

Douglas Shire News Newsport

PRINT

Thursday, April 9, 2026

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Special report,
Pages 8-9



**Where to join
the circus - P3**



**Green job boon
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fallout - P7**



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in style - P14**

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Bike path build on track

Shaun Hollis

Work on a new \$2.6m 3m-wide Port Douglas Road cycling-and-walking path from the Sheraton roundabout to about 300m past the Barrier Street roundabout is expected to start this month and be built across three financial years.

A report tabled in last week's Douglas Shire Council meeting stated works on the about 2km path were expected to begin in April and be completed by November, 2027.

The section from the Sheraton to Reef Resort Villas is scheduled to be finished by November, with the rest of the work to be carried out in stages after that.

Newspport understands several of the palm trees along that section are also expected to be removed.

About 75 per cent of the works - around \$1.9m - are being paid for by the State Government, while Douglas Shire Council ratepayers are paying a quarter of the bill - about \$640,000.

Mayor Lisa Scmazzon welcomed the bike-and-walking-path



The Port Douglas Road bike path is set for major works.

announcement. "This upgrade will make it easier and safer for people to walk, ride and move around Port Douglas," Mayor Scmazzon said.

An about \$1.9m contract for the first parts of the work was recently awarded to C&M Contracting Services after the tender was put on the market in February.

The council report stated that

C&M Contracting provided a competitive price and had the relevant experience to build a cycling network.

Plans for the path were first announced in February last year, and included demolishing the existing footpath, new drainage, pedestrian and cycle crossings and refuges, pavement marking, and new signage.

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Want to join the circus?



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Douglas Shire's own Sea Circus is holding children's workshops in skills such as mini stilt walking, hula hooping, ball spinning, aerial silks, lyra pole and salsa dancing, followed by a performance, at The Surfie this Saturday, April 11, from 5pm. Picture: Sharon Richards Photographics

More eyes in the sky for Shire

Shaun Hollis

The council's security surveillance will be beefed up across Douglas Shire if a pair of State Government grant applications are successful.

Douglas Shire Council is aiming to buy at least two mobile camera units, or "CCTV on wheels", through a \$400,000 Government grant in order to watch over areas such as Mossman town centre, the Port Douglas main streets, Craiglie industrial estate and parklands areas frequented by tourists.

And it is also applying for about \$300,000 in grant money to continue its surveillance of known illegal-dumping spots - in February it installed CCTV near the Port Douglas Yacht Club to watch that area more closely.

"Mobile CCTV units could be used to curb antisocial and criminal behaviour," a report about the \$400,000 grant application tabled in last week's council meeting stated. Mayor Lisa Scomazzon said the units could be easily moved between hotspots.

"Our community is aware that infrequent antisocial behaviour does occur in some of our towns and these units give us the flexibility to monitor emerging issues while providing a visible deterrent for local businesses," she said.

The council aims to have the trailer-mounted cameras in use by July next year.



CCTV is on the increase.

Meanwhile, illegal dumping in the Shire continues to take place on urban fringes, rural roads, forest tracks, boat ramps, near rivers and in tourism hotspots.

In February the DSC made a fresh plea to residents to stop the damaging practice after a huge pile of household waste was unloaded near the Yachty.

"Illegal dumping damages our environment, creates safety hazards, and diverts council resources away from essential services," a DSC release stated.

"Every load collected has to be transported and disposed of correctly - which means avoidable cleanup costs and staff time that could be spent keeping Douglas running smoothly."

The fine for an individual illegally dumping less than 2500 litres of rubbish is about \$2700, and dumping more than that will attract a minimum penalty of about \$3300. Report illegal dumping at douglas.qld.gov.au/report-illegal-dumping.



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Upgrading Cairns' Queensland Ambulance Service Operational Centre



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CYCLONE WARNING SOUNDS
Far North Queensland could be in the firing line of a second cyclone in the space of just weeks, with Tropical Cyclone Maila rapidly intensifying in the Solomon Sea on Tuesday and the forecast that it could become a severe system.

Some uncertainty remained over the path Tropical Cyclone Maila could take at presstime but there was a risk the system could hit Far North Queensland as a category three this week. The Bureau of Meteorology has measured sustained winds of 130km/h near the cyclone's centre, with wind gusts up to 185km/h.

