

# Douglas Shire News Newspport

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## Anzac spirit returns

Douglas Shire will commemorate Anzac Day this Saturday, April 25, with a series of events across the district.  
Story, Page 2



Mossman RSL member Christine Gray and vice president Peter Watts have been raising money at IGA and, back, the Mossman memorial.



Cabaret is on the way - P3



Cassowary kids at home - P5



## 40 km fiasco

Shaun Hollis  
A Douglas Shire driving instructor has started a petition calling on the about 550m stretch of road near the Junction Bridge between Cooya and Mossman to be changed to a 60km/h zone.

The speed limit for the road,

which is under the jurisdiction of Douglas Shire Council, is currently 40km/h - a remnant of the sugarcane-train days when the locomotive crossed the bridge. The tracks, however, have now been filled in but the speed limit remains.

Continued Page 8



Surf season launch - P15

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# Remember the sacrifice

Shaun Hollis

Service, loyalty and mateship are some of the qualities that make Anzac Day special for Mossman RSL Vice President Peter Watts.

The former 110 Light Anti-Aircraft Battery bombardier, who served at Malaysia from 1965-7, will be taking part in the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Mossman Cenotaph on Saturday.

"We had both the guns that looked after the runway for the mirage jets at the RAAF base," Mr Watts says of his time in the Australian Defence Force.

"We were only a small unit, but that was our function.

"We were mainly consisting of national servicemen."

The army veteran says Anzac Day is the biggest day on the RSL calendar and is important to Australians across the country.

"It means a great deal to me - service, loyalty with your mates," he says.

This year is the 110th Anzac Day ceremony commemorating the 1915 Gallipoli landing of Australian and New Zealand troops during World War I - the first cere-



Mossman RSL volunteers including Christine Gray and Vice President Peter Watts have been raising money for the RSL at Port Douglas IGA in the lead-up to Anzac Day. Picture: Shaun Hollis

mony took place on April 25, 1916.

The dawn service at the Mossman Cenotaph on Front Street starts at 5.15am, while in Port Douglas, people will gather at Port Village in Macrossan Street from 10am for the march to the cenotaph.

The official proceedings in An-

zac Park start at 10.30am.

In Cow Bay, meet at My Pathways carpark on Cape Tribulation Road at 5am and march to the Cow Bay Cenotaph, with official proceedings starting at 5.25am.

The Daintree Ferry will begin operations from 4am that morning.

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# Are you "Angel Chris"?

Bryan Littlely

A couple visiting Port Douglas recently have shown their extreme gratitude to one of our own in the hope they will discover just how much their act of kindness meant to them.

Known only as "Chris", the local lady has made what could have been a disastrous day visit a show of the best thing about our patch... our people.

Ron and Margaret Seal say the experience was "the most beautiful and kind thing".

A letter to Newport explains: "We were visiting for the day

and my husband unfortunately slipped on the last step as he got off the coach that had brought us there. He has very compromised legs and walks with one crutch.

"He fell heavily on both shins with his ankles and feet folding backwards under him. We managed to turn him around on the step and after quite some time he was finally able to stand, very unsteadily. He had not broken any bones but both legs were very painful.

"I saw a beautiful church nearby with a bench in the shade and we resolved to sit there for the

four hours before the coach was to leave. After a while we slowly walked to the public toilets and a lady came up to us and asked would we like to use a wheelchair for the time we were there and she would come back and pick it up later.

"She had seen what had happened and unbeknown to us had gone home and put a wheelchair in her boot. We thanked her very much but declined as my husband thought it better to try and walk albeit painful.

"She quite understood and mentioned that she had some wa-

ter for us and implored us to take it as we were unable to walk far. She gave us a bag with not only water in it, but some apple turnovers and pringles. We could not believe the kindness of this lady who had observed us from a distance and wanted to help in such a thoughtful way.

"I asked her name and she replied "Chris". We told her our names and thanked her so much for the effort she had gone to and kindness shown. She replied that she did not want our vision of Port Douglas to be badly remembered, as it was such a lovely town.

## Carnivale time is closing in on Shire



As Douglas Shire emerges from the wet season, attention is starting to turn to Port Douglas Carnivale time next month. One of the highly anticipated new events is Paramour Cabaret's Barefoot and Burlesque show. For details go to [carnivale.com.au/event](http://carnivale.com.au/event). Picture: Supplied

## 100 weapons seized in FNQ

More than 100 weapons have been seized from the streets in the Far North in less than a year as police disrupt and prevent knife crime during proactive patrols under Jack's Law.

