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# CooloolaCoastToday



**Massive clean-up effort**  
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**Surf club history search**  
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ISSN 2652-6670



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## Off the menu

The difficult science of computer modelling may soon mean locally caught Spanish mackerel is off the menu for Cooloola Coast diners and recreational fishers.

This is despite doubts about the quality of the data informing modelling, believed to be the basis for a recommended tightening of mackerel availability.

Gympie MP Tony Perrett questioned the data underlying the recommended plans for fishery closures or reduced harvest numbers. He called this week for publication of "the data used to justify decisions, including how (the data) is collected and if there is any form of bias in the data collection."

STORY PAGE 2

## Help with hatchings

The TurtleCare Rainbow Beach team waited patiently on the beach alongside the nest of 88 sea turtle eggs through March to ensure the latest nest of Green Turtle hatchlings made a safe journey to the ocean.

Hatching occurs anytime from 55 to 75 days depending on weather conditions and carers and volunteers have kept a night-time vigil over the nest from the eggs 55-day milestone.

The team takes three hour shifts each night even in difficult weather with the reward seeing or just knowing that these endangered hatchlings have been given a chance at survival.

STORY PAGE 9



Winners of the 2021 Rainbow Beach Patrol Teams Invitational were Team 2 who were hoping to make the cut again in 2022. They easily won the fashions of the field. Justin and Vicki Schooth, Emmerson Mitchell, Emily Schooth, Jerome Mallie, Emma Worthington with Sophie Schooth being held up.

## Fun and games on beach patrol

It was a battle of wits and strength on Saturday when eight patrol teams fought it out for the coveted title of Best Patrol Team in the 2022 Rainbow Beach Patrol Teams Invitational.

Each team had a strategy, each team had a handicap and each team thought they were going to win.

Unfortunately, there was only one winner but while Patrol Team Two won in the fashion stakes, it was the two man Team Five who won the title with Greg Nott and Tasman McClintock.

Although all in fun, the entrants are all trained lifesavers who have great skills in the surf, on boards and ski's and these are the

men and women

who volunteer their time to look after us on the beach each weekend.

It was a light-hearted event to recognise the many hours spent on patrol since September 2021 and all teams got into the spirit of the day.

STORY PAGE 8

# Tools at high tide

By Lee Mccarthy

Locals are frustrated with visitors who continue to try to drive along the beach at high tide necessitating driving on dunes to avoid water and damaging them along with any wildlife living on them.

Cooloola Coastcare co-ordinator Lindy Orwin is furious at the drivers who continue with this practice by an entitled few who she says should not be allowed back on to the beach. It is a privilege to enjoy this pristine region and with that comes responsibility expected from those invited here to utilise our natural assets.

"Irresponsible, selfish drivers are not only putting their lives and the lives of family and friends at risk but they are creating unnecessary damage to the fragile ecology of the dune vegetation that helps protect the dunes from erosion," she said

"They are driving and parking on the areas

where the endangered and vulnerable marine turtles lay their eggs between November and April every year. There are alternative exits from the area if people won't wait for safer times to drive on the beach a couple of hours either side of low tide."

STORY PAGE 3

### Rainbow Beach Hotel

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## CooloolaCoastToday

## The editor's desk

You only had to look at the smiles and see the camaraderie between competitors on the weekend during the Surf Club Patrol Teams Invitational to recognise the benefits of being involved in an organisation like the Rainbow Beach Surf Club.

With young athletic men and women in their twenties competing with and against men and women still volunteering in their fifties and sixties it shows the level of satisfaction derived from being a member of a vibrant club.

Spending weekends at the beach, utilising the clubs surf boards and skis, and being a part of a like-minded inclusive group, can only enhance the experience of living by the sea.

The club always welcomes new members and as shown last weekend, men and women who have had ties with the club in the past, are invited back as good friends who shared a passion for the surf.

The 'mateship' is just one aspect. Learning to be competent in the water starts from the under 6 green caps followed by the nippers with the bronze holders helping out with water safety and leading by example.

The role of the modern-day volunteer lifesaver is to ensure the safety of swimmers and with learned skills, this is a rewarding and fulfilling way to spend time.

- Lee McCarthy



# Mackerel off menu

By Arthur Gorrie

The difficult science of computer modelling may soon mean locally caught Spanish mackerel is off the menu for Cooloola Coast diners and recreational fishers.

This is despite doubts about the quality of the data informing modelling, believed to be the basis for a recommended tightening of mackerel availability.

Gympie MP Tony Perrett questioned the data underlying the recommended plans for fishery closures or reduced harvest numbers.

He called this week for publication of "the data used to justify decisions, including how (the data) is collected and if there is any form of bias in the data collection."

Mr Perrett said the state government was threatening fishers with either "the closure of mackerel fisheries or a substantial reduction in harvest numbers."

"Either decision gambles with the livelihoods of fishers right across Queensland's coast.

"I am being inundated with concerns from both recreational and commercial fishers about the closure or reduction in the Spanish mackerel fishery," he said.

Mr Perrett said it was not good enough that so little information was available to the public and there was "no transparency about stock assessments."

"The Premier (Anastacia Palaszczuk) and her Agriculture Minister (Mark Furner) owe it to every Queenslanders to be open and transparent with decision making," he said.

Mr Perrett said the government was "gambling with the livelihood of thousands of businesses across the state."

"The effects of a reduction or closure of the Spanish Mackerel fishery will be large and far reaching," he said.

Mr Furner is due to answer a Question on Notice from Mr Perrett on the data and computer modelling issues behind the ban, including doubts about whether mackerel stocks



A fisherman pleaded guilty to exceeding his catch limit of Spanish mackerel on two separate occasions when caught breaching harvest regulations.

have genuinely decreased.

"The minister must come clean about the data used to justify decisions, including how it is collected and if there is any form of bias in the data collection," he said.

Mr Perrett said he had asked Mr Furner to advise the biomass of each assessment of the Spanish mackerel fishery since 2015, the results of modelling on the impact on small businesses of harvest reduction, and whether any stock assessment had been done in areas closed as Green Zones in the Great Barrier Reef since 2004.

Mr Furner is due to answer the question on 19 April.

The vexed issue of fisheries management has been a source of conflict between the state government and fishers, primarily com-

mercial operators who claim restrictions have been unjustly applied and threaten their livelihoods.

Changed or strengthened fishing restrictions have affected the catch of a number of species, along with the confiscation of inshore netting licenses without compensation.

Trawler operators say their business is increasingly marginal, especially with regard to species deemed to be endangered.

The state government says many of those species will be in even shorter supply if significant efforts are not made now to conserve them.

Mr Perrett says open disclosure of the data and its collection is essential because "effects of a reduction or closure of the Spanish mackerel fishery will be large and far reaching."

