

Douglas Shire News Newsport

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NEW DAWNING

Newby RSL leader preparing for expanding Anzac Day ceremony, Page 5

New Mossman RSL president John Grime is currently being shown the ropes by long-time secretary Wally Gray and former long-standing president, and current vice president, Ron Savage. Picture: Shaun Hollis



Easter was Egg-celent - P3



Baby koala on show - P6

Fix our marina

Shaun Hollis

Temporary fencing, peeling paint and boarded-up windows.

This is what confronts tourists who walk along the waterfront

next to one of Port Douglas's biggest tourism drawcards, the Crystalbrook Superyacht Marina.

The marina has lived through several unrealised redevelopment plans across the past decade dat-

ing back through two separate ownerships, and tourism operators spoken to by Newsport say another one is needed soon for the town to keep moving.

Continued Page 4



Peaches needs a hubby - P8



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Park dog push

Shaun Hollis

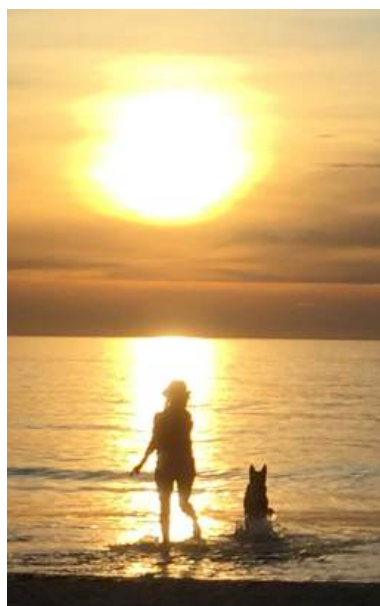
More than 3000 people have signed a nationwide petition for authorities to allow dogs on leashes into Australia's national parks.

The petition, started by NSW dog owner Shandra Coppard, says, in order to visit one of about 650 national parks across the country, dog owners either need to find a dog or house sitter, use expensive kennels, or be excluded from many parts of Australia.

"This law makes it very difficult for many Australians with their family pet to visit some of the most beautiful areas in Australia," she says. "We would therefore like to see the law changed to allow dogs into national parks with their owners, providing the dogs are kept on leashes and owners clean up any poops."

Ms Coppard thanked everyone who had signed the petition since it was launched late last month, and she was now trying to share it on online traveller pages.

Queensland Parks and Forests state that dogs are not allowed in parks because they "provide a much-needed refuge for native



A new petition is pushing to allow dogs in national parks.

plants and animals". "While dogs and other pets may be a valued part of a family, they're a real threat to our native animals," an online statement reads.

You can view the petition at change.org/p/allow-dogs-on-leashes-into-national-parks/u/33414968

Reef alarm bells ringing

Great Barrier Reef protection organisations have spoken out about State Government plans to keep coal-powered stations open for longer and introduce more gas-fired stations, saying it will be disastrous for the environment and Far North Queensland tourism.

Energy Minister David Janetzki this month announced a five-year plan which was "committed to delivering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to Queenslanders".

"We're taking an approach based on economics and engineering, not ideology," Minister Janetzki said.

This includes upgrades at the Callide coal-fired power station in Central Queensland with a view to keeping it open for about three years longer.

But a statement from the Australian Marine Conservation Society called the announcement "pro-fossil fuel".

"Queensland Energy Minister David Janetzki's plan spells disaster for the Great Barrier Reef," the statement read.

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Rental crisis impacting skilled-worker shortage

Shaun Hollis

A chronic shortage of affordable rental properties in Douglas Shire is increasingly hampering the ability to lure and retain skilled workers to the region.

A Douglas Shire Council study released at the end of last financial year showed factors such as about 60 per cent of potential rental homes being used for short-term housing such as Airbnbs, rising rents, and a lack of housing stock, were contributing to ongoing issues with attracting employees such as doctors, nurses, childcare workers, chefs and tradies.

And, since that report was tabled, new figures show rental stocks are even scarcer and prices are at all-time highs. The median

house rental price in Port Douglas for the year up to March was \$750 per week, up from \$525 for the same period in 2020.

