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Port on move

Shaun Hollis

A new boutique luxury hotel on Warner Street, a helicopter hub, worker accommodation, an industrial precinct, a boat-repair

centre and a pair of housing developments are bringing renewed optimism to the future of Port Douglas.

In a special report, Newsport

takes a look at the fresh projects helping to drag the region out of its post-Covid malaise and into a brand new era.

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The season of the croc - P3



Mossman jobs rescue plan - P7



Moving doctor tribute - P11

World Cup of Four Mile

About 30 players from countries all around the globe turned up on Monday for the first round of the hospitality beach soccer series being played to coincide with the North American FIFA World Cup from Friday, June 12. See Page 2



Australia fans Amy Sims and Greg "Harry" Potter with Argentina's Lucia Martinez at the first round of the hospitality World Cup beach soccer series. Picture: Shaun Hollis

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World Cup party on way

Shaun Hollis

The North American soccer FIFA World Cup is just around the corner, and Port Douglas kicked off celebrations on Monday afternoon with an Australia versus The Rest of the World game at Four Mile Beach.

The match was organised by a host of venues around town who are throwing their weight behind events and parties where the games - which are being played in Mexico, Canada and the US from Friday, June 12 - will be televised.

Organiser Greg "Harry" Potter from the IronBar says a heap of venues and other outlets are getting onboard, including Dougies Backpackers, N17, The Oaks resort, Paddy's and SportsPower - which is selling jerseys from across the world if you are looking to step out in your country colours.

"There's such a lot of different nationalities in Port Douglas, so we're looking at celebrating the World Cup," Harry says.

"Knowing how the world is at the moment, it will be good to join together and celebrate humanity."

About 30 players and more

Key games to watch at Shire venues:

- Saturday, June 13, 11am: US v Paraguay
- Sunday, June 14, 2pm: Australia v Turkey
- Tuesday, June 16, 11am: NZ v Iran
 - look out for a brunch at Oaks resort
- Wed, June 17, 11am: Argentina v Algeria
- Fri, June 19, 11am: Mexico v South Korea
- Sun, June 21, 2pm: Tunisia v Japan
- Thurs, June 25, 11am: South Africa v South Korea
- Friday, June 26, 12pm: Australia v Paraguay
- Friday, July 3, 1pm: Round of 32 game
- Sunday, July 12, 11am: Quarter final game



Many of the matches are overnight, but there are also plenty on at 11am, midday and 2pm being televised at local venues. Artwork: Supplied

supporters of all nationalities went down to Four Mile Beach on Monday to play in the social soccer game, make some friends, and work out where they will be watching the matches. Look out for our calendar of World Cup soccer events at newspost.com.au.

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Here comes... 'Croc Season'

Shaun Hollis

One Daintree Village tour operator has come up with an innovative way to sell the region as a tourist destination from this month through to September: "Crocodile Season".

With the cooler months traditionally a great time to see crocodiles in the wild as they climb up out of the water to warm themselves in the sun, tour operators in the Daintree Village region such as Crocodile Express have come up with a "snappy" new slogan to help capture the spirit of the high-season months.

Marketing manager Vince O'Flaherty says the peak viewing time for Daintree crocs is traditionally June to September, so he is aiming to capitalise on that perception.

"The Daintree River is Queensland's best-known and most popular destination for viewing wild saltwater crocodiles," Mr O'Flaherty says.

"The best available estimate for the Daintree River is around 70 adult saltwater crocodiles, plus a substantial number of juveniles and hatchlings throughout the river system."

As part of the deal, mention Newport for a 10 per cent discount, and Far North Queensland residents can go on as many tours as they like in a year on one ticket.



This is an active time for crocodiles - Aaron from Walkabout Tours (centre) rescued this baby one from a road in Wonga Beach last week and released it in the Daintree River with the help of a couple of visiting Douglas Shire tourists. Picture: Supplied



A wild Daintree-region croc eating a cane toad. Picture: David White

Snapped dining out on toads

Saltwater crocodiles are one of the few native Australian animals that eat cane toads in the wild and survive, a new study based on evidence from the Daintree region and other areas has confirmed.

Crocodile tour operator David White provided photographic evidence for the study of salties ranging from juveniles to fully grown crocs eating the noxious species, which was introduced to Australia from South America in the 1930s and has wreaked havoc ever since.

Mr White said last week he was proud to contribute to the research - set to appear in the Australian Zoologist journal - despite not being a scientist himself.

"These icons are now officially contributing members of society," Mr White stated. "Humans... unleashed the chaos, but now the crocs are out there helping fix up our mistake."

The size of the crocodile may be a factor in building up resistance, but a general immunity through "physiological resistance" due to "genetic modifications" was also observed, the paper found.

"Saltwater crocodiles kill and ingest cane toads without suffering major poisoning effects," the paper states.

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Delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders

The new Queensland Government is unlocking new housing supply to deliver more Queenslanders a place to call home.

Before a home can be built, the right foundations need to be laid.

Infrastructure for water, stormwater, roads, sewage, power, and telecommunications all need to be in place.

That's why the Queensland Government is funding these types of essential infrastructure projects that are ready to start immediately - so more homes can be built sooner.

The \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund is part of a range of housing initiatives being delivered across the state, and a key pillar of the Queensland Government's Securing Our Housing Foundations Plan, unlocking housing supply and ensuring communities have the infrastructure needed to grow.