The statistics were delivered last week, sending a strong message to anyone carrying a weapon in public that police are watching and will crack down on the dangerous practice.

Jack's Law allows police to use handheld metal detectors to scan people and their belongings to detect knives and other weapons in any public space or entertainment venue.

Jack's Law, named after 17-year-old Jack Beasley, who was stabbed to death in 2019, had previously only applied to public spaces like train stations, shopping centres, and nightlife precincts.

If you are caught carrying a knife in a public place, you risk a large fine and/or a term of imprisonment.



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Thank you to Gary Hunt for his presentation, and to everyone who came along. Special thank you also to Rita.

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Daniel's Law honours two decades of tireless advocacy from Bruce and Denise Morcombe, following the tragic abduction and murder of their son Daniel.

#### HOW THE REGISTER WORKS:

##### Tier 1: Missing reportable offenders

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##### Tier 2: Locality search

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##### Tier 3: Parents and guardians disclosure

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# Big blue tourist drawcard

Shaun Hollis

There are cassowaries living around the southern banks of the Daintree River, and more will make homes there if the habitat is made more conducive, one Daintree Village local says.

Chef Armin von Keyserlingk invited Newsport to visit his family's about 145ha just outside the Village to see a trio of cassowaries living in the wet tropical rainforest there who regularly visit his backyard.

Mr von Keyserlingk was responding to a recent story about plans to reforest a large tract of inactive farmland on the southern side of the Daintree River being rejected by Douglas Shire Council.

He said, if more land around the Village was reforested, more cassowaries would return to the region and this would help boost tourism south of the river.

"It would be nice to have that all forested again," he said.

"We don't have all that much low-land rainforest on this side, it's all cut down for canefields.

"We rely so heavily on tourism, cane's gone down, so why not enhance tourism if we can?"

"This is a perfect opportunity. This should've got the green light."

Mr von Keyserlingk and other Daintree Village tourism operators spoken to by Newsport are unsure how many cassowaries currently live south of the river, but they say the ranges in between there and Miallo has the right habitat for them to breed.

The DSC last month voted to keep most of the land near the ferry landing available for agriculture in case a viable crop can be found since the demise of sugarcane.



"Drumstick" the cassowary and his two chicks regularly visit the homes on this property near Daintree Village. Pictures: Shaun Hollis

In last month's meeting, the council heard that much of the about 400ha tract of land is unsuitable for cropping, with some of it not being farmed for about 10 years, and since the demise of cane farming in the region, there is no known viable crop which can be farmed there anyway.

The group wanting to reforest, Rainforest Rescue, also currently employs 10 people in the region and wants to employ more workers to help reforest the floodplain, and there is also much support in the region from landowners and Daintree Village locals such as Mr von Keyserlingk.



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# Van, boat crackdown

Bryan Littlely

The council is looking to crack down on people parking boats, trailers and caravans on the side of local roads and suburban streets as they notice a rise in the practice across the Douglas Shire.

Advice issued by council suggests there has been a rise in vessels and trailers being left on local roads and Council-controlled areas.

And while it might seem harmless to leave your boat, trailer, or caravan parked out front for a few days, it can actually create bigger issues for the community, the council communications say.

"And it's against the law," the advice states.

Under Douglas Shire Local Law 4, it is illegal to leave a boat, trailer or caravan that isn't being towed by a vehicle on any local government-controlled road or area.

Council's approach is that unattended vessels and trailers may create traffic and pedestrian hazards; reduce the availability of parking for other road users; clutter the streetscape and impact the look and feel of neighbourhoods; and what feels like a convenient parking spot for one person can quickly become an inconvenience - or a safety risk - for others.

"If you own a boat, trailer or caravan, please ensure it is stored

on your property," council says in issuing the warning they will be on the watch and could be issuing fines. "No space at home? You'll need to look for private alternatives, such as paying for a storage shed, arranging space on private land or exploring local storage facilities designed for vessels and trailers

"These options keep our streets safer, clearer, and more welcoming for everyone."

