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Super speaker
PAGE 5



Sensational sandcastles
PAGE 10

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Sienna's golden touch

Cooloola Coast athlete Sienna Arthur has returned from the Australian Youth Beach Volleyball Championships as an Australian Gold Medalist.

The championships were held over

four days at the Gold Coast with Sienna and her team reaching gold after winning every game in the lead up to the final.

STORY PAGE 15

What a champion. What an Australian champion! Sienna Arthur takes out gold in the Australian Youth Beach Volleyball championships.

Picture: ROGUE GUN PHOTOGRAPHY

Pontoons go

The beach clean up removing flood debris scattered across the Cooloola Coastline continued throughout the month with Claytons Towing given the mammoth task of removing the pontoons and larger items from the beaches.

While many community groups, environmental agencies, Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Environment and Science all involved it was Claytons Towing who had the capacity to lift the monster pontoons and their environmentally damaging Styrofoam.

STORY PAGE 2

Boardwalk thumbs up

Locals and tourists have tried out the new million-dollar Tin Can Bay Boardwalk over the school holidays and have given it the thumbs up.

The Cod Street to Norman Point shared boardwalk project built by Roman Contractors for Gympie Regional Council was open for use over Easter with the stunning walkway meandering along beside the waters of Tin Can Bay enjoying the natural flora of the region.

Council has been progressively upgrading the pedestrian walkway along the Tin Can Bay foreshore to a shared pathway standard, with works also completed between Crab Creek and Oyster Parade.

STORY PAGE 6

Bogged on beach

It seems no matter how much social media shaming drivers get and how much ridicule on sites like "I Got Bogged On Inskip Point", drivers still choose poor driving etiquette when away from home.

These drivers chose to drive on high tide

ignoring every instruction not to do so by warnings and information shared by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

The DES site has clear information on

beach driving, hazards and rules for four-wheel drive owners when driving in the Cooloola National Park and K'gari (Fraser Island).

The site has a "Driving On Sand Safety Guide" for more detailed information on

rules, preparation, hazards, and other handy sand driving tips and recommend drivers read this guide before leaving home and check the current beach and track conditions.

STORY PAGE 4

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The Cooloola Coast Today is now in its 10th month and we have had such wonderful support from advertisers and the community we have decided to produce a weekly publication instead of fortnightly to ensure our news to you is even more current and up to date!

Starting next issue, 6 May 2022, the Cooloola Coast Today will now be found inside the Gympie Today every Friday.

You will still be able to read the same great local articles, you will just get them quicker now!

We also post our articles on our webpage www.gympietoday.com.au and you can subscribe to read all our articles from the Gympie and Cooloola Coast Today newspapers.

If you have any news you think we would enjoy or any photo's or historical pics, don't forget you can get in touch with us at newsdesk@gympietoday.com.au and mark it Cooloola Coast Today.

We love to read your letters to the editor too.

Thank you to our local businesses who continue to stock our paper, The Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach IGA, Tin Can Bay News, Woolworths IGA, BP Rainbow Beach Holiday Village and FoodWorks Rainbow Beach.

If you would like to stock our paper, please contact us on 5321 3050.

Thank you for your continued support of our comprehensive local paper which covers Gympie to Goomeri, the Noosa Hinterland, Goomboorian and the whole Cooloola Coast.

The paper is produced in Gympie by locals who live in and love our region.

- Lee McCarthy



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This Caribbean setting snapped by The Ice Man has now departed with a huge clean up underway to remove the rubbish and Styrofoam

Great cleanup effort

By Lee McCarthy

The beach clean up removing flood debris scattered across the Cooloola Coastline continued throughout the month with Claytons Towing given the mammoth task of removing the pontoons and larger items from the beaches.

While many community groups, environmental agencies, Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ), Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Environment and Science were all involved, it was Claytons Towing who had the capacity to lift the monster pontoons and their environmentally damaging Styrofoam.

One of the pontoons had been maneuvered into the lagoon at Double Island Point with umbrellas and seating looking like a scene from the Caribbean and had it not been a danger to the environment it may have survived the clean up.

“The new local attraction at the lagoon near Double Island Point has been removed as we completed the clean up of pontoons in the last section between Double Island Point and Inskip Point for MSQ, and there was sure lots,” Claytons Towing said.

“Basically now we have cleared the beach from the Sunshine Coast to Inskip.”



Claytons Towing were one of the contractors hired to remove the rubbish left following flooding last month.
Picture: CLAYTONS TOWING

Claytons said they were taking extra caution traversing the rocks at Rainbow Beach with the heavy loads for the last recoveries.

They thanked The Ice Man for updates and photos as well as Rainbow Recovery, Repairs

and Services for beach condition updates and having the equipment on standby if things went 'south' for them.

“It's been a real community effort with everyone coming together to clean up this mess.”

Operation Sandspike out on patrol

Operation Sandstrike continued over the Easter long weekend along the beach and at Double Island Point.

Police from Wide Bay Burnett and Sunshine Coast District's, supported by Park Rangers from Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, patrolled the beach precinct from Noosa North Shore up to Inskip Point, keeping the area safe for holiday makers.

Over 600 motorists were breath tested on and near the beach on the weekend and several infringement notices issued.

If you're deciding to head up the beach for a drive, keep an eye out for people on and near the water and don't drink and drive. Ensure your choices are 'All Good' for a great long weekend at the beach.

Queensland National Parks said: “Without a doubt, Queensland's protected areas offer some of the best four-wheel driving locations in the world and we want you to be able to enjoy these areas safely!

“Unfortunately, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) often receive reports of reckless driving within protected areas which not only puts the driver and their passengers at risk but also everyone around them! Reckless driving can also cause severe damage to the surrounding environment.”

An Australian-first operation sees Queensland Police Service (QPS) and the community teaming up to target hooning. The new technology will enable park visitors to upload evidence such as video footage and photographs to QPS via an online reporting form.

The QPS in collaboration with QPWS, can then use this evidence to act under relevant legislation.



Queensland Police Operation Sandstrike has continued through the Easter long weekend looking for drivers who are testing drivers, vehicles and drivers behaviour. Picture: QLD POLICE

“We want our visitors to be Safe! Remember that disorderly or potentially dangerous behaviour is not tolerated in our parks and forests.”

“QPWS Rangers, and QPS can issue on-the-spot fines for disorderly conduct and unsafe driving, including driving without due care and attention, failing to comply with signs and not wearing seat belts. Offenders may also be directed to leave immediately.”

“As a reminder, all road rules apply when driving on the beach. Our beaches and sand dunes provide essential habitats for several species, including shorebirds, crustaceans

and turtles. These driving behaviours are illegal, unsafe, disturbs other visitors, destroys habitats and prevents the formation of new dunes that are critical to preventing erosion of our beaches. We want to make sure our protected areas remain unspoilt and enjoyed by everyone now and into the future.”

