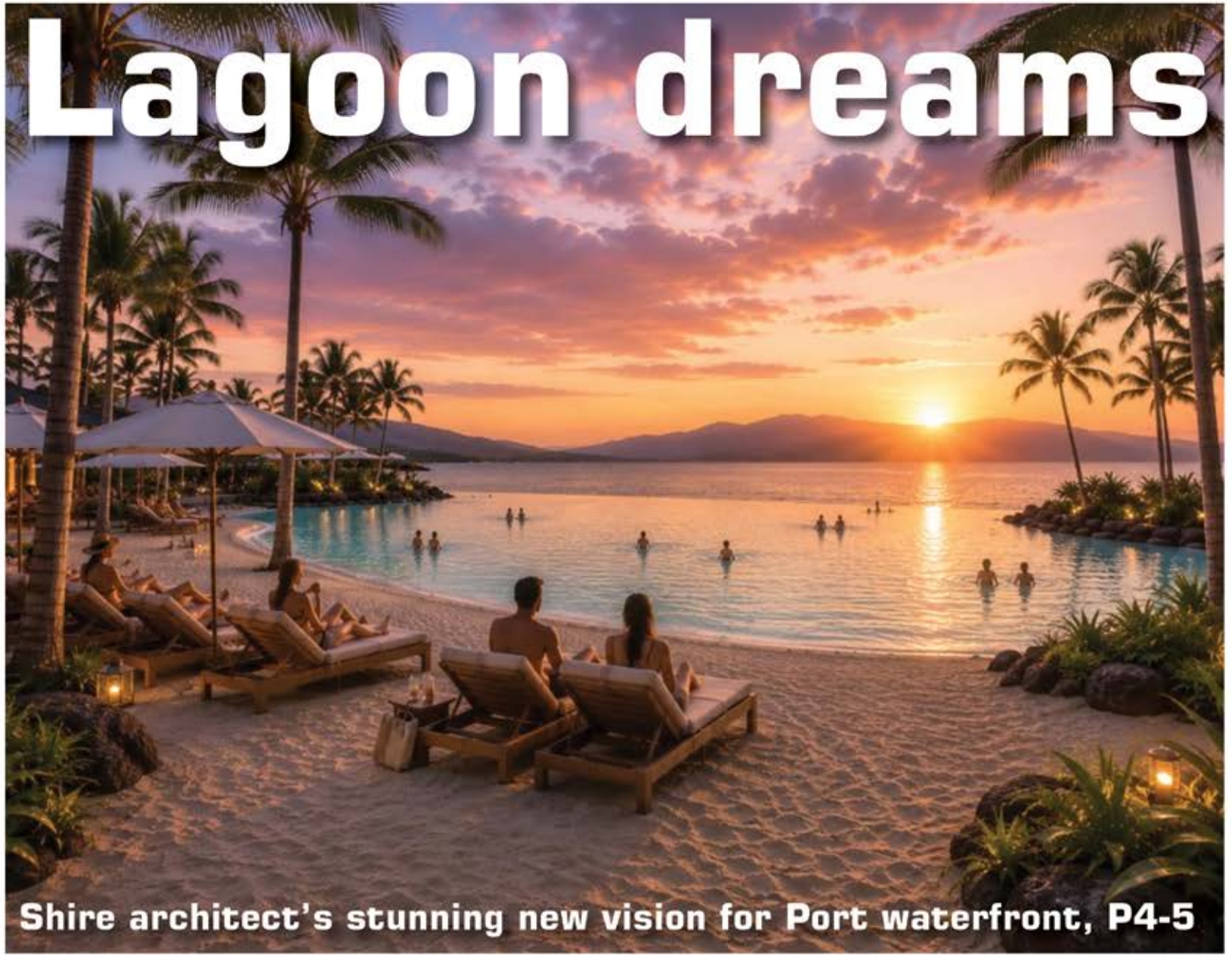


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Lagoon dreams



Shire architect's stunning new vision for Port waterfront, P4-5

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Ferry transition on track

Shaun Hollis

The move to a larger Daintree ferry next year is starting to take shape, with two milestones achieved in the past month.

New ferry owners Birdon started operating the Daintree River Ferry this week, taking over from Douglas Shire Council.

The transition marks the next phase of Birdon's 20-year contract to design, build, operate and maintain the ferry.

Ferry operations manager John Gray said Birdon's immediate priority was ensuring continuity of service and consistent communication throughout the transition.

"We understand how critical the ferry is to everyday life, local businesses, freight and tourism," Mr Gray said.

"Our team is in place, local maintenance arrangements are ready, and our focus is on safe, reliable operations from day one."

Birdon is also continuing construction of the new four-lane cable ferry, which will replace the existing vessel that is nearing the end of its service life.

Birdon marked a significant



The Daintree ferry is now under new management.

milestone last month with a keel-laying ceremony at the Port Macquarie shipyard, where the new ferry is being built.