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Advertising Bookings Friday 3pm  
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Published by Gympie Today Pty Ltd ACN 642 169 891.  
Publisher Damian Morgan.  
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The magnificent sunsets over the water from the Dolphin Ferry Cruises



Dolphin Ferry Cruises are available for sunset tours, sunrise tours, dolphin feeding, dining tours or for special charters for groups of ten or more

## Golden nights and magic mornings

By Lee McCarthy

After a lifetime at sea, Ian Rogers knew when he finally retired it needed to be on the water.

When he found the Dolphin Ferry for sale, he knew it was the right fit for him.

Ian bought the business 12 months ago but since then his workload has skyrocketed and his partner Heidi Moore runs the ferry most of the time.

Ian is a Master Mariner living on his own boat at Kawana as he pilots the big ships from Mooloolaba to Brisbane and back again.

"He is a marine pilot now, but he has been a captain and a skipper since he was 15," Heidi said.

"He spent a lot of years overseas working as a captain on big transport ships crossing over to Dampier from overseas. He has worked in Africa; he has worked everywhere around the world really."

Heidi said she is just helping him run the business and when she's not working on the ferry, she is down at the Sunshine Coast house painting.

"I worked at the Tin Can Bay marina for a few years and was the Villa Manager and I also worked in the marina office and we have always had boats, so I have had a lot of experience."

She said the business had been busy over Christmas but is very quiet at this time of the year until April and if you add Covid and all the disasters, it's been a quiet six weeks.

Ian and Heidi have several cruises on offer including the Dolphin Cruise which takes you from Carlo Point, Rainbow Beach over to the Tin Can Bay Houseboats to feed the dolphins at 6.30am on Wednesday to Sunday however all cruises depend on numbers so make sure you book.

The Sunset Cruise is held Wednesday to Sunday at 5pm and the popular Cruise and Dine takes passengers from Tin Can Bay over to Quay Carlo Rainbow Beach for a relaxed quality meal and return.

This cruise, which needs to have a minimum of ten bookings, is one of the locals' favourites as it leaves at 11am, returns at 2pm and includes a meal and all for \$45.

"We also have a cruise to bring people from Carlo Point to eat at Sails at the Yacht Club which is also \$45 and then we take them out for an hour and a quarter cruise around the bay.

"We do group bookings, family group bookings, wakes, hens' groups where we take them out for three hours, with the price differing depending on the time."

"I can supply cheese platters and seafood platters for the guests while they enjoy the cruise."

She said all their guests seem to be happy when they hop off.

"It's an experience in lovely calm protected waters, with brilliant sunsets at Snapper Creek."

"We eventually do want to make a regular ferry service back and forth between Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach with regular times but that is in the future."

Dolphin Ferry Cruises are based at Tin Can Bay Houseboats and the website is [www.dolphinferrycruises.com.au](http://www.dolphinferrycruises.com.au)



Penalties apply for driving over vegetation, parking vehicles or setting up camp on a vegetated foredune.



Destroying the dunes by choosing to drive at high tide is angering locals and visitors who see this too regularly.



Another lesson for a driver who chose to drive on high tide and then took to the dunes to destroy what they came to enjoy.



Twice in one weekend Claytons Towing had to return to Teewah to rescue drivers who had chosen to drive at high tide, then onto the dunes.

# More tools on high tide

By Lee McCarthy

Locals are frustrated with visitors who continue to try to drive along the beach at high tide necessitating driving on dunes to avoid water and damaging them along with any wildlife living on them.

Cooloola Coastcare co-ordinator Lindy Orwin is furious at the drivers who continue with this practice by an entitled few who she says should not be allowed back on to the beach.

It is a privilege to enjoy this pristine region and with that comes responsibility expected from those invited here to utilise our natural assets.

"Irresponsible, selfish drivers are not only putting their lives and the lives of family and friends at risk but they are creating unnecessary damage to the fragile ecology of the dune vegetation that helps protect the dunes from erosion," she said

"They are driving and parking on the areas where the endangered and vulnerable marine turtles lay their eggs between November and April every year. There are alternative exits from the area if people won't wait for safer times to drive on the beach a couple of hours

either side of low tide."

Officer in Charge of Tin Can Bay Police, Sergeant Mick Bazzo said: "It is an offence under the Conservation Act and or the Recreational Management Act to drive on, park on and or set up camp on the dunes".

"Penalties do apply and this will be enforced by authorised officers from Qld Parks and Wildlife and police. This sort of behaviour is detrimental to the refurbishment of the beach and associated wildlife. In some cases, the damage caused to the environment takes months if not years to self-correct. The more people respect this, the better off it will be for all. We (the authorities) are not against people using the beach provided they do it in a respectful and lawful manner. It is there for all to enjoy."

The Ice Man owners Rob Gough and Martine Lokan are enraged by the stupidity but said the majority do the right thing.

"Unfortunately, there will always be people who will make stupid decisions. There's more erosion on the beach currently than there was from the cyclone depression at Christmas. Drivers need to drive to the conditions. Generally, rule of thumb is if you can't read the tide

don't drive two hours either side of the high.

"The majority of beach goers enjoyed the weekend and waited for the tide to drop.

"With the recent flooding Teewah Beach has plenty of other obstacles to navigate and you would be best to only drive it at low anyway for safety reasons.

"People need to respect what they have come to enjoy."

They said education is key.

"Read the tide chart and plan your visit. Common sense and patience is all that's needed to prevent these and other unnecessary risks being taken on the beach both at Teewah and the rocks at Rainbow."

This driver picked up by Claytons Towing nearly came to grief and received the ire of the social media community.

A Department of Environment and Science spokesperson said that, while most visitors to the Cooloola Coast were respectful of the natural environment and careful to stay on the road network, rangers from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) were aware of a minority of drivers who unlawfully drive onto sand dunes.

"This behaviour will not be tolerated as driving on the dunes causes significant damage to protected vegetation and can significantly impact dune structure," the spokesperson said.

"Sand dunes are also known nesting areas for beach species including seabirds and marine turtles, and driving in these areas can destroy egg clutches and crucial habitat for these animals."

If caught driving on the dunes, QPWS rangers can issue motorists on-the-spot fines of \$275.

If the matter proceeds to court, the maximum penalty faced is \$2757.

Driving on the dunes also poses a threat to the motorist's safety, as the dunes are not as stable as the assigned driving tracks.

Teewah Beach has also experienced landslips in the dunes as a result of the recent severe rainfall and flooding event, causing further instability.

QPWS works closely with the Queensland Police Service to carry out enforcement operations to ensure driver safety within the Cooloola Recreation Area, so motorists should expect to see rangers and police anywhere, anytime.

