

CooloolaCoastToday

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Another Teewah victim
PAGE 4



Pontoon anyone?
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Boardwalk's just brilliant

If you haven't seen the stunning walkway being constructed along the Esplanade in Tin Can Bay on the waters edge heading to Norman Point, make the time to take a drive and have a look.

The walkway is being built from Cod Street to Norman Point and already looks tremendous with no doubt locals and tourists will use the path extensively once it is finished.

The path meanders beside the waters of Tin Can Bay and acts as an extension of the recently completed footpath.

STORY PAGE 2

Police far too busy

Police in the Gympie Patrol Group were disappointed to detect drink drivers, drug drivers and defective vehicles in Cooloola and Rainbow Beach throughout February.

Three drivers were low level drink driving and one was also reported to have accelerated to nearly 150kph to overtake an undercover police vehicle.

Police were continuing with their high visibility patrols along the Cooloola Coast and Noosa North Shore targeting reckless, unsafe and irresponsible driving practices on the beaches, in the tracks or in the campgrounds.

STORY PAGE 8



Russell Bennet is concerned about the proposed development of part of the Cooloola National Park.

'It's just not right'

Emerging elder and local Kabi Kabi spokesman Russell Bennet is concerned about a proposed development of part of the Cooloola National Park.

Mr Bennet, who has in the past offered indigenous tours around the region, has two major concerns with the development - which he says will destroy a 'pristine' rainforest environment.

"It's just not right," he said.

COVERAGE PAGES 10-11

Heavenly helpers

By Lee Mccarthy

During the recent flooding event, Glen and Diana Cruikshank from Rainbow Beach helicopters were in high demand to ferry people stranded by flood waters.

For nearly four days the team of two worked

to take people home or to urgent appointments or to be reunited with family. Glen said he was still shocked by the devastation and the scenes he witnessed with people stranded on the highway for days with no supplies, communication, or knowledge of when they would be able to get home.

Glen said they were fielding calls all day, with 104 calls coming in just on one day for people needing information or help.

He said he wanted it known that there were no heroics in what they did and he doesn't want to be portrayed as anything other than

being in the privileged position to help.

"It's a very humbling experience to be honest. In those sorts of circumstances just by definition of my job, it's a privilege to be able to help and it's not lost on me, the privilege."

STORY PAGE 3

Rainbow Beach Hotel

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The editor's desk

CooloolaCoastToday

While few in our region were directly impacted by the catastrophic flooding the Gympie Region received, some of our locals have businesses in the flood area and our heart goes out to them.

One of our local business operators, Rainbow Beach Helicopters, used their helicopter to ferry people across the region to be reunited with family or hospitals. While not wanting accolades it shows the way everyone jumps in and helps that makes a community strong.

Supermarkets are battling to fill shelves with fresh produce but that is a minimal inconvenience compared to the travellers cut off and businesses who have never seen river heights like it.

Tourism is always quiet from February to Easter however, the Cooloola Coast businesses are feeling the pinch now with few tourists and bad weather impacting numbers. With international tourists still not flocking to the region as they did before Covid, now is the time for a huge marketing and tourism push to bring numbers back to the Cooloola Coast. When competing with the might of the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Noosa and even the Fraser Coast for tourists, we are at a disadvantage as their organisations have many full-time staff to shoulder the load. It is up to individual businesses and the Chambers in the Gympie Region to get our message out to the world, and that is all while working around full time roles and other community commitments.

Maybe its time each Chamber was delegated funds for a part-time administrator to apply for grants, organise marketing strategies, co-ordinate videos, photos, and social media?

- Lee McCarthy



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Boardwalk all class

By Lee McCarthy

If you haven't seen the stunning walkway being constructed along the Esplanade in Tin Can Bay on the waters edge heading to Norman Point, make the time to take a drive and have a look.

The walkway is being built from Cod Street to Norman Point and already looks tremendous with no doubt locals and tourists will use the path extensively once it is finished.

The path meanders beside the waters of Tin Can Bay and acts as an extension of the recently completed footpath.

As reported previously by Cr Jess Milne: "The Cooloola Revitalisation Project pathway upgrades in Cooloola Cove and Tin Can Bay have been mostly completed. The tender has been awarded for the Cod St to Norman Point boardwalk section which has begun. Funding for the whole \$3.8M project has been state funding from Building Our Regions \$2,766,800, TMR Cycle Grant \$150,000 and Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme \$309,900 with a Council contribution of \$534,000."

Filippo Di Guglielmo, construction manager and owner of Roman Construction, who won the tender, said it was one of those landmark projects you are lucky enough to get and another opportunity for them to showcase their work.

"Tin Can Bay could do with a bit more to drag people in as it's a really beautiful little village and not just a great fishing spot."

"I think it will give people another reason to visit this great little spot."

"We have done some other walkways and constructions and people go right out of their way to go to them and walk and do bird watching."

"You don't know what it will become but people find something like this, and it can become more than what you thought it might be. It's great to get people out experiencing the sky, the water and fresh air."

Filippo said they like to employ local contractors where possible in the region and engaged local builder Haydn Taylor from HST Construction who is contracting the work to help with the delivery of the project.



Local builder Haydn Taylor from HST Construction with Tobey Bryson working on the new walkway to Norman Point.
Pictures: LOCAL TCB - FROM SUNNY COAST

Roman constructions are based in Windsor and have been one of the casualties of the recent Brisbane Floods but said people are much worse off than them.

The company started in Brisbane in 2006 and have based in Windsor since they formed.

Their work has included projects at Sydney Olympic Park, Newcastle, Rockhampton, Cairns, Kosciuszko, South Australia, and flood remediation on the Patterson River.

"We did some work up at Emu Park, Rockhampton and it was part of a coordinated delivery of works by council and it has turned into its own tourist attraction."

"People go out of their way to go to Emu Park and the viewing platform and for years the council has been adding to it and it is now a destination."

The walkway is a great asset to the Cooloola Coast region and makes perfect use of an area offering vantage points to view the stunning scenery and stunning waterways of Tin Can Bay.



The magnificent new walkway being constructed along the water in Tin Can Bay to connect the path to Norman Point.

Tin Can Bay school vision rewarded

By Lee McCarthy

The teachers and parents of Tin Can Bay State School are thrilled to announce they are now a Hands-on-Learning School.