"A keel-laying ceremony marks the symbolic birth of a ship, representing the formal transition from engineering design to physical construction," according to the company.

"The keel laying marks the point at which the project physically 'takes shape', transitioning from

early fabrication into major hull assembly and structural construction."

Construction of the new Daintree ferry started in January and is scheduled to enter service in late 2027.

The ferry is a four-lane, cable-drawn vessel, which will be about 50m long and 17m wide.

The ferry will carry up to 36 vehicles per crossing, compared with 27 vehicles on the current one.

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Breaking news: Pool hall opens

Shaun Hollis

In some of the biggest sports entertainment news to hit FNQ this year - FNCue opened up in Port Douglas last weekend.

The brainchild of local eight-ball fanatics Dean and Louise Gleeson, the new 10-table licensed pool hall is now open from midday to 8pm seven days a week upstairs near the post office on the corner of Macrossan and Owen Streets.

A connoisseur of the popular pub game, Dean's close to 40-year dream of opening his own pool hall has finally come to fruition after about 18 months of hard work and organisation behind the scenes.

"We are very excited," Dean says. "I think the hype about this that we've come across now, everybody says to us, 'wow, Port Douglas really needs this', so I hope to think that this brings through the next generation of good pool players, it gives all the tourists a place to come who love to have a game of pool, and I think it'll be a nice, good, safe environment."

The couple has spared no expense in their desire to give customers the best eight-ball experience they possibly can.

"These are Rasson Apollo tables, they're ultimate pool tables, they are the premium table, they're probably the best you can buy, I think, for competition-type tables," Dean says.

"They're great to play on, especially coupled with the Pro Cup balls, it's just, yeah, it's the next



Louise and Dean Gleeson have opened a new seven-day-a-week pool hall on Macrossan Street in Port Douglas. Picture: Shaun Hollis

level." The venue also has the solid backing of the sport's peak state body, the Queensland Eight Ball Federation.

"We do have some big tournaments planned, watch this space. Queensland Eight Ball have been very kind to say to us that they are

going to allow us to run a couple of major competitions here, so really looking forward to that."

The tables are free to play on, the drink prices are reasonable, and the venue is combining with local producers to host private parties in the VIP section.

News in Brief

TOURIST LOOKOUT SHUT

The crocodile lookout at Mowbray Bridge will be closed to tourists from early July to the end of September while the bridge undergoes repairs.

Repair crews will be working on the viewing platform, the western end of the bridge and the rock wall on the riverbank.

Visitors will still be able to access the pedestrian underpass beneath the bridge.

There will be some delays for drivers, including lower speed limits.

A heavy vehicle turnaround will also be in place in the carpark with traffic control.

CREB REPAIRS DONE

Restoration works on the Creb Track near the Daintree Village have been completed by Douglas Shire Council, but the track was not yet open at the start of this week due to persistent rain.

"Access has been difficult, and crews have only just been able to exit the site using light vehicles," according to a council spokesman.

"For public safety, the track will remain closed."

Updates on the opening will be posted on the council's Facebook page and at douglas.qld.gov.au.

E-BIKE CRACKDOWN HERE

Tougher new State Government e-scooter and e-bike laws are in place from this week.

The new laws, which came into effect yesterday (Wednesday, July 1), include restricting the riding of e-devices to over-16s with some form of transport licence, speed limits of 10km/h on footpaths and 25km/h everywhere else, random breath testing and tougher penalties for not wearing helmets and carrying an extra passenger.

Many of the new fines range from a minimum of about \$330 to a maximum of about \$6700.

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Fresh lagoon images



Two more of the "indicative images" produced by architect Gary Hunt of how a Port Douglas lagoon may look.

Shaun Hollis

He stresses they have only been created as "indicative images" to promote discussion about the benefits of building a lagoon on the Port Douglas waterfront near the Sugar Wharf, but long-time Port Douglas architect Gary Hunt's sublime new designs are a breath of fresh air for a debate that has been raging for more than 20 years.

Should a Port Douglas lagoon be built?

This has been the million-dollar question since the first regional Port masterplan was starting to be developed back in 2005.

At least two surveys have shown more than 70 per cent of Douglas Shire locals want a lagoon, but each attempt to build one has met seemingly insurmountable hurdles around where the money is going to come from and whether governments can afford to build and maintain it.

Now the Shire's Rotary club and Mowbray-based architecture firm Hunt Design are throwing their

combined weight behind the latest lagoon vision, with a recent presentation to Douglas Shire Council outlining a bold new direction for the project.

Seemingly ironically, Mr Hunt has helped design and build other lagoons and massive resort pools across the state, including the hugely popular Airlie Beach Lagoon, but his ongoing attempts to get one across the line during the past 20 years in his own region have until now amounted to little.

"The ultimate size and scale and form and everything else with the lagoon will only be crystallised once you go through a proper proof-of-concept study," Mr Hunt emphasises about his latest conceptual drawings. "We've got to ensure there's a huge amount of community involvement in crystallising what the end result should be. We see it as a conversation starter."