Alongside the new Residential Activation Fund, the Queensland Government is also:

- ▶ supporting first home buyers by removing stamp duty on new builds.
- ▶ extending the \$30,000 first home owner grant to 30 June 2026.
- ▶ delivering a nation-leading Boost to Buy shared equity scheme to help reduce the deposit gap.
- ▶ unlocking underutilised government-owned land, through the Land Activation Program.
- ▶ increasing rental availability by lifting subletting restrictions.
- ▶ delivering one million homes, including 53,500 social and community homes by 2044.

To find out more visit aplacetocallhome.initiatives.qld.gov.au

Round one of the Fund is already supporting 98 projects across the state, unlocking land for more than 98,000 new homes.

At least half of the \$2 billion in funding under Round two is dedicated to fast-tracking land supply for housing in regional Queensland.

Boost to Buy bringing ownership dream to reality for more Queenslanders

For first-time home buyers Mitchell and Samantha Stanger, the dream of owning a home felt like a distant reality - until they discovered the new Queensland Government's nation-leading Boost to Buy shared equity scheme.

Boost to Buy helped the Stangers bridge the deposit gap, turning years of saving into the security of home ownership for their young family.

"Even though we were working hard and saving, the deposit gap kept our goal of owning a home out of reach," Mr Stanger said.

"With the Government's equity contribution, we were able to buy and have payments we can manage

and ultimately have the security of knowing we have a place to call home."

The Stangers' story highlights the Government's commitment to unlocking more homes and supporting first home buyers.

Three months since its launch, more than 150 buyers now have the keys to their first home through the scheme.

Round two applications for the scheme are now open, with an additional 500 placements available, and half reserved for regional Queensland.

The Boost to Buy scheme provides a government equity contribution of up to 30 per cent for new homes and



First-time home buyer Mitchell Stanger said the Government equity scheme turned something that felt like years away into a reality for their young family.

25 per cent for existing homes, and to be eligible, home buyers need to have saved a minimum of two per cent deposit for the purchase price of a property up to \$1 million.

The Queensland Government has committed \$330 million for up to 2000 places in the scheme over three years.

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**RESIDENTIAL
ACTIVATION FUND**

Delivering essential infrastructure to build more homes sooner

A growing Queensland needs more housing. That's why the new Queensland Government's \$2 billion Residential Activation Fund is delivering the essential infrastructure needed to build more homes sooner.

This includes new water and drainage pipes, new roads and transport links and improved connections to power and telecommunications for more Queenslanders.

Because before a house can go up, the groundwork has to go in, helping everyone find a place to call home.

 A PLACE TO CALL HOME

**DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND**

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Authorised by the Queensland Government, Brisbane.

Regional projects to change lives across Queensland



Innisfail - \$4.1 million invested in essential drainage and road upgrades at Eaton Estate, unlocking a 600-lot subdivision. Image supplied by Cassowary Coast Regional Council.

Across Queensland, the Residential Activation Fund is unlocking land to get Queenslanders into homes sooner.

Projects unlocking thousands of homes across the Far North Queensland region include:

An \$89 million investment is supporting 16 projects across eight councils: Aurukun, Cook, Mareeba, Northern Peninsula Area, Pormpuraaw, Torres, Cassowary Coast, and Tablelands. These projects are delivering vital roads, water, and sewer networks.

Cassowary Coast: Over \$10 million in combined funding for three projects delivering road, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure, including Eaton Estate Innisfail, unlocking a 600-lot subdivision.

Cook Shire: \$1.1 million investment in water and sewer networks to support long-term housing supply and community growth in Cooktown.

Inside the \$2 Billion Residential Activation Fund

The new Queensland Government's Residential Activation Fund is delivering a place to call home for more Queenslanders, supporting one million new homes by 2044, with at least 50 per cent of the overall funding invested in regional, rural and remote Queensland.

The Fund is delivering essential infrastructure like new water and drainage pipes, new roads and transport links, and improved connections to power and telecommunications.

Delivering critical infrastructure is driving housing supply and easing housing pressure, with land unlocked for more than 98,000 new homes for Queenslanders.

Round one of the fund is already supporting 98 projects across the state. With \$500 million available in round two, and fifty percent of those allocated to regional Queensland,

more Queenslanders will have a place to call home sooner.

Queensland Property Council Executive Director Jess Caire said the funding had been warmly received by industry.

"The Property Council advocated strongly for this funding due to the obvious feasibility gaps for new housing that were clearly precipitated by a lack of sufficient infrastructure," she said.

To ensure these projects deliver results quickly, they need to be ready to start within 12 months of the project being announced and completed within three years.

Local Government Association of Queensland Chief Executive Officer, Alison Smith said the initiative is delivering game-changing infrastructure that will see thousands of new homes built right across the state.

To find out more visit aplacetocallhome.initiatives.qld.gov.au

Social and Affordable Housing at the heart of Queensland's long-term plan

The new Queensland Government is investing \$5.6 billion to deliver 53,500 social and community homes by 2044, with \$500 million in annual funding locked in from 2029-30. This commitment goes beyond building houses - it's about providing stability and opportunities for families.

Support for Community Housing Providers is also growing through the \$4 million Community Housing Futures Program, helping providers expand and deliver affordable homes faster.

