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Principal's taking off...

"I will miss the laughs, and the learning from her as she is the kind of leader I would like to be."

That was how Tin Can Bay P-10 Deputy Principal Sandy Lewis summed up the imminent departure of her boss Desley Kirby as she flies off to take up

a new challenge at Kuranda District State College P-12 starting in 2022.

"I like her way with people and her human side. She is kind and compassionate and I will miss our friendship."

STORY PAGE 5

Pilot Glen Cruikshank surprised Geoff and Desley Kirby with a Rainbow Beach Helicopter Ride. Rebecca Turner was one of the gift givers who also enjoyed the ride.

Slow for those below

With a lot of publicity recently about the damage and death to adult turtles and marine creatures from propellers, it is important to check your speed and consider swimmers, other boats and watch out for marine animals.

Now that summer in full swing and plenty of boaties and marine craft operators are taking advantage of our waterways, remember to 'go slow for those below'. While the festive season is the perfect time to be on the water, boaties and personal watercraft owners needed to be conscious of what was happening below the surface.

STORY PAGE 4

Warning on prawn bait

With festivities in full swing, remember not to use supermarket prawns as bait or throw the remains in the ocean, as they may carry disease and decimate our local fishing industry.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland (DAF) said imported, raw prawns may carry diseases, such as white spot disease, which, if introduced into our marine environment, could have devastating consequences on our prawn populations. Diseases such as white spot disease only affect crustaceans, not humans. However, cooking the prawns will kill the virus which means they are completely safe to eat. It only becomes problematic if raw prawns purchased from the supermarket are used as bait, as they could introduce disease into our marine environment.

STORY PAGE 8

Be holiday safe

The Department of Environment and Science is reminding visitors and residents to K'gari (Fraser Island) to stay safe, be aware of Be dingo-safe messaging and respect fellow campers during the festive season.

Thousands of people are expected come to

the World Heritage Area to camp, spend time in holiday homes or visit the island for day trips during December and January.

Ranger in charge Linda Behrendorff said the World Heritage Area features the breathtaking beauty of the freshwater lakes, sand

dunes and a unique rainforest ecosystem.

"The island is also home to an abundance of wildlife, including more than 350 species of birds, macropods, marsupials and the majestic wongari (dingoes)," Ms Behrendorff said.

"By now, the wongari pups have emerged from their dens and are becoming juveniles who are leaning survival skills and growing bigger. People may see them on the beaches, in the bush and on the tracks.

