

Douglas Shire News Newsport

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P.O. Box 127
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EDITOR
Shaun Hollis
editor@newspost.com.au

ADVERTISING &
CLASSIFIEDS:
Aggy Renaudin
sales@newspost.com.au
07 4099 5122

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Croc Vanessa removed

Bryan Littlely

Authorities have caught and removed a resident Oak Beach crocodile known as "Vanessa" amid pleas from dozens of people on social media to leave her be.

Launched by Anna Sophie, the social-media push to stop a bid by wildlife authorities trapping Vanessa fell short, the croc removed from the area on Sunday morning. Anna posted a plea on local Facebook noticeboards on Thursday when learning of plans to remove the crocodile from Oak Beach.

"I have just witnessed wildlife authorities setting a trap at Oak Beach to capture Vanessa, the resident crocodile known to our local community," Anna said.

"No evidence has been provided to our community that she has attacked anyone or displayed behaviour that justifies her removal."

Anna's call to action included emailing the State Government Environment Tourism, Science and Innovation Department; the Environment Minister and Cook MP David Kempton.

The post triggered a wave of support, led by Solar Whisper's



The Oak Beach crocodile known as Vanessa was trapped and removed on Sunday morning. Picture: Anonymous

David White: "Very sad situation when we can't coexist with the oldest residents. The beach will be no safer when they take Miss V as all crocs are dangerous if we don't act accordingly."

The Croc Dashboard lists a sighting of a crocodile around

4.30pm on September 7 and the matter was listed as "under investigation".

Anna declined to comment further following the removal of Vanessa, saying only that it had been her only objective to save her.



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BACKPACKERS QUITTING

A large reduction in the number of second and third year working visas in Australia is already having a significant impact on the pool of temporary workers available in Douglas Shire during peak tourism season.

Federal Immigration Minister Tony Burke announced last week the number of second-year visas will be reduced from 57,000 to 45,000 places annually, and backpackers must still complete a required 88 days of specified regional work despite not being guaranteed a second year - they will then enter a ballot for the positions.

And third-year visas will also be cut significantly from 31,000 to just 5000 places.

Port Douglas working-visa holders and resort managers spoken to by Newsport this week said many temporary workers had already quit their jobs and headed off to travel around the country, knowing they now only had limited time left in Australia.

A raft of policy changes were announced last week, which were designed to cut net migration from 245,000 this financial year to 225,000 in 2027/28, according to the Federal Government.

"The Australian Government is committed to attracting the skills Australia needs, supporting economic growth and productivity, and ensuring migration settings work for Australian workers and communities," a Home Affairs Department statement said.

A "no further stay" condition is being introduced to all visitor visas to "ensure they are only used by genuine visitors and not as a pathway to extending a stay in Australia". The Government will also "stabilise processing times for Working Holiday Maker applications to three months".



Tali Hoyer is ready to take on the world. Picture: Supplied

Tali sets sights on world stage

Bryan Littlely

Tali Hoyer is not joking when she says she has been in a gym since before she could walk.

And the 22-year-old gymnast plans to stay in the sport for as long as she can.

"I haven't thought about a plan for after gym yet... probably go more into coaching."

"Gym takes up your whole life."

The former Newell Beach youngster is right about that too. She has moved down to Brisbane from Cairns to dedicate her life to her gymnastics, training 20 hours a week and juggling three jobs to make ends meet. Tali has compet-

ed from age four and says gymnastics is "such a cool sport" that not everyone can just do.

"It is great being with the team and the competitors, the coaches... they are basically your family," she said. "Gymnastics teaches you lots of good things like resilience."

Tali lived in Newell to age 12 and attended Mossman District Gymnastic Club until the family relocated to Cairns for the sport.

"I loved gymnastics from the start, and still do and it would be great for Mossman District Gymnastic Club to get more recognition and more membership," she said. Across the past six years, Tali

has been a five-time Queensland representative at national championships. This year, she scored the Australian National Beam Champion and was also State Champion on floor and beam in level 10 open. Her success has earned her a place in the level 10 Australian team to compete in the US in 2027. The upcoming international tour is estimated to cost about \$12,000, a fully out-of-pocket expense.

Those looking to support Tali can visit her GoFundMe page which has to date raised \$1814 of the \$12,000 target.

GoFundMe link: gofund.me/d63765d29



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Developing a Shire:

Decision on resort plan for Dougies

The deadline is looming on a decision about a multimillion-dollar resort development planned for the current site of Dougies Backpackers and Pandanus Tourist Park.

The luxury resort proposal at 91-113 Davidson Road by developers Gurner Group was first approved in May 2024, but a start date for any works were subsequently pushed back to about December 2026.

The approved 2024 plans for the resort included six "underwater" aquarium rooms, with the developer announcing that a planning permit had been granted for the \$250m resort with more than 100 rooms.

The three-storey Hunt Design



The much-loved Dougies Backpacker Resort is facing a threat from a proposed new development. Picture: Shaun Hollis

plans were inspired by European beach clubs such as Saint Tropez and those in the Greek islands.

Gurner Group chief executive Tim Gurner said at the time he enjoyed holidaying in Port Douglas and wanted to bring more visi-

tors to the region. "The incredible area is crying out for some amazing accommodation that highlights its natural beauty, which is what inspired the design of our luxury wellness experience that locals will be proud of," he said.

Appeal lodged for sand mine

A court appeal has been officially launched following the rejection by Douglas Shire Council of a sand quarry near Cooya Beach earlier this year.

Road-building company NQ Asphalt is appealing in the state Planning and Environment Court following a February decision by the council to reject the sand mine.

The sand quarry at Killaloe was opposed by more than 700 people and refused by the council on several environmental and planning grounds.

The extraction of the sand ridge, which runs parallel with the beach and Captain Cook Highway between Bonnie Doon Road and Killaloe Dump Road, is "in direct conflict" with the coastal zone environmental provisions in the Douglas Shire Planning Scheme, the decision report stated.

Your End of Year Party, Here

Toes in the sand, drink in hand, this is a festive party, Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort Port Douglas style.

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projects moving on

Worker park plan attracts protests

An application to build a tourism park and worker accommodation on the Captain Cook Highway near Crees Creek has received more than 40 submissions opposing the development.