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# SLSQ relax on vax

The Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) Board has announced it will suspend the requirement for staff and volunteer members to be fully vaccinated by 31 March, as per previous requirements.

SLSQ said based on information presented, they considered it timely to review the Covid-19 situation and engaged in consultation with branches, clubs, staff and external stakeholders.

"The board has taken independent advice and closely monitored Queensland and Australian Government directives."

"SLSQ thanks the members, clubs and staff that have provided feedback and submissions relating to the requirement during this valuable consultation process."

The SLSQ Board and council considered the vaccination requirement at their bi-annual combined meeting on 5 March 2022.

A comprehensive report was presented outlining critical information associated with the evolving Covid-19 environment, which information included and based on the information which included:

- National and State levels of vaccination have now reached 94.5 per cent and 91 per cent respectively (as at 04 March 2022).
- At a community level, State border restrictions have been removed, requirements for the use of face masks are reducing, and the community is re-engaging and opening



The Surf Life Saving Queensland board have suspended the requirement for staff and volunteer members to be fully vaccinated.

up in response to confidence by Health departments that the community can tolerate these levels.

- Vaccinations and the availability of non-prescription medication have had positive impacts on the health outcomes of individuals contracting Covid-19.

The SLSQ Board therefore decided to suspend the requirement for staff and volunteer members to be fully vaccinated by 31 March 2022.

However, the SLSQ Board continues to highly recommend its membership and staff be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

# Chamber plea on mandates

There has been a call from the Gympie Chamber of Commerce to remove vaccination mandates along with a call to other chambers to support this decision.

The Queensland hospitality industry has been badly affected through the Covid-19 shut-downs, the vaccination mandates and now the devastating floods that have hit Gympie and South-East Queensland.

"It makes no sense to prevent unvaccinated people from supporting local restaurants, cafes and clubs when everyone can mingle in shopping centres, at sports events and many other places," Gympie Chamber of Commerce president Petra van Beek said.

"There appears to be no logic around this mandate.

"With 91.4 per cent of Queenslanders now fully vaccinated, we are calling upon the Queensland Government to stand behind the hospital industry and lift the double vaccination requirement for staff and patrons immediately.

"These businesses have been hurting for far too long and now is the time to show our support so that they can get back on their feet.

"We call upon other chambers to also seek the immediate removal of these mandates for the hospitality industry, so that they can recover from both Covid-19 and the flood events as quickly as possible."

# Traditional owners say no to eco-tourism development

Gubbi Gubbi Traditional Owners not-for-profit organisation, Gubbi Gubbi Dyungungoo Group, opposes a state government announced eco-tourism development in the Cooloola Recreation Area of the Great Sandy National Park and wants to see it stopped.

"Great Sandy National Park is located on Gubbi Gubbi Country and is a sacred place of environmental significance. It provides a habitat to a range of fauna, flora and endangered species that need to be protected," said Christine Stuart, Secretary of Gubbi Gubbi Dyungungoo Group.

The Queensland Government states the "Cooloola Great Walk project is being delivered through a collaborative model with the Queensland Government, the private proponent CABN, the local Traditional Owners and the local community".

Additionally, the State Government says the project will "provide long term employment and business opportunities for Traditional Owners and their future generations".

"The community and local politicians seem to believe all Traditional Owners are on board with this project, however this is not the case. Gubbi Gubbi Dyungungoo Group has not been consulted about this project and there are many other Traditional Owners being excluded," Christine explained.

"The truth is the Queensland Government is working exclusively with seven Native Title



The pristine environment of Lake Poona is at risk from a proposed eco-tourism development and they are against it, say traditional owner group Gubbi Gubbi Dyungungoo.

applicants. These individuals do not represent all Traditional Owners, they were not elected as representatives and there is no approved determination of native title in the area. It appears their consent for the Cooloola Great Walk is for their own benefit.

"The local community needs to know the

full truth. There is no fair consultation process for Traditional Owner engagement," said Christine.

"Gubbi Gubbi Dyungungoo Group manages and looks after land in the Sunshine Coast, Moreton Bay and Noosa area. We value the importance of truth telling, education and authenticity. The Cooloola Great Walk project screams profit, greed and unnecessary commercialisation of our National Parks and we do not agree."

The Queensland Department of Environment and Science was given the opportunity to respond to the issues raised by the Gubbi Gubbi Dyungungoo Group. Here is what the spokesperson had to say.

"The Queensland Government is committed to ensuring proactive, genuine and meaningful collaboration with Traditional Owners, a key government priority in both the delivery of ecotourism projects and broader management of protected areas in Queensland.

"The government is also committed to developing business and employment opportunities for Traditional Owners on Country as an outcome from such projects.

"In relation to the Cooloola Great Walk Ecotourism Project, the government has been working closely with the Kabi Kabi Traditional Owner Registered Native Claimants across all stages of project development and

decision making, including site selection, and on-ground ecological and Indigenous Cultural Heritage surveys.

"The Registered Native Title Claimant is currently embarking upon a series of information and consultation sessions with the wider Kabi Kabi native title claim group seeking feedback and input from Traditional Owners.

"The government is also currently in formal negotiations with Traditional Owner representatives to resolve native title matters and formalise ongoing partnership between the State, Kabi Kabi People and the Project proponent.

"The Queensland Government's engagement with the Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners Registered Native Title Claimants is governed by relevant legislation and procedures relating to ecotourism development under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, as well as the requirements of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003.

"The department's ongoing engagement with Registered Native Title Claimants is guided by these requirements.

"Formal contact with the Kabi Kabi Traditional Owner Native Title Claimants is generally made through their native title claim legal representatives, Queensland South Native Title Services," the spokesperson said.



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The price board at the Rainbow Beach BP servo.



Rainbow Beach Shell prices.



Prices at Tin Can Bay on Tuesday.

# Fuel war spreads the pain

By Arthur Gorrie

Record breaking fuel prices have put an end to the much-noted Rainbow Beach fuel price premium, the extra mark-up that seems to follow the beach town's long running status as a "remote" location.

This week, Cooloola Coast prices moved closer to those applying in Gympie.

The trend towards cheaper fuel at the Cooloola Coast is expected to continue.

Price monitoring company, Fueltrac says Rainbow Beach is subject to growing compe-

titition in the retail market, especially later this year when a new fuel outlet is due to open in Rainbow Beach Rd.

Gympie's dream run of cheap fuel shows no signs of going away, despite across the board increases all over Australia.

It is a competitive situation which Fueltrac general manager Geoff Trotter says will become more so later this year, when a new service station is due to open in Rainbow Beach Rd.

