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# CooloolaCoastToday



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**Kate's genetically gifted**  
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## Coast muso's Covid death

Cooloola Coast music fans have been shocked by news of the Covid-linked death of popular musician Stu Fergie, better known to many as DidgeriSTU.

The popular "Dreamtime roots" band OKA, which he fronted, has been a big drawcard to music events at Rainbow Beach.

It is believed the 44-year-old was hospitalised last month and died last Saturday from Covid complications.

STORY PAGE 2

**WARNING:** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised this story contains images and voices of a person who has died.

## Border war

Confidential Noosa Council records obtained by Cooloola Coast Today prove that Gympie is already a loser in its looming environmental border war with Noosa.

The battle for influence over the management of the huge national park area between the two councils was reported in last week's Gympie Today.

Despite claims by former Noosa mayor Tony Wellington that Gympie is "represented" on the influential advisory committee he established (the Teewah and Cooloola Working Group), working group minutes show the numerical dominance of Noosa interests.

STORY PAGE 4



## Toasting 64 years

Cooloola Coast Today reporter Lee McCarthy was delighted to catch up with Malcolm and Marie Lehman, who recently celebrated their anniversary and invited her in for a chat and many laughs.

On 8 February 1958 Father Basil Nolan married Malcolm Lehman and Maree Edwards in the St Patricks Catholic Church in Gympie. That was 64 years ago and today from their home in Tin Can Bay they are proud to be the parents of three successful children, 10 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. They have little regret except the wish to see the latest additions to their family, which has been difficult the past two years.

STORY PAGE 6

# Poona showdown

By Arthur Gorrie

Controversial development plans for the Cooloola national park are claimed to have split the Queensland Government at Cabinet level, with Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon sidelined in favour of pro-development Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe.

ism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe.

The claims, by veteran conservation campaigner Mike West, are backed by Brisbane news reports this week that Ms Scanlon has only now called for a report from her department on the planned construction of a 10-unit "eco cabin" motel at the pristine Poona Lake, near Rainbow Beach.

near Rainbow Beach.

"I'm only surprised she didn't know more about it already," Mr West said.

He said senior Environment Department staff, including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service officers had privately expressed their opposition to the plan, even as the QPWS officially promotes it.

QPWS officially promotes it.

"They are in fear of their jobs," Mr West said.

He also accused the government of misleading community members at information evenings, where he said comments from the floor were banned or ignored.

STORY PAGE 5

### Rainbow Beach Hotel

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## CooloolaCoastToday

The Cooloola Coast's natural assets are also its unique tourism selling point and protecting these assets is a priority for those who live, love or visit the region.

The suggestions that all are in favour of the State Government's plan to cut a swath through a natural environment for a well heeled few to camp and declaring environmental groups support this idea is ludicrous.

How many locals and visitors who actually utilise this National Park because of its immense natural beauty are supportive of this plan? Or is this another idea hatched for brownie points by a public servant wishing to get a pat on the back for initiative?

Eco Tourism opportunities are important, they are successful across the world, however a better location for those wishing to stay in opulence amongst nature would surely be to use an underutilised part of the region with established access points which will not destroy the very reason visitors flock to a region.

A spokesperson for MP Stirling Hinchcliffe's office was quoted last week as saying: "The proposed site has the backing of independent ecologists, groundwater experts and Traditional Owners" and that "premium eco-tourism experiences had been identified by the Tourism Industry Reference Panel as critical to the recovery of Queensland's visitor economy".

Tourism operators on the ground across Queensland are aware of what is critical to the recovery of Queensland visitor economy and consultation with those on the frontline would be a good start.

- Lee McCarthy



Sad news for family, friends and fans of Stuart Fergie, frontman for OKA, who sadly passed away last week. Photo from the 2021 Rainbow Beach SpringFest.

# Musician mourned

By Lee McCarthy

A beloved musician's Covid-related death has forced the cancellation of this weekend's planned free music event - A Variant in Music: Friends for Oka.

It is with much sadness organisers advised lead singer Stuart Fergie passed away on 19 February 2022 after a tough battle at the Gold Coast Hospital due to complications from Covid-19. The fundraiser event organised by the Rainbow Beach Community Centre volunteers was to help raise vital funds for Oka's front

man, who delighted the audience at the 2021 Rainbow Beach SpringFest.

President of the Community Centre, Elisa Seul said Stuart had been on life support in the Gold Coast hospital with machine-assisted breathing since 8 February.

"Stu was a warrior, he has inspired so many people all around the world, he stayed true to himself after 20 years of being in the industry, he loved the community we are grateful, and we honour his messages."

"The money was to be added to the GoFundMe page started by Stu's wife Bonnie Fer-

gie for the costs and expenses behind being close to a person daily fighting for life."

Aspy Jones, Tilly Wright, Lucy Gallant, Olivia Ruth, Andrea Kirwin, SKillz FJ, Briannah Grace, Boom Boom Sound System, Katie Milae and The Lyrical, were set to join the event in Rainbow Beach to help raise funds for the family.

Oka band members said: "He's a big spirit that has brought so much positivity to the stage for us to enjoy, let's pull together and give him and his family much needed support."

"Music is the soundtrack of life." RIP Stuart Boga Fergie.

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## And baby makes two

Barnacles Cafe and Dolphin Feeding at Tin Can Bay excitedly announced last week the birth of a new calf for mother Aussie, one of the much loved Tin Can Bay dolphins.

Tourists flocked from all over the world pre-Covid to feed the dolphins who come in on cue every morning for a feed from the volunteers and visitors.

According to Barnacles, this is the third calf for mum Aussie, who was described as a 'proud and protective' mother.

While the newborn's name is yet to be decided and the gender is still currently unknown, Barnacles have promised to announce all when they know more.

"We were honoured to have one of our females, Aussie, feel safe enough and trust us all enough to bring in her one day old calf to show off to us an the lucky public that were there."

"This is such a blessing to us all here at the Dolphin Centre."

The Dolphin Centre opens at 7am each day, with viewing time between 7am and 8am. There is only one feeding session per day commencing at 8am.

Because the dolphins are wild, the centre said they cannot guarantee their arrival time or even that there will be dolphins on a given day, but said it is rare for no dolphins to visit but as with all wildlife experiences, it can happen.

The centre is run by volunteers and the cost to feed the dolphins is \$10 which includes the purchase of fish to feed the dolphins.

For more information visit [www.barnacles-dolphins.com.au](http://www.barnacles-dolphins.com.au) or Barnacles Cafe and Dolphin Feeding on Facebook.