The park plan by a development company headed by local businesswoman Krystal DeMenna includes a reception building, more than 50 cabin sites, more than 20 RV and camping sites and more than 10 powered caravan park sites as part of stage one of the park.

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

Stage two would include another more than 40 cabins.

The submissions come from a range of interested parties including nearby residents at the back of the park on Endeavour Street concerned about loss of amenity and flooding, and local Indigenous people who said they had not been consulted.

"I am a local Kuku Yalanji wom-



The region of the proposed new worker accommodation project showing Endeavour Street behind. Picture: Supplied

an," one person writes. "I formally object to this application and request that it be refused on the grounds that no one from the application has come and spoken or approach(ed) any traditional owners."

Another states: "I have owned and lived at my address for some... years and have seen Crees Creek rise... on a number of occasions."

A design for the new service station. Picture: Supplied



A Cape Trib gas station given the go-ahead

Cape Tribulation is set to have a new petrol station after plans were approved by Douglas Shire Council.

The staged development for a service station, shop, restaurant, home and "nature-based tourism" operation by developer GBUD Holdings is set to go on Cape Tribulation Road near the corner of Camelot Close just before you reach the township.

The service station and restaurant trading hours have been restricted to 8am to 6pm seven days per week.

The development also includes a 2m-wide by 1.5m-high billboard and eight car parks.

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If a tree falls in Port... look out

Shaun Hollis

A man sustained a broken arm, three cars were crushed, and three more cars sustained damage after a massive tree fell down in Macrossan Street last Friday.

At about 2pm, the injured man was being attended to by ambulance officers with his non-life-threatening injury, while the bewildered apparent owner of the first car in line was looking on amazed as fire inspectors inspected the vehicle, which had an about 1m-wide tree trunk weighing down the rear section.

The further away from the tree base, the less severe the car damage, with the seventh car centimetres away from damage.

The driver of that car told Newsport: "Missed me by that



Drone footage of the incident showed the extent of the impact. Picture: Cal Jones

much," gesturing with his two fingers about how relieved he was to avoid any damage.

The incident happened as squally weather hit the town, including some strong gusts of wind, as well as rain.

Drivers were advised by police to avoid the area from Grant

Street to the Court House Hotel, with the Coles side of the road completely blocked and police directing traffic on the other side before the road was fully closed off.

In a released statement, Queensland police said: "Police are currently on scene at Macrossan

Street after a large tree fell onto several vehicles outside the Coles. Both lanes are closed, motorists and pedestrians are urged to avoid the area."

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



Matt Smith MP

Federal Member for Leichhardt

Socials: @MattSmithMP Email: Matt.Smith.MP@aph.gov.au
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Questions about Jo

Bryan Littlely

The opening days of an inquest into the 1998 disappearance of Mossman mother Joanne Butterfield have heard confronting evidence from her daughter about their final conversation, while two men questioned over the case have denied any involvement in her suspected death.

Far North Coroner Stephanie Williams is examining what happened to Ms Butterfield, then 37, and the adequacy of the police investigation following her disappearance in June 1998.

Her daughter Skye Lemon, who was 16 at the time, told the Cairns Coroner's Court her mother was distressed and packing to leave Mossman when they spoke for the final time.

"I told her that if she was going to leave, not to come back, and that if she was going to kill herself to do it properly," Ms Lemon told the inquest.

Ms Butterfield was last seen leaving a Mowbray house with plans to hitchhike south.

Ms Lemon reported her mother missing on July 7 after returning to school and being given an envelope from her mother containing her driver's licence, chequebook, rent book and key card.

Personal belongings belonging to Ms Butterfield were also found near a cane railway at Pin Gin Hill, near South Johnstone, days after she disappeared.

The inquest heard former Mossman CIB detective Graeme Eaton worked on three theories - that Ms Butterfield had taken her own life, travelled south and



An inquest is being held into the disappearance of Jo Butterfield from the Mowbray region in 1998. Picture: Supplied

remained alive, or had met with foul play. Mr Eaton conceded there had been a "heavy focus" on suicide, with greater weight placed on the first two theories.

But evidence later in the inquest turned to Ms Butterfield's relationships and associations in Mossman, including with Concet to Tati and Michael O'Donoghue. Both men denied any involvement

in her death or disappearance.

Mr Tati told the inquest he remembered meeting Ms Butterfield at the Mossman Hotel and spending one night with her at her home.

He denied killing Ms Butterfield or seeing anyone else kill her.

Mr O'Donoghue similarly answered "no" when asked whether he was involved in killing Ms Butterfield, saw someone kill

her or was involved in taking her body anywhere. Both men gave evidence under privilege against self-incrimination after their lawyers indicated they would otherwise refuse to answer questions that could incriminate them.

The inquest subsequently heard evidence from Mossman locals about the men's association with Ms Butterfield. Former Mossman Hotel barmaid Natalie Cavanagh said Ms Butterfield was a regular patron she often saw with Mr Tati and Mr O'Donoghue.

She said all three stopped appearing at the hotel around the time Ms Butterfield vanished.

"They seemed to have all just disappeared ... it all happened at once," she said.

Former taxi driver David Arduino told the inquest he saw Ms Butterfield "pretty much on a daily basis" and would drive her and Mr Tati together two or three times a week. He described Mr Tati as sometimes "quite rude" and "a bit aggressive" towards her and recalled arguments between them.

He told the inquest on one trip Mr Tati was carrying a duffel bag, and at one point asked him to stop while he walked briefly into scrub, before remarking: "It would be a good place to die."

Mr Arduino could not recall whether the incident occurred before or after Ms Butterfield disappeared.

At the time of publication, the inquest was continuing.



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Malone's snags sizzling awards

Bryan Littlely

Excuse anyone of the team at Malone's Butchery Port Douglas for being Aussie proud for a while, they have just snagged gold for their Aussie snag.

The Port Douglas Malone's team has just scooped a dozen awards at the Queensland AMIC Sausage & Burger King Competition. And while they didn't snag a King Crown this year, Malone's had a cracking strike rate, entering 17 products for 12 awards.

Eight of the 12 sausages and four of the five burger styles picked up a placing.