## Ocean Safari multi-generational 'all in' approach

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

Since 2008, Ocean Safari has operated as the only reef tour operator providing a direct link between the Daintree rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef. It's a business built on the Claxton family's "all-in" spirit, a project they started from scratch that has now grown to include three generations.

Located at Cape Tribulation, this multi-award-winning operation is shaped by years of family history.

The story began in 2008 when founders Jan and Peter Claxton, the team behind the legendary Ocean Rafting in the Whitsundays, visited the Daintree and were struck by its raw beauty.

Peter saw a calling for an intimate, eco-friendly experience that skipped the luxury frills to focus on a real connection with the water.

It was a family effort from day one. Jan and Peter's children grew up pitching in; painting, digging, and helping shape the adventure hub into what it is today.

Their vision was to offer an authentic, grounded experience for families wanting to connect with nature.

For the Claxtons, it's still about sharing their love for the region and offering a genuine way to experience the Daintree's unique beauty.



Built on a three-generation legacy, Ocean Safari offers a personal way to see the reef. Picture: supplied

### The three-generation legacy

That same grounded, family-first energy is still what you feel when you're out on the water with them now.

The goal remains simple: to offer a grounded experience that feels less like a commercial tour and more like a day out with locals. By capping groups at just 25

passengers, the half-day trip to Mackay Reef stays personal, allowing visitors to explore two distinct snorkeling spots in a relaxed, small-group setting.

However, the operation offers more than just reef tours. The family has created a complete Cape Tribulation base at Safari Lodge, and Turtle Rock Café, which serves fresh, local bites. It's

an ideal spot for travelers wanting to truly immerse themselves in the Daintree.



To read the full story scan this QR code

Want to showcase your business with a business feature? Please contact feature editor jamie@newsport.com.au



# Call to change 40k speed limit

From Page 1

Mr Lee has received more than 330 signatures on the petition, entitled "Change speed limit on Junction Road and Bonnie Doon Road between Mossman and Cooya Beach", since launching it at the start of this month.

"40's unreasonable," Mr Lee told Newsport this week.

"It's just revenue-raising."

Several Douglas Shire locals have taken to social media recently concerned that police have been setting up speed cameras along that stretch of road.

Mr Lee said, as a driving instructor, he has been abused by other drivers for sticking to the speed limit on this section of the road.

"They overtake at speed over double lines, sounding horn with hand gestures," he said.

"What do you say to the students?"

The petition states that "since the Mill closure, local motorists traveling between Mossman and Cooya Beach on Junction Road

and Bonny Doon Road have faced unnecessary frustration and fines due to an outdated speed limit of 40kph.

"This limit was initially put in place with the consideration of train operations in the area. However, there are currently no trains operational, making this speed limit not only outdated but excessively restrictive for the conditions of the road."

Mr Lee said he had approached Douglas Shire Council about changing the speed limit to 60km/h through the bridge.

"The everyday reality for many drivers is one of impatience and at times exceeding the speed limit, resulting in bookings for speeding," the petition reads.

"It is especially hard for those who use this route frequently for their daily commutes and the frustration often causes motorists to pass vehicles travelling the low speed limit over double lines with poor visibility of oncoming vehicles."



Driving instructor Stephen Lee has started a petition to change the speed limit at this bridge. Picture: Shaun Hollis

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# Library 20 years young

The Mossman Library will officially celebrate its 20th anniversary on Monday, April 27, marking two decades since the much-loved facility opened its doors and replaced the original 1977 library on Mill Street.

Douglas Shire Mayor Lisa Scomazzon said the milestone highlighted just how important the library is to the community.

"Libraries are such a big part of any regional town," she said.

"They're a place where people come together — to learn, to connect, or just to enjoy a bit of quiet. It really is a space for everyone."

Miallo resident Judy Coulthard, who worked at the library when the new building opened, said the upgrade came at exactly the right time.

"Libraries were changing fast. They weren't just places where people borrowed books anymore — we needed to introduce

programming like Baby Rhyme Time, story sessions and holiday activities. The old library was only about 200 square metres, so we simply didn't have the space," Judy said.

"The new library was around 600 square metres, and that extra room meant we could finally offer the programs people were starting to expect. People could use computers, children could take part in activities — it was a big shift from

just borrowing books to something much more."

Mayor Scomazzon said the library's role during Cyclone Jasper was a reminder of how important these spaces are.

"After Jasper, the library became emergency accommodation, and it still forms part of our disaster planning," she said.