JARDINE PRICE PRESSURE

A trip to The Tip at any time is a huge undertaking, but sky-high fuel prices and an out-of-action ferry which will return to service as the most expensive ferry in the world for distance covered, makes a 2026 trip to The Tip an impossible adventure for most families.

The Jardine River Ferry remained closed over Easter and already the cost of a journey across the crocodile-infested river is the talking point of many travellers.

The price is tipped to hit \$300 for a car and van, \$100 for a motorbike, and it already is a whopping \$1200 for roadtrains carrying critical supplies to the Northern Peninsula.

CHEAP DESEXING OFFER

Local animal welfare has received a significant boost as Paws and Claws Port Douglas announced a new desexing subsidy scheme in partnership with the Douglas Shire Council, Port Douglas Vets, and Coral Sea Vets.

The initiative, funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Council's 2025-2026 Community Grants Program, allows eligible residents to claim a \$300 discount on desexing for their cat or dog.

Tree jobs snub



Rainforest: Rescue land manager Ariel Simon and general manager Tate Brammer. **Picture:** Shaun Hollis

Shaun Hollis

Plans to reforest a large tract of inactive farmland on the southern side of the Daintree River have been rejected by Douglas Shire Council, which has voted to keep most of the land available for agriculture in case a viable crop can be found.

In last week'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 the region, 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.

Rainforest Rescue general manager Tate Brammer said the council decision was "disappointing and surprising".

"This was a terrific project," Mr Brammer said.

"We're maintaining jobs, we're creating jobs, we're already employing 10 people in the region.

"We're bringing in external funding and investment, so we're boosting the local economy.

"It overwhelmingly was supported by the community, so there were 40 letters of support that were provided.

"We are specifically focussing on this one area, because it's a huge floodplain."

Councillors Abigail Noli and Michael Rees voted in favour of the project, but the other three councillors voted against it.

"This land is not realistically viable for agriculture, it is narrowly dependent on cane which is no longer viable and it's on flood-prone, low-lying land," Cr Noli said.

Cr Damian Meadows said: "We've got to maintain our good quality agricultural land."

The council eventually voted to allow some partial treeplanting, but Mr Brammer said after the meeting this would not make the project viable and the group was exploring its options for appealing in the Planning and Environment Court, or taking their projects elsewhere.



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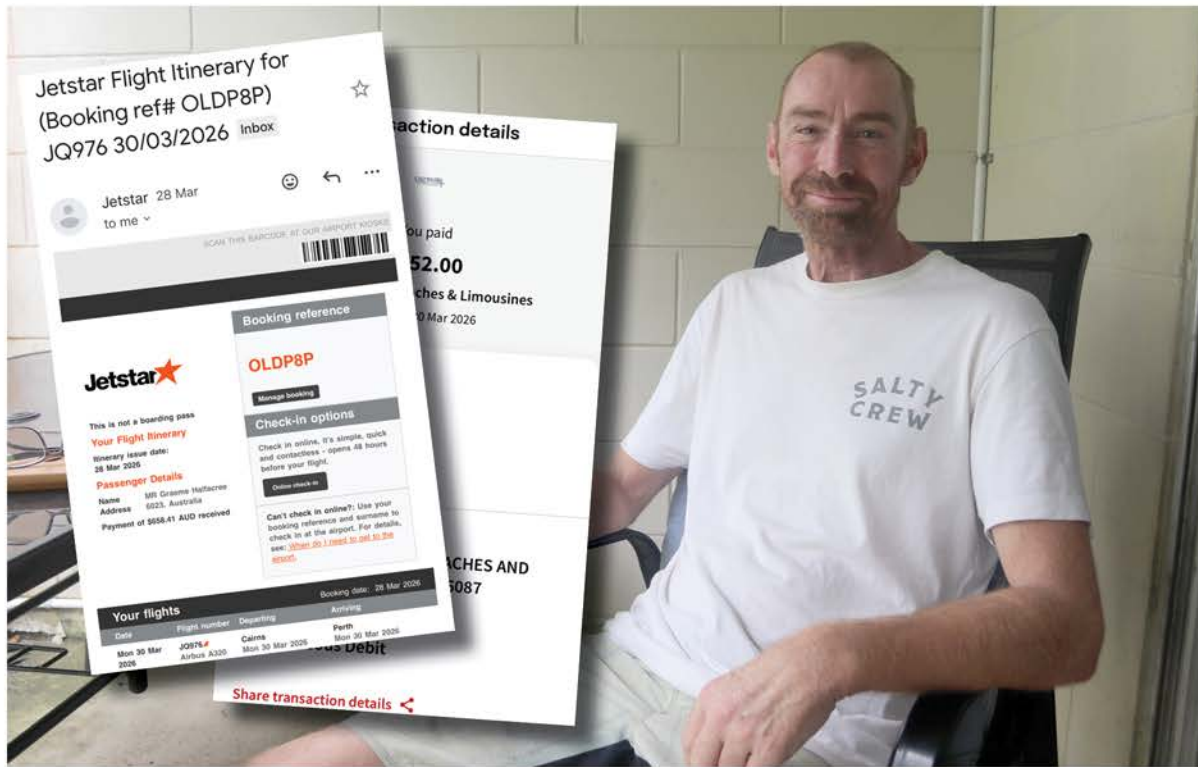
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Bus collapse shock