A new calf for mum Aussie at the Dolphin Centre, Tin Can Bay. Phone Barnacles Cafe & Dolphin Feeding.

## Don't make it easy for criminals

Gympie Police are reminding residents of Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach to review their home and business security measures, to lock and secure vehicles and keep valuables out of sight.

Property related offences have recently been reported to police who are saying keep your home and vehicles secure.

On February 6, two reported stealing from motor vehicle offences occurred at a premise on Tin Can Bay Road, Tin Can Bay.

The two reports relate to the theft of number plates from vehicles. One of the vehicles bearing Queensland registration TRI770 had both number plates stolen and the other vehicle bearing Queensland registration 268YUH had the rear plate stolen.

Police said investigations are continuing and if you have any information that can assist police with these incidents, please contact Policelink.

Remember to secure your vehicles, homes, and businesses to help deter opportunistic criminals from stealing your property.

For more information on home security, vehicle security, motorcycle security and business security go to website [www.police.qld.gov.au](http://www.police.qld.gov.au)

If you have information for police, contact Policelink by providing information using the online suspicious activity form 24hrs per day at [www.police.qld.gov.au/reporting](http://www.police.qld.gov.au/reporting).

Report crime information anonymously via Crime Stoppers. Call 1800 333 000 or report online at [www.crimestoppersqld.com.au](http://www.crimestoppersqld.com.au).

# Blocks are now on sale

By Lee McCarthy

The newly launched Yaringa Estate at Rainbow Shores is proving just as popular as the first releases in the region in the 1970s.

There are under 1300 permanent residents based in Rainbow Beach and while the popular consensus is to keep the town small, the reality is that without an even minimal increase in property for sale, there will be no increase in facilities and infrastructure.

Sitting 150 metres from the beach at Rainbow Shores, 14 blocks in stage one, of the 39 in total were released last week.

The listings are with Cooloola Coast Realty and Rainbow Beach Realty with listing prices starting at \$430,000

The development is about to turn soil to begin services and earthworks are starting immediately.

Andrew Hawkins from Rainbow Beach Realty, who has listings for the release, said it's a nicely sized boutique release where it's not going to overwhelm the town.

"As everyone knows, there is not enough property to accommodate everyone that wants and needs to live here."

He said the buyer response had been overwhelming with essentially the bulk of the interest coming from people within driving distance of Rainbow Beach and those already familiar with the town.

"My impression is that at least one half will be owner occupied which will assist and support the population in town, with the balance being investors and people looking for a weekend."

"We are looking forward to seeing this estate becoming another much loved part of Rainbow Beach"

Dee White from Cooloola Coast Realty said she thinks this is almost a 'coming of age' for



Fourteen Blocks have been released for sale at Yaringa Estate at the old golf course at Rainbow Shores.

Rainbow Beach with land in demand and good prices being achieved.

"People are wanting to secure a piece of Rainbow as opposed to the previous beach house dream of a big block for the boat and pool."

"I think it is probably a good thing being released in stages because I think in any market it is smart to break the development up into stages instead of releasing all in one go."

Stage one is further away from the beach and she said as stages two and three come

onto the market it will be interesting to see what prices they achieve.

Mrs White said enquiries so far have predominately been from the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane and added, "I actually think it will be good for the town because ultimately, I believe it will stimulate the economy with builders and contractors who need somewhere to stay and eat".

"While it will not solve our rental crises, I don't see it as anything but positive for the town."

"Ultimately I would love a link between the shopping precinct up to the northern side of the shores with supporting green zones and pathways which would be perfect for walking and riding your bike."

"I believe the developer ultimately loves Rainbow and wants the best for it, and under all the guidelines put onto the developer he has produced the best solution for that piece of land."

Further information at [www.rainbow-beachdevelopment.com](http://www.rainbow-beachdevelopment.com)

# A pleasing weekend for lagoon users as jet skis slow

Great news for supporters of the new six-knot speed limit for the lagoon area of Double Island Point introduced on 4 February with follow up action taken by Maritime Safety Queensland to ensure the new speeds are being adhered to.

The concern by members of the community that new speed limits without patrols would not be effective as those few wishing to flaunt them would continue to do so without a deterrent.

Maritime Safety Queensland General Manager Kell Dillon said this was a safety move as the lagoon had become increasingly popular with both boat owners and swimmers.

"Recently we have seen more family groups enjoying the area for swimming or to use non-motorised craft."

Maritime Safety Queensland consulted the public throughout January 2022 and

most respondents strongly endorsed a six-knot speed limit.

"Our marine officers patrolled the lagoon at Double Island Point on Saturday (12 February) and collected drone footage.

"Two personal watercraft (PWC) were seen operating inside the six-knot zone slightly over the speed limit but no compliance action was taken."

Registration details were taken for a PWC operating in breach of distance-off rules outside the six-knot zone and an infringement notice will be issued.

Marine officers counted 12 PWC, one tiny and one inflatable vessel during the visit.

Given the low vessel numbers over a short period, it is not possible to draw any long-term assessment of boating behaviour.

"We are confident responsible boaties understand why the speed limit was introduced and will support the move."



Photo of a speeding jet ski prior to the new 6-knot speed zone being established at Double Island Point on 4 February 2022

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The beautiful view from Cooloola's environmental war zone.

# Gympie numbers crunch

By Arthur Gorrie

Confidential Noosa Council records obtained by Cooloola Coast Today prove that Gympie is already a loser in its looming environmental border war with Noosa.

The battle for influence over the management of the huge national park area between the two councils was reported in last week's Gympie Today.

Despite claims by former Noosa mayor Tony Wellington that Gympie is "represented" on the influential advisory committee he established (the Teewah and Cooloola Working Group), working group minutes show the nu-

merical dominance of Noosa interests.

The working group was formed to advise on management of the national park area from Noosa North Shore to Rainbow Beach, an area which has important business and visitor links to both Noosa and Gympie.

At issue is Noosa's perceived need to control excessive vehicle traffic and extremes of bad visitor behaviour at Teewah, on the southern side of Double Island Point.

Gympie interests claim proposed Noosa solutions could unfairly restrict visitors from the Rainbow Beach end, where issues are seen very differently.

Gympie mayor Glen Hartwig has called for a more conciliatory approach rather than the numbers game he implies is occurring at working group meetings.

Working group minutes provided to Noosa Council and now to Gympie Today show the need for greater sensitivity towards Gympie concerns, with Noosa business, council and community representatives outnumbering Gympie almost eight votes to five.

Gympie council last year had two representatives, Cr Hartwig and then CEO Shane Grey.

Noosa council had three, Mayor Clare Stewart, CEO Brett de Chastel and Cr Brian Stockwell.