Hands on Learning (HOL) is an innovative in-school program used by primary and secondary schools to increase student achievement and the staff at Tin Can Bay are delighted it has been implemented at their school and begins this week.

There are four pillars to Hands on Learning including a place to belong, a place people belong to, real things to do and a chance to give back and make valuable contributions to the student community while building self-esteem and connection.

Deputy principal Sandy Lewis said any student could benefit from the program which was open to different year levels with different talents, learning styles, needs and interests.

"HOL supports a diversity of students to build on their aspirations, realise their potential and develop new skills for school and life. It helps build personal and social skills and supports the diverse ways young people learn."

She said sometimes it was emerging school leaders who wanted to improve their communication and teamwork skills, or to help students overcome challenges that may impact on class.

"We picked seven children for the first round who will not only benefit from the program, but they will also be really good role models for any future intakes of the program."

"We felt it was an important addition to the school because it complements our current programs and it is the school, the students and the community who benefit."

"While it's an alternate avenue for learning, it's also about life skills and adapting them to everyday life."

The children selected gave an expression of interest, we discussed it with their parents,

we discussed it internally and offered them a place which they have all now accepted.

"We are thrilled with the quality of applicants and are excited to begin and know these students will thrive in the program."

The seven students chosen are year 10 students, Luxie-Leigh Duffy-Findlater, Laney Heit and Tylah Hale, Grade 9 student Beau Stevenson, Grade 8 Britney Campbell, Grade 7 Joel Fechner, and Zane Mills from year six.

The program will be run by Jane Schwaghardt who is the 'Artisan Teacher' and is run on site one day a week with the students in the program spending all day Friday on practical projects including building, making, fixing, growing, and creating.

"We went to Ipswich and Lowood and watched their schools and had the HOL representative to our school and when we are established other schools from further north will use ours as a showcase school."

The program also gets students job ready increasing their personal and social skills and focuses on real and meaningful projects.

Hands on Learning is a Save the Children practical school program initiative which Eight-time Grand Prix winner and beloved Australian sports personality Daniel Ricciardo has joined as an official ambassador.

Sandy said she loves the fact that it is now a blank canvas, and it is an opportunity for us to create our space and she can't wait to see what grows from it.



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Photos showing the waters around the new highway from Rainbow Beach Helicopters.



The flood devastation photographed by Rainbow Beach Helicopters pilot Glen Cruikshank.



Glen said seeing homes and rooftops under water made you realise the level of devastation from the flood.

Helicopters play vital role

By Lee Mccarthy

During the recent flooding event, Glen and Diana Cruikshank from Rainbow Beach helicopters were in high demand to ferry people stranded by flood waters.

For nearly four days the team of two worked to take people home or to urgent appointments or to be reunited with family.

Glen said he was still shocked by the devastation and the scenes he witnessed with people stranded on the highway for days with no supplies, communication, or knowledge of when they would be able to get home.

Glen said they were fielding calls all day, with 104 calls coming in just on one day for people needing information or help.

He said he wanted it known that there were no heroics in what they did and he doesn't want to be portrayed as anything other than being in the privileged position to help.

"It's a very humbling experience to be honest. In those sorts of circumstances just by definition of my job, it's a privilege to be able to help and it's not lost on me, the privilege. One of the most moving moments was bringing the two little bundles home to mum."

Glen said he helped a local family who were stuck on the other side of the river to bring their two small children home and, although they were safe, they needed to be reunited with their parents. He said that was particularly moving.

"Can you imagine how stressful that would be?"

He said they started getting calls on the last day of the heavy rain when there were still showers and low fog and by that stage people had been on the road for two or three days.

"People were everywhere, they were just stranded. The only way I can describe the highway is it was like a serpent and where the serpent's body is out of the water that is where the cars were, trapped by water and they just got to a high point and had to wait.

"There were hundreds of people at PUMA and of course they all started to run out of power, and I know the Liberty gave all their food away and everyone was going without food and water and sleep."

He said it was obviously only during that period when the roads were closed and as soon as the roads opened everyone could get home or somewhere. But during that three-day window the stranded couldn't go anywhere.

"There are multiple degrees of shock, you lose power then your phone, then all of a sudden there is no communication, no power, no knowledge and no hope.

"They can't ring anyone and find out how people are and there is no food. How do you get help when you can't make a phone call?"

"I don't really know to be honest how people got to us, people just started searching helicopters, but they would see me when I landed to ask for help and they were making on the

run decisions. It was just chaos.

"There were three little helicopters that did the lions share and Amy and Nathan from Great Ocean Helicopters at Hervey Bay and Morgan and Belle from Salt Air Aviation out of Noosa were great people and worked amazingly well with us.

"At one point the fire brigade came up with a man who had to get back to Tin Can Bay as he had left home without his medication and had not been able to take it for three days."

He said people were stuck at work so the bosses were ringing and asking them to come and get their staff to take them home.

Fuel was an issue with the helicopter holding only three hours flying time and Gympie didn't have any fuel as they were under water and Maryborough had run out of fuel, so they had to fly the 25 minutes to the Sunshine Coast to fuel up.

"You have to land with a minimum of 20 litres on board so it's a constant numbers game to do the job to get back to the Sunny Coast to get more fuel.

"It was just like a checkerboard all day long for about three main days and we were burning 60 litres an hour - and that is just one machine.

"There's a whole myriad of things that you don't think of. There are things you don't prepare for and as a collective group you understand that people are flooded in, and people not directly affected understood there was a degree of heartache but bring it down to indi-

viduals you realise it was just devastating.

"For that brief piece of time when we would fly over the water, the passengers see the house roofs under water and think oh my goodness there are people worse off.

"People are just in heartache in the middle of nowhere with one lady crying when I picked her up and crying when I dropped her off and the other guys in helicopters would have similar stories of people desperate to get home."

One man who was stuck on the highway was on his way to get heart surgery.

"I had to get him as close to Redcliffe as I could, but it was completely under water, so we got him to Caboolture and Greenslopes Hospital lined him up to get him from there. We arrived at 9.30am and he was going in for heart surgery at 3pm that afternoon.

"Then on the way there I picked up another lady who had four kids at home and she hadn't been home for four days, so I dropped her at Nambour on the way through.

"They were big days. I didn't do social media or upload any photos as you can't show photos of people's heartache, so I haven't shared these photos before.

"I just want to acknowledge the effort of the two other companies again who did a fantastic job.

"Tourism wise from Noosa to Hervey Bay the area is in good hands as they are good young companies as well.

