

Douglas Shire News Newsport

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Miallo school creatures come to life



Students Boe, 6, Alex, 6, Eleanor, 9, and Heidi, 11, doing their favourite animal impressions at the new Miallo State School mural, which highlights Far North Queensland wildlife. Story, Page 4. Picture: Shaun Hollis



Remembering a leader - P2



Ironman in region - P3,12



Sailaway hits full power - P7

WORKER BED CRISIS

Shaun Hollis

A pair of new development projects are pushing to provide more housing for Port Douglas's seasonal workers, with some desperate to find accommodation so

they can carry on living and working in the tourist town.

With hostels across the district booked out, including long waiting lists, seasonal workers are posting messages on social-media chat

groups such as this one: "I'll be in Port Douglas next week for work and all the hostels are booked. Just wondering if anyone has a room/bed/tent space?"

With the demand for new hous-

ing for seasonal workers so high, some are aiming to help improve the situation for next season.

For example, an about 120-guest project at the Coral Lodge is well under way.

Continued page 5





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Vale tourism 'warrior'

Bryan Littlely

A heartwarming tribute to Port Douglas tourism pioneer Robbie Bastion from MP and friend Michael Healy has been flooded with comments echoing the local leader's words about the man, who died on Monday, June 2, aged 69.

Speaking with Newport on Wednesday, Mr Healy broke from a hectic schedule to double down on his show of respect for Mr Bastion.

"I tell you what, Robbie did a huge amount for tourism but particularly Port Douglas. The family programs from all over the world, he was a real driving force," he said.

"When we were all back in the day, 30 years ago, promoting and pushing Port Douglas and Quicksilver, he was certainly one of the icons."

In the tribute posted to Facebook earlier this week, Mr Healy said it had been his privilege to know Mr Bastion for well over 30 years.

"He started off as my boss, quickly becoming a good mate



Tributes have poured in for Port Douglas tourism pioneer Robbie Bastion.

and a wonderful influence. He extended to me many opportunities which have contributed so much to my development over the years.

"There were a few of us in this little group in Cairns who travelled the world for decades and had some amazing and highly entertaining times, all while selling and promoting Far North Queensland.

"It was an age when building personal relationships was more

important than building digital connectivity.

"Robbie used to say that understanding the key to sales was to understand the people we were dealing with. His contribution to the growth and development of tourism and sales in our region was and remains enormous. He knew the entire distribution system so well."

His book, In Contingents: Tales of a Road Warrior, covered many of his amazing journeys and engagements reflecting a great discipline and further literary skills.

Tourism Tropical North Queensland chief executive Mark Olsen said Robbie always had the knack for selling the state and became famous (or infamous) in travel when he joined Quicksilver as general director of sales and hit the road.

"Anyone who knew Robbie knew his love of this region and of the travel industry and he never quit until he got the deal done," he said.

More than 400 people acknowledged Mr Healy's tribute and dozens offered comments.

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New gallery is a dream come true

The new Port Douglas Rainforest Studio and Gallery is not just a space for Erin Frizelle to display her work, but a long time dream which has been realised.

Ms Frizelle has lived in the area for almost 30 years and has had a lifelong passion for art. She has previously only sold and displayed her work at local markets, but now has a dedicated space to work in and share her creativity with the community.

"I've wanted to open up something for a while now, I decided it was time to present myself more professionally," Ms Frizelle says.

"The markets are my main outlet but they are quite limited.



Artist Erin Frizelle has opened a new gallery on the outskirts of Port Douglas. Picture: Byron Filmer

"In this studio I can display some larger pieces as well as my smaller watercolour work without threat of damage."

The studio is in Craiglie building The Round Space and is open Tuesday to Friday from 10am - 3pm or by appointment.

Hey there Ironman, show us the money

Shaun Hollis

Douglas Shire's peak tourism body is reviewing Sunday's Ironman Cairns event to see how local businesses can benefit more from the weekend.

About 2800 athletes from 62 nations descended on the region for the race, which was expected to pump about \$15m into the region. But, while some Port Douglas resort operators reported an uptick in room bookings, many other retailers said they lost money from the road closure.