Monday's prices showed the influence of an increasingly competitive market, with the BP charging 189.9c a litre on Monday and Shell

charging 186c a litre.

Then came Tuesday, when prices across the region moved sharply upward, with BP charging 208.9c a litre and Shell 207c a litre for unleaded petrol.

At Tin Can Bay, unleaded was going for 199.7c a litre. At Goomborian, where two highly competitive service stations often undercut most Gympie prices, unleaded was going for 195.7c a litre.

Diesel was 212.9c a litre at Rainbow Beach BP, 211c a litre at the Shell, 211.7 at Tin Can Bay and the same price at Goomboolrian.



Goomborian prices, on what used to be the eastern boundary of the highly competitive Gympie market.



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Fraser Island is calling for helpers to clean up the island.



Claytons Towing picking up some of the debris on its way back to base with a car rescued driving on the dunes.



Huge amounts of rubbish and big items like pontoons are littering the beaches from Teewah Beach to the top of Fraser Island. Claytons helping out with the big items.

# Mammoth beach clean-up

By Lee McCarthy

Residents and business owners on Fraser Island are urgently seeking help to clean up the island's beaches which have been trashed after the recent flooding.

Hana Robinson from K'gari Fraser Island Adventures said they been helping volunteers get to the island since Friday 11 March to help with the clean-up.

"We have collected so much already but we need more help as there is so much more out there to pick up and more keeps coming with every high tide.

"We have made it really easy to join the community clean up and are providing support on the ground for volunteers.

"Volunteering opportunities are available

every day to collect the debris from beaches and prevent it from further harming the local environment."

**She said there were six ways to help:**

- Join an organised trip from Hervey Bay or Rainbow Beach
- Fill your 4WD with 4 people and we will help cover your costs with a FREE barge transfer from Rainbow Beach, Vehicle Access Permit and accommodation on the island.
- Heading to the island for a holiday? Come collect some bags from Eurong, fill them up and pull them up on the dunes and we will collect them. If you can head over to the west coast that would be amazing too as we have just not had chance to get there yet.
- Don't have a 4WD but want to come for a few days to help. Great! We can help with ac-

commodation and can provide a lift from the barge at Rainbow Beach's Inskip Point. There are a few options available so it's best to call Hana to talk options.

- Can't make it to the island but want to help. Chip in to keep the Beach Clean Ups happening on K'gari Fraser Island. All donations go directly into transport, accommodation, and catering for our wonderful volunteers.
- Are you a local or have a business on the island and want to help? Contact Hana to find out which resources are needed and how you can be part of the solution.

She said registration is essential and volunteers with a 4WD are preferred but is encouraging others to make contact if they don't.

If you are going to help you must wear enclosed shoes, bring sun/rain protection, and

a reusable water bottle. All equipment and drinking water top-ups will be provided."

Hana recommended joining the Facebook group Community Beach Clean Up - K'gari (Fraser Island) to follow the progress and stay up to date or join their community WhatsApp group to connect with other volunteers.

Alternately you can find further information at [www.kgarifraserisland.com.au/fraser-island-beach-clean-up](http://www.kgarifraserisland.com.au/fraser-island-beach-clean-up).

Marine Safety Queensland has been proactive in organising help from private contractors for the clean up since the debris began washing ashore following the floods. Machinery and commercial vehicles have been working on the beaches between Teewah and Fraser Island to help with in this mammoth clean up.

## Breeze Holiday Park is making big waves

By Lee McCarthy

The Breeze Group has made significant changes to its Carlo Point property Big 4 Breeze Holiday Park Rainbow Beach since taking over the park in 2018.

The 23-acre park has also been nominated as a finalist in the Caravan Parks Association of Queensland Awards for the Refurbishment Award which will be announced later this month.

Brand and marketing Manager for Breeze Management Group Cassie Jackson said it had increased the number of cabins from 30 to 57 with three of the cabins easy access throughout since they took over the park.

She said the group had refurbished the existing accommodation, which were all self-contained and air conditioned.

"In a nutshell the park has installed an additional 27 cabins at the park, three of which are accessible/easy access.

"We've renovated the existing cabins, repainted most of the park and made major upgrades to the majority of the powerheads in the park and laying multiple new caravan slabs throughout the park.

"Breeze has installed two new amenities blocks and a new camp kitchen and created all new outdoor and undercover areas."

They have also installed two new boom gates and new entry and exit roads and invested several million dollars into the Gympie region.

Cassie said the group had a real focus on utilising local trades and services and employing local people.

Managers Peter and Carmel Braun, who joined in March 2021, have dressed the units using local suppliers including Cooloola Bedding and Furniture, Bunnings for outdoor settings, all their plumbing and electrical with the only outside contractor supplying the boom gates as there was no one local

with the capacity to make these.

She said their customers tend to come from a 400km radius drive and often they will stay for two nights, head over to Fraser Island then return to the park for another night.

"In winter we get the grey nomads from across Australia who stay longer."

She said over winter last year they had food providers such as Tin Can Bay Pizza come to the park and joined campers sitting around the fire braziers listening to music while enjoying tasty food.

"The camp sites are generous within our 23 acres and even at Christmas when we have over 700 people staying, there is so much space, so no-one is on top of each other."

One of the big drawcards according to Carmel is the park is dog friendly, even the cabins which she said guests love as so many visitors are travelling with their family pets.

Carmel said they had 22 staff in house-keeping with most living locally but having to source a few from Gympie and she is always keen to hear from people looking for work.

There are even two powered sites right on the water, a dream location to watch the fish swimming, launch your kayak watch the stunning sunsets and if you are lucky, you can see a dolphin at the boat ramp just 50 metres away.

The park is an idyllic family holiday destination reminiscent of the old days with children riding bikes, bouncing on the massive pillow, enjoying the playground and with easy access to the boat ramp, calm waters of Carlo Point and licensed restaurant Quay Carlo for some family bonding.

With glamping on the horizon and a pool for guests, there is still more to come from this group who are providing employment and accommodation options utilising their stunning location.

Contact the park on (07) 5486 3200 or find them on Facebook at BIG4 Breeze Holiday Parks - Rainbow Beach.



Mayor Glen Hartwig touring the refurbished Big 4 Breeze Holiday Park Rainbow Beach with Breeze brand and marketing manager Cassie Jackson, operations manager (QLD and WA) Nick Braun and CEO Daniel Tilton.



Breeze brand and marketing manager Cassie Jackson with park manager Carmel Braun inside their new three bedroom dog friendly cabin.



The magnificent waterways of the Cooloola Coast are on the doorstep of the 23 acre Big 4 Breeze Holiday Park Rainbow Beach.

