

Douglas Shire News Newsport

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

SHIPYARD SCHEME

An influential group of powerbrokers is throwing its support behind a bold plan to restart a shipping industry in Port Douglas - P5



This Norship centre in Cairns is one of the inspirations for the latest Waterfront South Precinct plan for Port Douglas and, inset, how one of the areas of the fisherman's wharf proposal in Port Douglas currently looks. Pictures: Norship, Shaun Hollis



Hospitals go digital - P3



Carnivale in colour - P6 & 7



Massage just the remedy - P8



Raiders push for win - P12



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Newsport Print welcomes your community story submissions. Submissions can be emailed to editor@newsport.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. Newsport 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. Newsport Print also welcomes your story ideas, tips and leads.

Job scam blitz

Stephanie Verreet

Job seekers across Douglas Shire are dealing with an increasing number of phishing scams disguised as employment offers in community and backpacker chat groups on social media.

The scammers prey on people looking for casual or immediate work, often luring victims with appealing offers posted in trusted spaces like the Port Douglas Backpackers Facebook group.

These posts, and the private messages that follow, are designed to sound urgent, friendly, and generous, offering flexible, well-paid jobs starting "tomorrow" with little-to-no experience required.

Shire resident Liel G, who did not want her full name published, said she had an unsettling experience after being contacted about a work-from-home opportunity.

"It's hard to tell right away that it's a scam, because the scammers really show that they want to help you and find you a job," she said.

"And then when you talk to them, you realise that the conditions and hours are ridiculous, and that you can work from home and



Scammers are targeting Douglas Shire job seekers.

you don't have to study anything for it.

"And then you realise that it's a lie."

According to Federal Government watchdog Scamwatch, more than 6000 Australians reported losses totalling \$58.3m last year due to social-media scams alone.

Employment scammers typically pose as friendly recruiters or employers, either posting in groups or sending private messages directly to users.

Once the conversation progresses, victims may be asked to provide personal information and share bank account details, where unauthorised withdrawals can occur immediately.

Bloomfield funding bid

The Bloomfield Track will receive \$9m worth of upgrades if Douglas Shire Council can win a State Government grant.

Five sections of the Track have been identified for fixes to make the four-wheel-drive road safer, including an upgrade to the concrete pavements at the 19-20km mark, the 20-21km mark and the 23-24km mark, an upgrade to the sealed section at the 0-2km mark and an upgrade of the McKenzie Creek culvert.

"These projects were also requested by Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council and are a high priority for enhancing connectivity for their community," a report tabled in the last council meeting stated.

Cr Damian Meadows told the meeting the state funding is being set aside for roads that are "posing a bit of a risk to travellers."

The funding will "make it safer", Cr Meadows said.

The Bloomfield Track between Cape Tribulation and Cooktown, completed in 1984, was the cause of protests in the early 1980s due to its construction through untouched rainforest wilderness.

Sunday June 8
MARKETS
Stewart St.
8.00am

Live Band
POUNDCAKE
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12.00pm

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Former CEO's son outed as the IGA armed robber

A teenager who robbed the Port Douglas IGA last year has been sentenced to three years' jail, but released on parole after already serving 11 months behind bars.

Samuel John Cooper, 19, also attempted to rob a Craiglie bottleshop with a saw, punched a neighbour, and smashed the neighbour's car windows with a golf club, during a destructive period leading up to his arrest.

Cooper pleaded guilty in Cairns District Court to armed robbery, attempted armed robbery, assault occasioning bodily harm and wilful

damage. During the sentencing, Judge Dean Morzone said Cooper had been "out of control".

The court heard he had been using drugs at the time, but he had strong support from his mum Rachel Brophy, the most recent Douglas Shire Council chief executive who resigned last year.

Brophy quit in May 2024, with a council release stating at the time she would be spending some more "time with her family".

