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Starting to look a lot like Christmas

Christmas shopping is in full swing, Christmas lights displays are on the way, the Mossman nativity trail is starting up, and the Christmas Extravaganza is on Friday night.

Pages 7 and 10

Shoe shop workers Evelyn Colman and Serena Parry are getting into the Xmas spirit. Photo: Santiago Gonzalez



Volunteers finish up - P3



Toad Cup wowing tourists - P10



New rugby club prez - P11

Mystery cash

Shaun Hollis
The recipient of a \$2.8m Douglas Shire Council contract for works relating to Cyclone Jasper remains a mystery despite a Queensland Audit Office report stating that

State Government regulations require all contracts worth more than \$200,000 to be published on the council website.
A council spokesman, however, said the details of the contract re-

ferred to by the QAO have been published online in some form.
“Due to a contract variation, a different amount is disclosed on Council’s website,” he stated.
Continued Page 6



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Feral pigs are prevalent across Outback and Far North Queensland.

Like stuck pigs

Close to 30 feral pigs were caught last month by Douglas Shire Council rangers, with the higher-than-average number attributed to recent dry conditions.

“November has been busy for Council’s trapping team, with 28 pigs captured to date - above average for this time of year,” a council report released on Friday stated.

“2025 is shaping up as Council’s most successful year in five years, with 574 pigs trapped to date.”

The large number has also been boosted by expanded on-ground efforts by the council due to a Reef Guardian Project environmental grant.

Feral pigs are regarded as one of Australia’s most destructive feral species, and they are particularly prevalent in Queensland, NSW and the Northern Territory.

The pigs prey on small native animals, birds, reptiles, eggs and many aquatic species.

No prawn sale as Lil “stolen”

A man has been caught in the act of allegedly trying to steal the famed Port Douglas prawn trawler, the would-be thief, reportedly running the vessel aground before he was snared and tied to a pole while police were called.

Details of the dramatic Sunday morning arrest of the man, understood to be a tourist, were unclear but the incident shut down the anticipated Sunday prawn sale at the Port Douglas Public Jetty, Santiago Seafoods’ Laurie Moull posting a blunt message to customers to explain.

“Due to a scumbag trying to drive/steal our boat, we won’t be having a sell,” the message said.

It is understood it was a member of the public, possibly the fishermen themselves, who caught the alleged thief in the act and he was held, his feet and hands bound around a pole, while police were called. Neither Port Douglas Police or Santiago Seafoods could be contacted to confirm details at the time of publication.

A sale had taken place on Saturday, but the Santiago team had shut that to save stock for the Sunday sale.

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Bridging the gap

Shaun Hollis
An about \$8.5m contract has been awarded as part of the ongoing project to replace Noah Creek Bridge near Cape Tribulation with a temporary bypass, then a brand new \$12m bridge.

Douglas Shire Council has awarded the contract to Brisbane civil construction company HEH Civil, with the details published on the council's website last week.

"The bridge is currently undergoing redesign," the council states. "The new bridge will contain concrete piles and concrete deck units."

As part of the new bridge con-

struction, a temporary bypass will first be built to carry all traffic during the build.

"This will be a dry bypass, suitable for all types of vehicles."

The new \$12m bridge, which will be capable of supporting 44-tonne trucks, is expected to be built next year across Noah Creek, the State Government announced in September. Cook MP David Kempton said back then the new bridge would replace the then 8-tonne-limit bridge, which has since been repaired to a 16-tonne standard to help allow trucks through to Cape Trib.

"It certainly brings some security and certainty to those communities," he said at the time.

The causeway will next be replaced with a concrete-culvert construction to put in place a back-up system before the full bridge replacement takes place.

The old bridge will be replaced by a new 44-tonne-limit bridge.

Douglas Shire Mayor Lisa Scomazzon has said the "council will continue to work closely with communities north of the Daintree River throughout the road-upgrade process and remains focused on long-term solutions that improve resilience and connectivity."

News in Brief

CRAIGLIE FIRE THREAT
A fire at Craiglie which started late Saturday night and approached the northern end of the shops next to the Captain Cook Highway blanketed Port Douglas with thick smoke and threatened lives and property.

