

Douglas Shire News Newspport

PRINT

Thursday, May 21, 2026

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FREE

Your locally sourced, printed and recycled newspaper is an extension of the Newsport Daily website, established in 2009

Ready to rock



Author's global launch - P3



Swell new boat for Port - P7

Shaun Hollis
Savannah Sounds headline act Jon Stevens says he is ready to bring "hit after hit after hit" to Port Douglas this Saturday night as part of Carnivale 2026.
Speaking to Newsport in the lead-up to the much-loved Far North Queensland festival, Stevens says he is looking forward to returning to a region he has been to many times before and loves.
*Continued Page 8
Special report, Pages 8-9*

What does the Federal Budget mean to the Shire? - P2-5



CARNIVALE

AT

COSMOS

DRESS TO IMPRESS COCKTAIL PARTY
SATURDAY MAY 23RD

FREE ENTRY!

26-9 GRANT STREET PORT DOUGLAS



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Newspost Print welcomes your community story submissions. Submissions can be emailed to editor@newspost.com.au. Please include the what, when, why and how and, preferably, with a picture. Please also include a direct phone number and a full name so we can verify and confirm any further details when required to do so. Please keep your submission or story to no more than 200 words and as succinct as possible. Newspost reserves the right to edit, modify, change and re-write your submission for clarity, brevity or legal reasons. The publishing of all contributed submissions is at the sole discretion of the editor. Newspost Print also welcomes your story ideas, tips and leads.

Fishing for illegal catch

Shaun Hollis

Border security is a strong focus of this year's Federal Budget, with illegal foreign fishing, border patrols and increased background checking all expected to receive millions in funding.

Close to \$56m has been allocated to address "border and biosecurity threats" from illegal foreign fishing in the country's northern waters, including off the coast of Queensland.

The money will go towards patrols by the Australian Border Force and the Australian Fisheries Management Authority, supporting prosecutions by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and legal support by the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission.

More than \$18m is expected to be allocated to the Australian Federal Police and the ABF to continue to combat people smuggling, while \$14.5m has been pencilled in for the upkeep of new ABF patrol boats.



Illegal fishing and other border-security measures are a strong focus of the Federal Budget. Picture: Supplied

There is a total of \$40.4 million set to be made available in the 2026/27 financial year to sustain Australian Federal Police and Australian Border Force operations to counter transnational, serious and organised crime, building on operations begun last year to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

The Federal Government said it would provide close to \$67m across the next four years to help streamline AusCheck's background checking services.

The Government said \$88.6m in total would be provided in 2026-27 to support Australia's border security.



Be Our Party Favour – Show Off Douglas This Carnivale

Port Douglas came in at number two in Australian Traveller's list of 100 Best Towns to Visit in 2026 and this weekend is our chance to show why we deserve the top spot next time.

My advice is simple. Party hard, don your unofficial tourism ambassador hat and be loud and proud with your Douglas Shire passion during Port Douglas Carnivale.

The Friday Night Street Parade and the Tin Shed Family Beach Day are iconic for a reason — they're the events everyone knows and looks forward to each year. But Carnivale stretches far beyond those two cornerstones.

This year's Savannah Sounds, proudly presented by Douglas Shire Council and Newport, brings another line-up to get excited about. Friday night kicks off with Sneaky Sound System, Saturday delivers a powerhouse double with Jon Stevens alongside Vanessa Amorosi and Sunday closes with Dragon. If you're too young to remember their 80s heyday, give them a quick Google — I guarantee a few of those classics will ring a bell and have your toes tapping.

We're also excited to welcome the inaugural Coastal Show and Shine on Sunday — a celebration of cars, bikes and unique vehicles. Grab a voting ticket for a gold coin donation and help choose the People's Choice winner.

For families, Carnivale might just be the answer to the daily challenge of keeping kids off their devices. Last weekend the kids had fun at Blast Lab and Slime of Your Life! Kids vs Parents at the Paramour Big Top. Now the fun continues with dressing up and taking part in the parade, building a sandcastle at the beach day, or getting your fix of fun and games at sideshow alley.

Across the weekend you'll find cabaret, comedy, art exhibitions, projections on the Sugar Wharf and a huge range of partner events at the Sheraton Grand, Pullman, Hemingway's, Mirage Country Club and more.



This weekend is our chance to show the rest of the country why Port Douglas should be number one.

My final message is simple: turn out in force this weekend and show everyone that the Douglas Shire is the place to be for people of all ages. If you see a visitor looking a little lost or lonely, point them in the right direction or start up a conversation. And make sure you post your photos on social media. Authentic, grassroots coverage from locals is the best promotion Carnivale could ever ask for.

After the testing end to this year's wet season, our tourism industry could use a lift. We didn't need a travel list to tell us we live in tropical paradise but coming in at number two certainly didn't hurt. And this weekend is our chance to show the rest of the country why Port Douglas should be number one.

And before I sign off — Port Douglas and Cape Tribulation are finalists in the Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards so please jump online and vote. Voting closes on Sunday 24 May and winners will be announced in mid-June.

Operation rescue the Reef is on

Shaun Hollis

Projects involving the Great Barrier Reef are set to receive more than \$100m in Federal Government funding in the next two years.

Last week's Federal Budget shows the projects include \$86.8m over two years for restoration projects and supporting the implementation of the Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan, \$5m on reef monitoring, protection, and stewardship activities through the Tourism Reef Protection Initiative, and \$3.2m from July for the Oceans Leadership Package.

There is continued funding allocated for the Marine Park Authority of about \$35m across two years, continuing funding for Protecting and Restoring the Great Barrier Reef of about \$57m across two years, and \$27m funding to



decrease risks to threatened and protected fish species across two years. An additional \$4.6m has been allocated across two years to support stronger paddock-to-reef monitoring, modelling and reporting, which will "enhance Australia's understanding of the impacts of investments in land and sea country restoration and measures to further prevent degradation", according to the budget papers.

The Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan is described as being part of a broader commitment to protect the Great Barrier Reef and secure reef jobs.

Who gets the biggest pie piece?

Where does the largest percentage of the Federal Government's total spending of about \$833 billion go in the 2026-27 budget estimates?

Social security and welfare receives 37.1 per cent of the funding,

while health ends up with 16.4 per cent. Education (6.9 per cent) and Defence (6.2 per cent) come next.

Social security and welfare received \$297.8 billion in 2025/26 and will receive \$308.7 billion in 26/27 - up about 11 billion or 3.7 per cent.

High power book launch



Scan for the full story



Samantha Ross is launching her first novel globally. Picture: Supplied

A global release at the start of next month, more than 25 magazine interviews, and 20 years of rejections - Port Douglas author Samantha Ross says it is "surreal" to finally see her debut novel hitting the shelves.

Possible Springs, a mystery novel with a hint of magical realism, will be released across the world by Penguin Random House on Tuesday, June 2.

"Through those 20 years of rejections it was in great part my

community that kept me going when I lacked faith in myself that I would ever make it," Ross told Newsport last week.

"Their faith and belief in me kept me going when I forgot how to believe in myself."

Ross, who says she grew up with a medium grandmother, says she in part manifested her publishing deal with Penguin by envisioning her publisher, who she'd never seen before, smiling while reading her manuscript.



NEXT BUSINESS MEETING

Mocka's Pies - 27th May 2026, 7am
Guest speaker: Erica Mast

And don't forget to come support us at Port Douglas Carnivale!
Friday 22nd - 4pm to 8pm - food area

THANKS TO:

Maloney Butchery, Mocka's Pies, Temptations Mossman
Craig Schofield | 0419 494 800 | Douglas.fnq@rotary9560.org



Delivering new classrooms at Cairns State Special School



As well as delivering new classrooms at Cairns State Special School, here are some of the ways the new Queensland Government is delivering for Far North Queensland:

- Delivering emergency communication between Cooktown and Cairns
- Delivering public transport for Babinda, Dimbulah and Ravenshoe
- Upgrading Barlow Park and the Manunda Sports Precinct for 2032 and beyond
- Upgrading Cairns Western Arterial Road
- Upgrading the lighting at Cooktown Oval
- Upgrading Cairns' Queensland Ambulance Service Operational Centre
- Upgrading Jeff Pezzutti Park Youth Activities Space
- Upgrading six community halls in Far North Queensland
- Upgrading the Cooktown Multipurpose Health Service Facility.

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**DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND**



**Queensland
Government**

Splashing cash on chop chop trading

Shaun Hollis

The Federal Government will continue to commit more money to trying to stamp out the multiple spotfires of illegal tobacco importation and sales.

This includes \$14m to "boost the states' and territories' capabilities to disrupt the illicit tobacco and e-cigarette markets - including for transport, storage and disposal of seized tobacco and e-cigarettes", according to last week's Federal Budget.

A pair of tobacco shops in Douglas Shire have been shut down by Queensland health authorities since the recent crackdown on illicit tobacco sales - one in Mossman and one in Port Douglas.

The December mid-year Federal estimate of the amount of money the Government was expected to make on tobacco taxes was \$5.45 billion, but the eventual amount has been predicted to be \$4.13 billion, down about \$1.3 billion.

By comparison, the amount the Government made on beer tax was \$2.72 billion, spirits \$3.27 billion and other alcoholic beverages such as mix cans like UDLs \$1.81 billion.

The Government said in the Budget it would provide \$20.3m from July to combat the illicit tobacco market.

This funding includes: \$5.2m over four years from 2026-27 to



A tobacco shop in Mossman and one in Port Douglas have been shut across the past year. Picture: Shaun Hollis

undertake regular data collection, analysis and monitoring to understand nicotine and tobacco product use and markets, and \$1.1m in 2026-27 to meet Australia's international tobacco control obligations, including support for Pacific partners.

"The Government will strengthen and enhance law enforcement powers to investigate illicit tobacco-related offending through

amendments to Treasury and Home Affairs portfolio legislation," the budget papers state.

"These include increased monetary and imprisonment penalties for illicit tobacco offences, nationally consistent protective order power for restraining order applications, and expanded law enforcement powers to target proceeds of crime, unexplained wealth and tainted property."

PNG DEFENCE BACKING

The Federal Government is aiming to provide \$600m across four years from July towards the Papua New Guinea-Australia Mutual Defence Treaty by expanding Defence investments in the Pacific and South-East Asia.

The funding includes about \$422m to be held in the Contingency Reserve to support future ventures with partner governments, about \$114m to build dual-use defence projects in PNG and close to \$645m for a pilot program to recruit PNG citizens into the Australian Defence Force.

CAPE HEALTH FUNDS

More than \$1m has been earmarked for the Cape and Torres Health Commission to continue to provide access to "culturally appropriate health care services" for First Nations people in Far North Queensland.

PLUMBING PRICE HIKE

PVC prices have increased significantly due to the global oil crisis, with the cost of some plumbing services up about 30 per cent since last month.

INFLATION STAYING PUT

Inflation increased to 4.6 per cent in the year to March.

Even before the war in the Middle East, inflation had risen above the Reserve Bank's target band in 2025, with "persistent services inflation" one major factor.

In 2025, there were strong increases in the prices of cocoa, coffee and meat.