Cooper tried to rob the bottleshop in March last year, but fled when the attendant could

not open the till. Then, in June, he threatened two IGA employees, including one 14-year-old boy, with a knife during that robbery.

They pressed a panic button to alert police and both incidents were recorded on security video, leading to the arrest.

A victim impact statement from the boy was read out in court, with him saying he thought he was doing OK, but now realised he was not, including being triggered by people wearing hoodies.

New bub goes on record

Every hospital within the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service has now been converted from paper to digital health records.

Mareeba Hospital became the last of nine rural facilities to implement the integrated electronic Medical Record (ieMR) system last week as part of an 18-month project.

The other centres included Mossman, Gordonvale, Innisfail, Tully, Atherton, Herberton, Yarrabah, and Babinda.

CHHHS rural and remote services director Terry Johnson said every patient who attends one of these centres will now receive a digital record.

"This is going to have such a positive impact on our rural and remote patients as it means their digital record can be securely accessed by clinicians across the state," she said.



Mareeba's first "digital baby" Freya Daly, born on May 16, with mum Olena Fensom, dad Kye Daly and sister Sophia Fensom, 8, of Port Douglas.

She said significant infrastructure upgrades were required at each site, including Babinda and Mossman Hospitals, which are

101 and 95 years old respectively. CHHHS is one of five Hospital and Health Services which have been part of this rollout.

News in Brief

CROC ON COURSE

A video of a large saltwater crocodile slowly making its way across the 10th fairway of Palmer Sea Reef Golf Course has been captured by a Douglas Shire local.

The footage, taken by Aviv Jones from Trike Tours this month, shows the about 3m croc heading towards a nearby body of water, with its huge and powerful tail lumbering along behind.

The waterways that sit alongside the Port Douglas golf courses are known homes of crocodiles, with a number of warning signs on the courses reminding golfers to keep their distance and stay CrocWise.

NEW SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Wonga Beach State School has proudly welcomed new acting principal Anita Cubit, who has quickly found her stride in the leadership role.

Her warm approach and passion for education have been warmly embraced by students, staff, and families.

CANE SEASON ARRIVES

Harvesters have been firing up across the Tablelands district to begin Queensland's 2025 sugarcane crush.

It marks the start of a new season that growers hope will bring better fortunes after a tough run last year.

About 28.5m tonnes of cane are expected to be cut and crushed across 13 districts, from near Gladstone in the south right up to Mossman in the Far North.

The crop is down slightly from last year, with flooding across North Queensland causing major losses to plant cane, while prolonged cloudy weather also slowed growth. Despite this, growers are hoping to turn the page on 2024, which was one of the most disrupted seasons in recent memory.



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90 years of CWA spirit

Jamie Jansen

The Mossman branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association is celebrating an incredible 90 years of service to the community this month, with a birthday party set for June 14.

Branch president Laurie Taylor has been part of the QCWA for 59 years, following in the footsteps of her mother Ethel Rutherford.

"It's always been about giving back," said Laurie. "From raising money for families during floods to providing bursaries for students, we've always tried to support those who need it most."

The Mossman branch has helped fund the high school, lobbied for power north of the river, and built the CWA Hall.

The branch has 16 members and runs weekly craft mornings, sing-alongs, and a place for locals to connect. Laurie hopes to see younger women join in to carry on the legacy.



Artist Bianca Velder with her painting Mellifera, which features on the exhibition poster. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Exhibition giving a sugar hit to art lovers

Bianca Velder says she is excited that her artwork Mellifera has become the public face of the latest Douglas Arts Studio Gallery (DAB) exhibition Sweet as Sugar.

The piece, which features on posters for the Mossman gallery exhibition running from this Saturday (June 7), is all about the drive for some to be pushed to work harder like queen bees - Mellifera

is Latin for "honey-bearing". "It's about the pressure that women are under, the mask cracks," Velder says. "The bee drones are just asking her for more and more."

She says, more broadly, the Sweet as Sugar exhibition is reflective of a crucial time in the history of Douglas Shire.