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Congratulations to the winners of the 2022 Patrol Teams Invitational - Team 5, Greg Nott and Tasman McClintock. Picture: JULIE PRATT



Team One said there was no doubt they would come in first with their secret weapon being their coffee supply.



Team 8 relaxing before the start of a big days competition with bespoke hats created by team member Mason Bignell.

# May the best team win

By Lee McCarthy

Tongues were firmly in cheeks like budge smugglers on a surf boat last weekend when members of the Rainbow Beach surf club battled it out for the title of best patrol team for the Patrol Teams Invitational 2022.

Skulduggery was rampant among competitors with teams overhead preparing quite unsportsmanlike competition strategies including the use of G-strings to distract the male competitors.

However when queried if this strategy would work, a very competitive member thought to be the president said his team wouldn't notice such distractions and they had their own secret weapons.

One team was witnessed holding an extensive team strategy session the night prior to the event at the surf club bar, with others saying this may not have been prudent as it continued for some hours and too much strategy training is not always a good thing.

With nerves of steel, competitors jumped into the treacherous water to start the day with a run swim run won by team 8 who crossed the line holding hands to huge applause.

One team who came in last, commented after the race that they prefer much bigger waves and next year they expect it will be their year to shine.

Some bystanders commented they didn't believe some of the entrants had swum around the buoy, while others slanderously commented no/one had.

Regardless, the team spirit was alive and with one team in bespoke matching hats hand made by young Mason Bignell, one team had matching shirts, one had a cafe layout and not to be outdone, the announcer had an espresso machine which was rumoured to be for espresso martini's after competition.

One middle aged competitor was overhead exclaiming "I'm not swimming in that, it's too rough" believed to be due to that being the first time in 20 years he wasn't working 80 hours a week and decided he liked it and wanted to enjoy the rest of his semi retirement.



Brilliant conditions for some for the ski paddle leg of the Patrol Teams Invitational. Picture: JULIE PRATT



The flags competition was a hotly contested event with rules by Rafferty.



Winners of the Rainbow Beach Patrol Teams Invitational for 2022 were Tasman McClintock and Greg Nott from Team 5.



Team 4 said they felt they perform better with bigger surf but were optimistic of a good win on the day.



Team 8 took out the first event of the day, the run swim, run with the team required to cross the line together.

One of the organisers stated categorically at the start of the competition that rules were made to be broken and teams can't win twice in a row. A rule supported by seven of the eight teams competing.

In a surprise twist, no one was injured, hurt or disqualified and team five made up of Tasman McClintock and Greg Nott were declared the winning team on the day.

All in all, a great day with the plenty of com-

petitive spirit plainly evident and according to the winning team, the best team won on the day.

Good sportsmanship and solid adjudication by officials ensured a fair day and teams have a year to prepare for their next challenge.

Asked if they would do anything differently next year, one team said perhaps their preparation needed a slightly shorter strategy session but they were looking forward to the de-

brief after the days exertions.

President Shane Handy said: "Everyone competed very well, getting into the spirit of the day and organiser Rob McCarthy from Team 4 ran a great event with a solid handicapping system. Everyone got involved and Team 5 deserved to win on the day."

Shane also wanted to thank Brisbane Lifesaving who came to Rainbow Beach to take on the patrols so the club could hold the event.



Waiting patiently for the babies, volunteers for TurtleCare Rainbow Beach, Veronica Carretta, Jan Waters, Murray Sambell and Ian Davidson.



78 of the 88 Green Turtle eggs being watched over by volunteers hatched safely.



According to Mon Repos, Green hatchlings are a bit like the crazy cousins, they are cute, fast, and active.

# Top effort by turtle carers

By Lee McCarthy

The TurtleCare Rainbow Beach team waited patiently on the beach alongside the nest of 88 sea turtle eggs through March to ensure the latest nest of Green Turtle hatchlings made a safe journey to the ocean.

Hatching occurs anytime from 55 to 75 days depending on weather conditions and carers and volunteers have kept a night-time vigil over the nest from the eggs 55-day milestone.

The team takes three hour shifts each night even in difficult weather with the reward seeing or just knowing that these endangered hatchlings have been given a chance at survival.

After storms, rain and wind, the nest finally

'ran' on 10 March with 78 of the 88 Green Turtle eggs hatching safely.

Jan Waters from TurtleCare Rainbow Beach said all 78 hatchlings emerged within three minutes.

Here are some turtle facts from Mon Repos where Jan recommends people visit to get more information.

Three species of turtle nest on Mon Repos beach; loggerhead, flatback and green.

**It's easy to tell the hatchlings of these species apart:**

- Loggerhead hatchlings are uniform in colour looking grey when dry, before showing off their real brown colour once they hit the water.

- Flatback hatchlings are the largest of these three species. They have a grey carapace with each scute outlined in black and are pale underneath, they also have beautiful blue eyes.

- Green hatchlings are a bit like the crazy cousins, they are cute, fast, and active. These hatchlings are black to dark brown and have white margins around their flippers and carapace.

One thing these hatchlings all have in common is that they find the ocean by using the lowest, naturally brightest light horizon out over the ocean at night.

Having dark night skies is very important so these little threatened species can safely find their way.

TurtleCare Rainbow Beach is part of Cooloola Coastcare and the contact for the Rainbow Beach Turtle nesting season is Jan Waters on 0429 481 490.

According to Jan, every turtle is vital to the survival of the species.

TurtleCare Rainbow Beach Facebook page is the message board about marine turtle sightings, nesting and hatching on Rainbow Beach and in nearby waters.

Our volunteers walk the beaches looking for evidence of turtle nests to help protect them from predators.

Trained turtles carers save at-risk turtle eggs by relocating nests to prevent large tides exposing the eggs.

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# Dynamo's media mission

By Lee McCarthy

Steph Downman is the young woman behind the brand of SD Marketing and this dynamic business owner on the Cooloola Coast has big plans and is already getting big accolades.

She has just been featured in the Australian Business Journal alongside some of the best in the digital marketing business as one of the top 20 Australian Social Media Managers to work with in 2022 and said she was beyond thrilled to be included with such incredible talent.

Steph said she started her business because there was a gap in the industry within the region.

"As the social media world grows so does the need for business diversity. If you do not keep up with the ever-changing online world you will be left behind," she explained.

"We have a passion for all things design, and love working one on one with all of our clients."

Steph said her goal is to try to assist as many businesses as possible to redefine their brand, and help new start ups to create an elevated overall image from the start including a strong social media presence for any type of business.

"We want to help elevate the brand of all businesses that get in contact. No client is left unhappy."

"It is so important for small and large businesses to understand how social media makes up a large part of people's lives these days. Ad-



Steph Downman, owner of SD Marketing is a young woman on a digital marketing mission

vertising and running a business page are non-negotiable."