And the median unit price in Port Douglas for the year up to March was \$550 per week, up from \$350 in 2020.

There were less than 10 houses available for rent in the town in the past month, while there were more than 140 people looking, and there were 46 units available to rent, but more than 320 people looking. In Mossman, the median house rental price for the same period was \$525, up from \$350 in 2020, while the median unit rental price was \$350, up from \$260.

But there were only two houses put up for rent last month, with 21

renters looking, and no units were offered for the whole month.

Housing price data organisation Core Logic's head of research Tim Lawless said rental unaffordability across the country was at "record highs".

"Renters are dedicating roughly about a third of their incomes, their gross annual incomes, to paying their rent," Mr Lawless said.

In Douglas Shire, that figure is on point, according to the council's 2024 Local Housing Action Plan report.

In the 2021 Census, 36 per cent of the 1409 rental households in Douglas Shire were paying more than 30 per cent of their income on rent, with that number on the increase.

News in Brief

SHIRE'S TOP PUBS

The Royal Hotel has been crowned the most popular name for pubs in Queensland, according to the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation with a couple of Douglas Shire region drinking holes getting a tick in the top five.

The Exchange Hotel in Mossman might not be the pub it once was, but it is among the more popular names of hotels across the state, coming in equal fourth with the Australian with 10 hotels named Exchange.

And, in Port Douglas, The Central gets the nod, at number 5.

TINAROO DAM TRAGEDY

The body of a man who went missing in Tinaroo Dam at Yungaburra has been found by rescue crews.

The 62-year-old man swam out to help two children on kayaks but failed to resurface after going under. Emergency services were called just after 3.30pm on Sunday, April 13.

An extensive search was launched, which continued until the body was found Monday, April 14.

DISASTER CENTRE PROMISE

A \$5.77m disaster coordination centre in Douglas Shire will mostly be funded by the federal government if the LNP gets into power at the May 3 federal Election, the Leichhardt candidate has promised.

LNP candidate Jeremy Neal made a pledge to provide \$5m for the new centre, meaning Douglas Shire Council would likely need to find an extra \$770,000 to get the project across the line.

If built, the purpose-built centre is expected to improve disaster preparedness, recovery and resilience across the Shire and broader Far North Queensland region, according to the council.

Hopping in to Easter weekend fun

People across Douglas Shire celebrated the Easter long weekend in style.

Children took place in a biscuit-making workshop at Steep Port Douglas in the lead-up to the weekend, and the Daintree ferry was packed on Thursday, with holiday-makers heading north.

The traditional Easter fare of seafood was selling like hot crossed buns down at the Port Douglas waterfront Friday. Santiago Seafoods' Tracey Moull was selling from the back of the boat.

"Easter's one of the busiest sales times, Easter and Christmas," Tracey said.



Alba, Max and Evie got into the Easter spirit by decorating adorable cookies at Steep Port Douglas. Picture: Jamie Jansen




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From this...



...to this

From Page One

Douglas Shire Mayor Lisa Scmazzon, chief executive Scott Osman, state Tourism Minister Andrew Powell, Cook MP David Kempton, Tourism Port Douglas Daintree representatives and business operators met this month to discuss the tourism priorities for the region, with the marina high on that list.

The most grandiose of past marina plans, which included a six-star hotel, waterfront pool and splash-park area, was unveiled by current owner Crystalbrook Collection in 2019, with then Port Douglas Shire mayor Julia Leu celebrating its arrival.

"They have a really exciting vision for the Crystalbrook Superyacht Marina that has the potential to revitalise Port Douglas

and stimulate the local economy," she said at the time.

And before that \$200m plan, Crystalbrook was reportedly working on a \$100m development in 2017 which included a 100-room luxury hotel, 50 premium homes, more shops and restaurants, and a 24-berth marina expansion. Crystalbrook Collection owner Ghassan Aboud said at the time the company believed it

could "redefine the Australian marina experience and ensure Port Douglas is an essential-visit location for high-end global travellers".

Prior to that announcement, former owners Andrew Hooper-Nguyen and Chris Ellis had council-approved plans for a new hotel and apartment complex.