"(It is) indicative of who we are, what we are, what's underlying

here," she says. "Sugar is very important for the region, but it's also about change."

"Mossman is transforming, the whole region is transforming, and I think what we're seeing here in the work is that recognition."

Sweet as Sugar is on at DAB Gallery, 11 Mill Street, Mossman, from Saturday, June 7, to Saturday, July 5.

PUBLIC NOTICE

National Electric Ant Eradication Program Community Meeting

11am , Sunday 8th June at Daintree Siesta, 1973 Cape Tribulation Rd, Diwan.

Updates on electric ant infestations in the Douglas Shire, learn how to reduce the risk of spread and book your free yard check

CLASSIFIED Room Wanted

Hi, I'm a born, raised and recently returning local looking for a private, quiet studio or independent living space in or near Port Douglas from June 22 to October 1.

I'm clean, responsible and seeking a peaceful place to stay at whilst completing a meaningful community project. Open to short-term leases, or decent rentals.

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Shipyard plan gathering steam

Shaun Hollis

A multimillion-dollar development at the Port Douglas south wharf region is envisioned to create hundreds of jobs and reinvigorate the Shire economy.

Some heavyweights of government and tourism have thrown their support behind the project, including Cook MP David Kempton, prominent developer and tourism operator John Morris, marina owner Crystalbrook Collection's chief executive Geoff York, Quicksilver Group managing director Tony Baker, Douglas Shire Council Mayor Lisa Scamazzon and Tourism Port Douglas Daintree executive officer Emma Tunnock.

The plan revolves around a shipyard precinct similar to Norship and Austral in Cairns for repairing and refitting boats, including travel lifts for hoisting large vessels out of the water, an expanded slipway, a boat-supply shop and a market square with cafes and other retail outlets.

Mr Kempton said the Cairns boat-repair industry was becoming overwhelmed with Royal Australian Navy and other commercial work, and there was an opportunity for Port Douglas to capitalise on expanding opportunities.



This 2018 Waterfront South Precinct plan is set to be updated.

"I absolutely and wholeheartedly support it," Mr Kempton said. "There's a real opportunity in Port Douglas."

"I'll be lobbying really hard."

The plan aims to expand on a 2018 Douglas Shire Council Waterfront South Precinct design, which also includes a public boat ramp, tour terminal, fisherman's wharf, marina and 100-space carpark. The project, however, is designed to work in conjunction with the nearby Crystalbrook Superyacht Marina, with CSM chief executive Mr York backing the

latest plan. "We acknowledge that any enhancement of the surrounding area to our facility can only be positive," he said. "I wish you every success in this endeavour."

The project is expected to employ hundreds of skilled workers needing jobs as the region's sugar industry winds down this year.

"With the closure of the Mossman Mill impacting the agricultural sector, the Waterfront South Precinct offers a pathway to economic diversification through the development of a marine industry," a council statement reads.

All the parties involved are pushing for a scoping study as the next step, which is expected to cost \$3m-\$6m. State Tourism Minister Andrew Powell has indicated in-principal support, while funding will also be sought from private enterprise and the Federal Government. The council has called the plan a “transformative initiative designed to revitalise the local economy, generate employment, and secure long-term economic resilience for the region”.

"This is a flagship project that will create a ripple effect across the region," Mayor Scamozzo said. "Now is the time to invest in Port Douglas's future."

TPDD's Mrs Tunnock said the project had the potential to revitalise the region's economy and stimulate job creation.

"We are the most tourism-dependent regional economy in Queensland, and the Waterfront South Precinct presents a critical opportunity to secure our economic future," she said.

Mr Morris said the project would help unlock new industry potential, revitalising the waterfront. He said: "The Waterfront South Precinct offers a pathway to economic diversification."

Wangetti Trail leads state tourism vision

Completing the Wangetti Trail to Port Douglas is one of the top-four priorities of a new State Government tourism plan "to make Queensland the leading holiday destination in the nation".