BIKE PATH BONUS

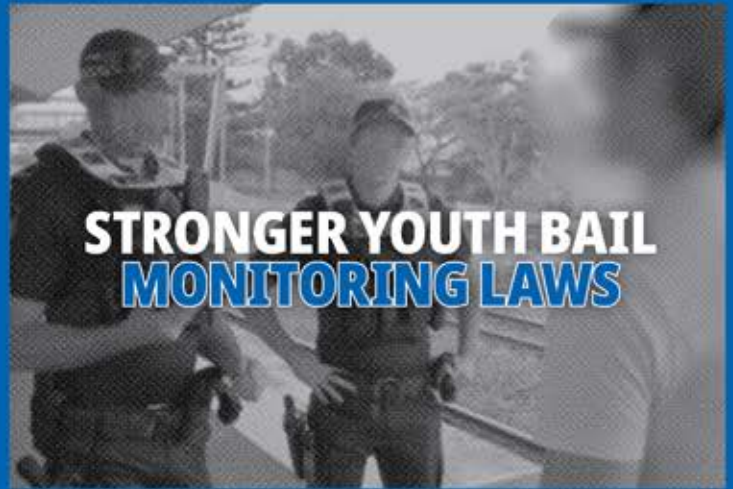
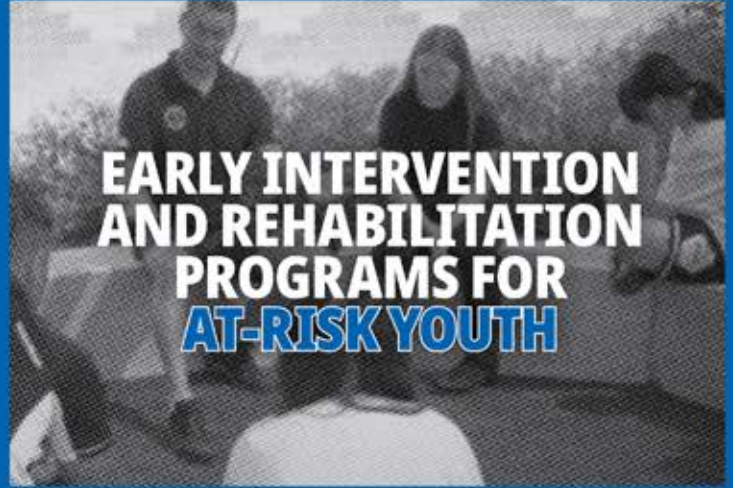
The budget includes \$500m across 10 years from July to continue the Active Transport Fund to support the construction and upgrade of bicycle and walking paths across Australia - a fund which Douglas Shire has already benefited from.

FUN RUN & WALK
FREE FAMILY EVENT

SATURDAY 30 MAY
MOSSMAN GORGE CULTURAL CENTRE
7 AM - 10 AM



free community breakfast entertainment run & walk for ALL 1k 2.5k 5k



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NUMBERS
DOWN**

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↓17% **SERIOUS
REPEAT
OFFENDERS
DOWN**

Victim numbers are down 7.2%* and serious repeat offenders are down 17%^ under Adult Crime Adult Time, but there's more to be done.

**Compared to 2024 (Jan to Dec), per capita. ^Compared to 2024 serious repeat youth offenders.*

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**Queensland
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Ferry roadworks start up

Shaun Hollis

Works on the new bigger and better Daintree Ferry are kicking off, with upgrades to the road approaches north and south of the river set to continue to November.

A Kuku Yalanji smoking ceremony was held last Tuesday to help pave the way for the start of the close to \$12m roadworks project - to be paid for by the Federal and State Governments - and the contractors doing the work have now arrived, according to a joint statement put out last week by the different tiers of government.

The first stage of the ferry works are expected to take place from now until November, weather permitting, they stated.

Contractors will then return next July to carry out marine civil works in readiness for the arrival of the new ferry in December next year.

Federal Emergency Management Minister Kristy McBain said her department was working with the State Government and Douglas Shire Council to deliver the much-needed project.

"These upgrades will help communities recover faster during the

event of an emergency, strengthening their ability to rebuild and return to normal life soon after disasters strike," Minister McBain said.

"The Daintree Ferry roadworks are a part of a long-term investment."

The approach roads and ramps on both sides of the Daintree River will be upgraded during the works.

Temporary changes to traffic conditions, pedestrian access and traffic flow are expected throughout the construction period, with motorists being encouraged to allow for more travel time.

DSC chief executive Scott Osman said it was exciting to see the long-planned project progressing.

"This is a major milestone for the future of the Daintree Ferry service and for everyone who relies on this important connection," Mr Osman said.

"The new four-lane ferry and upgraded landside infrastructure will improve traffic flow, reduce waiting times and deliver a safer, more efficient experience for residents, local businesses and visitors."

The new ferry will be built by Birdon in Port Macquarie.

New tour boat hits the water

Shaun Hollis

Tour operator Windswell is set to expand operations after launching a brand new boat.

The 8m-by-3.5m flat-bottomed vessel will be used as the central hub for tours and to run a range of activities off Port Douglas waters.

"It's just going to be a good platform, a good hub, for exploring," Windswell's Brett Wright says.

"For hosting birthday parties, we've already had a few school groups, so, educational sort of stuff. We're doing some monitoring while the dredging is going on.

"You'll be able to hire it.

"But mainly just to support my existing operation.

"It's just a good base, you'll have all the safety gear on here, shower, toilet, barbecue.

"Just to try and work with ev-



Windswell's Khan Gunton, Xander Kaleas, Vanessa Carey and Brett Wright are excited about the possibilities their new boat brings. Picture: Shaun Hollis

everyone who's on the waterfront," he says.

A range of water-based sports including kite surfing and wakeboarding can be launched from the base of the new Windswell

craft. "We've got the load dock at the front here for the e-foils and both rigs can pull up either side.

"We can run all of our activities from the one (boat), this is the hub.