And that study will help establish how much the cost will be to operate the lagoon, including the price to build it in the first place,

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designed to inspire

and the economic benefits to the region, he said.

The current councillors were impressed by the group's presentation to the June council meeting, and have endorsed a Douglas Shire letter of support so that Rotary and Hunt Design can lobby the State and Federal Governments and private businesses to raise the money needed to both build and run the new tourist attraction. The Airlie lagoon cost about \$16m to build more than 10 years ago, but steeply rising costs since then will mean a Port Douglas project on a similar scale will cost significantly more than that.

Mr Hunt, however, said new technology has made ongoing maintenance costs more manageable, with high-tech sensors and automated pool cleaners now being used at new lagoons being built around the world. The benefits for tourism will be huge, he said, with the Airlie lagoon increasing the length of stays of visitors there by about a third.

"If we build something that really captures people's imagination... more people will come because it's such a wonderful destination - the reason for people to come to Port Douglas," he said.

The Rotary Club of Douglas FNQ is exploring a range of potential funding streams to avoid any impact on ratepayers, emphasising a new lagoon would "provide significant social and economic benefits". In its letter of support, the council stated the lagoon has the "potential to deliver meaningful social, recreational, and economic benefits to the Douglas Shire and Far North Queensland communities".

From this...



To this...



A before-and-after view of the area near the Sugar Wharf. Pictures: Hunt Design

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Douglas Shire Budget

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| \$38M | COMMUNITY | \$4M | DEVELOPMENT & COMPLIANCE |



Snare your den



Judy Fry has put her Lions Den Hotel on the market. Picture: Bryan Littlely

Bryan Littlely

The unique Lions Den Hotel at Helenvale, Cape York, is on the market, with owner Judy Fry listing the popular community and tourist watering hole last week.

Ms Fry, 75, said while she likes the place, the people and work, 12 years running Lions Den was long enough and it was time for her to have some time spent with grandchildren scattered around Queensland.

"I've had a lot of support from the locals here," she said. "After the flood I didn't know what I was going to do but all the locals turned up and cleaned up the pub and we got back up and running."

"It is time to move on and let some younger people do it. It's a place where kids can be kids, a

real family pub and it would need to stay a family pub."

Known for its live music every weekend, the Lions Den boasts no wifi but heaps of free fun in the eclectic pub, where the walls are adorned with signatures of visitors. Established in 1875 by Welshman Jack Ross and his wife Annie, the hotel was named after the Lions Den tin mine on the nearby tableland.

The Lions Den is no stranger to having a strong resilient woman at the helm, the founder of the pub Jack Ross dying in 1889 at the age of 23, leaving his young pregnant widow Annie and his infant daughter Louise behind.

Annie ran the pub for a few years raising her two children and then married George Watkin. The

hotel was in the same family from its establishment in 1875 until 1964. The signatures that adorn the wall of Lions Den stem from an early tradition begun in the early mining days.

The hotel was frequented for many years by miners working at the various tin mines around the area. In the early days as education and security of personal belongings was limited, some miners began leaving their pay packets at the public house and writing how much money they had spent, or still had, up on the wall.

The amount was written and recorded for the next time they returned to the pub and in turn each miner knew how much money they had to spend while on the premises.

10 YEARS AGO

Businesses band together on job

After more than a year of planning and seven months on the job, the Mirage Country Club is almost complete.

Six local businesses have banded together to complete the \$3.5 million dollar landscaping project for Sheraton owners, Full Share Group, which has seen every garden bed excavated, rebuilding of the drainage and irrigation of the entire drainage system, replanting of every garden and the relaying of every lawn.

The project - completed by Papillion Landscapes, Groundsmen, Hatfield Electrical, RAM Metalworks, Homescape Tile Sales & Installation and Raw and More - only used local sub contractors and materials and has proved a wonderful asset to the community.

Papillion Landscapes owner and director Pete Murphy said it was a credit to everyone involved to get the project completed on time.

"Everyone has had to pull their own weight to get it done," Murphy said. "No one had the resources or capabilities to do it by themselves so it has all worked out really well."

"We first starting putting plans together for it over a year ago, so to have it finished and looking so great is a credit to all who've made it happen. Full Share Group have been a pleasure to work with as well."



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Ratepayers hit with large hike

Douglas Shire rates and charges have gone up an average of 8.4 per cent this year, more than double Australia's annual inflation rate across the past year of about 4 per cent.

While individual rates notices are set to vary widely depending on a range of factors, which include a restructure of the DSC rating system and a long-awaited revaluation of many Shire property values by the State Government Valuer General, the council is budgeting to make more than \$4m out of rates and utility charges than was made last financial year.

Rates and other charges, such as water bills and rubbish collection, are expected to bring in about \$52.4m in 2026/7, up from about \$48.4m in 2025/6.

The council has completely scrapped the residential rate category for homes with land values worth less than \$700,000 and increased the minimum yearly rate any Shire homeowner has to pay to \$1400.