"It shows just how trusted and essential this place is for our community."

## Next gen of leaders celebrated

Five young local Indigenous trainees celebrated a major professional milestone last Saturday, 18 April, at Thala Beach Nature Reserve, graduating with nationally recognised qualifications in hospitality and tourism.

The ceremony marked the 15th year of the National Indigenous Training Academy (NITA), which operates under Voyages at both Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre and Ayers Rock Resort.

Through this program, young Indigenous Australians live, learn, and earn on-site, combining classroom theory with hands-on work experience.

Since the program launched in 2011, it has produced 800 graduates nationwide, including 110 at the Mossman Gorge Cultural Centre.

The graduation comes at a significant time for Mossman Gorge following the announcement that Voyages Tourism Australia has joined the Journey Beyond family, with NITA remaining a central part of Voyages' training and employment programs.



NITA graduates Shaniekqua Dabah (Yarrabah), David McLean (Kuku Yalanji), and Ghislaine McKeown-Ronsen (Boigu/Badu). Also graduating but not pictured are Flora Wailu (Murray Island) and Mahalia Spratt (Kuku Yalanji). Picture: Awena Daniel

The graduates: Shaniekqua Dabah (Yarrabah), David McLean (Kuku Yalanji), Ghislaine McKeown-Ronsen (Boigu/Badu), Flora Wailu (Murray Island), and Mahalia Spratt (Kuku Yalanji), each earned a Certificate III qualification.

Their training involved a mix of classroom theory and hands-on placements at prominent local businesses, including the Sheraton

Grand Mirage Resort, Daintree Eco Lodge, and Wildlife Habitat Port Douglas.

### Graduate's perspective

For David McLean, who completed a year-long traineeship as a tour guide for the Dreamtime Walks at Mossman Gorge, the graduation was a deeply personal achievement.

"My sister was a huge inspiration; she completed the NITA traineeship just a year before I joined," David said.

"I also wanted to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather and namesake, David Buchanan, who was one of the first Indigenous tour guides in the region."

David admitted that stepping into the role of a guide was a significant challenge for him.

"The traineeship basically changed my life."

"I used to be a very shy and reserved person, and jumping into tour guiding really pushed me out of my comfort zone," he said.

"However, I found that I learn much better by doing, and the experience helped me find my voice and gain a lot of confidence."

That confidence now translates into a passion for cultural exchange.

"It's a great feeling when people come up after a tour and mention how much they learned or how impressed they are by how culturally connected we still are."

"It's about showing them how we choose to live our lives."

## Douglas ANZAC Day Services

- 📍 Cow Bay | 5:00 AM
- 📍 Mossman | 5:15 AM
- 📍 Port Douglas | 10 AM



Daintree River Ferry begins operations from 4:00 AM

DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL



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National Fuel Security Plan



Australian Government

## Huge Navy contingent for ANZAC DAY

ONE of the largest contingents of navy personnel ever assembled will take part in the Anzac Day ceremonies across the Douglas Shire on Monday.

Mossman RSL Sub-branch spokesperson Wally Gray said over 40 members from the hydrographic Royal Australia Navy vessel in Cairns will join the Dawn Service in Mossman before participating in the Port Douglas march.

"It will be the biggest contingent I've ever known so it's going to be a good crew," Gray said.

"They've been very supportive of the Mossman RSL over the years and a number of others up in the north."

The Port Douglas Primary School choir will sing In Flanders Field as the names of the fallen are called at the Mossman Dawn Service, while students from Mossman High School will lay a poppy for each fallen member.



## Diversity is the key

COLUMNIST  
Mike Berwick

**Douglas can and should rebuild its agriculture sector as a critical part of the economy but with hopes fading for a silver bullet to replace cane, effort might better focus on a diversified industry rather than another broadacre monoculture.**

There are multiple small crops and tropical fruit orchards already earning good money for the farmers that have been doing it for years – think taro, mangosteen, durian, breadfruit, passionfruit, rambutan, lychee, banana, ginger, papaya, aquaculture and many other possibilities, maybe 40 or 50.

These are mostly high value crops that earn much more per hectare than cane ever did but

are hard work and take time and money to establish. It is a long-term agenda using relatively small amounts of land.