Julie Saunders, CEO of the Community Housing Industry Association Queensland, said the Government's long-term funding pipeline is driving real change. QShelter CEO Fiona Caniglia added, "Every dollar of funding turns into more homes for those who need it most."

The Queensland Government's A Place to Call Home initiatives are about more than housing - they're about fostering independence and helping every Queenslanders thrive in a safe, secure home.

The nation leading Land Activation Program

A 6.4-hectare site in at Banyo - 16km north of Brisbane's CBD - brought to market, is paving the way for up to 400 new homes through the Queensland Government's Land Activation Program.

Unlocking underutilised government-owned land, the program fast tracks housing developments by turning surplus sites into much-needed homes for Queenslanders.

A transforming family-friendly suburb with excellent transport links and amenities, the Banyo site is just one example of the program's potential.

Developers will also be able to nominate unused government land for consideration, with assessments completed in just 30 business days.

Land supply is critical to meeting the Queensland Government's one million homes by 2044 target, and with further sites set to be released across the state, industry leaders welcomed the initiative.

To find out more visit edq.qld.gov.au/land-activation-program

Upgrading Cairns' Queensland Ambulance Service Operational Centre



Artist impression

As well as upgrading Cairns' Queensland Ambulance Service Operational Centre, here are some of the ways the new Queensland Government is delivering for Far North Queensland:

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

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**DELIVERING
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**Queensland
Government**

Biofuel for future

News in Brief

PLANNING COURT APPEAL
Green group Rainforest Rescue is appealing in the Planning and Environment Court a decision by Douglas Shire Council to reject a project to reforest a large tract of inactive farmland on the southern side of the Daintree River.

The next step in the appeals process is for the environmental group and the DSC to take part in mediation talks across coming months in an effort to come to some sort of agreement without having to go to court. Rainforest Rescue general manager Tate Brammer said last week he still hoped the two parties could work something out during the mediation talks.

PIGS IN FIRING LINE
Feral pigs and invasive weeds in Far North Queensland are set for a whack, with the Federal and State Governments allocating more than \$2.7m to five local councils and two natural resource management groups to help fight them in regions devastated by Tropical Cyclone Jasper.

Cook MP David Kempton welcomed the news, saying while the cyclone hit Far North Queensland in December 2023, the heavy rainfall and flooding into January 2024 continued the destructive impact.

NURSERY FOR TURTLES
A busy underwater sea turtle nursery has been discovered right under Quicksilver's activity pontoon at Agincourt Reef.

For the past year, marine biologists from the local Reef Bio-search team have been tracking a group of young green turtles living around this floating platform, which sits in a sheltered lagoon off Cape Tribulation.

The team has identified 37 different young turtles.

There has been close to 340 sightings recorded.



Phil Carlon at his Smithfield shop. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Shaun Hollis

One Far North Queensland local has come up with a solution to Mossman's agricultural and employment woes after doing the research and working out the sums - build a biofuel plant at the old mill site.

Former farmer and now Smithfield pool-business owner Phil Carlon has been involved in the biodigestion industry for close to 20 years, attending conferences across the country and consulting on various technologies increasingly being used to produce airplane fuel, fertiliser, gas and diesel.

The principle behind the technology is that the Mossman Mill plant would take suitable crops from surrounding farms, which may include sugar cane, sweet sorghum, napier grass and others, put them through a biodigester, have it mixed with other fuel, and sell the product for a profit.

"The biodigester can be whatever size that district can handle to produce your methanol and ethanol," Mr Carlon said.

"The farmers just keep doing what they're doing - they're turning sunlight into energy."

Mr Carlon said he has had informal talks with officials at Cairns Airport who are in need of aircraft fuel - they currently truck it in from Townsville.

"We've just got to convert that energy back out so that the aircraft can use it."

He has a group of businesspeople backing his plan, but it would cost at least \$5m to set up the project at Mossman Mill, so he needs more investment from governments and business.

to reinvent itself as a renewable fuels and circular economy hub, building on its industrial heritage rather than leaving it behind," his group told Newsport last week.

"The closure of the mill was a significant loss to the community, but the infrastructure, location, workforce capability and agricultural history remain valuable assets."

Mossman has an existing industrial footprint, established transport links, a strong agricultural history, access to biomass crops, a power grid, and a community looking for long-term economic opportunities, according to the group.

"It keeps the town buzzing, also we're gonna need biochemists, chemical engineers, structural engineers, we're gonna need a lot of those people, and that's where the town can really come to the fore," Mr Carlon said.

"And the pub's not far away, it's a good place for lunch."

A decade ago, many of these technologies were still emerging, but today there are commercially

operating technologies capable of producing diesel, Sustainable Aviation Fuel, renewable electricity, gas, carbon products and biochar.

The recent fuel crisis has made such a plant even more viable, Mr Carlon said.

"Australia currently imports the majority of its liquid fuels," he said.

"Both State and Federal Governments are increasingly focused on fuel security and domestic fuel production.

"There is genuine interest from groups that understand renewable fuels and international energy markets.

"The question is not whether demand exists.


"The question is whether regional Australia positions itself to participate in that demand."

Grower Kalfresh in February was given \$80m from the Queensland Investment Corporation and Wollemi Capital to build a digester to convert farm waste into renewable natural gas, electricity and sustainable fertiliser in Southern Queensland.