An emergency warning was issued at about 3am on Sunday, November 30, for Craiglie and Port Douglas residents to stay indoors, keep respiratory medication close by and follow your bushfire survival plan. The fire was burning near the Captain Cook Highway and Ferero Road, Craiglie.

WONGA DRAINAGE ISSUE
Wonga Beach resident Carolyn Arcus has challenged Douglas Shire Council's stance to not clear creeks and culverts that discharge water to the sea at Wonga Beach, warning it leaves a significant flood risk to homeowners.

Mrs Arcus says the outlets and drains become blocked with sand during tidal movements and the drains back up and flood houses.

"For many years, a local resident had taken it upon himself to regularly open up the drain outlets to the ocean," she said.

NEW REEF BOAT
ABC Reef Safaris launched its new custom-designed vessel, Voyager, this week, bringing the first new reef tourism vessel to Port Douglas since 2018.

Purpose-built to cater to discerning travellers, Voyager will carry a maximum of 24 guests in refined comfort, offering an intimate and personalised journey to the Great Barrier Reef.

With a 6:1 guest-to-crew ratio, passengers will enjoy a curated experience led by ABC Reef Safaris' team of marine biologists, naturalists and guides, making the trip one of most engaging experiences a traveller can have with the Great Barrier Reef.

Volunteers sign off for another year



Port Douglas Surf Life Saving Club volunteers Lynn Butterss, Rachel Goodman, John Goodman, Alvie, 13, Hugo, 13, and Zoe Druce, celebrated their last day of 2025 volunteer patrols on Sunday. The beach will be patrolled by professional lifesavers across the Christmas period. Picture: Shaun Hollis

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Cyclone Jasper contract mystery

From Page 1

The DSC is required by law to publish a monthly list of successful tender recipients online, but the winner of the \$2,828,100 contract referred to by the QAO is not listed. That contract came to light through an audit of the council books by the state auditor-general.

The QAO report, which was tabled in last week's council meeting, stated that the contract was originally put out to tender for an estimated \$500,000-\$1m value, then an about \$480,000 "variation" was granted by the council chief executive via email in November, 2024.

"The initial contract and the subsequent extension were not published on Council's website, as required by the Local Government Regulation 2012," the report stated.

A Newsport investigation of the council's published "details of particular contracts" since November last year showed no \$2,828,100 contracts had since been published in that list.

Council chief executive Scott



The money mostly relates to works done after Cyclone Jasper.

Osman - who was appointed to the position in October, 2024 - said in last week's council meeting he had been working with the auditor-general's department to make sure the DSC became fully compliant with state regulations surrounding the awarding of council contracts.

"The majority of these findings were initial engagements relating to TC Jasper," Mr Osman said.

"The team had identified these procurement deficiencies prior to the audit and I'll continue to keep

bringing these forward." The QAO audit disclosed at least one "significant deficiency" with the council's tendering processes, but Mr Osman said in the meeting most began under the previous council and administration - council elections took place in March 2024.

"I think this clearly shows examples of why you, as a new council, last year, decided to bring in a new CEO and a new executive to actually try and work through some of these issues," Mr Osman said.

"We will continue that review

into our activities as we're going forward."

Other "deficiencies" listed by the QAO included that the council could not provide documentation supporting the initial engagement of a contractor for works totalling close to \$150,000, with four contract extensions up to June 2025 then approved after that.

And the council also awarded a contract to a former employee's company up to March 9, 2025, which was the only supplier that was notified of the four-day tender, and no signed contract was provided.

During the meeting discussion, the councillors praised Mr Osman for being proactive in helping disclose the irregularities in the council's books to the QAO, and moving to ensure this does not continue to happen.

Later in the meeting, the council passed a resolution to retrospectively allow the chief executive to approve Jasper-related contracts worth more than \$200,000 without needing the matter to go before the council first.



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Final act of respect with seniors graduating



The Mossman class of 2025 has paid a fitting tribute to a former school favourite. Picture: Supplied

A large cohort of 80 Mossman State High School students were farewelled as the Senior Class of 2025 finished up.