However, in March last year, many Port locals were surprised when the marina was placed on the market by Crystalbrook. Expressions of interest closed on May 1, 2024, but the property went unsold.

In June, representatives of international commercial real estate company CBRE told Newsport it was continuing "to engage in discussions with prospective buyers".

But one property-industry insider told Newsport this month market speculators have valued the marina at less than what the seller wants to be paid. He mentioned a figure of \$35m-\$40m, but that could not be independently verified.

The site is Queensland's northernmost marina, with 135 berths available for permanent and visiting vessels, five fisherman berths and a fuel wharf. The marina takes up 10ha at 44 Wharf Street,

Newsport has reached out to Crystalbrook for comment.

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📍 Mossman | 5:15 AM
📍 Port Douglas | 10 AM

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DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

New RSL president has huge Anzac Day vision

Shaun Hollis

Incoming Mossman RSL president John Grime has a packed schedule across the next week as Anzac Day looms large on Friday.

The Royal Australian Air Force ex-serviceman, whose fading British accent also gives away his 20 years in the Royal Air Force before moving to Australia, has a host of meetings, presentations and speeches planned out this week during the busiest time on the RSL calendar - not to mention helping set everything up on the day.

Long-serving former president Ron Savage and secretary Wally Gray have been showing John the ropes at one of north Queensland's most well-supported RSLs in the lead-up to the big occasion - the 111th anniversary of the start of World War I.

"Anzac Day for me, it's the fact that every part of the community turns up," John says. "There are kids there that are two and three years old, there's all the vets and Ron, Wally, members of the RSL.

"And everything in between."

John says attendances have been growing steadily in the four years he has lived in Douglas Shire after moving up from where he



New Mossman RSL president John Grime with secretary Wally Gray and vice president Ron Savage. Picture: Shaun Hollis

served in Adelaide. "Not suddenly there's 8000 people there, but you can tell when you get there this is bigger than last year."

The trio is expecting about 1500 for the dawn service in front of the council chambers at Mossman, and about 2500 at the march in Port Douglas from 10am, although Ron says he is never quite sure about the exact numbers.

"I get asked that every year but I don't have a bloody clue because I'm too busy," he says.

A group of navy sailors from Australian Defence Vessel Cape Fourcroy will be taking part this year, and there may even be a special appearance from World War II veteran John "Johnno" Johnson.

Johnno always tries to make the service, depending on his health, except the year he missed out after accidentally locking himself inside his hotel room.

"He couldn't find his damn key and he was very disappointed," Wally says.

Where you all can attend on the occasion

There are a host of events in Douglas Shire on Anzac Day, Friday, April 25, to commemorate the significant day.

The dawn service at the Mossman cenotaph on Front Street will begin at 5.15am, with official proceedings starting at 5.25am.

Dignitaries from the Mossman RSL, the clergy, and the Douglas Shire Council will be present to honour the fallen and those who have served.

In Port Douglas, people will gather at Port Village in Macrossan Street from 10am and begin the march towards the cenotaph at 10:15am. The official proceedings will start at the memorial in Anzac Park at 10.30am.

In Cow Bay, attendees will meet at My Pathways carpark on Cape Tribulation Road at 5am and march to the Cow Bay Cenotaph. Official proceedings will begin at 5.25am. To accommodate those attending services, the Daintree Ferry will operate from 4am.

There will also be a ceremony before the Crocs AFL game at Port Douglas oval just before the senior's game at 4pm.

Cenotaph upgraded and ready to go

The Mossman Cenotaph on Front Street near the council chambers has been upgraded following about six years of lobbying by the local RSL hierarchy.

Secretary Wally Gray said the limited space around the monument was difficult for wheelchair

users to negotiate, so he and former president Ron Savage wanted the space redesigned. Wally said he had been fighting for six years for Douglas Shire Council to make the changes.

"You get a wheelchair around there, about half a dozen turns

until you got it round the corner, and then you'd do the same with the next one," Wally said.

Ron said everyone would now be able to better access the cenotaph.

"The previous problem was that people would just come to

the front, everyone would try and crowd and put stuff there and they'd all be falling on the ground and everything, so now you can get around it."

The area has also been landscaped. The pair thanked the council for doing the works.