"I'm a very lucky person to be honest."



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SD MARKETING
By Steph Downman

Another victim of Teewah

By Lee McCarthy

During the recent flooding and severe rain, beach driving was fraught with danger with torrential rain falling on both on both sides of Double Island Point catching some unaware. The Teewah Rural Fire Brigade (TRFB) took time to warn drivers to rethink their arrangements for camping and encouraged people to stay where they were and to help those around them.

“The beach conditions are treacherous and very unpredictable; some vehicles are being stuck in landslides from the dunes which quickly turn into quicksand.”

They said it would become an expensive recovery for those who try with their resources stretched to the limits.

“If you find yourself stuck it could well mean the end of your trip, your belongings and your car so please don't travel the beach this week.”

However not everyone heeded their advice

and some ended up with a huge recovery bill and a vehicle filled with salt water and sand.

Although there were a few supplies for campers who were already already set up at the Noosa North Shore retreat fuel was in short demand and holiday makers were urged to limit their driving.

Trying to navigate the hazards, either in vehicles or on foot, can be extremely dangerous and water levels can rise and fall quickly and the beach conditions change hourly.

Claytons Towing posted this photo of a 4WD at Teewah Beach which they had to rescue after the driver didn't heed the warnings from the TRFB.

“Headed up when barge reopened with Big Bertha and a mini excavator to dig it out and found Mother Nature stepped in and did the job for us.”

What might have seemed like a good idea at the time because an expensive mistake for this beach traveller.



A disaster due to the intense rain becoming like quicksand according to the Teewah Rural Fire Brigade

Mozzies on march, so empty those buckets and tubs

As if there wasn't enough to think about for out for our exhausted communities, news of mosquito-borne illnesses is now the latest concern.

South-east Queenslanders are being urged to take precautions against mosquito-borne illnesses in the wake of severe weather and the detection of Japanese encephalitis virus.

Health Minister Yvette D'Ath said some of the most common mosquito-borne illnesses are Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus and malaria, though these are only some of what can be spread by a mosquito bite.

“Recently, Japanese encephalitis virus was detected in samples taken from a commercial piggery in southern Queensland. There have also been detections in piggeries in New South Wales and Victoria.

“Disease caused by the virus occurs most commonly in pigs and horses but can be transmitted to humans from mosquito bites.

“Most people infected with the virus are asymptomatic, but it can cause fever, headaches, rashes and – in severe cases – serious neurological illness including convulsions.

“An expected rise in mosquito activity in

south-east Queensland means there may be a higher chance of the virus being transmitted now, so people must protect themselves.”

Chief Health Officer Dr John Gerrard said by applying insect repellent, wearing loose clothes to cover arms and legs, and wearing closed-in shoes can significantly increase protection against mosquito bites.

“This is critical for people who may need to clean-up in and around their properties affected by recent rainfall and flooding because standing water allows mosquitoes to breed in large numbers.

“If it is safe to do so, people can reduce potential breeding sites by removing any standing pools of water around their house and yard, including clearing debris from ditches and filling in holes and vehicle wheel ruts.

“Most mosquito bites will result in no issues or symptoms, but it is important people speak with their doctor if they experience body aches, diarrhoea, headaches, fever, feelings of nausea, or any other notable symptoms.”

Visit the Queensland Health website for more information about mosquito-borne illnesses.

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Pontoon anyone?

By Lee McCarthy

If you saw any of the pontoons washed up on Teewah and K'gari (Fraser Island) beaches over the past week you wouldn't be the only one trying to figure out how to best use them to the region's advantage.

Talks of securing them into the Double Island Point Lagoon or towing them along the beach for a diving platform were a couple of tongue in cheek suggestions.

The pontoons believed to be from as far away as the Brisbane River landed at the Coloured Sands and at Eli Creek last Saturday.

Although leaching foam from the structure, the tops were in surprisingly good condition considering how far they have travelled leading some to think no one would miss them if they were reused.

While debris and foam from the pontoons has been sighted between Yaroomba and Marcus beaches on the Sunshine Coast, there has also been a quantity on our Cooloola Coast beaches.

"Volunteers and caring community mem-



One of the pontoons washed up onto the beach at the Rainbow Beach Coloured Sands

Picture: MURRAY SAMBELL

bers are already collecting similar debris along the beaches of our region especially between Rainbow Beach and Double Island," Lindy Orwin from Cooloola Coastcare said.

"The Rainbow Beach residents who walk their dogs or exercise on the beach are fantastic at always picking up litter. However large

debris requires vehicles to collect, and the volunteers are onto that."

With the coast feeling like they got off lightly with the recent weather events, it was a stark reminder of the velocity and force of the recent catastrophic floods across South East Queensland.



Another pontoon was discovered by Angie Wright at Eli Creek on K'gari (Fraser Island)

Free breast screening is back at Tin Can Bay

The BreastScreen mobile service is back at Lions Park Tin Can Bay from 21 March to 8 April 2022, and local women 40 years and over are encouraged to book a potentially life-saving breast screen.

It is exactly two years since Covid caused the first disruptions to all our lives, including the mobile breast screening service to Tin Can Bay being delayed until May in 2020.

Medical director of BreastScreen Queensland Sunshine Coast, Dr Alison Roper, wants to reassure those women who had

a breast screen in May or June 2020 that they will be invited to have their two-yearly breast screen when the bus arrives in Tin Can Bay at the end of March.

"While the recommended time between breast screens is two years, there is no problem in coming one or two months early. It is important not to delay having a breast screen, as early detection increases treatment options and saves lives," Dr Roper said.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women, with one in seven

Queensland women diagnosed in their lifetime. A breast screen can detect cancer early, before a woman or her doctor can feel anything, and regular breast screening is the most effective way to reduce deaths from breast cancer.

Women aged 50-74 years are particularly encouraged to have a free breast screen every two years.

Women aged 40-49 and those over 75 can also attend this free Service.

"Making a potentially life-saving breast

screening appointment is simple, just pick up the phone and call 13 20 50 or book online at breastscreen.qld.gov.au," Dr Roper said.

"Our female staff are very experienced and understand the needs, fears and concerns of other women."

Women who are unable to attend the mobile van while it's visiting Tin Can Bay, can book an appointment at the BreastScreen service located at Goldfields Plaza in Gympie. This service operates Mondays, Tuesdays and one Saturday each month.