Off-leash dog park plans

Shaun Hollis

A Port Douglas off-leash dog park, a Splash Park carpark and toilet upgrade, new kerbs on Warner Street at Port Douglas, more CCTV across the Shire, footpath lights from Mossman to the Gorge and better drainage on Mossman's main street are some of the newer projects revealed in the latest council budget.

In good news for pet lovers, the budget papers contain a commitment to "review and recommend preferred locations for a dog off-leash park in Port Douglas" to be completed by October.

There is also \$360,000 for "CCTV upgrades to improve safety, visibility and after-hours security" and \$350,000 to upgrade the existing Splash Park carpark.

There is \$250,000 to expand the Splash Park toilets and showers and \$880,000 to renew Warner Street kerbs and drainage.

In terms of new lighting, the Four Mile Beach foreshore will get \$300,000 for a new path with



A Splash Park carpark and toilet upgrade are planned.

lights, while \$25,000 has been set aside to investigate footpath lights from Mossman to the Gorge.

"The pathway has become a really popular connection for walkers, cyclists and community events like the Yalanji RAW fun run," Mayor Lisa Scamazzon said.

"Exploring lighting options is about making that experience safer and even more enjoyable."

The Port-to-Mossman Cycle Track will also receive \$300,000 for a feasibility study and the Al-

chera Drive section of Mossman's main street will receive \$1.3m to improve drainage.

Across Daintree River, there is \$600,000 to upgrade the Cape Tribulation boardwalk, about \$600,000 for the Forest Creek culvert and \$100,000 to refurbish the Daintree Community Hall.

The Upper Cassowary Road widening project will also get close to \$1.3m, with about \$1m of that coming from the Federal Government.



Matt Smith MP

Federal Member for Leichhardt

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Rate rise woes

Shaun Hollis

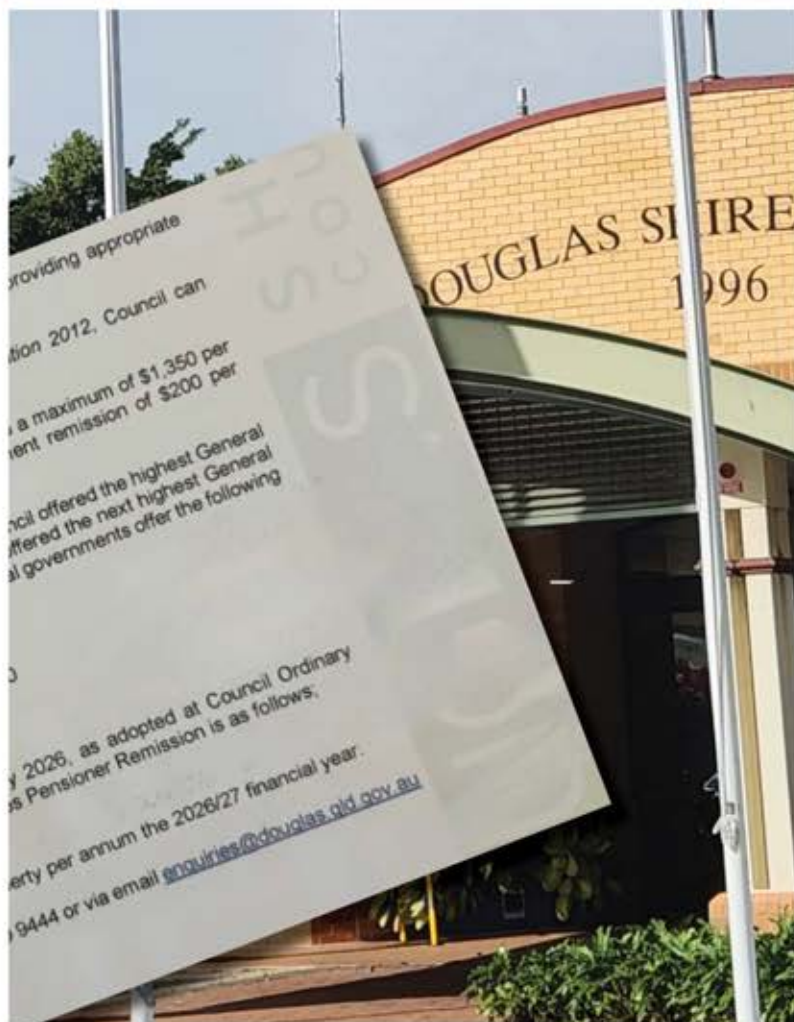
Pensioners across Douglas Shire are concerned after learning via a council letter their rates discount will be reduced from 40 per cent to 30 per cent this coming financial year, and the maximum discount will be reduced by \$350.

The DSC approved the change in the lead-up to last month's release of the 2026 budget, but the reality hit home for many Shire pensioners when they realised how much more they would be paying in rates and charges this year when more details emerged late last month.