STORY PAGE 3

**RAINBOW BEACH
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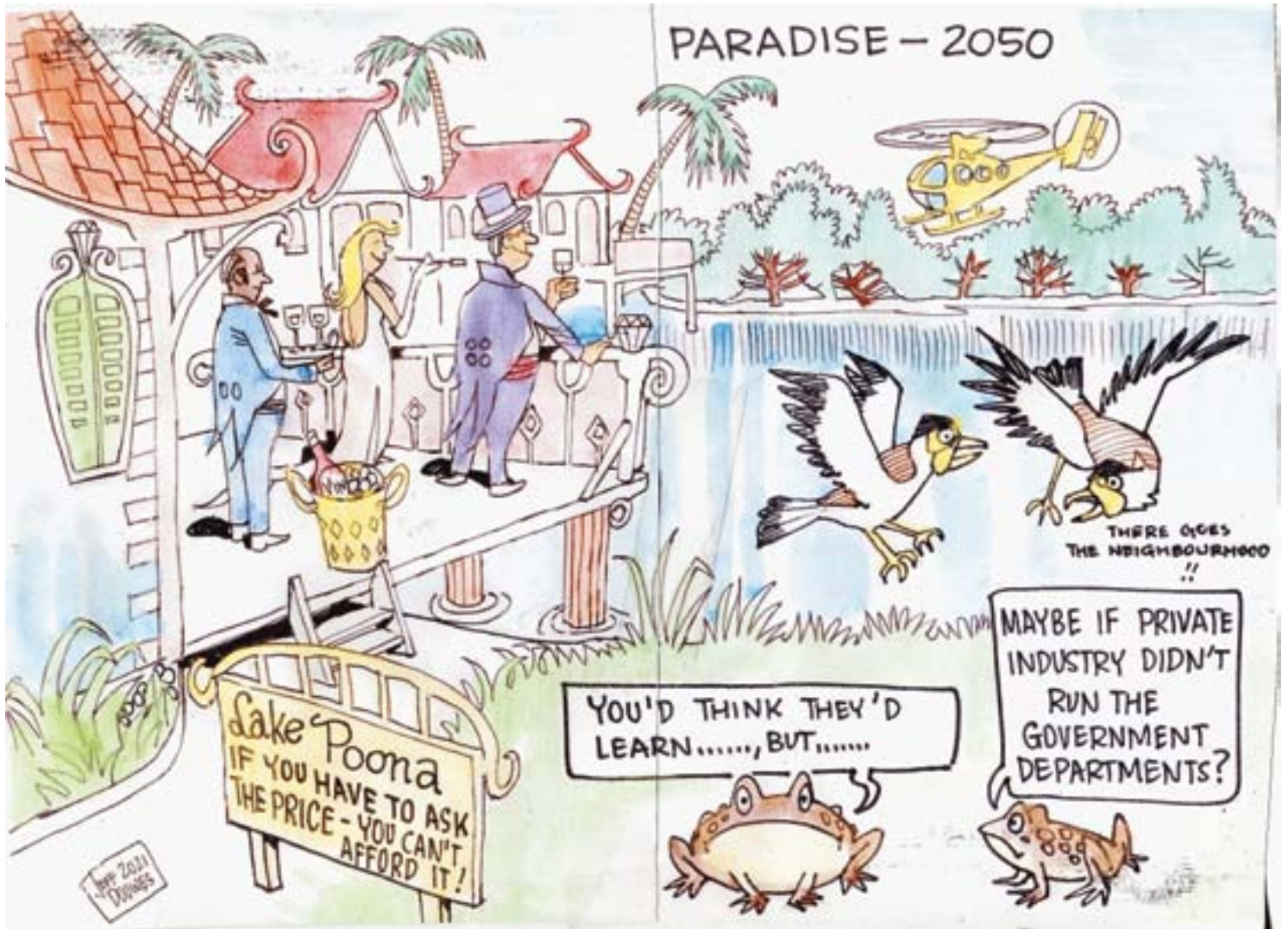


The need for transparency is rarely more urgent or neglected than in issues involving the Cooloola Coast and its dominant state bureaucracy, the Department of Environment and Science, which controls much of the region via its agency, the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. The report of Inspector General Emergency Management, Alistair Dawson, told of a failure of openness during the Fraser Island (K'Gari) fires last year, recommending improved communication with business interests, the public and even other government departments. It is a recommendation which should not have been necessary, after the Fitzgerald police misconduct inquiry showed a generation ago the benefits of more open government. Yet our recent history is replete with examples of unaccountable bureaucracies still regulating information, concealing problems and ignoring or suppressing dissenting views.

The planned Poona Lake eco-tourism project may be a case where real public consultation would help (as opposed to information sessions where the public is told rather than asked about what is going to happen). We want to be assured that submissions, whether accepted or rejected, are taken seriously.

Some say the Poona Lake plan is more "tourism" than "eco," raising questions about what governments love to call "the right balance". Most accept that public assets have to pay their way. Most accept there are competing considerations. Conflicts are usually about what constitutes this "balance". People need to be genuinely involved, so we know government is on our side.

As a New Year's gift, it should not be too much to ask.
- Arthur Gorrie



Greg Wood supplied this cartoon on the Poona Lake development plan, as portrayed by Gympie artist Jeff Douwes.

Eco-tourism doubts

By Arthur Gorrie

Sites marked for private development in the Cooloola National Park might be the thin edge of a wedge that may ultimately see restricted public access to important environmental areas.

That is the view of Rainbow Beach conservationist, Greg Wood, a vocal opponent of the planned private development of sites at Poona Lake, Noosa River and Double Island Point.

The government had so far "evaded and effectively ignored" public questioning of the plan, Mr Wood claimed this week.

He said planned cabins "cannot be safely placed under the spreading limbs of the large Blackbutt trees that stand magnificently upon the Poona Lake site.

"Neither will the site's proposed solar energy system function in the deep shade of these trees.

"When asked if it these large trees will be felled due to these clearly evident conditions, the Government response stated this will be subject to "further consideration."

Mr Wood says this seems to be the government's way of delaying public discussion "at

least until after the damage is done."

"The plan for Double Island Point, an iconic public asset, poses a massive risk to public equity," he said, predicting a future of limited access to an area which would be the site of "10 luxury cabins with panoramic views of the ocean and K'gari (Fraser Island)."

"Spruiking them to a global market, will self-evidently drive demand to expand the developed capacity

"At what point will public access across the headland be curtailed to secure the development's expectations?" he said.

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'Not us' says govt on gastro outbreak

By Arthur Gorrie

The state government has tentatively cleared itself - and its Inskip Point camping toilets - of any major liability for a recent gastro outbreak among campers.

The outbreak last month saw one camper rushed to hospital in a critical condition, as other victims temporarily overwhelmed Rainbow Beach medical resources.

Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon this week said investigations "were not indicative of the facilities being the principal source of infection."

The minister was responding to a parliamentary Question on Notice from Gympie MP Tony Perrett, who had asked about "any proposals to upgrade the toilet and shower facilities."

Mr Scanlon said her department had invested \$2,816,000 since 2018, on "major amenity upgrades in the Inskip Peninsula Recreation Area, including the total replacement of some of the amenity facilities."

She said the amenities operated on "nil-to-ground waste treatment."

"The waste is transported off site to a council regulated treatment station as the sensitive, low lying, coastal locality cannot support in-ground treatment methods," she said.

"Extensive testing has taken place across the Inskip Peninsula including facilities, soils and groundwater.



The state government says hygiene seems to be the main problem behind last month's Inskip Point gastro outbreak.

"To date, the results have not been indicative of the facilities being the principal source of infection.

"Queensland Health advice remains that the best prevention against gastroenteritis is to maintain very good hygiene," she said

Previous outbreaks in the same general area in previous years have been widely blamed on flies, especially active in hot weather and which many campers have said can access the waterless toilets and spread disease to campers' meals.



Sadly in the last five years, countless sea birds and 15 dingoes have been struck by cars on the Island.