Douglas Chamber of Commerce member and regular Newsport columnist Lawrence Mason last

week called on Douglas Shire councillors to lobby for compensation for tourism operators, saying \$50,000 was a fair amount.

Tourism Port Douglas Daintree executive officer Emma Tunnock said it was obviously never ideal to have the region's main access route closed for a full day.

"However, it's crucial for us to take a strategic approach to managing disruptions and advocating for our local businesses to ensure the best possible outcomes," Mrs Tunnock said. "We're committed to gaining a better understanding of the business impacts from this year's event, and we'll explore

ways to better leverage Ironman Cairns in future years."

Douglas Shire Mayor Lisa Scmazzon said the council understood the benefits the Ironman brings to the broader Cairns region, but was also aware the closure of the Captain Cook Highway could impact on Douglas Shire tourism operators and residents.

"We do support any advocacy by TPDD to ensure that the entire Shire will benefit in future races," Mayor Scmazzon said.

The Highway is a state-administered road, so DSC had no control over how the road is used on the other side of Ellis Beach, she said.

News in Brief

FUGITIVE ON THE RUN

A prisoner who escaped Lotus Glen low-security prison on a red tractor remains at large.

Fugitive Michael Graeme Rennie, 43, escaped from Lotus Glen near Mareeba on Sunday, June 1, on a red Massey tractor.

Rennie, who is serving about six years for offences involving assault, theft, drugs and weapons, is described as 174cm tall, 56kg, lightly built, with a fair complexion, fair hair and blue eyes.

He has a range of tattoos including a gun on his left shoulder, a dragon and skull on his right shoulder and a clown with a gun on his left ribs.

E-SCOOTER CRASH DEATH

A 12-year-old boy died after crashing his e-scooter into a parked car in Mareeba last week.

At between 10.30pm and 10.50pm on Tuesday, June 10, the boy was travelling along Strattmann Street when he hit the vehicle. Emergency services rushed to the scene and started CPR, but the boy was pronounced dead shortly afterwards.

HIRE CAR GOES MISSING

A Cooktown man has been charged with multiple offences after a white MG was rented in North Cairns and then disappeared.

The MG3 was due to be returned to the car-hire business on Wednesday, May 28, with police recovering the car a week later from a Cooktown home on Wednesday, June 4.

Police arrested a 41-year-old man and charged him with multiple offences including unlawful use of a motor vehicle, stealing and drug possession.

He is due to appear at Cooktown Magistrates Court on Wednesday, July 2.

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LOCALS RATES

New artwork wows Miallo

If a picture tells a thousand words, the stunning new mural at Miallo State School is a novel.

Created by Townsville artist Katie Louise Bigg across the past few weeks, the brilliantly colourful mural is titled Rainforest to Reef. The mural at Miallo has been quick to turn heads, with dozens of comments posted on social media.

"It's stunning. Just saw it for the first time dropping my daughter off. Great job," said Rachel Smith.

But the real test of the work and Katie's talent was down to students Alex, Boe, Eleanor and Heidi, who each had their say on their favourite parts of the mural.

Alex, 6, said: "Probably the cassowary, yeah, I like cassowaries."

"I like the fishy, the nemo," said Boe, 6, "Because he gets lost and then he finds his grown-ups again and then, yeah."

Eleanor, 9, said her favourite part is the ulysses butterfly "because we get them a lot at our house... I live in the country."

"My favourite part is probably the turtle because I like the colours that we used," added 11-year-old Heidi.



CCTV footage shows a man reaching over the counter and stealing a charity money box.

Thief caught on CCTV

Jamie Jansen

Club Mossman staff have been left shocked after a man was caught on CCTV stealing a full donation jar late last Monday night, June 9.

The jar, shaped like a blue dog and used for collecting community donations (estimated to contain about \$170) was taken when the staff member briefly stepped

away. "It was blatant," a spokesperson at Club Mossman said. "He looked straight at it, reached over, and took it without hesitation."

The man reportedly returned the following day and attempted to steal another donation jar, this time one meant for guide dogs.

Fortunately, a staff member noticed and intervened before the theft could take place.

Footage of both incidents has been provided to the police, and a formal report has been filed.