But community and business representation is even more heavily dominated by Noosa.

Noosa North Shore Association, Noosa Parks Association, Teewah Landowners Association, Tourism Noosa and Noosa state MP Sandy Bolton are all represented on the committee.

The Gympie list is much shorter, with one representative each for Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism Association, Destination Gympie Region and Gympie MP Tony Perrett.

The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service had four representatives when the commit-

tee met last April, along with one from the Queensland Police Service.

All seem to agree that problems of drink and drug driving, dangerous vehicle hooning and threatening behaviour by some campers, along with sanitation issues, have become much worse at Teewah in recent years, prompting several police crackdowns.

One regular visitor said the once enjoyably relaxed tolerance of Teewah residents and campers now seemed to have turned bad, with increasingly frequent complaints, even in the face of increased police surveillance and action.

Mr Perrett has backed Cr Hartwig's concerns about Noosa dominance of working group politics, amid concerns that all members could be held responsible as individuals for the group's recommendations.

Cr Hartwig has denied claims by Mr Wellington that Gympie council appeared to have lost interest in the environmental and community issues dealt with by the working group.

Calling for more tolerant and respectful working group processes, he has indicated his good working relationship with Noosa mayor Clare Stewart, but says respectful discussion is not universal on the committee.

## OPINION GympieToday.com.au

### Paradise lost

Last week a group of us went to Rainbow Beach. From here we accessed a bush track which led us to Poona Lake. It was a magnificent blue sky day. As we emerged from the bushes the scene before us took our breath away. The lake lay glistening and welcoming in all its pristine fragility.

Poona Lake is a unique perched lake surrounded by untouched, unlogged forest. It lies within the Cooloola National Park. If you have never visited this lake, I suggest you do so. It is an incredibly peaceful, awesome spectacle.

Yet this spectacular phenomenon is about to be desecrated by our government which intends to lease a 5000m2 site on the far side of the lake for the construction of 10 luxury units of 38 square metres complete with ensuites and extra amenities buildings. This will be a private development.

Obviously the construction of service roads and power supplies will most certainly damage the ecological balance of this fragile area. Approvals still have to be gained, but to find out more about this environmental atrocity you can go to <https://www.protect-parks.net/> as well as <https://keep-cooloola-cool.org/>

Needless to say as we walked back through the forest we felt outrage and frustration. This proposed construction is mapped as part of the Great Cooloola Walk, a supposedly "eco-friendly" escapade for the very wealthy!

Many of us who are aware of the Great Cooloola Walk didn't bargain for this underhand type of development. But money will have its way!

The Poona Lake scenario is a far cry from a few glamping tents, although even their proposed presence is highly questionable in such a fragile ecosystem as the Cooloola and Great Sandy National Park. I also wonder what impact this will have on the application for World Heritage listing which this area is currently pursuing.

It really does beggar belief that our local councils and our state member are backing these proposals. It is disappointing that our state member will not even discuss the Poona Lake proposal with concerned citizens. So far development sites for Cooloola National Park also include Double Island Point and sites along the Noosa River. These are unique, special and very sensitive areas.

I've even heard rumour of another campsite on Double Island Point! Really! This would just add more traffic on the beach. I won't start on that problem!

I love this place. It breaks my heart to realise how little the powers that be really care about protecting it. The tourist dollar is the motivation behind just about all decisions, especially our beautiful North Shore. Sad but true.

Kathy Sweet,  
Tewantin



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# Ministers ‘clash’ on lake

By Arthur Gorrie

Controversial development plans for the Cooloolool national park are claimed to have split the Queensland Government at Cabinet level, with Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon sidelined in favour of pro-development Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe.

The claims, by veteran conservation campaigner Mike West, are backed by Brisbane news reports this week that Ms Scanlon has only now called for a report from her department on the planned construction of a 10-unit “eco cabin” motel at the pristine Poona Lake, near Rainbow Beach.

“I’m only surprised she didn’t know more about it already,” Mr West said.

He said senior Environment Department staff, including Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service officers had privately expressed their opposition to the plan, even as the QPWS officially promotes it.

“They are in fear of their jobs,” Mr West said.

He also accused the government of misleading community members at information evenings, where he said comments from the floor were banned or ignored.

Mr West has clashed with Mr Hinchliffe before, when Mr Hinchliffe worked as a private lobbyist for a major planned development, Rainbow Shores Stage Two, at Inskip Point.

“The so-called eco cabins would be on a hillside just 60m from Cooloolool’s only perched dune lake, Poona Lake,” he said.

He said the same plan also includes a “grossly unsuitable plan for a glamping experience” squeezed between the Upper Noosa River and the unique Patterned Fens.

“These exclusive projects will obviously disrupt the enjoyment of the present users (despite government denials).

“Poona Lake is set in a valley rather like a volcanic crater with steep sides covered with Great Sandy’s amazing forests. It is accessible



Aerial view of Poona Lake, with adjacent development sites marked.

at the moment by a walking track only.

“One of its greatest assets is that there are no signs of humans in all directions. A row of 10 large cabins would change all that. Similarly, the glamping project, will spoil the ambience that bushwalkers and kayakers presently enjoy.

“The government has said that any plans must not spoil the present user experience, but they obviously will.

“High-end visitors paying thousands of dollars a night to sip chardonnay on their decks

will hardly want smelly bushwalkers hanging around.”

Mr West said there was no support within the local QPWS staff, who fear for their jobs if they complain and who have been excluded from meetings with locals.

“One meeting I attended at Rainbow Beach was chaired by a person, not Parks staff, who told an incredulous audience she would not be taking questions from the floor.

She told us the lake would not be able to be

seen from the cabins nor the cabins from the lake.

“One wonders why all this disruption is necessary if the view is not a reason for choosing this site.

“A bold interjector claimed to have been to the site, which is marked with tape, and they could see the lake.

“I have also visited the proposed site, and I could see the lake, and this is before they clear any trees for construction,” Mr West said.



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64 years ago, Malcolm Lehman married Marie Edwards at St Patrick's church in Gympie.



Enjoying memories of their marriage well known Gympie and Tin Can Bay couple Malcolm and Marie Lehman.

# What a delightful couple

By Lee McCarthy

It was a delight to catch up with Malcolm and Marie Lehman, who recently celebrated their anniversary and invited me in for a chat and a laugh.

On 8 February 1958 Father Basil Nolan married Malcolm Lehman and Maree Edwards in the St Patricks Catholic Church in Gympie.

That was 64 years ago and today from their home in Tin Can Bay they are proud to be the parents of three successful children, 10 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

They have little regret except the wish to see the latest additions to their family, which has been difficult the past two years.

