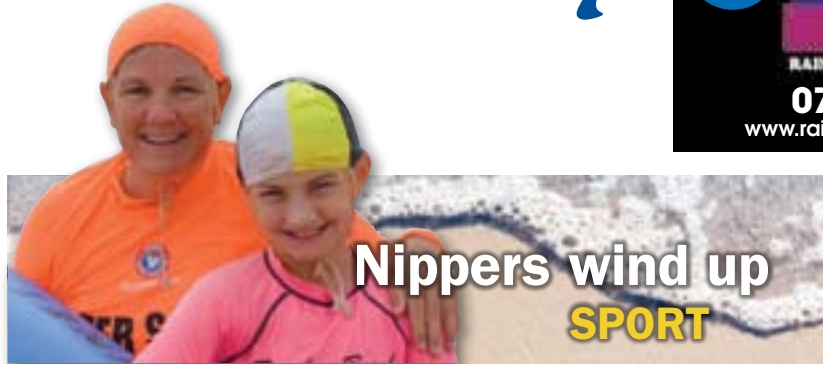


# CooloolaCoastToday



**Community Catch Up**  
**PAGE 11**



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## Education goes to the great outdoors

By Lee McCarthy

Some of the lucky students of Tin Can Bay State School enjoyed a couple of days away from their classroom and family last week taking to the great outdoors camping and learning how to en-

joy a simpler life and the nature in our own back yard.

The students stayed in tents at the Freshwater camping grounds and over the two days walked a healthy 25 kilometres along with their teachers who all say they will do it again.

They took along new principal Daman Weir to introduce him to the region and all enjoyed Double Island Point, the Carlo Sand Blow, Teewah Beach, Lake Poona and the rainforest of the Cooloola National Park and getting back to nature.

STORY PAGE 6



Last week, Tin Can Bay students took their learning outdoors in a trip to Rainbow Beach.

## Laundry help from above

The way the world works best is when people help those who are helping others, and so is the case for Orange Sky Australia who support homelessness throughout Australia by providing laundry and shower services, an empathetic ear and great conversation.

Big 4 Breeze Holiday Park manager Carmel Braun said Orange Sky had set up camp with them following a huge month supporting those displaced by flooding in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales.

"We are really proud and excited to have this amazing organisation at BIG4 Breeze Holiday Parks - Rainbow Beach so when you're doing a load of laundry, please look out for the orange van!"

STORY PAGE 2

## Patrols out and about

Queensland Parks and Wildlife wants everyone to enjoy the region's protected areas respectfully and safely this Easter.

"We want all visitors to enjoy their visit and make it home safely to family and friends.

"Teewah Beach, in Cooloola Recreation Area, Great Sandy National Park, will continue to have ongoing Ranger and Police patrols."

Police issued 51 fines for speeding, defective vehicles, failure to wear seatbelts and other driving offences. QPWS also issued fines for driving on vegetated sand dunes and disorderly conduct.

STORY PAGE 5

# End mandate call

The Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism Association has sent a letter of support to the Gympie Chamber of Commerce seeking the immediate removal of the vaccine mandates for the hospitality industry, so that local business can recover from both Covid-19 and the

flood events as quickly as possible.

Gympie Chamber president Petra Van Beek said: "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. There appears to be no logic around this mandate".

Advocacy and policy general manager Amanda Rohan from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) adds: "Emotionally and financially exhausted

Queensland businesses have a right to know what the state's 90 per cent vaccine mandate review included and what it meant for rules impacting their day-to-day trade."

STORY PAGE 3

### Rainbow Beach Hotel

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With the 2022 budget now handed down a Federal Election looming, it is a good time to reflect on what our government representatives offer us.

Each level of government has different responsibilities and if we need advice on immigration; postal services, telecommunications, and broadcasting; air travel; social services and pensions we would contact Llew O'Brien's office.

Major state responsibilities include schools, hospitals, conservation and environment, roads, railways and public transport, public works, agriculture and fishing, industrial relations, community services, sport and recreation, consumer affairs, police, prisons, and emergency services and for support we would contact Tony Perrett's office.

Local matters including building regulations and development, public health, local roads and footpaths, parks and playing fields, libraries, local environmental issues, waste disposal, community services are the role of the representative voted in by residents of the region.

A readers has posed five questions to ask of your candidates/representative to see how they stack up for future elections, and what they have achieved for the community since being voted in.

What is the achievement for the community you will seek and advocate for? How will you manage to have success in instigating this? What is your greatest personal strength to be a candidate for the community to support you?

Do you understand your role as a representative of the community should you be elected? Do you understand the aspirations of the community you will represent?

- Lee McCarthy



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# Help from the Sky

By Lee McCarthy

The way the world works best is when people help those who are helping others, and so is the case for Orange Sky Australia who support homelessness throughout Australia by providing laundry and shower services, an empathetic ear and great conversation.

Big 4 Breeze Holiday Park manager Carmel Braun said Orange Sky had set up camp with them following a huge month supporting those displaced by flooding in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales.

"We are really proud and excited to have this amazing organisation at BIG4 Breeze Holiday Parks - Rainbow Beach so when you're doing a load of laundry, please look out for the orange van!"

The team is in the park to help raise much-needed funds for Orange Sky Australia until the end of April and would love to meet locals and visitors to help them continue their work.

Orange Sky says on its website: "The focus is on creating a safe, positive and supportive environment for people who are too often ignored or who feel disconnected from the community. Our volunteers are not social workers or experts on homelessness - they are empathetic listeners and great conversationalists".

It says any donation will go directly towards supporting its mission to positively connect communities through clean clothes, warm showers and conversation.