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Barb's designs on success

By Lee McCarthy

Rainbow Beach Designs is a new business venture for local graphic designer, Barb Bryant-Dunshea, who has launched her business creating printed product lines featuring local images.

Barb says she is in full swing now after launching softly in 2021 and said the business is going well and she is thrilled with the response.

Barb returned to the area after spending many years in North Queensland and said she loves the region, and it was hard to leave and move away.

"I love Rainbow Beach; it is my home," she said.

"I love to get up every morning and I have the same passion as when I was a paramedic. It gives me the same feeling.

"It has taken a long time to find another job I can do that with. I love creating different things every day and seeing them come to life."

Born and bred in Cooroy, Barb became a paramedic and when they decided to move back to the region, Barb went back to school and studied a Bachelor of Communication Design at University.

She says it is completely different to being a paramedic and she really loves it.

While they would have loved to buy in Rainbow Beach, they were able to find a place in Tin Can Bay so that is where the business is based.

"I always enjoyed tie dye nappies and screen printing, and it was always my passion to come back here, and I have picked it up again and I'm living my dream.

"We have our design which is one part of the business, and the other is wholesale so we can print up a series with no minimum number with a choice of designs and colours.

"We have found great suppliers and we



Barb Bryant-Dunshea with some of the designs her business Rainbow Beach Designs are now selling.

can offer a quick turnaround. We specialise in creating the best quality t-shirts and designs inhouse."

Another of the popular lines are baby onesies, and Barb said they are reaching out to a lot of companies to collaborate with as well, so

it is not just t-shirts.

They also offer customised t-shirts, hoodies, hats, tea towels, aprons, towels, coffee cups, stubbie coolers, mouse pads and key rings and have an in-house graphic designer so they can personalise your creations.

This year they have a new addition with a 'direct to garment' printer so they can add photographs onto products which gives them the ability to print multi coloured designs onto t-shirts.

The idea was borne when locals Garry and Julie Hewitt asked if she were able to print a photo of their beloved pet Ki onto a t-shirt and it was from there the inspiration for Ki Original's came from.

"When starting this business, we wanted to make sure we were an ethical and eco printing design business while making sure we make a minimal impact of the earth."

"We have a recycling program for you to be involved in by returning your no longer required t-shirts and remaking them into recycled bathmats, with all profits going to local charities."

We use only water-based inks saving our environment and every shirt sold comes in its own calico backpack.

"When we decided to develop the brand, we wanted to create a line of apparel that was easily recognisable as being Rainbow Beach, not only for the locals but also for the visitors, to take home a memory of the good times.

"We have been selling at the markets, but we are going online and eventually I would love to have my own shop."

There is also a wholesale side to the business where Rainbow Beach Designs can produce and print on all types of apparel and accessories for your school, local sporting club, small business, or clothing brand.

Get in touch with Barb at hello@rainbow-beachdesigns.com

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Driver clocked at 150kph!

By Donna Jones

Police in the Gympie Patrol Group were disappointed to detect drink drivers, drug drivers and defective vehicles in Cooloola and Rainbow Beach throughout February.

Three drivers were low level drink driving and one was also reported to have accelerated to nearly 150kph to overtake an undercover police vehicle.

On the weekend of 11-13 February, a joint police operation involving police from Rainbow Beach, Tin Can Bay, Gympie Highway Patrol, Sunshine Coast District Highway Patrol and officers from Queensland Parks and Wildlife service was conducted.

Police were continuing with their high visibility patrols along the Cooloola Coast and Noosa North Shore targeting reckless, unsafe and irresponsible driving practices on the beaches, in the tracks or in the campgrounds.

Police were also targeting antisocial behaviour from campers involved in beach parties. Beach parties are continuing to occur on these beaches attracting large numbers of young adults, reckless, unsafe, and irresponsible driving practices, and the use of fireworks.

Offences detected over the weekend included drink driving, drug driving, disqualified driving, vehicles unregistered – uninsured and 10 vehicles were issued defective vehicle

repair notices for vehicle defects, with seven of those vehicles being major enough for the vehicles to be grounded.

The majority of defects encountered were for illegal modifications or modifications that were not approved (no exhaust system, modified or removing catalytic converters and mufflers).

The vehicles that were grounded were for a combination of oversized tyres, uneven lift (front higher than the back), suspension lift that was higher than allowed and tyres outside the body of the vehicle.

Drink Drivers

At about 3.40pm on 12 February, police from Highway Patrol Gympie were conducting a roadside breath test (RBT) operation on the Leisha Track, Cooloola (Double Island Point).

Police intercepted a gold Nissan patrol station wagon on the track for a RBT.

After the driver, a 42-year-old Margate man, provided a positive result he was taken to a Special Purpose Vehicle where he allegedly provided a positive reading of 0.075 percent blood alcohol concentration (BAC).

The man is scheduled to appear before the Gympie Magistrates Court on 7 April, in relation to driving over general alcohol limit but not over middle alcohol limit.

On the same day, nearly 20 minutes later at 3.57pm, police intercepted a grey Ford Ranger

also on the Leisha Track, Cooloola for an RBT.

The driver, a 39-year-old Buderim man, also provided a positive result and at the RBT Bus blew a positive reading of 0.074 percent BAC.

He will also appear before the Gympie Magistrates Court on 7 April, in relation to driving over general alcohol limit but not over middle alcohol limit.

At about 4.20pm on February 18, police from Rainbow Beach were conducting patrols on Bombala Crescent, Rainbow Beach when they observed a man ride past on a small mini motorbike.

They located the rider, a 37-year-old Gympie man, on a driveway at Coolberry Court, Rainbow Beach along with an unregistered Thumpstar brand motorcycle where he provided a positive result to an RBT.

The man was taken to the Rainbow Beach Police Beat where he allegedly provided a positive reading of 0.078 percent BAC.

The man is expected to appear before the Gympie Magistrates Court on 17 March, in relation to driving over general alcohol limit but not over middle alcohol limit, vehicles used on roads must be registered and drive uninsured vehicle.

Excessive Speed

At about 11.18am on 19 February, police from Gympie were conducting mobile patrols

on Rainbow Beach Road, Cooloola in an unmarked police vehicle.

Police allege they were overtaken by a silver Mercedes-Benz Coupe travelling in excess of the speed limit of 100km/h.

After activating a mobile radar device they detected the speed of the vehicle to be 147km/h.