The 10 per cent discount cut comes at the same time the council hikes Shire rates and charges by an average of 8.4 per cent for the coming financial year.

Newsport has been contacted by several upset older residents who say they are already struggling to make ends meet, while others have taken to social media to vent their frustrations.

The DSC letter sent to Shire pensioners leads off with this statement: "Council is committed to supporting eligible pensioner ratepayers and providing appropriate concessions where possible," before then going on to outline



A letter sent to pensioners by Douglas Shire Council informing pensioners of rebate cuts has been forwarded to Newsport.

further down the discount cuts. Kerry DeLany posted on one local online page that the letter was "written in such a way to make us pensioners believe we should be thanking council for being so generous in their higher than average discount on the rates".

"But really, in amongst that very wordy notice, is the fact that our pension discount will be reduced," she wrote.

Further down in its letter, the council states: "For the 2025/2026 year, Douglas Shire Council of-

fered the most generous General Rate pension remission in the state."

This is because the maximum pensioner discount in Douglas Shire last year was \$1350, while the next highest of any Queensland council was Brisbane with about \$1200, the letter states.

But the DSC is this year setting its maximum discount at \$1000, meaning some pensioners may have to pay \$350 more along with other rises in rates and charges.

What goes up, must point down



About 25 per cent of statistics are made up.

Just kidding there - but we do seem to be getting a high percentage of spin, spin, spin lately.

Jungle Juice, however, is here to try to cut through some of the smoke and mirrors, weather permitting. Which brings us to the "most bizarre arrow of the week" segment of the show.

At first glance the downward arrow in this council-budget graphic may lead you to think some cost in the latest figures may have gone down (other than a ratepayers' bank balance).

But a closer read of this cool-looking picture tells a different story.

What the graphic

is saying is, your home rates have gone up an average of about \$80 this year, but that is less than the about \$110 they went up last year.

Hence, some behind-the-scenes beancounter has come up with the thought bubble: "I know, let's illustrate this with a downward arrow".

Don't get me wrong, Jungle Juice thinks Douglas Shire has an unenviable task trying to balance the budget. But, really, do we need downward arrows when the figure is going up so much?

Surely that's just taking the piss.



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Douglas Shire cold case in spotlight

If you read the case files of missing person Joanne Butterfield, last seen in Mossman on June 24, 1998, you are likely to think there is no hope of an answer in the cold case crime.

Now, a citizen-led appeal for information and investigation - championed by investigative journalist Bryan Littlely and Newsport - is set to challenge that thinking.

The investigative true crime podcast SLEEPERS will pick up the case, hoping to gather bites of information, even clues, never before heard as it has succeeded in doing for other prominent cold cases, including the 1966 abduction of the Beaumont children from Glenelg, South Australia, and the Adelaide Oval abduction of Joanne Ratcliffe and Kirste Gordon in 1973.

"Simply by covering the case, putting a spotlight on it and starting to talk, people do tend to come forward with information that they may not have even thought relevant in such cases," Littlely said. "That can be critical... a starting point to take us, and police, closer towards an answer."

Joanne Butterfield, 37, was last



Joanne Butterfield was last seen in Mossman on June 24, 1998, and (inset) some of her personal belongings.

seen on June 24, 1998, in Mossman. A few days after she went missing Joanne's dress, bag and passport were found on a railway line two hours south of Mossman.

Personal items were mailed to her daughter's school.

Australian Missing Person's Register's Nicole Morris, author of MISSING, made a promise to Jo's devoted sister Belinda to never stop looking for Jo. Sadly, Belinda has died without getting an answer. Tips can be made on the

Crime Scene Oz or Bryan Littlely facebook page and direct email to enquiries@crimesceneoz.com.au where Littlely can follow up, with any advancement to be reported through Newsport to power up a local citizen investigation to assist police efforts.

In 2021, police reopened the cold case, saying two men could hold the key to solving the mystery. Joanne had told friends she intended to hitchhike to Sydney and set off from a house at Mow-

bray, near the Captain Cook Highway, about 7pm. In the lead-up to the opening of the cold case, CrimeStoppers had received several new tip-offs. A 2014 inquest found that Ms Butterfield had died shortly after last being seen on June 25, 1998, that it was unlikely that she had taken her own life and more probably that she was killed by a person or people unknown.

Police had begun re-interviewing people in the Mossman area in 2021 about Ms Butterfield's disappearance. They were particularly interested in speaking to those with information about two men.

Police also want to hear from anyone who may have seen a woman hitchhiking between Port Douglas and the South Johnstone area between Thursday, June 5, and Sunday, June 28, 1998.

They're interested in anyone who travelled along Henderson Drive, Pin Gin Hill, and saw any cars or people near the lookout during those dates. Ms Butterfield was last seen wearing a short black dress and black flat shoes and is described as 160cm tall with blue eyes and long auburn hair.