For more information on how Orange Sky works and answer you questions look up orangesky.org.au



Orange Sky is set up at Big 4 Breeze Holiday Parks - Rainbow Beach until April and welcome donations.



The 2021 Anzac Day march was well organised and attended and a moving ceremony of respect.

## On Anzac Day, we will remember them

By Lee McCarthy

Join in the tribute to our soldiers past and present who represent their country and protect its shores, by attending a service this Anzac Day.

On 25 April 1915, Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula. These became known as Anzacs and the pride they took in that name continues to this day with the date officially named Anzac Day in 1916.

This year a dawn service will commence at Rainbow Beach at 5.30am at the Cenotaph, with a gunfire breakfast following the service at the Rainbow Beach Surf Club.

The citizens commemoration will be celebrated with a march through town beginning at 10am at the corner of Rainbow Beach Road and Clarkson Drive to the Cenotaph followed by the Citizens Memorial Service.

Those marching are being asked to assemble at 9.45am at the Centre Block at the corner of Rainbow Beach Road and Clarkson Drive.

The Tin Can Bay Anzac Day program will commence with a dawn service at 5.30am followed by a gunfire breakfast at 6.30am at Anzac Memorial Park.

The Anzac march will commence with those marching forming up at 8.30am, the march to the memorial at 8.40am followed by the commencement of service and laying of wreaths. This will be followed by a march to the RSL at 9.25am followed by a sausage sizzle with refreshments available within the sub branch area.

## Easter fun!

Local photographer Ned Johnston caught this classic photo on a recent trip to Double Island Point showing the fun you can have with a new toy. Great capture Ned and Happy Easter everyone!



How to have fun at Double Island Point by Ned Johnston of unknown surfer.

# LLEW O'BRIEN MP

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Authorised by Llew O'Brien MP, Liberal National Party of Queensland, 319 Kent Street, Maryborough QLD 4650



# Push to remove mandate

By Lee McCarthy

The news that the Chief Health Officer who has the powers to issue Public Health Directions has been automatically extended until 11.59pm on Friday 24 June 2022 has come as another shock for all business owners in the Rainbow Beach.

The Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism Association has sent a letter of support to the Gympie Chamber of Commerce seeking the immediate removal of the mandates for the hospitality industry, so that local business can recover from both Covid-19 and the flood events as quickly as possible.

Gympie Chamber president Petra Van Beek said: "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. There appears to be no logic around this mandate".

Advocacy and policy general manager Amanda Rohan from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) adds: "A vaccine mandate review was promised when the state reached the 90 per cent target, but to date, there had been no certainty as to what the review included, what it meant for businesses, or if it happened at all".



Rainbow Beach Commerce and Tourism supports Gympie Chamber of Commerce request for removal of mandates.

Picture: GYMPIE CHAMBER

"Emotionally and financially exhausted Queensland businesses have a right to know what the state's 90 per cent vaccine mandate review included and what it meant for rules impacting their day-to-day trade.

"For close to two years Queensland communities have been doing everything they've been told to, everything they can, to get to this point in the state's Covid recovery,"

"Now is the time for government to level

the playing field and bring businesses, their staff, customers and communities still operating under the vaccine mandates into line with those businesses operating without any restrictions."

## Holiday visitors urged to stay dingo safe on K'Gari

With population numbers exploding on the Cooloolo Coast for school holidays and families making their way to K'gari (Fraser Island) The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has issued timely advice on avoiding our native dingo population.

Residents and visitors to K'gari (Fraser Island) are reminded to be dingo-safe during the school holidays as the island's wongari (dingo) wander about looking for a mate.

Ranger in charge Linda Behrendorff said campsites were expected to be full during the holidays but residents and visitors to the island need to maintain their distance from the wongari to ensure personal safety, and the safety of the wongari.

"The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service wants people to enjoy the pristine beaches and lush rainforest without placing themselves at risk," Ms Behrendorff said.

"People who have been to K'gari before know rangers have zero tolerance for those who break the rules, and there is no excuse for deliberately or inadvertently disturbing wongari.

"We encourage new visitors to the island to read dingo-safe messaging online, and it is also available at businesses on the island.

"This time of year is wongari breeding season, so they might be more active and more likely to be seen on the beaches or in the bush.

"People are advised to observe them from a distance, and rangers and the Butchulla



A reminder to maintain distance from dingoes to ensure personal safety at all times to avoid danger or hefty fines

Aboriginal Corporation (BAC) rangers will be providing dingo-safe messaging in the townships and camping areas.

"Anyone caught deliberately bothering wongari will receive a fine, and tourism operators and visitors and residents routinely provide information and photographs of offences to rangers.

"The minimum fine for deliberately feeding or disturbing dingoes is \$2,205, while the

maximum penalty is \$11,028 per offence.

"People can also be fined \$413 for not securing their food, rubbish, bait or fish scraps."

Ms Behrendorff said wongari are the apex predator on the island and there is plenty of food on the island to support their population.

"Wongari are highly intelligent, highly mobile and have been tracked moving vast

distances in a day as they search for a mate, for food or for territory," she said.

"Wongari have been on the island for thousands of years, they have adapted to the environment and do not need to be disturbed for that perfect selfie.

"Drivers are urged to keep a lookout for wongari on the beach, campers are asked to keep their food and rubbish secured and fishers are advised to dispose of fish scraps so wongari can't scavenge them.

"They're currently looking to breed, so leave them at peace or you might place yourself and the wongari at risk.

"Let the wongari find a mate without being harassed, and make sure you look after your mates and your family at all times."