If you have information for police, contact Policelink by providing information using the online suspicious activity form 24hrs per day at police.qld.gov.au/reporting or forms.police.qld.gov.au/launch/Hooning

Report crime information anonymously via Crime Stoppers. Call 1800 333 000 or report online at crimestoppersqld.com.au

Doc revels in sea change

By Lee McCarthy

Dr Kim Badcoe says she feels so lucky she and husband Ian made the decision to come to the Cooloola Coast in response to a call out by Cooloola Coast GP looking for doctors for the region.

Living in WA and practicing in the city, Kim said she and Ian wanted an adventure. The children had left home, they were living in inner city Perth, and they took the plunge and accepted the advertised position in 2020.

They had already done a two-year stint in Namibia, in southern Africa but were looking for something in Australia

Kim said they wanted to move to Queensland and with Ian having spent 20 years in Townsville he was keen to move there, but Kim said she doesn't like sharks, stingers, or high humidity so that was a no from her.

"We saw the advertisement by Cooloola Coast GP seeking an experienced senior doctor to train graduates, supervise and decided to take on the responsibility."

"We looked around but because it was during covid we couldn't even come over and look around the region and just had to hope it was nice.

"It was much better than we could have imagined.

"Before we arrived, I had a mental image that country towns were very hard to break into without three generations. But here, with so many people from so many different places there is an openness I didn't expect.

"People were inviting us around and it wasn't an archetypal country town at all.

"People are from everywhere and have been to a lot of places, and all live in Rainbow now and you don't get treated as special, you are welcome.

"I started by supervising one doctor, Dr Samer Sirri who already knew so much because he had been working as surgeon for many years and for Doctors Without Borders doing refugee work.

"He knew a lot of medicine, so I taught him the Australian system and about help available in Australia.

"I am so grateful to be here and well supported with up-to-date facilities and everything I have put a reasonable case for has been supported by the managers.

"It is far superior to most city practices and the staff are very kind and supportive. I feel they have enough faith in me and my contributions, so I feel valued and trusted and know they have my back.

"We moved into a territory that was under serviced and it was a new practice, but it counted as MM5. (Modified Monash Mode is used to define whether a location is a city, rural, remote, or very remote).

"So, it was classed as remote but unlike many practices, it has a lot of facilities close by and we have all our specialists close by at SCUH. We don't have to use a royal flying doctor service to a hospital like most remote regions."

Dr Kim said they were enjoying the area so much, with so much to do, all within easy driving distance and she works four days a week now: Monday and Wednesday at Rainbow



Dr Kim Badcoe with great support from Danica and Holly at the Rainbow Beach practice loves her life in Rainbow Beach and the Cooloola Coast.

Beach and Tuesday and Thursday at Cooloola Cove.

"We have a caravan now and we take trips to Bundaberg or Toowoomba for the flower festival and to look at the coastline of Hervey Bay and the Sunny Coast.

"It's just the two of us and we meet up with people on the way.

"One of the fun things is that most people are on holidays and in a great mood and we get lots of little accidents like bites, fishhooks and sunburn etc but they are all in a good mood.

"I love the wildlife and the turtles, whales, dolphins and now as locals you can see them

anytime. We used to go and see them every week and we went up in the helicopter and saw the dugongs.

"You look at resorts and think it would be a downgrade on my life.

"We have had a lot of friends and family visiting and suddenly when you move somewhere like here you have a lot of visitors.

"Being so close to Brisbane and only two hours from the Maroochydore airport it's a quick drive to pick them up and sometimes we jump on the ferry from Noosa, drive them up the beach highway, grab a seafood platter from Lee's seafood and they are very impressed.

"We sometimes take our camping chairs and after work take some prawns and bubbly down to the beach and watch the kids and dogs and just enjoy where we live.

"I do have a boogie board and sometimes go for a quick ride. It's just as much fun as when I was a kid.

"Inskip Point has crystal clear water and white sand, with no waves and sometimes you are the only person on the beach."

Kim said she would always be grateful that when they decided to make a chance in their life, they came upon this opportunity - it was a good choice.

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Don't drive on high tide

By Lee McCarthy

It seems no matter how much social media shaming drivers get and how much ridicule on sites like “I got bogged on Inskip Point“ where these photos were taken, drivers still choose poor driving etiquette when away from home.

These drivers chose to drive on high tide ignoring every instruction not to do so by warnings and information shared by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS).

The DES site has clear information on beach driving, hazards and rules for four-wheel drive owners when driving in the Cooloolo National Park and K'gari (Fraser Island).

The site has a “Driving on sand safety guide” for more detailed information on rules, preparation, hazards, and other handy sand driving tips and recommend drivers read this guide before leaving home and check the current beach and track conditions.

Further instructions are listed as essential guidelines to remember when driving in Cooloolo:

- Avoid travelling at night; washouts and rocks can be difficult to see.
- Always use established or formed tracks when accessing designated beach camp sites behind the foredunes.
- Use existing tracks when accessing the Tee-wah Beach camping area.
- Do not drive over vegetation, park vehicles, or set up camp on a vegetated foredune. Penalties apply.
- Slow down around pedestrians as approaching vehicles are difficult to hear above the sounds of surf and wind.
- Take extra care and slow down around busy meeting spots, such as Double Island Point and Teewah Beach camping area.
- Mudlo Rocks, just south of the beach ramp at Rainbow Beach, are generally impass-



The expensive end to a holiday. Respect what you have come to enjoy. All Photo's “I Got Bogged on Inskip Point”

able at high tide and often at low tide as well, depending on conditions. Use extreme caution; only experienced drivers should attempt the crossing. Conditions change daily. Always check first.

▪ Leisha Track northern entrance is subjected to continuing natural erosion and at times this can impede travel. The track may become totally inaccessible on or around high tide so plan to travel at or near low tide.

▪ Do not park on the Leisha Track.

▪ As well as the hazards mentioned in the safety guide the guide advises changes can occur daily, so it is important to check the website for update

- Deep washouts can happen at any time, particularly after heavy rain and rough seas.
- Wave action can expose dangerous rocks overnight, including Mudlo Rocks.
- Debris, such as tree trunks and coffee rock, is often exposed in the intertidal zone—between high and low tide marks—following severe weather events.

The DES also advised the other significant reason not to drive on the dunes is to protect Endangered marine turtles who use this beach as a nesting and hatching site.

The rules to respect if you wish to visit the Cooloolo Coast are to drive slowly on the beach and avoid driving over nests.

- Keep to the wet sand below the high tide mark to avoid making wheel ruts that may hinder the movement of hatchlings.
- Never drive or park on the dunes and use established tracks to access campsites.
- During breeding season avoid driving on the beach at night and using bright lights between 6pm and 6am.