New plans for 'horrid' Beor St intersection



Graeme Halfacree missed his flight after his Exemplar airport shuttle did not show. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Shaun Hollis

Fallout from the shock collapse of Port Douglas transport company Exemplar has been reverberating across the region, with multiple customers contacting Newport with first-hand stories.

One said she arrived at Cairns airport last Wednesday evening unaware the shuttle service had gone into receivership two days earlier and had to search around for a new way to get to Port Douglas at 8pm at night.

Another said she had been notified by the liquidators that she could apply to have her lost money reimbursed, but the about 40 employees would receive any available funds before customers.

Long-time Douglas Shire local Graeme Halfacree said he was out of pocket up to \$1000 after book-

ing an Exemplar shuttle to Cairns airport on Sunday, March 29, for Monday, March 30, which did not turn up that morning, leaving him waiting on the footpath for more than an hour.

After ringing the company multiple times following the 8.15am pick-up time without being able to get through, Graeme Halfacree missed his flight to Perth, he said.

An exasperated Mr Halfacree said that afternoon he did not know what he was going to do about his flight.

"If they did it to me, they've done it to many other people," Mr Halfacree said.

"I called them yesterday (and) they didn't pick me up.

"You just can't do that."

Newsport viewed an email sent out just before 10.30am from an-

other bus company stating that Exemplar had gone into liquidation from 10am this morning and it would be taking on the current customers. The email thanked customers for their "continued trust".

"We want to assure you that arrangements are in place to ensure continuity of service," it stated.

The other coach company would be stepping in to provide the same transport services and "will be assisting with all existing and upcoming bookings", the email stated. Phone calls by Newport to Exemplar went to an automated service, while the website was still operational for about three days after the shutdown.

The Craiglie business, which has operated for more than 30 years, is now being wound up by liquidators from BDO.

The latest plans for the widening of the four-way Beor Street junction on the Captain Cook Highway at Craiglie have been revealed in a report tabled in Douglas Shire Council last week.

As part of a new Craiglie housing estate, Boer Street, which crosses over the highway, is set to be widened to allow for more room for cars to overtake those queueing up across traffic to turn into the road - a longtime bugbear of locals who say the intersection is currently dangerous.

The State Government Transport and Main Roads Department (TMR) is expected to be in charge of the highway-intersection redesign, but the developers of Stage Two of New Port Estate have been negotiating with the council about who will pay to widen the council-administered Beor Street.

DSC councillors voted for the council to go halves with developers in the estimated \$62,000 cost of those works.

"The upgrade consists of some minor localised road widening to accommodate a left turn out onto the Captain Cook Highway when exiting Beor Street while providing for the storage of north bound vehicles when exiting Beor Street," the report states.

A 17-lot Beor Street industrial subdivision on the western side of the highway was also announced earlier this year as part of the Craiglie Business Park Stage Two, prompting concerned residents to speak out once again about the intersection.

"That intersection is horrid," Belinda Barndon wrote.