DES: ‘Make holiday safe’

The Department of Environment and Science is reminding visitors and residents to K’gari (Fraser Island) to stay safe, be aware of Be dingo-safe messaging and respect fellow campers during the festive season.

Thousands of people are expected come to the World Heritage Area to camp, spend time in holiday homes or visit the island for day trips during December and January.

Ranger in charge Linda Behrendorff said the World Heritage Area features the breathtaking beauty of the freshwater lakes, sand dunes and a unique rainforest ecosystem.

“The island is also home to an abundance of wildlife, including more than 350 species of birds, macropods, marsupials and the majestic wongari (dingoes),” Ms Behrendorff said.

“By now, the wongari pups have emerged from their dens and are becoming juveniles who are leaning survival skills and growing bigger. People may see them on the beaches, in the bush and on the tracks.

“Rangers have set up walking stick stations around the island, and I encourage people to

take a walking stick with them for protection when they’re exploring.

“The walking sticks are designed to help people keep their distance from wongari if there is a close interaction.

“While carrying a stick is encouraged people are reminded that wongari should not be hurt or chased. Sticks are a deterrent only and penalties apply to any deliberate harm or harassment.

“People are also advised to camp in fenced areas if possible and never interact with the wongari, which are wild animals and will behave that way.

“This includes observing them from afar, making sure all food and rubbish is secured at camping areas and not enticing them for photos.

“Fines do apply, but I’m pleased to say that only one Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) has been issued by Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service this year to a person who deliberately fed a dingo.

“This is a sharp decrease on last year and

proof that heftier fines and our ongoing ‘Be dingo-safe’ public education campaign about not feeding the wongari is working.”

Twenty PINs have been issued for dingo related offences in 2021, and one for bringing an unauthorised domestic dog to the island.

- 17 x Fail to ensure food is kept safe (Food security)
- 1 x Feed dingo on Fraser Island (Feed Dingo)
- 2 x Disturbing dangerous native animals in the wild (Disturb Dingo)
- 1 x Bringing or keeping a live animal in protected area without approval

Chairperson of the Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation Jade Gould said wongari are special to Butchulla culture.

“We have an obligation to look after them as well as an obligation to look after visitors to our Country,” Ms Gould said.

“So we ask when visiting the island please give Wongari space, K’gari is their place. Please only take photographs, and leave only footprints.”

Ms Behrendorff said although most resi-

dents and visitors to the island were well behaved, some people were still disrespecting the island.

“Rangers are still observing tracks on the beach that indicate dangerous behaviour including circle work or figure-eights being conducted at speed,” she said.

“I’d like to remind people road rules apply while driving on the beach, including speed limits, and rangers can fine people for dangerous driving and not wearing seatbelts.

“The beach is a shared area that is frequented by local and migratory birds, turtles, wongari, coastal wildlife and people and vehicles.

“Unfortunately, in the past five years, dozens of shorebirds and 15 wongari have died after being struck by a car, either accidentally or deliberately running them down.

“So please slow down while driving on our beautiful beaches, keep a sharp eye out for wildlife, people and other vehicles.

“Remember, enjoy this special place, have fun and leave it as you found it.”



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Plea: Slow for those below

By Lee Mccarthy

With a lot of publicity recently about the damage and death to adult turtles and marine creatures from propellers, it is important to check your speed and consider swimmers, other boats and watch out for marine animals.

Now that summer in full swing and plenty of boaties and marine craft operators are taking advantage of our waterways, remember to 'go slow for those below'.

While the festive season is the perfect time to be on the water, boaties and personal watercraft owners needed to be conscious of what was happening below the surface.

There is a range of marine life co-existing under the water, and if you go too fast, you'll potentially endanger the lives of native animals such as turtles and dugongs.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) is asking boaties to familiarise themselves with and follow the 'planning' limits and to go slow for those below.

"A boat's propeller can cause serious, and sometimes fatal, injuries to a turtle or dugong."

The DES said the rangers were expecting to see an increased amount of traffic on our waterways over the Christmas holidays and are urging boaties and people operating personal watercraft to reduce their speed in estuaries, sandy straits, shallow inshore areas and reef flats, and to avoid shallow seagrass meadows if possible.

"Skippers travelling through 'go slow' areas must operate their boats 'off the plane', and must not operate boats in a manner or at a speed that would reasonably be expected to result in striking a turtle or dugong."

This includes the area around Double Island Point which is a 'go slow' zone as well as within 30 metres of other boats anchored, moored to the shore or aground a jetty, wharf, pontoon or boat ramp and within 60 metres of people in the water.

"Turtles and dugongs are most at risk of



Go slow for those below - Double Island Point is an official 'go slow' zone for watercraft.

being injured or killed when they come to the surface for air."

"Rangers regularly patrol Go Slow areas and boaties doing the wrong thing in a Go Slow area can receive an on-the-spot fine of \$533."

Anyone who comes across injured, stranded or dead marine wildlife should report it by calling 1300 130 372.

There are designated Go Slow areas in some marine parks – details are in the marine parks visitor guides and zoning plans on the DES

website <https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/coasts-waterways/marine-parks>.

Examples of permanent go-slow areas include Double Island Point in Great Sandy Marine Park, and Amity Banks in Moreton Bay Marine Park.