Fines may apply to visitors disturbing turtle hatchlings or turtle nests.

For more information read the information here before you take your four-wheel drive on the beach visit: parks.des.qld.gov.au/parks/cooloolo/visiting-safely

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Drive to conditions, drive slowly, drive at low tide, beach driving 101.



This accident is from Ngkala Rocks on Fraser Island holding up traffic both ways with many wondering how it could happen.



Not only is driving on the dunes illegal, it is irresponsible and dangerous.



Do not drive on the dunes. Plan your trip and only drive on low tide. Regular beach goers want these drivers banned.

A super guest speaker

In exciting news for the organisers of Ladies Day 2022 Rainbow Beach swimming superstar and business woman Lisa Curry will be joining the festival on Friday Night, 13 May from 5.30pm for a cocktail party and book signing on the top floor of the Rainbow Beach Hotel.

Lisa's latest book titled 'Lisa, a memoir, 60 years of life, love' as told to Ellen Whinnett, is a being published this month and organisers are thrilled to have such a dynamic and accomplished woman opening the event on Friday Night.

According to her publishers, triple Olympian and wellness entrepreneur Lisa has lived her life in the public eye for six decades. In this very personal memoir, she shares the untold story of being Lisa.

"A swimming prodigy who became one of Australia's first fitness entrepreneurs, Lisa Curry swam to Olympic fame in the '80s and '90s. With celerity and celebrity, she became in equal parts the darling of women's magazines and tabloid fodder, until, at 58, a family tragedy nearly consumed her. From the golden girl of Australian swimming to a 'super mum' and now a proud grannie, Lisa Curry has a powerful story to tell of endurance and enduring.

"In 1972, ten-year-old Lisa escaped the heat of a hot and muggy Brisbane day in the local pool when she was spotted by Dawn Fraser's legendary swim coach, Harry Gallagher. Within two years of joining his swim squad, Lisa would be one of the fastest swimmers of her age in the world.

"Over the next 23 years, Lisa honed her natural talent with a legendary work ethic and a punishing training ritual of 5 am starts. Countless hours of long, unbroken swimming of up to 60km a week in solitary union with the black lines of the pool would take Lisa to three Olympic Games: Moscow 1980, Los Angeles 1984, and Barcelona 1992; three Commonwealth Games; and two World Championships. By the time Lisa called time on her sporting career,



A coup for the 2022 Ladies Day at Rainbow Beach is the attendance of Lisa Curry MBE and OAM who will attend the event on Friday Night to speak to guests and sign copies of her new book 'Lisa' - Memoir 60 Years of Life, Love & Loss.

she had become the only Australian to hold Commonwealth and Australian records in every stroke except backstroke, and from 50 to 400 metres, a feat that has not been repeated to this day.

"In this funny, heartbreaking but always life-affirming memoir, Lisa Curry reflects on a life well lived and the experiences that shaped her: swimming, family, marriage, divorce, and love found again. It is a powerful story of re-



Join Lisa Curry at Ladies Day 2022 and pick up a signed copy of her book 'Lisa' from 5.30pm, Friday 13 May on the first floor of the Rainbow Beach Hotel. Tickets available for purchase at Eventbrite.

silience, of highs and lows, and of starting out and starting again."

Organisers said it was an honour to host this remarkable woman in Rainbow Beach and everyone is looking forward to meeting and hearing from this true legend of Australia.

Tickets are available at eventbrite.com.au/e/310174599577 for \$27.50 which includes entry to Friday Night and Saturdays Ladies Day events.

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Cleanup shows our community strength

If you needed any more indication that community spirit is alive and well look no further than the past month of cleaning up in the region with a deluge of flood rubbish coming up via Teewah, Rainbow Beach, Inskip Point and on to K'gari (Fraser Island).

Tangaroa Blue was one the organisations who jumped to action with a clean-up in the area providing seats in their 4WDs for those requiring a lift to the beach.

The team targeted different regions of the beach with their volunteers starting at the northern section of Teewah Beach and organisers said they removed 2.6 tonnes of debris from Cooloola which they record in the Australia Marine Debris Initiative Database.

They said it was interesting to see the range in types of debris along the different zones of the beach.

"Treated timber was high on the list of flood specific items, as well as plastic remnants and pieces of foam.

"Included in the list of unusually high numbers were single-use plastic straws despite them being banned in Queensland and hundreds of tennis balls.

"Perhaps most shocking was the level of microplastics on the northern end near Double Island Point. AUSMAP samples were collected for analysis.

"A massive 'hats off' to the community members, QPWS Parks Rangers and campers that have been working hard to remove the large items from the beach over the last few weeks. Thanks to Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services for your support and to the Adventure Centre 4WD for getting us where we needed to be.

"We would also like to thank the Queensland Department of Environment and Science (QDES) and Ocean Conservancy for the opportunity to serve our South-East Queensland community and environment during such a difficult time."

If you are out in South-East Queensland and notice any flood debris hotspots, Tangaroa Blue want to know about it.

"Weather conditions, tides and currents are continually changing and what seemed a relatively clean beach one day may be a disaster the next."

"Flood debris is a fluid situation, and we are working alongside local partners to respond when and where we can."



Lots of volunteer hours have gone into cleaning up the beaches led by Tangaroa Blue Foundation



The balls the dog didn't catch.
Pictures: TANGAROA BLUE FOUNDATION



The reason straws are now banned - they don't break down but are still being found on the beach

Representatives from Tangaroa Blue said if you can take photos and note GPS locations and tag www.facebook.com/tangaroa.blue the team can keep track of flood debris movements.

Lindy Orwin from Cooloola Coastcare said Maritime Safety Queensland also organised a beach clean-up with Queensland Parks and Wildlife (QPWS) assisting.

She said dozens of citizens were pitching in

every day doing what they could.

"We are all in this together as a community and we appreciate all visitors who pitch in as well."

"The job is huge; it would be nice to have a magic wand, but it takes time sadly."

Thanks to everyone in the community who is doing so much to help keep our beaches clean, it really does make a difference.

Raise a cup for the Biggest Morning Tea

By Lee McCarthy

Join in the fun, meet your neighbours, while you help raise money for cancer at this year's Australian's Biggest Morning Tea being held in May at the at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall.

The Biggest Morning Tea is held annually by the Cancer Council with community groups and individuals invited to host an event to raise money for cancer.

The Rainbow Beach Community Centre will hold their morning tea on 27 May from 9am to 11am at the hall with tea and coffee Devonshire tea for \$10 per person.

They will be serving traditional scones with jam and cream or delicious pumpkin rosemary scones for a little twist for the tastebuds.

According to the Cancer Council, one in two Australians are diagnosed with cancer before the age of 85 and they want to change that and need your help.

