovative services to serving ADF members, veterans and their families.

Designed by veterans for veterans, Open Arms focuses on meeting client needs through a combination of proven clinical practices and new and emerging evidence-based approaches.

Open Arms offers free and confidential counselling, peer support, self-help resources, crisis accommodation support, relationship retreats, group treatment programs and suicide intervention workshops.

Open Arms represents Australian soldiers standing in a field with open arms signaling for helicopters to land and the family welcoming home serving members after deployment.

Through Open Arms, Australia’s Vietnam veterans have ensured that future generations of serving men and women have access to the specialised mental health and wellbeing support they first pioneered in Australia in 1982.



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Heavy rain closes roads

By Lee McCarthy

HQPlantations last week closed all plantation forests from Byfield in Central Queensland to the NSW border to public access due to a substantial amount of rain falling in most areas over the past week, with more rainfall predicted.

This includes plantation forests in the vicinity of the Glasshouse Mountains, the Mary Valley and the Fraser Coast, which are all closed to the public. Damage to the road network can be extensive when conditions are this wet. A period of sustained dry weather will be required before plantations roads can be traversed without causing further damage.

For more information on the status of the closure updates will be available at HQPlan-



HQ Plantations have closed forestry roads due to the wet

tations website www.hqplantations.com.au/closures

HQPlantations is appealing to all recreation

users to respect these closures so that safe and responsible access to the plantations can be restored as soon as possible.

Plantation forest closures fall under the Forestry Act 1959 and can be enforced by police, QPWS rangers and plantation officers. Fines for non-compliance currently range from \$276 to almost \$1,400.

People are reminded that driving through mud on plantations roads at any time is also unlawful and penalties apply.

State and local government-managed roads through plantations remain open unless otherwise indicated by road signage or police.

People are advised to refer to the Parks and Forests website www.parks.des.qld.gov.au for restrictions in relation to campgrounds managed by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service in this area.

The true spirit of Christmas lies in your heart. Let us all try to remember to be kind to each other.

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And thanks to all for your kindness this past year and looking forward to many more weddings and joy in 2022.

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HQ managing our timber

By Lee McCarthy

Those who have seen the Toolara Forestry operating over many years along the Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach Roads, know that sections of the forestry are harvested in a cycle and the activity is often unseen by passing motorists.

Now that the operation is being conducted in full view, people travelling along Tin Can Bay Road are commenting on the plantation harvesting underway near the Coondoo Creek bridge.

We asked HQPlantations to explain how the plantation is run to put people's mind at ease over what some think is indiscriminate tree felling.

HQPlantations Toolara Tuan plantation forest is the largest contiguous pine plantation in Australia. The species grown here is often referred to as Southern Pine, a hybrid combining the best characteristics of two southern USA/Central American species specifically adapted for Queensland conditions and ideally suited for structural timber.

HQP grows these plantations on a 25 to 30 year cycle, only harvesting around three per cent of the entire plantation each year to ensure there is a continuous supply for regionally based customers and the domestic construction industry they supply. Most of the timber is used in house framing in SEQ and northern NSW, and also for other popular timber products Australians use every day.

Engineered wood products for multi-story construction are also becoming a popular use for this timber.

The area people can currently see being harvested on the southern side of Tin Can Bay Road is about 45 hectares in size and will produce enough timber to build 670 new homes. The trees are 29 years old and are being "cut to length" to suit the product sizes required by Hyne's Tuan mill, the Caboolture AKD Softwoods mill and other regional customers.



HQ plantations answer questions on recent harvesting on the Tin Can Bay Road

Harvesting so close to the road and powerlines takes careful planning to manage worker and public safety. HQP conducted risk assessments and developed safe work procedures with its contractors, the Department of Transport & Main Roads and Energex to manage these particular risks.

Weather permitting, the work is expected to be completed by mid-December to avoid peak tourist season before the Queensland border reopening and Christmas holidays. The public are reminded all access to any HQP harvesting site at any time is strictly prohibited for safety, and significant penalties apply to anyone ignoring site access restriction signage.

After harvest is complete, the site will be prepared for replanting in 12 to 18 months. It will take approximately 45,000 new seedlings to replant the compartment. These seedlings will be grown in HQP's accredited Toolara nursery, where around seven million are grown annually to restock all HQP's harvested areas.