"We can centralise the whole

operation on the waterfront." The boat can also be anchored out at Low Islands and can head up some of the river regions in the Daintree Rainforest area for sunset tours and other adventures.

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Momentum building up

Headliner ready to rock 'n' roll

From Page One

Stevens has recently been braving the southern winter.

"Having a swim would be nice," he says. "I'm coming in a day early just to chill out."

Stevens says he is looking forward to bringing some of his rock 'n' roll to the town with his show, which is packed with Noiseworks and INXS hits.

"It's an absolute treat to play all those songs," he says.

"They'll be able to hear us in Cairns I reckon."

Savannah Sounds is a three-day festival at Rex Smeal Park on the Port Douglas waterfront featuring some of Australia's biggest names including Sneaky Sound System, Vanessa Amorosi, Kingswood and Dragon. The event kicks off this Friday and runs through to Sunday night. Newsport is a major sponsor of the event.



Vanessa Amorosi is one of the headline acts of Savannah Sounds this Saturday night. Picture: Supplied

Feast of events across Shire this weekend

The Savannah Sounds music festival headlines a packed program of events across Port Douglas this weekend for Carnivale, which also includes a street parade, feasts, a family beach day and cabaret shows under a waterfront big top.

The events officially kick off on Friday with The Longest Lunch at the Sheraton resort during the day on the palm-lined entryway.

That evening, the Macrossan Street Parade kicks off at 6.30pm, with this year's theme Ancient Wonders. There will be fireworks launched from a barge at 8pm, with Rex Smeal Park and other waterfront areas offering great views.

Three days of live music with Savannah Sounds begins Friday afternoon, with that night's headliners Sneaky Sound System on from 9.30pm.

Sheraton Grand Mirage Par 3 Championship

Friday 12 June | Mirage Country Club | \$369pp*
Shotgun start 1pm | Gala dinner 6pm

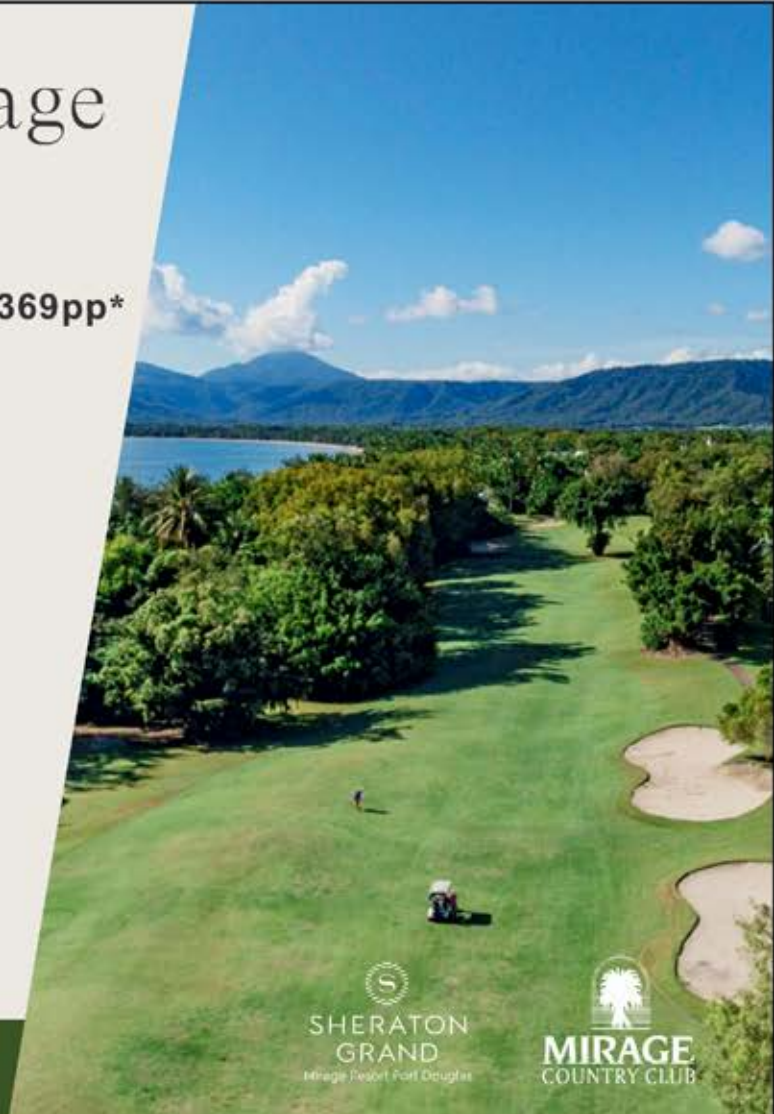
A unique fast-paced Par 3 format designed for sharp scoring and big moments. Play the tournament, then celebrate with a gala dinner and prizes at Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, Port Douglas.



Register

*21 holes + buggy + gala dinner (2-course + drinks)

21 Par 3 holes. 1 champion.



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GRAND
Mirage Resort Port Douglas

MIRAGE
COUNTRY CLUB

for big Carnivale party

The Sideshow Alley rides and amusements are also open at Market Park.

On Saturday, Four Mile Beach will host The Tin Shed Family Beach Day, featuring sand sculpting, water sports with Windswell, skydiving displays, family games and live entertainment.

At Pullman resort, the Temple of Fire poolside party will feature DJ Sapphire, saxophonists and fire performances.

After dark, the Tropic Lights display at the Sugar Wharf will feature colourful projections created by Culture Mechanics, while the Go Troppo art exhibition will be on display there all weekend.

Douglas Shire Mayor Lisa Scomazzon says Port Douglas Carnivale is a celebration for all ages, bringing the community together.

"Each year our community looks forward to having some fun while showcasing everything that makes Port Douglas so special - our community spirit, our creativity and the natural beauty of where we live," Mayor Scomazzon says.