Destination 2045, promoted as a “visionary roadmap to supercharge the state’s industry into a new era of growth, innovation

and global leadership” touts the Trail as a major project at the forefront of the future of tourism in Queensland. Premier David Crisafulli said he wanted to maximise the opportunity of hosting the 2032 Olympic Games in Brisbane.

"Destination 2045 is our 20-year plan to make Queensland the leading holiday destination in the

nation," he said. The Trail, however, has been dogged by controversy since it was first announced more than a decade ago, with many Far North Queenslanders saying a walking and mountain-biking trail along the hilly beachfront is prone to being washed away like parts of the Captain Cook Highway already are.

Large sections of the first 7.8km section of the Trail from Palm Cove to Ellis Beach already washed away once in February, after being opened in September.

Slated last year to cost \$47m to complete, the price of the Trail has continued to rise, but the government has repeatedly committed to completing the 94km route.

The Mossman & District Show Society presents the
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A detailed black and white line drawing of a modern tractor, viewed from a front-three-quarter angle. It has large, treaded tires and a prominent front grille.

A circular logo featuring a stylized green plant or tree in the center, surrounded by the text "Mossman & District Show Society" in a circular border.

A black and white line drawing of a cow's head, facing forward. It has large, expressive eyes and a slightly open mouth.

A black and white line drawing of a corn plant, showing the leaves and the developing ears of corn at the top.

All the fun of the



Amy Sheppard performing at Savannah Sounds.

From the parade on Friday night to the Pooch Party, the Family Beach Day, Savannah Sounds music festival, and all the other amazing events, Port Douglas Carnivale turned on the fun this year.

The Newsport photography team, including Byron Filmer, Stephanie Verreet, Jamie Jansen and Shaun Hollis, was out and about all weekend.



Savannah Sounds acts included The Wolfe Brothers (far left), The Black Sorrows (left), Roadtrippers (far left below), Sheppard (left below) and Max Jackson.



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party in pictures



The Windswell and Sea Circus Productions float at the Macrossan Street Parade won Best Business float.



The Macrossan Street Parade on Friday night and the Family Beach Day on Saturday at Four Mile Beach were two of the most popular and colourful events at this year's Port Douglas Carnivale.

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10 YEARS AGO

Signs of cyclone coral recovery

Reefs impacted by category five cyclone Yasi in 2011 are demonstrating their capacity to bounce back, with new research showing an average 4.4 per cent coral cover increase over two years.

The finding follows the largest assessment ever conducted on the Great Barrier Reef after a cyclone or major disturbance.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority lead researcher Roger Beeden said the results show the ecosystem retains its natural ability to recover.

"The Reef is constantly changing, and for many thousands of years it has undergone cycles of disturbance and regeneration because of cyclones," said Dr Beeden.

"What we're now witnessing in many areas between Cairns and Bowen, where cyclone Yasi swept through, is good regrowth of surviving corals and large numbers of new coral colonies.

"As we expected, the results varied among individual reefs."

Cora's helping hands

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

At first glance, a massage might seem like a luxury, but at Cora Remedial Massage & Bodywork in Cooya Beach, Cora offers something more: targeted, therapeutic care rooted in clinical training and a deep understanding of the body.

"Remedial massage is very different from relaxation massage," Cora said. "We complete a year-long diploma covering anatomy, muscle function, injury recovery, and how the body responds to trauma. We learn how to support healing, which techniques to use for different conditions, and just as importantly, what not to do."

Cora works with a diverse range of clients - from tradies, and farmers to office workers, athletes, tree loppers, and even the occasional bull rider. Their issues vary just as much, including sore backs, joint replacements, tennis or golfer's elbow, chronic pain, or simply waking up feeling sore.