Their wedding party included Marie's sister Frances Kay and Fay Mitchell with Malcolm's groomsmen Neil Treloor and Aubrey Jurgursen.

Malcolm was born in Cairns in 1939 during the depression then moved to Memerambi in the South Burnett where his family bought a Post Office with a store. He attended Nudgee College where he enjoyed football, athletics, and cricket from 1948 to 1951.

Following this he wanted to go to Medical School, but the cost was prohibitive, so he applied to be an apprentice compounding pharmacist for Mr Robertson in June 1952 which he eventually bought and renamed Lehman's Pharmacy.

He boarded with a couple near the big mull-ock heap on Ashford Road until he got married. He earned three pounds fifteen a week and paid three pounds in board.

Marie was born in Goomeri and horrifical-ly made headlines when she and her mother were staying at the Goomeri Hotel when it was destroyed by fire.

Her mother threw the nine-month-old out of the window to neighbours to save her life, but her mother perished in the blaze.

Marie went to live with her grandmother in Tin Can Bay, who raised her and her two sisters Francis and Phyllis.



The 1958 Lehman wedding party; Neil Treloor, Aubrey Jurgursen, Malcolm, Marie, Marie's sister Frances Kay and Fay Mitchell.

They had no electricity at Tin Can Bay and the ice works used to come by, and they would wrap a block in a sugar bag to keep their food cold.

Marie went to Tin Can Bay school and left after scholarship to work to help the family with money.

She worked at Sykes as a Nanny then the Glandore Hospital which became the Lister Nursing Home and then she worked for Nestles (now Nestle).

The pair met at a dance at the soldier's hall in Gympie and Malcolm said he was attracted to her beautiful blue eyes.

"She was an attractive young lady, so I asked her to dance."

Marie thought Malcolm was "kind of cute but he was skinny."

Malcolm said: "I sent her some lipstick to her work at the Glandore" which was quite extravagant, and after two years when Marie was 19, he proposed with a ring from Keith Jamieson Jewellery.

They had three children; Michael, Peter and Karen who all received their parents' sporting genes becoming good athletes with the boys playing football and running, and Karen a good runner.

Marie was a top runner while at school and

became district champion competing in Brisbane in the 75-yard races.

"They all had running shoes and were so professional and here I am with not one pair of running shoes."

"We thought we were champions until we went to the city."

Their first home together was at Fox Street, Gympie which they bought for 2000 pounds.

"Life was much simpler then. When we got the house, we had no furniture. Malcolm's mother bought us a kitchen table and a couple of chairs. The house was an unpainted tongue and groove home and we never thought about not having much really. No one did."

"We moved to Beaconsfield Street in Gympie while we were waiting for our house at Old Wolvi Road to be built in 1964."

"It was quite interesting really, as you didn't go shopping. Mr Innes the fruiter, came on Monday, the bread was delivered, Cyril Abbot delivered milk from his milk truck and if you needed groceries Cullinane's sent an order to your home."

"We had no TV and we all used to go to the Victory Shop which was owned by Pagels and along with other people, we stood outside the shop to watch TV. We used to try to get there early to get the seat as they had one long stool set up outside."

"I don't think we'd like to be newlyweds now. I don't think you'd be able to buy a home."

Malcolm said, "Our house cost 6500 pounds. I was qualified in 1956 and was earning 20 pounds a week."

"I saw a job at Dalby for 25 pounds a week and when I told 'Mr Robby' I was going to leave he said how much have they offered you? I said 25 pounds a week. He said I'll give you 25 pounds a week. So, I stayed the rest of my life in Gympie."

"They treated me like a son and wanted me to own it when he passed on."

He said Chemist shops weren't like they are today and customer service was much more personal, and many staff staying on for years.

Malcolm worked until last year when he turned 85 and said he would still be working except for the cost of registration and insurance.

"I wanted to be the oldest pharmacist in Australia, but I found out there is still a 93-year-old working so there were a few in front of me."

Marie said, "Everybody loved him. That's why I told him to keep working, the girls loved him."

The family was heavily involved in sport, with Malcolm taking on roles as president and secretary of the Brothers Football Club as well as on the committee of the Rainbow Beach Surf Club, the Gympie Turf Club, and the Gympie Apex Club.

The three Lehman children went away to work after school with Michael working at TAFE, Peter becoming a teacher and Karen a special education teacher.

Malcolm said: "It's been great. I've been a bit selfish because I've always been in committee's while Marie raised the children."

Marie said: "I call him a few names sometimes, but we've had a good life. We get on pretty well, don't we? We're pretty happy."

Their wish is to make 70 years married and Malcolm wants to sing Blue Suede Shoes at the event on the microphone.



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# Ocean Crusaders clean up

With a Waste Facility Forum planned for the last weekend in February by Fraser Coast Council, removing waste from K'gari (Fraser Island) is still a hot topic.

According to the owners of K'gari Fraser Island Adventures Mark and Hana Robinson who have been hosting beach clean ups on K'gari for four years, two more tonnes of rubbish and plastics were removed from the island in just two days this month after an emergency clean up.

"The World Heritage Listed, K'gari Fraser Island, is as stunning as ever, but unfortunately, as we are rubbishing our planet, paradise islands are paying the price."

She said the king tides of 2021/22 coupled with cyclone Seth had a devastating impact on much of the coast but on Fraser Island, it brought more than just gnarly waves, it dumped tonnes and tonnes of rubbish.

"From microplastics to fridges, water bottles to boat's, fishing nets to oil drums, wherever we looked, the shores of this beautiful place were littered with rubbish."

"So, we whipped straight into action with Ocean Crusaders and ZeroCo to get local volunteers to the island to help un-trash the largest sand island in the world."

She said their partner ZeroCo has committed to buying 1 tonne of HDPE plastic from their K'gari clean-ups to make their Forever Bottles (home-cleaning and self-care products), helping the community close the loop and repurpose the plastic removed from the island.

"Our next Eco Warrior Experience will be on February 24th for 4 days and 3 nights. Everyone is welcome to participate and join us in this transformational experience for people



K'gari Fraser Island Adventures co-ordinated a clean up K'Gari event last week and hope more people will join their next clean up day.

and the environment."

Hana said as part of their commitment to giving back to nature, helping to protect the oceans, flora and fauna and K'gari, over four years of hosting clean ups, they have removed more than 10 tonnes of rubbish.

She said the reason there is so much rubbish is three-fold. "These days, more than just catching sand that travels up the east coast of Australia, K'gari also catches all the rubbish that washes out from the river systems as well what is just floating around out there in our precious oceans."

