



Festival time's fresh chapter

Lovers of the written word across Douglas Shire have bookmarked this weekend as a must, with a brand new festival kicking off in Mossman and Port Douglas.

Julatten author Chantal Munro is launching one book at the festival and reissuing another with a revamped layout.

Continued page 4

CALL FOR NEW BUS

Shaun Hollis

A long-term local resort manager and owner has backed growing calls for public buses to service Douglas Shire, saying the ongoing success of businesses in the Douglas Shire region "relies heavily" on improving the transport situation.

And transport company owner/operator Channy Singh said on Saturday his company Sizzling Wheels is willing to run a regular bus service between Port Douglas and Mossman, but will need subsidisation from the State Government or Douglas Shire Council to make the service work.

Continued page 5

Julatten author Chantal Munro is one of the organisers of the new book festival. Picture: Shaun Hollis

NAIDOC PARADE RETURNS IN STYLE - P3

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Crime wave hits

Bryan Littlely

Households across Douglas Shire and surrounds have moved to warn others around home security with people taking to social media last week to share details about property crimes.

The posts have prompted concern and anger across the community, with people suggesting many homes were broken into over the weekend.

In the most confronting of incidents, a woman has detailed a middle-of-the-night hallway confrontation with thieves, claiming her home was broken into overnight on Sunday, July 20.

"They took off with car keys to our vehicles and garage remotes. We run airport transfers in luxury vehicles, so now they have access to those," the woman said.

"After my partner chased them off, they came back later and opened the garage with the remote and tried to get in again.

"These scum are not only messing with people's personal lives and security, but also people's livelihoods."

In Port Douglas, and shared on



CCTV footage of one incident.

the Port Douglas Notice Board, vision was shown of a likely offender having second thoughts about breaking into their home when they saw security cameras.

The incident was captured at 5.45am in the morning.

"Good that you had a camera... it was almost 6am, there's usually people up and about by then," a poster said in response.

"Somebody must have seen a grub cruising the neighbourhood in a hazchem outfit."

The claimed crime spree prompted calls for incidents to be reported to police.

Range traffic flowing again

The stop-start journey through Alexandra Range is over, with contractors last week wrapping up essential roadworks along Cape Tribulation Road.

A further seven sites along this busy tourism route - damaged during ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper - have now been repaired, meaning traffic-control measures are no longer required.

The 5am to midnight closure and vehicle restrictions have been lifted, restoring full access for residents, visitors and tourism operators.

Crews are scheduled to return in September to complete repairs at the final two sites. However, any traffic delays during this phase are expected to be significantly shorter.

Douglas Shire Mayor Lisa Scomazzon welcomed the news.

"It's been a challenging time for residents north of the Daintree River, and I want to thank them for their patience and resilience," Mayor Scomazzon said.

In January DSC staff said they were aiming to have the works finished by May.





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Celebrating NAIDOC Week in style

News in Brief



More NAIDOC
pics online



The Mossman State High School Cultural Dance Group at the NAIDOC parade. Picture: Jamie Jansen

The streets of Mossman were filled with colour and culture on Monday as Douglas Shire celebrated NAIDOC Week with a lively street parade and community event at George Davis Park.

This year's theme is The Next

Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy, while the event was also marking 50 years of NAIDOC Week.

The parade began on Foxton Avenue and made its way down Front Street, featuring traditional

art, colourful outfits, and decorated floats.

Afterwards, families gathered at Bubu Kinkari (George Davis Park) for NAIDOC in the Park, enjoying market stalls, live music, activities, and a free BBQ.

SUPER COLLAPSE CALL

A new Australia-wide petition has been started calling on the government to compensate victims of two super funds which collapsed in May - a scandal which is integrally linked to a 2ha vacant lot on sale in Port Douglas.

More than 600 people have signed the petition since it was started two weeks ago by Juan-Carlos Sanchez, who said he was one of about 12,000 people that lost their super when the Shield Master and First Guardian funds collapsed in the past year "after years of mismanagement".

As the funds were collapsing, finance-industry watchdog the Australian Securities and Investments Commission followed some of the money trail back to a planned \$300m Fairmont Resort at 71-85 Port Douglas Road.

SKATE ART PROJECT

Mossman Skate Park is set for a vibrant new look, as Douglas Shire Council invites the community to help bring colour and creativity back to George Davis Park.