Staff have confirmed the man has not returned since the second incident.



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More beds for workers

Continued from Page 1

The about 120 more budget-accommodation beds are expected to be available by early in the new year in seven bunker-style demountable buildings.

And an accommodation park with about 50 powered one-to-two bedroom cabins, 20 powered RV sites and 10 caravan sites is planned for a former sugarcane farm on the Captain Cook Highway not far towards Mossman from the Port Douglas IGA.

Coral Lodge owners Thomas and Kylie Cowlard said the town was crying out for more affordable housing for both workers and locals as the recovery from Cyclone Jasper and the Covid-19 pandemic started to ramp up.

The Lodge was totally flooded out during Jasper, with 12 rooms completely washed away, but insurance money and a \$250,000 joint-government disaster-fund grant has put them in a position where they can provide more dormitory-style rooms.

"Now there's going to be seven demountables going across there and each one of the demountables will have four rooms in them, and each room will have its own bath-



Coral Lodge owners Thomas and Kylie Cowlard are set to open 28 new rooms before next high season. Picture: Shaun Hollis

room," Thomas said. "And those 28 rooms will have access to a new kitchen."

And the need will soon be even greater, with the popular Dougies Backpackers Resort and Pandanas Tourist Park expected to close within a couple of years to make way for a new resort.

"Whenever that happens, we have to be sort of ready, because there's not enough accommodation in Port Douglas," Thomas said.

Kylie stressed the new Coral Lodge rooms won't just be for

peak-season backpackers, however, with customers still needed at low season.

"It will be for locals too," Kylie said.

The couple said they had spent more than half a million dollars doing up the Lodge.

"It's time to give back," Thomas said. "I know housing's a massive problem."

"Without the backpackers, the town is shut down for sure."

Meanwhile, another worker-housing park has been pro-

posed for a former sugarcane farm on the Captain Cook Highway not far north of the Port Douglas IGA.

The development, if approved by Douglas Shire Council, would likely include about 50 powered one-to-two bedroom cabins, 20 powered RV sites and 10 caravan sites on about 4.2ha next to Crees Creek, according to a letter sent to DSC in late April by Hardy Town Planners.

There is also space for a stage-two development on about 3.6ha nearby at a later date, with about 40 more possible cabin sites available there.

"The Port Douglas business community, together with Douglas Shire Council and other state agencies, have identified that there is a critical need to provide affordable and locally based workers' accommodation," the application document states.

The planners stated the Douglas Shire Economic Development Strategy 2021 to 2024 noted the need to "address vital issues that continue to block economic growth such as the low availability of affordable housing, a shortage of local workers and the limited opportunity for higher-paying jobs".

Some nice blocks, if you can get 'em

They may not be enough to save Douglas Shire from a chronic housing shortage, but there are currently more than 50 blocks of land ready for sale in subdivisions in the area.

One key project, however, up to 39 blocks in Stage 2 of New Port Estate at Craiglie, has been sitting on the shelf since April 2022.

Numerous attempts by Newsport to contact the developers have so far reached dead ends.

The ongoing land divisions currently in various stages of progress include BeChe Estate at Craiglie, Niramaya Resort Stage Three in Port Douglas, and Ocean Breeze Estate Stage Five at Cooya Beach.

BeChe still has about 13 blocks

available, the Niramaya release will feature 22 blocks and Ocean Breeze had available, at last check, 23 blocks. But a plan by developer Port Douglas Land Developments to make 39 lots at Craiglie near Captain Cook Highway, as part of Stage Two of New Port Estate, has been stalled since April 2022.

Douglas Shire Council reports

relating to the development from that time and before indicate conditions requested including an upgrade of the intersection of Beor Street and the Captain Cook Highway. The developers were asked to install a right turn channel with a "short turn slot" on the Highway to allow for safe entry into Beor Road.

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Push to help flying foxes

A pair of new projects, totalling \$2m, will help the endangered spectacled flying-fox – a crucial long-distance pollinator and seed-disperser for Wet Tropics rainforests.

Found only in Far North Queensland and New Guinea, spectacled flying-foxes made headlines around the world in 2018 when a heatwave in FNQ wiped out more than 23,000 animals.