"Though a lot of the rubbish that washes up is from Australian consumers, around 20% finds its way here from other counties or has been dumped by boats.

"Then 20% is discarded by thoughtless visitors and regular beach clean-ups are necessary to maintain the rubbish washing up constantly."

Annika Thomson, director of Ocean Crusaders, said: "We need to sweep the beach at least once a week or have more committed locals like Hana there to do the job. We have spoken to the government about it but looking

after our natural worlds is always on the too expensive job list."

"The need for local support is urgent. The environment and all the living creatures that depend on it can't continue to wait for us to clean up our act. If you would like to support our ongoing efforts in the war against waste on K'gari - sponsorship sign-ups for the Community Beach Clean-Ups on K'gari are open."

There are plenty of ways to help keep these amazing events happening so let's do this together and keep paradise pristine! <https://www.kgarifraserisland.com.au/>

## Residents can have their say on K'gari waste

Two community forums will be held this month to discuss the development of the K'gari (Fraser Island) Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy.

Residents and ratepayers are invited to register for the Eurong Beach Resort forum on Saturday 26 February or via Zoom on Wednesday 2 March.

The events hosted by Fraser Coast Regional Council, are designed to help develop a 'holistic and coordinated Waste Management Strategy and Resource Recovery for K'gari (Fraser Island)'.

According to council, "The underlying objective is to maintain, protect, and conserve the World Heritage and cultural values through sustainable approaches to waste management in collaboration with the Butchulla people."

"It is important to Council that visitors to and residents living on K'gari (Fraser Island) and within the broader Fraser Coast region

have an opportunity to provide feedback on what they believe is important in managing waste on the island."

Called a Community Engagement Forum, the event will include the provision of information relating to current waste management and resource recovery practices and a virtual field trip to a K'gari waste facility (video and/or photos)

A panel of Council and industry representatives will be on hand to respond to questions and queries submitted during registration and throughout the Forum.

On the agenda will be preferred facility opening days and times, whether the facilities should be supervised, where the facilities should be located and how far you would expect to travel to a facility.

For further information and registration visit Fraser Coast Regional Council at [www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au](http://www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au)



Ratepayers are invited to have their say on the K'gari Waste Management Strategy



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# No business confidence

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Queensland (CCIQ) has released results of a survey for the fourth quarter of 2021 revealing Queensland business confidence has crashed and reopening boost expectations have fallen flat.

They reported the compounding impacts of state border reopening, labour shortages, supply chain disruptions and low consumer spending means Queensland businesses' confidence in the future of the state and national economies has crashed.

## The key facts in the report are:

- 12-month outlook for the Queensland economy recorded a fall in confidence of 38.3 (down 16.9 points) in December 2021 quarter. This represents the second largest fall in confidence since COVID began in the March quarter 2020 and lower than the 10-year average.
- On average businesses are yet to fully recover, reporting business operating conditions at 84.9% of pre-COVID conditions.
- 41% of businesses are less confident in reaching their business goals in 2022, a increase from 39% of businesses in the September quarter 2021.
- The profitability index fell another 4.5 points from 34.8 in the December quarter to 30.3, following a 5.9 point reduction in the September quarter and a 4.3 point reduction in the June quarter.

The data shows business confidence in the next 12 months fell 16.9 points to the lowest reading since the start of the COVID economic crisis in March 2020.

The reports prove poor business outlook confidence is reflective of the compounding impact of labour shortages, supply chain disruption and considerably lower consumer spend.



Confidence from business owners is low across the state for 2022.

The 12-month outlook for Queensland and national economies, general business conditions, sales and revenue, capital expenditure, employment levels and profitability all fell in the December quarter, while operating costs remained steady and labour costs increased

in the same period.

CCIQ policy and advocacy general manager Amanda Rohan said businesses were operating at less than 85 per cent of their pre-Covid conditions as result of low consumer confidence, Covid in the workplace and supply

chain disruptions coinciding with the December state border reopening.

"Businesses told us level of demand and economic activity, retaining and recruiting employees and political and economic instability were their most significant constraints on business growth," Ms Rohan said.

"Two in five businesses are not expecting to meet their 12-month goals in 2022 while many expect profitability to fall again in the March quarter.

"We're seeing a perfect storm of uncertainty combined with poor consumer confidence and labour market shortages clashing to create a difficult business environment in Queensland."

Business feedback indicated Covid-19 impacts were more noticeable in regional Queensland in the December quarter, specifically due to rising insurance, fuel and other business input costs.

"Businesses were calling on the State Government consistently throughout 2021 to provide clear reopening and economic recovery planning as uncertainty would ultimately end up costing Queensland businesses," Ms Rohan said.

"We called for access to Rapid Antigen Testing to be freely and widely available for business, a joint state and federal directly-targeted support package for businesses most impacted and clarity on what the state's 90 per cent vaccination milestone meant for business rules and mandates.

"Businesses told us without those commitments, they would struggle to re-open, stay open and be viable long-term.

"Now we're seeing the impact with the majority of Queensland businesses increasingly concerned about their business viability."

## Chamber survey looking for business pain points

The Gympie Chamber of Commerce is seeking feedback from local business owners on the current health of their business including current difficulties due to Covid.

Members of the Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism are also being asked to complete the surveys to establish the needs and strengths of businesses in the local area.

The survey wants to know what extra stress the current climate is placing on their business and how the chamber can help.

The questions in the survey include the top three pain points your business is experiencing now, your business short term goals, what chamber events you would like to see held in your region and how regularly.

Some of the difficulties arising from Covid mandates might be the requirement for staff and customers to be double vaccinated, COVID related staffing shortages due to iso-

lation requirements or lack of backpackers resulting in staffing issues.

The planned outcome of the survey to have a broader understanding of business issues and the opportunity to use the data to present findings to different levels of Government for change and support.

If your business is suffering from a Covid related availability of stock items, supply of goods or transport issues overhead costs, lack of available appropriately skilled local applicants or Council / government red tape then you might want to have your say.

If you are not a member of a chamber, and you want to be heard you can join the Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism Association by emailing [rbct.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:rbct.secretary@gmail.com) or the Gympie Chamber at [admin@gympie-chamber.com.au](mailto:admin@gympie-chamber.com.au)



Rainbow Beach Chamber of Commerce members and guests Sergeant Mick Bazzo Officer in Charge Tin Can Bay Police, Rainbow Beach Sport Club Manager Troy Somerville, RBCT Secretary Diana Journeaux, Tim Sayre, RBCT Treasurer Kristy Pamerter and Fiona Worthington.