**Visitors to K'gari are reminded to be dingo safe at all times:**

- Always stay close (within arm's reach) of children and young teenagers
- Always walk in groups
- Camp in fenced areas where possible
- Do not run. Running or jogging can trigger a negative dingo interaction
- Never feed dingoes
- Lock up food stores and iceboxes (even on a boat)
- Never store food or food containers in tents, and
- Secure all rubbish, fish and bait.

For more information go to <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/fraser/fraser-island-dingoes>

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12543564-NG15-22



# Getting up to speed

By Lee McCarthy

Conducting business from home has become common practice for Australian workplaces since 2019 and a secure, fast, and reliable internet connection is key to its success.

Speaking at the March Rainbow Beach Chamber of Commerce, Wide Bay Business Lead Deborah Mead said businesses that rely on the NBN network can now access business-grade fibre product, business NBN Enterprise Ethernet, at CBD wholesale pricing.

She said as we slowly move out of Covid-19 restrictions NBN has made some significant changes to bring more support to the region.

In October 2019, they co-launched a new business unit solely focused on meeting customer needs and raising the digital capability of regional and remote communities across Australia.

This team work together to meet the needs of customers in rural and regional Australia, while raising the digital capability of these areas.

As part of the Wide Bay Burnett Region, there are three specialists working together to raise digital capability.

Scott Rowe based in Hervey Bay, is the Community Engagement Manager, driving the strategy of lifting the digital capability of the region, working closely with all levels of government.

Deborah Mead from Bundaberg is the Business Lead and engages directly with businesses, business groups and ICT providers to ensure they are making the most of network connection.

Karen Shipp – lives on the Sunshine Coast and is the Community Ambassador and assists residents and community groups with lifting

their digital capability including nbn™ network 101 sessions, scam awareness and individual connections issues.

Mrs Mead said the team understood the challenges and needs of business, industry and customers because they are involved in their local communities and are passionate about what they do.

“I engage directly with businesses, business groups and ICT (Information Communication Technology) providers to make sure they are making the most of their network connection.”

“Our job is essentially to help with questions or problems that customers have, to make sure they have what they need.”

For more visit [nbn.com.au/business](http://nbn.com.au/business) or contact Deborah Mead at [deborahmead@nbnco.com.au](mailto:deborahmead@nbnco.com.au)



Deborah Mead from the Wide Bay NBN team is one of the business data specialists in Rainbow Beach last month to present to the local Chamber

## It's a doc around the clock

By Lee McCarthy

What a difference a year makes in the Cooloola Coast for residents who can now access medical attention seven days a week.

With locations in Tin Can Bay, Cooloola Cove and Rainbow Beach, Cooloola Coast General Practice is taking on new patients and even bulk bills!

A spokesperson for the group said it was thrilled to be able to provide this service to a region that had been so overlooked and said they are always on the lookout for more doctors and general practice staff who feel like a sea change.

The practice is even welcoming new patients from Gympie and the eastern suburbs

who cannot get into a doctor in Gympie at short notice and are unable to wait the two to three weeks required.

The Cooloola Cove practice will be open over Easter and Anzac Day for those who need an appointment, with new patients and visitors welcome.

Families with young children understand how quickly a fun morning can turn into a trip to the Doctor for a stitch or bandage and to have such an accomplished group of doctors in a nearby clinic is priceless.

Cooloola Coast General Practice can be contacted by phoning 07 5486 4600 or visit and book online at [www.cooloolacoastgp.com.au](http://www.cooloolacoastgp.com.au)



Cooloola Coast General Practice will be open over Easter and Anzac Day

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Police issued 51 fines for speeding, defective vehicles, failure to wear seatbelts and other driving offences. Pictures: QLD GOVERNMENT



QPWS issued fines for driving on vegetated sand dunes and disorderly conduct.

# Sandspike hands out 51 penalties

Queensland Parks and Wildlife wants everyone to enjoy the region's protected areas respectfully and safely this Easter.

"We want all visitors to enjoy their visit and make it home safely to family and friends."

"Teewah Beach, in Cooloola Recreation Area, Great Sandy National Park, will continue to have ongoing Ranger and Police patrols."

Ranger Mike reports on the recent Teewah compliance campaign, Operation Sand Strike:

"Teewah Beach is an amazing holiday spot, it is definitely not the place for dangerous driv-

ing or illegal activities in the camping areas. On our recent patrol it was great to see campers were adhering to the camp fire ban—only one fine was issued for an unlawful campfire.

"We also found most campers had their own portable toilets, which is a requirement that was introduced last year to help prevent bush toileting. This is very important for public and environmental health—five fines were issued to people who didn't have a portable toilets."

Police issued 51 fines for speeding, defec-

tive vehicles, failure to wear seatbelts and other driving offences. QPWS also issued fines for driving on vegetated sand dunes and disorderly conduct.

The attitudes of a small minority of people camping or visiting Teewah needs to change. Our compliance activities are necessary to ensure Teewah remains a safe place to visit, and QPWS and QPS have zero tolerance for poor behaviour.'

Get all the info you need at <https://parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/cooloola/visiting-safely>

## Stay safe this Easter everyone!

Police are urging families to plan for a safe road trip this Easter and last week launched their Easter Road Safety campaign

Operation Uniform Easter will see police promoting road safety in Easter holiday traffic thoroughfares across the state.

Assistant Commissioner Marcus said it was imperative that everyone on our roads put road safety first.

"We know everyone is eager to get to their holiday destinations, but it's important to ensure everyone is driving to the conditions and avoiding driving tired," he said.