"Pretty much anyone with a broken everything," she laughed. She also treats complex con-



Cora offers targeted remedial massage. Picture: Jamie Jansen

ditions like frozen shoulders, disc herniations, and joint replacements. With a broad understanding of how underlying health issues like diabetes can contribute to pain or injury, Cora helps clients better understand their condition and how it can be managed.

Cora's journey began at 23 with sports massage training, which eventually led to years working in luxury day spas. But it was one moment that changed everything, when a client arrived at a spa in visible pain, and Cora realised she wanted to do more than offer

temporary relief. That realisation led her to open her own studio, and two years on, Cora RMB has become a trusted name across the Douglas Shire.

Book at corarmb.com, on Facebook, Instagram, or phone 0425 741 343.



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THREE-METRE CROC ON GOLF COURSE

JB Blockey

Need an Ate Iron to get out of that trap!

Nicola Hood

Is that Mr Personality? Is he still around?

Donna Everitt Fisher

Mitchell Everitt, found a golf buddy for you.

Jtwodramakarma Dharma

Wonder what his handicap is?

Lawrence Mason

Now that's an obstacle!

Suede Varrica

NP posts this croc but nothing about the 3m croc removed from Aniches crossing. I feel as though the public needs to know that where their kids and tourists are swimming had a croc caught there this month, that's why I'm commenting on this.

Mim Hayward

He has been there for a while! Easily 20-odd years. If not much more!

Bill Turek

Howdy Johnno, they've employed the croc to fetch the balls out of the water hazards.

Helen Killen

Livens up the golf at Palmer Reef.

Jo Black

What a legend!! Going about his day.
Be croc wise and enjoy our FNQ critters.

daintreeferal777

So nothing new in regards to the crocs?

I miss the wildlife up there.

Denise O'Connor

This is possibly the same croc

we saw whilst eating breakfast there!!!

PUSH FOR NEW MARINA TERMINAL

Tina Louise

No to the new yacht thing, too many unfinished projects in Port already.

Bruce Dargavel

Interesting plans to revitalise the waterfront! 10 years late and will take 10 years to happen! And a new yacht club? The current one is a tourism disaster! Can't see them ever raising funds for a new one!

Rosie Wang

Instead of building a new one - how about upgrading our existing one? Has so much potential to be stunning... best outlook for sunsets.

Bryan Hedges

What about extending the public pontoon for starters and give the boating fraternity some amenities?

Terence Melchert

Definitely need to do something to reinvigorate Port Douglas and in my opinion this plan would assist enormously and provide new marine facilities for boaties, professional fishermen and tourism operators.

Bev Rossignoli

We live just out of Mossman and visited Port on Sunday. It was dead, which was surprising given it was Carnivale weekend. I remember when Port was buzzing. Now it's just another jaded country town with little to offer.

Dan Hammersley

I contacted council and David Kempton about a new boat ramp for Port. Council weren't really



How We See It!



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

interested due to the mangroves that need to be removed. David Kempton said he would get back to me for discussion and never did. This was about 4 months ago I contacted both.

Jonathan Huntley

Dan Hammersley, mangroves are protected. Port's already got a boat ramp. I'm glad no one wasted their time on that.

LAWRENCE ISN'T LOST IN THE JUNGLE

Bob Perry

Strewth Lawrence, I thought the wheels had fell off ya trolley there for a moment !!!

Jen Sternbeck

It would be funny if it wasn't so so true. Good article Lawrence - if only it could of been.

JB Blockey

It took a couple of paras before I twigged to where you were going with this article Lawrence Mason!

Bold, yes. Challenging, definitely. Upsetting, for some, probably. But behind this "storyline" is an uncomfortable truth - can we afford to just dream as to "what could have been?"

ISSUES FOR JARDINE RIVER FERRY

Forest Dweller

Who dropped the maintenance ball?

Joanne Storey

They take an obscene amount of money for a very short trip & clearly not spending it on maintenance of the ferry.

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

NATIONAL ELECTRIC ANT ERADICATION PROGRAM COMMUNITY MEETING

Electric ants Vs Green ant



They are really that tiny!