"Almost 150,000 Australians are diagnosed with cancer every year and that's 150,000 families who need practical information and support."

"Our cancer nurses and trained volunteers help them understand treatment option, prepare for medical appointments, and organise legal and financial advice."

All these services are made possible by the fundraising during the Biggest Morning Tea events.



Help raise money while enjoying a delicious catered morning tea at the Rainbow Beach Community Hall this May!

In 2021, due to the event, Cancer Council was able to give over 38,000 people impacted by cancer practical and emotion support; provide 102,922 nights of subsidised accommodation to cancer patients going through treatment; transport over 32,000 people

with cancer and their carers to treatment and support people affected by cancer with almost \$2m worth of free legal and financial advice.

Call 131120 for help or to host your own event go to biggestmorningtea.com.au



Stop for a rest or a read or catch up with friends for a while.

Pictures: LYNETTE DIMMOCK

New Bay boardwalk a winner

By Lee McCarthy

Locals and tourists have tried out the new million-dollar Tin Can Bay Boardwalk over the school holidays and have given it the thumbs up.

The Cod Street to Norman Point shared boardwalk project built by Roman Contractors for Gympie Regional Council was open for use over Easter with the stunning walkway meandering along beside the waters of Tin Can Bay enjoying the natural flora of the region.

Council has been progressively upgrading the pedestrian walkway along the Tin Can Bay foreshore to a shared pathway standard, with works also completed between Crab Creek and Oyster Parade.

The funding for this project is through Building our Regions round five for a shared concrete pathway between Oyster Parade and Cod Street and a shared boardwalk between Cod Street and Norman Point.

The boardwalk will complete the off-road shared pathway link between Crab Creek and Norman point for pedestrian and cyclists.

Council required that the successful contractor be suitably experienced in vegetation clearing, elevated boardwalk construction and concrete works.

The boardwalk will now become a destination for travellers who are seeking walking tracks designed to be enjoyed by everyone, from families with small children in strollers and visitors with limited walking abilities or who use wheelchairs.



The new walkway runs parallel to the waters of Tin Can Bay providing views of the bay



The path from Norman Point is now a continuous track of enjoyment to enjoy the view and a walk

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The battle for Cooloola

By Lee McCarthy

According to Greg Wood from Protect Our Parks, recent visits to the Poona Lake site identified for development in Government reports (Site P) have confirmed the extent of damage this development would cause if allowed to proceed.

He said visits with local Kabi Kabi people have counted over 30 large trees on and abutting the proposed 5000 square metre development site.

“Many of these are very large, ancient blackbutt trees. Many of them carry clearly evident signs of cultural practise such as scar-ring,” he said.

“This severe lopping of this grand tree demonstrates the health and safety obligations of ‘tree owners’ to public safety in and around trees in public areas.

“Imagine then the safety assessment profile applied upon high paying guests in accommodation located directly beneath the massive trees that stand on the Poona Lake development site.

“It is simply not honest to imply that both can co-exist.”

He said the impact to this truly magical site would be immense and dreadful.

“It would be catastrophic to the integrity of the Lake catchment. It would decimate all reasonable standards of ecological good practise. It would make a hoax of the term ‘Eco-tourism’, although perhaps that is the industry’s intent. If so, the State Government should not be assisting with any such program of deceit.”

Matthew Noffke from Keep Cooloola Cool said The Queensland Government’s own consultant’s advice explicitly says these trees are a safety risk - infrastructure and people equal the removal of trees. He said to remember this is only one of five sites earmarked and thanked Wit-Boooka, Auntie Dawn, Auntie Kay, Uncle Mack for showing the group around



Lake Poona is only one of the locations earmarked for development with plans also in discussion to erect cabins at Double Island Point.

Kabi Kabi country.

Minister for the Environment Meaghan Scanlon sent a letter to objectors and said: “To ensure compliance with these requirements, the department has undertaken extensive investigation of the preferred proponent’s preferred eco-accommodation sites and proposed commercial operations.”

“This has been guided by advice from independent ecological, cultural heritage and groundwater experts and in consultation with key local stakeholders such as local Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service staff, the Noosa Parks Association, and representatives of the Kabi Kabi First Nations People registered Native Title claimants.”

Greg Woods replied: “Sadly, the Minister’s reply completely failed to address the actual content of the petition. This was very clearly

and specifically the matter of private development being allowed within the State’s National Parks. Not one word in the Minister’s reply addressed this core matter.”

Admin of Keep Cooloola Cool Matthew Noffke, said on March 25: “Today is the first day that the Kabi Kabi native title claim group have been invited to give any feedback on the Cooloola Great Walk ‘Eco’ Tourism Proposal.”

He said Gympie and Noosa Shire Councils along with other organisations discussed the proposal in 2019, and asked why has it taken three years for this project to be taken to the Kabi Kabi claim group only for them to consider a proposal to grant a private commercial operator a 30 Year Lease in the National Park?

“Why were Kabi Kabi people not given the opportunity to develop the proposal into something that was actually beneficial for

them? Not just be informed of what is on offer 3 years down the track with very little room to change anything.”

He begged Meaghan Scanlon MP and Stirling Hinchliffe MP to abandon plans for ‘eco’ tourism.

According to Ralf Buckley, director of the International Centre for Ecotourism Research at Griffith University, state governments in Australia should resist calls to allow private tourist developments inside national parks.

“Most tourists come to parks for scenery, wildlife and low impact recreation such as hiking.

“To boost tourism, the best approach is to improve facilities for these activities by public investment in trails, lookouts, toilets and signage and private investment in accommodation on adjacent private land.”

He said all the evidence points to the Australian public preferring basic public-access facilities in parks rather than higher priced restricted access facilities.

“Australians also object strongly to losing national park access for the sake of private profit.”

Mr Wood said the article makes significant and incisive points that directly conflict with the Minister’s recent reply to the Petition objecting to Private development in Qld’s National Parks.

“It seems plainly evident that the Government’s expert advice on this policy and project framework is coming directly from expert corporate lobbyists and not from independent experts. It is even more concerning that the predominant public sentiments not being listened to directly align with the independent expert views that aren’t being listened to. An enormous amount of not listening at massive public expense going on here.”

The reply, the original petition text, are provided on the ProtectOurParks website:

<https://www.protectparks.net/reports-and-documents>

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Our Ronnie and the pantry

By Lee McCarthy

Every community needs a 'Ronnie Timperon' in it, someone who is unfailingly there for the community and who puts the needs of others ahead of herself.

A strong Christian, Ronnie was living and working in Cairns in 2013 for Uniting Care Community when she was made redundant and felt a calling to apply for the position of Chaplain in Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay.

With parents living in nearby Tewantin, she and her husband Mike decided to make the move to the halfway mark and settled into Tin Can Bay with Ronnie working two days a week at Tin Can Bay School and two days in Rainbow Beach.