But most satisfying was likely the gold for best Australian Beef Sausage, with a second Gold coming in the Italian category for their The Godfather, a chunky Italian sausage. With more than 580 entries from across Queensland, Greig and Jason headed to the Gold Coast for the Awards Night, to represent the Port Douglas Malone's team.



Malone's Greig Rodgers.

Each category awards a Sausage or Burger King as the category champion, followed by 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

"We didn't quite snag a King Crown this year, but having 12 of our 17 entries recognised against some of Queensland's best butchers is a result the entire team is extremely proud of," Greig said.

"A huge congratulations to all the other butchers, businesses and teams involved, and especially this year's King winners. The standard of competition was outstanding, and it was great to be part of such a strong showcase of our industry."

Living life on the edge...



A Daintree Riverview van park guest at the Daintree Village has earlier this month forgotten to put their car handbrake on, accidentally dropping the vehicle over the edge near the river where the croc boats are launched. Picture: Supplied

JABALBINA YALANJI ABORIGINAL CORPORATION RNTBC
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NOTICE OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION MEETINGS

All Aboriginal people with a particular connection to the Cow Bay / Diwan / Cape Tribulation / Forest Creek areas are invited to attend community consultation sessions convened by Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC ("Jabalbina") and the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program) ("Department").

The purpose of the meetings is to provide an overview of the process for transferring ordinary freehold land to National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land), or for establishing a Nature Refuge on Aboriginal freehold land, under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 (ALA) and the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (NCA).

The land has been purchased by philanthropic organisations for the protection and conservation of the Daintree lowland rainforest and is intended to be gifted for transfer either as National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land) or as Nature Refuge on Aboriginal freehold land.

The 21 parcels of land are described as Lots:

- 21RP733182, 8RP737397, 74RP737399, 79RP737399, 110RP738161, 28P738519, 150RP738591, 137RP738592, 92RP738993, 442RP738994, 267RP738997, 318RP739001, 353RP739002, 222RP739771, 232RP739771, 242RP740658, 6RP741072, 467RP742053, proposed to be National Park (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land)
- 141RP738167, 148SP300701, 161RP738167, proposed to be Nature Refuge on Aboriginal freehold land

A map of the land is at right, and copies will also be available at the meetings.

Aboriginal people with a particular connection to the areas described are invited to attend the meetings or provide their views to the Department using the contact details in this notice. This includes people who have a particular connection with the land under Aboriginal tradition, and/or who live on, use or have interests in the land or neighboring land.

These meetings form part of a free, prior and informed consent process for the grant of the land to the nominated land-holding entity.

CONSULTATION MEETING DETAILS

Thursday 8th October 2026
Jabalbina Office, 121 Hartwig St, Wujal Wujal QLD 4895
Meeting times 9:30 am to 10:30 am

Friday 9th October 2026
CWA Hall, 28 Front Street, Mossman QLD 4873
Meeting times 11 am to 12 pm



For further information about the sessions or the land transfer process, please contact Chris Clerc, Principal Project Officer, Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program, by phone on 0488 259 936 or by email at Chris.Clerc@detsi.qld.gov.au

Postal service has left Village

Shaun Hollis

Daintree Village locals will have to pick up their post and parcels from Mossman Post Office from this Monday, an Australia Post spokeswoman has confirmed.

Village residents have been seeking answers about whether they will have to collect their mail from the neighbouring town, with the impending closure of the pub having a knock-on effect for the delivery service.

The Daintree Village Hotel doubles as the local post office, but with the pub set to close at the end of this month, Australia Post has been searching for a suitable replacement to handle the mail.

"Following a decision by the Daintree Village agent to step away from their business, Australia Post has been actively seeking a new postal operator," the spokeswoman told Newsport on Friday.

"Unfortunately our search has been unsuccessful, and from Monday 28 September alternative arrangements will be in place for locals to collect mail and parcels at the Mossman Post Office.

"Australia Post acknowledges the importance of postal services for the community and is now exploring other options for local access to mail and parcels within Daintree Village.

"We thank customers for their patience as we work through this and will continue to share any updates."

Urgent emails had been sent



Daintree Village residents will have to pick up their mail and parcels from Mossman until further notice after this week. Picture: Shaun Hollis

by Village residents to local MPs and Australia Post in an effort to secure a postal delivery service for close to 100 locals after the arrangement ends this week.

A spokesman from Leichhardt MP Matt Smith's office said the issue had been raised with the office of Federal Government Communications Minister Anika Wells.

"The Member of Leichhardt has spoken with the Minister for Communications Anika Wells regarding this matter to raise her awareness of the situation," the spokesman said.

"The Member of Leichhardt is well aware of the importance of postal services to communities in the Douglas Shire, which often comes up in his Community Offices in the region."

Australia Post was still last

week seeking expressions of interest from nearby businesses to take up the service, but locals were concerned a suitable operator has not been found in time.

There were particular concerns for the elderly and those without transport having to travel the 70km round trip to Mossman Post Office to pick up mail.

One option may be to install a postal box at the Daintree Village Hall, which has electricity and nearby Starlink internet services, while another is for a postie to deliver mail to individual Village post boxes.

Under agreed community obligations with the Federal Government, Australia Post mail delivery is required to be "reasonably accessible to all Australians wherever they reside".

News in Brief

YOUR SHOUT! PUB IS BACK

The Julatten Tavern has reopened after a layoff following its recent sale.

Former owner billionaire Chris Morris sold the pub in June to local investors, and the venue has remained shut since then for renovations.

The tavern continues to provide live music including Friday and Sunday nights, as well as meals and raffles.

OUTBACK DOG RESCUE UNIT

Remote dogs in Far North Queensland are set to receive better care, with a trio of animal support officers soon to be based out of Hope Vale.

Outback dog-rescue organisation Remote Animal Assistance has won a Federal Government grant to establish the unit, which will support vet care, pet owners and teach responsible dog ownership in surrounding communities.

Recruitment of workers is now beginning, with the aim of having the program up and running early next year.

LAZY LIZARD AWAKENS

The Lazy Lizard Motor Inn continues to snare awards - with the venue winning the Australian Resident Accommodation Managers Association Resident Manager of the Year - Short Stay prize last week.