# Crab nab warning

While this crab nabber was not nabbed in our region , a good crab nabber story is appreciated by crabbers everywhere as they know the blood, sweat, tears, money, trust and anticipation that goes into dropping crab pots into the water.

A fisher has been fined \$5000 in the Caboolture Magistrates Court after being caught illegally in possession of a female mud crab and fleeing from Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers at a Bribie Island boat ramp.

Minister for Fisheries and Rural Communities Mark Furner said the fisher was charged with interfering with fishing apparatus, using unmarked crab apparatus, and obstruction after he threw away a female mud crab and left the scene in his vehicle during an inspection.

“This is ridiculous behaviour and only compounds the offence,” Mr Furner said.

“QBFP were questioning the fisher at the Sylvan Beach Boat Ramp, Bribie Island, when he threw the female mud crab into the water and then drove off. He was reinterviewed when he returned to the boat ramp some hours later.

“Officers released the female mud crab back to the water after the inspection, and seized two stolen crab pots and a number of Styrofoam floats.”

In handing down his sentence the Magistrate stated that there was a need for personal and general deterrence and that the prevalence of crab pot interference had become quite high.

For information on Queensland’s fishing regulations, visit [www.fisheries.qld.gov.au](http://www.fisheries.qld.gov.au), call 13 25 23 or download the free ‘Qld Fishing’ app from Apple and Google app stores.



The simple rule of crabbing - don't take other peoples crabs or crab pots.

# Cranky over trash

Rainbow Beach homeowner and scientist Dr Sue Pillans has just released a new kids picture book called Cranky Frankie and the Oceans of Trash.

The book is written and illustrated by Sue’s alter ego Dr Suzie Starfish and published by Little Pink Dog Books.

This story is based on science and provides messages of hope and solutions that you can be the change you want to see in the world.

Sue’s latest story illustrates the impacts of marine debris and plastic pollution on our oceans, told through the eyes of a feisty fish named Frankie.

“Through my positive storytelling I hope this story engages, educates, excites and empowers children of all ages that together we can turn the tide on our oceans of trash.”

Sue is an Aussie marine scientist, artist, children’s author/illustrator, and graphic recorder who specialises in creative and visual communications.

“I love to live my life in colour and believe in the power of positive storytelling. I combine my training as a marine scientist and my experience as a strategic planner with my imaginative skills as an artist to help people, teams, and organisations to ‘Picture your ideas’ through visual storytelling.”

Sue said she has always been drawn to the ocean and her happy place is Rainbow Beach, where she gets her illustration inspiration and plenty of ‘Vitamin Sea’ and time to enjoy and explore nature.

“I believe if you fall in love with something you are more likely to look after and protect it, so I’m hopeful my visual stories and artworks will help others to fall in love with the nature of Rainbow Beach too.”

“I want to showcase, celebrate and illustrate the beauty of this special place through my visual storytelling to draw attention to the beauty in nature.”

You can dive in and buy a signed copy of Cranky Frankie at [drsuepillans.com/books/marine-debris/](http://drsuepillans.com/books/marine-debris/) or see more of Sue’s work at [www.drsuepillans.com](http://www.drsuepillans.com)



Talented artist, marine scientist and children’s author/illustrator, Dr Suzie Starfish aka Dr Sue Pillans releases her latest book.

# Small classes and big plans at Rainbow

By Lee McCarthy

There is no doubt, this is a tough year for school principals negotiating rules and mandates while welcoming new students and staff for the new school year.

Add a new kindergarten to the mix and Rainbow Beach State School principal Steve Bennett said while schools reopened later this year for students, the first two weeks has been incredibly busy getting everything ready.

“2022 is a really special year and everyone is working really hard to ensure every child coming to Rainbow Beach State School has the best possible outcomes.”

He said while enrolments predictions were higher, he and the staff appreciate the current climate.

“We are really excited for all the families who have enrolled and all the exciting oppor-

tunities we have planned throughout the year.”

The new Kindergarten was a long-awaited dream for the school and Mr Bennett and the staff worked hard to make it a reality.

“We are working towards the Kindy being operational in the next few weeks and are very much looking forward to this new chapter for Rainbow Beach State School.”

He said they are positive about the year with some new dedicated staff, lovely small classes and the preppies are looking forward to welcoming the new Kindergarten students.

There are four composite classes this year with some lovely preps starting their learning journey with Megan Brumberger; Year one and two with Libby Margetts; Tina McColl has grades three and four and Christine Keys will be looking after five and six. Mr Bennett said as always, he and the staff were working with families to get best outcomes for our kids.



Rainbow Beach School Principal Steve Bennett said the 2022 year is going to be really exciting and is hoping the new Kindergarten will be operational in a few weeks.



RADF grant applications close soon so apply now for funding for your art or cultural project.

# Apply now for RADF grants

If you are seeking funding for a project, applications for the next round of The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grants close on 4 March 2022 might be for you.

The grants provide financial assistance to eligible individuals, businesses and organisations for projects that respond to local arts and cultural priorities.

Council assesses all nominations and will advise applicants by 30 April 2022 with projects required to be completed by 30 September 2022.

A previous applicant won a \$5000 grant to create a pilot series of documentary style short films mixing storytelling and imagery to create stories of local artisans and artists.

Another was to complete a literary project focusing on the content research and publication potential of a comic relief mental health awareness book targeting women aged 40-60 years. According to the recipient, Sonia Louise Cozens “The aim of the book is for women

who may be seeking an outlet of identification to help ease the devastating effects of perimenopause, menopause, trauma, depression and other such mental health issues.”

A theatrical program that supports community members and families impacted by the social issue of gambling was also awarded \$5000 and Honeybee Creative Limited received \$5,163 to create awareness of the diversity and abilities of people living with a disability in the Gympie community.

If you have a desire to create a project that will support and enhance your community, don’t miss this opportunity to make a start. Application details are on the Gympie Regional Councils website [www.gympie.qld.gov.au/regional-arts-development-fund](http://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/regional-arts-development-fund)

The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Gympie Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



HQ Plantation's Tree Improvement and Seed Production Coordinator Kate Clapson.



Kate's work has supported the development and use of a DNA marker chip for tropical pines at HQ Plantations.

# Kate's genetically gifted

On the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2022, it seems auspicious that Kate Clapson has worked for HQ Plantations (HQP) and its predecessors for 22 years, having started as a graduate in biotechnology at 22 years old.

As HQP's Tree Improvement and Seed Production Coordinator, it's possible Kate has the longest job title in the company and a complex and important role.