"There will be increased traffic on our roads, all throughout the state.

"Travelling can mean driving on unfamiliar roads and through a variety of environments and weather. Day or night-time, ensure you drive to the conditions.

"Be patient and plan your trip properly. Don't speed or drive affected by drugs or alcohol.

"You can expect to see police anywhere, anytime conducting roadside operations and patrolling our roads."

Last year's Easter long weekend saw six road-related deaths.

"While your safety is our concern, road safety is everyone's responsibility. Please be careful. Every decision you make behind the wheel, counts.



Road safety is the focus by police this Easter. Plan ahead and drive to conditions.

"One life lost is too many. Help us make sure there is no dampener on this holiday period for you or your loved ones."

Minister for Police Ryan said the Easter school holidays were a great time to explore Queensland and spend time with family but to do so safely.

"We know this is a popular time for camping, beach driving and road trips in general, and that it's a time when we all pack up the car or the camper van with the whole family," he said.

"While you can expect to see police any-

where, anytime, it is so important for everyone to do what they can to ensure a safe drive.

"It only takes one poor decision for these holidays to end in disaster for you, your family or other road users.

"Please remember road safety is everyone's responsibility and plan your trip accordingly. Take regular breaks, share the driving, ensure everyone is buckled up and drive to the conditions and speed limits.

"Police will be doing their part to promote road safety, and you need to do yours."

## Speeding drivers not 'coast'ing

A crack-down on Cooloola Coast roads have netted 30 drivers speeding over the past month, including a 17 year old boy caught doing more than 40k over the limit in an unregistered car with false plates and 81 year old woman.

Police in the Tin Can Bay Division and Gympie Patrol Group are urging motorists to remember that speeding is a Fatal Five factor, along with not wearing seat belts, drink/drug driving, fatigue and distraction.

A 17-year-old Cooloola Cove boy was caught speeding at 102kph in a 60 zone on Tin Can Bay Road, Tin Can Bay.

He was also issued infringements for displaying number plates from another car and driving an unregistered car.

He will be paying off his nearly \$2000 in fines (\$1286 speeding, \$275 false plates and \$441 unregistered) for quite a while, not to mention the loss of eight demerit points.

Another driver, a 57-year-old Urangan man, was caught exceeding the speed limit by more than 30kph on Tin Can Bay Road at Toolara Forest.

He was fined \$643 and lost six demerit points.

A further three drivers were detected exceeding the speed limit in a speed zone by more than 20kph.

At about 3.16pm on Wednesday, 2 March, police intercepted a 62 year old Cooloola Cove woman travelling at 88kph in a 60 zone on Investigator Avenue at Cooloola Cove.

At about 12.09pm on Friday, 4 March a 54-year-old Cooloola Cove woman was caught travelling at 87kph in a 60km zone also on Tin Can Bay Road, Tin Can Bay.

On Sunday, 6 March at about 12.50pm an 81 year old Cooloola Cove woman was also found to be speeding, doing 82kph in a 60 speed zone on Endeavour Drive at Cooloola Cove.

All three women were fined \$459 and each lost four demerit points.

Also last month 22 drivers were detected exceeding the speed limit in a speed zone by at least 13kph each incurring a fine of \$275 and the loss of three demerit points and three drivers were caught speeding by less than 13kph, costing them each a \$183 fine and the loss of one demerit point.





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12544198-HC15-22





Grade 6 students from Tin Can Bay School enjoying Rainbow Beach.



The mighty Carlo Sand Blow an iconic place for the students to visit.

# Students study outdoors

By Lee McCarthy

The annual Tin Can Bay State School Year Six hike was held at Rainbow Beach last week with students immersed in nature while spending time walking and living in the great outdoors with teachers and volunteers.

Deputy principal Sandy Lewis said the camp aims to strengthen communication amongst the grade six cohort whilst utilising our stunning backyard to physically and mentally challenge our students out of their comfort zones.

Last Thursday, they left the famous Carlo Sandblow car park with day packs and walked to the Leisha Track which is approximately 15 kilometres. Generous volunteers were on hand when they arrived to ferry the group to the Freshwater Campground where they were to camp.

Their overnight gear had been dropped to the site early that morning and the team camped the night after enjoying sunset on Teewah Beach which was one of the high-

lights of their trip.

The next day they hiked to Bymien Picnic area via Poona Lake which is another 10 kilometres.

“It’s a great way to end the term! We love showing kids that they are capable of doing a hike that far. We live in such a beautiful part of the world, I want to show the kids how lucky they are.”

“Their teachers deserved an epic send off after an extremely challenging term. They loved the experience with their students and are proud of their own efforts too.”

“We were chuffed to show off our backyard to our new Principal. I am sure he will be a regular visitor on the hike!”

The kids said that the best part was the food, setting up their tents and feeling proud when they got to the end.

Outdoor learning experience for Tin Can Bay State School students last week.



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A dark blue 4x4 vehicle is parked on a sandy beach. A large, tan-colored rooftop tent is mounted on the roof rack, and its ladder is extended down to the ground. A man and a woman are walking on the beach in the foreground, holding hands. The ocean is visible in the background under a clear blue sky.