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10 YEARS AGO

Hundreds gather in Port Douglas for ANZAC Day

The laughter of children playing in the background mixed with the haunting melody of the Last Post in otherwise perfect silence at ANZAC Park in Port Douglas today.

Those children were free to play in a country that was and is kept safe by the courage and sacrifice of countless men and women now and in the past, whose lives were commemorated by the public for Anzac Day 2015.

Over 200 people packed out Anzac Park in Port Douglas to watch sailors from HMAS Diamantina, veterans from the Mossman RSL and many other community organisations march down Macrossan Street.



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Tiny koala steals show

Jamie Jansen

A tiny new arrival is melting hearts at Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas, just in time for the school holidays.

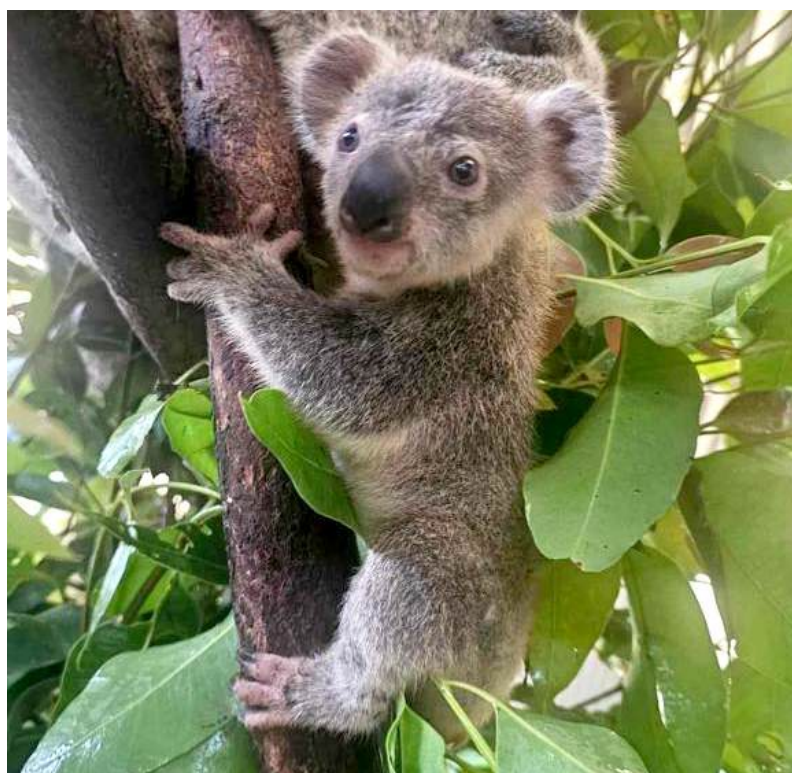
One of the park's resident koalas, Lulu, has been spotted proudly carrying a male joey on her back, an exciting milestone for both visitors and keepers.

The joey has been out of the pouch for a few weeks now, making regular appearances on Lulu's back and beginning to explore the world beyond. Wildlife Habitat general manager Clare Hunt said the timing of the joey's debut couldn't be better.

"We're thrilled to share this special moment with our visitors," she said. "Watching a joey develop and bond with its mum is one of the most beautiful parts of the koala life cycle."

Lulu's new arrival is more than just an adorable sight, it marks an important step in a national koala breeding program supporting the long-term survival of this vulnerable species.

With wild populations threatened by habitat loss, disease, and



Visitors to the Wildlife Habitat sanctuary can catch a glimpse of this koala joey. Picture: WHPD

climate change, Wildlife Habitat and other Zoo and Aquarium Association-accredited centres play a key role in boosting genetic

diversity. What makes this joey especially significant is his genetics - his father comes from a wild background.



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Splash park delays

Bryan Littlely

Monsoonal weather has pushed back the completion date of the Port Douglas Splash Park to August, as work takes place to install a new sewer system at the site later this month.

Before it can be plumbed, contractors have been sucking ground moisture from the site from April 11-21.

During this close-to-fortnight period, a stretch of Garrick Street will be closed, and a generator will be running 24/7.