In August the State Government announced a \$6.6m grant to help with turning and slip lanes from Captain Cook Highway.

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Douglas Shire News

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Ferry is back on river,

Easter miracle as connection to Daintree up

Shaun Hollis

It has cost a good chunk of a \$1.8m damage bill, but the Daintree River Ferry is back up and running to the relief of most people in Douglas Shire.

The council last week posted online the news that residents, business owners and tourists had all been hoping for.

"Great news - the Daintree ferry is now back in operation," the DSC stated.

"We know this has been a really tough period for the community, and we sincerely thank everyone for their patience, understanding and support while works were carried out."

In last month's council meeting, a budget update revealed how much had been spent in March on "events caused by severe weather from Low 29U" when the ferry



The Daintree ferry on the day of the reopening. Picture: DSC

was knocked out of action and a wharf and tour boats were swept away.

"Unfortunately, counter disaster operations and emergent works resulting from severe weather from Low 29U are estimated to have an unfavourable (\$1.8m) 25/26 in-year impact," the report stated.

Before the tropical low hit,

council staff were hoping to have moved from an about \$400,000 budget deficit to an about \$1.4m surplus during March.

They are confident that money will be returned to the council in the form of Federal and State Government disaster funding, but that will not happen until next financial year, putting an about \$1.8m dent in this year's budget numbers.

The hefty price tag to fix the ferry, however, is likely the last thing on the minds of commuters to the Daintree Rainforest and towns such as Cape Tribulation during the school holidays.

They will mainly just be happy to get cars, supplies and people across the river during the busy tourism period.

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Businesses on brink as service is restored

Bryan Littlely

As ferry services across the Daintree River returned over the Easter long weekend, attention has turned to the investigation of what went wrong on March 5 to cut off the lifeline to the Daintree.

Angry Daintree residents and ratepayers across the Douglas Shire concerned they will foot the bill for the ferry damage and significant disruption, with some Daintree business pushed to the brink of closure, have mapped a blueprint for the investigation.

An anonymous group of Douglas ratepayers have sent a letter out calling for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Council to include specific detail in their investigations into the events of March 5 when flooding as a result of Tropical Low 29U broke the critical Daintree River crossing, severely damaging the ferry and landside infrastructure in a multi-million dollar disaster.

Entrada Travel Group, the contracted operator of the Daintree River Ferry, say it is working closely with Douglas Shire Council, which owns the ferry vessel and associated land-based assets, and is committed to working collaboratively with Douglas Shire Council, regulators, and the local community to bring the Daintree River Ferry service back into full operation and is satisfied that all protocols were followed.

The letter demands that a clear

understanding of ferry operator Entrada's storm management plan is gained and whether action could have been taken to reduce the damage and long-term impact on the Daintree community and possible financial hit to Douglas Shire Council. It outlines concerns that the expected weather event was forecast for several days in advance and residents, council and all emergency services were preparing for it.

Entrada offered a statement to say the ferry crew had followed protocols.

"In the lead-up to the significant weather event on the evening of March 5, the Daintree Ferry crew worked with Douglas Shire Council on standard storm preparations, consistent with established operating procedures," it said.

"As conditions deteriorated, the Daintree Ferry crew maintained regular communication with Council representatives and senior Entrada Travel Group management, responding to the rapidly changing weather and river conditions throughout the evening.

"Like many in the Daintree community, our ferry employees were directly affected by the weather event. We sincerely thank our staff for their dedication, professionalism, and effort on the night, as well as their continued work to restore ferry services as quickly and safely as possible.

"As with all incidents where damage to a vessel is sustained,



Questions continue to be asked after the Daintree River flood early last month. Pictures: Supplied

necessary investigations and inspections occur including both internal and external parties. These are running in parallel with the pri-

mary effort and main priority being to have the services restored as soon as practicable."

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DOUGLAS SHIRE COUNCIL

Reef project wins \$10k grant

Jamie Jansen

The mission to safeguard the Great Barrier Reef has gained significant momentum following the announcement of a \$10,000 council grant awarded to the Forever Reef Project.

This funding is set to transform the initiative's reach, fueling the launch of the Forever Reef Community Open Weeks and Guest Speaker Series.