More than a decade after the park became a local landmark thanks to some bold street art on the ramps and rails, recent resurfacing and safety upgrades have left the skate park with a clean slate. The council is now exploring ways to involve local artists, youth groups and community organisations in a collaborative art project to reimagine the space.

Anyone interested in contributing to the revitalisation effort is encouraged to contact DSC's sport and recreation officer on 4099 9444.

RAFFLE SUCCESS

The Mossman Friends of Red Cross Raffle was won by Kerryn Katel, with second place going to Lorraine Potter.

Church roof rescue

Shaun Hollis

Mossman heritage building St David's Church has been returned to full glory thanks to a more than \$130,000 restoration project.

Repairs to the roof of the much-loved icon have been carried out across the past few months after the worst of the wet season finished in April. Anglican Church warden Stuart Wainman said a \$50,000 State Government grant was crucial to fix up the building.

"We didn't have to close at all, due to the carefully designed program of works from our builder," Mr Wainman said. "We are de-



St David's has a restored roof.

lighted to bring St David's back into a condition that can survive many wet seasons to come.

"We have had 100 per cent support from our church community for this project, and I am certain the Mossman community are similarly enthused."

St David's was first dedicated in 1899, but was completely destroyed by a cyclone in 1911.

Construction of the current building began in 1912, but after numerous cyclones, a world depression and two World Wars, the church was only reopened in 1952 - a 40-year construction time.

The roof has since degraded across the years and restoration this year became urgent.

Mr Wainman thanked the church congregation who worked to make the project happen, including builder Kirk Ford of Bespoke Carpentry.

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A novel way to network

From page one

"It's a more professional one. I've been kind of waiting for that polished off level so I can start hitting schools, libraries, places like that," Munro says.

She writes across a range of subjects, but always with her trademark humour.

"In 1998 I self-published a face-painting book, that's now in its ninth edition and I've sold 80,000 globally."

After connecting up with Julatten neighbour and fellow author and publisher Crystal Leonardi, the idea of a Douglas Shire Book Festival was born.

"Something Crystal and I are very strong on is, the more we support each other, the better we all are," she says. "So, for instance, the Book Festival, which is just for North Queensland writers, has 37 writers booked with a wait list of 20, that's all from this area."



Chantal Munro with her book TickleTouch. Picture: Shaun Hollis

"There's a huge network of writers up here."

And what can visitors expect from the weekend?

"The ability to meet your favourite author, to learn more about

the variety of genres, to even learn how easy it is to publish books now," Munro says.

"We're highlighting that this is something you can do and can do in your own community."

BOOK FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday, Mossman Shire Hall
9.30am Author Talk - Rob the Poet, Dead End Kids Workshop with Lachlann Carter (8-16yrs)

10.30am Panel Discussion: From Here to Everywhere - Global Stories, Personal Journeys; Area Face Painting Demonstrations with Chantal Munro

11.30am Author Talk - Chantal Munro, Main Stage Area

1pm Panel Discussion: True Blue - Writing the Real Australia

2pm Author Talk - Christine Burchall

Sunday, Port Douglas Community Hall

9.30am Author Talk - Robyn Ross; Storytelling & Flute Playing with Renee Cashman (5-12yrs)

10.30am Panel Discussion: Sparking Young Imaginations - The Power of Children's Books; Live art demonstration with Jaye Harris

11.30am Author Talk - Sam Woodgarth

1pm Panel Discussion: Wick- ed Words - The Allure of Fantasy and Dark Romance Writing

2pm Author Talk - Catherine Duffy

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Transport means business

From page one

Nathan Bonneau-Plassa, who is one of the operators behind Mossman Exchange & Backpacker and Turtle Cove Beach resorts, wrote to Newsport last week outlining why more affordable transport was so crucial for the region.

"The ongoing success of both our businesses and the wider region relies heavily on improved transport accessibility," Mr Bonneau-Plassa said. "Strengthening transport links is critical to connecting suburbs and townships.

"Many in the region rely on affordable transport to commute between accommodation, employment, and services.

"Improved public and private transport options will allow visitors to explore more destinations, staying longer and spending more across the region."

And Mr Singh said he could model a new service on a timetable he ran about eight years ago. Sizzling Wheels already runs a service for Miallo school, so buses are commuting between Mossman and Port Douglas right now.