Fireworks are on tonight!

By Lee Mccarthy

Celebrate the the start of the the new year and the end of 2021 with fireworks with your family and friends on the beach.

This year's celebration will include an epic fireworks display on the beach in front of the Rainbow Beach Surf Club which will start at the family-friendly time of 9pm.

Gympie Regional Council Mayor Glen Hartwig says this year's celebrations will be the perfect way to see in the new year and bring an end to what has been another difficult year for so many residents.

"Without question, 2021 has been another challenging year, with COVID-19 restrictions having such a tremendous impact on residents and businesses in Australia and around the world.

With the new Queensland Health restrictions being updated recently, I am pleased to say that these changes will not affect our ability to celebrate New Year's Eve this year at Rainbow Beach, with outdoor community events allowed.

There were plans to hold this event at Rainbow Beach last year, however as we have seen even the best laid plans are subject to change without notice.

We are looking at sharing this event across all of the regional areas in the years to come and I believe having it at Rainbow Beach this year will allow residents and tourists to relax on the beach, kick their feet up and watch the fireworks with the ones they love," he said.

The event is proudly brought to you by Gympie Regional Council.



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The teachers and students spelt out TCB so outgoing Principal Desley Kirby could see it from the skies



Principal Desley with Santa Geoff are on their way to Kuranda School after six years at Tin Can Bay

Principal sent off in style

By Lee McCarthy

After six years as Principal of Tin Can Bay P-10 school, Desley Kirby has accepted the role of Principal of the Kuranda District State College P-12 starting in 2022.

The new position will see Mrs Kirby overseeing 450 children, compared to 300 in her recent role at Tin Can Bay.

Originally from Gayndah, Mrs Kirby left to study education and her roles since have included Deputy Principal of Hervey Bay High and Bundaberg High, with Tin Can Bay her first Principal role.

Deputy Principal Sandy Lewis, who has been Mrs Kirby's deputy for four years said: "I will miss the laughs, and the learning from her as she is the kind of leader I would like to be".

"I like her way with people and her human

side. She is kind and compassionate and I will miss our friendship."

The school held a Christmas concert on the last day of school starring The Grinch (aka Sandy) and the Elf (aka Head of Curriculum Rebecca Turner) and Mr and Mrs Clause (aka Desley and husband Geoff).

While Sandy and Rebecca along with fellow staff member Jane, had organised the helicopter ride, and had hoped to keep it a surprise, Mrs Kirby needed to sign off on the ride, so they had to tell her, however no-one else in the school knew.

In the script the reindeers were leaving, and the elf said to the teachers and students that they had to follow and as they walked to oval, surprise, the chopper was waiting for them.

Sandy said: "The parents and kids loved it

and were squealing and cheering and it made everyone's day while Mrs Kirby cried through the whole flight. "The students, staff and parents made a TCB in human bodies which could be seen from the sky.

"What a wonderful way for the whole school to say goodbye and thank such a valued leader over the past six years."

Sandy said her colleague had high expectations, was extremely compassionate, led by example, and brought in programs that really helped the foundation of the school.

"She helped all our behaviour work and trauma informed practices with the whole school showing a huge decline in negative behaviour."

"The staff loved and respected Desley because she walked the walk, had a great sense of humour, and had an authentic and compas-

sionate way with kids."

Sandy said Grade 10 English thrived under her teaching and 92 per cent of the schools' secondary students passed English which is a high statistic for any region.

The school was awarded first place in the Network Ten showcase award for excellence in the early and primary years which was a tribute to the work accomplished by staff.

Incoming Principal Daman Weir takes on the top job in 2022 and has come from a P-10 state school in Biggenden. He is reportedly excited to take on the reins and ready for the challenge of bringing new skills to the school.

Desley will be missed but as they say, Tin Can Bay's loss will be Kuranda's gain, with staff already making plans for a road trip to Kuranda during 2022.



Tin Can Bay centenary celebration organisers Arlie Shed, Darryl Lee, Wayne Hansen and Allan Kachel.

Bay's big centenary bash

By Arthur Gorrie

Preserving Tin Can Bay history may sound all very earnest, but organisers of the town's big 100th birthday bash have promised it will be a party to remember.

Volunteer Darryl Lee says the event will probably be held in Spring.

And the idea is rapidly catching on, he said.

"We just formed the Cooloola Heritage and Historical Society. We had 50 people at the first meeting and 86 at the second," he said.

"The first blocks of land at Tin Can Bay were sold in 1922, so the New Year is a big one for us.

"We're looking for Gympie Regional Council help to make use of 10ha running down behind the school to Snapper Creek.

"The original Tin Can Bay school is still here, along with all the gear - desks, chairs, slates - the lot.

"It's a lot of history. We're getting the Mary Ann steam train down from Maryborough, to commemorate the original steam locomotive's role in pioneering the area, on behalf of timber entrepreneurs William Pettigrew and William Sim.

"Trawling didn't come here until 1957, but there was fishing here long before that."

So seafood will be a big part of the celebrations, along with art, craft, great live music and plenty of food and entertainment will be part of the package, along with help from disability support workers and their.

Disability workers and their clients will also be involved in what Mr Lee hopes will be a permanent part of the life of Tin Can Bay.