Young, growing trees absorb the most carbon, so these new trees will become little carbon capture machines, and the products made from the harvested timber will continue to store carbon for up to 100 years.

To ensure HQP manages its plantation for-

ests responsibly and sustainably, the company's forest management practices are independently audited to internationally recognised Forest Stewardship Council and Responsible Wood's Australian standards every year. The most recent Responsible Wood audit was just completed in late November 2021 and included a review of the planning and operations for this harvest site on Tin Can Bay Road.

More information about HQP's forest management, the species they grow, and their commitment to safety and the environment can be found on their website www.hqplantations.com.au



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Fishing

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The winners are grinners

By Ash Little and Steve Bennett

There were smiles all round at the final weigh-in of the Gardiner Fisheries Whiting Championship for 2021. With competitors capped at 250 this year, interest from this year's event will see that cap raised in 2022.

An expert on the microphone (and the fishing rod) the final weigh-in was efficiently and at times, hilariously MC'd by fishing and TV personality, Andy 'Phippsy' Phipps.

Competitors, sponsors, guests, and walk-ins waited patiently, but with great angst as the final fish were brought to the scales. As with any fishing competition, it's not over until the last fish is logged. A final hour re-shuffle was about to unfold before everyone present. But we will get to that later....

In 2018, business owner Drew Gardiner identified a largely uncatered for niche market for a professional and region-specific bait and tackle store. Supported by his partner Catherine they created Gardiner Fisheries Pty Ltd in Rainbow Beach. With 30 years' experience as a commercial fisherman, combined with his competition standard of beach fishing, Drew's knowledge of fishing across Noosa and the Fraser Coast is extensive.

Catching BIG sand whiting is an obsession for Drew and he quickly realised that it was not well known that these amazing fish can be caught year-round. Here was an untapped opportunity to promote Rainbow Beach, the regions remarkable whiting fishery, and encourage people to target these incredible sport and table fish. In 2019 the inaugural Gardiner Fisheries Whiting Championship was born.

Backed by iconic Australian made Alvey Reels Australia, Aquamaster Alloy Boats, MJF Fishing Rods, Salty Gear Fishing Brand, Australian Marine Centre and In & Out Couriers, a combined total prize pool of over 20K dollars saw this year's event go bigger than ever.

Brilliantly supported by the broader Rainbow Beach community, the Gardiner Fisheries Whiting Championship brings the town together. Competitors schooled up from as far afield as Toowoomba in the south, Bundaberg in the north and Miles in the west. This year's competition was expanded to three separate divisions for competition: open adults, open juniors and three-person teams.

Introducing the Junior's division has ignited the fishing passion in the next generation of fishos. With 16 prize categories spread across the 3 divisions, as well as a boat, motor, and trailer package, the odds were in favour for all competitors and the competition was serious.

Weather conditions over the four-month duration provided almost optimum fishing, even if hampered at times by northerlies or a howling south easterly that wiped the fishable



Thanks to Aquamaster Alloy Boats and Australian Marine Centre, Steven and Vanessa Brooker from Miles QLD, took home the awesome boat, motor and trailer package.

surf gutters from existence. During these times the estuary fishos gained significant advantage. It was exciting seeing the surf and estuary fishers battle it out.

A LATE SHUFFLE

So, back to the final weigh-in. 20 November played out like this. Local angler Len Sharman dropped a cracking whiting on the scales in the final hours that shuffled the open adult division.

Weighing in at 482 grams and 39cm's (gutted and gilled), his stonker whiting dropped him fairly in to second place but only by 1

gram above third place. Somewhat ironic, this 1-gram weight difference also decided last year's first and second place. The always casual and very modest Chris Macrae deservedly took out first place with a cracking 500 gram, 39cm whiting.

Our junior's division was very well represented, but Ben from Toowoomba, and Sophie from Narangba cleaned up in the Junior's division. All six Junior divisions got owned by these two dedicated fishos. It would scare them both to know just how close the other juniors were though. We congratulate all our junior entrants for their dedication and kind-

hearted competitive spirit.

Thanks to Aquamaster Alloy Boats and Australian Marine Centre, Steven and Vanessa Brooker from Miles QLD, took home the awesome boat, motor and trailer package.