Mr Bonneau-Plassa and Mr Singh were responding to fresh calls by former mayor candidate David Haratsis to introduce pub-



Nathan Bonneau-Plassa has backed calls for improved transport.

lic transport to the region in the wake of a State Budget funding announcement about new community bus services at Dimbulah, Ravenshoe and Babinda. Public-transport advocate Mr Haratsis has previously called for the introduction of buses between Mossman, Cooya and Port Douglas, as well as trialling a service between Palm Cove and Port Douglas.

He tabled a more-than-300-signature petition calling for improved public transport in Douglas Shire Council in late 2022.

"Despite receiving a petition, council doesn't seem to have done anything," he said last week.

Mr Haratsis wrote to DSC in March this year about the petition in the hope it would advocate harder for improved transport.

"Ultimately, council aren't interested and no one lobbies the State Government," he said.

A reply from council chief executive Scott Osman was received in late March: "Mayor Lisa Scmazzon and the councillors continue to advocate on this matter

with the new elected Queensland Government and Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR), with Mayor Scmazzon recently meeting with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads Brent Mickelberg."

Cook MP David Kempton said this week he had not yet been approached in relation to a public bus link to Port Douglas.

"I am aware there are numerous private operators, and of course, taxis," Mr Kempton said.

"I am not aware of any plans for the Government to extend the bus service beyond Cairns. However, if a case can be made for an extension of existing services, and it is what the community wants, then I will of course support those efforts."

Public buses travel between Cairns, Mareeba and Atherton multiple times daily.

Mr Haratsis last November called for a trial of buses from Port Douglas to Palm Cove, but Translink said the route was too long to run a public-transport service. Translink subsidises a service from Cairns to Cooktown three times a week for about \$36 to Port Douglas, \$40 to Mossman and \$60 to Cow Bay.

Shire misses \$89m housing funding

Millions of dollars worth of State Government announcements have been made this month about new housing in North Queensland - including a visit to Cairns by Premier David Crisafulli and Deputy Premier Jarrod Bleijie - but Douglas Shire will not be getting a cent of the money.

Funding has been announced for new housing in Tablelands Re-

gional Council, Cassowary Coast Regional Council, Cairns Regional Council, Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council, Aurukun Shire Council, Cook Shire Council, Mareeba Shire Council, Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Shire Council, the Wide Bay Burnett region and Torres Shire Council.

The Government's \$2bn Residential Activation Fund this month

allocated \$89m across many northern councils for 16 projects to deliver about 3000 homes.

Cairns council was also not included in that announcement, but Development Minister Bleijie said there would be another major announcement soon covering that region.

And another \$350,000 was announced for the Cairns region

as part of the separate \$12.5m Scheme Supply Fund.

"This funding will see faster approvals for housing developments and a clearer path for builders and developers, ensuring more homes are delivered where they're needed most," Minister Bleijie said.

"It's all part of the LNP Government's plan to deliver a place to call home for more Queenslanders."

TRUCK YEAH!



Shaun Hollis

About \$6m of State Government money will be provided for Mossman growers to truck cane down to the Mulgrave Sugar Mill in Gordonvale across up to five years in a deal that is hoped will rescue the region's sugar-growing industry.

Cook MP David Kempton said last week he had been working across the past year on shoring up the deal - even before he was elected to state parliament - with a visit to Mossman by the Premier helping to get it across the line.

"It's pretty exciting to have the Premier David Crisafulli up here

on Saturday (July 19) to meet with the council, with MSF (Sugar) and a large contingent of growers in the CWA hall, where our government reaffirmed its offer to support the cane industry well into the future," Mr Kempton said.

"What's proposed is that, if the growers and MSF can come to an arrangement for the long-term cutting and transporting of cane down to the Mulgrave Mill, we will underpin that with the necessary infrastructure."

This would include bins to contain the cane for transporting and the truck trailers themselves, he said.

"It gives them viability and some certainty in the industry well into the future.

"It's a really good deal, it's been worked up over a number of months and the Premier came to assure everybody that this State Government's well behind this proposal."

Mr Kempton has been chairing the Mossman Advisory Committee meetings each month for the past eight months and he said this was the accumulation of that work.

"What I couldn't do is turn my back on this community, it's far too important, after 130 years of continuous cane growing.

"So I'm very excited about the future.

"Obviously the economy was shrinking, and there was a lot of pressure on the rate base.