Kate leads the implementation of HQP's seed production program in its genetically-improved seed orchards and the long term tree improvement program that provides the foundation for the highest quality Southern

Pine and Araucaria plantations.

Kate says she thinks this doesn't sound very science-y but a lot of science underpins how it is done.

Kate's work has supported the development and use of a DNA marker chip for tropical pines, which could in future help identify genetically outstanding trees at the seedling stage rather than waiting for field trial measurements. This has the potential to boost the rate of genetic progress in Southern Pine by as much as 50%.

Combining the genomic information with rapid, laser-based measurement of trees from drones and other aircraft will help further accel-

erate genetic improvement in the years ahead.

"We're not modifying the DNA, just deploying DNA technology in a highly advanced form of selective breeding through cross pollination," said Kate.

"It's exciting that the work I'm doing now is directly related to my Honours research in DNA extraction at university."

Kate's work contributes directly to the 10 million seedlings HQP grows each year at its Toolara nursery, each one a little carbon capture machine in the making.

"Not only do we care about growing really strong trees, we care about making sure it's a renewable, sustainable, carbon sequestering

resource for the future of QLD," she says.

A local resident herself, Kate encourages young women in the Gympie area to consider a career in science and particularly forest management.

There are many things Kate loves about her job. She says her role has offered a lot of family flexibility and she enjoys the variety from fun working in the field to analysing data in the office.

"I've been offered a lot of opportunities throughout my career and the most rewarding part about working in forest management been seeing the results of my work realised quickly in an operational setting," she said.

## Help environmental experts map our living treasures

An important part of the work local environmental group, Cooloola Coastcare provides, is the annual Cooloola BioBlitz with the 2022 event on 25, 26 and 27 March in Rainbow Beach.

According to Cooloola Coastcare, and Wikipedia, a "BioBlitz is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Groups of scientists, naturalists and volunteers conduct an intensive field study over a continuous time period".

One of the prominent names leading the field trips for the event is Dr Andrew Franks, president of the Australian Bryological Network, Curator of Collections at the Queensland Herbarium, and principal botanist with Oberonia Botanical Services.

"Andrew has undertaken bryophyte surveys across Queensland and is reasonably confident that he is the only consulting arborist to specialise moss. Bryophytes are the second most diverse terrestrial plant group after the Angiosperms (flowering plants)."

Another credible field trip team leader is Eva Ford, project officer with the Mary River Catchment Coordinating Committee (MRCCC) since 2003 and a team leader for frog, freshwater fish, and macroinvertebrate identification during the BioBlitz.

Joel Fostin will join the BioBlitz this year as the leading specialist-educator-researcher-advocate for the prevention of Pandanus dieback rates spreading across Coastal Eastern Australia.

"Awarded Queensland Volunteer of the year 2017, Joel combines passion, skills and experience as an Environmental Scientist, Horticulturalist, Arborist, Land and Environment Manager, Rural Fire Brigade Crew



Tickets are on sale now for the Coastcare's 2022 BioBlitz featuring specialists recording all the living species within the area.

Leader, Coast Care Volunteer, Wildlife Carer, Naturalist and Conservationist.

Sam Mitchell is a contributor to National Big Tree Register and will be the expert arborist and big tree enthusiast.

Ben Revell is past vice-president of the Queensland Frog Society, an environmental science graduate and amateur photographer with a passion for frogs, reptiles, spiders and other invertebrate and lives in Bundaberg.

Specialising in insects is team leader, Dr Andrew Maynard, a Biosecurity Entomologist who identifies a broad range of insects and invertebrates intercepted in quarantine zones.

Another insect specialist, Jessa Thurman is a PhD Student at the University of Queensland where she studies insect ecology

in agriculture to develop sustainable pest management.

"Outside of her research, she teaches students on insect ecology, explores Australia with macrophotography, and pursues side-projects documenting the natural history of charismatic insects like the Giant Wood Moth (Endoxyla) and many groups including Parasitic Wasps (Braconidae), Katydid (Tettigoniidae), and Leaf Insects (Phyllidae).

Environmental Projects manager for Woodfordia, Sandra Tuszyńska specialty is an environmental mycologist (fungal biologist) who is passionate about biodiversity conservation.

"She is also a Myco-Restoration Research Biologist experimenting with developing myco-remediation technologies to restore soil

and water. Sandra will be only one mycologist participating in the Cooloola BioBlitz who are keen to explain why over 90% of terrestrial plant species rely on fungi."

Ethan Yeoman has developed as an expert enthusiast in Australian spiders under the tutelage of Robert White (Co-author of A Field Guide to Spiders of Australia).

Journaling the finds is Artist Dion Dior, a natural science illustrator, nature journalist, citizen scientist, and QLD Regional Coordinator and Instructor at NatureArt Lab Australia.

BioBlitz is a wonderful opportunity to join this exceptional gathering of experienced and highly qualified experts this March.

Tickets are on sale at [www.cooloolacoastcare.org.au](http://www.cooloolacoastcare.org.au) or stay in touch via the Cooloola BioBlitz Facebook group.

# Fishing

## Cooloola Coast



Mitch Martens with a cracker of a RTE on the Zerke Live Shrimp.



Chappo with a nice little Golden Trevally.

# Lots of fish on the bite

By Chris Rippon, The Chandlery

G'day Crew, I trust you have all been keeping well and making the most of the rare bits of good weather we have sporadically been getting throughout the last month.

Despite the infrequency of back-to-back good weather days, everyone seemed to be making the most of the opportunities when they could and the fish didn't seem to mind what was going on above the water. We received some great reports from all over our region - from flathead and gar to red emperor and nannygai and everything in between.

Speaking of flathead, there have been some good numbers of fish showing up in The Bay lately. Working 4 and 5 inch' soft plastic along the drop-offs on the last couple of hours of the runout tide have been working a treat. Searys Ledge to Judd Point and down to the power lines has been a bit of a hot spot the last few weeks. Also trolling smaller hard bodies along the drop-offs will bag you a feed pretty quickly. Samaki Redics MS60's and DS60's in colours Pink Lady and Sandstorm have been working the best and the Pink Lady would be my choice out of the two.

There have been some nice size prawns around and the rain we have been getting has been great for that. Crab Creek has been a bit of a go to spot for a feed of Bananas. The good crabbing has continued with the flats up the back of the bay proving to be very productive for the crew fishing the moons. Some nice crabs have also been getting caught up Snapper Creek, but it may pay to keep an eye on your pots if you are going to fish up that way.