She said there are numerous reasons a business may chose SD Marketing.

"They are either too busy to do it themselves, they want consistency within their schedules and the content being shared or they want custom curated content that is sim-

ply beyond their scope of work. We take these pressures away so they can do what they do best."

Steph said what drives her is the happiness of her clients.

"Each and every one of them contact us and remind us how happy they are on a regular basis. That is what's most important. We work for them, to make them look good."

She said the best advise she has for business to organise their marketing and social media is to get on to social media and get in contact.

"We will chat about what you currently do, what you offer and where you want to be."

She said they will tailor everything to the client and where their business needs to elevate.

"It's okay if you don't have time to do these things, but make sure you hire someone who can."

The dream for Steph and SD Marketing is to grow into a full-service marketing agency to include custom web design, photography, videography, and they have a lot planned for the future.

She recently donated to and sponsored the Century 21 Platinum Agents 2022 Flood Thank You Party hosted by The Bunker Smokehouse and Bar with money raised to go to the SES and Rural Fire Service.

To get in touch with Steph and SD Marketing, email on [sdmarketing.hello@gmail.com](mailto:sdmarketing.hello@gmail.com) or [www.stephdownmanmarketing.com](http://www.stephdownmanmarketing.com)

## Residents enjoy coffee with a cop at Cooloola Cove

Gympie crime prevention officer Senior Constable Darren Hewitt along with Officer in Charge of Tin Can Bay Police Station, Sergeant Michael Bazzo, Senior Constable Michael Brantz from Rainbow Beach Police Beat and three Volunteers in Policing from Gympie attended Cooloola Cove Takeaway and Cafe for a Coffee with a Cop event.

Senior Constable Hewitt said Coffee with a Cop is an opportunity to meet your local police, ask any burning questions you might have and discuss local issues and crime prevention tips. There are no speeches or agendas, this is just your chance to speak with police officers from your area and voice your concerns whilst getting to know us over a coffee.

"Coffee with a Cop at Cooloola Cove was a great success yesterday," he said.

"Local police spoke to, listened and discussed local issues that residents raised about their coastal community township and provided important information and advice."

Special thanks to Janine from Cooloola Cove Takeaway and Cafe for supporting this initiative and providing her cafe and outdoor area for us to speak to the community.

Shoppers and residents were provided with crime prevention fliers, particularly addressing house break and enters. We also dis-



Senior Constable Darren Hewitt along with Michael Brantz from Rainbow Beach Police Beat share coffee and ask questions with locals at Cooloola Cove

cussed how most car thefts including having a vehicle unlawfully entered is an opportunistic crime.

To help stop, reduce, and prevent these offences occurring, police encourage you to adopt good home security, vehicle, and

key security habits.

- Lock up every time even if you are home, keep unattended doors and windows key locked or shut.
- Lock your vehicle even in your driveway and keep your keys out of sight.
- Engrave your property. This makes your property difficult to sell and makes it easier for police to return your property if found. Keep a list of serial numbers and photograph valuables that can't be engraved.
- Report anything suspicious. Keep a look out for suspicious behaviour and if in doubt, contact Policelink on 131 444. Report all crimes as soon as possible, no matter how small they seem.

Police are also asking the community to follow the myPolice Gympie Facebook page and subscribe to myPolice Gympie at [www.mypolice.qld.gov.au/Gympie](http://www.mypolice.qld.gov.au/Gympie) where you can keep up to date on community news and crime alerts.

Police are reminding residents of Tin Can Bay or Cooloola Cove that the Tin Can Bay Police Station phone number is 5486 2426 and Rainbow Beach Police Beat is 5480 1744, for non-urgent contact ring Policelink on 131 444, but in an emergency ring Triple Zero (000).

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# Women play key timber role

With International Women's Day held in March, it was appropriate to turn the attention to the forest and timber industry which is a quintessentially male-dominated industry with women comprising only approximately five per cent of the workforce.

Timber Queensland communications officer Sarah Porter Dix said International Women's Day offered an opportunity for the Women in Forests and Timber Network (WFTN) and their wider industry to celebrate the invaluable contributions made by women to the forest and timber value chain.

The Women in Forests and Timber Network (WFTN) was established as a national forum, with state-based committees, offering local events and network building opportunities where women in the industry could meet, exchange ideas, and ensure their voices are heard.

"The WFTN and forest and timber businesses across Queensland are comprised of remarkable women from sales representatives, managers, board members and OAM holders, to foresters, fabricators, and scientists.

"In our male dominated industry, every day is one where we break the bias in our workplaces and communities and do our part to forge a more equitable, diverse and inclusive world."

She said Natasha Southey from WFTN sponsor Big River is one such woman.

"Encouraged by management to gain certification for her own professional development, Tash worked long hours to acquire her TABMA Cert III in Timber Truss and Frame Design and Manufacture and now leads a team as a yard and dispatch manager.

"Congratulations to Tash - it is impressive to see women #BreakingtheBias by taking on traditionally male-oriented careers and in do-



The Women in Forests and Timber Network group forest tour.

ing so, making impactful change in their organisations and for their customer base."

"Queensland's WFTN chapter is particularly strong and vibrant, with a proud focus on and history of community outreach through fundraising and charity events.

"We have over the years raised tens of thousands of dollars for organisations like Brisbane Domestic Violence Service, Micah Projects, Destiny Rescue and Friends with Dignity (to name but a few) in support of and fellowship with disadvantaged or exploited women, children, and families.

"Our vision for WFTN Queensland in 2022

and into the future is to extend our unity and reach further north, and to develop a thriving network for women in other forest and timber hubs across the state, such as the Wide Bay region.

"With a new committee being finalised, our goal is to ensure the Network is representative of all sectors, regions and walks of life that comprise our industry, and to extend our influence to include mentorships and other professional development opportunities."

Sarah said February also saw the celebration of International Day of Women and Girls in Science as a commemoration of the critical



Natasha Southey from Women in Forests and Timber sponsor Big River, now leads a team as a yard and dispatch manager.

role that women and girls play in science and technology communities.

"By using their scientific expertise in our forests, women like Kate Clapson, Tree Improvement and Seed Production Coordinator at HQPlantations (HCP) in Toolara - are forging innovative and creative ways forward.

"Kate says that while her role doesn't sound very "science-y", a lot of science underpins the way in which HQP approach tree improvement and plantation growth."

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.

Read more about Kate's work as an exceptional female forest scientist at [www.hqplantations.com.au](http://www.hqplantations.com.au)

## Expression of interest sought for Forestry Hub projects

You can't drive to the Cooloola Coast without being in awe of the hectares of pine trees within the Toolara Forestry.