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Community grant success

By Lee McCarthy

A number of Cooloola Coast businesses will share in grants of \$33,618 received in the Gympie Region including such worthy recipients as volunteer based organisations helping locals such as the Cooloola Coast Medical Transport, Surf Club, Meals On Wheels and the Coast Guard.

Wide Bay MP Llew O'Brien said he recognised the valuable work of volunteers.

"Local communities throughout Wide Bay have an incredibly strong community spirit, and they simply wouldn't be the same without the volunteers who work tirelessly through good times and bad to make their communities happier and more vibrant places to live," Mr O'Brien said.

"I thank all volunteers everywhere for the work they do giving of their time and expertise to make the lives of others easier, especially throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and recovery, and I congratulate each of these organisations on the success of their applications so they can continue their work and build a stronger Gympie region."

The grants are between \$1,000 and \$5,000, and will enable organisations to better support their volunteers to purchase small equipment, pay fuel, transport and training costs, as part of the Morrison Government's \$20 million Volunteer Grants round, to support the crucial role that they play as Australia moves forward out of the pandemic.



The Rainbow Beach surf club was one of the recipients of the latest round of grants by the Federal Government

The following Gympie region organisations have received funding:

Hope Reins - \$5,000 for small appliances included a fridge freezer, oven, coffee machine and kitchen equipment.

Gympie Golf Club - \$3,000 for shade gazebos, eskies, and a new barbecue to assist vol-

unteers at fundraising events.

Gympie & District Historical Society - \$1,500 for a sandblasting cabinet to enable volunteers to clean and restore museum collection items without handling chemicals.

Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association Inc Tin Can Bay - \$3,330 for six spotlights

to be used on Coastguard Tin Can Bay vessels for search and rescue operations and navigation at night.

Cooloola Coast Bowls Club - \$5,000 to replace an old analogue television with a new digital TV.

Cooloola Coast Medical Transport - \$5,000 to assist with fuel vouchers for the organisation's 100-plus volunteers who take people to medical appointments.

Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club - \$4,788 to purchase resuscitation manikins for first aid training.

Tin Can Bay Meals On Wheels - \$5,000 to assist volunteers with meal costs and travel.

Kandanga Tennis Club - \$1,000 for a contactless credit card payment system to use at fundraising barbecues and club events, plus fuel cards for volunteers and first aid equipment.

Mr O'Brien said the money will go towards important services such as residents getting to important medical appointments, providing meals and a chat, keeping people safe in the water or adding to our rich cultural, social and sporting activities like the Cooloola Coast Bowls Club, - you can always be sure that volunteers will be with volunteers working hard to make life better for others.

Volunteers are integral to many Australian organisations, with more than 8.7 million volunteers across the country giving their time freely to support their communities.

Faster, cheaper data

By Lee McCarthy

With more people leaving their offices to work from home, the demand for high speed and reliable internet in our local area has become a top priority.

Businesses across the Cooloola Coast claim their systems crash during high peak tourist season when demand is high, and on-line workers need faster data downloads.

Deborah Mead from NBN Wide Bay will be visiting the region early next year to give an update on nbn's business-grade fibre offering for Rainbow Beach.

She said the nbn™ Business Fibre Initiative is about providing eligible businesses with access to high-speed business-grade fibre (via nbn™ Enterprise Ethernet) at discounted wholesale prices.

"Additionally, the initiative helps level the playing field for businesses by significantly reducing the variation that has existed for nbn™ business-grade broadband services in regional and rural areas outside city CBD Zones."

Kylie Lindsay, Head of nbn Local Queensland said "For business nbn™ Enterprise Ethernet customers, we are helping to level the playing field and ensuring that more businesses throughout Australia can participate in the digital economy on an equal foot-

ing, with greater parity on recurring monthly wholesale charges in more locations."

The updates include a change for businesses in and around Rainbow Beach as internet providers servicing businesses across nbn's fixed line network will be able to access discounts on the wholesale pricing of an nbn™ Enterprise Ethernet service.

Eligible businesses within nbn's fixed line footprint could benefit from access of up to a 56 per cent discount on monthly wholesale charges for some services.

Debra said she hopes this is welcome news to local businesses, particularly those that are increasingly relying on their broadband connection for cloud-based applications, remote file storage, online sales, digital collaboration platforms, content hosting, unified communications, large file distribution and connection to head office locations.

You can find out more information on the initiative at nbn™ Business Fibre Initiative and nbn™ Enterprise Ethernet.

Debra said she is looking forward to the opportunity to speak at the Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism meeting in the new year to talk further about this announcement and how the community could benefit.

Dates and times will be announced in the next issue of Cooloola Coast Today.



Deborah Mead will be in Rainbow Beach in the new year to talk to local businesses about their data service

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Prawn bait warning

By Lee McCarthy

With festivities in full swing, remember not to use supermarket prawns as bait or throw the remains in the ocean, as they may carry disease and decimate our local fishing industry.

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Diseases such as white spot disease only affect crustaceans, not humans. However, cooking the prawns will kill the virus which means they are completely safe to eat. It only becomes problematic if raw prawns purchased from the supermarket are used as bait, as they could introduce disease into our marine environment.