A diversified industry like this would be a boon to tourism, likely to remain the economic mainstay, producing local food that visitors love and a great opportunity for farm tourism, local value adds and food for us locals.

So, what to do with the balance of rural land should there be a transition to small area, high value crops using a small part of existing rural landscape? That could be a mix of permanent plantations for carbon, biodiversity, timber, cattle or whatever the landholder chooses.

Retaining rural land for agricul-

ture is important – we do not have the water supply or highway access for a much bigger population and the appeal of this shire – its well-defined urban footprint and stunning rural landscape with forested hills and mountain backdrop are foundational for local amenity and visitor appeal.

Carbon and biodiversity farming should be treated like any other agricultural commodity – produced on farm and sold into a market. They produce a reliable, long-term, modest income.

I estimate at least 50% of land in Douglas, currently designated as "Good Quality Agricultural Land (GQAL)" is heavily constrained – it floods, is waterlogged, steep, has sandy soils, is riparian or will go saline with sea-level rise.

An urgent task is a more useful definition of GQAL by the state and mapped in the regional plan for guidance to land use planners, councils and investors.

Carbon farming is an essential component of Australia's bipartisan decarbonisation and nature conservation agendas – the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Science (Dec 2025 report) say 18 million hectares of carbon farming is needed to meet Australia's 2050 climate targets and predict this will be a net benefit to the agricultural sector.

# Push to reboot Douglas Chamber

Around 40 people attended an emergency meeting of the Douglas Chamber of Commerce on April 14 to discuss the "relaunch" of the business organisation.

The committee is behind a bold last-chance bid to reboot the volunteer-based Chamber of Commerce to give local operations a chance to reinvent themselves and reinvent how business interacts in the Douglas Shire.

"The trials and tribulations and difficult economic conditions in the Douglas Shire can seem ever repetitive," committee member Martin Tranter said.

"The mill, the ferry, the rain and transport... the list is long.

"But it is only through positivity and commitment by businesses who are proud of the region and the input they each make to the region – be it a resort, a service

business a retailer or a tradie – that we can collectively improve the economic outlook."

Fellow committee member Wade Greasely said it is time to "break the chains and the cycle" and business operators could do that by ensuring the concerns of your business and your desire for economic improvement can be made as effectively as possible to the Douglas Shire Council and

other governments.

"Come participate in the Chamber of Commerce or its evolution or stand on the side in silence as the rain falls on the region," he added.

"And don't get put off by the name... it is what the people involved can collectively do that counts.

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# Clink rocks the crowds

The Clink Theatre has been buzzing with energy presenting *The Rocky Horror Show* season earning glowing audience feedback. A major highlight of the production is the triumphant return of live music, delivered by a powerhouse 7-piece band that is thrilling crowds night after night.

The band's formation and early development were driven by Rosina Santarossa, who served as Band Manager and the key force behind assembling the musicians.

Rosina coordinated the lineup, organised rehearsals, and put the ensemble through its paces to ensure a tight, cohesive sound.

After shaping the group into a performance-ready unit, she handed the musical reins to the theatre's Musical Director Jennifer Kerr, who now conducts the band throughout the season.

"I organised and assembled a dynamic seven-piece live band, overseeing intensive rehearsals to deliver a high-energy, tightly synchronised live score that elevates every moment of this iconic, legendary musical production," said



A major highlight of the production is the triumphant return of live music, delivered by a powerhouse 7-piece band that is thrilling crowds night after night. Picture: supplied

Santarossa.

She added, "Bringing the renowned *Rocky Horror* score to life has been a truly rewarding and special experience, full of energy, creativity, excitement, and unforgettable moments shared with an

incredible band."

The band is delivering the full sonic punch that *Rocky Horror* demands — driving rock rhythms, bold brass, lush keys, and that unmistakable sci-fi edge. Audiences have praised the energy, the mu-

sicianship, and the electric atmosphere that only a live band can create.

"The response has been incredible," said Producer Michael Kerr. "You can feel the room lift the moment the band starts. Live music transforms the show — it breathes, it reacts, and it amplifies every moment on stage."

As Musical Director, Jennifer Kerr has guided the cast through the show's demanding score, teaching harmonies, shaping vocal character, and ensuring every performer delivers the bold, high-energy sound *Rocky Horror* requires.

Her work has unified the cast's vocals and elevated the musical impact of the production to compliment the live band.