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Plenty of top Port

Scope study for boat plan

A mooted multimillion-dollar development at the Port Douglas south wharf region has won a \$300,000 government grant to push ahead with further studies about whether the plan will be viable or not.

First revealed by Newsport in June last year, long-time Port Douglas businessman John Morris's vision revolves around building a shipyard precinct near the Port Douglas Yacht Club, as well as cafes and other shops, stemming from previous studies that have been circulating for close to a decade. The move comes as Douglas Shire Council searches for alternative industries for workers displaced by the collapse of the more than 100-year-old Mossman sugar-cane industry.

Cook MP David Kempton said the precinct will provide jobs for "many workers previously engaged in the cane industry".



Developer Krystal DeMenna has two major Port Douglas projects in the pipeline. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Worker site on the way

A fresh worker-accommodation park at Craiglie is close to being approved by planning authorities, according to one of the people behind the development proposal.

Developer and Spot On Linen managing director Krystal DeMenna said the plans were almost ready to go.

"We're just waiting for the final tick of approval from the council," Mrs DeMenna said. "We're happy to start ASAP."

She said there would be more than 120 different types of accommodation at the site when it was completed, including one-and-two-bedroom cabins, powered RV sites and non-powered sites on about 4.2ha next to Crees Creek. There is also space for a stage two development on about 3.6ha nearby at a later date.

There is a critical need to provide affordable workers' accommodation, Mrs DeMenna said.



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projects in pipeline



Nautilus Aviation has a new helicopter base planned.

New Nautilus base plan for Dickson Inlet

A brand new \$4m helicopter base is set to be built in the Port Douglas waterfront south precinct area.

Nautilus Aviation will consolidate its operations around the new landing pad, hangar, and office space going in at a close-to-5000sq m site on 35-39 Port Street across from the sports oval entrance, nearer to the Coral Beach Lodge.

The choppers are set to take off and land above the Dickson's Inlet from two purpose-built landing pads. Nautilus chief executive Aaron Finn said he hoped the new base could link in with a planned new southern waterfront boat-repair precinct.

"These are exciting times for us as well, and we'll hopefully see the development go ahead," Mr Finn said.

Meanwhile, early works have started on two housing developments along Port Douglas Road near the Old Port Road turnoff and next door to the Oaks resort.

An artist's design of how the front of the hotel may look. Picture: wolveridge.com.au

Fresh boutique hotel ready for building

Shaun Hollis

A new 30-room high-class boutique hotel with an on-street cafe and rooftop poolside bar has been approved for Warner Street, according to the project architect Jerry Wolveridge.

Mr Wolveridge said the new hotel, set to go near the optometrists down from the corner of Grant Street, will be something "completely fresh" for the town, with an open design featuring extensive gardens, and a rooftop wellness centre including spa, sauna, treatment rooms and a yoga

space. "It's got a kind of urban tropical feel to it," Mr Wolveridge said.

"It's a very high quality offering. "I want you to check into this hotel and know you're in the tropics."

There will be views across the marina and ranges from the rooftop, which will be about as tall as Coles, he said. Mr Wolveridge said the permits for the hotel had been approved, and the next stage was to select the builders and finish the plan details.

"We're motivated to keep on moving," he said. "We've been

working on this site for quite a long time.

"We're really thrilled to have obtained a permit for a new tourism offering in Port Douglas."

Wolveridge Architects have a strong connection to the region - Jerry said his father designed the Mirage golf course and the company has designed a host of residential and commercial buildings in Port Douglas, as well as Hemingways Brewery in Cairns and Bloomfield eco lodge in the Daintree.

"There's a ton of work going on," he said.

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Huge support for Plastic Free Douglas move

More than 25 Port Douglas businesses, community leaders and individuals have wholly endorsed the launch of Plastic Free Douglas which aims to reduce the number of disposable plastic bags which end up as litter and landfill.

And this support was clearly evident last night when more than 100 people attended the launch at The Clink Theatre, which included Mayor Julia Leu, and all four members of council.

"I am both encouraged and moved by this incredible turnout and this says a lot for what this Shire is all about," said Mayor Leu.

"This is an outstanding cause, and although there is a long road ahead and lots of work needs to be done, the more businesses who adopt a plastic free policy will encourage others to follow.

"If we all work together, we will be able to achieve a lot more," she said.

Only four states - South Australia, the Northern Territory, Tasmania and the ACT - are plastic-bag free and a major objective of the Plastic Free Douglas committee is to follow suit.

When the policy was introduced in Adelaide, for example, it was immediately endorsed without fuss.

Australians dispose of four million bags a year.

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Farewell Dr Archer, an FNQ masterpiece

Bryan Littlely

Daniel Hodgson says he can describe personalities better in paintings than he can in words, so when he heard the heartbreaking news his friend and GP Dr John Archer had died, he started painting.

The local artist and hospitality worker, 49, said two spectacularly colourful portraits of Dr Archer he did in the days after his sudden death last month were to show how much the much-loved GP meant to the town.

"He was my GP for 24 years and we were pretty close," Daniel said.

"I had been meaning to do a portrait of him for some time. When the news came through I started immediately."

Using paint pens for the work, Daniel completed one work of Dr Archer sitting at his desk.

"I just wanted to include a lot of colour to show how I saw him... a really bright, colourful personality," he said.

"We connected with a similar sense of humour. He was a good person to reflect with.

"I did the first painting of him sitting at his desk, the iconic vision of how everyone saw him.