The momentous day was celebrated with a cooked breakfast for the families, students, staff and wider school community. The Indoor Sports Centre was then

packed with guests for the Graduation Ceremony.

The students then gathered at the front of the school for the final ringing of the bell. Following this was the unveiling of the Year 12 Legacy for Eric Pitt.

Eric was a valued member of the school community for more

than 10 years, welcoming students into the school every day.

The staff also wanted to pay respects to the family and honour Eric's memory in the wake of his death in August last year.

Head of Senior School Belinda Guthrie liaised with community member Janet Goodall to create

a fitting tribute for Eric, to be mounted on the front gate where he sat. Eric's widow Jan did the honours by unveiling the plaque.

The presence of more than 100 people was testimony to how well respected Eric was by the school community.

Ferry necessary closure

Shaun Hollis

The Daintree River Ferry will be out of action for a minimum of 10 days when the new replacement ferry is brought in, a Douglas Shire Council information session has heard.

NSW maritime engineering company Birdon is set to take over operations of the Daintree River service from this July, with the new ferry expected to hit the water at the end of 2027.

Nearly 30 Daintree Coast residents attended the community information session on the Daintree ferry replacement project.

The session included a panel of representatives from the DSC, contractor Durack Civil and Birdon.

The minimum 10-day full ferry closure would be needed to install new ramps and cables, while there would also be a mandatory 14-day closure every five years

to conduct surveys, the meeting heard. Mayor Lisa Scmazzon said there was a strong turnout at the meeting.

"We know how important the ferry is for daily life north of the river, whether it's getting to school, work, medical appointments or running a business," Mayor Scmazzon said.

"It was great to see so many people come along to hear the latest updates, ask questions and be

part of the conversation." The new four-lane ferry will be about 50m long and more than 15m wide, and is designed to carry 36 cars - nine more than can currently travel across.

Residents can visit the council's project page at douglas.qld.gov.au to learn more about the ferry replacement project.



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Bright future for our Marina

The Reef Marina Regeneration Master Plan will have the goal to make the marina one of Australia’s best by creating a vibrant waterfront for visitors and locals.

The progress is good news, said The Reef Marina’s Andrew Hooper-Nguyen.

“We are delighted to be advancing the long-awaited rejuvenation of the Port Douglas waterfront,” he said.

“Our master plan design features a central plaza for al fresco dining and waterfront walkway to enjoy the spectacular views,” said Hooper-Nguyen.

The Reef Marina was awarded the Douglas Innovations & Economic Development Award at the recent Douglas Business and Tourism Awards.



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Homes under threat

Some Newell Beach foreshore homes are “under siege” from weather events and surging tides, and if the Douglas Shire Council does not take immediate action, it may be leaving itself open to being “sued for negligence”, a council meeting has heard.

A presentation to the DSC by Lisa Dunkerton on behalf of three beachfront homes outlined how advice had been sought from a “preeminent Kings Counsel who specialises in environmental law”.

“His view is a local council can be sued for negligence when managing Crown Land if they fail to do something that was foreseeable to avoid injury or losses,” Ms Dunkerton said during her about 15-minute speech before last week’s council meeting.

“You have a duty of care to us and the public who use the beach that it could be argued you repeatedly failed by refusing to imple-



These Cyril Close homes are under threat from beach erosion.

ment expert and specialist advice which would have protected the assets.”

Ms Dunkerton said insurance will not cover any damage that may occur to the three Cyril Close homes in coming months from events such as high tides and storm surges.

“Make no mistake, the beach, and by association, our homes, are under siege,” she said. “In some sections there is less than a metre of erosion to our boundaries.

“Should this happen, we will hold you to account, and we have both the tenacity and the capacity

to do so,” she said. The installation of a rock wall or sandbags was needed, the council heard.

The DSC last month invited residents to help shape a long-term strategy to protect Newell and Four Mile Beaches from coastal erosion at community engagement sessions to begin next week.

Funding for the project has been secured from the Federal and State Governments under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

Ms Dunkerton said she understood about \$2.7m of government money was available for “nature-based solutions”.