Terrain NRM's Dr Andrew Dennis said the new projects, funded by the Federal Government, aim to reverse the species' decline through actions including habitat improvement, reducing deaths from tick paralysis, and better understanding and managing the resources that the flying-foxes need.

One project will also help to develop a new way to monitor their numbers. Dr Dennis said local spectacled flying-foxes numbers plummeted between 2004 and 2016 from 250,000 to 75,000.

The 2018 heatwave killed another 23,000 spectacled flying-foxes and modelling predicts the declines will continue.

Cat curfew's higher call

Shaun Hollis

A Douglas Shire resident has stepped up his long-term campaign to protect native wildlife by calling on the newest state Environment Minister to implement a statewide cat curfew.

Ian Mitting, who has been fighting for more than a decade to have tougher cat laws implemented in the Shire region, wrote to State Government Environment Minister Andrew Powell earlier this month.

"It is with great disappointment that your Government has not done something about the cat problem that has been the cause of more deaths of native wildlife than humans have in clearing vegetation," Mr Mitting wrote.

"Can you please review your policy and protect our wildlife."

Mr Mitting said last Friday he had not heard back from the Minister yet, but he would continue to lobby for tougher cat laws.

"(I) have seen a few Torres Strait pigeons and baby curlews dead in our street when we had neighbours with cats," he said.

"This is what started me 13



There are at least 5.3 million pet cats in Australia. Picture: Shaun Hollis

years ago to try and get the council to implement a cat curfew as other councils have done.

"We live in a unique wet tropics area that depends a lot on tourists."

Councils in several other states have brought in cat curfews to help protect native fauna, with experts saying Australia leads the world in wildlife extinction rates and two-thirds of those are caused

by cats. Research from the Federal Government's Threatened Species Recovery Hub has found that every suburb that has a 24-hour curfew on cats will save around 200,000 native animals per year.

It is estimated that cats kill 3.2 million mammals and 1.2 million birds on average each day in Australia. There are at least 5.3 million pet cats in Australia, with 70 per cent allowed to roam and hunt.



Tuesday 1 July

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Phones helping to save lives

With the help of generous locals, The Hungry Pug cafe in Mareeba has been making a huge difference by raising enough money to donate about 40 mobile phones to a vital charity.

The phones, to be donated to the Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service, will support people leaving abusive relationships, offering a safe and discreet way to stay connected with services,

family, and emergency support. About \$2200 was raised through the cafe's monthly community tip jar, including a remarkable \$1000 contribution from an anonymous customer. Local business NQ Mobile Hub also stepped in, donating five of the phones directly.

Cafe owners Victoria and Simon Crosby say they are blown away by the generosity.

"It is unreal how much support

the community gives us, both in backing our business and supporting the causes we connect them to," Mrs Crosby said.

"Every month we try to shine a bit of light."

Since opening in 2020, the Crosbys have used their tip jar initiative to support schools, aged care, and now Meals on Wheels Mareeba, the next recipient of this month's tips.

10 YEARS AGO

TPDD hosts an industry gathering at QT venue

Tourism Port Douglas and Daintree has hosted a small get-together at QT Port Douglas to help new members in the region mingle with established players.

Plans had originally been made for a lawn-bowls day in Mossman but unexpected pull-outs saw the event moved to QT instead.

Represented were United Backpackers, Port Douglas Queenslanders, Dragonfly Weddings, Flames of the Forest, Beach Shack, Port Douglas Event Management, Tourism Port Douglas and Daintree themselves and QT Port Douglas.

TPDD executive officer Tara Bennett said the get-together had been plenty of fun and provided a good opportunity for networking.

"It was a good to see everyone getting together and getting that information about other operators in the area," Ms Bennett said.



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Sailaway's eco power

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

Eco-tourism often brings to mind things like bamboo straws or reusable bottles, but for reef operator Sailaway, it goes much deeper.

For them, it's about experiencing the reef in the best possible way; immersive, unforgettable, and truly eco-friendly.

Sailaway was among the first to earn Advanced Eco Certification 16 years ago, and later became the first to achieve Climate Action Leader status, the highest eco-certification in Australian tourism. Since then, they've continued to lead by example.