"But I wanted to show more of his personality, and the softer side of him, so did the close-up of his face."



The first painting Daniel Hodgson did of Dr John Archer after his death on May 11, and, inset, Daniel Hodgson's colourful portrait of GP and friend, Dr Archer.



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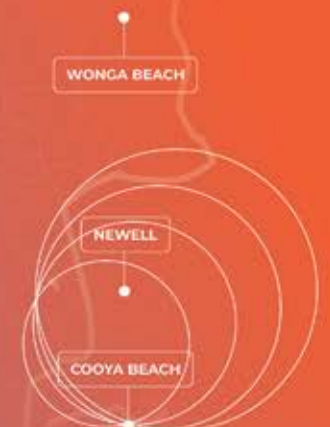
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Sun shines brightly



Parade winners included Windswell and Sea Circus and Bodies in Motion; Top Dogs were Skipper and Chelsea, with owner Amanda Connolly; Croc Eating Turtle won the Sand Sculpting; Tim Shmigel won the Douglas Dash, and; Brandt Teale's 1962 Valiant won Best Car at Show and Shine.



Shaun Hollis

The Windswell and Sea Circus float was crowned the overall winner at the Port Douglas Carnivale Macrossan Street Parade on the Friday night.

Bodies in Motion Dance School won the best business float award, Port Douglas State School was awarded best community float and Flower Lady Garden Ponds and Irrigation won the eco-friendly category.

In the Sand Sculpting on Saturday on Four Mile Beach, the winners were: 1. Crocodile eating turtle, 2. Whale breaching, and 3. Colosseum.

In the inaugural Coastal Show and Shine, more than 60 vehicles went on display, with Cooya Beach local Brandt Teale winning Best Car with his 1962 Valiant.

"I'd like to thank the Douglas Shire community for helping a local car take the honours against over a hundred top quality contenders from throughout North Queensland at the inaugural Carnivale Coastal Show and Shine,"

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on Carnivale 2026

Brandt told Newsport. "It was a people's choice award and the community turned out in droves to vote for a local.

"I encourage more to attend next year's event to keep the glory in the Shire despite stiff opposition from elsewhere."

The trophy winner of the Mirage Carnivale Golf event was Nick Stolke, a member of Half Moon Bay, with 39 points.

Tim Shmigel won the Douglas Dash in a record time, and Douglas's Top Dogs for 2026 were Skipper and Chelsea, both owned by Amanda Connolly.

State Government Tourism Minister Andrew Powell, who was in town for the event, said he was thrilled to experience first-hand the strong community spirit that defined Carnivale.

"Events like Port Douglas Carnivale bring communities together and create a real buzz across the region," Minister Powell said.

Other highlights of the weekend included the Savannah Sounds music festival and The Longest Lunch at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort, where guests enjoyed local produce, cocktails and entertainment beneath the palms.

There was the Tropic Lights display at the Sugar Wharf, the Temple of Fire pool party at Pullman Port Douglas Sea Temple Resort and Spa, Cafe del Mar-style Sheraton Sunset Sessions, Sea Circus performances and the Paramour Cabaret.



Savannah Sounds included Vanessa Amorosi, Jon Stevens, Dragon and the Hillbilly Goats, while the kites and fireworks were also popular. Pictures: Santiago Gonzalez, Francesca Bossoni, @_leanvisuals, Lauren Gratas, Shaun Hollis, Ray White Real Estate, Dynamic Running, Brandt Teale



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'Lurking' dingo concerns

Port Douglas resident Libby Klinger has raised concern about dingoes "lurking" and "menacing" her Wharf Street home, saying action needs to be taken by authorities before there are any dangerous incidents.

The letter, sent to Newsport at the weekend, suggests the dingoes have already raised interest in the family's domestic dogs.

"Yet again, last night (Friday) these two dingoes were lurking across the road from our house in Wharf Street as we returned at 9pm," the letter says.

"We have lived here for over 30 years and it is only recently that we have been menaced by these dogs.

"On a previous occasion they chased my daughter's border collies as they were about to get into the car in our driveway.

"Dogs have to be on a lead when outside owner's premises. Why wild dogs can roam unchecked defies logic.

"I am tired of the call that 'it's OK because they are native/wild animals'. Yes they are and should NOT be roaming urban areas.



Two dingoes in Wharf Street, Port Douglas, are described by one resident as "menacing". Picture: supplied

"Please do something now to avoid any incidents at a later date."

Douglas Shire Council conducts a selective inspection program targeting regulated dogs to ensure owners are meeting the requirements under the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 and that dogs are being kept in a safe and compliant manner.

The program also aims to educate regulated dog owners about

their responsibilities and support them in maintaining appropriate enclosures, signage, and control measures.

While officers may be able to complete inspections without entering a property, section 111 of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008 provides "Powers of Entry" for authorised persons under an approved inspection program.

Arrest after man stabbed at Ellis Beach

A man has been rushed to hospital after being stabbed in the chest following an argument at a holiday park on the Captain Cook Highway in Ellis Beach on Saturday night.

Police said the argument broke out between two men who know each other at about 10.45pm, and a 45-year-old Townsville man then allegedly stabbed a 48-year-old Speewah man before fleeing the scene.

The Speewah man was in a stable condition with a single wound to the chest on Monday.

The Queensland Ambulance Service called the wound "potentially life-threatening".