In 2017, after moving to Gympie and travelling that road twice a day, four days a week, Ronnie took up a position as Chaplain at Gympie South where she stayed until 2020.

Ronnie said she still loved Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay and had great memories from her time there.

"I particularly missed Rainbow Beach School and the community spirit, so I applied for a transfer to start back at Rainbow Beach at the beginning of 2021 and was welcomed with open arms," she said.

"I was involved in KindyLinQ and got to know a lot of the parents and we had a great year getting the garden happening again and being able to support families.

"We had a lot of ideas including putting in for a tuckshop renovation using a Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation grant."

Unfortunately for both the school and for Ronnie, when the mandates came out requiring all staff and volunteers to be vaccinated, she had no choice but to leave.

"I was crushed to leave but our family is firmly against vaccinations, so I lost my job. When the principal (Steve Bennett) asked if I would be there next year, I said no, not if I need to be vaccinated.

"That was really hard, and I didn't want to go. They had a final assembly for the year where Steve arranged for a beautiful bunch of flowers to be presented to me and I was really upset. I grieved as it was my dream job."

While chatting to the then School P & C



Community Pantry organiser Ronnie Timperon with artist Mo Riggs who helps by teaching art for students being home schooled.

President Jed Elmer and his wife Tyla about what 2022 would look like with mandates, the conversation turned to offering alternative activities for families who were considering homeschooling and an opportunity to give these parents a break.

"I put together a program including sewing, computing, cooking, fishing and art in the first term and the children have really enjoyed it and learnt new skills. We will be introducing new activities in the coming term with the help of some Rainbow Beach locals to keep it fresh and interesting.

"Continuing to be involved in the community kind of saved me because I'm an organiser

and planner and feel that's my gift and I absolutely love working with kids and families."

At the same time Ronnie started the Community Pantry and kicked it off just before Christmas 2021.

They have had sixty visits from thirty different single people and families since that time, who are doing it tough and genuinely need help, which gave Ronnie and her helpers the chance to support them.

The pantry was run each Tuesday and Thursday from the Church of Good Shepherd on Carlo Road with donations from locals and the assistance of Woolworths Cooloola Cove who are striving for zero landfill by 2025.

Unfortunately, a few weeks ago the Gympie Anglican Church Board decided to enforce the church-wide rule that anyone working or volunteering for the Anglican Church must be vaccinated, so Ronnie was not able to continue with the pantry at the present location.

Kids' activities were also not permitted and the Learning Community is very grateful to the Rainbow Beach Community Centre who came to the rescue offering space to continue with their activities.

The Learning Community activities are held from 9am to 12 noon Tuesdays and Thursdays to give the parents who are homeschooling a chance to have a break, have a chat, meet other parents, and volunteer as a helper.

"In the afternoon Sarah and Dean from Rainbow Beach Learn to Surf take the kids bushwalking, kayaking, bodyboarding, rock hopping or surfing."

The Rainbow Beach Community Pantry under the governance of Pindari Life Ltd, a charity dedicated to supporting families, recently became a member of Foodbank which provides fresh produce and pantry items at a reduced cost to charities. Ronnie approached Geoff from McClintock Transport who is willing to transport the food items from Rocklea to Gympie each Monday afternoon, where Ronnie will pick them up and bring to Rainbow on Tuesday mornings. The Pantry will begin operating again on 9 May from a new location TBC with hampers filled with fresh fruit and vegetables and pantry products every Tuesday from 10am until 12noon.

"While I'm not working as a chaplain, I still hope people feel they can talk to me as a chaplain or a friend. I am a trained counsellor and financial counsellor, and I find it very rewarding to be able to help people when they are in need of a listening ear.

"People sometimes just need someone to talk to. Being a chaplain has been the most amazing job and not what I expected, and I hope that even though I am not at the school, I can continue to support the Rainbow Beach community."

If you would like to register for a hamper which will cost \$10 to cover transport and some food items, please give Ronnie a call on 0413 135 867.

How do you see a future Cooloola Coast?

By Lee McCarthy

The Gympie Regional Council invited the community to have a say on its 2022-27 Corporate Plan with drop in sessions organised over the recent school holidays.

According to Council, Gympie region councillors have been reflecting on and discussing their vision for the region in areas such as community development, infrastructure, growth and the environment as part of the new plan's development.

Mayor Glen Hartwig said that the group

has come up with what it thinks is a good foundation for building the region's future, and is now ready to check-in with the community.

"Council's Corporate Plan sets a clear direction for council's CEO in providing for, servicing and developing the region," he said,

"This means that the content of our Corporate Plan very much impacts the projects being delivered by council and the day-to-day work of its various teams,

"We have a very active and involved community and we want to make sure that every-

one's voices are heard so that we can direct council's resources accordingly."

Drop in sessions throughout the region were originally planned for mid-March; however, the recent flood event meant that council had to reconsider its approach and held the event in Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach on 12 April 2022.

While you can still view a snapshot of the 2022-27 draft Corporate Plan by visiting council's website, the online consultation process closed on 13 April 2022 disappointing many with one local resident saying she

was disappointed that any suggestions/additions/changes to the plan had to be in the day after the meetings.

The Corporate Plan is marketed as a five-year strategic document that describes Council's short-term vision for the future of the Gympie region which also outlines the broad steps that the organisation will take to deliver on the vision.

For further information or enquiries you can make contact directly to your local councillor.



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Crowd favourite, ‘Turtle Family’ by Team Janicky, won the People’s Choice Award and the team wanted to say thank you to the local businesses who supported the event by donating prizes and to thank to everyone who voted for them.



Team ‘Big Chunga two and a half’ excited to be taking part in the challenge



Team Sandmasters prepared and looking for a day of fun

Sensational sandcastles

The 2022 Rainbow Beach Sandcastle Competition held last week attracted a terrific turn-out of visitors and locals, with 22 teams creating incredible sand sculptures on the main beach north of the flags.

The exuberance of the entrants was matched by fierce competitiveness with every team feeling confident of victory and indeed all deserved a medal for the enthusiasm and sportsmanship shown.

The day was a nod to halcyon family days at the beach giggling, playing in the sand and having a chat to your beach neighbours.

Organiser Ronnie Timperon said she was thrilled to see the beach full of happy families and friends who dedicated two hours to working hard on their unique designs which ranged from a traditional sandcastle complete with stairs and turrets, to a mother turtle and her babies scurrying towards the ocean and everything in between.

Ronnie said the idea of holding a sandcastle competition came from a childhood memory.

“My father was President of the local Progress Association and used to run similar competitions at a small beach-side town called Weymouth in northern Tasmania.

“It seemed like the whole town came down to the beach on those days to build sandcastles and it brought everyone together, with people making friends with other residents that they had only ever seen in passing driving down the street.”