Prize winners overall were, OPEN ADULTS

- 1ST PLACE – Chris Macrae 500gm @ 39cm
- 2nd PLACE – Len Sharman 482gm @ 39cm
- 3rd PLACE – Jan Lindh 481gm @ 38cm
- 4th PLACE – Chris Macrae 452gm @ 37cm
- 5th PLACE – Chris Macrae 451gm @ 37.5cm
- 6th PLACE – Cedric Byrne 444gm @ 37cm

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Chris Macrae deservedly took out first place with a cracking 500 gram, 39cm whiting.



And the winners for the Gardiner Fisheries Whiting Championship for 2021... Ash and Matt!

TEAMS DIVISION

- 1st – 'The Big Hitters' Combined weight 1.319kg.
- 2nd – 'Old Farts' Combined weight 1.222kg.
- 3rd – 'Old Farts' Combined weight 1.212kg.

MYSTERYWEIGHT

Gardiner Fisheries congratulates all competitors and thanks all sponsors, volunteers and supporters for making our 2021 Whiting Championship our best yet.

We now recommend everyone upgrade their line class and tighten their drags as we prepare to kick off our annual 'JACK ATTACK' competition on Boxing Day, 26th December.

With the wavering barometer and recent rain, we know the Mangrove Jack are hungry and angry.

Our 'JACK ATTACK' competition only runs for two weeks when this species really fire up.

Full competition details, prizes and T&C's will be posted shortly on our Facebook Page, Gardiner Fisheries.

For the best genuine local knowledge and premium bait and tackle you can find us at 1 Karoonda Road Rainbow Beach from 6AM – 5PM 7 days a week or call us on 0404 853 232.



The junior's division was well represented, with Ben Hoffman from Toowoomba, holding plague, taking out the Junior Champion award along with Sophie from Narangba

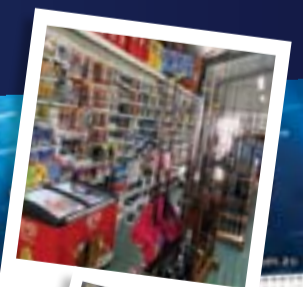
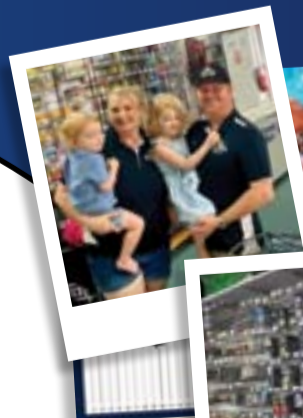
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Don Reid, Janelle Reid, Jo Jenkins, Rod Jenkins, Sonia Lynch, Damien Lynch at the Beefsteak and Burgundy event at Rainbow Beach



Wine Master Rod Jenkins looking for relative colour to determine the age of the wine used for the entree course

Beefsteak and Burgundy

By Lee McCarthy

The Beefsteak and Burgundy Club has 180 branches around Australia and was created for members to share knowledge and experience great wine, food, and fellowship on a regular basis.

Last week the Gympie branch dined in Rainbow Beach at Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach and members said they were delighted and would return.

Guests enjoyed a cold seafood salad of

prawns, octopus, calamari, salmon, and scallops with Japanese flavours, a main of Fillet Mignon with mushroom ragout, sauce soubise, Dutch carrots, broccolini and chefs saute potatoes and Tiramisu Trifle for dessert.

The club Wine Master pairs the wines and a couple of the members then stand and talk to what type of wine they think it is, where it's from and the age of the wine.

Secretary/treasurer Rod Jenkins said this event attracted thirty-four guests as it was a mixed meeting with men and their partners

which happens once a year.

Rod received Life Membership to the club in September after 27 years where he served as secretary/treasurer for twelve years and Wine Master for five years.

Life membership takes about six months from application to approval, and Rod is only one of five life members inducted into the Gympie club.

The award was presented at Kingston House in September, where he also received a certificate from Beefsteak and Burgundy Incorporated and a life membership badge.

The club holds meetings at different venues and the group have enjoyed Charlies, Kingston House, Gunabul Homestead, The Bunker, the Queenslander, the Railway Hotel and now Quay Carlo.