Sunday features a relaxing finish to the weekend with the new Coastal Show and Shine car display presented by the Douglas Shire Motor Sports Association, the Port Douglas Sunday Markets at Market Park, and the Douglas Dash.

It is also the final day for the all-new series of performances from The Paramour Cabaret, with the adults show, Happy Hour, ending the mix of live cabaret entertainment.

Tickets for all events are now available.

For more information go to carnivale.com.au.



Artist Glenda Gordon with some of her work. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Spectrum of art is out on display

A new art exhibition has launched in Port Douglas to coincide with Carnivale week.

Tropical Spectrum showcases a host of local artists from across Douglas Shire who are involved with the DAB centre in Mossman.

Vice president Mandy Ryan says DAB has been around since 2002, but this is a new chance to exhibit at Carnivale.

"We're very excited and proud," Ms Ryan says.

Tropical Spectrum features 47 artists at the Port Douglas Community Hall until Thursday, May 28, from 9.30am-5pm.

Savannah Sounds set to shake Rex Smeal

Friday, May 22

- Gates open 4pm
- DJ Just Andy 4pm
- Raconteurs 7pm
- Kairos Kin 8pm
- Sneaky Sound System 9.30pm



Saturday, May 23

- Gates open 12 midday
- DJ Just Andy 12 midday
- Taylor Sheridan 12.40pm
- Carinda Christie 2pm
- Austin Mackay 3.35pm
- Sara Berki 4.55pm
- Kingswood 6.15pm
- Vanessa Amorosi 8pm
- Jon Stevens 9.45pm



Sunday, May 24

- Gates open 1pm
- The Joker Pokers 2pm
- Pelicana 3.20pm
- Hillbilly Goats 4.40pm
- Whiskey 6.15pm
- Dragon 7.45pm



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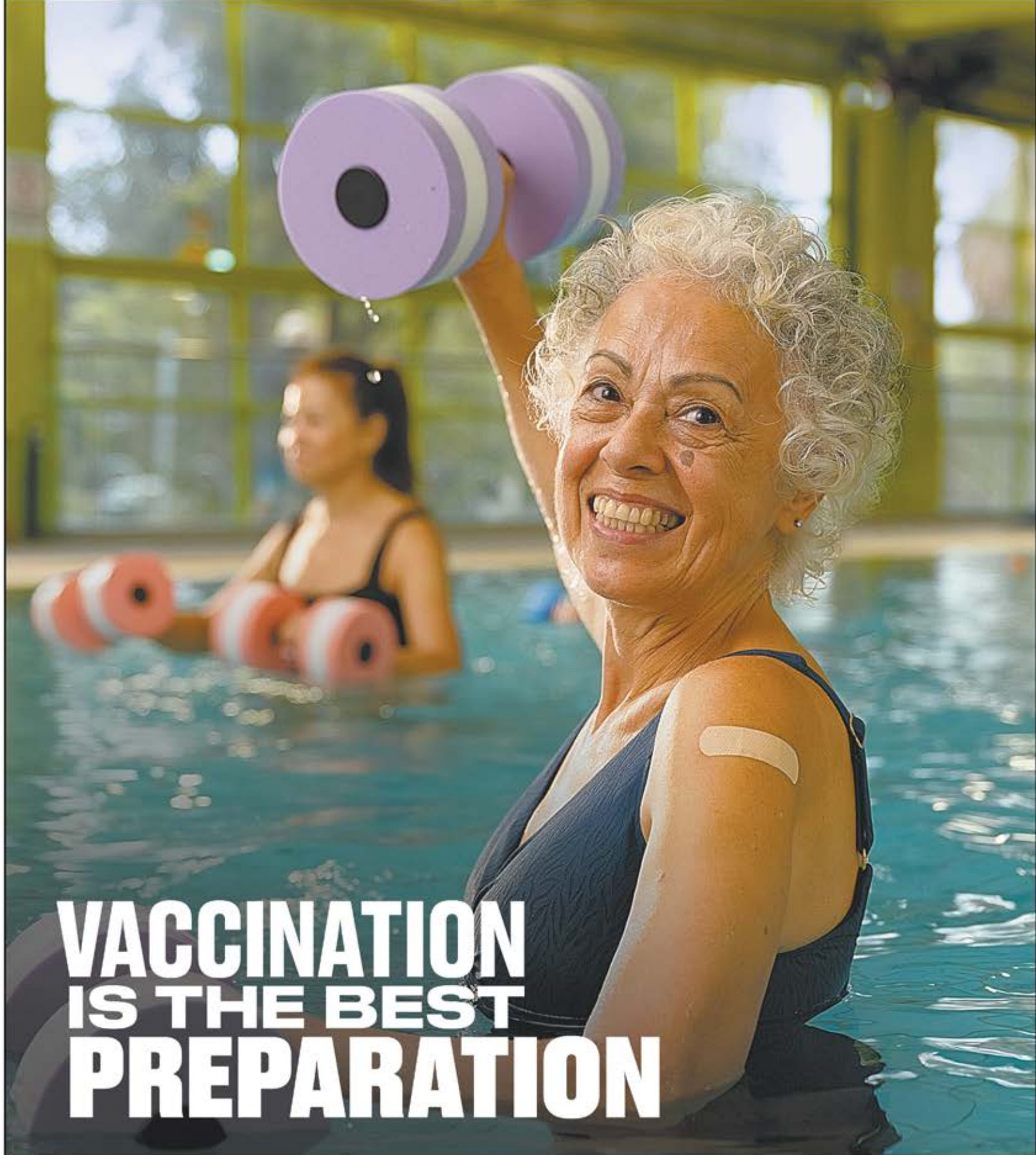




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Vote 1 for Port

10 YEARS AGO

Pair of Crocs selected for Suns reserves

Port Douglas skipper Kye Chapple and damaging midfielder Jesse Mawson will line up for the Gold Coast Suns reserves tomorrow at Metricon Stadium.