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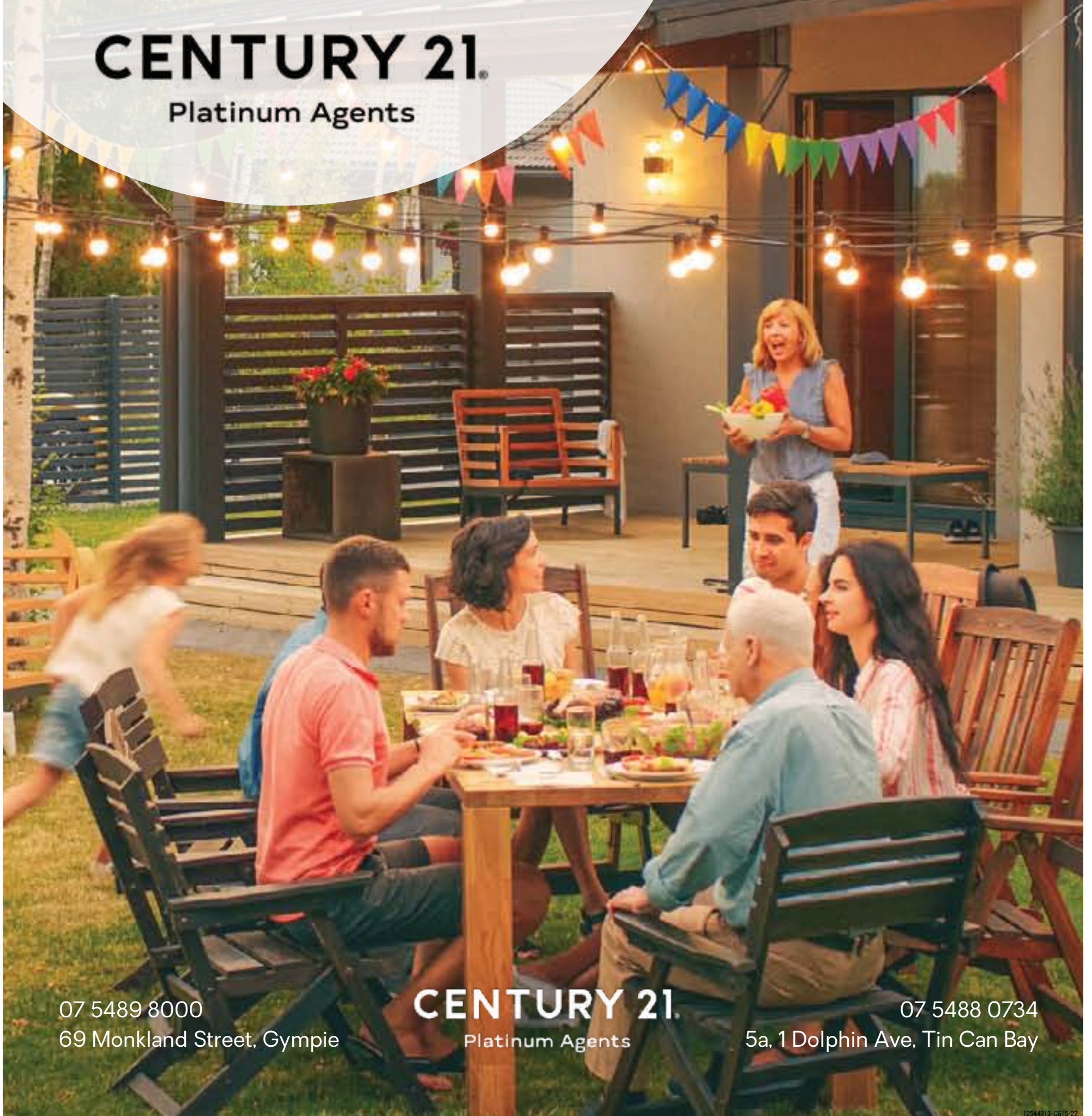
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What is to become of Rainbow Beach?

Presently Rainbow Beach is a small hamlet on the coastline with a residential community of diverse cultures and ages which has established through past sand mining activities in the 70s to a vital locally based commercial and tourism township, attracting high visitation every weekend and public holidays.

Rainbow Beach services the tourism activities of life on the beach, 4WD enthusiasts and of course beach fishing.

Located on one of the longest “cul -de-sacs” in Queensland, the town is surrounded totally by National Park, First Nation lands, and a World Heritage Park; it is an enclosed township- a “dead end” for other than 4WD vehicles.

This is what makes it unique! Not only in Queensland but in comparison to other coastal townships.

The assets of its location are simply expressed as environmental qualities: Nature, ocean, beach, fauna, flora and marine life of both the mainland and K’gari Island and the coastal inlets and bays.

Are these qualities not what we need to preserve, conserve and manage for its future?

As priorities in the Planning and Development of Rainbow Beach we should hold and protect these unique values of lifestyle availed to so few. Visitors, of course also value their experience in Rainbow and its assets for their recreation over relatively short periods of time, and in different modes of accommodations and the environments existing.

What is not acknowledged currently is its global uniqueness.

Living in a Paradise can make one complacent, relaxed, sentimental and in serenity ( not every weekend or holiday period) to the point of being mindful only of their individual existence, their daily life and the closeness of friends and neighbours, and support for the

commercial businesses and service related entities. It can be too easy to be negative or even disinterested in change.

Where else do we have a World Heritage Ocean, Island, Bays and coastal environment of National Parks in which our township sits. Where else do we have the environments supporting the wildlife of turtles, whales, dugongs, dingoes, sea birds, reptiles, native fauna and flora of coastal heath, woodland, forest and rainforest, inland lakes and creeks, sand island and mangrove waterways in which to live?

“Living with Nature” is the reality of Rainbow Beach, the common summation of the lifestyle afforded the community and the visitor alike. This is the true attraction to live and work locally.

What is to become of Rainbow Beach and the community present with the impacts of growth in visitation, in development of housing and tourist accommodations, in preservation of the values and qualities existing, in conservation of the qualities availed, in management of its future?