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Xmas cheer is here

Extravaganza coming Friday

Our Shire knows how to celebrate Christmas, and nowhere does the community spirit shine brighter than at Mossman's annual Christmas Extravaganza, where Santa will make a grand entrance by helicopter.

Mossman Youth Centre, Douglas Shire Council, and the Tin Shed are joining forces once again to present a free event for the whole community.

The festivities take over the Mossman Showgrounds on Friday (December 5) from 3pm-8.30pm.

Returning after last year's event at George Davis Park, this year's celebrations mix the Light Up the Park event with new attractions, including Carols by Candlelight, a market, and food trucks.

The night will finish with fireworks.

Event organiser Brody Andrews says the aim is to create an even bigger, family-friendly celebration that showcases local talent,



Mykaylah Raseta, Donna Ward and Raine Schacher from Makers shop took part in the Christmas Shopping Night in Port Douglas last week.

businesses, and community pride. "The event grew from a shared goal to bring the region together at the end of the year, focusing on connection and celebration," Mr Brody says.

"It's about enjoying this festive time together and highlighting what makes our community so special."

The event is free, with plenty of activities for all ages.

Highlights include Santa arriving by helicopter at 5pm, Carols by Candlelight from 6pm, and a fireworks finale at 8.15pm.

There are free amusements, face painting, Santa photos, performances, a dance competition, market stalls and food trucks.

Hit the trail to learn more about story

The popular Mossman Uniting Church annual Nativity Sheep Trail event has set out to share the joy of Christmas for its fifth time.

Nativity Sheep Trail coordinator Janelle Shrimpton encourages all to take part in the Mossman community event which started on November 25 and runs to Thursday, December 18.

The trail is designed to bring people into local businesses and to share the Christmas story. Participating shops will have a cute little sheep wearing a name tag displayed somewhere in their business. They will also have entry forms and will display a poster at the front of their shop.

Families can pick up an entry form in the stores and follow the trail through town, finding all the sheep and recording their names on the entry form. A box at Bartolos shop will be provided for completed entry forms.

All entries that have the correct names will go into the draw to win a family Christmas Gift Basket.

The Nativity Sheep Trail prize draw will take place at the Community Carols under the Raintrees on Sunday, December 21. If not present at the draw, the winner will be notified by phone.

"Come and support your local community and see if you can find all the sheep!" Janelle says.

For further details, contact Nativity Sheep Trail coordinator Janelle Shrimpton on 0407 148 953.

Chrissy to light up our streets

The Douglas Shire Christmas Light Competition is back for its third year.

Locals are invited to showcase their festive spirit with dazzling displays, either at home or at a business, for a chance to win cash prizes and local vouchers.

The goal is to make the Douglas Shire shine bright for both the community and visiting tourists.

"We want to see your most festive and imaginative displays," said

Jocelyn Schumacher from event organisers Raine & Horne Port Douglas/Mossman.

"It would be wonderful to see houses, and even entire streets, decorated again."

Last year's residential winners were 12 Dulku Close in Craiglie and 9/4-5 Morning Close in Port Douglas. The commercial winner was Captain & Co Espresso.

Residents can expect a flyer in their mailbox with more informa-

tion about the competition. The event closes on Wednesday, December 17, with winners revealed on Friday, December 19.

Categories include: Best Christmas Light Display - Residential (the prize is \$500); Best Commercial Shop Front - Port Douglas; Best Commercial Shop Front - Mossman

The competition is determined by Facebook likes.

Join us at the Mossman AgFutures Field Day!

Saturday 6 December 2025 | 9am - 12 noon | Mossman Showgrounds

Calling all canegrowers and the Mossman farming community!

Join us at the Mossman AgFutures Field Day, an event designed to support the local farming community as we navigate new opportunities together.

You can look forward to:

- expert presentations on assistance and support available
- interactive stalls from a variety of ag-related industries
- inspiring talks from senior departmental staff, Mayor Lisa Scomazzon and Member for Cook David Kempton
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Enjoy a FREE BBQ to wrap up the day!