The judges recognised the commitment to consistency, continual improvement and delivering a great guest experience - clean rooms, friendly service and excellent value. They also mentioned the 92.6 per cent Global Review Index and last year's Queensland Tourism Awards Gold.

Then this week the Lazy Lizard was named a finalist in the 2026 Queensland Tourism Awards, so they will be heading to the Gold Coast on November 6 to see what happens with that this year.

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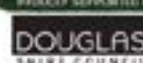


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Although funding for this project has been provided by the Australian Government, the material herein does not necessarily represent the views of the Government.

TREAT US THE SAME AS AUSTRALIAN WORKERS

The controversial backpacker tax continues to be a divisive issue with the potential to impact the Douglas Shire.

Malcolm Turnbull announced last week he would reduce the tax rate from 32.5c to 19c for every dollar earned for working holiday makers, drawing praise from some quarters but vocal opposition from others.

Tourism Minister Kate Jones slammed the Government for not axing the backpacker tax altogether, and she has strong support from sections of the agricultural sector in the Far North and backpackers themselves.

"Tinkering at the edges will not fix the problem that is the Turnbull Government's backpacker tax," Jones said.



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BUSINESS FEATURE

Contributed article

The Far North is seemingly unstoppable right now, and it's a very exciting time as we see plans and advocacy transforming into work sites, expanding opportunities for our region.

Earlier in the year, our federal budget announced \$166.5m to commence the Cairns Western Arterial Road duplication that will stretch through Caravonica to Smithfield, alleviating traffic for the thousands of motorists who come from Port Douglas, the Northern Beaches, Kuranda and the Tablelands into Cairns.

The State Premier joined me in July to inspect the site, and preparation roadworks began in September. This is a six year project co-funded by all levels of government that we anticipate to be completed with plenty of time for all the tourists that the Brisbane 2032 Olympics will bring to our corner of the world.

There are shovels in the ground all around our back yard right now, the Cairns Water Security project is nearing completion, ready to



Government investments in infrastructure, housing, education, healthcare, and conservation are driving rapid growth across Far North Queensland. Picture: supplied

provide 64,000 new homes with a reliable and safe water supply; there is new housing infrastructure going in the ground which will bring thousands of new homes and with it families, jobs, growth and optimism.

*Matt Smith is the Federal MP for Leichhardt.

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Fresh new life for historic pictures



Members of the Douglas Shire Historical Society Back (L-R): Cr Abigail Noli, secretary Lynn Anich, vice president Ann-Marie Fapani, Mayor Lisa Scamazzon, committee members Dian Stevenson, Stacey Pont, and Bel Peters, and media liaison Pam Willis-Burden. Photo: Jamie Jansen

Shaun Hollis

A new 2027 calendar featuring digitally restored historical photos from across Douglas Shire has been launched by the local historical society.

Douglas Shire Historical Society media liaison officer Pam Willis-Burden said group mem-

bers had spent hundreds of hours painstakingly adding details to faded photos to help produce the calendar.

"The committee has laboured over each photograph, bringing details to the forefront and the photos to life," Mrs Willis-Burden said.

"The result is stunning." The calendar has been created to mark 150 years of the Shire and is being published with the help of the DSC and other sponsors.

It will be available to buy in Port Douglas at the Court House Museum and retail shop With Sugar.



Bernie and Karen Garvey with the Black Dog Riders. Picture: Supplied

Black Dog raises big

Shaun Hollis

About 75 motorbike riders finished a charity run from Melbourne to Port Douglas on the weekend, raising about \$125,000 for mental-health services.

The Black Dog Ride organisation runs charity events across Australia, with about 275 riders from across the country linking up in Cairns on Saturday night on different routes.

Victorian state coordinator Bernie Garvey said his crew included riders from other regions including South Australia and Tasmania, with some staying on to enjoy the beautiful weather and lifestyle in this part of the world.

"My wife and I thought we'd take a few days off," he said.

"We went to Cooktown yesterday."

The Black Dog Ride organisation was founded in 2009 to raise awareness of mental-health issues such as depression and suicide.

If you are experiencing any issues with mental health, contact Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 or Lifeline on 13 11 14

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Keeping Douglas families well and truly connected

Contributor Article

In our tight-knit Shire, it's the people who step up to care for families who make all the difference - and two local legends leading that charge are Erin Easton and Di Price.

For years, Erin has been an integral part of our community as a support worker at the Port Douglas Community Service Network, helping children, families, and local services in countless meaningful ways.

Now, she is passing the Family Support reins over to the lovely Hollie. While Hollie steps into the front-line role, Erin isn't going anywhere.

She will still be working her magic behind the scenes, passing her rich knowledge and experience on to a new generation ready to bring fresh ideas to this vital work.

Through the Network's Child & Parent Support Program, local families with children can access free counseling sessions.

Whether you're a brand-new mum finding your feet, a family

needing a hand, or navigating life at the other end of the spectrum, support is always within reach.

Another cornerstone of our region is Di Price. If you've lived around the Douglas and Daintree community for a while, chances are you already know her warm, familiar face.

Through Daintree Connections, playgroups, family support, and wider community work, Di has spent years connecting people and ensuring everyone knows where to turn when they need help. Di's contribution goes well beyond early childhood, she connects generations. She knows our people, understands our local services, and truly grasps what our community needs.

Whether welcoming a new family, guiding someone through a tough season, or simply being a face that genuinely cares, Di is always there to hold our community together.

This piece was put together with help from Lisa St Pierre, Early Years Support Coordinator at Wonga Beach State School.



Erin Easton is passing the Family Support reins over to the new leader Hollie. Picture: supplied

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The friendly faces behind the counter at Mossman Hardware. From L-R: Patrick Lake, Kendra Randazzo, Natasha May, Dale Bishop, Ria Wood, Zina Fominas, Melinda Roberts, Rachel Cobb, Chris Howsam, Amber Rich. Picture: Jamie Jansen

Job done right at Mossman Hardware

Jamie Jansen

A community staple at the center of local life, Mossman Hardware has been trading for 16 years, continuing a proud legacy on the corner of 2 Mill Street that has served residents for over 120 years.

Long before the current hardware store opened its doors, this exact spot was where pioneer families picked up their weekly groceries, stocked up on farm supplies, and caught up with neighbours.