Arron McCormack from Sandshapers on the Sunshine Coast spent the morning creating an incredible sleeping dragon to the delight of those taking part in the competition and locals and visitors taking a morning stroll along the beach.

He then had the difficult task of judging the winners of the three categories: best sea creature (winning team Fishbones), best sandcastle (winning team Seagulls) and a miscellaneous category (winning team Sandsation).

Entrants and passers-by were each given a token to vote for their favourite sand creation in the People’s Choice category which was won by Team Janicky.

Great prizes for the winners of each category were donated by local businesses and included vouchers from the Frying Fish Cafe, Rainbow Beach Pizza, Soul Food and Creme de la Creme with toys, fishing rods and caps donated by Gympie Sportspower, the Rainbow Beach Post Office and Rainbow Beach Hardware and Easter eggs from Rainbow Beach IGA.

“I would also like to thank Sam and Maureen Mitchell from the Rainbow Beach Tourist Information Centre who donated a ball to every child who participated in the competition and Traveston McDonald’s who donated vouchers for the winning teams.”

“Special thanks to Cooloola Coast Realty, Rainbow Beach Realty and the Rainbow Beach Community News for their assistance of finance allowing Arron from Sandshapers to be present on the day and with supplies for the sausage sizzle.”

Ronnie’s wonderful helpers who looked after registration and the sausage sizzle included Jed Elmer, Bec Hunt, Kerry Sleath, Sarah Booth, Sandra Lindenberg, Nate Hunt and Marcus Anderson, plus a few others who were roped in on the day.

Money raised from the event will go towards supporting the Rainbow Beach Learning Community which provides activities such as sewing, cooking, art, craft and computer skills for children who are being home schooled.



Arron McCormack with his sandcastle demonstration at the Rainbow Beach Sandcastle Competition held over Easter. Arron has a business called Sandshapers on the Sunshine Coast



What a ‘sandsational’ effort by all for the sandcastle competition held over Easter at Rainbow Beach!



Team Sandsation from Maleny were an odds on favourite with a famous sculptor in the team



Team Tina are no strangers to fun in the sun and sand and were keen to get going



The mighty ‘Crocs’ hoping for victory at the sandcastle competition

Rainbow resilience study

By Lee McCarthy

Audrey Cetois is in the first phase of her PhD with University of Queensland and is conducting a resilience survey in Rainbow Beach and is seeking help from residents.

The whole project is by and for Rainbow Beach residents with the first community engagement activity the Rainbow Beach Community Vision and Resilience survey.

“The ideal project considers all the voices in Rainbow Beach and so the more people come forward and share their ideas and views the better. For the survey, a 100 completed survey is the goal.

“A key part of resilience is preparedness. When we think about what could go wrong and we become aware of our strengths and challenges, that’s the beginning of preparedness.”

This survey takes about twenty minutes and contains questions relating to you and your life in Rainbow Beach, your vision for Rainbow Beach’s future, and your views on Rainbow Beach community resilience.



University of Queensland PhD student Audrey Cetois is compiling information with a survey for a report on resilience in Rainbow Beach

Entries will close at the end of April and Audrey is planning to make the survey results available a few weeks after that.

In July-September community workshops and other activities will take place with Audrey planning to have the Resilience Action Plan available by the end of this year.

“All constructive feedback is welcome. The

stakeholders for this project are the community residents but also the council, disaster organisations, infrastructure and utilities, and many others. They all play a part in Rainbow Beach resilience. “

The survey results are providing a baseline for how the community views its future and residents’ thoughts on resilience. This will guide the next community activities.

“The Survey report could also be used when interacting with the council or other organisations, for future planning for example.”

Audrey first interviewed resilience professionals and community members to understand what resilience meant to them.

“I happened to interview a Rainbow Beach community member and I gained a lot of insight in Rainbow Beach context. After chatting and interviewing a few locals, I sensed a need for and interest in the project, and I decided to work with Rainbow.”

“We know that resilience is very much about context. For example, what resilience is for Gympie CBD, Tin Can Bay, or Rainbow

Beach would look quite different. This is because of a multitude of factors like demographics, income sources, geography and so on. A CSIRO framework was tested in different contexts, mostly overseas, to build resilience for droughts for example. I hope to find out how the framework can be applied to meet Australian communities need.”

Audrey said the framework includes a series of community activities. Those activities include the creation of a core group of residents who will drive the project, hopefully beyond my involvement because my PhD will end.

“This core group of residents have already started to emerge, and it is very exciting. The goal of my PhD is the co-production of the Rainbow Beach Resilience Action Plan, and for the core group to be in situation where they can implement it.”

Please complete the survey by putting this link in your website browser. <https://survey.app.uq.edu.au/rainbow-beach-community-vision>

The PhD thesis is due in the second half of 2023.

New Commercial Hub?

Rainbow Beach township is about to be dissected with the proposed new petrol station and convenience stores located on the entry to town.

The township will now be legible as having a twin centre of commercial activity, between which is primarily open space of the centre block and the sports club grounds. A weak connection of service facilities, built environment quality and of low activity, especially visually. The capture of the visitors and tourists at a convenience outlet for fuel, food, beverages and convenience items will impact greatly on the existing retail and commercial facilities of the Town Block.

It is envisaged that Carlo Road will now be the shortest and quickest route to the Barge and K’gari, thus dissecting the town into primarily a “Local Resident” Precinct and a “Tourist/Visitor” Precinct. Both physically and visually distant with nothing of significance to join the two. Seen to be too far to walk, too far to investigate, too long to stop and “fuel up with food, coffee, beverages and ATM, not enticing and only visited for alternative fuel and air for beach going vehicles.

Can the Town Block survive as a pedestrian/car park centre of local businesses and services without the thoroughfare of tourists to shop, purchase souvenirs, be entertained and serviced with similar shop items?

Will there now be a separate commercial hub for travellers passing through? More traffic through the residential zone adjacent Carlo Road, the School and Industrial zone?

Are traffic devices and signage to be located for traffic calming and pedestrian safety, directional and information signage and wayfinding at the town entry as well as at Carlo Road intersection?

Will the IGA car park entry and exit be re-designed for safety from speed and mis-direction to the car parking there? Will the seafood outlet and laundromat/shower facility be ignored/by passed?

Has this development been a piecemeal consideration without due research/study of the economic impact and the social impact of this “twin centre” on the existing community and businesses?

Has the Gympie Regional Council considered the impact and future impacts of the “void” between the two centres? Its zoning and land uses, potential uses and opportunities availed ?

Has there been a “pro-active” and long term consideration to the future development infills to conjoin these two commercial activity centres?

Who is responsible for the impacts on both the residents and businesses of today?