Douglas Shire Council Mayor Lisa Scmazzone apologised for the inconvenience during this time.

"Council has already contacted businesses and residents directly impacted by the closure. While it will be an inconvenience, we ask for patience as we take this critical

next step in the Splash Park's development," Mayor Scmazzone said.

Across the previous couple of weeks, the contractor has been working on excavating and installing balance tanks to store the water needed for the splash park.

Due to the recent monsoonal weather, the completion date for the project is expected to be in late July to early August.

Police News

MISSING MAN SEARCH

A 48-year-old man is believed to have left Yorkeys Knob to travel to Gordonvale when he went missing more than six months ago.



Lindsay Randall has not been in contact with his family since September 20.

Mr Randall is described as Caucasian, with short, light-coloured hair and dark eyes.

COP DOOR KICKED IN

A 19-year-old Cooktown woman was arrested and charged after being found outside Cooktown Police Station on April 11.

It will be alleged that the woman has caused damage to the front doors of the police station by kicking and punching the glass. The woman was arrested shortly after.

She was charged with two counts of wilful damage and one count of obstructing police.

YOUNG WOMEN THREAT

A Cape York man has been arrested following a harrowing incident for two young girls in Cairns.

At about 7.50pm on Wednesday, April 16, the 50-year-old man reportedly approached two 17-year-old girls sitting inside a car in McLeod Street and tried to remove the keys from the ignition.

The driver allegedly tried to stop the man taking the keys, when the car key broke off in the ignition and the man walked away.

Police tracked the man and searched him, where they allegedly found cannabis. He was charged with unlawful entry of a vehicle, drug possession and possessing a drug utensil.

Contact police at Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestoppersqld.com.au.

Women return to the tools

Jamie Jansen

Ladies in the Douglas Shire are back on the tools as the She Shed in Mossman re-launched this month.

After a long, hot wet season and necessary repairs following Cyclone Jasper, local women were welcomed back for a fresh season of hands-on learning, connection, and creativity.

About 30 women gathered last week to celebrate the She Shed's relaunch at Mossman Support Services, enjoying a friendly morning tea spread, lemonade, and plenty of conversation.

The reopening marks a renewed opportunity for women in the Douglas Shire to come together, share practical skills, and build strong social connections in a relaxed, supportive space.

Mossman Support Services manager Heather Taylor said the She Shed is all about women empowering women.

"It's a place where ladies can learn new skills, gain confidence in using tools, and connect with others in the community," she said.

While regular hours for the She Shed are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am-1pm, the She



The Mossman She Shed has officially reopened and is inviting women to enjoy hands-on learning. Picture: MSS

Shed may offer evening or weekend sessions based on community interest.

Participants are encouraged to help shape the program by suggesting projects and activities they'd like to see offered.

Upcoming sessions include a tool-time refresher course, bird-house and drinks stand building, and jewellery making. Some work-

shops are free, while others may include a small fee.

Expressions of interest are also open year-round for those keen to share a skill or host a class.

"We really want the She Shed to reflect the needs and interests of the women in our community," Heather said.

Call 07 40 98 2836 to discuss your ideas.

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

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Community at core of work

BUSINESS FEATURE

Simon George & Sons is well known across Far North Queensland for helping to put the highest standard produce on the tables of the finest restaurants in the region.

But it is not just a commitment to their customers, which include some of the most nationally renowned restaurants in Australia, but a commitment to the whole community.

Simon George & Sons, through its state-of-the-art Cairns distribution centre, is seen on the front line when the chips are down, and our region has its backs against the wall.

Through Covid-19 impacts, Cyclone Jasper and the flooding which impacted Townsville and cut off supply routes across Far North Queensland, Simon George & Sons has stood strong.

Sales manager Jason Lister, a 32 year food industry veteran, says, while the company came to

Cairns to meet the growing need of restaurants and resorts for high quality and diverse produce, they also came with a commitment to community which has really been on show in recent years.

"Simon George & Sons came to the region because a chef that the family knew went to the Sheraton Mirage and he was struggling to get good produce up here in the north," Jason said.

"So that's always been something that we hold near and dear."