Nature survives in balance despite the weather and climatic influences of its most destructive forces; fire restores the flora and vegetation, seas erode and replace, drought affects are replenished by rainstorms, animals, mammals, reptiles and birds adapt; all occur in time.

Time is the essence of existence, life happens in the realm of time and with it comes patience.

We can no longer be too patient, too complacent or dis-interested in our future!

Rainbow Beach has been discovered! Its future is in our hands as custodians of what

we have and what we enjoy and what we respect in the qualities and values of the social, natural and the economic environments we live within. The future can be a sustainable environment of high social quality, low energy, low impact, a small footprint community globally; an exemplar of living with nature and a contemporary lifestyle respectful of all its unique characteristics... some that others envy and would envy in years to come.

The time is now!

Town planning processes are primarily generic; non-responsive to the community, the rate payers, the social and natural environments in place and more so, the aspirations of the community! The new town plan is under preparation now, in the hands of the Gympie Regional Council, its councillors and officers accordingly.

Our danger is not getting what we want for our future.

A community consultation program is not just warranted, but should be highly valued to not only direct the future in land use, facilities and development but include conservation, preservation and management strategies to achieve the community’ aspirations for “Living in Nature” and all the qualities this brings to a healthy, economically and environmentally sustainable and successful township within the enclosure of nature, wildlife, wilderness and marine environments of global significance.

We have the opportunity to be involved, included and heard. Let’s aspire to a better resolution than a generic outcome common to all other communities.

Scott Taylor, Resident, registered landscape architect, master planner, urban designer, golf designer, Terrain Consultants.

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Supporting the community

Gympie Regional Council is now accepting applications for round two of the Get Local Community Grants program.

The Get Local Community Grants program is specifically designed to assist communities and townships impacted by Covid-19 and dealing with drought and disaster, such as recent flood events.

This program will help eligible community organisations to deliver a range of small-scale community events and activities that increase community connection, sense of belonging and community well-being.

Grants of up to \$800 are available for eligible events that occur between 1 June and 31 December 2022.

Councillor Dan Stewart says that many of the Gympie region's not-for-profit organisations have been doing it tough recently and he is happy that Council is able to help those who need funds to host public events.

“Putting on any public event isn’t cheap and the Get Local Community Grants program will help local community groups cover certain costs including venue hire, catering, entertainment, decorations, marketing and promotion, or traffic and waste management.

“I encourage all of our local community



Grants are now available for community groups to host an event or community activity.

organisations to submit an application and start planning your community event or activity today,” he said.

Applications open on Monday, 28 March and close Sunday, 8 May 2022.

This program is an initiative funded by the Queensland Government, Mental Health and Wellbeing Community Package under Queensland’s Economic Recovery Strategy.

For more information, visit [www.gympie.qld.gov.au/residents/your-community/grants-and-funding](http://www.gympie.qld.gov.au/residents/your-community/grants-and-funding) or phone Council’s Community Development Team on 1300 307 800.

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8 COOLOOLA COAST TODAY Friday, 8 April, 2022



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# Town mourns Keith Sykes

At only 79 years, Keith Sykes of Rainbow Beach lost his battle for life and passed away peacefully on Friday 25 February 2022.

Keith was the dearly loved husband of Sandra, much loved father to Michaela and Miranda and loving stepfather to Neil and Paul.

His celebration of life was held in Buderim on Friday 11 March at 11am and we all wish Sandra and the family our sincere condolences.

Below is an extract from the family celebration to friends from all over Australia and Thailand.

*Dear friends and family, we are here to celebrate the wonderful life of my darling husband, Keith.*

*I was fortunate enough to meet Keith 18 years ago in Brisbane and can honestly say that the years spent as Keith's wife have been the happiest years of my entire life.*

*What are the odds of two people from opposite sides of the world, Keith from Yorkshire, and me from South Africa, not only meeting, but also making such a brilliant union?*

*We both come from such diverse backgrounds, Keith a miner and me, a ballerina.*

*An Oxymoron! In the dictionary, Oxymoron, means, a figure of speech that combines two apparently contradictory terms!*

*However, despite our diversities, our great relationship worked in our hearts.*

*Without question, to me, Keith is the most wonderful person in the whole world, with unique layers of admirable qualities.*

*He could mix comfortably with paupers and kings, and yet always remained who he was, without changing anything about himself. That is special*

*Keith was always a hard worker, including playfulness and enjoyment and with a prank here and there. Yet, the serious side of his nature was the deep love of his family and friends, which always shone through.*

*He absolutely loved people.*



Our condolences to wife Sandra Leigh and family on the passing of much loved local resident Keith Sykes

*Even when teaching men to obtain their licenses for the government, with their forklifts or elevated work platforms his sense of fun always permeated the classroom with mischief and pranks always just around the corner.*

*He was loved for this.*

*Keith's two daughters, Michaela and Miranda along with stepsons, Neil and Paul, created for him 10 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren, so far.*

*Their lives have been imbued with his example of integrity, loyalty, dignity and loving.*

*If I was given one word to describe Keith, it*

*is LOVE. Keith loved with a passion the Rainbow Beach home and all that went with that lifestyle.*

*When I invited about eight Rainbow Beach ladies around to our house, in order to make costume jewellery, Keith delighted in baking for us, scones, cheese cake, quiche, trifle and biscuits, and he even sat around the table with us all at tea time, enjoying himself, relaxed and was so accepted and such a special man!*

*Keith loved to travel and have adventures and was forever curious looking into how things worked and observing and interacting*