Can we now see and be involved in the future development opportunities between the two?

Have council officers addressed this occurrence foreseen?

It would be advisable to have these matters shared with the community and businesses as we all envisage a future for Rainbow to be a sustainable economic, social and environmental town and community.

Scott Taylor, resident, Registered Landscape Architect, Urban designer, Master planner, Terrain Consultants P/L

Flag etiquette

Would someone please follow the etiquette for flags at the Rainbow Beach SES and Fire Station?

Flags left flying during the night require to

be lit at all night hours or be taken down each evening.

It is very disrespectful to not light them during night hours! Disrespectful to the nation, the veterans and to us all.

The local council, state and federal governments all have pamphlets for flag etiquette.

Especially now that Anzac Day is soon upon us all.

Scott Taylor

Blurred snapshot

The presentation by Cr. Jess Milne of the Corporate Plan “snapshot” to Rainbow Beach residents who attended was somewhat “blurred” by the lack of definition of the Corporate Plan and its function and status within the community and the administration of council.

Like a school class photo, there was only one attendee smiling broadly, while all others had expressions of misunderstanding and a diminished interest in the actual plan, being distracted by their individual concerns in life.

As for all community meetings the agenda focus is normally lost in the concerns voiced in regard to everyday living problems eg; dump times and fees, litter, parks and the town planning zones and public nuisance issues. All of which were mis-directed at the actual target and purpose of the meeting.

Snapshots can be useful in consultations however a sharp focus is warranted to achieve the successful communication of the topic to the audience.

Questions from the floor of twenty attendees became a majority of day to day lifestyle issues of living and enjoying Rainbow Beach, all of which fell under the motherhood statements included in the Corporate Plan and the Mission of Council, however remained unanswered sufficiently yet noted.

The council’s Corporate Plan is the document that directs the attitude and purpose of council’s being; whilst also its own behaviour in being and fulfilling it’s role as an elected manager and administrator of the community’s aspirations. The document is warm and fuzzy and comfortable to the authors but not to the community they serve.

We should be attracting and directing the council’s focus on aims, objectives and achievements of their being and doing; hard facts, hard performance measures and resolutions of the community’s desires, needs and wishes in a balanced outcome for each issue addressed.

Their mode of operation is described by high level statements of comforts pleasing to the senses, but impractical to the reality of problem solving and achievement of a quality of life, of the environment and social and commercial vitality of the region and more so, its various diverse communities as they relate to each other under a single council of elected members.

The call for accountability of both councillors and staff in their administration was a strong point of interest that concluded the meeting leaving many with a blurred picture of the management structure to lead the elected members’ attention to the actual and real and not the broad= brush reactions typical of the past and present.

Lets see a response to the reality of living by a pro-active corporate plan rather than a reactive corporate direction expressed by motherhood statements of comfort to the Administration and discomfort to the community they exist to serve.

The next school class photo may have many more satisfied smiles!

Scott Taylor



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William and Cooper Hallas. The smiles say it all really!!

Big tides clean the Bay

By Chris Rippon, The Chandlery Bait & Tackle

G'day Crew, I hope you have all had a great time over the Easter holidays and got to spend some quality time with your loved ones and ate a bucket load of chocolate while doing so. It looks like the weather actually held out for the best part of it and the extra-long weekend we got, although a little windy the rain mainly fell overnight. It has also started to get a little fresh of the mornings and later in the evening. I actually busted out my new Shimano hoody on Good Friday and the Uggy's got a run Saturday night too, Summer is well and truly behind us now.

The big tides in the lead up to the full moon have helped to clean up the water colour in The Bay a fair bit and it's starting to look a little bluer each day. It won't be too long now till the pelagics turn up in force in the Tin Can Bay inlet and the Straits.

We should expect to start seeing good schools of mackerel and tuna turn up any week now. I am tipping it will be a bumper season for them in The Bay and don't stress, we will be fully stocked with all the tackle you need to target these fun, fast fighting speedsters.



A nice queen fish taken using live bait on board Great Sandy Strait Sports Fishing Charters.

We are busy making trolling bait rigs as we speak and have orders of lures turning up every day in preparation. For the lure fishos we will even retro fit your slug in store for you with

single hooks, just ask any of the staff and they will happily do it for you and show you what to do so you can do it yourself next time if you wish to.

For me personally, this mean chasing the long tail tuna around The Bay with the 10wt fly rod. I love chasing longies on fly, they can be extremely frustrating at times but when a plan comes together it's bloody awesome to see the eat, clear the line off the deck and watch that 1st blistering run and try not to get you knuckles dusted as the reel lights up. I have a goal this year to try and catch a 10kg longy on 20lb tippet and a 7wt rod. I'm thinking the sharks might be my biggest problem if I hook up nearby Inskip, wish me luck...

Even with the cooler nights, reports of mangrove jack catches still have not slowed down. Fishing smaller lures on the last of the dropping tide has been key to catching a couple in the last few weeks and they have been biting on the Molix 3.5"RT Shads in colours Wakasagi and Blueback Herring.

The 3" Zman Slim Swimz in Calico Candy & Pearl colours have also been working well. Prawn style lures have also been catching. Bait fishos have been doing well to soak a bait in the snags and deeper holes on the high tide. Fresh strip bait and small live baits for the win there and remember to try and go as light as you can on the lead and leader.



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Chris Rippon with a tilapia (Tilapia are an introduced and very invasive species. Tilapia must be killed and disposed of by either burying above the high-water mark near the place of capture or placing in a nearby bin. They CAN NOT be released back into the water way).



Dell with a nice grassy from Tin Can Bay.

Queenfish have been coming in thick and fast and have not been turned off by the dirty water. Live pike seem to be their poison in Tin Can Bay, and we have been seeing most fish being caught well over a meter in length. Inskip Point and The Bluff on the big tides have been the place to catch one of these giants. Lightly weighted or unweighted live bait will be your best bet to catch one.

The lead up to the moon saw some nice crabs being caught and by the sounds of it lots of people had a crab dinner on Good Friday! Teebar, Snapper and Kauri have all been fishing well for a feed of muddies.

Up the dams, fishos have been making to most of the warm weather whilst it lasts and chasing a few toga on top water. Toga and bass are both very susceptible to being caught on lure or fly and toga are a great visual fish to sight cast to. Surface poppers and walk the dog lures are a great way to gain the interest of a saratoga working his beat. But with the cooler weather on our doorstep it's only a matter of days before the westerly winds kick in and shut them down till summer. You will still catch them in the deeper water, but you will need to work a lot harder. For me, Toga is all about seeing them cruise over and eat the fly/lure.

Marquise and I took a quick walk down the Mary (River) the other day to chase a few sooties and bass on soft plastics. While the fishing wasn't red hot, we did manage a couple of sooties, one bass and also managed to rid the Mary of a number of tilapia.