Raw prawns from the supermarket used as bait are still considered the most probable pathway for diseases coming into Australia. Buy your bait from the bait shop, service station or catch your own.

The DAF said while Australian prawns only make up 40 per cent of consumer demand in Australia, it means prawns are imported from other countries to meet demand.

The DAF said: "In late 2016 and early 2017, white spot syndrome virus (WSSV), the causative agent for white spot disease, was confirmed on seven prawn farms in South East Queensland, and then in waterways around the Logan River and Moreton Bay. Movement restrictions were subsequently put in place to stop the spread of the disease into other areas.

This meant prawn trawlers who fished in the Moreton Bay region were unable to move

raw prawns outside of the restricted area, affecting trade. The disease also shut down all seven farms and put them out of production for almost two years.

"That is why it is important we all play our part to stop disease introductions such as white spot disease. Buy your bait from the bait shop or service station, not the supermarket"

1. Don't use supermarket prawns as bait or use heads and tails as burley
2. Check your bait is from a bait shop, service station or catch your own
3. Make sure you dispose of unwanted bait and seafood in the bin, not into Queensland waterways.

Buying local fresh prawns like these from Reibel fisheries are safer for us and the coastal environment



Holy mackerel! It pays to stick within the limits

By Donna Jones

A \$7500 fine for a recreational fisherman in the Maroochydore Magistrates Court, is a timely reminder to other anglers in Gympie region waters not to exceed catch limits.

The fisher pleaded guilty to going well over the Spanish mackerel catch limit on two occasions.

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities Mark Furner said Fisheries Queensland was working hard to preserve low Spanish mackerel stocks and this sort of careless over fishing didn't help.

"The limit for recreational fishers is three per person and this fisher was found on two separate occasions with 14 and 13 excess

fish," Mr Furner said.

"The Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol (QBFP) is investing significant resources in detecting such offending, so if there are fishers out there engaged in such activities they will catch you.

"QBFP officers use a range of investigative measures, including checking market distribution points to monitor compliance for important species under a quota, and I thank them for their tireless efforts."

In handing down the penalty, the Magistrate said the defendant should be more aware of the importance of possession limits.

For information on Queensland's fishing regulations, visit www.fisheries.qld.gov.au, call 13 25 23 or download the free 'Qld Fishing' app from Apple and Google app stores.



A fisherman pleaded guilty to exceeding his catch limit of Spanish mackerel on two separate occasions.



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Caroline Simpson and Marilyn Dean enjoying Christmas Dinner with friends old and new.



Thanks to the generosity of Andrea Hayes from Rainbow Recovery, the Breast Cancer Network Australia has more funds to help women with cancer.

Painting bidding furious

By Lee McCarthy

The bidding was fast and furious as buyers wanted to take home the original oil painting created by Lynette Dimmock of Net Rae Art at the latest

Guests from the past two Cooloola Coast Women in Business events (CCWIB) put the finishing touches to the painting Lynette had prepared to get it ready for auction.

The painting finally sold for \$100 thanks to the generosity of Andrea Hayes who has donated the money to her charity choice, Breast Cancer Network Australia.

The venue was decorated by Christine from Beach & Bay Weddings and Events and it looked stunning with its red, gold and white tables and chairs with the Carlo Point backdrop.

There were a multitude of prizes from guests and businesses including Coffee Cart of Maryborough, Rainbow Beach Meats, Sue Dowling from Nu Skin, Gympie Today, Net Rae Art, Cooloola Coast Furniture and Bedding and Streetwise Hair and everyone had the chance to introduce themselves as they collected their prize.

Mo Riggs from Moceanart has created her own handmade earth pigments for artists and offered a \$45 prize pack of the 'paints' which was won by Lynette's daughter, Lisa but which her mother was very excited to claim.

It was another stunning event by CCWIB with Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach again rising to the occasion with a genuine English Christmas Dinner followed by Christmas Pudding, Trifle and wonderful service.

The next event will be 25 February and the March event will be the Ladies Day 2022 sponsored by Michelle Agnew Platinum 21 on 5 and 6 March for International Womens Day.



Owner of Streetwise Hair, Judith Grantham with Nutritionist Elizabeth Peters.



The effervescent Sue Dowling brought a truck load of Nu Skin products which ensured nearly everyone went home with a prize.



The two Kerrys who managed the entry for the Christmas celebrations, Kerry Fullarton and Kerry Cooper.



Paivi Lobigs, Kathy McFarlane and Judi Donald enjoying the festivities of an early Christmas Dinner.

Winner takes home cash

By Lee McCarthy

The annual IGA Community Christmas Party was a winner according to staff, with a small but happy crowd attending and a very happy winner.

Shell won the \$2500, by spending \$30 or more at either IGA Tin Can Bay, Cooloola

Guardian Pharmacy and The Sands Centre Pharmacy which then gave you an entry into the draw.

The day was filled with laughter, free live music, jumping castle and face painting plus a BBQ by the Tin Can Bay and Community Men's Shed.



Santa always turns up at the right time and everyone at the IGA Christmas Party loved telling him how good they had been especially Riley



A very happy winner of the \$2500 cash giveaway in time for Christmas with IGA Tin Can Bay store owner Bernie O'Connell



Braden Gray entertains the crowd.