Timber Queensland is the peak body for Queensland's forest and timber industry and the South and Central Queensland Regional Forest Hub has called for expressions of interest (EOI) for research and development projects earlier this month.

Manufacturing competitiveness, bioenergy and carbon are focus areas for the Hub's round of projects with the closing date 1 April 2022.

Hub manager Kerry Fullarton says the Hub, which was established as part of the Commonwealth Government's National Forest Industries Plan, is focused on leveraging and implementing projects to boost productivity and growth in the sector to meet Australia's future needs for wood and fibre in the next decade.

"Following a productive start to 2022 the South + Central Queensland Regional Forest-



Kerry Fullarton with the Forest Hub Steering Committee.

Hub has opened an EOI process for four research and development projects.

"We are now commissioning experts to deliver reports on priorities that have been identified in consultation with industry, community, and government stakeholders. We have three projects aligned to our goal of maximising manufacturing processes and

products through innovation, science, and technology, and add value through improved supply chain logistics."

**The Manufacturing Competitiveness projects are:**

- Assessment of the volumes of wood biomass residues and their potential uses and markets.

- Evaluate the feasibility of new technologies and processes in timber and wood products industry to deliver a range of cost-competitive products.

- Evaluate the feasibility of using new harvesting technologies and processes in Queensland's forestry operations Mrs Fullarton said the fourth project sits under the Hub's Bioenergy and Carbon focus area.

"We aim to promote the benefits of forestry in addressing climate change, by delivering bioenergy, carbon storage, and biomass for future sustainable growth."

**The Bioenergy and Carbon project is:**

- Assessment of the volumes of wood biomass residues and their potential uses and markets

Detailed EOIs and a scope of works for each of the projects are available and must be submitted by 1 April 2022 5:00 pm to the South & Central Queensland Regional Forestry Hub Manager - [k.fullarton@seqfh.com.au](mailto:k.fullarton@seqfh.com.au). For further information [www.qldforestry-hubs.com.au](http://www.qldforestry-hubs.com.au)



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# Fishing Cooloola Coast



Wakely Janssen, winner of The Chandlery monthly Facebook Fishing Competition Photo Competition caught this while practicing using his new cast net and the smile says it all!! Pictured with Dad Nath holding the fish.



Mal Kay with a nice rusty buck for dinner.



Wakely Janssen using his Photo Competition winnings to buy a new Shimano Combo from The Chandlery pictured with owner Chris Rippon.

## Win prizes in photo comp

By Chris Rippon

G'day Crew, well what can I say, man the weather has been less than average the last few weeks.

If it wasn't tipping it down and blowing a gale it was bucketing down and blowing it's ring off!! But despite the unfavourable weather we have had for going on nearly two months now there have still been opportunities to get out and get stuck into a few fish.

Even with the tannin-stained water ways we have been presented with the last couple of months, the fish have been there and anyone that has put the time in has been rewarded. The amount of bait in the Tin Can Bay Inlet and up and down The Straits is insane and trying to find a fish on the sounder some days has been nearly impossible to see through the bait on the screen.

This is, of course, a great sign and goes to show that all this rain is a good thing for the system going forward. While fishing off the bank yesterday we kept getting nipped on the toes by tiny jelly prawns and when you start to look around there were thousands of them cruising up and down the bank. Every time our lures hit the mangrove line on the other side of the creek there was a shower of jelly prawns. We could see the jacks and the bream actively feeding on them, but, unfortunately, they were not interested in our offerings.

The mangrove jack have not been turned off by all this rain and dirty water that's for sure! Plenty of our regulars have been getting into some great fish the last few weeks and the average fish seems to be about 45cm. Live baits like whiting, pike and herring have been working well for the bait fishos.

Fishing the last couple of hours of the run-tide, up tight and against the mangrove line has been the key here. 5/0 - 8/0 octopus hooks lightly weighted and fished deep in the snags on at least 40lb leader. Lure fishos have been having a lot more success on small lures, 3" Zman SlimZ in Calico Candy, Pearl White &

Motor Oil colours have been working a treat. Riggered on a 3/0 TT Chinlockz & 1/8oz - 1/4oz Snakelockz with most of the fish coming from the last couple of hours of the runout tide and the start of the flood working the best. I like to run 30lb Sunline FC Rock as my leader of choice for this style of fishing and will normally have 15-20lb braid on my reel. I am a big fan of the Sunline 832 in lime green and the Sunline Siglon PE ADV braids.

There have been some great catches of mud crabs and most have been coming from further down the systems and in the deeper water with fishos reporting good numbers and good quality. I reckon the last two I ate were nearly the nicest ones I've ever eaten! Fresh bait is always the key to success when chasing crabs. Giving the pots a good soak and changing your bait every tide will also serve you best.

Flathead have been showing up is good numbers also. Working 3" - 5" soft plastics on the flats on the rising tide and hitting the drop offs on the dropping tide is a sure-fire way to catch a feed. Gulp 5" Jerkshads, Squidgy 120mm Wrigglers and the Squidgy 80mm Paddle Prawns have all been working well and the hot seller has been the Biwaa 4" Deus in Hot Pink, riggered on a TT 1/4oz 3/0 and running a bit of 12lb Siglon FC leader has been a killer combo.

The biggest complaint most have of course has been the recent weather and the lack of sunny dry days... Now if you haven't wanted to put your big boy or big girl pants on, and actually brave the weather, and get out and go for a fish, there have been plenty of opportunities to get a bit of maintenance done on your gear! Like, giving the trailer a once over, the boat a good clean, polishing the gelcoat, tying up a few riggs and even cleaning out the tackle box.

One of the things often overlooked until it is too late, is the servicing of your fishing reels. It's too late once you are in the middle of a battle with your fishy foe then suddenly there's a grinding sound or something ceases up and things go south from there quickly.



Jed Lee got it done and shows off a nice catch of mangrove jack.

Having worked in the industry for thirteen plus years I've seen and heard most of the heartbreak stories and seen a few reels bounce across the counter in anger "this piece of \$h!\*" . The fact of the matter is most of the reel's failings could have been avoided with a simple servicing of said reel. But it's not always the reel's fault it never got cleaned! Look at your fishing reel like a car, you should really get it serviced every 10,000km. The same applies for a fishing reel, it needs some love every now and then.

I was once told by an old reel tech that if you fish once a week, service it once a year. Fish two times a week, service it two times a year and so on... While that might seem excessive to some, it has its merits especially for the crew that really put their gear through its paces. I tend to use that as a rule of thumb, but what I will say is that if you live in a fishery that has "seasons" you are best giving your reels a service at the end of the season. This way your pride and joy when put away is clean and tidy with a nice grease and oil change and you now



Noela Kay with a couple for the dinner table.