*with the foreigners and children.*

*We were fortunate to travel all over the world and met in Thailand 18 years ago, and our wonderful friends, Jantima, Villie and Bee are here today, especially to pay homage to their beloved Keith.*

*So let us celebrate Keith and all the joy he brought into our lives and keep these wonderful and happy memories of him in our hearts alive.*

*We miss the charismatic and playful and courageous Keith and will never forget you.*

*I love you my darling for your generous spirit. You are my Hero.*

## JOIN THE LADIES OF RAINBOW BEACH FOR THE 2022 LADIES DAY

**When: 14 May 2022 - 10am until 9pm**  
**Where: Rainbow Beach Hotel - Upstairs**

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10 COOLOOLA COAST TODAY Friday, 8 April, 2022





Stalwarts of the monthly catch ups, President of the Community Centre Elisa Seul with popular caterer Martine Lokan (aka Mrs Ice Man)



A newcomer from Mothar Mountain Glenda Middlemiss from Souleceez joins the morning catch up



Jabez and Zoe from Bells Bridge Farm are a hit with their tasty freshly sourced fruit and vegetables every month

# Making a great community

By Lee McCarthy

A tradition that began during the depths of Covid-19 lock downs was the Friday Rainbow Beach Community Catch Up held at the Community Hall so locals could meet outside, borrow a book from the Community Centre and not feel so isolated.

The idea was nurtured and grew to include a freshly brewed coffee from talented barista Brooke Bignell and her much loved Maryborough Coffee Cart.

Then the organisers decided there needed to be something to enjoy with the coffee so Martine Lokan stepped in and supplied her incredible home made cakes and slices and the numbers grew.

Then a few more locals brought their products as there were no shops open or cafe's open, so the community could support those

who had lost work and income due to the health crisis.

Today this is still a much loved part of the community fabric, now held monthly but just as popular and still offering the chance to have a casual catch up, make new friends and still borrow or buy a book from the centre.

It is an essential part of a small town to have a thriving community and the Community Centre, run by volunteers, has created this safe haven for locals to mix, mingle, learn and welcome new arrivals to the town.

To become part of the organisation go along to Centre office, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 8.30am and 4pm and see how you can help or become a member for only five dollars.

The next catch up is on Friday 22 April from 8am to 11.30am then Friday, 27 May 2022.



Another favourite is Signature Sourdough with locals making a beeline for James and Emma and their freshly baked sourdough



Ben Blackburn creates his own ache away products stocked now in lots of homes in the region



Budding entrepreneur Banjo selling her passionfruit at the Community Catch Up at Rainbow Beach



Popular barista Brooke Bignell knows her coffee and serves it up for community events



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Rainbow Escape Charters got on to quality Red Emperor



Craig's elbow slapper Sand Whiting

# A great time to be alive...

By Drew Gardiner and Ash Little

'Out came the sun and dried up all the rain. We say it's time to get the rods out once again!'

A weak attempt at re-writing a childhood nursery rhyme perhaps, but it is so refreshing to write an editorial that includes photos with smiles all round.

After months of unfavourable weather, fishos finally got a five-day reprieve. Those lucky enough to wet a line didn't struggle to find the fish either.

With persistent southerly winds, fish have continued to shelter in the lee of Rainbow Beach. It is very common for fish of all species to move in close and several fishos were caught by surprise.

Fishing light gear while chasing whiting and dart, we saw catches of Snapper and Sweetlip taking baits off the coffee rock. A very decent by-catch when spirits are low. The run-out tide was generally more favourable. The clouded water encourages fish of all

species to feed in close.

Our live and freshly preserved beach worms are an irresistible bait for most fish. Being on the bottom of the food chain, there aren't too many fish that won't take a chance on our trusty worms. It's always worth mixing things up and this applies to baits, bait presentation and tackle.

Most land-based reef fish catches were on larger long shank hooks with a whole worm (or two) threaded onto the hook. Nothing pretty, just a big enticing feed for hungry fish. Seasoned fishos did not hesitate in casting out whole baits like squid or pilchard on two or three ganged hooks, retrieving an incredible mixed catch.

An extremely positive sign has been the quantity of long tail tuna busting the surface around the shark nets. Stand-up paddle boarders, Jet-Ski riders and tinny rats wasted no time getting lures and baits out there. We remind all fishos to familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations.

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Skipper Matt on Baitrunner found some massive Nannygai



Darrel with a thumping Snapper

There have been conflicting media reports relating to recent changes, particularly around Double Island Point. These changes relate to all vessels. Clarification can be found at <https://www.msq.qld.gov.au>

“Double Island Point Lagoon. A 6-knot speed limit zone is now in place within the Double Island Point lagoon bounded by the high water mark from the approximate position of 25°57.010’S, 153°9.891’E, heading generally North East and then North following the high tide mark to position 25°55.744’S, 153°10.938’E, then extending South West generally following the sand spit along an imaginary line to the approximate position of 25°56.624’S, 153°9.891’E, then continuing South to position 25°57.010’S, 153°9.891’E that encompasses the entire Double Island Point lagoon.”

Lighter winds and easing swells have seen Teewah Beach return to some form of normality. Beautiful gutter formations, particularly between the beach access track at Lake Freshwater, North to Double Island Point. Dart, Whiting, Bream, and Tarwhine have not just been in good numbers, but great quality. Using 60-80cm of 8-12lb fluorocarbon leader, a three or four ball sinker and ‘Tru-Turn’ hooks is our recommendation. Casting from the beach, (not standing in the water) and fishing the first 3 – 5 metres of any gutter, will find the fish. Big long casts over the back banks are unlikely to produce results on bread-and-butter species. Our advice when beach fishing is, ‘The fish are at your feet’.