The Townsville man was charged with an act intending to cause grievous bodily harm and is appearing in Cairns Magistrates Court today.

If you have information about this, or any other, incident contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestoppersqld.com.au.



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Meet the far north version of Coachella

BUSINESS FEATURE
 Jamie Jansen

Did you know our region has its own equivalent to Coachella? Every winter, thousands of music and art lovers head into the rugged backcountry near Ravenshoe for NYX Festival from June 19-22.

Deep within the rugged backcountry of the Atherton Tablelands, NYX Festival creates a temporary city dedicated to underground electronic music, large-scale art, and alternative culture.

Set on a massive 12ha property called Glen Gordon Station, just outside Innot Hot Springs, the event transforms the quiet countryside into a vibrant village full of heavy bass, neon lights, and clear starry skies. Now gearing up for its sixth official year, the festival was started by a collective of North Queensland creators who wanted to bring world-class electronic music to their own backyard.

Their goal was simple: to bring the high-energy production of major southern festivals up to the tropical north, while keeping the relaxed, free-spirited feel of a classic Aussie bush doof.

Launching NYX meant taking on the massive logistical challenge of turning thousands of acres of raw bushland into a fully functioning venue. Their efforts have paid off, turning the event into a major tourism drawcard. Today, it attracts huge crowds of interstate travelers eager to swap the freezing southern winter for the warm, dry days of the Tablelands.

While NYX built its reputation on the fast, hypnotic rhythms of



FNQ's own NYX Festival brings world-class electronic music production and large-scale art installations to the Atherton Tablelands every winter. Picture: Dan Martin Media

psychedelic trance, the musical lineup has expanded significantly.

Attendees can now hear a broad mix of techno, deep house, bass music, and downbeat tracks.

The organisers place a strong emphasis on highlighting local talent, giving regional DJs, music producers, and visual artists the chance to showcase their work on the same state-of-the-art sound systems and custom light stages as major international headliners.

Beyond the music, the organisers pour immense effort into the overall visual and cultural experience. The festival features custom light installations and projection mapping that turn the surrounding forest into a living art gallery.

The site also includes mind-bending visual art and murals, a bustling market village, and daily workshops centered on wellness

and alternative lifestyle discussions. As the crew's reputation has grown, so has their footprint.

They recently expanded beyond their usual winter solstice event with several parties in FNQ, including Amped New Years.

They also teamed up with massive brands across Australia to host events around the nation, including a packed two-day party that brought international acts to the Cape Tribulation jungle.

For more info and tickets visit: www.nyxfestival.com.au



To read the full story scan this QR code

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New Daintree disaster funds and home boost

BUSINESS FEATURE
 MP Matt Smith

I always look forward to sharing what I've been up to with the community, and May has been a particularly eventful month!

I was recently in Cape Tribulation visiting the Daintree with Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister Patrick Gorman. The Daintree of course was very badly affected by the extreme weather at the tail end of the wet season, and I'm glad to see that various tranches of Disaster Recovery Funding have now been activated to help those individuals and businesses that were impacted.

There are also now government-funded roadworks, marine access points and upgrades to infrastructure that will help build future resilience for the Ferry and roads north of the river.

Treasurer Jim Chalmers handed down his Federal Budget mid-May and we have some significant investment in the region. The big news is there is a national Local Infrastructure Fund of \$2 billion announced, of which \$500m will be targeted for the regional areas of Australia - this money will be used to subsidise roads, sewerage, connectivity and everything necessary to prepare sites on which to build new houses.

*Matt Smith is the Federal MP for Leichhardt.



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Centre calls on the community

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

For nearly 40 years, the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre has supported the community through life's most difficult and joyful moments.

Now, it is calling upon that same community to help raise vital funds for much-needed renovations. The launch of the "Be the Reason we Grow" fundraising campaign marks a pivotal moment for the Port Douglas Community Service Network.

What started in 1988 as a simple meeting of locals discussing childcare needs has grown into one of the Douglas Shire's most critical support hubs.

From its early days in borrowed office spaces to moving into its purpose-built Mowbray Street home in 2005, the Centre has remained focused on connection, care, and practical support.

Over the years, it has provided essential programs including playgroups, emergency relief, community transport, financial counselling, and disaster recovery services. Now, the organisation



Some involved in the formation of the Port Douglas Community Service Network included Mandy Stone, Natasha Walsh, Julia Leu, Jane Simpson, and Patricia Simpson. Picture: supplied

is looking to the future, seeking community help to upgrade its infrastructure to ensure it remains a safe, welcoming, and resilient space for generations to come.

The fundraising campaign will directly fund several key renovation projects designed to improve safety, comfort, and capacity.

Planned upgrades include air-conditioning key gathering spaces to ensure the Centre remains usable during extreme heat and wet weather, alongside im-

proving overall building security.

"For nearly four decades, this Centre has supported local people through some of life's most difficult moments as well as many joyful ones," said Network CEO Emma Travers. "We invite everyone who has had a connection with us to help write the next chapter of our story."

As a centerpiece of the fundraising efforts, the centre will install a large Mangrove Donation Mural, symbolising the strength

and resilience of the Douglas community. Community members and businesses are invited to buy a leaf on the mural.

Donation levels range from \$100 for individual and family leaves up to \$1000 for corporate leaves, with fully customisable wording to recognise a family, business, or loved one.