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FNQ catches the Gone Buggo new show's bug

BUSINESS FEATURE

Stacey Brown

Educator, children's book author, and the creative mind behind Gone Buggo, Steven Gill, is back this school holidays with a wildly popular new show designed to entertain and educate all ages.

His latest production Welcome to FNQ explores the vital and sometimes overlooked little critters that work tirelessly to keep our tropical ecosystems healthy.

Partnering with the Forever Reef Project, the Cooya Beach local will run a series of intimate, hour-long shows at the Port Douglas Marina from July 1-15, with all profits going directly to support the project's vital work.

Steven started Gone Buggo almost four years ago, driven by his desire to encourage his daughter's natural curiosity and passion about the importance that bugs play in maintaining biodiversity.

With a published collection of children's stories under his belt, he then developed his distinctive LEGO insect photography, integrating living bugs into LEGO dioramas as an innovative way to tell stories.

In the intervening years, Gone Buggo has gone national.

From presenting a TEDx talk, to appearances on The Morning Show, stand-up comedy shows and a host of educational talks to Australian school and US college students, Steven is bringing creatures of FNQ to audiences across the country.



Gone Buggo creator Steven Gill returns this school holidays with his all-ages show. Picture: Supplied

Throw in two east coast tours to Melbourne and performances at the Sydney Fringe, where he was short-listed for Best Kids Show, and it seems everyone is catching the Gone Buggo bug.

With more than 12 years as a local tour guide of the reef and rainforest, Steven's new show brings his local knowledge of complex tropical eco-systems, and its tiny inhabitants, to new audiences.

Off the back of a successful school-holiday season last year, presenting to in-house guests at the Sheraton Mirage Grand Resort, Welcome to FNQ will delight

locals and visitors alike. "I'm very proud of this particular show because it is a collection of all the wonderful things I've learned about this region in recent years that I wish I had known sooner," Steven said.

"It's very easy to take your own home for granted. It's a lot more complex and multi-faceted than I ever imagined."

With a max capacity of 30 people per show, Welcome to FNQ is an intimate and up-close presentation planned with families in mind.

Evening shows begin at 6.30pm, with guests encouraged to enjoy

a sunset dinner beforehand in one of many nearby restaurants, while Sunday shows start at 11am, a great time for a sit down after a stroll with the family at the Sunday markets.

To book tickets, visit: events.humanitix.com/welcome-to-fnq.



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Menu you can't afford to miss

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

San-ti restaurant, nestled within the breathtaking Niramaya Villas and Spa, is giving locals and visitors a fresh excuse to step off the busy main street with a brand-new menu, combining luxury resort surroundings with exceptional value for money.

As the ultimate local escape, the restaurant's open-air pavilion, warm timber details, and stunning poolside setting instantly transport you, making you feel a million kilometres away from the everyday, right here in our own backyard. While you might expect high-end prices to match the luxury resort surroundings, this hidden gem pairs incredible ambiance with surprisingly affordable dining.

Under head chef Marcos Arce, the new menu blends contemporary Australian cuisine with Asian-inspired flavours, with standouts including a signature slow-smoked brisket packed with deep umami flavour.

For the daytime crowd, San-ti continues to serve up its popular



The fresh menu pairs exceptional value with premium contemporary flavours. Picture: Awena Daniel

\$20 lunch special, featuring a rotating selection of crowd favourites.

Work from paradise

But it's not just about the food. The restaurant's breezy, peaceful daytime atmosphere makes it a brilliant spot for remote workers wanting to escape the home office, or local businesses looking for a relaxed space to host staff meetings and corporate lunches.

To support this work-from-paradise lifestyle, the venue is currently upgrading its tech infrastructure.

New digital access points are being installed across the property, meaning the common areas will soon be powered by dedicated, high-speed fiber internet.

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, San-ti offers the perfect mix of premium dining and a qui-

et, connected workspace you'd be crazy to miss. View the menu and book a table here: santiportdoughlas.com.au.



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Consulting Engineer: Applin Consulting Mobile 0414768109

Contractor: FNQ Development Group Pty Ltd

Project Manager by 3D Civil: Wayne Davis Mobile 0447410088

Contact Information: 0447410088

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PENSIONERS COP A WHACK IN BUDGET

Teresa O'doherty

You can blame the ferry purchase for the increases.

Julie Robertson

Blame the splash park and new playground everyone wanted!

Neil Jabs

Yes agree along with other reckless spending splash park opulent cost of \$5m. So in a cost of living crisis, fuel cost crisis, power bill crisis, insurance cost crisis and total loss of the entire sugar industry crisis and then for the DSC muppets to MORE than double the CPI inflationary rate and then become the highest cost of rates in North QLD is the epitome of insubordination and no financial control of our money. It is an insult to all residents living in this Shire. DSC should be dismissed and a new election be held immediately. They have no business acumen and no formal training in any financial matters - resulting in the ripping off the ratepayers. Shameful.

Lyn Buffington

That is a pretty low act Douglas Shire Council, seeing as we get very little value for money now. Our footpaths in Mossman are a disgrace especially for older people when it's wet. So much improvement to be done by this council!