The latest move? Adding a second solar electric glass-bottom boat to the fleet.

This electric vessel, named the EV Explorer, joins their original solar-powered tender, EV Discovery, already in use on Sailaway's Low Isles tours.

While the two vessels share a similar design ethos - both are lightweight, solar-powered, and built for minimal impact - EV Explorer marks a refined evolution, built with newer technology and improved efficiency.



Sailaway owner Steve Edmondson with the newest addition to the fleet, the electric tender EV Explorer, at Mackay Coral Cay. Picture: Sailaway

Sailaway VII is the only catamaran offering daily tours from Port Douglas to Mackay Coral Cay. Once there, small groups board a whisper-quiet, glass-bottom e-tender for a smooth, zero-emission ride over the pristine reef.

The design has been tested across a year of mixed weather at Low Isles and proven to perform reliably in all conditions.

Sailaway owner Steve Edmondson, who designed the tender himself, worked with Ocean Blue Boats and Pasma Electrical in Cairns to bring it to life.

"Even after a full day on the water, the EV Explorer can comfortably return to Port Douglas without needing to plug in," he said.

For more information about Sailaway's tours and eco-initiatives, visit sailawayportdouglas.com.



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E-bike tour highlights sights

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

With peak season on the horizon, The Bike Shop & Hire is inviting frontline tourism staff to discover Mossman from a fresh perspective - offering a free chance to experience the shop's Mossman Highlights e-bike tour first-hand.

The initiative, dubbed the "FOC Friday", is designed specifically for those working in guest services and bookings, giving staff a genuine taste of the tour so they can pass on their enthusiasm to guests seeking unique day-trip ideas.

Launched last year by owners Rod and Ange Johnson, the self-guided e-bike tour takes visitors off the beaten track - from Cooya Beach to Shannonvale, stopping at highlights like Mossman Gorge, a local chocolate farm, a fruit winery, and more.

"If they've actually done the tour themselves, it becomes something personal they can recommend," Rod said.

"It answers that daily question: 'What is there to do around here?' with real excitement," Ange said.



Tour operators can do a free e-bike tour of the Mossman region.

So far, it's working. Feedback from early FOC participants has been glowing, with many describing the ride as family-friendly, adventurous, and a welcome break from the usual tourist trail.

To take part in a FOC Friday tour, simply email bookings@port-douglasbikeshire.com and provide proof of employment in tourism or hospitality.



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IS MORE WORKER HOUSING COMING?

Muz Laufer

Better do some road work and put somewhere to turn off the highway in that plan.

Gordon Smith

How about affordable houses for locals instead of \$2-3 million dollar bloody luxury units?

Kylie Cowlard

My husband and I own the Coral Beach Lodge and we are very well aware of the crisis ahead of Dougie's closure. We (as mentioned in article) have been approved to build an extension of our lodge comprising of 28 additional units with private bathrooms, and shared kitchens which will be available for locals too at an affordable cost when we release them later this year.

TRACTOR GETS READERS TALKING

Charmain DeGoumois

The bloke in the photo looks nothing like the bloke I saw standing by the tractor in the middle of the road the other day.

Nathan Wynne

That's what the prisoner escaped in from up here at Lotus.

Christopher Saint

It's good to see that the local constabulary are ploughing on with their investigation into this...

Myka Morris

Came off the back of a truck and punctured the fuel tank, will get picked up soon enough. Calm ya farm.

Peter Tuccandidgee

I saw that on Sunday morning when going to work lol. Is that same one from Lotus Glen lol

Kenny Stouch

That's a slow news day if I've seen one.

Robin Williams

Maybe the escapee from Lotus left it there and swam for it?

Joel Miller

So you mean to say he has driven that tractor from Lotus down the range to Wonga and no one noticed??

LEADERS HAVE THEIR SAY ON IRONMAN

Geoff Morris

The closure of Captain Cook Highway for these events is ridiculous. Port Douglas and communities further north are terribly disadvantaged.