Until recently, I didn't know that there was tilapia in the Mary River. It is such a shame as

they are now there for good. I have to say, they are a pretty fish and seem to all be of a good size, but they have a fight like a wet sock. If you do catch a tilapia, please remember that in Queensland they are a NO take species. Tilapia is a restricted noxious fish under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and if you catch a tilapia, you must immediately humanely kill and dispose of them by burying them above the high-water mark or disposing of them in a nearby bin. You are not allowed to take them home for a feed either.

If you're bored or the kids want to do something different, why not head down to the Mary River and try and catch a few and help clean up this pest fish. You can target them on small lures, frozen prawn bait, live worms and even strips of chicken and steak. You'll be helping out our native fish by taking a few tilapia out of the system and have fun making a few memories with the kids or your mates.

Well, that's enough from me this month, so till next time, tight lines and get out there and enjoy our beautiful region.

Tight Lines

Chris

The Chandlery Bait & Tackle for all your fishing and boating needs.

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 and Facebook message us or post your pics directly to our fb page for your chance to win big! www.facebook.com/thechandlerybaitandtackle



Indyana Johnston with a great flathead from out the front of her house, caught using a 4" Gulp Shad.



Duncan Wood with a chainman from Tbar Ledge.



Luke Andrews with a thumper of a queenfish.

Winners sure are grinners

Congratulations to all the super stars who entered the colouring in competition and guessing game over Easter at Big 4 Breeze Caravan Park Rainbow Beach at Carlo Point.

Organised by the team from the Big 4 Breeze, special congratulations to the winners of 'Guess the number of eggs' Irish and John, who were spot on with their guess of 198 eggs.



The colouring in competition was a crowd pleaser organised by Big 4 Breeze Holiday Park Rainbow Beach.

The Colouring-In competition winners were Danton, Danielle, Lacey and Archie.

The park was full over the Easter school holidays with families enjoying the refurbished park with the weather holding superb throughout allowing families to enjoy this well earned holiday.



Its great to be a winner in the Easter colouring in acompetition at Big 4 Breeze.



When you get to have fun colouring in and also get to win a prize - it's a great Easter at Big 4 Breeze Rainbow Beach.



Lot of entries but only 4 winners for the colouring in competition but who cares if you are a winner!



Guessing how many easter eggs are in a jar is tricky business but two visitors tied for first place guessing 198 eggs!

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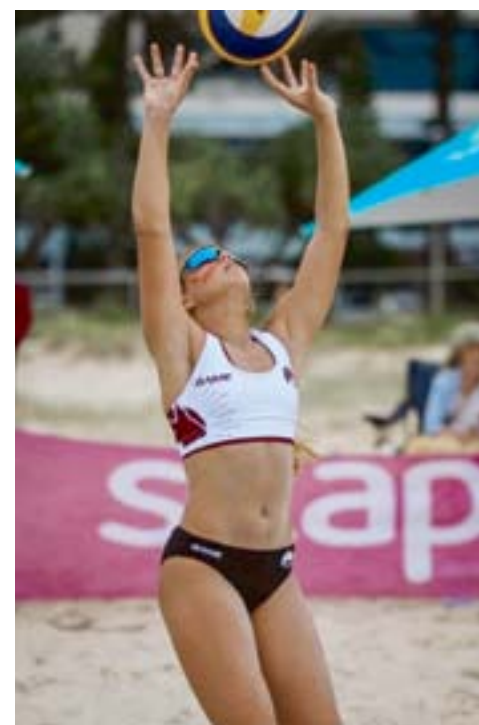
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Sienna said team talk and encouragement were key elements of her strategy to win Australian Gold.



Agile and fast on her feet, 13 year old Sienna Arthur played up in the under 15 Australian competition.



A girl with a big heart and a big future, Sienna Arthur plays to win gold at the Australian Titles. Pictures: ROGUE GUN PHOTOGRAPHY

Sienna brings home gold

By Lee McCarthy

Rainbow Beach local talent, Sienna Arthur has returned from the four-day Australian Youth Beach Volleyball championships on the Gold Coast as an Australian Gold Medallist.

This little pocket rocket is all passion, technique, athleticism, and the 13-year-old shows incredible spirit when competing to keep herself and her teammates confident and positive.

One of her super strengths is her ability to dive and keep the ball off the ground from years of practice competing in the flags events for the Rainbow Beach Surf Club.

Sienna is in grade eight at Tin Can Bay school and has a big career ahead of her showing maturity beyond her age on and off the court. She must compete in under 15 as she turns 14 in November 2022 so is competing much higher than her age.

Her parents Dave and Suzie Arthur are her biggest fans, also exceptional players and remarkable coaches and encourage not only

Sienna but all who compete seeing their abilities and helping transform them to gold medal winners.

While Sienna won the Under 15 gold, her friend Tom Bergerman, who towers over her, won the under 15 mens and both Dave, Suzie and Sienna are full of praise and congratulations for this young man, quite new to the game, who Suzie discovered when teaching at James Nash High School.

In incredible news, both Dave and Suzie, Sienna's parents will be returning to teaching this semester after a terrifying cancer diagnosis took them away from work and coaching for eighteen months.

Dave said following many life changes and immunotherapy he has now been given a good report and thanks brother Tony who has been looking after the sport in his absence.

Sienna competed with the best athletes from across Australia from under 14 to under 19 with all states represented except WA.

The competition was held from the 28 to

the 31 March 2022 at the Gold Coast with Sienna playing all week winning every match.

Dave said they had a tight match against Victoria in the quarter final which went to a decider set and they only won by two points in wet and windy conditions.

Dave and Suzie said it was thanks to the Tin Can Bay school and the coaching staff who offered great support and program that started Sienna on this journey.

While Dave is going back to work next Tuesday, he said thanks to his brother who has been holding down the fort at school and said he thinks Tony is certainly looking forward to his returning.

Sienna said the championships were hard but awesome and keeping positive was important during the weeklong carnival.

"I had to try to keep positive and I did that by cheering on others and congratulating on every point – every point was important."

"It is so much fun because you are with your friends and play hard and making new friends

which I'm getting better at – you have to get used to it."

She said she is improving her communication and confidence with her teammates and always hyping and talking before and during the game.

"I definitely feel stronger too."

She said she doesn't mind the yelling which was loud from the sidelines and said it helps sometimes depending on what the words are but especially if they are encouraging and nice.

Like all athletes she must eat well during the competition with big breakfasts and dinners and Sienna said bananas are the best snack with lots of fresh water.

"What we want to see is more team sport and volleyball in our community," Dave said. "The sport is super strong, and the best thing is you don't need to be able to run fast to play."

With Sienna now seeded number one in Queensland and number one in Australia Dave said they were really looking forward to next year.

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