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Hosted by the Department of Primary Industries and Douglas Shire Council.



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Farmers invited to weekend event

BUSINESS FEATURE

Jamie Jansen

Canegrowers and the wider Mossman farming community are invited to the free AgFutures Field Day this Saturday (December 6) at the Mossman Showgrounds.

The event is designed to help growers navigate opportunities beyond the closure of the mill.

Hosted by the State Government Primary Industries Department (DPI) in collaboration with Douglas Shire Council, the event will connect attendees with resources and support to plan for sustainable growth following the end of harvest and haulage activities. Running from 9am-noon, the day will feature expert presentations on financial assistance, succession planning, mental health support, and town planning.

Attendees can also explore interactive stalls showcasing agricultural services, including field and horticulture crops, farm forestry, water management, and environmental markets.

Speakers include Cook MP David Kempton, Mayor Lisa Scmazzon, and DPI director-general



Soybean agronomy trials in Mossman during the 2024/25 wet season as part of the Mossman Diversification project. Picture: Supplied

Graeme Bolton, who will discuss pathways to resilience and long-term growth.

A DPI spokesperson said the Government is committed to supporting the Mossman farming community during this transition.

“The Queensland Government is right behind the Douglas-Daintree community as it comes to terms with the closure of the sugar industry after 130 years,” the spokesperson said.

“We are actively listening to the

community about how the government can best provide targeted transitional support.

“Farmers attending the day will have direct access to specialist personnel who can discuss diversification options suited to their individual circumstances”

The Mossman Advisory Committee, chaired by Mr Kempton, is consulting with industry, local stakeholders, and all levels of government to deliver solutions tailored to the region’s needs: “We

have \$6 million on the table to be invested into the regional industry and community.”

The transition package aims to provide a dedicated counsellor from the Rural Financial Counselling Service for Mossman growers and an agronomist to explore diversified cropping opportunities.

“Our support doesn’t stop there. We are backing trials of new crops, innovative ideas, and information sessions, alongside research and development into diversified agriculture.

“There is a strong future.”

Families are welcome at the event, with jumping castles, face painting, and activities for kids. The day will finish with a free BBQ, giving growers and their families a chance to connect while accessing essential support services.



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PUBLIC & COMMUNITY NOTICES



REGULATED DOGS INSPECTION PROGRAM

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'APATHETIC' RATEPAYERS SPEAKING OUT

Patricia Veschetti

Put some positive comments forward. The Shire has lost the main business in Mossman, and this is a great tragedy, maybe the community could rally around and put some positive thoughts into how everyone is going to get through this and I am sure there would be a lot of willing hands and ideas for the future that is in our hands. I grew up in this beautiful town and have many memories there, and indeed it does break my heart to see what is happening in small towns as Mossman is not the only one suffering.

Randall Lieschke

Two years ago I sent an email to the council regarding the footpath around Warri pond. It goes underwater in the wet season and stays under water for months. A thick layer of algae and slime completely covers the path making it extremely dangerous to walk along. A couple of simple spoon drains could drain that water into the pond. I got an automated reply. So I sent a couple more emails and got the same response, before I finally gave up. The same thing happened 12 months ago. An automated response and nothing more.

Jo Westgate

We shouldn't be charged for water. Build some dams so we don't have water restrictions considering our average rainfall. We should never be low on water.

Paula Wesley

I'm wondering how hard is it for farmers to turn their land into developments and how quickly and economically it can be done instead of the nit picky proce-

dures of the past that made it prohibitively expensive. Is there a demand for new housing? Have all the previous housing starts, eg, Cooya been sold and built on?

Simon Clover

Hang on, that's a very unfair statement. All levels of government have tried very hard to make it hard for the average punter to hold them to account. For example, the average person can't afford to take a law to court and challenge it. If you wrote to a minister, the first thing they do is say, I hear you but not my department and hope you go away.

Andrew Schultz

I sent an email regarding the area at Cooya near the boat ramp with signs saying NO PUBLIC ACCESS and PROJECTS IN PROGRESS. Couldn't see anything being done so emailed council. No reply, that was a week ago.