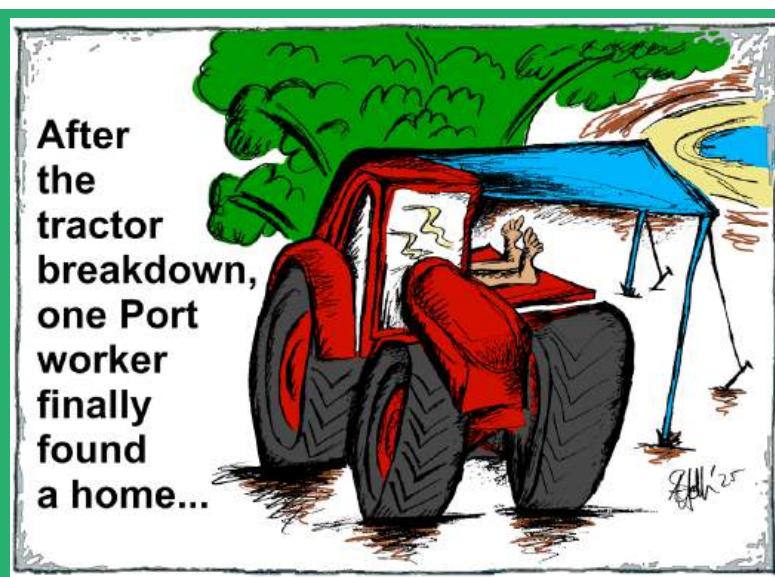
Will Stephens

This is borderline illegal. "Causing an obstruction" is punishable by law, it's pretty simple.

I presume a public servant is responsible for this total chaos and mayhem. We should all claim for substantial compensation, it's easy to prove and would certainly be successful.

Neil Jabs

Event ORGANISERS- please ensure NO bike riders practice on this road prior to or after the event closure day. It is far too dangerous, especially when bike riders go right up the front of the traffic at every traffic lights - then cars have to overtake only



Cartoon by
Shaun Hollis

to repeat at every controlled stop. Go practice somewhere else. You have the whole road on the closure day.

I note bikers already practising riding with cars, trucks, etc, all on this road this week. Safety is for all road users, not just the cyclists, to add further risk to this precarious road.

Susan Attwood

Lol, how long has the ironman competition been going? Same thing every year.

Terence Melchert

Having the race when the road is in good condition has some promotional value for Douglas - but let's be up front and recognise that most of the dollar value goes to tourism in Cairns. With the road in the current condition the race will just be another nail in reducing tourism outcomes in Douglas - surely no more race closures until the road is 100 per

cent repaired. And no bicycles at all until that time. Real leadership required.

Bruce Dargavel

Absolute weak word salad of politically correct responses from TPDD and our do-nothing Douglas Shire Council and mayor.

Can you imagine the outcry if they ran it within the boundaries of Cairns Council and closed roads down.

Steve Kitto

If it wasn't beneficial for the region, they wouldn't do it.

Emily Beutel

It may be beneficial to the region, but it is not beneficial to the Douglas Shire.

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SOCIALS

Daintree Village came to life with a festival to help mark the opening of the CREB Track off-road trail on Sunday, June 9, while markets across the district have also been popular with locals and tourists alike. Pictures: Byron Filmer, Stephanie Verreet



Ian "Sauce" Worcester, Ellenor Jorgensen and Jaiden Kearns at Daintree Festival.



Daintree festival stallholders Jenny and Lex Mealing.



Lara, 9, Emily, 9, and Bailee, 10, manning their stalls at the Daintree festival.



Josh, 9, Jody Michelle Perry and Sidah J Lawrence at the Port Douglas Sunday markets.



Alexa and Liza Devon at the marina Wednesday markets.



Josefina Di Paolo, Josefina Rubiolo, Valentin Balich at the Port Douglas Sunday markets.