"This gives a really important breather for both - it boosts the economy and gives it certainty for the future and breathes some hope into Douglas Shire that they can be more viable than they have in the past."

Primary Industries Minister Tony Perrett said "an additional \$6m has been made available" for

the new trucking project. Cane-growers from across the district were present at the meeting, along with Mr Kempton, Premier Crisafulli, Douglas Shire Council Mayor Lisa Scmazzone and DSC chief executive Scott Osman, as they discussed the future of the industry in the wake of Mossman Mill going into voluntary liquidation in late 2023.

About 80 farmers grew cane in the district at the time, with about 150 locals working at the mill. In February 2024, then premier Steven Miles offered more than \$12m to help attract a buyer, but no sale was secured.

A month later, the administrator announced the mill was permanently closing and assets would be sold off. In June of that year, former premier Miles put \$6m towards a package to truck the cane down to Mulgrave Mill in Gordonvale so the farmers could get some return on their product.

"\$6 million will go toward transport costs to get this year's harvest to crush, which is critical for growers to be able to make money off this crop," Mr Miles said at the time.

It's a really good deal.

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Two days of culinary magic at Port Taste

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

It's the grand finale and standout event of Taste Port Douglas - the Sheraton Festival Village - returning to the tropical grounds of Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort on Saturday, August 9, and Sunday, August 10.

This year sees a return to the two-day format, positioning the Village as the heart of the 2025 festival and the ultimate food-lover's destination. Expect a vibrant weekend of non-stop entertainment across two stages, packed with flavour, flair, and fun, including free celebrity chef demos, panel talks, live music, pop-up eateries, and beachside bars.

Rub shoulders with culinary stars like Manu Feildel, Colin Fassnidge, and Matt Preston as you explore a Village full of flavour and fun.

From local produce and award-winning distilleries to global favourites like Estrella Damm and Tequila Tromba, there's plenty to sip and sample. Soak it all in at the Barefoot Beach Bar, dance to the music, or catch a live demo at the Moffat Main Stage.

It's a weekend made for unforgettable moments.

Headline acts

Festival-goers can enjoy hourly live cooking demos by some of the biggest names in the culinary world:

Saturday 9 August: Watch Louie Tikaram, Matt Preston, Massimo Mele, and Ryan Cliff in action with dishes like grilled tuna with green mango, sour cherry



Douglas Shire residents can snap up a special Festival Village weekend pass for just \$35 until July 31. Picture: Supplied

bour bombs, seafood pasta, and Wagyu with umami textures. Sunday 10 August: Manu Feildel, Colin Fassnidge, Darren Purchase, and Telina Menzies headline with creations including chargrilled tiger prawns, prawn bisque, gin and tonic scones, and charred Ora King salmon with Davidson plum.

Foodie stuff

Returning by popular demand are the celebrity chef-run food stalls, offering ever-changing menus until sold out. Discover:

-Little Italy with Massimo Mele and Andrea Ravezzani.

-Harry Hawker Street Market with dishes from Telina Menzies, Adam D'Sylva and more.

-El Mercado, a lively Mexican fiesta from The Mexican x Tromba Tequila.

-Local delights including Daintree Saltwater Barramundi and Franklin Harbour Oysters.

Raise a glass

Pop-up bars and beverage stalls will feature craft cocktails, prosecco, premium wines, and brews from Estrella Damm, Wolf Lane Distillery, Samuel Smith & Sons, and more.

Live music by Rob Longstaff, Iva Mos Vegas and Kiki Courtidis will keep the good vibes flowing, while the Estrella Damm VIP Lounge offers a more exclusive experience.

For more information and to book your tickets visit the website: tasteportdouglas.com.au/festival-village.



To read the full story scan this QR code

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10 YEARS AGO

Coconut plan a disappointment

Community consultation on the DSC Draft Coconut Management Plan closed Monday (20/7) and letters to the editor indicate the community is not satisfied with what has been presented.

While DSC collates the community feedback in preparation for presentation to Council and the wider public, the community is seriously concerned.

John Sullivan from Hortulus is very disappointed, claiming the draft plan is based on scare tactics and not scientific facts, which do not hold up in the debate.

"There needs to be a scientific response. The debate is not about whether they are native, it should be about scientific studies," says John. "Ratepayers in this Shire should not pay or possibly be liable for the destruction of coconuts in natural areas as they are not on ANY QUEENSLAND OR AUSTRALIAN WEED LIST. There is a huge legal issue with removing vegetation from foreshore or natural areas where they are not actually recognised as weeds.