Line Puree

I'm not that old, I slipped a few times on path and I'm careful. Broken glass on path around

Shire is pretty annoying (this is more a people that got no respect for where we/they live...)

Ian Locke

Why don't you hit all these southern investors buying properties and putting them into B&Bs? While they're destroying the town for there own greed!

Terence Melchert

A lot more information hopefully to come from council. The rate increases are lot higher in residential areas than council suggests and some pensioners will be paying over \$1000 more in rates this year due to reduced pensioner remissions and huge increase in rates - some of the biggest in Queensland.

Kerry DeLany

Good onya DSC! Hitting the poor pensioners in the pocket, in the few years they have left, no compassion shown.

PHOTOMONTAGE NEEDED FOR APPROVAL OF COOK SOLAR FARM

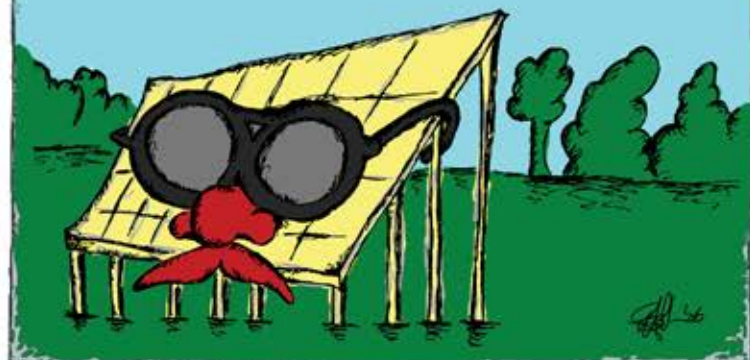
Geoff Ess

What an eyesore. And what is the planned route for the high tension lines to connect it to the grid? Ergon seem unable to use existing solar power from existing domestic systems. I am firmly against this stupid proposal.

Darryn Slade

Prime agricultural land shouldn't be used for solar farms. There's plenty of roof space around the Shire for that. Solar efficiency is also very low in this part of the

The solar-farm developer hoped their panel disguise was acceptable to the council...



From the Holster



Shaun Hollis brings you a lighter look at local news.

world - it's too overcast much of the time.

Nathan Woods

It will still generate more income than nothing, and you can graze livestock around them.

Caroline Arcus

How can Ergon take the power from these new solar farms when they can't even take all the excess power our home solar generates? We have 13kw system and Ergon will only take 1.5kw. We get a lousy \$35 solar credit a month.

Lisa Lopez

What will the Noli family be using the solar for? And yes - put those trees in now to hide it from the highway!!

NEW AMBO STATION A BOOST FOR DOUGLAS SHIRE HEALTH

Ron Smith

Spent over 5000 hours as a honorary over 13 years there.

Errol May

My father Phil May was the treasurer of the Mossman branch of the QATB for over 40 years, the next building on that site will be the third that I can remember in 75 years. Great work and dedication to the citizens of Douglas Shire, Ron.

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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44/121-137 Port Douglas Road,
Friday, July 3
11.30am-12pm
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SOCIALS

Douglas Shire locals and visitors have been out and about at local pubs and sporting fixtures across the past fortnight. Pictures: Santiago Gonzalez



Yvonne and Peter Drury at the Barrier Reef Tavern.



Emily Bruening, Jodi Gibson and Dawn Wilmes at the Barrier Reef Tavern.



Mireia Iriondo and Lya Cosquer at a Port Douglas Reef Raiders rugby match.



Clarence Kay and Les Mortson at a Port Douglas Reef Raiders rugby match.



Lesu Lagatou, Lemeki Rokomasi and Jack Qauia at a Port Douglas Reef Raiders rugby match.



Jarvis Kessler and Myah Jones at a Port Douglas Reef Raiders rugby match.

WHAT'S ON

JUL 3 **Bingo Night with K-Star**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

JUL 3 **Dave Dusch**
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

JUL 3 **Nirvana (USA) Live**
Time: 7pm-11pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

JUL 3 **Friday Night Nine and Dine**
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf and Hardy's BBQ, Grant St.

JUL 3 **60s-70s Music Bingo Night**
Time: TBC
Location: Port Douglas Community Hall

JUL 4 **Mossman Botanic Gardens Working Bee at the Garden of Woven Memories**
Time: 8am-10am
Location: Garden of Woven Memories, Mossman Botanic Gardens

JUL 5 **Yin Yoga & Cacao**
Time: 3.30pm-5pm
Location: Yoga in The Tropics studio

JUL 6 **Publishing on a Shoestring Workshop**
Time: 10am-3pm
Location: Mossman Library

JUL 7 **Indonesian Night**
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

JUL 8 **Marina Markets**
Time: 11am-5pm
Location: Crystalbrooke Marina, Wharf Street Port Douglas

JUL 9 **Trivia Night**
Time: 6.30pm - 8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

JUL 9 **Bingo with K-Star**
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

JUL 10 **BINGO NIGHT with KSTAR**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

JUL 10 **Brandon Walker**
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

JUL 10 **Friday Night Nine and Dine**
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf and Hardy's BBQ, Grant St.