WHAT'S ON

STAY UP TO DATE

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



JUNE 20

Drewboy DUO, Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

Katie Richards, Time: 7:30pm - 10:30pm, Location: Club Mossman

JUNE 21

Open Hips, Open Heart, Time: 8.30am - 10am, Location: Yoga in The Tropics Studio

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

Ellis Rocks! 19-Twenty / Boing Boing / Roshani, Time: 4:30pm - 10pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

JUNE 22

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

Celebrating Australian Week of Yoga, Time: 9.30am - 12.40pm, Location: Port Douglas Yoga Shala, above The Book Lounge on the corner of Grant and Warner streets

HUSSY HICKS / BOING BOING, Time: 3pm - 6pm, Location: The YACHTY - Port Douglas Yacht Club - 1 Spinnaker Close, Port Douglas

Brandon Walker, Time: 4pm - 7pm, Location: Club Mossman

JUNE 24

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

JUNE 27

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

Cam Kettle, Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

JUNE 30

So P!NK - Pink Tribute Spectacular, Time: 6pm - 10pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

REAL ESTATE

AUCTION

25/35-37 Davidson Street, Port Douglas Friday June 20 3pm - 4pm Property Shop

AUCTION

49 Endeavour Street, Port Douglas Saturday June 21 9:30am - 10am Ray White

AUCTION

27 Birdwing Street, Port Douglas Saturday June 21 11am Raine & Horne



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

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

SPORTS DIGEST

Crocs take pressure for memorable win

Continued from Page 12

But they dug in in the second quarter, thanks to some determined defence, to lead by 20 points at the main break.

With the wind in the third, Port Douglas was meant to have an unassailable lead by three-quarter time, but actually lost that quarter by a point.

And the Tigers capitalised in the final term, piling on the pressure, but were eventually unable to land the killer blow.

Best players for the Crocs were Ben Mcphee, Thomas Cantwell, Zayne Moore, Kye Chapple, Murphy Short and Sam Fairclough, while the ever-reliable Chapple kicked six goals.

This Saturday, Port Douglas takes on the Bulldogs away.



Croc Jackson Hopkins earns himself a free kick on Saturday against the Tigers. Picture: Shaun Hollis

SPORTS BRIEFS

IRONMAN CAIRNS
US triathletes Matthew Marquardt and Jackie Hering won the Ironman Cairns event on Sunday.

Ohio athlete Marquardt, 27, completed the course in seven hours and 50 minutes, while Wisconsin's Hering, 40, finished in eight hours and 42 minutes.

More than 2800 athletes from 62 countries competed during on the weekend, including 35 men and 18 women in the professional fields. The Ironkids event on Saturday attracted about 500 children who took on a mini course.

The oldest male competitor on the weekend was 92 years old, while the oldest female was 77.


RUGBY UNION
The Port Douglas Reef Raiders lost to the Northern Beaches Mudcrabs 10-36 on Saturday.

The Raiders were competitive early, but the bigger-bodied Mudcrabs outfit gradually worked their way on top. Try scorers were Peter Foy and Sean Farrell.

The team takes on the JCU Mariners at home this Saturday from 4pm.



Reef Raider Kane Gray in action on Saturday. Picture: Shaun Hollis



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Shaun Hollis

With Cairns Tigers forward Louis Campbell-Kossack lining up from 25m out on a 55 degree angle to tie the game with seconds to play, Crocs fans in the grandstand were seriously wondering: "Have we really let this one slip?"

The relief was palpable as

Campbell-Kossack launched and missed - the second gettable Tigers' let-off in the final two minutes - and then the siren immediately went.

Port Douglas had miraculously held on for a five-point win against a fast-finishing Tigers outfit.

After leading the whole game, the Crocs deserved the win, but

the Tigers refused to give up, and came scarily close to snatching a draw in the dying seconds, with the final score 12.4 (76) to 10.11 (71). Port Douglas coach Nick Salter looked suitably relieved after the final siren sounded.

"Didn't really want it to be that close," Salter said. "But the boys stuck to the task."

"I'm just happy for them," he said. "It was a good game of footy."

"They're a good side, we'll see them again, no doubt."

Kicking with a strong breeze in the first quarter, it felt like the Crocs' 23-point lead at quarter time may not have been quite enough.

Continued Page 11



TRIATHLON TREAT FOR SHIRE FANS

Page 11

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Monthly Clean-up**

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Wednesday 25 June 2025
Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Location:
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Port Douglas (behind the piano)

To register your attendance please email Lucy at lucy@tangaroablue.org