Robert Cummings

Rates keep increasing, even though I just read where the DSC was crowing that the budget was doing "fine".

Belinda Barndon

The footpath that runs alongside the Wildlife Habitat to IGA also goes underwater for months on end and goes slimy. Would be good to have some paths raised to stop this from happening.

Peter Wood

Who elected this ratepayer association?

KAREN SHOWS WAY TO REDUCE BEACH WASTE

Geoff Field

Good on you Karen. We need more people like you!! Yes it's sad to see the plastic, but I've just got back from Europe where some of the beaches looked like open


Did he say "apathy about snakes in Douglas Shire"?

No, he said "apathy about rates", I think...

Ahhh... I ssssee...

Ratepayer association AGM

From the Holster



Shaun Hollis brings you a lighter look at local news.

drains. Let's hope our pristine environment is looked after.

Kirsty Klein

There needs to be more bins at the beaches in the whole Douglas Shire for when people are walking along they pick up and can put in the bin before leaving the beach. This might give people the incentive to pick up what they find along the way.

BARRA FARM FINE

Carol Bloomfield

And now our government needs to be accountable for putting up wind turbines full of asbestos.

Alf Craig

When I say the only asbestos detected in wind turbines so far has been in the brake pads used, that is not to say that isn't bad. It is, and someone needs to be held to blame for it. Just as someone needs to be congratulated for discovering the stuff up. AND... the solution is that all the brake pads

now need to be removed and replaced with Australian standards compliant ones at the offending manufacturer's expense.

ANOTHER PERSON BITTEN BY SNAKE IN PORT

Daniel Charles

They're around and you'll be bitten if you aren't watching where you're walking.

SAILAWAY SOLD IN GREAT DEAL FOR PORT

John Nish

Who are now the locally owned operators in Port?

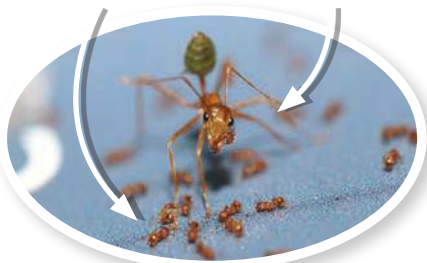
Eli Pitt

Perfectly timed with talks of Great Barrier Reef closures coming soon.

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Stop the spread of electric ants

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Queensland Government

SOCIALS

The Cane Toad Cup at Chilly's on Saturday, November 13, and late-night Christmas shopping in Port Douglas on Thursday, November 27, were two of the events in the region in the past fortnight. Pictures: Santiago Gonzalez



Karen, Gemma and Andy Ogilvy at the Cane Toad Cup.



Ben Kavanagh and Jamie Keane at the Cane Toad Cup.



Hannah Freeman, Bianca Moore, Kate Radley and Alison Kleynveld at the Christmas shopping night.



Daz Birrell, Taliah Fox and Gabriella Moore at the Cane Toad Cup.



Candace Johnson from Floral Edge.



Rose, 8, Amy Inglis and Daniel Inglis from Steep.

WHAT'S ON

STAY UP TO DATE

Scan this QR code to stay up to date with the latest events in the region

DECEMBER 4

Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs, Time: 7.00pm-8.30pm, Location: Club Mossman

DECEMBER 5

Christmas Extravaganza, Time: 3pm-8.30pm, Location: Mossman Showgrounds

Wait-a-While, Time: 7pm-10pm, Location: Club Mossman

DECEMBER 6

Working Bee at Mossman Botanic Garden, Time: 8am-10am, Location: Garden of Woven Memories

Busby Marou - Back on the Tools (Acoustic Tour), Time: 7pm-8.30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar and Grill

Yahdoh, Time: 5pm-8pm, Location: Club Mossman

DECEMBER 11

Bingo, Time: 7pm-9pm, Location: Club Mossman

REAL ESTATE

OPEN HOME
28 Marine Parade, Newell
Friday, December 5
4pm-4.30pm
Property Shop

OPEN HOME
11 Hartley Street, Wangetti
Saturday, December 6
12pm
Raine & Horne

OPEN HOME
7 Poinciana Street, Cooya Beach
Thursday, December 11
12pm - 1pm
Raine & Horne

Scan the QR code to list your property, and it will be added to our print edition for free.

