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Newsport in print is an extension of the Newsport daily website and represents a collection of new and existing articles



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## OUR FINAL SIREN

Douglas Shire, give your local Class of 2024 a clap, a pat on the back and good wishes for the future ahead of them.

Year 12 students of Mossman State High School, including gun group selfie photographer Neesha Bayne, were all smiles last Friday as they rang the final bell on their high school life.

The graduating class of 2024 were also part of the full school awards day on Thursday with a pack of them marking the event with a "muck up" day colour run.

We've got some of the highlights from the events featured in our socials on Page 7.

Good luck to you all, young people... from Newsport and your community.

# SORRY FOR THE SMELL



Bryan Littlely  
Editor

The directors of the Killaloe fish farm at the centre of a vile stench which plagued neighboursearlier this month say they are sorry and they are working hard to prevent it happening again.

CEO of Mainstream Aquaculture Boris Musa said the

odour was the result of a mass fish die off and algae developing in a ready to harvest pond of barramundi containing about 70 tonnes of fish.

The event has cost Mainstream at least \$650,000 in lost productivity.

Mr Musa said, regrettably, he had been informed of the problem "later than I would have liked" but the team at Mainstream had worked hard

to fix the issue and were investing in equipment to more effectively remediate the issue if ever it happened again.

"It's not as simple as us draining the pond. If we were able to drain the pond, the odour would have dissipated but clearly we don't want to be releasing that water into the environment so it has been a process of treating the pond."

Mr Musa said there had

never been previous odour concerns reported to Mainstream Aquaculture or authorities, and provided his number to residents to contact him directly if they did seek to raise concerns.

"I'm certainly not suggesting there was not an issue (earlier this month), because absolutely there was, but I am very strongly suggesting that this is the first time that we have had an issue

where we have interrupted our neighbours and the local community and we are working incredibly hard to deal with it," Mr Musa said.

"I think on reflection we could have taken a different approach, especially immediately post the mass mortalities we could have taken measures to remove and dispose of fish faster.

"It probably rings hollow to the neighbours but you

don't plan for a mass mortality event when running a successful aquaculture business. So we probably didn't have the infrastructure capability to rapidly remove such a large number of fish from the pond.

"We are now investing in that infrastructure and we're going to have that on site. That's a significant cost to the company," Mr Musa said.