Police intercepted the vehicle and spoke to the driver, a 47-year-old Torquay man, in relation to the speeding offence.

The man was issued an infringement notice for exceed speed limit in speed zone by more than 40km/h which resulted in a \$1286 fine and the loss of eight demerit points.

“A safe environment should be available for all users of Noosa North Shore, Teewah Beach, Double Island Point, Rainbow Beach, Cooloola and Tin Can Bay whether travelling on the roads, the beach, the inland tracks or camping,” a spokesman for the Queensland Police Service said.

“Police will continue to patrol these roads, inland tracks and beaches and are urging the public that if anyone witnesses reckless, unsafe, irresponsible driving practices, or anti-social behaviour, to report it to police.

“Every complaint will be investigated. “Expect police anywhere, anytime as road safety is everybody’s responsibility, but it starts with you,” the spokesman said.

Ticks are up and about, so keep your canines safe

Dog owners are being urged to maintain an effective tick control program to prevent their four-legged friends falling victim to ehrlichiosis, a tick-borne disease caused by the bacteria Ehrlichia canis (E canis).

Minister Mark Furner said with the wet season now well underway, man’s best friends needed their owners to do all they could to protect them from ehrlichiosis.

“We do not want dog owners to go through the trauma of seeing their beloved dogs suffering the effects of this horrible disease,” Mr Furner said

“In late January 2022, a dog that was reported as not having travelled outside of Queensland was confirmed with ehrlichiosis, meaning this disease has likely found its way into our tick population.

“As ticks are more prevalent during the wet season, I cannot stress enough that, to prevent canine ehrlichiosis, dogs should be on a tick prevention program that repels and kills ticks preventing them from attaching to the dog.

“Dog owners should also watch for any signs of illness, avoid taking dogs into tick-infested areas such as the bush where possible, and regularly inspect dogs for ticks and carefully remove ticks.

“Whether your dogs are working dogs or family pets, the only tick they should get is the one that shows you have taken them to your local vet to get good advice and appropriate products to protect them.”

Mr Furner said dogs can become infected with E. canis after being bitten by an infected brown dog tick, which is common in most areas of northern Australia.

“Although they can vary considerably among dogs, clinical signs typically include fever, lethargy, enlarged lymph nodes, loss of appetite, discharge from the eyes and nose, weight loss, and anaemia and bleeding disorders,” he said.

“Everyone involved with dogs has a general biosecurity obligation (GBO) under the Biosecurity Act 2014 to take all reasonable steps to ensure they do not spread a pest, disease or contaminant, including E canis.

“Australia’s first cases of E canis were detected in May 2020 in dogs in Western Australia and since then the Northern Territory, and anyone taking dogs through areas where E canis is known, or likely, to be active should take additional precautions.

“Ehrlichiosis is a nationally notifiable disease and anyone who suspects a dog is showing signs of the disease must report it immediately to the Emergency Animal Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.”

Comprehensive information can be found online by visiting business.qld.gov.au and searching for ‘E canis’.

Dog owners are being urged to check their dog for ticks to ensure they don’t fall victim to ehrlichiosis



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The battle of Poona Lake

By Phil Jarratt, Noosa Today

The perched lake of Poona is set to become the decisive battleground as conservation and community groups push hard to stop or at least modify the commercial Cooloola Great Walk.

This magnificent lake at the northern end of the Cooloola Recreation area, hemmed by a white sand beach of cultural significance to the Traditional Owners as a one-time Kabi Kabi birthing site, and part of the Noosa River catchment, is currently slated to be one of five commercial glamping sites to be developed by CABN Pty Ltd, a South Australian-based eco-tourism operator.

Most concerning in the eyes of its opponents, Poona is one of two much bigger sites on the proposed commercial walk (the other being Double Island Point) that will host 10 large cabins and a communal dining area over half a hectare.

The entire CABN proposal has been green-lighted by the Federal Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) after an assessment last year of its Matters of National Environmental Significance, and the Federal Environment Minister advising that the project was not considered a “controlled action” under the Act, meaning that no further Commonwealth assessment was required.



Magical Poona Lake.

Picture: SUPPLIED

While the project still has several state-based approvals to get through in a pathway almost as tricky as parts of the walk itself, Noo-

sa/Wide Bay Greens spokesperson Rhonda Prescott was the first local environmentalist to call out the Queensland government for de-

ceiving the public about its scope.

Last year she told Noosa Today: “Initial publicity about the Cooloola Great Walk Ecotourism Project suggested tiny glamping-style tents complementing the Great Walk. Impacts on the environment, we were assured, would be minimal.

“Now that the community consultation and information phase of the project has ended, it’s clear that the reality will be quite different. The consultation exercise has been inadequate, with many unanswered questions.

“Basic information is lacking on crucial issues – the number of vehicle movements in areas which now see very few, the amount of revenue which flows back to the State Government, the impact of the proposal on current low-impact visitors, and the possibility of a massive expansion of the project in the future.”

This week Ms Prescott reiterated her fears about the Great Walk: “Firstly, the very name ecotourism implies ecological sensitivity but is often used to greenwash developments that are in fact ecologically damaging. I am sure that the environmentalists that you are contacting will fill you in on their concerns about the construction of 10 large cabins on a hillside just 60 metres from Lake Poona, construction of an access road and other environmental impacts.

Kabi spokesman says ‘no’ to eco-cabins proposal

By Donna Jones

Emerging elder and local Kabi Kabi spokesman Russell Bennet is concerned about the proposed development of part of the Cooloola National Park.

A South Australian company’s plan is to develop tourist accommodation just off the Great Cooloola Trail inside the boundary of the Cooloola National Park.

Mr Bennet, who has in the past offered indigenous tours around the region, has two major concerns with the development - which he says will destroy a ‘pristine’ rainforest environment.

“It’s just not right,” he said.

“They want to take a pristine rainforest and start knocking down trees and letting the sunlight in there.

“There aren’t any weeds in there now, but once you knock down a few trees, and you’ve got vehicles going in there, they’ll be tracking the weeds in, in no time.”

And as if ruining a pure and clean environment wasn’t bad enough, Mr Bennet worries about what a development like this will mean for other areas.

“I’m concerned this will set a dangerous precedent and you’ll have private companies developing other National Parks.

“This is not environmental - it’s about

making rich people richer.

“They’d be better off giving that money to operators to do indigenous tours and make a few jobs for the locals.