Colt, Teresa, Angelique and Liliaano Kitto.

To all our Listeners, Members and Sponsors

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Daisy Facenator applies some beautiful art to Mackenzie Ward.



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Ken and Norma Clarey.



Paul Boulton, Carole Lehmann, Rhylee-May Gerathy and Taran Partridge.



Audrey Collings and Isla Gallego from IGA whip up some fairy floss for the kids.



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Fishing

Cooloola Coast

Fish are on the bite

By Chris Rippon

G'day Crew!!

It that time of the year again and the silly season is here guys. Silly is how busy the shop has been the last few weeks it feels like there was never less than six people in the shop and that's not including the staff.

The Marina has been humming lately. Lots of boats up on the hardstand having work done to them and loads of holiday makers staying in the marina villas taking advantage of the free ten metre berth you get when you book one of the villas. The town just seems to be getting busier and busier and that's not just the holiday periods. I personally think it's great to see and it's great for the local economy too.

By now I'm sure you have all heard, we have been running the 2021 Tin Can Bay Tag A Jack competition. The comp kicked off on at 12am on Saturday 20 November after the briefing Friday night.

We ended up with 31 keen anglers and they got busy from the get go. By sunup we had about 15 recorded captures entered by some very keen anglers. The comp wrapped up at 11.59am on the 19 December and didn't we have some cracking results in the end!

The group managed to tag 217 Mangrove Jacks at a combined length of 8194cm, an awesome effort by all involved. So, who won what I hear you ask....?

- **Longest Jack:** Simon Williams 51cm
- **Longest amount of Jacks Tagged:** Joe Hauzer with a total of 60 fish and they measured 2093.5cm. Also worthy of a mention for this category are the following anglers;
- **Simon Williams:** 40 fish with a total length of 1690cm; John Maslen 37 fish with a total length of 1365cm; Malcom Kay 23 fish with a total length of 913.5cm.
- **Biggest Other Species:** Shannon Dawes with a 87cm Barra

There were also a photo competition prizes up for grabs we had four sub winners and the main prize is now out on our Facebook page and is up for public voting. So, like n share Crew! The winner will be announced next week on our face book page.

Just a quick one to say thank you to all our sponsors for the comp, Shimano, Spotter Sunglasses, E.J.Todd, Profishent Tackle & Garmin Marine. Also, a very special mention and a BIG THANK YOU to the Tin Can Bay Fishing Club for the use of the BBQ facilities for the presentation and a special thank you to Jim and Debbie George for once again giving up their own time on Sunday to help out with the BBQ.

So, besides a heap of mangrove jack being



John Maslen with a nice Jack that ate a Samaki Redic lure.

caught what else has been biting? The rain sure has got things moving in the creeks. Reports of some great crabs getting flushed out have been coming in thick & fast.

Quite a few of our regulars have been smacking them the last week and many fisho's have been getting their personal bag with ease. Reports from Snapper, Crab and Kauri creeks have all been producing. As always fresh baits are the key to consistent success.

Don't forget that the personal bag limit for muddies is seven per person or fourteen per boat with two or more people on board. Stay updated with the latest rules and regs at <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au>

The cod have also been out in good num-

ber and make for a great feed if you are looking for a feed of fresh fish. Black spot & gold spot estuary cod or as I like to call them "Estuary Trout" are abundant in all our creeks.

I have been spending a bit of time up around Boonooroo the last few trips and we have had days where they are almost annoying as bycatch when targeting mangrove jack. Not that I will ever turn my nose up to my rod getting buckled and violently hit by any fish, that's half the fun, isn't it...? Cod aren't the fussiest of critters and will eat almost any bait the is put in front of them, as long as it fits in their mouth it is fair game for them. Even if it does not fit, they will have a crack at making it fit. Lure wise we have been finding that 3.5" - 4.5" weedless

rigged plastics like Zman Slim Swimz, Molix RT Shads & the Chapo Special Zerek Live Cherabin have been working the best in a variety of colours.

The reef stuff up around Inskip and The Bluff has been producing a few nice tuskies, cod and nanagi the last few weeks. Strip baits & livies have been working best for most fisho chasing a feed of reefies. Teebar Ledge has also been producing a nice mix of smaller reef fish. Slow pitch metal jig will also work well on these grounds and jig in the 30gm, 40gm are what you will be needing and maybe a couple of 60gmers if the tide is pushing. A personal favorite of mine are the Palms Slow Blatts Wides rigger with BKK Sea Rangers.

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Rio With a nice Jack for The Chandlery, 2021 Tin Can Bay Tag A Jack competition.

It shouldn't be too long now till we start to see a few mackerel show up in The Bay and off-shore. I know firsthand that the spotties and a few Spanish have arrived up in Hervey Bay and it should not be too long till we see our fair share. Our HookEm Planning Board have arrived just in time and will prove deadly on the mackerel especially trolling 3" spoons for spotties.

Well, that's me done for this month, this year actually. Stay safe have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year all!! Enjoy your time off if you have any and spending time with your family and loved ones. As always if you are on the way to or from the ramp pop in for a yarn and let us know how your day was.

Tight Lines and a very Merry Christmas to you all.