DECEMBER 12

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

DECEMBER 13

Wait-a-While, Time: 7.30pm-10.30pm, Location: Club Mossman

Coastal Country Muster - Christmas Edition!, Time: 4.00pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

DECEMBER 18

Trivia with Supa Sal and Wevs, Time: 7pm-8.30pm, Location: Club Mossman

DECEMBER 19

Richie Langford, Time: 7pm-10pm, Location: Club Mossman

DECEMBER 21

Carols Under the Raintrees, Time: 5pm-8pm, Location: Mossman Raintrees, Foxton Ave, Mossman

Muddies Fourth Grade breaks through

From Page 12

The Thirds take on the Bhutanese Rovers at the same ground this Saturday from 1pm.

In the Fourth Grade match on Sunday at Port Douglas, the winless Muddies outfit took on one of the Atherton sides.

Bowling first, the Fourths started strongly by restricting the scoring of the opposition. But a pair of batters eventually started scor-

ing freely, with Atherton posting 6/134 in its allotted 35 overs.

The best figures of the Muddies bowlers were from young pace-man Zack Faulkner, who took 2/15 from four overs.

Going into bat, the Fourths victory was set up by a 95-run opening partnership between Keel Sorensen and captain Shaun Anderson. Anderson was eventually dismissed for 44, and Sorensen

was then joined at the crease by Faulkner.

Both batsmen stuck around to guide the Muddies to victory in the 29th over with one wicket down.

Sorensen finished on 56 not out, while Faulkner made 24 not out.

The Fourths travel to Barron River this Sunday from 12.30pm.



Zack Faulkner took 2/15 and made 24 not out. Picture: Shaun Hollis



Port Douglas sports shop owner Pete Gilmour is the new president of the Reef Raiders rugby union club. Picture: Shaun Hollis

Meet rugby club's new president

Shaun Hollis

The Reef Raiders rugby union club has a new president, with Port Douglas sports-store owner Pete Gilmour taking over from much-loved former president Travis Gooch for season 2026.

Gilmour says he has much to live up to.

"Hopefully I can do half the job Travis has done, he's been amazing for the last four years," Gilmour says. "He's still going to be involved, and we've got a good committee, so hopefully not too much will change."

Gilmour, who runs Sportspower on Macrossan Street, says he is keen to keep all the current people involved with the club, while trying to attract more locals to become involved with the club.

"It's a great experience, a wonderful ground and good club culture, so hopefully we get more people to buy into it."

Gilmour is keen to start reaching out to people who may have drifted away from community sport and help find new ways to make it easier for people to become more involved, he says.

He is looking at organising some social events early in the season to try and get more people down, such as a touch football competition.

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REPRESENTING AT STATE CHAMPS



Junior athletes set to represent Port Douglas at the Queensland Surf Life Saving Championships on the Sunshine Coast in February include Under-12s Ruby and Elise, Under-14 Lani, Under-12s Emma and Marlee, and Under-14 Alvie. Picture: PDSLSC

Muddies see double

Shaun Hollis

Both Douglas Shire cricket teams won on the weekend for the first time this season.

On Saturday, the fourth-placed Muddies Third Grade side travelled to Endeavour Park in Cairns to face off against fifth-placed Rovers in

oppressive 37C conditions. After losing the toss and bowling, the Muddies struck early to take the first four wickets cheaply.

A middle-order rally, however, helped Rovers post a more competitive total, before Nathan King cleaned up the tail to finish with

4/34. Rovers ended up all out for 115 on the last ball of the 35-over innings.

In the Muddies' batting innings, the in-form Cam Williams held the team together until he was run out for 27 after showing signs of exhaustion in the stifling heat. The

side then lost a few quick wickets. But an even contribution across the board was capped off with captain Adrian Bannerman hitting the winning runs for the second week in a row with a six over the midwicket boundary.

Continued Page 11

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