Managed by GBR Legacy, the program is designed to bridge the gap between high-level marine science and the local community, ensuring that the secrets of coral preservation are accessible to everyone rather than being tucked away in a lab.

Through this new financial injection, the project will roll out an extensive schedule of free community guided tours, providing a rare look at the world's first living coral biobank.

These tours are paired with guest speaker sessions featuring leading voices in marine biology and hands-on educational workshops tailored for all ages.

Jenna Rumney from Great Bar-



GBR Legacy secures council support for community reef education program. Picture: supplied.

rier Reef Legacy said the main driver behind the program was to remove barriers to access and invite the local community into the project in a meaningful way.

"While we welcome visitors year-round, we know that cost can sometimes prevent locals from engaging with experiences like this," Ms Rumney said. "This grant allows us to open our doors and

offer free tours and workshops during a time when the community is already coming together for Carnivale."

By removing the cost barrier, the initiative aims to significantly increase reef literacy, vital metric in the ongoing effort to foster a culture of informed environmental stewardship along the coast.

The program will offer one free


guided tour per day, Monday to Friday, across the two weeks leading up to Carnivale.

Additionally, a dedicated guest speaker day on Saturday, May 23, will feature five one-hour talks covering topics ranging from mangrove ecosystems and deep reef exploration to broader marine conservation challenges.

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Chopper crash tragedy

Mark Murray

IN the end, it was his mate's final sacrifice that saved Danny Gray's life.

There was a miraculous swim to shore in crocodile, shark and jellyfish infested waters. And a decision to follow a faint light under the cover of darkness, badly injured and bleeding, not knowing if it was on land or further out to sea.

But ultimately, it was Brad Maisel's selfless decision to jerk his failing helicopter right as it crashed into the ocean that's given Danny Gray the opportunity to watch his two young kids grow up.

With their Robinson 22 plummeting towards the Coral Sea at more than 130km/h, Gray believes his friend maneuvered the aircraft to ensure his corner was the first to hit the water.

"He has made the ultimate sacrifice," Gray said in an exclusive interview with Newsport.

"He's consciously chosen to cop the full brunt of the impact to at least give me a chance, and that just shows the sort of bloke he was.

"He knew, it might have only been for a split second, but he knew. He was that sort of guy, he wouldn't have even thought twice about it.

"I was lucky, but there are a lot of other things that went into this that meant I lived, and I think it was Brad's ultimate sacrifice right at the end that gave me the chance to do all the rest."

The "rest" is a survival story



Survivor Danny Gray 10 years ago with wife Laura and sons Finn and Rory and, inset, chopper pilot Brad Maisel. Inset picture: ABC

that'd make Bear Grylls blush. It's about a popular Port Douglas family man refusing to give up on his wife Laura and sons Finn and Rory, in the face of unimaginable adversity. The last thing Gray remembers before impact was seeing a mass of water before a huge explosion. He woke up on the ocean floor still strapped in his seatbelt. He thought he was dead.

"I just remember sitting on the bottom of the ocean thinking that you must maintain some sort of consciousness when you die," he said. "Then, all of a sudden, I felt like taking a breath and I thought hang on, I'm still going here." In

pitch black disoriented, Gray popped his seat belt and floated towards the surface. The chopper would later be found in more than seven metres of water.

"In those sort of conditions when it's dark, you just don't know what's up, down or sideways, but I've just gone straight up," he explained. "I must have almost passed out because I was badly out of air. I remember getting up the top and thinking my leg was gone, because I couldn't feel it."

With cracked ribs, slashed legs and a badly lacerated wrist exposing his tendons, Gray was met at the oceans surface by two-and-

half-metre swell and complete darkness. A doctor would later tell him he'd have 'bled out' had the cut not missed an artery by less than a millimeter.

Drifting in-and-out of consciousness Gray floated about calling out for his mate.

"I thought I heard him," he said.

"What they've told me since is when you're in swell like that you can call out and your voice is echoing off another wave."



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Art of slowing down at Niramaya

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

In today's fast-paced world, taking time out is more important than ever, a philosophy at the heart of Niramaya Day Spa, one of the region's most refined wellness destinations.