JUL 14 **Indonesian Night**
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort,

JUL 15 **Marina Markets**
Time: 11am-5pm
Location: Crystalbrooke Marina, Wharf Street

JUL 16 **Trivia Night**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort,

JUL 16 **Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs**
Time: 7pm-9.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

JUL 17 **Bingo Night with K-Star**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort

JUL 17 **NAIDOC 2026 Street Parade**
Time: 10am assembly - Parade 11-11.30am
Location: Douglas Shire Council, 64-66 Front Street, Mossman to Bubba Kinkari / George Davis Park Mossman

JUL 17 **NAIDOC in the Park**
Time: 11.30am-2pm
Location: George Davis Park

JUL 17 **Friday Night Nine and Dine**
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf and Hardy's BBQ, Grant St.

JUL 17 **Yahdoh**
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

JUL 18 **Food Gardening At Circle Of Plenty**
Time: 8am-10am
Location: Circle of Plenty, Mossman Botanic Garden,

JUL 18 **Bondi Cigars**
Time: 6pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

JUL 21 **Indonesian Night**
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

JUL 22 **Marina Markets**
Time: 11am-5pm
Location: Crystalbrooke Marina, Wharf Street

JUL 23 **TRIVIA NIGHT**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort

JUL 23 **Bingo with K-Star**
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

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

SPORTS DIGEST

SPORTS BRIEFS



Dylan Shiel with the Crocs.

AFL CAIRNS

The Port Douglas Crocs had to fight hard to put away a gallant Cairns Cutters outfit on Saturday, eventually winning by 13 points.

Guest player former AFL All Australian Dylan Shiel helped belt out the song at the end of the game, but the Crocs had to fight hard for the 12.16 (88) to 11.9 (75) win, trailing at every break. The Crocs women went down 0.6 (6) to 3.6 (24). Next week the Crocs play North Cairns Tigers away.

RUGBY LEAGUE

The Mossman Sharks broke through for their first win of the season on Sunday, beating Yarrabah 44-14.

Cameron Hooker (2), Darnell Geia, Jarryd Rowe, Iyona Mundraby, Addo Waianga, Montel Geia and Manihi Maurangi all scored tries. Next Saturday the team is scheduled to be home to Ivanhoe from 6pm.

RUGBY UNION

The Reef Raiders had a heart-stopping 21-19 win on Saturday against Barron Trinity Bulls.

Try scorers included Ryan Connors and Angus Welsh.

Port Douglas has the bye this weekend.

Here come the netball kids

The future of Douglas netball is looking bright, with the Douglas Netball Association focused on building the next generation of players in our region.

The DNA management say they are excited to be bringing back the NetSetGO program in school term three - which starts on Monday, July 13 - to help provide a "fun and inclusive introduction to netball for children aged 5-9 years".

The finals of the Douglas Netball Association Senior Competition are also set to take place this month. The DNA organisers would love to see members of the community go down to the Port Douglas courts and support the players each Tuesday evening.

Enjoy some great netball, catch up with friends, and grab a bite to eat or a cold drink from the canteen while you're there.



Jemma Cleary, Natalie McKeown, Charlotte Elari with the juniors.



Young netball hopefuls Georgie, Kyla, Aria and Bethany, at the Port Douglas courts, are getting ready to play in the NetSetGO program this term. Picture: Douglas Netball Association

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CLASSIC CARNIVAL



The horses burst out of the barriers in the feature event at Laura on Saturday. Picture: Bryan Littlely

Bryan Littlely

Heir Jordan has landed Mareeba trainer Alex Maliff his first winner at the Laura Amateur Turf Club... and it was the big one, the Cook-town RSL Laura Cup.

The six-year-old gelding stormed home to win the 129th Laura Cup on Saturday, June 27, tipping out Choir Boy, with some Port Douglas connections, and

Vincenzo, with local member David Kempton among the ownership, and the Cairns-trained Buffet Buster.

Maliff and jockey Samantha Pointon waited until the last race of the card to land a win at the packed Laura Races, where more than 3500 people turned out from an estimated 5000 in the remote Cape York town for the weekend of racing, campdraft and rodeo.

Laura turf club president Phil Holloway said the event had been a tremendous success and the club was looking to cater for more punters in future.

The club even had to resort to stopping ticket sales four days before the race day this year with a full house.

"Our limit is 3500 adults... but there's probably 5000 people here in Laura this weekend," he said.

"We are turning thousands of people away but we plan for more next year with the investment of \$180,000 in a new toilet block."

Cook MP David Kempton praised the event organisers and volunteers.

"This is the event of the year and it puts so much into this town and region. It would be in the tens of thousands of dollars each year," Mr Kempton said.

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