Offshore, fishos were also able to venture out over the Wide Bay Bar in the middle of the



Local guide Johnathan from Great Sandy Straits Sports Fishing with a rare day off and a great mackerel.

month and made the most of the good days when they presented themselves. Emperor, tuskies, nannygai, lipper a few mackerel, and seas full of longtail and mac tuna were all reported from recent trips offshore.

Legal nannygai in the bay are not an uncommon species to catch and the last month or so has seen quite a few anglers (some very surprised anglers) taking home a great feed of inshore red fish.

Teebar ledge and the deep hole between Inskip and K'gari have both been fishing well with most fish being taken on squid baits, fished either on a paternoster rigs or even a lightly weight running ball sinker.

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Live baits will also catch you a feed of these tasty scarlets. For the lure fishos, vibes in the 90mm to 110mm like the Nomad Vertrex Max and Samaki Vibelicious are killer on reef fish. Slow pitch jigging is by far one of my favourite styles of fishing for reef fish.

Anyone that knows me or has read any of my articles will know I'm a massive fan of using the Palms Slow Blatts S&Rs. But, in The Bay, you might find these a little heavy for the shallower water especially down in the TCB inlet where you could be fishing as shallow as 3-4m down to 9m-10m.

I will generally look at running the Palms Slow Blatts "Cast" in the Wide, these come in a lighter jig and range from 20gm – 60gm with the 30gm and 40gm being very productive. I will generally remove the supplied hooks and replace them with Vanfook JST-44 Short Twin Assist. I do keep the hooks I remove from them and use them on my jigs for the bass in the dam during winter when they school in the basin. Don't forget we are the exclusive EJ Todd dealer in the region for all your Palms Slow Blatt needs and also the full range of products supplied by EJ Todd like Sunline and Yamashita.

Garfish have also been abundant on the flats lately. Fish have been in great numbers and a good size to, 30/35cm long and as thick as two Chiko Rolls. Gars make great baits, especially troll baits for big Spanish. But they are also great eating, rubbed down with a little olive oil, sea salt and chargrilled over charcoal. Served hot with a slice of lemon a crack of fresh black pepper and a fresh garden salad will have you coming back for more!

Speaking of tasty fish, some of our regulars have been doing very well on the summer whiting. While they are not going to give up their Spot X, reports from the flats around the mouth of Kauri Creek and the flats up around Reef Island have been good. With our locally sourced K'gari beach worms working the best for most of the crew chasing a feed of summer-ies.

On that note of locally caught bait, don't forget that we offer some of the freshest and locally caught bait in the region. From gar and mullet to our awesome beach worms. We like to sell it as fresh as we can, so when we get mullet, gar, herring etc in we leave it in an ice brine for the day and sell it unfrozen by the kilo. Then, at the end of the day we cryovac it and snap freeze it for sale the next day. Keep an eye on our Facebook page to keep up to date with what has been received that day. We have also started to fillet and pack any of the big sea mullet we have been getting and these make the best flesh baits and also go pretty dam good in the smoker!

Well, that's a wrap from me this month, so till next time, tight lines and get out there and enjoy our beautiful Great Sandy Strait.

**Tight Lines,  
Chris**

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Joe Hauzer with an epic GT from one of the local creeks.



A very rare capture in The Bay, A Chinaman taken from Teebar Ledge.



Author of On the Bite Chris Rippon with a nice Spangled Emperor on a Chaisebait Prawn.

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# Championship for the ages

Last Sunday, the Nippers at the Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club participated at their second Age Championship Day of the season. Thank you as always to **JULIE PRATT** for the photos of our wonderfully talented Nippers.



Under 13s hitting the surf for their race.



Under 8s running for their flag.



Under 11s before their board race.



Lilly and Alannah showing off the newly donated board by the bingo ladies of the Rainbow Beach Sports Club.



The beach is set up for Age Championship Day number two.



Green caps participating in flags.

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# Sport

## Rainbow stars' state tilt

By Rose Astley

Four stars from the Rainbow Beach Nippers will head off to represent our region at the Queensland Youth Championship Under 11s to Under 15s.

Sienna Arthur, Oliver Pratt, Breeanna Houtt and Bryce Houtt will compete against bigger clubs in their respective events which include Flag and Sprints, Board Race and Surf Race.

Rainbow Beach Lifesaver and Nippers Coach Caroline Vielle says our region's club is smaller in size, but not in spirit or talent.

"The Rainbow Beach Surf Live Saving Club is a small club in comparison to the other big clubs in Queensland, mostly those from the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast, but we have a small core group of competitors that are willing to go against the best in the State," Ms Vielle said.

"This group has also participated in the Beach Series this year, that encompasses the beach events (Flags and Sprint), as well as the Rainbow Beach Carnival with beach and water events combined on the day."

All eyes will be on our four representatives, especially young Sienna who will be hoping to follow in her success from last year's event where she placed first.

"We have our State Champion for flags from last year (Under 12) Sienna Arthur that will be leading our competitors in this year Youth Championship," Ms Vielle said.

"Sienna is returning to State as an Under 13 and will be trying to get a new title in a very tight competition.

"It will also be Bryce Houtt's (Under 14) second participation at State level and he will be a great asset to help our two other competitors for their first appearance at State level, his sister Breeanna Houtt (under 12) and Oliver Pratt (under 14)."

Best of luck to Bryce, Breeanna, Oliver and Sienna as you do our region proud!



Team Rainbow Beach are off to the Queensland Youth Championships. Picture: JULIE PRATT

### REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN AND CLOSE 9pm MONDAY FEBRUARY 28.

- Senior competitors aged 16 and over will register online and pay a \$100 entry fee.
- Juniors aged 4-15 can compete for \$65 and should be accompanied/supervised by a senior competitor.
- (adult doesn't necessarily have to be a competitor)
- <https://tournaments.trackmy.fish/registration/2c9065a25557d2791e80c7e6f1b6c41cac97a194>

#### WHERE CAN I FISH?!

Fish anywhere from Inskip Point (not Fraser Island) to the Tweed River

The offshore competitors can compete up to 70km out to sea.

Lake Macdonald, Borumba Dam, Ewen Maddock Dam, Somerset Dam, Moogerah Dam, Hinze Dam, are included for the freshwater competitors.



**WOMEN'S FISHING CLASSIC**

#### THE EVENT:

Fishing will commence at midnight on the Friday, April 29. Fishing stops at 12pm on Friday May 27, 2022, which means you must get your 'lines out of the water'.

Follow us on Facebook at Women's Fishing Classic and on Instagram at womens\_fishing\_classic. Webpage coming soon.

Any enquiries email me at [womensfishingclassic@gmail.com](mailto:womensfishingclassic@gmail.com)



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