Sales manager Pedro Gonçalves, who himself has been in the industry for over 30 years, said: "We have some of the most iconic restaurants in Australia - NuNu, Harrison's and Nautilus - and they all demand a certain quality and range of product.

"But at the same time, you can't lose touch with your roots here in North Queensland."

Want to showcase your business or event with a business feature? Please contact jamie@newsport.com.au



An AI-generated image of Peaches in a wedding dress.

Peaches looks for her cream

Peaches, a pampered King Charles pup with a waggy tail, is on the hunt for a one-day husband at the Carnivale Pooch Party on Saturday, May 24.

The seven-year-old fur princess will star in the annual Pooch Party during Port Douglas Carnivale, and her parents, Phil and Maureen Bourke, are pulling out all the stops to give her a dream "wedding" day.

"She's my little princess," said

Phil. "She can have a husband, but only for one day! No long-term relationships."

But don't think just any pup will do.

"He has to be the same size as her, it has to be a boy, and he has to be well-behaved, with a waggy tail, of course," said Mummy Maureen.

If you think your dog could be Peaches' perfect match, email jamie@newsport.com.au.

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YOU SAID IT! Opinion Page

SHOULD DOGS BE ALLOWED IN NATIONAL PARKS?

Leith Keegan

Make sure you give a copy of the petition to the feral dogs, cats, foxes, cane toads, rats, deer, pigs, etc, that already live in our national parks. Apparently a dog on a leash is a bigger problem, right?

Cameron Walton

Yes, absolutely. But only on a leash at all times.

Deborah Christopher

Have we slipped back to April 1??? NO!!!

John Sullivan

No, the scent of dogs keeps the wildlife away from walking tracks so they are harder to see and experience. Dog urine is strong and can harm native plants and allow weed species that like higher nutrient an advantage.

Sarah Smith

Yes! On a lead. Would make a day out or going camping so much easier.

Moo Man

100% should be allowed. Just make it a permit system like most parks. Gone are the days where everyone has mongrel dangerous breeds. Most people travelling Australia have small dogs these days and at the end of the day we the public pay the taxes to maintain these parks and shouldn't be restricted from them.

Anthony Christopher Renwick

Being that most parks have mul-

tiple camping areas it's not hard to designate one for people with dogs. Put some rules in place and give it a try. It's only gonna be the 1%ers that will screw it up.

Tracey Jones

Yes, but there needs to be rules such a specific campsites and must be kept on a leash as not to disturb the wildlife

Jess Conroy

Oh wow 3000 nation wide out of 26.66 mil. So 0.01125% of Aus. Absolutely not, there is a very good reason why dogs aren't allowed in these areas. Just because some random doesn't like it, they start a petition.

RENTAL SHORTAGE IMPACTS SKILLED WORKERS

Alf Craig

I thought the covid cleanse was happening from here to Brisbane? Nothing like some flooding, cyclones and rain for over a year to send them back to Melbourne and Sydney. The price of everything is going to come down surely? It's absolutely ridiculous. Also aren't we meant to have a recession! People have short term memories and forgotten how Port fared during the GFC. If I lost the house I rent I'd leave.

LOCAL JUDO STAR EXCELS ON INTERNATIONAL STAGE

Lee-Anne Witte

Good on you Nikita .. well done.

Bluee Berry

You're amazing Nikita McDonald. Congrats we miss u.



How We See It!



Shaun Hollis and Bryan Littlely bring you a lighter look at local news online every Saturday.

Karen Moffatt

Congratulations Nikita that is fantastic.

Therese Maloney

So proud of you Nikita xx our very own little legend... wishing all the best in your studies and flippin' comps.

SETBACK FOR SPLASH PARK

Christopher Saint

Ehm, seems a bit odd, let's hope there's no Polly Waffles in the Splash Park!

Anyway - sewage is the lovely stuff that flows down the sewerage system.

So the headline should be "Sewerage works", if indeed that's really what it is?

Jeff Read

Just fill them up with water that will do should only cost 2 million.

Sarah Williams

Annoying rain.

FIX OUR ROADS FIRST

Ron Verri

Couldn't agree more!!! Millions and squillions of money thrown around and nothing positive and productive will come out of it. Pilfering public money is a political spectacle and if a business did the advertising in this way it would be held accountable. Anyone else fed up with the nonsense coming out of the mouths of these election "promises"????