The talented duo were called up to play for the AFL club's development side after impressing for the Crocs this season, with the match being played as a curtain-raiser to the Suns and Adelaide Crows clash.

Chapple has become arguably the most damaging forward in the AFL Cairns competition since relocating from Horsham last season, while Mawson is a dual premiership player for South Barwon in the strong Geelong Football League.

The Gold Coast reserves play in the North East Australian Football League, which is the feeder competition for the Suns and Brisbane Lions, Sydney Swans and Greater Western Sydney. Gold Coast talent manager Jason Torney said a growing injury list at the AFL club had given them an opportunity to expose the likes of Chapple and Mawson.

"This was a perfect opportunity to invest in the North Queensland region and look at some of the talent," Torney said.

Port Douglas coach Brad Cooper said the news was a huge coup for his club.

"It's very exciting for Kye and Jesse," Cooper said.



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Beautiful Four Mile Beach at Port Douglas. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Tourism Port Douglas Daintree and Douglas Shire Council are calling on locals, visitors and industry to rally behind Port Douglas and Cape Tribulation following the announcement that both destinations have been named finalists in the 2026 Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards.

Cape Tribulation has been named a finalist in the Tiny Tourism Town category, while Port Douglas is a finalist in the Small Tourism Town category, recognising the region's world class visitor experiences, natural beauty and passionate local communities.

The awards categories are determined by population size, meaning destinations can only be entered into the category aligned to their official population classification. The Queensland Top Tourism Town Awards, delivered by the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, celebrate the people, places and experiences that make regional Queensland holidays unforgettable. TPDD executive officer Emma Tunnock said the dual recognition was a proud moment

for the Douglas region and another sign of the destination's growing national and international profile.

"Port Douglas and Cape Tribulation are truly world-class destinations," Ms Tunnock said.

"This recognition builds on growing momentum for the region." TPDD worked closely with Douglas Shire Council on the award submissions, helping show-

case the strength of both Port Douglas and Cape Tribulation as leading Queensland tourism destinations, and now encourages the community to rally behind both destinations through the public vote.

Public voting closes on May 24.

Vote at Queensland Top Tourism Town Finalists Voting.

Knocking on the door of country's top tourist town

Port Douglas has been recognised as one of Australia's premier tourism destinations, ranked No. 2 overall in Australian Traveller's 2026 100 Best Towns in Australia to visit.

Port Douglas also secured the title of Australia's top Adventure & Nature destination, recognised for delivering a tropical experience that blends luxury, nature, culture and connection. The Far North Queensland hot spot slipped in behind top spot holder Bicheno, Tasmania, which was recognised

as the top emerging tourism destination. The result places Port Douglas alongside some of the country's most iconic tourism destinations and reinforces the region's standing as one of Australia's most extraordinary visitor experiences, where two World Heritage-listed environments meet, the Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest.

Tourism Port Douglas Daintree executive officer Emma Tunnock said the recognition was a significant achievement.

"To be recognised as Australia's leading adventure and nature destination and ranked number two nationally is an incredible achievement for our community," Ms Tunnock said. "What makes Port Douglas and Daintree so special is the balance between extraordinary nature, immersive experiences, luxury, sustainability and authentic connection to place."

Australian Traveller highlighted Port Douglas for its combination of tropical landscapes, cultural connection and coastal luxury.

New exclusive arrivals, come in and take a look

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Keeping cool for Carnivale!
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PORT DOUGLAS ARTISTS INC.

GO TROPPO 2026
Art Exhibition at Sugar Wharf, Port Douglas
Tues 19 May - Sunday 24 May
Open Daily 10:00am - 5:00pm

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

Two clinics and one huge party

BUSINESS FEATURE

Matt Smith MP

Port Douglas is the crown jewel of the Far North and there isn't a time more special here than the Carnivale weekend. If you are visiting, we welcome you with open arms.

If you already live here, then Congratulations. From the world famous Macrossan Street Parade to burlesque cabaret and the Savannah Sounds Music Festival with Jon Stevens headlining, there's something for everyone up here. Please have the time of your life: relax, enjoy, and bring your friends back next time.

Medicare Urgent Care Clinics

Cairns is the first regional city in Australia to have two Medicare Urgent Care Clinics. The Cairns North Medicare Urgent Care Clinic is now officially open at 7-11 Mt Milman Drive in Smithfield, open 8am to 8pm, seven days a week.

The Cairns South UCC at 5 Walker Road, Edmonton, has been open since December 2023 and now includes X-ray and Ultrasound diagnostic services. This is part of the Albanese Gov-



Leichhardt MP Matt Smith opens the new mental health centre.

ernment's commitment to deliver more Medicare Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) across the country with four out of five Australians to live within a 20-minute drive from their local clinic. No appointment is needed, patients can walk in and all services are bulk billed. Medicare UCCs provide care for illnesses and injuries that are urgent, but not life-threatening.

This new UCC is a game change for people on the north side of

Cairns and will help ease pressure on the emergency department at Cairns Base Hospital and free up staff at the hospital to provide care to people with more serious conditions.

If you're in Port Douglas, Mossman or even Kuranda the new Cairns North location will save you an additional 20-minute drive into town to get you the help that you urgently need. All you need is your Medicare card.

Medicare Mental Health

We all struggle with our mental health from time to time. Often it seems like it might be easier to just push it down or brush it off, and it can be difficult for people to know where to get the mental health support they need.

Through Medicare, the Albanese Labor Government has established pathways that can help those who think they might be in need.