While the town has evolved over the generations, Mossman Hardware ensures this historic corner remains a trusted everyday staple where locals look after locals.

Mossman Hardware supports Douglas Shire locals with expert advice, tailored supplies, and strong community backing to prepare for and tackle Far North tropical conditions year-round.

Operated as a key branch of Cairns Hardware, the store backs local builders, tradies, and DIYers

with dependable supplies, a warm welcome, and the kind of practical knowledge that only comes from living and working in the Far North.

As branch manager Amber Rich explains, having a local team backed by the Cairns Hardware network means Shire residents get personal, hands-on support, no matter the size of the build.

"We look after whole house projects from start to finish - covering everything from doors, windows, roofing, and trusses to

paint, bathrooms, and our dedicated tool shop - and if we don't have something in stock, we do our best to source it," Amber says.

That dedication to looking after the community is deeply rooted in the history of the site itself.



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Rainforest, reef, culture tours

Jamie Jansen

The best of our region - ancient rainforest, the Great Barrier Reef and rich Kuku Yalanji culture - can now be experienced in a single day, thanks to a new collaboration between Sailaway Port Douglas and the Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre.

The joint initiative combines a Mossman Gorge Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk with a Sailaway catamaran cruise to the Low Isles.

The joint initiative introduces two immersive tours combining a Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk through Mossman Gorge with premium sailing to the Low Isles aboard Sailaway's comfortable catamaran.

For total convenience, guests are picked up in Port Douglas, transported to Mossman Gorge for their rainforest and Indigenous cultural experience and then delivered directly to the Sailaway Boathouse at the Port Douglas Marina for the reef sailing adventure, creating a smooth journey from rainforest to reef. Both operators recently



The initiative combines a Mossman Gorge Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk with a (inset) Sailaway catamaran cruise to the Low Isles. Picture: Supplied

joined the portfolio of Journey Beyond, Australia's largest experiential tourism operator.

Known for bringing together iconic regional travel experiences across the country, Journey Beyond's portfolio now connects these two local powerhouses into one seamless day out.

Visitors can choose be-

tween a full-day and a half-day tour, each offering a slightly different experience. Rainforest to Reef full day tour.

The full-day Rainforest to Reef tour kicks off at 8.30am with a 90-minute Ngadiku Dreamtime Walk through Mossman Gorge.

Local First Nations guides lead visitors through the ancient cano-

py, sharing stories, traditions and the cultural history of the landscape. Both tours conclude with a sunset cruise featuring sparkling wine, gourmet canapés and views over the Daintree range before returning to shore.

Guests then transfer to the coast and set sail for the pristine Low Isles to explore the reef via guided snorkeling, a glass-bottom boat tour and an island heritage walk. On the return cruise, passengers can unwind with a glass of sparkling wine and gourmet canapés while watching the sun set over the Daintree mountain range before returning to shore at 6.30pm.

For more information and to book, visit: sailawayportdouglas.com/tours/rainforest-to-reef.



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2. Tropico | Port Douglas | Wooden Framed Seashell Picture
3. Floral Edge | Port Douglas | Bespoke Bridal Bouquet - By Special Order
4. Whileaway | Port Douglas | 15 Minute Art, Watercolour
5. Beau Gentry | Port Douglas | The Surf Car Pineapple Print Shirt
6. Sportspower | Port Douglas | Teal Arch Support Thongs | Shop new colours!
7. The Scenic Route | Port Douglas Sunday Markets | Printed Tea Towels | Instagram: thescenicroute_studio
8. Casa Delle Sorelle | Port Douglas | Assorted towel sets, 100% cotton
9. IKandi | Port Douglas | Bvlgari Serpenti Viper | New in Store

Ausfield Services boosts economy

Jamie Jansen

If you've spotted Ausfield Services vehicles around the Douglas Shire recently and wondered who's behind the growing local presence, you're not alone.

While the Ausfield Services name might be new to the region, the business itself is anything but. Established in Townsville more than 20 years ago, the family-owned business has built a strong reputation right across North Queensland.

They specialise in grounds and landscape maintenance, garden transformations, property presentation, natural area restoration, and environmental project management.

Expanding into the Douglas Shire was the obvious next step, according to director Owen Blacklock.

"We've spent more than 11 years building our capacity across North and Far North Queensland, and the Douglas Shire was a natural next step for us," he said.

"It's a region with distinct environmental needs, and we're excited to bring our hands-on experience, equipment, and skilled crew to support local councils, government agencies, indigenous organisations, businesses and property owners."

Since hitting the ground in Douglas Shire, Ausfield Services has already made a strong mark.

They have delivered top-tier maintenance and environmental work for major resorts, com-



The Douglas Shire Ausfield Services team. From L-R: Matthew Palmer, Or Mathias, Jimmy Roser, Tyler Radley, Matt Johnson and James Francisco. Picture: Jamie Jansen

mercial hubs, the Douglas Shire Council, Mossman Gorge Visitor Centre, and industry leaders like Hutchinson Builders.

Behind that momentum is serious capability: specialised equipment built for tough terrain, advanced weed management systems, and experienced environmental crews capable of mobilising quickly when required.

For Owen, a genuine local presence is central to the company's vision.

"Our goal isn't simply to ser-

vice the Douglas Shire from elsewhere," he said. "We've set up a permanent base right here in Port Douglas, hired local workers, and committed to backing local businesses. Real local knowledge and genuine relationships are what drive great outcomes."

In keeping with that philosophy, Ausfield Services prides itself on its buy local policy, supporting locally owned businesses in the region, helping ensure that investment remains within the local economy.

As its presence continues to grow, the company remains focused on building lasting partnerships throughout the Douglas Shire.

For more information, visit: ausfieldservices.com.au



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OPEN
HOMES



OPEN HOME
4 Hibiscus Court, Rocky Point, Mossman
Thursday, September 24
4pm-4.45pm
Property Shop

OPEN HOME
42/11-15 Port Douglas Road
Friday, September 25
2pm-2.45pm
Property Shop

OPEN HOME
13 Bowman Close, Wonga Beach
Friday, September 25
2pm-2.30pm
Raine & Horne

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MEMORIAL FOR CROC HUNTER MOOTED

Julie O'Gorman

Did he spend a lot of time here? I think the answer is NO for me. I don't want to look at the wharf and think this incredible man, with such a zest for life, spilling his positiveness on all, was his last 'Port', before he lost his life, due to a stingray barb! It just seems like a glorified touristy tacky Instagram moment.