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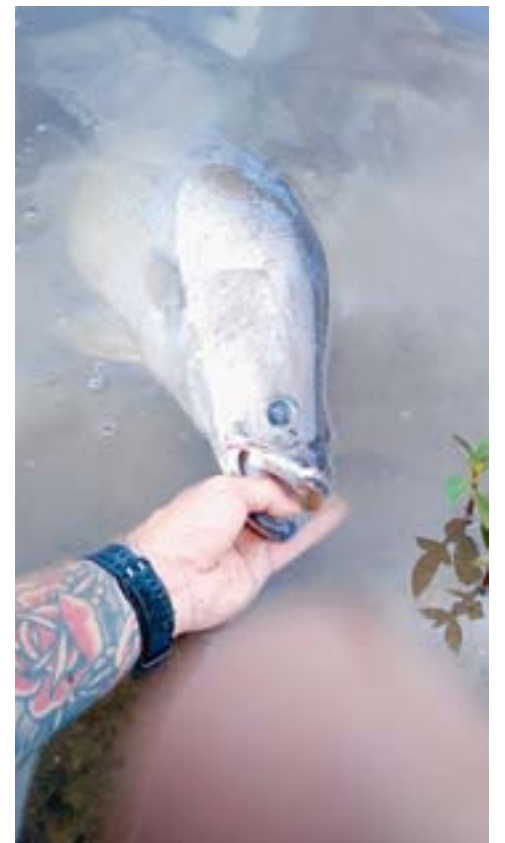
Simon Williams with his great sunset on Snapper Creek submitted to The Chandlery.



Jacko Herhir with a nice Jack for the 2021 Tin Can Bay Tag A Jack competition held by The Chandlery.



Joe Hauzer with one of the 60 Jacks he tagged for the 2021 Tin Can Bay Tag-A-Jack competition.



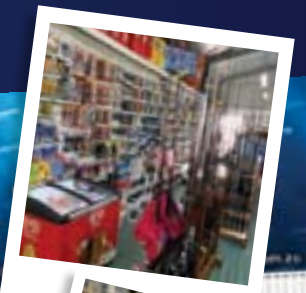
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Sports Club Santa for many years Keith Sykes with wife Sandra enjoying the chance to be with friends at the members Christmas Party.



Olivia Ruth supplied the sensational music for the event.



Fay Whittaker, Steve Hebbard, Natasha Somerville, Don Hebbard, Darryl Sullivan and Ray Whittaker enjoying the party.

A great day to win a boat

By Lee McCarthy

The annual Christmas giveaway party for members was held at the Rainbow Beach Sports Club last week and yes, someone won a boat.

There were limited tickets in the major prize, so the odds were shorter and many of the crowd were keen to win the \$12,000 boat, outboard and trailer.

The lucky winner was not amongst the crowd though but was a thrilled Liam Blackwell from Chinchilla who bought his ticket while he was on holidays in Rainbow Beach only last week and decided to visit the Sports Club.

According to Louise Kelly from the Sports Club team he was a happy recipient and very grateful for the win!

Winner of second prize, the Stainless Steel 4 Burner BBQ was Donna Preston from Gympie, and the winner of the \$300 Sunshine Mitre 10 voucher for third prize was Adam Ciseau from Caloundra.

Louise said Adam purchased his ticket from the Sports Club in November while visiting Rainbow Beach for his birthday.

On top of the top prizes, there were over

\$4000 of prizes and giveaways from the Sports club including pushbikes, solar panel kits, scooters, esky, beer, camping and kitchen equipment and too many prizes to list.

Over two hundred members came to the event adding to the Christmas spirit and the club used the chance to thank the members for their patronage over the past twelve months.

Manager Troy Somerville said he was happy with the big crowd and wanted to thank, "The staff and committee members for their contribution and the members who have volunteered their time and supported the club this year and over the many years."

The next big event on the club's calendar is the 90's and 'noughties' themed 2021 New Year's Eve Party with prizes for best dressed and music by DJ Roly, food till late, and a courtesy bus from 5pm to 12.30am.

Troy said he wanted to wish all members and the community a Happy and Prosperous 2022 and said if you are looking for work, they are employing.

If you have a wedding or function coming up don't forget to check out the club where you can enjoy brilliant food in air-conditioned comfort.



From the Sunny Coast and having a break from their annual camping trip to Inskip Point is Lucy Kroesen, Donna Matthews, Frank Kroesen and Luke Kroesen.

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Jeff Nutt from Rainbow Beach winding down for Christmas.



Malaeki, Jo, Chris, Adam, Sam and Hayden enjoying the music and fun at the Sports Club.



Bruno, Joan, Jenny, Bobby, Greg and Johnny getting away from the heat and catching up.



Santa with Brenda Stokes and Tamara Emms waiting for the big raffle draws.



The ex Tangalooma crew who have been part of Rainbow Beach and the sports club for many years - Cherie and Ron Mason, Glenn Sargent, June and Len Brown together again for Christmas.



Glen and Kaye Pollard enjoying the music and fun at the Christmas Party.



Kaye Chapman and Benno at the Christmas Party.



Locals Sandra, Darryl, Gil, Don and Ada catching up.



Dads day out with Greg and Kiana Wetherell and Garry and Logan Sanderson.



Club stalwarts Col and Marcia Mills enjoying the company.

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