Recently, I was joined by the Assistant Minister for Mental Health Emma McBride as we officially opened the Medicare Mental Health Centre at 267 Mulgrave Road. The centre offers tailored care to patients without the need for an appointment or referral, delivered by a multidisciplinary team including mental health clinicians and peer workers.



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POSITIONS VACANT & COMMUNITY NOTICES



FULL-TIME AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC

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Douglas Shire News Newspart

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Light Up The Park
COMMUNITY FUN DAY

ACTIVITIES | ENTERTAINMENT | FOOD & DRINKS
PROMOTING CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

May 29th | 3-7pm
George Davis Park, Mossman

Want to get involved?
e: youth@dscsa.org.au p: 0412 735 585

Don't miss it - let's light up the park together!

U15'S | 10AM SUN 24TH MAY

ROUND 4
HOME GAME

Come support your local Mossman Sharks!

Under 15's game this weekend!

Sunday 24th of May | 10am

OUTPOURING OF GRIEF FOR DR JOHN ARCHER

Rosie Wang

His manner might have been brusque but he deeply cared for his patients - such a loss to the community. I saw him on the Friday and he seemed well and happy... such a shock.

Lauren Gratas

This is sudden and shocking news... thank you for the care you gave me where you went above and beyond, and the arguments that came with it. But mostly appreciate sitting with you at parties and sharing a scotch and bantering about ancient civilisations. You were one of a kind John. Incredibly sad news. RIP

Vicki Hichcliffe

My mind goes back to the mid 80s and I still picture Dr John looking as he did then. Vale young man. Quickly and quietly. Good for you. Healing wishes for your family and friends who miss you.

Samantha Robertson

What a sad time for Port Douglas. John is a local legend and icon. He was one of my doctors since my teenage years. I loved his style, he was real, straight-up and honest. Thanks Dr Archer - you will be missed! Deepest condolences to his family.

Jimmy Astill

Very sad news, was a wonderful doctor and an even better bloke. My doctor since I was 18. Some of the stories we shared over

the years always made me laugh. Will be greatly missed in the Port Douglas community. RIP Dr Archer, sir. xo

BEACH DOG ISSUES NEEDING ATTENTION

Lucy Brown

Thank you for highlighting the worsening issue of the beach area given to off-leash dog walking. On a regular basis it is impossible to safely access the entire area because of fallen trees and buried branches.

The latest trees down have been ignored. I have met more than one tourist family staying at Pullman who wanted to walk into town and have asked how to navigate around the blocked section of beach.

Over and above a little respect for dog walkers, Douglas Shire Council needs to realise that there are many people, children and dogs that will actually struggle to navigate some areas depending on tides.

As one family said "not what it looks like on the internet pictures". How sad.

So many people are walking dogs off leash further towards the Bruno Riedweg Park because they have nowhere else to go and they all seem to manage to respect each other. No one wants to flout laws but they are not being respected. The coconut trees were trimmed recently at Four Mile. Why on earth the fallen trees not cleaned up seems odd. Well done for highlighting this issue where people are being



From the Holster



Shaun Hollis brings you a lighter look at local news.

punished because of the lack of council respect.

Jodi Green

How about letting the beach from the Sheraton south be off leash until 7am? Then it all becomes on leash? Works for loads of beaches all over Aus.

Cheryl Wellham

What about extending the off-lead beach from the Four Mile Park to the Sheraton? Do not agree with having the only area designated for letting pooches roam freely at the crocodile end of the beach. Looks like an afterthought by council. And what about the long ago planned off-lead park? So many responsible dog owners in Port Douglas would appreciate the council con-

sidering these initiatives. The kiddies have their splash park, may be time to cater to our pooches.

Siobahn Richardt

All for off-lead beaches, great. Not all for irresponsible owners with aggressive dogs approaching others with no recall. If we can all be responsible, no issue with it, let us all have a good time.

Jo Hartly

It isn't clear when walking as to where the off-lead area is. Perhaps council could consider a couple of park areas as off-leash. Hutchings Park?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Send your letters and comments to editor@newsport.com.au or post comments on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

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SOCIALS

The launch of a new music video in Mossman on Friday, May 15, and the opening weekend of the Paramour Cabaret big top were two recent events taking place in Douglas Shire. Pictures: Francesca Bossoni and Santiago Gonzalez



Magnus Danger Magnus at the Paramour Cabaret show.



Gabrielle and Jayden Atkinson at the Paramour Cabaret show.



Desert Pea Media's Scott Large, Chippy Glossop, Kyle Wilson and Toby Finlayson at the music video launch.



Patricia Hecht, Pamela Henderson, Fleur Gray and Nicky McKillop at the Paramour Cabaret show.



Shante Temple and Fifi Wano at the music video launch.



Darien Williams and Jameece Oui at the music video launch.