“And if you want to stay there, there are camp sites - walk in and bring a tent.

“I want them to preserve this pristine environment, not sell parts of it off to private companies,” he said.

The original plan was, according to previous reports, endorsed by other aboriginal representatives, however Mr Bennet says he is not alone among local First Australians who are against the proposal.

And the plans, first promoted by then Environment Minister Kate Jones appear to have changed drastically since they were first raised as a concept, according to a report in July last year.

At that time conservationist Lorraine Bird described the issue as “sensitive” because of First Nations support for the plans which she said had not included full consideration of the project’s implications.

“Maybe there needs to be some research into ‘what is ecotourism, especially if it degrades the ecology of an area?’” she said.

Mr Bennet joins the chorus of groups speaking out about the proposal which include the Noosa and Hinterland Green Party branch.



Mr Bennet is one of the voices against destroying the beauty of this pristine wilderness at Lake Poona. Pictures: JULIAN MCMULLEN



Secluded and natural, Lake Poona is accessible via walking tracks which blend in with nature.

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On the Great Walk.

Pictures: DES



The Great Walk.

“Secondly, the fact that there seems to be conflict between Queensland Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon, who actually does seem to have a genuine interest in preserving our natural environment, and pro-development Tourism Minister Stirling Hinchliffe. It was interesting to learn that Hinchliffe was a lobbyist for the Rainbow Shores Stage Two development at Inskip Point.

“A third controversial aspect is the involvement [in the Great Walk project] of Brian Warner, a director of the Kabi Kabi Peoples Aboriginal Corporation and the inference that this body is speaking for and representing all Kabi Kabi people ... suffice to say that there does not appear to be unanimous support.”

Later last year, as details about the campsite locations began to emerge, veteran eco-crusader Greg Wood, a resident of Rainbow Beach at the edge of Cooloola Recreation Area for 40 years, saw that a call to arms was becoming necessary, first through local pamphleteering and then with an ambitious website called Protect Our Parks, which expresses the broad view that private enterprise should not be allowed on our national parks and demonstrates the point through closer examination of what is now happening in our own backyard.

To understand the fiery passion that Greg brings to this crusade, you need to know a little of his background. Originally from Adelaide, he was making his way to Cairns with a mate in the early '80s when he dropped into Rainbow Beach, got drunk in the pub and slept on the beach.

He recalls: “My first morning waking up in the sand dunes with a hangover I looked out at the ocean and about 20 metres out was a whale and its calf. Then I looked down towards Double Island Point and it was just stunning. I ended up spending three years at DI, working intermittently on upgrading the lighthouse. You could camp there legally in those days.”

Greg fell in love with a town built on sand mining, and was soon campaigning against it.

He says: “I was developing an environmental consciousness back then, but it really kicked in when I got married and we went down south



Petition page on Protect Our Parks website.

and started a recycling business on the Northern Rivers. We came back to the Sunshine Coast in '95 and were horrified at the extent of the development so we kept going back to Rainbow, and it was like we never left.”

But change was on the horizon, and Greg became part of a small core of residents opposing the proposed developments in Rainbow and Tin Can Bay that would bring 30,000 residents into their little paradise. Now, more than a quarter-century later, he's back in the trenches.

He says: “In my semi-retirement I started working on Cooloola Coast projects and a community website and that led to Protect Our Parks. The notion of private development on public land really rankled with me, but you wouldn't believe the arguments that I had over whether we should talk about anything beyond our particular park. It occurred to me that we needed people to support us from beyond our region, beyond the state, so we've tried to achieve a balance on the site.

“One of the things I find very concerning about the Great Walk project is that they seem to have taken commercial in confidence far beyond any normal constructs. It's become a smokescreen. I understand that some of the negotiations are delicate and need to be kept confidential, but people need to be given a clearer idea of what is going on.

“Let's put aside the issue of private development in national parks for a moment and say we're going to allow that. Wouldn't you at least then keep the sites away from the fragile ecosystems of Poona and the Noosa River?”

On the Protect Our Parks website you can find a healthy list of supporter groups, including Noosa Integrated Catchment Association (NICA) and the Mary River Catchment Committee, both of which have expressed great concern over the campsites proposed for Poona and on the Noosa River.

Perhaps less well known on the list is a group called Keep Cooloola Cool, the brainchild of Noosa-based architect Matt Noffke and a few friends, colleagues and family. But don't let its size fool you. KCC means business and its founder is passionate about protecting the park. A petition he organised and which closed last month received more than 5000 signatures.

He says: “We set up Keep Cooloola Cool because no one else was prepared to talk about the issues. No one seemed to know what was going on, even people like us. We have a nature refuge that adjoins the park at Elanda Point, and to be honest we were somewhat comfortable with the idea of simple glamping tents going in, but two years ago we didn't know what we know now.

“If they'd done a proper consultation we wouldn't have ended up where we are at. The community would be seeing more benefit, the Kabi Kabi would benefit more. We still haven't seen plans of what they propose to build on these sites, including Poona Lake. Even the descriptions in the documentation are misleading and contradictory.

“We know that plans exist because they've been through EPBC, and they should be in the public domain considering the park is a public asset.”

Over the Christmas break, Matt and his architectural intern Laura created an alternative business proposal focussing on an Indigenous interpretive centre in an existing building at Elanda Point from which tours could radiate out.

Says Matt: “That was just one idea of many which the Kabi Kabi could develop and help prosper, and it doesn't need a third party commercial operator. Keep Cooloola Cool will keep fighting on the issues. We're not just a pop-up part of the Protect Our Parks petition campaign.

“We think the proposal is so inappropriate that we'll fight, and we've been working in the background for some time. We had a community day at Boreen Point where we presented the background to the proposal more than five months ago. We'll continue our efforts to create greater awareness of what is really going on in Cooloola.”

At the time of writing, the Protect Our Parks petition to Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon had more than 2500 signatures and was growing daily.

Meanwhile, seasoned campaigner Greg Wood was continuing to lobby politicians and media.

When Noosa Today spoke to him last month he had just returned from guiding Brisbane News reporter Tony Moore around Poona Lake. Moore was so impressed by its beauty, fragility and significance that he launched an ongoing campaign in his paper.

On 15 February he reported that Minister Scanlon said she had not been briefed on ecological concerns raised by her department in the March 2021 Cooloola Great Walk Ecotourism Trail Proposed Site Selection report.