Dan Hammersley

Julie O'Gorman croc one spent quite a lot of time in Port and Cairns.

Christopher Saint

When the national museum for larrikins opens put one in there, until then I'll stick with David Attenborough and his advocacy for the GBR and the Daintree.

Kayla Mills

There should be one for Christopher Skase. He built Port Douglas.

Darryn Slade

Let's stop spending taxpayer money on things we don't need and concentrate on things we do. Eg. roads and hospitals.

Simon Van

One in every port around Australia. Doesn't have to be huge. Cheaper than one statue of Dan Andrews who destroyed Victoria. I know there's no crocs in Vic... it's just the point of it.

Lisa Lopez

I'm not sure why they haven't unveiled something at the departing wharf he used. It's relevant.

Glenn Smith

The animal torturer... no.

Bob Holland

Just add "don't swim over resting

stingrays" to the croc and jellyfish warning signs.

Paula Wesley

I always thought he was reckless and insensitive with animals in pursuit of fame.

SIGNATURES MOUNT ON VISA PETITION

Janine Greasley

Australia needs these backpackers - they are keeping the farming and tourism sector of Australia alive. The farmers have said they can't feed the country without backpackers. The price of food will be at least five times more expensive. Let's celebrate the travellers.

Sean Il

Should work on affordable housing in the region first so local people can afford to live and work in the region to support these roles.

Julie Robertson

Absolutely, without them no staff in Port Douglas.

Chrissy Geyer

To those saying no: Port Douglas wouldn't function without travellers from overseas. There simply isn't enough locals to fill all the jobs. During Covid this place wouldn't have survived if it wasn't for the poor bloody kids that were stuck here. Employers employ locals where they can but it's seasonal work and doesn't suit everyone.

Heather Walton

Absolutely! Backbone of the workforce in the busy season.

Graham Sharp

No, put local Australia first.

Slammin Ng

No visas, no hospitality. Not just Port but everywhere. Source 30

20 years on...



From the Holster



Shaun Hollis brings you a lighter look at local news.

years in the industry. No locals want the work or harvesting.

Rory Jenkins

Businesses won't employ Australians because Australians can't afford to live in the district long term, entire region is a joke, pay regional wages and charge metropolitan rent, backpackers survive in dorms for a season then leave, charge \$12 a beer but can't afford to pay workers enough to live, disgusting that foreigners are more desirable employees than Australians.

EARLY SUPER ACCESS?

JB Blockey

It is a shame that Crispin has politicised the debate, and showing his bias, rather than stick to the issues at stake. He does highlight some of the main flaws in the proposal, and on balance I would tend to agree that the proposal goes against the primary function of super and why

employers are paying the 12% contribution. And that is NOT because of any political ideology. Muddling that up with political bias does nothing to encourage rational debate, and sensible solutions. But perhaps there is simply an agenda to undermine a political party at the expense of prudent outcomes. Australia is a poorer place as a result, and greater proportions of society are increasingly feeling ostracised by the politicking. Crispin, read the room...

Greg Cubit

Yes, for a home deposit. Then it's mandatory to salary sacrifice additional payments into super to pay it back.

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

POSITIONS VACANT



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COMMUNITY NOTICES

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- CRICKET BLAST PROGRAM - ADVANCE
- TIER 1 CRICKET - INTRODUCTION TO COMPETITIVE

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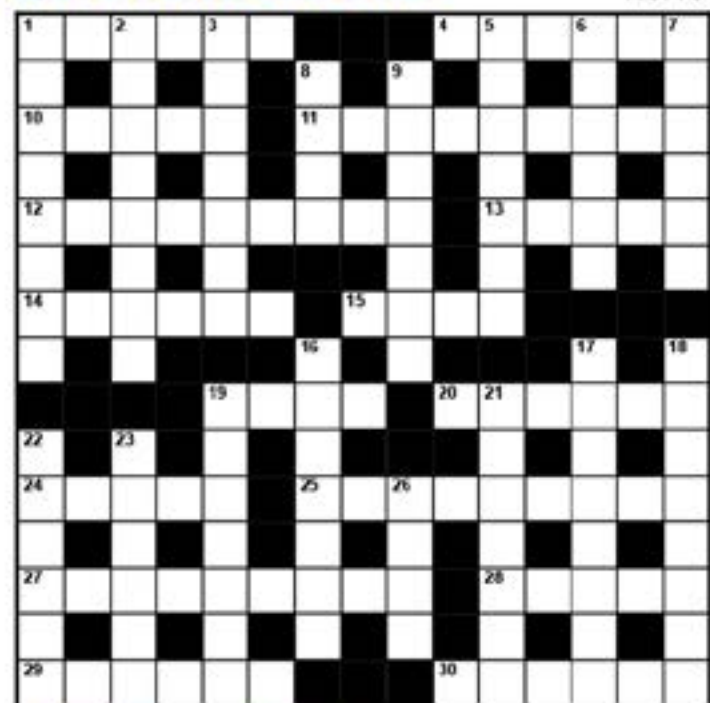
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IN LOVING MEMORY of Norma Sylvester

Dearly loved wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She left us peacefully in her sleep on a bright blue Sunday morning. She left this life surrounded by family in the home she built with her husband. Our hearts are full of gratitude and beautiful memories.