We saw a recent social media post with the catchphrase; ‘Take 20 for Teewah’, referring to picking up 20 pieces of rubbish to help clear the beach. As flood waters continue to flow into the ocean, we agree this is a great concept. A simple way we can all make a difference. Our worm harvesters have been doing this daily. It all counts.

We will largely skip over the estuary this

month, other than to report it has continued to produce impressive catches of quality mudcrab, beautiful whiting to 40cm’s and some surprising quality topwater action from Queenfish and other pelagics in the shallows. The Mangrove Jack season has extended well into March. As the temperature begins to drop and the barometer stabilises, we expect bite rates to decline. Don’t be deterred though. Throwing out a whole flicker mullet or whiting close to structure will always entice Jack’s, Cod and Grunter. Using soft plastics and shallow diving lures this time of year can really wake up these sleepy monsters.

Rainbow’s offshore charters are finally back in business! The first back-to-back charters since Christmas have had Skippers and punters smiling. With offshore grounds well rested, the quality of fish landed is no real surprise. Snapper, Pearl Perch, Trout, Nannygai, Red Emperor, Cod, Moses Perch, Sweetlip... they are all biting hard.

Most operators have run six charters in four months at best, so we encourage everyone eager for an offshore trip to support local businesses. Offshore charters from Rainbow Beach produce some of the highest quality and largest variety of fish on the East Coast. Each operator provides a unique experience, and they work cohesively to ensure sustainability of this great fishery. Gardiner Fisheries are proud to support Rainbow’s local charter operators, so if you’re chasing a tailored charter, give us a call or contact us via FB.

Our team at Gardiner Fisheries are dedicated local fishos. For genuine local knowledge, the biggest range of the freshest locally caught bait, and quality tackle, talk with a team member in-store at Gardiner Fisheries.

Find us on Facebook or at 1 Karoonda Rd, Rainbow Beach or you can call us on 0404 853 232.

‘Our goal is to help you catch fish’



Jye’s monster Sweetlip

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Friday, 8 April, 2022 **COOLOOLA COAST TODAY** 13





Winners are grinners at the RBAA inc.



Seven year old Angus grabbing a dart on his first competition with the Rainbow Beach Amateur Anglers.



Sophie with some awesome Teewah Whiting caught for the Amateur Anglers competition.

# Amateur anglers thriving

By Ash Little and Drew Gardiner

After the relentless weather saw Rainbow Beach Amateur Anglers (RBAA) initially post-pone, and then cancel their February competition, it was fantastic to see club members get the chance to wet lines again in March.

Every category had registered competitors and the quality of fish caught was excellent. Their weigh-in at 'The Deck @ Sea Salt' saw a record number of new members present.

In only 12 months, Rainbow Beach Amateur Anglers has become Queensland's largest amateur fishing club.

Family focused and supporting all fishers, this month's event was a standout. If you're new to fishing, need a reason to go fishing, or seek an all-inclusive club, RBAA is the club for you.

The next club competition will be held on 30 April with the weigh-in commencing at 1pm at 'The Deck @ Sea Salt'. Visitors are welcome. Cold drinks, raffles, a delicious sausage sizzle and great people are always in the mix.

Education and preservation are why RBAA Inc. are unique as a fishing club. They operate a points system with a maximum of five fish per species.

There is also a broadening catch and release division. Competitors are encouraged to catch variety, over quantity. RBAA have a dedicated Junior Mentor and conduct junior clinics at no cost throughout the year.

These clinics promote the sport, develop social skills, and educate the next generation of fisho's with a focus on sustainable fishing.

For further details check out their comprehensive website at [www.rainbowbeachamateuranglers.com](http://www.rainbowbeachamateuranglers.com)



Jye, Luke, Sophie and Simon. A family of winners at the March Rainbow Beach Amateur Anglers Inc event.

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Volunteering to help every Sunday is what makes a club like Rainbow Beach a success and thanks to all who help out every week.



Physical activity, sunshine, learning to read the waves are some of the reasons trust the Rainbow Beach Surf Club to educate their children in surf awareness.

# Nippers crown big season

With the life saving season now over and parents and nippers back to other sports for the cooler months, the Rainbow Beach Surf Club volunteers deserve a pat on the back for all the hours they have spent serving the public.

All lifesavers on patrol or helping on the beach put in hundreds of hours of their own time to provide a safe environment for young children to learn the joys and dangers of surfing.

The beauty of the local surf club for the Gympie Region is not only its proximity to the whole region, but it is a club that the whole family can enjoy.

There are multi generational families involved, as well as several families where mum, dad and children are all members trained by the club and spent their weekends enjoying the great outdoors together.

The club hosts training sessions for bronze medallion and surf rescue certificates along with week long live in camps and it is a character building sport which all ages can enjoy.

If you would like to find out more about next season contact the club on [surf@rainbowbeachsurf.com.au](mailto:surf@rainbowbeachsurf.com.au) and learn how your involvement in the club can change your life.



A great way to finish up the years Nippers season with food and presentations. Well done to all volunteers, parents, nippers and see you next year!



Mum and daughter duo Emilie and Caroline Vielle celebrating the end of the Nippers season.



A chilled day celebrating the end of the nippers until September. Join in next seasons fun and games.



Water safety officers are essential to the safety of the nippers each Sunday morning.



Learning how to manage boards from a young age ensures nippers are capable and confident using the water craft.

## RAINBOW BEACH SPORTS CLUB

FRIDAY NIGHT | APRIL 2022

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



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