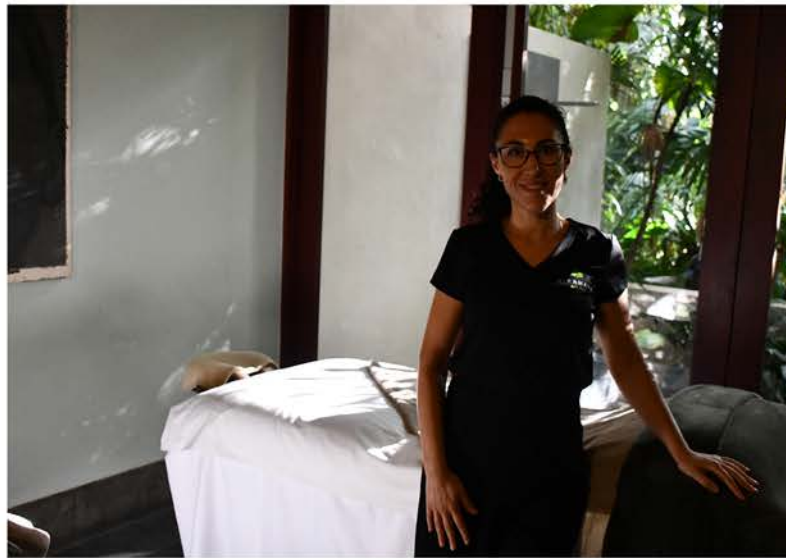
From the moment you arrive, the Balinese-inspired retreat feels like stepping into another world.

Set among lush tropical gardens, it's easily one of the most beautiful spaces in town, designed to help you slow down both physically and mentally.

Downstairs, four treatment rooms sit within a seamless indoor-outdoor setting, with a bamboo-framed, pavilion-style welcome area where guests can relax and fill out their consultation form.

Each treatment room has two massage beds and a large window overlooking the rainforest, with soft natural light filtering across the space. The experience begins with a choice of three massage oils, inspired by Ayurvedic principles; air, fire and earth.

It's an approach that reflects the spa's broader philosophy: no



Massage therapist Eli is driven by helping clients slow down, reconnect and feel more balanced. Picture: Jamie Jansen

two treatments are the same, and no two therapists work in exactly the same way.

Each practitioner brings their own area of expertise, shaped by different training and backgrounds, from Reiki and yoga to Kahuna and Ayurvedic techniques.

For massage therapist Eli, that speciality lies in Ayurveda.

"The oil scent people choose gives me a sense of the person I'm

working with," she says. "Based on the dosha, you can understand what the person needs and what treatment will suit them best."

Originally from Capri in Italy, Eli has spent more than twelve years working as a massage therapist in Port Douglas.

She began her training at 18 and has since built her skills across a range of techniques, eventually focusing on Ayurvedic massage

and its connection to both the physical and emotional body.

Eli's treatments draw on a mix of influences, including advanced facial massage techniques developed in Japan and Europe, an area she's particularly passionate about and has made her speciality.

Eli's approach is hands-on and technique-driven, working through the muscles of the face to boost circulation, support lymphatic drainage and encourage natural collagen production.

There's something almost artistic in the way she works. Her movements are fluid, almost choreographed, with the shapes of her hands becoming quietly hypnotic as they guide the body into deeper relaxation.

For more information on treatments and to book visit: niramaya.com.au/day-spa



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In loving memory of
Dr Louise Bleier

Family, friends and patients of Dr Louise are invited to attend a memorial service to remember and celebrate her life, and her contribution to our community.

**4pm Saturday 11th April 2026,
Rex Smeal Park, Port Douglas**



Raymon Ribes
"Ray"

Passed away peacefully on 30th March 2026, aged 93 years.

As per Ray's wishes, he has been privately cremated

THE LAST BEAT OF THE JUNGLE DRUM

John Sullivan

Thank you Lawrence Mason for your views and information from North of the River. It has been valuable to understand the distressed state of the Douglas Shire. Hanging up the pen reflects the apathy of the Shire residents and shows the struggles that the Douglas Shire Ratepayers Association Inc and the Douglas Chamber of Commerce have had over the past five years in trying to address the dire issues in our community and motivate change and calling out poor performance from our politicians and bureaucrats at all levels.