With strong word-of-mouth and a surge in ticket demand, the Clink Theatre is encouraging audiences to book early to avoid missing out on one of the most dynamic and musically ambitious productions staged in Port Douglas in recent years.

## POSITIONS VACANT



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## COMMUNITY NOTICES

### ANZAC DAY RUGBY

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April

PORT DOUGLAS SPORTS COMPLEX (RAIDER PARK)

2:30PM - RESERVE GRADE

Tablelands Reds vs Penrhyn Sharks

4:00PM - A-GRADE

Reef Raiders vs Mudcrabs

FREE ENTRY



### Netball players wanted!

Join Douglas Netball's social season—Tuesday nights from April 21 at Port Douglas Sports Complex.

Text Sharon on 0435 281 953 for info.



### RICHARD O'BRIEN'S THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

Book, Music and Lyrics by Richard O'Brien  
Richard O'Brien's *The Rocky Horror Show* is presented by arrangement with Original TM Theatrical on behalf of Concord Theatricals

April 23, 24, 25, 26, 30 May 1, 2, 3

Tickets available at:  
www.clinktheatre.com.au

## COUNCIL CRACKDOWN IN OUR SHIRE STREETS

**Amanda Haines**

There simply aren't enough residential properties with the space to accommodate things like caravans or boats. As a real estate agent, buyers are looking for this all the time and often they have to compensate by keeping their toys on the street - not by preference. In TNQ, lifestyle is everything. Many people choose to live here for the outdoor lifestyle - boating, camping and naturally, that comes with owning the equipment to support it. With already limited non-rural options, it's challenging enough for buyers to secure a suitable property without further restrictions. On top of that, the rising cost of living is already stretching household budgets, making off-site storage an added expense many simply can't justify right now - when, if anything, people need a bit of financial relief wherever possible. While I understand that poorly positioned caravans or boats can create visibility or safety concerns, this should be assessed on a case-by-case basis rather than applying a blanket approach that impacts the majority of residents who store their property responsibly.

**Leigh-Anne Doyle**

Simple solution. Crash it off the side of the highway (or any random shire road) and then slap a "police aware" sticker on it. You can then leave it there for weeks. Or months in some cases.

**Christopher Saint**

It's interesting that there are RVs parked on the road in PD that have never been moved in weeks but presumably they are exempt from this?

**Benjamin Bobbermein**

How about people cleaning the nature strip and cutting there hedges back to the fence line?

**Kayla Mills**

What about the ILLEGAL 'campers/squatters' on the road to cairns? Or are they a protected species? One female certainly doesn't pay rates.....probably never has.

**Craig Mann-Jones**

It's registered..so bugger off

**Caroline Arcus**

We have parking restrictions in our main streets with no one to take responsibility to monitor them.

**Danielle Reilly**

Come on. How are we enjoying our back yard if we can't ?

**Sharon Sexton**

How about they crack down on all the backpackers sleeping and setting up table and chairs outside their vans on Warner st? What's going on with Pebbly Beach?

**Barney Swan**

Fingers crossed they do a great job and this becomes a welcome to the Shire that we are all proud of. Finding the middle between practical design and respect for aesthetics & biodiversity is no easy job.



## From the Holster



Shaun Hollis brings you a lighter look at local news.

**Ron Geary**

Should have been done YEARS ago and it never have got to this and the trees could have been saved. The rocks were stored on the headland behind the patch of scrub at least 20 years ago.

**Jiritju Fourmile**

It's only going to be washed away with the next big tides and storms. They'll be looking for a new route soon once the coastal road is eroded.

**Annie Taylor**

What turn it into rocky beach! What about the original pebbles they will be gone? It's the only place with the beautiful pebbles. A place when one can sit in peace & quiet. Can't believe Cairns Shire!

**Diane Cole-Street**

If they don't do something in that space the road will completely disappear over time due to erosion of the foreshore.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM SHELVED AFTER COUNCIL KNOCKBACK

**Lisa Lopez**

The farmers have looked and trialed and looked and trialed. Is anybody staying abreast? There's bana grass growing in some spots, being exported I believe.