ACROSS

- 1 Metal disc under nut (6)
- 4 Muddy (6)
- 10 Ape (5)
- 11 Not examined (9)
- 12 Oslo resident (9)
- 13 Pessimist (5)
- 14 Spectacles (6)
- 15 Nigh (4)
- 19 Pallid (4)
- 20 Drug (6)
- 24 Gastric woe (5)
- 25 Breed (9)
- 27 Profanity (9)
- 28 Common bacterium (1,4)
- 29 Slows (6)
- 30 German city (6)

DOWN

- 1 Effeminate (8)
- 2 English county (8)
- 3 Defecate (7)
- 5 Second-hand vehicle (4,3)
- 6 Beachgoer's two-piece (6)
- 7 Subtract (6)
- 8 German automobile manufacturer (4)
- 9 Examined (7)
- 16 Broke off a small piece (7)
- 17 Tubular pasta (8)
- 18 Book of the Hebrew Bible (8)
- 19 Wither (7)

- 21 Tableland (7)
- 22 Restrained (6)
- 23 Bad writing (6)
- 26 Ornamental quartz (4)

SOLUTIONS

pagemasters 24-09-26

Quick Crossword



Word Find Message:

MUSIC brings people together

Sudoku

4	6	2	1	7	5	9	8	3
8	5	1	9	3	2	4	6	7
9	7	3	8	6	4	5	1	2
6	8	7	4	5	3	2	9	1
1	2	5	7	9	8	3	4	6
3	4	9	6	2	1	7	5	8
7	1	8	2	4	9	6	3	5
2	3	4	5	8	6	1	7	9
5	9	6	3	1	7	8	2	4

9-Letter

- signor
scrolling
score n. scroll
rosin, scoring
roll, roll, no lln g.
horn, not, nll, ring
groin, iron, fort
grill, grin, groin
corn, girl, giro
note, corgi, coring

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SUDOKU

No. 005

5				1	7	8	2	4
2	3					1		
		8			9			
					1	7	5	8
6	8	7	4					
			9			4		
		3					1	2
4	6	2	1	7				3

9-LETTER

No. 005

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.



Today's Aim:

14 words: Good
18 words: Very good
24+ words: Excellent

QUICK QUIZ

- 1 Don Cheadle (pictured) portrayed hotelier Paul Rusesabagina in which 2004 film?
- 2 What is the average gestation period of a dugong: six months, nine months or 13 months?
- 3 Libby Trickett is best known for her involvement in what sport?
- 4 Which Warner Bros. character delivers the line 'Th-th-th-that's all folks!'?
- 5 Who is the current Usher of the Black Rod in the Australian Senate?
- 6 Where would a soldier wear a boonie?
- 7 In 1803, which country became the first to ban slavery?
- 8 Where on the body would you find the stratum comeum?
- 9 What substance is represented by the chemical formula CH₄?
- 10 By what name is the 'Jewish New Year' known?



ANSWERS: 1. Hotel Rwanda 2. 13 months
3. Swimming 4. Porky Pig 5. John Begg
6. On their head 7. Denmark 8. Skin
9. Methane 10. Rosh Hashanah

WORD FIND

THEME: Music

The remaining letters will spell out a message.

M	U	S	I	M	I	N	O	R	V	I	V	A	C	E
S	T	E	M	O	P	O	T	L	O	M	N	C	B	M
T	C	C	R	L	L	R	F	B	E	R	E	S	T	A
B	O	A	H	G	A	O	A	O	O	O	I	N	E	J
M	E	N	L	O	N	R	C	H	R	G	B	M	S	O
O	S	L	I	E	R	O	G	C	S	T	Y	O	P	R
D	F	E	L	C	D	D	G	O	I	P	E	D	R	R
U	C	O	T	A	C	I	Z	Z	I	P	K	E	E	E
L	A	C	D	A	I	R	T	E	O	P	E	R	S	V
A	D	T	U	B	A	R	T	G	L	T	X	A	S	A
T	E	A	E	E	I	A	A	T	U	S	T	T	I	U
I	N	V	T	T	E	L	L	L	H	I	T	O	V	Q
O	C	E	O	B	O	O	F	G	E	E	T	A	O	T
N	E	N	N	I	E	R	U	S	A	E	M	A	F	H
E	E	R	V	I	B	E	S	B	A	S	S	E	R	F

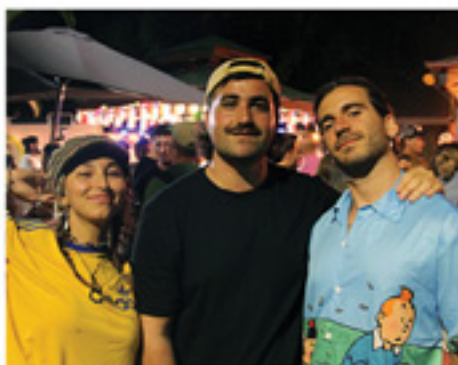
- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| BAR | MOLTO |
| BASS | NOTE |
| BEAT | OBOE |
| BELL | OCTAVE |
| CADENCE | PICCOLO |
| CHORD | PIZZICATO |
| CLEF | QUAVER |
| CODA | REST |
| ESPRESSIVO | SAX |
| FLAT | SCALE |
| FLUTE | SHARP |
| FORTE | STAFF |
| GONG | STEM |
| GUITAR | THEME |
| HORN | TONIC |
| KEY | TRIAD |
| LARGO | TRITONE |
| MAJOR | TUBA |
| MEASURE | VIBES |
| MINOR | VIOLA |
| MODERATO | VIVACE |
| MODULATION | |

YOUR NEXT CHALLENGE?
CHOOSING YOUR FIRST COCKTAIL

SCAN TO BOOK

SOCIALS

Douglas Shire pubs and clubs have been busy across the past fortnight, with peak tourism season and school holidays converging.
Pictures: Santiago Gonzales



Candela Herrera, Pablo Proto and Juan Martin Veira in La Fonda Chilena at Dougies Backpackers.



Evelyn Coleman and Renzo Bolego in La Fonda Chilena at Dougies Backpackers.



Jodie Brolice and Nathan Snelson at Paddy's.



Theo Cami, Pau Roig and Alexia Lopez in La Fonda Chilena at Dougies Backpackers.



Jeff and Mel Cashen.



Adrian and Tanja Corallo at Central Hotel.