"I am writing to express my disappointment in the Draft Coconut Management Plan. It is emotive and poorly researched, citing false statistics (150 deaths by coconuts; please google!!!!), and unnecessary scare tactics, (rats and mosquitos) which should beneath this sort of science based writing."



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Tours hit a 20-year milestone

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

Running a successful tourism business for 20 years is no small feat, but for Daintree Discovery Tours founder Grant Knight the passion to share the Daintree is as strong as ever.

“It’s like showing your favourite place to a friend,” Grant said.

Grant remembers the very first time he visited the Daintree himself, it was in 1998, during a multi-year trip around Australia.

Originally from South Australia, he hadn’t planned to stay, but the rainforest had other plans. The environment, lifestyle, and climate drew him in.

He soon decided to become a tour guide, and after completing a six-month Heritage and Interpretive Tourism course at TAFE, he gained work experience with a local tour operator.

But a pivotal moment came when his former boss told Grant he’d never be able to run his own business.

“He said I couldn’t do it, and I thought, ‘well, yes I can,’” Grant said.



The tours team include Irene Knight, Cameron Graham, Grant Knight, Daniel Russell and Enda Owens. Picture: Jamie Jansen

That drive to prove himself led to the birth of Daintree Discovery Tours.

Grant started the business from scratch: one vehicle, one guide, and running tours every day. As demand grew, so did the operation, as well as the tour offerings.

Today, Daintree Discovery

Tours runs half-day and full-day options, all small-group and focused on spending quality time in the rainforest.

“We believe the best way to experience the Daintree is up close and personal,” Grant said.

“That’s why we limit our tours to 10 guests on full-day trips and

16 on half-day ones. We also spend more time in the rainforest than most operators, which makes for an unrushed and immersive experience.”

Guest experience remains the centre of Grant’s approach. He tries to create days that are genuinely memorable.

“We try to make it the best day of someone’s holiday,” he said.

“I’m always thinking about how to make the day better for guests. That’s what matters most.”

The company employs six guides, all of whom have been trained to deliver tours that feel personal and unforced.

“I tell our guides, treat every day like you’re taking out a bunch of friends,” he said.

Now celebrating 20 years in business, the company is the only Port Douglas-owned and operated tour operator of its kind.

For more information or to book a tour, visit daintreediscoverytours.com.au.



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WHERE'S OUR BUS?

Justin McKay

Public transport is a big problem in this area, not everyone can drive.

Julie Robertson

Been done before and just not enough population to make it viable. We are a small shire and living here means your own transport!

Helen Killen

I believe we should have public transport - at least Mossman-Port-Cairns. We should be eligible for the state 50c fare!

Dawn Wilmes

So many would be out of work? It's all been tried before. Thank you.

Bon White

Of course and a school bus as well Port School and to Mossman schools. Imagine the save of pollution from hundreds of parents vehicles twice a day.

Tracey Jones

I think it's absolutely ridiculous that we don't have a bus service, public or private between Mossman and Port. The private companies which have think it's absolutely ridiculous that we don't have a bus service, public or private between Mossman and Port. The private companies which have "tried" it over the past few years have missed the mark with timing as they were aimed at tourists going to the gorge. We need an early morning bus from Mossman to Port and a late afternoon return at the very least to accommodate for workers. With the mill gone and housing so expensive in Port, I see many people living in Mossman and working in Port.

FACTOR IN EXTRA TIME FOR CAPTAIN COOK TRAVELS

Josh Ribbons

I got a good understanding today of what's involved in repairing these roads with the FNQ geology. These guys are drilling heaps of big, deep piles and filling with slurry, to secure the road base into what bedrock there is. It's a big job and highly dangerous work. The piles they are putting in up on the Palmerston Hwy are unbelievably deep, like 60m due to the volcanic ash layers below that caused the hills to slip in the first place. Could there be more people on the job at once to get it done quicker? Probably, but it's impossible to get the number of skilled people required up here.

John Christopher

Here's how this might sound to someone more cynical than myself: To save money, they've pushed the engineers' calculations to the absolute limit, and now they're hoping for the best. Wouldn't want to be the driver of the big rig.

Ebony McCartney

Let's hope the trial truck driver goes as quick as the other truck drivers go so they get accurate data.