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

**OPEN HOMES**



**OPEN HOME**

23 Reef Club, 62 Davidson Street,  
Monday 27 April 2026  
1pm - 1.30pm  
Property Shop

**OPEN HOME**

18 Shearwater Street, Port Douglas  
Wednesday 29 April 2026  
4.30 pm - 5pm  
Ray White

**OPEN HOME**

55/24-70 Nautilus Street,  
Friday 1 May 2026  
11am - 12pm  
Property Shop

## REAL ESTATE

**RayWhite** **Mark Flinn**

PRIVATE BEACHSIDE DUPLEX WITH NO BODY CORP  
**2/25 Barrier Street, Port Douglas QLD 4877**  
Price: \$545,000

36 Wharf Street | 4098 2501 | raywhiteportdouglas.com.au

Queensland Sotheby's **Amanda Haines**

70SQM SECURE SHED IN CRAIGLIE  
**3/2-4 Owen Street, Craiglie**  
Price: \$208,000

26-30 Macrossan St | 0617 241 856 | queenslandsothebysrealty.com

PROPERTY **Ritsuko Dickinson**

TOP FLOOR 3 BEDROOM APARTMENT WITH LOTS TO OFFER!  
**42/11-15 Port Douglas Road, Port Douglas QLD 4877**  
Price: \$440,000

Port Douglas | 0423 343 771 | property@portdouglas.com

Raine & Horne **Charlie Hadgwick**

RENOVATED HOME IN TOWN CENTRE!  
**12 Mossman Street, Mossman QLD 4873**  
Price: \$575,000

6/56 Macrossan Street | 4087 1800 | rhu.com.au/portdouglas

# SOCIALS

Newports photographer hit the town on Saturday grabbing pictures of people out and about.  
Pictures: Santi Gonzalez



Amanda Bolch & Craig Bolch at Central Hotel



Ally Sano & Heather Bell at Central Hotel



Amanda Bolch & Craig Bolch at Central Hotel



Beth Goodliff & Meg Dunn at Central Hotel.



Sean Davidson, Ellie Davidson & Kree Jones at Paddy's Irish Pub

## WHAT'S ON

- APR 23** **Trivia Night**  
Time: 6.30pm - 8pm  
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- APR 23** **Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs**  
Time: 7.00pm - 8.30pm  
Location: Club Mossman
- APR 24** **Zac Jones**  
Time: 5.30pm - 8.30pm  
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill
- APR 24** **Bingo Night With K-Star**  
Time: 6.30pm - 8pm  
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- APR 24** **Rockin' Rick Karaoke**  
Time: 7.30pm - 10.30pm  
Location: Club Mossman
- APR 25** **International Tai Chi And Qigong Day**  
Time: 2pm - 3pm  
Location: Rex Smiel park
- APR 25** **Anzac Day Rugby**  
Time: 14.30pm - until game end  
Location: Port Douglas Sport Complex
- APR 26** **Rowly Duo**  
Time: 1pm - 4pm  
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill

- APR 27** **Stuie Harcourt**  
Time: 1pm - 4pm  
Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill
- APR 27** **Hole In One Jackpot Competition**  
Time: 10am - 6pm  
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf, Grant St, Port Douglas
- APR 28** **Indonesian Night**  
Time: 5pm - 8pm  
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- APR 30** **Trivia Night**  
Time: 6.30pm - 8pm  
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas
- APR 30** **Bingo with K-Star**  
Time: 7pm - 8.30pm  
Location: Club Mossman
- MAY 1** **Richie Langford**  
Time: 7.30pm - 10.30pm  
Location: Club Mossman
- MAY 2** **Viva Moss Vegas - Rock, Blues & Boogie**  
Time: 5pm - 8pm  
Location: Port Douglas yacht club

- MAY 4** **Indoor League**  
Time: 10am - 6pm  
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf, Grant St, Port Douglas
- MAY 7** **Hole In One Jackpot Competition**  
Time: 10am - 6pm  
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf, Grant St, Port Douglas
- MAY 7** **Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs**  
Time: 7pm - 8.30pm  
Location: Club Mossman
- MAY 8** **Wait-a-While**  
Time: 7.30pm - 10.30pm  
Location: Club Mossman
- MAY 8** **Country Rock Fest**  
Time: 5pm -  
Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill
- MAY 10** **Mothers Day High Tea**  
Time: 13.30pm - 16pm  
Location: Daintree Bar and Lounge at Sheraton Grand
- MAY 11** **Hole In One Jackpot Competition**  
Time: 10am - 6pm  
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf, Grant St, Port Douglas



Indonesian Night, 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro Ramada Resort, Apr 28

Visit [www.newsport.com.au](http://www.newsport.com.au) to list your event for free

# SPORTS DIGEST

## BRIEFS

## Brodie set for assault on Ireland

### CROCS WOMEN WIN

The Port Douglas Crocs Senior Women have celebrated a win, coming from behind with a dominant last quarter do down Cairns City Lions by 11 points.