Bev Rossignoli

Syndicate Road at Pollocks bridge is a dam disgrace. Been like that since Jasper.

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

Jimmy Run's
— MIXING LOUNGE —
PRESENTS



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SOCIALS

The launch of the Gran Fondo Festival, the 30th anniversary of Salsa Bar and Grill restaurant and Easter celebrations were some of the events taking place in the past fortnight.



Santiago Seafoods' Tracey and Lincon Moule with fresh Easter tiger prawns.



Gran Fondo Festival runner Michelle Scott, Cook MP David Kempton, and festival director Bade Stapleton.



Tourism Tropical North Queensland events manager Tara Bennett and Douglas Shire deputy mayor Roy Zammataro.



Rosie Wang and Sandy Ellis at the Salsa 30th anniversary celebrations.



Cole Anstice and Dame Burke at the Salsa 30th show.



Street performer Tim Gibuma at Rusty's Market in Cairns.

WHAT'S ON

STAY UP TO DATE

Scan this QR code to stay up to date with the latest events in the region



MARCH 24

Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs, Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Location: Club Mossman

MARCH 25

Anzac Day at Club Mossman, Time: 1:00pm - late, Location: Club Mossman

Lest we forget locals breaky \$18 Time: 07:00 - 09:30, Location: Oaks Port Douglas

Anzac Day @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 10:00am - 8:30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

MARCH 26

International tai chi & chi gong day, Time: 9:30 - 10:30, Location: Mossman, George Davis Park, opposite the market

Bottomless Brunch, Time: 11:00 - 12:30, Location: Oaks Port Douglas

JC & the Tree @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

Level Up Your Vibes & Dance, Time: 4 PM - 6 PM, Location: Yoga in The Tropics Studio - beach end Macrossan St

MARCH 27

Rob Longstaff, Time: 3:00pm - 6:00pm, Location: Club Mossman

Nicole Nighthawk @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

REAL ESTATE

OPEN HOME

1-3/2 St Crispins Avenue, Port Douglas Thursday 24 April 2025 11:00am - 1:00pm Ray White

OPEN HOME

6/40 Mowbray Street, Port Douglas Thursday 24 April 2025 11:00am - 12:00pm Property Shop

OPEN HOME

9/31-39 Murphy St, Port Douglas Thursday 24 April 2025 12:00PM - 12:30PM Sotheby's



Scan the QR code to list your property, and it will be added to our print edition for free.

MARCH 29

Community Food Gardening, Time: 07:00am - 08:00am, Location: Circle of Plenty, Mossman Botanic Garden, Foxton Ave

MAY 1

Bingo, Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Location: Club Mossman

MAY 2

Dinner & Dazzle, Time: 18:00 - 21:00, Location: Oaks Port Douglas

MAY 3

Friends of the MBG Garden Working Bee, Time: 8 am - 9:30, Location: Garden of Woven Memories, Mossman Botanic Garden, Foxton Ave

MAY 8

Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs, Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Location: Club Mossman

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

SPORTS DIGEST

Flipping fantastic for our judo star

Byron Filmer

Mossman-raised athlete Nikita McDonald has delivered an impressive performance at the Melbourne International Judo Open, winning silver and bronze in her weight category.

Nikita, who grew up in Mossman and is now studying in southern Queensland, excelled in judo while competing for the Coral Coast Judo Club. She represented her home club this month at the elite competition, winning silver in the Under 21s and bronze in the Open category.

"It can be nerve wracking going to nationals, it is important to ground yourself and use the adrenaline to perform," she says.

"Judo is not just about muscle and strength, it also requires technique and mental drive."

While she just missed out on gold, Nikita used the opportunity to focus on improvement and to see what she needs to work on.



Nikita McDonald, in blue, competing at the Brisbane International Open last year. Image: Supplied

"Fighting in the open-age category gave me a better perspective of international expectations."

"In the fight for bronze I beat

a girl I had previously lost to. This gave me the idea of what I have improved on."