NEW DEAL COULD SAVE CANE GROWERS

Keith Pitt

While I know nothing about running a sugar mill, the question you all be asking is where does \$45m go in 5-6 years? A lot of the old farming families are asking this question.

Phillip Carlon

This is an important reprieve. But don't do as you have for the

The new combined cane truck and public bus revolutionised the Shire...



From the Holster



Shaun Hollis brings you a lighter look at local news.

last 5 years. Now is the time to start designing a biogas transition. There is a huge appetite for biofuels and your cane carries the sunshine in your crop. Cane can be harvested at least twice a year to lengthen the harvest opportunity. You can change to sorghum if you need an alternative crop. The bio-digester will return organic fertiliser to help grow the next crops. You can even use methane to fuel your machinery. It runs in a diesel engine better than diesel. Put together an application to Arena for funding now!

Steve Smith

Why can't they go to Mareeba mill?

Wayne Brownlie

Thought Australia was a capitalist country, maybe the farmers should just adapt, everyone else has had to.

Dan Hammersley

Bailing them out again. No more.

They knew it was coming. They choose to continue cane then pay their own transport.

Mark Kane

Having multiple heavy vehicles on the road constantly is nothing to celebrate, there will eventually be casualties.

Darren Hart

A disgusting waste of tax dollars propping up an unviable industry AGAIN.

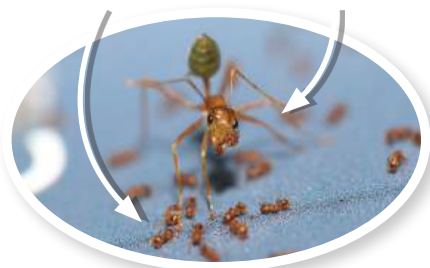
Christopher Saint

So if there is to be any forward thinking innovation in this then it has to be buying time to perform R&D on what might be the best sustainable alternative crops to grow and segue into them.

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

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SOCIALS

It's peak season in Port Douglas, and Four Mile Beach is full of life. Locals and visitors are soaking up the winter sun and enjoying the sea under lifeguard watch. Volunteers rolled up their sleeves on Tuesday, July 15, for the monthly beach clean-up led by the Tangaroa Blue Foundation. Pictures: Stephanie Verreet



Karen Moote and Kelvin Richdale.



Benji, 14, and Lachia, 12.



Daisy Kermode, Sue Ralston and Rosey Cummings.



Stewart, Lochlan, and Andrew Thomas.



Francesca, 13, Salina, 9, and Gabriela, 12.



Ash and Belinda Lanyon.

WHAT'S ON

STAY UP TO DATE

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



JULY 31

Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs, Time: 7pm-8.30pm, Location: Club Mossman

AUGUST 1

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

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

AUGUST 2

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

Tessa Devine @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

AUGUST 3

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

80th Birthday Giant Prize Giveaway, Time: 4pm-6pm, Location: Club Mossman

REAL ESTATE

OPEN HOME
8/26-30 Macrossan Street,
Friday, August 1
2.30pm-3pm
Ray White

OPEN HOME
67 Milman Drive
Saturday, August 2
9am-9.30am
Ray White

OPEN HOME
4 Mitre Street,
Saturday, August 2
9.30am
Raine & Horne



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

AUGUST 6

Four Mile Beach Monthly Clean-up, Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Location: Daintree Lounge at the Sheraton Grand Mirage, Port Douglas (behind the piano)

AUGUST 7

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

AUGUST 8

Rob Longstaff, Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm, Location: Club Mossman

Monthly Social Dancing, Time: 6:30pm-9:30pm, Location: PULLMAN SEA TEMPLE RESORT

AUGUST 9

Miallo State School Trivia Night, Time: 5pm - 9.30pm, Location: Miallo State School

Ash Grunwald, Time: 6pm-11pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

AUGUST 10

Becks, Time: 4pm-7pm, Location: Club Mossman

80th Birthday Giant Prize Giveaway, Time: 4pm-6pm, Location: Club Mossman

Ash Grunwald Live, Time: 3pm-6pm, Location: The YACHTY - Port Douglas Yacht Club - 1 spinnaker cl - Port Douglas

AUGUST 14

Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs, Time: 7pm-8.30pm, Location: Club Mossman

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

SPORTS DIGEST

It's a long road from the Shire to the top

From page 12

"The classification process only happens once a year and I missed that so I cannot attend those competitions this year. But I had an arm injury and likely would not have gone too great in any case," he said.