WHAT'S ON

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| MAY 21 Go Troppo 2026
Time: 10am-5pm
Location: Sugar Wharf | MAY 22 Dave Dusch
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman | MAY 24 Danny Bau - Live Acoustic Session
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: Port Douglas Yacht Club | MAY 29 SOUND HEALING
Time: 7pm-8pm
Location: Port Douglas Yoga Studio |
| MAY 21 Trivia Night
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas | MAY 22 Social Dancing
Time: 6.30pm-9.30pm
Location: Pullman Sea Temple Port Douglas | MAY 24 Douglas Dash
Time: 8am-9.30am
Location: Start: Four Mile Beach Park off Barrier Road, Port Douglas. Finish: Rex Smeal Park, Port Douglas | MAY 29 Bingo Night With K-Star
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas |
| MAY 21 Happy Hour Cabaret
Time: 8pm-10pm
Location: Dixie Park | MAY 22 Salsa Workshop
Time: 10am-12pm
Location: Mossman Shire Hall | MAY 25 Hole In One Jackpot Competition
Time: 10am-6pm
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf, Grant St, Port Douglas | MAY 29 Rockin' Rick Karaoke
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman |
| MAY 21 Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman | MAY 22 Happy Hour Cabaret
Time: 8pm-10pm
Location: Dixie Park | MAY 26 Indonesian Night
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas | MAY 21 Cycle for Hope Charity Ride
Time: Redlynch 5.30am check in, coffee van and 6am start - Port Douglas 3.30-4pm approx
Location: Surf Club, Cnr Mowbray St & Esplanade, Pt Douglas |
| MAY 22 Go Troppo 2026
Time: 10am-5pm
Location: Sugar Wharf | MAY 23 Go Troppo 2026
Time: 10am-5pm
Location: Sugar Wharf | MAY 28 Trivia Night
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas | MAY 30 Yalanji Raw Reconciliation Run And Walk 2026
Time: 7am-10am
Location: Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre 212r Mossman Gorge Road Mossman Gorge |
| MAY 22 Thomas Lowth
Time: 5.30pm-8.30pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill | MAY 23 Happy Hour Cabaret
Time: 2pm & 7pm-4pm & 9pm
Location: Dixie Park | MAY 28 Bingo with K-Star
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman | MAY 30 Nahko - Take Back Your Power Tour
Time: 6pm-11pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill |
| MAY 22 Sound Healing
Time: 7pm-8pm
Location: Port Douglas Yoga Studio | MAY 23 Tribal Roots - Ganga Giri
Time: 5pm-11.30pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill | MAY 29 Bobby Longstaff
Time: 5.30pm-8.30pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill | |
| MAY 22 Bingo Night With K-Star
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas | MAY 24 Go Troppo 2026
Time: 10am-5pm
Location: Sugar Wharf | | |
| | MAY 24 Rowly
Time: 1pm-4pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill | | |

Visit www.newsport.com.au to list your event for free

SPORTS DIGEST

BRIEFS

RUGBY UNION

The Reef Raiders were beaten by Barron Trinity Bulls 21-33 away from home on Saturday.

Try scorers were Quentin Dartiguelongue, Jean Valette and Ryan Connors, while Luke Edwards kicked three conversions.

Port Douglas has the bye this weekend.

SOCCER

The Douglas United match against Innisfail on Friday night was postponed and the team has a bye this weekend at this stage.

Crocs bare teeth in AFL

From Page 16

The undefeated side had a 163-point thrashing of the bottom-placed Hawks, 27.14 (176) to 1.7 (13).

Veteran spearhead Kye Chapple kicked eight goals, while new recruit Shay Linke snared five.

Best for the Crocs were midfielder Sam Fairclough, Linke, Chapple, Brodie Francis, Murphy Short and Ben McPhee.

The Crocs reserves won 11.5 (71) to 4.8 (32), with Krispen Martinelli, Jack Ganley, Sam Wall, Oscar Dodge and Antonio Callipari in the best players.



SHOT OF THE DAY!

The Mossman Sharks juniors hosted teams from across the league on the weekend. Picture: Supplied

Baby Sharks at play

The Mossman Sharks junior teams hosted their first home game of the season on the weekend, welcoming five clubs for a huge day of rugby league.

The fields were transformed into about eight mini fields for the Under-6-7 age groups.

The younger players kicked off the day with league tag games, showcasing plenty of enthusiasm,

teamwork and smiles, before the older grades took to the field for a full day of football at their home venue.

The atmosphere around the grounds was outstanding, with families, supporters and players creating a great community feel throughout the day. Across every age group, the sportsmanship, effort and passion on display high-

lighted what junior rugby league is all about.

A huge thankyou goes to the many volunteers who helped make the day possible. From set-up and pack up crews to canteen workers, gate and parking, field marshals, coaches, managers and committee members, the success of the day would not have been possible without their support.

Mossman seniors struggle at Southern

Mossman Sharks went down to Southern Suburbs 16-54 away from home on the weekend.

Try scorers were Jarvis Con-

nolly, Kieshon Hunter-Flanders and Cameron Hooker, while Hunter-Flanders and Jalaba Murgha converted a try each. This Satur-

day the Sharks are away to Tully Tigers. The women went down 4-68 to Southern on the weekend, and have the bye this weekend.

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OFF AND RACING



Sailor Phillip Killfoy has entered his boat in Division One for the first time. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Shaun Hollis

For the sailing fans among us, the annual Port Douglas Race Week regatta has been taking place all this week from Monday, May 18, to Saturday, May 23.

There were light winds on the water for race day one, with about a dozen crews ready and eager to

get out there and compete. One sailor who was hoping before the start of the week for less wind was Port Douglas Yacht Club rear commodore Phillip Killfoy in his 10m yacht White Cap.

"Really hoping for lighter conditions to have a chance against some of these larger vessels," Killfoy said. "If we don't make many

mistakes and play it right, it will be nice to be actually giving some of the 40-plus footers a bit of a scare."

This was Killfoy's first time racing the vessel in Division One.

For all the results of the week, go to the Port Douglas Race Week Facebook page.



Kayla McInerney kicked a goal in the Crocs win.

Crocs in a clean sweep

Shaun Hollis

The Port Douglas Crocs women had their second win of the season, easily accounting for Manunda Hawks away from home, 5.8 (38) to 1.4 (10).

Played at Cazalys Stadium in Cairns, Port Douglas began with some early ascendancy, going into the quarter-time break with a two-goal lead and leading by close to four goals at the main break.

Best for the Crocs were Caity Walsh, Ava Balfe, Hannah Hyland, Ella Jones and Kirra Revell, while the team had five individual goal kickers.

All the Port Douglas senior teams have two weeks off now, with an association match on this weekend and a bye the following weekend. The top-of-the-table Crocs men continued their stellar start to the season.

Continued Page 15

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