Nikita will soon compete in the

state championships, followed by the Oceania Cup in Mandurah, Western Australia, where she hopes to improve her ranking.

SPORTS RESULTS

SHOOTING

Mossman and District Rifle Club target shooting, Saturday April 19

We had six shooters for our double 700 match. Very hot and sunny with high humidity making conditions challenging for the competitors.

F Std: First up was Brendan Delaney scoring 57.2 then Bill Kromwyk shot 59.7. Up next Cameron Leyshon scored 56.2 followed by John Brentson on 54.1.

Sporter Hunter: Tom Baetscher scored 50.6.

Target Rifle: David Forster (from Cairns) scored 48.1.

In the Second Round:

F Std: Delaney scored 59.4 followed by Kromwyk on 66.7 then Leyshon shot 61.3 and Brentson shot 58.3.

Sporter Hunter: Baetscher with a perfect score of 55.9.

Target Rifle: Forster ran out of ammo and didn't finish.

The final results:

F std: Bill Kromwyk 125.14, Cameron Leyshon 117.5, Brendan Delaney 116.6, John Brentson 112.4

Sporter Hunter: Tom Baetscher 105.15

Target Rifle: David Forster 48.1 (round one only)

Next week is a double 300m match, visitors and new members welcome. Sign in around midday, shooting by 1.30pm.

Run events in to Gran Fondo

Continued Page 11

The Port Douglas Gran Fondo Festival will be held from September 12-14, with the running events to take place on Saturday, September 13.

Early bird discounts finish at the end of this month.

Go to portdouglasgranfondo.com.au and runportdouglas.com.au for details.

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Croc Matt Foy gets the handball away under pressure in the clash against Cairns North Tigers on Friday at Port Douglas oval. Picture: Shaun Hollis

CROCS LET ONE SLIP

Shaun Hollis

They hit the lead for the first time in the game with just a few minutes to go, but the Port Douglas Crocs could not hold on against Cairns North Tigers, eventually going down by seven points.

They certainly had their chances, with the ball bobbling around in the goal square several times in the dying stages.

The team can thank the backline for keeping them in the contest in the first half, with countless forward forays repelled. To their credit, the Crocs players hung tough, and gradually pegged back

the skillful Tigers outfit to work their way on top after half time.

The game opened up on the wide-open spaces of Port Douglas oval in the third quarter, and the midfield worked hard, led by Sam Fairclough and Murphy Short.

But every time the Crocs posted a goal, the zippy Tigers forwards responded, with a two-goal buffer maintained. You could not fault the Crocs' effort, with the team constantly pressing forward in search of a win.

But coach Nick Salter was not happy, saying the team showed a "bit of fight" in the second half, but was "ordinary" in the first. "Too

few blokes doing too much," Salter said. "You can't just rock up and have a win."

He said he was not too stressed about losing the first two games of the year, with up to eight players to come back, but he wanted to get on the board this Friday against Centrals Bulldogs.

Best players were Ethan McCullough, Joshua Lea, Daniel Davidson, Tom Kluske, Murphy Short and Sam Fairclough, while Jacob Zboril kicked four goals and Kye Chapple kicked three.

The score was 13.7 (85) to the Tigers, to 11.12 (78) for the Crocs.

Run events added to Gran Fondo

A series of distance running events has been added to the popular Port Douglas Gran Fondo Festival.

The festival, which will be held in September, has added 2km, 5km, 10km and 21.1km running events to the program, which already includes a series of cycling races.

Runners will follow a track along the Port Douglas wharf area, Flagstaff Hill, along Four Mile Beach and through the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, which has signed up as a major sponsor of the events.

Festival director Bade Stapleton said during the launch he had already received a call from an interested couple from the US, and he expected more international runners to come on board.

"We're expecting people to be coming from Japan, we've got a marketing campaign to attract those people," Stapleton said.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland's Tara Bennett said sports tourism now made up about 10 per cent of global tourism spending, and the event was hoping to tap into that trend.

"Port Douglas just fits perfectly with the profile we're seeing in the growth of sports tourism," Bennett said.

Latest research by travel analyst Expedia showed 44 per cent of sports fans travelled internationally for events, she said.

Continued Page 11

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