As for Olympic level, Matt says that is the logical path.

"If I'm good enough, who would say 'no' to that?"

"But there are so many other things to get through before that is on the horizon."

Matt says he feels plenty of community support and is grateful for the well wishes and encouragement.

BRIEFS

LAWN BOWLS

Mossman Men's Jackpot Bowls results Saturday, July 19, Bernard Savage, Richard Anderson & Troy Churchill W 4; Mike Sims, Frank Rigoir & Brian Williams W 5; Bill Allison, Daryl Hoskins & Eric Smith W 6 and winners on the day Peter Worley, Wayne Parkes & Bill Smith W 9.

Kye cracks 900 mark



Kye Chapple has kicked 900 goals for Port Douglas and more than 1000 during his career. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Shaun Hollis

Port Douglas Crocs spearhead Kye Chapple kicked his 900th goal for the club in the 34-point win on Saturday against the Cairns Saints at Griffiths Park in Cairns.

Going into the game on 899 goals, Chapple did not finish the match with his customary bag, but the one he did kick was enough for the milestone in the 13.12 (90) to 7.14 (56) victory.

The Crocs led all day, but were challenged in the third quarter, holding a slender seven-point lead at three-quarter time.

Best for Port Douglas were Brett Mckeown, Tom Kluske, Joshua Lea, Ryan Warfe, Murphy Short and Ben Mcphee, with Warfe kicking five goals.

The Port Douglas women's team had a narrow five-point win against the Saints, 4.7 (31) to 4.2

(26). Best players were Luca Roulstone, Jaimi Byrne, Grace Lanigan, Kayla McInerney, Michelle Waldron and Chloe Conway, with Roulstone kicking two goals.

The Crocs are back home this Saturday at 2pm against Cairns Lions, with the women starting off proceedings from 10.30am, followed by the reserves and the seniors at 2pm.

Raiders focus on finals action

Port Douglas Reef Raiders had a strong 24-12 away win against the Cairns Wanderers on Saturday to help cement their place in the top

four teams leading toward finals. Try scorers were Luke Edwards, Lemeki Rokomasi and Guillaume Marchis, while Edwards

kicked three conversions and a penalty goal. The Raiders are away to JCU Mariners this week from 4pm.



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Bryan Littlely

Champion Cooya wheelchair athlete Matt Sheppard always will have his sights set on the biggest stage he can achieve but, for now, the North Queensland Championships in September have his absolute focus.

Matt, 36, will compete in discus, javelin and shot put, disciplines he has either won or placed in at the past two Australian Championships, including as recent as April when in Perth he won gold in discus and silver in the shot put.

The stocktrader says he was always sporty and his young family's involvement in athletics led him to step up for the throwing events competitively just a couple of years ago.

A broken back sustained in a gym accident about 16 years ago confined Matt to a wheelchair, but the father of three has never stopped his interest in sport and fitness.

"I got back into athletics because the kids are doing it," he said.

"While I haven't branched out into wheelchair racing, I wouldn't mind trying it.

It's a lot more work and expense to get into to get the right



Wheelchair athlete and reigning Australian champion Matt Sheppard is training for the North Queensland Championships. Picture: Shaun Hollis

chair and equipment. If I can get more time then I will likely try that."

The Sheppard family, wife Erica and children Jax, 12, Nova, 10, and Freya, 8, are all active and noted for their achievements in athletics and dance, among other sports.

Matt has aspirations to go to

the highest level in wheelchair sports, but there is a long path to get there. While hopeful of competing at an international level, Matt had a setback this year when he missed a crucial email to be classified in order to go overseas for competition.

Continued page 11

Sharks bare teeth to take down Roos

Mossman Sharks had a stirring four-point win away to the Kangaroos in Cairns on Sunday, 32-28.

Menmury Murgha started off the scoring in the ninth minute, and the team skipped out to a 10-point lead before the Kangaroos struck back.

The sides then traded blows until the Sharks worked their way on top, leading 32-18 when Jimmito Harris scored a try and Robert Amber converted in the 65th minute.

But the Kangaroos refused to lie down, pulling within a single try margin with five minutes left on the clock.

But Mossman led when the final whistle blew.

The Sharks, who are now sitting fourth, have the bye this week.



Jimmito Harris scored a try.

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