The Crocs women scored the only goal in the first term to lead by 6 points at the first change.

The Lions putting themselves just a kick ahead at the main break, and holding a 3 point lead.

But it was all Crocs in the last, putting on 2 goals, 3 points to a solitary Lions point, the final score: Lions 3.6 (24) to Crocs 4.11 (35).

From Page 16

"He just took to it really well," Club Chairman Phillip said. "Being a carpenter and a footy player, he's a tall guy with a great set of hands. He adapted to our style of playing almost instantly."

Brodie was scouted during the State Championships in Brisbane while representing Far North Queensland.

His performance in the Intermediate Championship caught the attention of national selectors, earning him a spot on the Australian squad, and his first-ever trip to Ireland.

The selection is a massive milestone for the new club, which has quickly grown to 52 members. However, the cost of sending a player to the other side of the world is significant.

To support the trip, the club partnered with Paddy's Irish Pub for a St Patrick's Day raffle.

The community response was overwhelming, raising nearly the full amount needed for airfares.

"It's huge for us," Phillip said. "To see the community get behind him to make this trip happen is special." Axx While the sport is rooted in Irish tradition, the local club includes Australians, Canadians and

South Americans alongside Irish.

"It's a great mix," Phillip explained. "To be selected for the Australian team, you have to be a resident here, so we have a lot of local guys who have integrated into the sport beautifully."

For those looking to join the club Four Mile GAA is actively welcoming beginners for their 2026 season. Training sessions are held every Wednesday at 6.30pm at the Crocs AFL oval.

"Anybody is welcome to join," Phillip said. "The team is made up of a lot of beginners. It's a great way to meet people and try something different."

## Another life saving club season launch in paradise

The red and yellow flags are officially back in the sand at Four Mile Beach following the Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club's annual Raising of the Flags Ceremony last Sunday, April 12.

The ceremony marks the formal commencement of the 2026 patrol season, serving as a key milestone for both the club and the wider Douglas Shire community.

The event brought together volunteer lifesavers, local sponsors, and partners to celebrate the dedication required to keep the region's most iconic beach safe for residents and visitors alike.

The season opener also featured a highly successful Pink Patrol, which saw 14 women from the club taking to the beach to highlight the vital role female lifesavers play in the movement.

Adding to the celebrations



The Pink Patrol Group at Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club. Picture: Supplied

was the announcement of the new Surf Life Saving Queensland School Ambassadors. A group of young members was officially recognised for achieving ambassador status within their respective schools, marking a significant step

forward for the club's next generation of leaders.

The club is now entering its peak operational period, with volunteer patrols scheduled to ensure a safe environment at Four Mile Beach throughout the com-

ing months. x The red and yellow flags are officially back in the sand at Four Mile Beach following the Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club's annual Raising of the Flags Ceremony last Sunday, April 12.

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# OUR AUSSIE TRAILBLAZER



Local carpenter and Gaelic footballer Brodie Francis is headed to Ireland for the 2026 GAA World Games.

Jamie Jansen

Just one year after its formation, the Douglas Shire's first Gaelic football club is heading to the world stage. Local carpenter Brodie Francis has been officially selected to represent Australia at the 2026 GAA World Games in

Ireland this July.

When the Four Mile Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) was founded in 2025, its goal was simple: to give the local Irish community a taste of home and introduce a fast-paced new sport to the region. Just one year later, the club is celebrating a milestone that has

surpassed all expectations.

Brodie, who is also a stand-out athlete for the Port Douglas Crocs, was scouted for the prestigious tournament which will take place in Waterford from July 13 to July 17. While Gaelic football is a uniquely Irish hybrid of soccer,

rugby, and basketball, Brodie is "fully Australian".

A longtime player at the Crocs AFL oval, he was encouraged to join the fledgling GAA club last year by its founders, Phillip and Sean.

*Continued Page 15*

## SUPPORTING LOCAL SPORT CLUBS

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