Carl Schmid

I will certainly miss Lawrence Mason column, being a born and bred local who currently resides interstate I am very interested in what's going on in the Shire.

Tamara Scenna

Thank you for having spent the time writing about your views on the north of the river community Lawrence Mason over the last few years. I've been interested to see what you chose to write about each week. While I haven't always agreed with everything you have written, as someone relatively new to the Daintree Coast community, your columns have increased my awareness of some events and generated discussion, which may not otherwise have occurred. Community development only happens well when the community is empowered and whole of community views and lived experience are listened to and considered when decisions are made. I'm still hoping... But can completely understand your frustration after learning more

about the lived experience of the Daintree Coast community.

Jonathan Foster

Unfortunately as always your description of the current state of affairs within the Shire are very accurate. The local government ignore the residents and pander to the bureaucrats and greenies. Hopefully we will get better representatives next elections but looking at the current prospects I highly doubt it. Thanks for your efforts anyway mate.

JB Blockey

I don't always agree with everything you've beaten the drum on Lawrence Mason, but I always look at your perspective with an open mind. And you are usually a pretty straight shooter.

On your article, I emphatically agree with your sentiments. Bubbling issues abound in our Shire and yet many similar mistakes are being made. I am dismayed to hear you are putting yourself back in the box, but I empathise with how you're feeling, drum-beaten perhaps... I hear you!

Geoff Field

Thanks for being courageous. All the best in the future.

Russell O'doherty

Totally understand why you have pulled the pin Lawrence. It wears you down after fighting for years as you have done, enjoy the fishing hopefully some others will take up the fight.

Vivienne Heng

Sad to see you lay down your pen! You've done an outstanding job bringing attention to the Daintree and its community's plight, fostering debate and discussion. Your efforts, though perhaps not met with the action



From the Holster



Shaun Hollis brings you a lighter look at local news.

you hoped for, are appreciated. Thanks for your tireless advocacy. Enjoy the fishing!

JOURNEY TO PARADISE STRIPPED BARE

Tania Sheppard

I hope they will re-instate the palms along that stretch!

Sean II

It was either that that or the road went in the drink.

Emily Beutel

It's not just about planting new trees, the trees that were there were saving the bank even with today's 3m tide so much more bank has been lost. They may just be trees to you but I live here and going from a beautiful stretch of coast to a desolate destroyed landscape is enough to make anyone feel passionate that there were other ways around it. And yes they will plant new trees, more than likely not coconuts though.

Lance Johnston

Considering they were all falling into the ocean one by one over the last few years and now the cyclone nearly made the road fall into the ocean. They have just sped up the process to fix the problem, trees grow back quickly up here.

Ian Bateman

They could have put in a rock wall between the palms and the ocean (which they'll probably have to do anyway to save the frekkin road)

Patrick Giddins

This entire roadworks project is a fiasco. They still haven't repaired one of the major pieces of damage which has cut the road back to single lane.

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

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SOCIALS

The Port Douglas Crocs AFL club season launch took place on Saturday, March 28, at Cosmos cocktail bar. Pictures: Francesca Bossoni



Jackson Hopkins and Rory Harrington.



Jack Featherby and Sam Wall.



Amelia Corneby, Zhalie Patterson and Chelsey Drum.



Wally Thomson, Max Hemphill and Adam Williams.



Indianna Paull and Hannah De Franceschi.



Hayley Nash and Sophia Shaw.

WHAT'S ON

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

APR 9 **Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs**
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

APR 10 **Bingo Night With K-Star**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

APR 10 **Monthly Social Dancing**
Time: 6.30pm-9.30pm
Location: Pullman Sea Temple

APR 10 **Yahdoh**
Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

APR 11 **Ancient Treasures - Sea Circus Workshop**
Time: 5pm-7pm
Location: Surf Life Saving Club/The Surf

APR 11 **Bubble Tea Class**
Time: 10am-11am
Location: Steep Port Douglas, Shop 1, 46 Macrossan St

APR 11 **Gin Masterclass with Wolf Lane Distillery**
Time: 3pm-4pm
Location: Daintree Bar at Sheraton Port Douglas

APR 12 **Popping Pearls Class**
Time: 10.30am-11.30am
Location: Steep Port Douglas, Shop 1, 46 Macrossan St