Rod said, "People indicated they would love to go back and hold the function there again as it was a good time, and I feel the restaurant would appreciate us going back."

"The hospitality and service were excellent and easy to enjoy."

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Keira Arthur (centre) competing for the Queensland Squad in Volleyball with Lily Caffer and Maeve McCowen.



Qld Volleyball Squad members, Lilli Berril-Hunt clapping Keira Arthur after a winning point.

The Arthur sisters shine

By Lee McCarthy

Volleyball superstar sisters Sienna and Keira Arthur are again showing the talent the region produces with selection in the Queensland Volleyball squad.

Both sisters compete ‘up’ an age group with thirteen-year-old Sienna representing the Under 15 side and Keira playing in the under 17 division while only 14.

As part of the squad’s training, they are competing in the Queensland beach volleyball tour against athletes from all over Queensland.

Sienna’s U15 team won gold recently which was a big upset against the favourites. They went to a deciding set, saved a match point under pressure then went on to win.

Keira’s U17 team where she was joined by fellow Gympie player Lilli Berril-Hunt played well but missed the finals.

The formal Queensland team will be announced in January after their last training this Saturday and from the tournaments and training and selected in final travelling team contesting the Australia beach volleyball championships.

Parents Dave and Suzie Arthur, said If the world opens and the girls are selected, they will be playing against the other states in March 2022.

Both girls will also be representing the Tin Can Bay School team which travel to the Gold Coast next week as part of the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup along with other Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay students.

Father Dave said the competition starts on Sunday 5 and runs until Thursday 9 March with the students competing at Carrara and Coomera.

“The school is fielding three teams, two boys and one girls’ team, which is phenomenal considering it is a school of 90 children so a quarter of the school will compete.”

“They will be playing at the same complexes as the Commonwealth Games are played so are great venues and it is nice for our kids to play in those areas.”

Dave said it is tricky to balance Sienna surf club flags events which also culminate in the Australian titles at the end of March.

“Finding the time has been hard and it is difficult to get to nippers to get an award to compete at branch, state and national levels.”

Dave and Suzie want to thank “a whole bunch of the local businesses for their support as well as the players parents and the school, teachers and especially Tony and Bec Arthur for taking the reins over while I was away.”

He said Tony and his wife Bec had gone over and above and do all this in their spare time and are the driving force behind the volleyball at Tin Can Bay this year.

“I just love that we can get local kids playing in high quality sport and opening their eyes to the world though this opportunity.”

The community thank the whole Arthur family for such dedication and the opportunities afforded to the students through the time they spend organising, driving, and coaching interested students.

Both Dave and Suzie Arthur are remarkable supporters of the sport and have been coaching at both the Tin Can Bay P-10 State School and James Nash High for many years. By sharing their passion for the game and support of the players, the game is in good hands in this region.

Local Sienna Arthur with her gold medal winning team mates Maeve McCowen and Lily Caffer in the Queensland beach volleyball tour.



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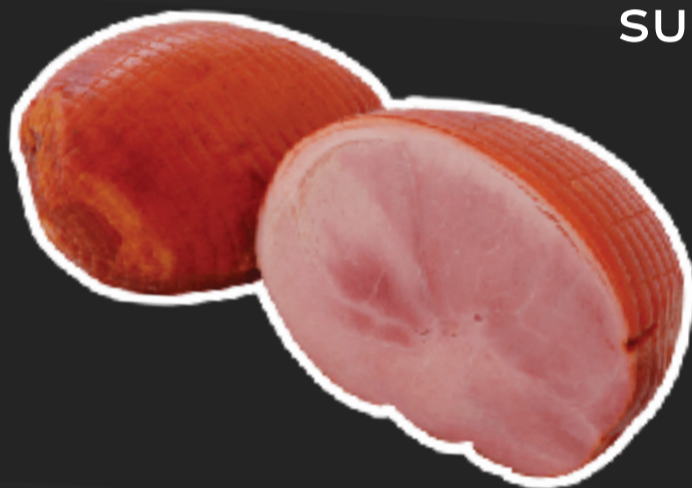
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- * Christmas in the Park – 4pm-8:30pm Saturday 4th December
- * Sunshine Mitre 10 Christmas Lights Competition - Partner
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