“After meetings with her department on the controversy, Ms Scanlon in the afternoon said she had requested more details,” Moore wrote.

He quoted the Minister as saying: “I have today been briefed more broadly on the Cooloola proposal, but I have asked my department to brief me in detail on the options around the site selection. Ultimately we want to get the balance right, selecting sites which protect Cooloola's world-class environment, but in ways the world wants to experience.”

Read more about the Cooloola campaign at protectparks.net and keep-coooloola-cool.org



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Craig with an elbow slapper whiting from Teewah beach.



A quality bag of Sand Whiting caught during winter.

Who upset the Gods?

**By Ash Little and Drew Gardiner,
Gardiner Fisheries**

As we write this article our focus is drawn away to yet another band of slow-moving storms moving in from the west.

Whilst all forms of fishing have been severely impacted by this seemingly endless weather event, our thoughts have been with all those impacted by this insane flooding rain. Witnessing the community spirit throughout this disaster has been nothing short of inspirational.

The quieter trading period provided us with an opportunity to have a serious think tank on what we can do as a local business to encourage fishers back to our community once the weather patterns stabilize. What greater incentive than an awesome fishing competition with seriously big prizemoney!

Well, how about two competitions to share the prize pool of almost \$40 000 including a complete boat, motor and trailer package!!!

Proudly hosted by Gardiner Fisheries, your premier fresh bait outlet in Queensland located at Rainbow Beach. We pride ourselves on sustainably harvesting local product for both recreational and commercial fisherman. While we are commercial fishers, our roots are firmly imbedded in the sport that is recreational angling. We live and breathe competitive amateur fishing. It grows skill, builds memories, and shapes personalities. Not to mention creating a healthy addiction to the outdoors, all while highlighting our beautiful region.

It brings our team great satisfaction seeing all ages and skill levels taking part in our fishing comps. This year we have our 4th Annual Whiting championship and we are excited to announce our Inaugural Tailor championship. We're proud of our unique comp format and with your support, we hope to make each year better than the last.

The competitions share over \$40,000 in cash and prizes with the major prize draw across both competitions, a 3.7m Aquamaster Vnose Barra punt with Mercury 9.9 Hp 4 stroke outboard and Redco Trailer valued at over \$9,500. The draw will be conducted on the final day of the Whiting competition. All entrants across both the Tailor and Whiting competition will go into the major prize draw and the winner does not have to be present to win.

Tailor Comp Cash Prizes

Prizes **Adult** (Heaviest Tailor)

- 1st - \$3,000
- 2nd - \$1,500
- 3rd - \$700
- 4th - \$500
- 5th - \$300
- 6th - \$150

Bonus Species

- Silver Jew “Mulloway” (Heaviest) - \$500

- Silver Bream “Yellowfin Bream“ (Heaviest) - \$500
- Swallow Tail Dart (Heaviest) - \$500
- Tarwhine (Heaviest) - \$500
- Spanish Mackerel (Heaviest) - \$1,000
- Longest Giant Trevally Released - \$1,000
- Longest Tailor Released - \$500

Junior Comp

- Heaviest Tailor - \$150
- Most Other (Bream/Dart/Tarwhine)- \$150
- Mystery Weight Tailor - \$100
- Mystery Weight Silver Bream - \$100
- Mystery Weight Swallow Tail Dart - \$100
- Mystery Weight Tarwhine - \$100

Whiting Comp Prizes

Prizes Adult (Heaviest Fish)

- 1st - \$700 Cash + MJF rod package + custom Alvey 60 series reel + customised winners jersey
- 2nd - \$500 Cash + prize pack
- 3rd - \$350 Cash + prize pack
- 4th - \$250 Cash + prize pack
- 5th - \$150 Cash + prize pack
- 6th - \$100 Cash + prize pack

Prizes Juniors (Heaviest Fish)

- 1st - \$100 Cash + Alvey combo + prize pack
- 2nd - \$60 Cash + prize pack
- 3rd - \$40 Cash + prize pack
- 4th - \$20 Cash + prize pack
- 5th - Prize pack
- 6th - Prize pack

Prizes Teams (Heaviest combined 2 fish bag)

- 1st - \$1000 Cash + Winning Team shirts
- 2nd - \$500 Cash
- 3rd - \$150 Cash

Mystery Weight

- Adult mystery weight prize pack
- Junior mystery weight prize pack

Tailor Competition Overview & Rules

When - July 1st – October 31st, 2022. The only event in Australia to run for this duration with Tailor as the target species.

Where – Fishing Boundaries - All open beaches between Point Cartwright & Sandy Cape on Fraser Island

Target Species – Tailor (*Pomatomus saltatrix*)

How - Surf Beach based fishing. Weight based competition with all fish presented for weigh-in, gilled and gutted. 1 Fish only per entrant per day. All fish must be presented for weigh-in at Gardiner Fisheries during regular business hours.

Competition Details

The 2022 Tailor championship is conducted using 2 separate prize divisions: Open Adults and Open Juniors.



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All competitors are required to register as individuals in either Adult or Junior divisions.

Once registered, Anglers can fish at their leisure, as often as they like between July 1st & October 31st. This duration allows fishers to choose their favourite moon phase, weather conditions, and compete around work and family commitments.

Entrant's fishing in Open Adult and Junior divisions are only allowed to weigh in 1 Tailor per day.

In addition to Tailor, competitors can weigh in 1 fish per "Bonus Species" category per day.

Accepted Bonus Species:

- Silver Jew "Mulloway" (Heaviest)
- Silver Bream "Yellowfin Bream" (Heaviest)
- Swallow Tail Dart (Heaviest)
- Tarwhine (Heaviest)
- Spanish Mackerel (Heaviest)

Additional Catch & Release Category:

- Longest Giant Trevally
- Longest Tailor

Competition Boundaries

Competition boundaries are all ocean beaches between the specified southern and northern boundaries.

Note: Boat fishing is not permitted.

- Southern Boundary
- Point Cartwright
- Northern Boundary
- Sandy Cape on Fraser Island

Once registered, Anglers can fish at their leisure, as often as they like between July 1st & Midday 26th of November. Providing a 5-month duration allows fishers to choose their favourite moon phase, weather conditions, and compete around work and family commitments.

Registration for both competitions is now open and is done on-line at www.gardiner-fisheries.com

For further competition details and rolling updates follow us on Facebook, just look for Gardiner Fisheries or visit us at 1 Karoonda Rd, Rainbow Beach.