APR 12 **Kirtan at Port Douglas Yoga**
Time: 3.30pm-4.30pm
Location: Port Douglas Yoga Shala, above The Book Lounge, Warner Street, Port Douglas

APR 13 **Hole In One Jackpot Competition**
Time: 10am-6pm
Location: Daddyshack Indoor Golf, Grant St, Port Douglas

APR 13 **Free Drones & Programming workshop!**
Time: 2.30pm-4pm
Location: Mossman Shire Hall

APR 13 **Free Robotics & Coding workshop**
Time: 10.30am-12pm
Location: Mossman Library

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

APR 15 **Social Dancing**
Time: 6.30pm-9.30pm
Location: Pullman Sea Temple Port Douglas

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

APR 16 **Junk Journal**
Time: 2.30pm
Location: Mossman Library

APR 16 **Wall Painting on Calico**
Time: 10.30am
Location: Mossman Library

APR 16 **Bingo with K-Star**
Time: 7pm-8.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

APR 17 **Dave Dusch**
Time: 07.30pm-10.30pm
Location: Club Mossman

APR 17 **Bingo Night With K-Star**
Time: 6.30pm-8pm
Location: 3Sixteen Bar & Bistro at Ramada Resort, Port Douglas

APR 18 **Author Talk with Jenny Kroonstuiver**
Time: 10am-11am
Location: Mossman Library

APR 18 **Bubble Tea Class**
Time: 10am-11am
Location: Steep Port Douglas

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Ray White



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Crocs feast on Tiger

The Port Douglas Crocs gave a footballing lesson to reigning premiers North Cairns Tigers on Friday, winning 26.15 (171) to 5.5 (35).

The Crocs dominated across the ground from the first siren, with Murphy Short racking up possessions at will and former Adelaide Crow Jared Petrenko commanding the half-back line.

Up forward, club legend Kye Chapple kicked another lazy seven goals, while new recruit Shay Linke, who has played for Port Ad-



Croc Jackson Hopkins under pressure. Picture: Shaun Hollis

elaide and Central District in the SANFL, kicked four, along with another club stalwart Liam Bartels.

Many of the recruits starred

throughout the lopsided encounter, with another former SANFL player Jake Cook also playing a top game.

A host of players have been recruited from Mulwala in Victoria's Murray league, with Wally Thomson, Max Hemphill and Josh Ednie all showing good signs on Friday.

And there are still up to six regular A-graders to come back in, while several top-line players such as Callum Reid, Sam Wall and Brodie Francis helped the reserves side to a 10.10 (70) to 6.3 (39) win

in the early game, boding well for the rest of the season.

It appears the club will have more depth this year after the seconds struggled in 2025.

The Crocs women, however, were soundly beaten by the Tigers 9.9 (63) to 0.2 (2).

The next game for all three teams is on Saturday, April 18, away to the Cairns Lions, while the next home game is building up to be a spectacle, with former Richmond champion Dusty Martin set to play here on May 2.

BRIEFS

INDOOR GOLF

Matt and Joe have taken out the Grand Final of the Wet Season Indoor League with a convincing six and five win against Dave and Rhys.

Team Purple, as they have been nicknamed, played some spectacular golf with a few 300m drives and five birdies on the front nine at the difficult Pebble Beach course.

Birdies at 11, 12 and 13 helped secure the win.

Although Dave and Rhys played well through the season, they unfortunately didn't bring their best in the Grand Final, but the game was played in friendly spirits, and all had a great night.

The Indoor League will be starting again soon, and the Daddy-shack is looking for more two-person ambrose teams.

SHOT OF THE DAY!



Douglas United had an encouraging start to the Far North and Gulf Division One Community League campaign in their opening round, beating Mareeba 4-2 at Mareeba. Best players included Ben Syrett, Georges Lulhe and Daniele Cirani. Picture: Douglas United

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CROC A DOODLE DO

Port trounces reigning premier North Cairns Tigers by 136 points to help kick off fresh AFL era under new coach Brad Cooper - P15



This superb team goal finished off by Crocs recruit Shay Linke was an example of the gulf between the two sides on Friday. Pictures: Shaun Hollis

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