WHAT'S ON

SEP 24 Trivia Night
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

SEP 24 Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs
Time: 7pm-9.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

SEP 25 Bingo Night
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

SEP 25 School Holiday Activities
Time: 10.30am-11.30am
Location: Mossman Library

SEP 25 Wallaby Creek Festival
Location: Wallaby Creek Bridge 720 Shiptons Flat Rd Rossville Far North Queensland

SEP 25 Rockin' Rick Karaoke
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

SEP 27 Cam Kettle
Time: 1pm-4pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill

SEP 29 Indonesian Night
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

SEP 30 Crafternoon Fun
Time: 2pm-4pm
Location: Mossman Library

SEP 30 Marina Markets
Time: 11am-5pm
Location: Crystalbrooke Marina, Wharf Street Port Douglas

OCT 1 Crafternoon Fun
Time: 2pm-4pm
Location: Mossman Library

OCT 1 Bingo with K-Star
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

OCT 2 Dave Dusch
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

OCT 3 Pink in the Tropics High Tea
Time: 3pm-5pm
Location: Pullman Sea Temple

OCT 3 Kingfisha - Reggae Roots
Time: 5pm-10pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill

OCT 4 Lift the Lid Walk
Time: Morning event, tbc
Location: tbc

OCT 4 Britfest 2026!
Time: 6pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

OCT 7 Marina Markets
Time: 11am-5pm
Location: Crystalbrooke Marina, Wharf Street Port Douglas

OCT 8 Savannah In the Round
Location: Mareeba, QLD 614 Dimbulah Road, Mareeba QLD 4880

OCT 8 Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs
Time: 7pm-9.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

OCT 9 Rob Longstaff
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

OCT 14 Marina Markets
Time: 11am-5pm
Location: Crystalbrooke Marina, Wharf Street Port Douglas

OCT 14 Bingo with K-Star
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

OCT 16 Sea Circus Myths & Monsters for Halloween
Time: 5pm-8pm
Location: Douglas Sailing Club on Solander Boulevard

OCT 16 Dave Dusch
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

OCT 17 Ellis Beach Tribal Roots - Wild Marmalade
Time: 5pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill

OCT 21 Marina Markets
Time: 11am-5pm
Location: Crystalbrooke Marina, Wharf Street Port Douglas

OCT 22 Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs
Time: 7pm-9.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

OCT 23 Yahdoh
Time: 07.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

OCT 24 Port Shorts Film Festival
Time: 4.30pm-10pm
Location: Rex Smeal Park

OCT 24 Bon Jovi Forever show
Time: 3pm-7pm
Location: The Yachty - Port Douglas Yacht Club - 1 spinnaker d - Port Douglas

OCT 24 Mark Seymour
Time: 5pm-11pm
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill

OCT 28 Marina Markets
Time: 11am-5pm
Location: Crystalbrooke Marina, Wharf Street Port Douglas

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

SPORTS DIGEST



Peter McGee working hard in defence in the thriller Grand Final. Picture: Shaun Hollis



Murphy Short in action in the Crocs Premiership win. Picture: Shaun Hollis

CROCS TASTE TWO FLAGS

Port Douglas dominates AFL Cairns

From Page 20

livering the ball to his forwards. Heading into the last quarter three goals up, there was an air of confidence in the Crocs huddle that they could hang tough for a decent-seized victory.

The Cutters were kicking with the breeze, but it had dropped away towards the end of the third quarter, and Port Douglas had been consistently winning the ball in the middle with the strong mid-field unit including Murphy Short, Sam Fairclough, Ben McPhee and Tom Cantwell.

But, as the final stanza unfolded, the Crocs seemed more content to hold on than kick away, and errors crept into their game including howlers from Kai Karamatic, who accidentally kicked the ball about 35m the wrong way, and a 50m penalty from Harvey Moore gifting the Cutters a goal.

After leading by 18 points at three quarter time, this brainfade put the Crocs nine points down and staring defeat squarely in the eyes. But, step up the hero of the moment Petrenko, who wheeled around on his right a minute later

and curled one through the big sticks to bring it back to three points.

With the ball camped in the Crocs forward line for the next 10 minutes, misses from Max Hemphill and Linke, and a missed pass by Kye Chapple, ramped up the tension as the grandstand shook on its foundations from the parochial Cutters supporters trying to will their team home.

The Crocs players fell to their knees in a mixture of elation and relief as the final siren blew to register a 12.8 (80) to 11.9 (75) win.

SPORTS BRIEFS

CRICKET

The Muddies Third Grade side headed to Trinity Beach to take on Barron River on Saturday afternoon.

The day did not start as planned, with captain Cam Williams losing the toss and also accidentally injuring himself pre-game, putting him out for the year with an achilles.

From there the Barron openers both made centuries with some beautiful hitting, racing along to 0/172 and then 1/255.

The Muddies did hit back, however, with Andy Fenwick and Imtiaz Ahmed showing some spirit with the ball to restrict Barron to 5/279 in 35 overs.

Muddies' openers Andy Freeman and Shaun Hollis put on 83 for the first wicket, but tight bowling by Barron helped slow the run rate.

Hollis was out for 22 trying to lift the tempo, Freeman went on to make 55, and the Muddies finished on 7/138.

BOWLS

Mossman Jackpot Bowls: Luke Morlo, Bill Allison & SAS Brian Williams W+12, Peter McGrory, Daryl Hoskins & Ted Homes W+17.

Club Triples D. White, P. Bush & M McTaggart defeated R. Walker, W. Parkes & Jason Pearce.

Sunday Handicap Singles Troy Church defeated Paul Kiernan.

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The Port Douglas Crocs celebrate the Grand Final victory. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Crocs snatch victory

Shaun Hollis

The day before he was one of the first responders on the scene when a massive tree fell in the main street of Port Douglas.

Then, when the Port Douglas Crocs were looking down the bar-

rel of defeat after slumping to effectively two goals down halfway through the last quarter of the Grand Final against South Cairns. Jared Petrenko was again the first to respond to will his side across the line in an epic finish.

Petrenko hovered around half

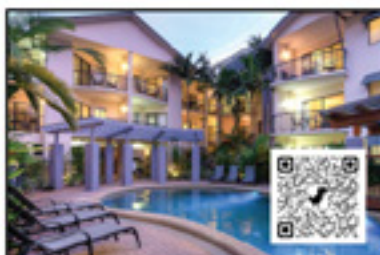
forward in that last 10 minutes to repeatedly send the ball into the forward lines, kicking one goal himself, and setting up the winning kick from another Grand Final hero - Shay Linke - who coolly slotted home his sixth goal to give the Crocs a five-point buffer

against a gallant South Cairns Cutters team.

Linke's match-winning goal followed a down-the-ground free after Petrenko was dumped after disposal while once again de-

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