The entire community is invited to celebrate the official launch of the campaign upstairs at the Tin Shed on Tuesday, June 16, from 4pm to 6pm.

The event will feature a live broadcast with Michael Joseph and Douglas FM, offering attendees the chance to hear the centre's origin story, view the renovation plans, and listen to stories of the centre's local impact.

Visit portdouglascommunity-servicenetw.org.au for details.



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Round 5 Results

14	FULL TIME	28	
Edmonton Storm U15 Girls			Mossman Sharks U15's Girls
36	FULL TIME	26	
Mossman Sharks U14's			Southern Suburbs U14's
30	FULL TIME	12	
Mossman Sharks U15's Boys			Southern Suburbs U15's

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DOUGLAS IS DRIVEN TO KEEP QAID'S OPEN

Janine Ann

Should be open and Black Mountain Road maintained as an alternative.

Peter Marsh

It needs to be officially opened and maintained by the main roads dept.

JB Blockey

Time to bury the hatchet and put the asset to proper use. Should be repaired and opened as a gazetted road as an alternative to the Rex and Kuranda Ranges, which are prone to accidents, regular flooding (eg Bushy), and trees down. PS: drove it down and up a couple of months after Jasper, and surprisingly it had suffered minimal damage - certainly still driveable, which is more than could be said for the Cook Hwy and Kuranda Ranges!

Ryan Keune

Definitely needs to be open only road to get access through to cairns in case of closed range from accidents or natural disasters, etc, can't always get through the long way around so Quaid's is the only other way.

Stephen Fuller

Open it. It is a good drive and much better range crossing.

Anita Peica

That road was the only way anyone got out of Wangetti to Turtle Cove in the 10 days after Jasper. It needs to be fixed but it is a great way to get to the Ta-

blelands when Kuranda Road has accidents and slides.

Debbie Gostelov

The road is there and after the last few years we need back up range crossings obviously. Update and open it.

Ken Rob

We have to think of tourists from afar who have to catch flights as well as locals and local businesses. Without doubt, its only common sense it should be opened as a back up to the only main road to Cairns and Cairns Airport. Fix it up as an emergency back up road.

Andrew Rowen

Bring it up to scratch and open it. Coast road to Port Douglas often blocked by accidents or mother nature and an alternative route would be handy.

Norman Walker

This road was never open to the public. It's not constructed to main-road standards. But don't close it. It's always been there for emergency use.

Suzie Baynton

There are two sides... a human need... and what about the wild-life are there funnels bridges as the road goes through significant habitat... 80km proposed speed do you really think people will abide by that.

BELOVED TEACHER GOES THE EXTRA MILE

Naomi Arthurson

This article came as a complete surprise, and I'm truly over-



From the Holster



Shaun Hollis brings you a lighter look at local news.

whelmed by the kind words and recognition of my work. I have always had a dream to create life-long memories and opportunities for our younger generation, and a goal to give back to the community service and experiences that shaped my own childhood. However, none of this happens alone. I want to acknowledge the incredible people who have supported me along the way - my family, friends, and work colleagues. Your encouragement, support, and belief in me have helped make these successes possible. Thank you - I am incredibly grateful.

Susan Davenport

She taught both my kids to swim as toddlers now in their 20s.

Keldra Wray

Naomi is amazing and a true asset to this Shire! You're THE BEST Naomi! Keep being awesome!

Sophie Carbis

This lady is incredible!

WHAT'S A BABY CROC GOT ON THE MENU?

Rita Ange

Umm...whatever he likes!

Kris Kupsch

OMG there are many Aus natives eating them safely. Watch Jurassic Park. Nature finds a way.

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

Newsport photographers have been out and about at events across the district, including Port Douglas Carnivale, local venues and art exhibitions. Pictures: Shaun Hollis, Francesca Bossoni



Kanika, 7, Nikisha Missionary and Tywana, 5, at the Carnivale Beach Day.



DAB exhibition artist Inger Rowe.



DAB exhibition artists Louise Bannon and Mandy Ryan.



Musician Shannon Hunter at Paddy's.



Daniela Failla, Guada Villafane and Emily Ralda at the Coral Lodge.



Dani Onus, Vincent Company and Xavi Gomez at the Coral Lodge.

WHAT'S ON

- JUN 6** **Tullara**
Time: 1pm-4pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill
- JUN 6** **Double Header - Stuie Harcourt and NPC**
Time: 1pm-8.30pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill
- JUN 6** **Working Bee at the Garden of Woven Memories**
Time: 8am-10am
Location: Garden of Woven Memories, Mossman Botanic Gardens
- JUN 8** **Hole In One Jackpot Competition**
Time: 10am-6pm
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf, Grant St, Port Douglas
- JUN 9** **Indonesian Night**
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- JUN 11** **Trivia Night**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- JUN 11** **Bingo with K-Star**
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

- JUN 12** **Bingo Night with K-Star**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- JUN 12** **Sheraton Grand Mirage Par 3 Championship**
Time: 9am-9pm
Location: Sheraton Grand Mirage Port Douglas
- JUN 12** **Sound Healing**
Time: 7pm-8pm
Location: Port Douglas Yoga Studio
- JUN 13** **Double Header - Candice Bliss & Frontear Duo!**
Time: 1pm-8.30pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill
- JUN 13** **Miallo Dod Trials**
Time: 7am-5pm
Location: Tati Road, Miallo
- JUN 15** **Hole In One Jackpot Competition**
Time: 10am-6pm
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf, Grant St, Port Douglas
- JUN 16** **Campaign Launch: Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre "Be the Reason we Grow" Fundraiser**
Time: 4pm-6pm
Location: Tin Shed, upstairs