Tailor like this are common on Fraser Island.



Catherine from Rainbow Beach with her winning Dart.

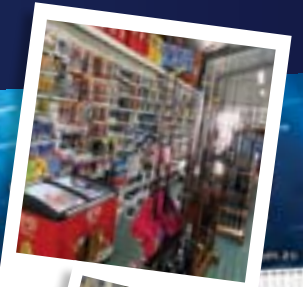
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Kim Badcoe with guest speaker Catherine Molloy and Sandra Brangan.



Jan, Elisa, Nick all enjoying the delights of Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach for International Women's Day.



Lee McCarthy from CCWIB with guest speaker Catherine Molloy.

IWD celebrated in style

By Lee McCarthy

The 2022 International Women's Day celebrations didn't miss Rainbow Beach with the Cooloola Coast Women in Business network hosting a three-course luncheon at Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach.

International Speaker and award-winning author Catherine Molloy was the special guest of honour and is an expert in the field of communication and body language psychology.

Catherine is based on the Sunshine Coast and has been in business for twenty-five years and revealed how she found herself with this new career of international speaker and author through necessity rather than choice.

Author of The Million Dollar Handshake and The Conscious Leader, Catherine's topic was 'Unlocking Your Inner Worth'.

Thirty women enjoyed a shared starter, a choice of Bang Bang chicken salad Chinese style with satay dressing and fresh herbs or Pan Seared Salmon served with a soft herb and caper mash with a fresh citrus salsa.

Dessert was the option of Chocolate Mousse with cream and biscotti crumb or Lemon Cheesecake Xango with Ice Cream.

Beach & Bay Weddings and Events supplied the table decorations and Emily from Salty Basket Co provided her stunning sugar cookies especially made for the occasion.



A beautiful venue to celebrate International Womens Day 2022!

Lucky Door prizes included a \$50 voucher from Rainbow Beach Pizza and Grill, a \$50 hand painted tote from Alex Illustrator and from Sue

Dowling a tub of Beauty Focus Collagen +.

The theme for this year's International Women's Day from the United Nations is "Gen-

der equality today for a sustainable tomorrow".

Catherine is available for speaking engagement at www.catherinemolloy.com.au

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Sport

Academy's talent search

The region boasts a high level of sporting talent with dedicated athletes, selfless parents and dynamic coaches and an opportunity is about to open for them to be noticed.

The Queensland Academy of Sport will undertake Australia's largest athlete Talent Identification program starting in April 2022.

The 'You for 2032' is a quest to find and develop athletes to win on the world stage at the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The program aims to identify aspiring athletes aged 13 to 23 for Olympic sports and 13 to 30 for Paralympic sports.

The Queensland Academy of Sport will be travelling across the state as they select more than 20,000 young athletes in a quest to put more Queenslanders on the medal dais in Brisbane 2032.

Testing will measure physical, physiological, and cognitive sporting abilities and there will be the opportunity for 400 athletes with Olympic and Paralympic potential to be provided with specialised development programs.

There will also be an opportunity in this program for 11 Elite Coach Scholarships.

The testing locations will be released on 12 April 2022 when the registration portal is opened with organisers saying they have done their best to provide a testing location for all Queenslanders, across the State.

The program is open to eligible Queenslanders born between 2009 and 1999 (13 and 23 years). This means those who will be at least 13 in 2022 (i.e. born 2009) and no older than 23 in 2022 (born 1999).

Para-Sports are accepting those who are a born between 2009 and 1992 (13 to 30 years). This means those who will be at least 13 in 2022 (i.e. born 2009) and no older than 30 in 2022 (born 1992).

To enquire about You for 2032, email Youfor2032@dtis.qld.gov.au or go to website www.qld.gov.au/recreation/sports/academy



The Australian Institute of Sport 'You for 32' campaign aims to identify aspiring athletes aged 13 to 23 for Olympic sports and 13 to 30 for Paralympic sports. Our region has plenty of great talent

Table tennis competition is heating up in Rainbow

By Lee McCarthy

One of the popular sports kept a little under the radar at Rainbow Beach is the weekly table tennis morning held every Wednesday from 8am to 10am at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall.

The game already has a solid following with 25 regular players and several casual players and tourists who drop in when available.

The local game started in 2018 when Bob and Chris Gudge were on holidays and saw the popularity of the game and said to Wolf Sievers, who was president of the Community Centre at the time, "let's start this here in Rainbow, we have a beautiful hall just sitting there".

So, the Community Centre purchased two tables to begin with and it started from there and now five tables have been purchased by the hall which are often all in use every Wednesday.

There is a mix of levels and ages and it's a great game for concentration, hand-eye coordination and even fitness.

Apparently keeping score is another way to keep your mind active and can sometimes be a bit tricky while concentrating on the game.

The first hour from 8am to 9am is singles and can be highly competitive and the better players enjoy showing no mercy shown but the mixed games from 9am are gentlemanly.

"When new people start, we hit back to them at the same speed until their confidence builds up and they improve."

"It is a high point of the week for some people, as it is very social and after we finish



A winning shot at the weekly table tennis fun at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall



Locals enjoying a bit of action in the community hall every Wednesday with players saying it's a great social event plus good for your mind trying to keep score

at 10am we go and have a coffee together."

"At one point there was an evening competition and we had local teams, teams from Coloolo Cove and Tin Can Bay all coming over and playing when they finished work."

"It was a great competition, but people got busy, and we didn't have enough spares, so it folded."

"But that made our Wednesday morning game even bigger."

Bob's mother was a state champion in 1937 and the rumour mill worked well and people thought it was Bob who was the champion.

According to those at the game though, Bob is modest as he is a great player amongst other great players including 84-year-old Walter Dobkins.

"We have people who return to town in their caravan each year and bring their table tennis bat and come and join us each time they are here, and we do the same when we travel. It's a great way to meet people and they are very welcoming as we are."

"It makes me feel good to have done something for the community that everyone enjoys."

"Everyone used to have a table tennis table under their Queensland, and it is a popular game for families, and it is a good game which helps keep your mind sharp and keeps you involved."

Anyone is welcome to come along, have a game or even just watch the fun as it's a lively morning with a wealth of local characters and a lot of smiles.



This photo taken in 1937 shows an 18 year old Dolly Gudge, then a state table tennis champion. Picture: BOB AND CHRIS GUDGE

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