11am , Sunday 8th June at Daintree Siesta, 1973 Cape Tribulation rd, Diwan.

Updates on electric ant infestations in the Douglas Shire, learn how to reduce the risk of spread and book your free yard check

Stop the spread of electric ants

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Queensland Government

SOCIALS

Plenty of people were out and about in Port Douglas for the Carnivale. Pictures: Stephanie Verreet



Kate Agrums and Katie Hatfield.



Jennalee Salerno, Sienna, 8, Jess Salerno, and Pia, 4.



Ryder Hartley, Kirsti Osborne, Raylene Silverman and Keith Hartley.



Alina Polishuk, Lee Tartaglia, Becks Brown and Nadia Carlon.



Carmelo Cernuto, Alessio Toccaceli and Michela Scacchi.



Raquel Lobera, Elena Corredera, Belen Cotignola, Marina Gonzalez and Sergio Zorzoli.

WHAT'S ON

STAY UP TO DATE

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



JUNE 9

FULL MOON PARTY at the YACHTY, Time: 9pm - midnight, Location: The YACHTY - Port Douglas Yacht Club - 1 Spinnaker Cl - Port Douglas

JUNE 10

Food Gardening at Circle of Plenty Community Garden, Time: 8am - 9am, Location: Circle of Plenty, Mossman Botanic Garden, Foxton Ave, Mossman

JUNE 5

Maho Magic Bar, Location: Dixie Park

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

JUNE 12

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

JUNE 13

Rockin' Rick DJ, Time: 7:30pm - 10:30pm, Location: Club Mossman

Monthly Social Dancing, Time: 6:30pm - 9:30pm, Location: Pullman Sea Temple Resort

JUNE 6

Shannon Hunter @ The Sandbar, Cape Trib Camping, Time: 5.30pm - 9pm, Location: Cape Tribulation Camping

Yahdoh, Time: 7pm - 10pm, Location: Club Mossman

Bobby Alu "My Style" Tour, Time: 6pm - 10pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

Maho Magic Bar, Location: Dixie Park

Dinner & Dazzle, Time: 6pm - 9pm, Location: Oaks Port Douglas

JUNE 14

Rob Longstaff, Time: 7:30pm - 10:30pm, Location: Club Mossman

JUNE 7

Mossman Gymnastics Fundraiser Trivia Night and more!, Time: 5:30pm, Location: Mossman Boat & Fishing Club, Newell Beach

Working Bee at Mossman Botanic Garden, Time: 8am - 10am, Location: Circle of Plenty, Mossman Botanic Garden, Foxton Ave, Mossman

Brandon Walker, Time: 7:30pm - 10:30pm, Location: Club Mossman

Maho Magic Bar, Location: Dixie Park

Tequila, Tacos & Tunes, Time: 4pm - 10pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

JUNE 15

Shanice Duo, Time: 4pm - 7pm, Location: Club Mossman

JUNE 8

Daintree Festival 2025 (Poundcake performing live!), Time: Markets from 8am Live Music from 12pm, Location: Daintree Village, Stewart St

Maho Magic Bar, Location: Dixie Park

Lucy Gallant @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 1pm - 4pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

JUNE 17

Food Gardening at Circle of Plenty Community Garden, Time: 8am - 9am, Location: Circle of Plenty, Mossman Botanic Garden, Foxton Ave, Mossman

REAL ESTATE

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Saturday June 7 10am-10:30am
Ray White

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Saturday 7 June 10am-12pm
Sotheby's Port Douglas



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SPORTS DIGEST



IN BRIEF

RUGBY LEAGUE

The Mossman Sharks had a bye on the weekend, but nearly caused the upset of the round the week before, going down 12-14 to undefeated Southern Suburbs.

Mossman is away to Atherton this Saturday.