- JUN 16** **Indonesian Night**
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- JUN 18** **Trivia Night**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- JUN 18** **Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs**
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman
- JUN 19** **Phoebe and Zane**
Time: 5.30pm-8.30pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill
- JUN 19** **Bingo Night with K-Star**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- JUN 19** **NYX Festival 2026**
Time: 12pm
Location: Glen Gordan Station, Ravenshoe, QLD
- JUN 19** **Sound Healing**
Time: 7pm-8pm
Location: Port Douglas Yoga Studio
- JUN 19** **Yahdoh**
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

- JUN 20** **Food Gardening At Circle Of Plenty**
Time: 8am-10am
Location: Circle of Plenty, Mossman Botanic Garden, Mossman
- JUN 20** **Ben Lee - On Tour Always**
Time: 6pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill
- JUN 20** **Country Fair**
Time: 2pm-9pm
Location: Mossman State School
- JUN 21** **Nicole Nighthawk**
Time: 1pm-4pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill
- JUN 21** **International Yoga Day**
Time: 9.30am-2pm
Location: Port Douglas Yoga Shala , Above The Book Lounge, Warner Street, Port Douglas
- JUN 21** **Ben Lee**
Time: 4pm
Location: Port douglas yacht club - 1 spinnaker cl
- JUN 22** **Hole In One Jackpot Competition**
Time: 10am-6pm
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf, Grant St, Port Douglas

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

SPORTS DIGEST

Our shot put master aims for Games

From Page 20

"It is great for the kids, and for me to have them there."

Matt competes at state and national level in discus, javelin and shot put, disciplines he has either won or placed in at the Australian Championships.

The stocktrader says he was always sporty and his young fam-

ily'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 around 17 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 be-

cause the kids are doing it," he said.

The Sheppard family, wife Erica and children Jax, 13, Nova, 11, and Freya, 9, are all active and noted for their achievements in athletics and dance, among other sports.

Matt says he feels plenty of community support and is grateful for the well wishes and encour-

agement. Douglas Athletics and community supporters of Matt are fundraising to help cover the costs of his intense training regime and for his family to be by his side in Glasgow. An event, with raffle tickets sold, was held at the Tin Shed last Friday, with more fundraising planned as the countdown to Glasgow goes on.

BRIEFS

ATHLETICS

A new Douglas Dash course record was set on Port Douglas Carnivale, with Tim Shmigel covering the 5km course in 21min 9secs.

The winner of the women's race was Gael Sommerville, while the junior race winners were Jack Reilly and Kaylahni Lower.

The male placegetters were Nicolas Nelis and Adam Cullers, while the women were Rebecca Preston and Lucy Forbes.

Fletcher Wales, Henry Sommerville, Edith Sommerville and Alexis Hasell filled the junior-race places.

Runners from across the world competed in the race, with France, Germany, NSW, Victoria and Western Australia all represented, along with athletes from across Queensland.

SOCCER

Douglas United thrashed Leichhardt 8-1 on Friday night in Cairns.

Leading 3-0 at halftime, the Dragons showed no mercy in the second half, scoring five goals.

This Friday night at 8.30pm United takes on Stratford at home at Cassowary Park.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Under-19 Sam Jones against Innisfail, Under-16 Karlie Albury against Cooktown Salties and under-12 Poppie Grace Albury versus Atherton Tigers. Pictures: Emma Canuto/Capturing Portals Photography

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GLASGOW BOUND



Cooya athlete Matt Sheppard has been selected in the Australian Commonwealth Games team. Picture: Supplied

Bryan Littlely
Champion Cooya wheelchair athlete Matt Sheppard is off to Glasgow at the end of July, making the cut for the Australian Commonwealth Games team in the seated shot put.

The Douglas Athletics member says he is "really stoked" having thought it was beyond his reach to make the team for the games.

"It's probably come on a bit quicker than I thought it would," he told Newsport this week.

"I did get an email a while back to say that I was in contention but I would need to be in the top seven in the Commonwealth to get a spot on the team.

"I have only just made it, to be honest. I'm number six or seven in the Commonwealth."

The news came a couple of weeks ago and has swung Matt, 37, into full on training and his family into full on planning to be with him for the highlight of his career.

Training includes three weekly strength training sessions a week and two throw sessions per week.

"We are all pretty pumped and ready to go," Matt said.

Continued Page 19



Under-10 Neo McCabe against Atherton Tigers.

Mossman looking swish for junior basketball

Douglas Heat Basketball Club hosted teams from Cooktown, Atherton and Innisfail last month for the regional representative carnival.

From U10s through to U19s, the courts were packed all day with teams playing multiple games and putting on an amazing display of

skill, teamwork and sportsmanship. Douglas Heat had a strong showing across all age groups, coming away with a number of wins and some incredibly close games that had everyone on the edge of their seats.

Through their commitment to training and new weekly Interclub

games, it was amazing to see how far all the local players have improved on the court.

Events like these bring so much energy to our community while also supporting local small businesses and boosting the local economy.

More photos, Page 19

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