Mal Kay with a 48cm jack.



Nathan caught this great 84cm flatty recently.

know next "season" that she will be ready to do battle once again and is not going to be cased up and corroded when you take her out of the cupboard.

If you do need to have your reels serviced, we are happy to help. We can send reels down to our professional reel service agencies or get the parts you need to do it yourself. Just pop in and have a chat and we can point you in the right direction.

Don't forget we run a monthly fishing photo comp on our Facebook page, with the winner

scoring \$100 in store credit. Entry is simple, snap your best fishing related photo & fb message us or post your pics directly to our fb page for your chance to win big! <https://www.facebook.com/thehandlerybaitandtackle>

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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# School marks 2022 leaders

By Lee McCarthy

The Tin Can Bay P-10 State School Leader's induction ceremony for 2022 was held this week.

While the leaders were announced at the 2021 school formal, this week they were officially inducted with a certificate and a copy of their leadership pledge.

Deputy Principal Sandy Lewis said awards were also presented for the swimming aged champions with the event showing great participation and good sportsmanship.

"There are two sport houses Tuncan with captains Beau, Brandon and Zack, and Wallu which has captains Sienna, Josh, and Luke who all displayed great leadership and encouragement to their house athletes," Sandy said.

"It was great to see the fighting spirit amongst students with strong competition in all events."

The teacher versus student relay at the end of the day was a crowd pleaser with the students taking out the win for 2022.

There was also acknowledgement of the 2021 distinguished volleyball squad who shone at the Australia Volleyball Schools Cup winning two gold.

Two of the teams were given the honour of presenting their Champions Shield to the new

school principal Daman Weir.

Laney Heit presented the shield for the 2021 Year 9 Girls Gold medalists and

Beau Stevenson presented the shield for the 2021 Year 8 Boys Gold medalists.

A huge congratulations to the students and their coaches who spent much of the year training, travelling, and competing for the school.

**Congratulations to those elected for 2022.**

- Keira Arthur, Senior School Captain
- Josh Hatton, Senior School Captain
- Luxie-Leigh Duffy-Findlater, Senior Vice-Captain
- Beau Stevenson, Senior Vice Captain
- Chloe Williams, Junior School Captain
- Ruby Bubke, Junior School Captain
- Lateasha Faddy, Indigenous School Captain.
- Beau Stevenson, Senior Sports Captain Tuncan
- Brandon Roby, Senior Sports Captain Tuncan
- Sienna Arthur, Senior Sports Captain Wallu
- Josh Hatton, Senior Sports Captain Wallu
- Zack Groves, Junior Sports Captain Tuncan
- Luke Richardson, Junior Sports Captain Wallu



Tin Can Bay School Age Champions Back row L-R Beau Stevenson, Brandon Roby, Mitchell. Middle Row L-R Luke Richardson, Ruby Bubke, Mitchell Weir, Chloe Williams. Front Row L-R Isabella Yaxley, Skye Duggan, Charlie Apps



Daman Weir (Principal), Luke Richardson (Wallu Jnr Captain), Josh Hatton (Wallu Snr Captain), David Grice School Liaison Officer for Tin Can Bay RSL with winning House trophy 2022 Swimming Carnival won by Wallu



The Tin Can Bay volleyball squad dominated the competition at the Australia Volleyball Schools Cup, and two of the teams had the honour of presenting their champions shield to the new Principal Daman Weir

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Rainbow Beach Surf Club annual dinner.



Building the beach tower which was a major step for the small club allowing patrol members greater visibility and two way radio base plus storage facilities for the first time

# Chasing surf club history

By Lee McCarthy

Life, past and present members of the Rainbow Beach Surf Life Saving Club were invited to make a weekend of surf club fun with the Patrol Teams Invitational on Saturday and a breakfast barbeque early Sunday morning.

The club is seeking historical information on the club to create a Club History for future generations.

Long-time volunteer of the club, Helen Brown is looking after the project and wants to gather information, stories, photos, and any snippets so she can record all the club has achieved since its inception in 1965.

Past, present and life members joined Helen for a breakfast barbeque at the clubhouse and some of the great members from the 1960's came along to enjoy the camaraderie and share anecdotes.

President of the club, Shane Handy, said it was great to see so many past members come along and help to write the clubs history and thanked Helen for collating all the information and photographs to create a memory for future members.

The clubs first Life member Gary Biddle joined his teammates from the 1960's helping Helen to fill in some of the blanks of the first twenty years.

Member of the 1968 patrol team and Rainbow Beach resident Garry Hewitt is a skilled and enthusiastic photographer who volunteers much of his time to capture club events and shared some of his comprehensive collection of photographs spanning the life of the club.

Anyone with photographs, anecdotes, historical information or time to get involved is asked to email Helen Brown at the surf club at [surf@rainbowbeachsurf.com.au](mailto:surf@rainbowbeachsurf.com.au)



Past and present members reminisce and share anecdotes at the Rainbow Beach Surf Club breakfast barbeque Kim and Marg McCarthy, Robby Groves, Tas McClintock, Ray Wewer, Bob Watson, Garry Hewitt, Shane Handy Nigel Worthington Col Ashmore, Gus Window, Greg Biddle, Greg Martoo Billy Nolan, Allen Dean, Lisa Martoo.



One from the archives provided by Garry Hewitt with three members of this original group of clubbies from 1969 at the event. Greg Biddle, Gary Dawson, George Day, Robin Pero, Allan Dean, Wayne Hewitt Billy Nolan, Garry Hewitt.



The Annual Rainbow Beach surf club dinner with active and committee members.



Sunday morning BBQ catch up with Col Ashmore, Kim McCarthy and Greg Martoo.

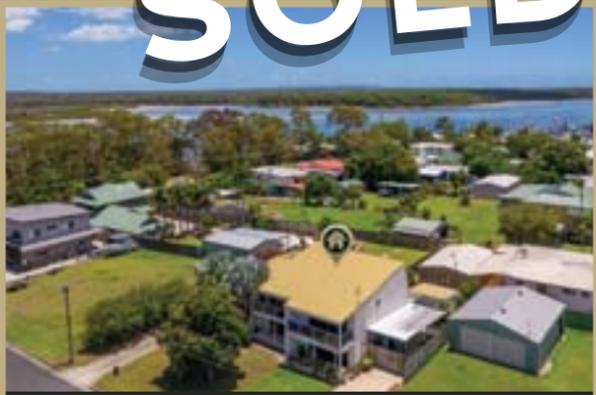


Some of the memorabilia supplied by Garry Hewitt and members of the club of march pasts during the clubs history.



Past members including Garry Hewitt, Billy Nolan, Allan Dean and Robby Groves sharing stories of the early days of the club.

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