LAWN BOWLS

Mossman's Men's Bowls results Saturday, May 31: Bill Allison & Peter Busch W 1; Jock Constantine, Daryl Hoskins & Eric Smith W 2; Gavin Cleary, Ted Holmes & David White W 15 and winners on the day Mike Sims, Terry Richards & Col Widdows W 26.

Mossman Men's Bowls Jackpot results Saturday, May 24: Neville Fletcher & Brian Williams W 4; Jock Constantine, Troy Churchill & Ted Holmes W 26; Col Widdows, Charlie Toohey & John Cochrane W 28 with 14 ends and winners on the day, Alistair Douglas & Eric Smith W 28 with 19 ends. Championship Singles: Peter Busch defeated Steve Cue, Charlie Toohey defeated David White. Championship Pairs: Brian Williams and David White defeated Greg McLean and David Beaumont.

SHOT OF THE DAY!

With the Port Douglas Crocs having the bye in the AFL Cairns competition on Carnivale weekend, a gaelic football exhibition match was played at Port Douglas oval. Close to a dozen Irish players made the trek up from Cairns for the match, where the emphasis was more on having fun rather than keeping score. The Crocs had another week off last weekend, with an association match taking place in Cairns, but play Cairns Lions at 2pm at home this Saturday.

Slow starts give Reef Raiders sinking feeling

From Page 12

Meanwhile, in the match the week before, the Reef Raiders went down to Cairns Wanderers 13-27 at home in Port Douglas on Saturday after again falling behind in the first half.

The game started with a tense nil-all stalemate for the majority of the first stanza until the Wanderers broke the game open with a flurry of tries.

The Raiders finished the game off stronger, but the damage had already been done by then.

Try scorers were Martiniano Consalvo and Kane Gray.

The Raiders will be wanting to be switched on early this Saturday against Trinity.



Reef Raider Dereck Letcher has made the North Queensland representative team. Picture: Shaun Hollis

In other news, Reef Raider Dereck Letcher has made the North Queensland representative team for the Queensland Country Championships to be played in late June.

Mossman PRINT

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The Douglas United Dragons Under-9 team is one of four junior squads at the club.

HERE'S HOW TO TRAIN A SQUAD OF DRAGONS

Shaun Hollis

Training up little Dragons is becoming second nature for Douglas United soccer club junior coordinator Trent Berry.

Berry's own children have been playing for the Douglas United Dragons for three years, but this is his first year as the leader of the program.

And right now is an exciting time for him to take on the job, with the club fielding four junior teams this year, up from three last

season, including a new Under-7s team.

"At the moment four teams is pretty good for us," Berry says.

The program is building from the bottom up - there are also about 15 even younger children taking part in the Thursday afternoon "squirts" sessions, which bodes well for the future of the club.

"It's a good family club, it's a social club," Berry says.

And the youth also have something to aspire to, with the men's

team well placed in the Football Queensland Far North and Gulf League community second division following a nil-all away draw on Friday night against Southside Comets.

The senior Dragons are currently sitting third on the table with four wins.

And the club is also running an internal women's program on Wednesday nights, with all new players welcome.

Follow Douglas United Dragons on Facebook for further details.



Reef Raider Oliver Spurrier against Cairns Wanderers.

Unsuccessful raid on Cairns stronghold for Port Douglas

Port Douglas had to endure a long trip home from the other side of Cairns on Saturday after pulling up short against Southside Crusaders in the Far North Queensland Rugby Union competition.

The Raiders went down 18-32 at southern Cairns ground Petersen Park after another slow start.

Jean Valette kicked a penalty goal in the fifth minute, but the team did not score again in the first half.

Three tries were scored in the second half, with Joseph McNeil crossing over in the 48th minute, Liam Madin in the 56th, and Cervan Vazquez in the 71st.

But none were converted by Port Douglas.

This Saturday at 4pm, the Raiders have a shorter distance to travel, with a match against the Trinity Bulls at The Paddock ground in Machans Beach.

Continued, Page 11

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