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# Living coral arc awarded



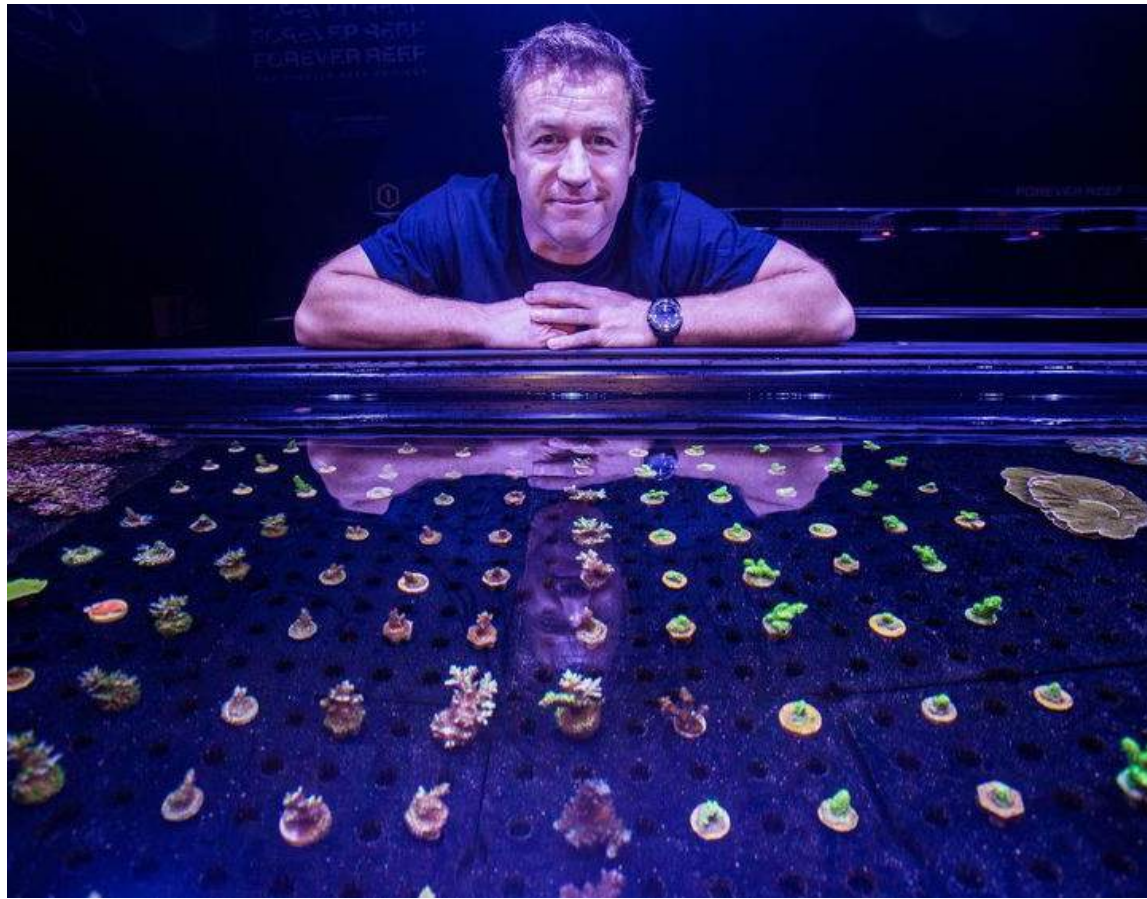
Jules Foxlee  
Journalist

Local conservationist Dr Dean Miller has won Australian Geographic Society's inaugural \$50,000 Awards for Nature prize for the Forever Reef Project which safeguards the biodiversity of the Great Barrier Reef by collecting and preserving living samples of coral species in a coral biobank.

Described as the "first awards program wholly dedicated to the planet," the program provides "continuing, financial and practical assistance to courageous change-makers who are spearheading scientifically informed, local solutions to problems that tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, habitat degradation, feral invasive species and pollution."

Dr Miller, the Forever Reef Project's co-founder and managing director, said it was an incredible honour to accept the first-ever Award for Nature prize.

"We are deeply humbled by this recognition and the generosity behind it. The \$50,000 grant will significantly aid our mission to collect all Great Barrier Reef coral species by 2026," he said.



Dr Dean Miller has won Australian Geographic Society's inaugural \$50,000 Awards for Nature prize for the Forever Reef Project. Picture: Supplied

The prize money will fund an expedition to remote parts of the Great Barrier Reef next year, with the aim of adding 50 new samples to the collection which is currently housed at the Cairns Aquarium.

"We've already collected 179 coral species. With sufficient funding and support we will collect all 415 species by 2026," Dr Miller said.

Launched in 2019, the Forever Reef Project by Great Barrier Reef Legacy is the world's first and only living coral biobank dedicated to preserving Great Barrier Reef corals.

"Our mission is simple - we will collect all 415 species of Great Barrier Reef corals and keep them alive in our state-of-the-art facility. We will also provide live fragments,

tissue samples, and genetic material available to aid in reef research and restoration efforts," Dr Miller said.

"Essentially the Forever Reef Project is a living coral ark. Time is of the essence. The window of opportunity to collect the remaining coral species is rapidly closing. With every new coral bleaching event we are losing the most vulnerable corals and reefs."

## Engineer says cyclone fit homes are few

Shaun Hollis  
Journalist

A chief engineer specialising in cyclone-proofing buildings has issued a fresh warning to homeowners to be prepared as Far North Queensland's peak cyclone season approaches.

James Cook University Cyclone Testing Station director Dr David Henderson said "massive changes" to building standards and safety guidelines led to much safer housing being built in the early 1980s in the wake of Cyclone Tracy, but those homes were now getting older.

Factors such as rust, corrosion and termites were all playing a part, he said. If the homes were people, they might by now be "balding on top and fairly thick in the middle".

"The houses that shelter us are just big machines.. they've got to be maintained," Dr Henderson said.

The fresh warning follows the launch of a Bureau of Meteorology campaign last month to encourage Queenslanders to prepare for cyclones by packing an emergency kit, planning what to do in the event of a cyclone hitting, and downloading the BOM app.

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# NEWS HARVEST

Bryan Littlely  
Editor

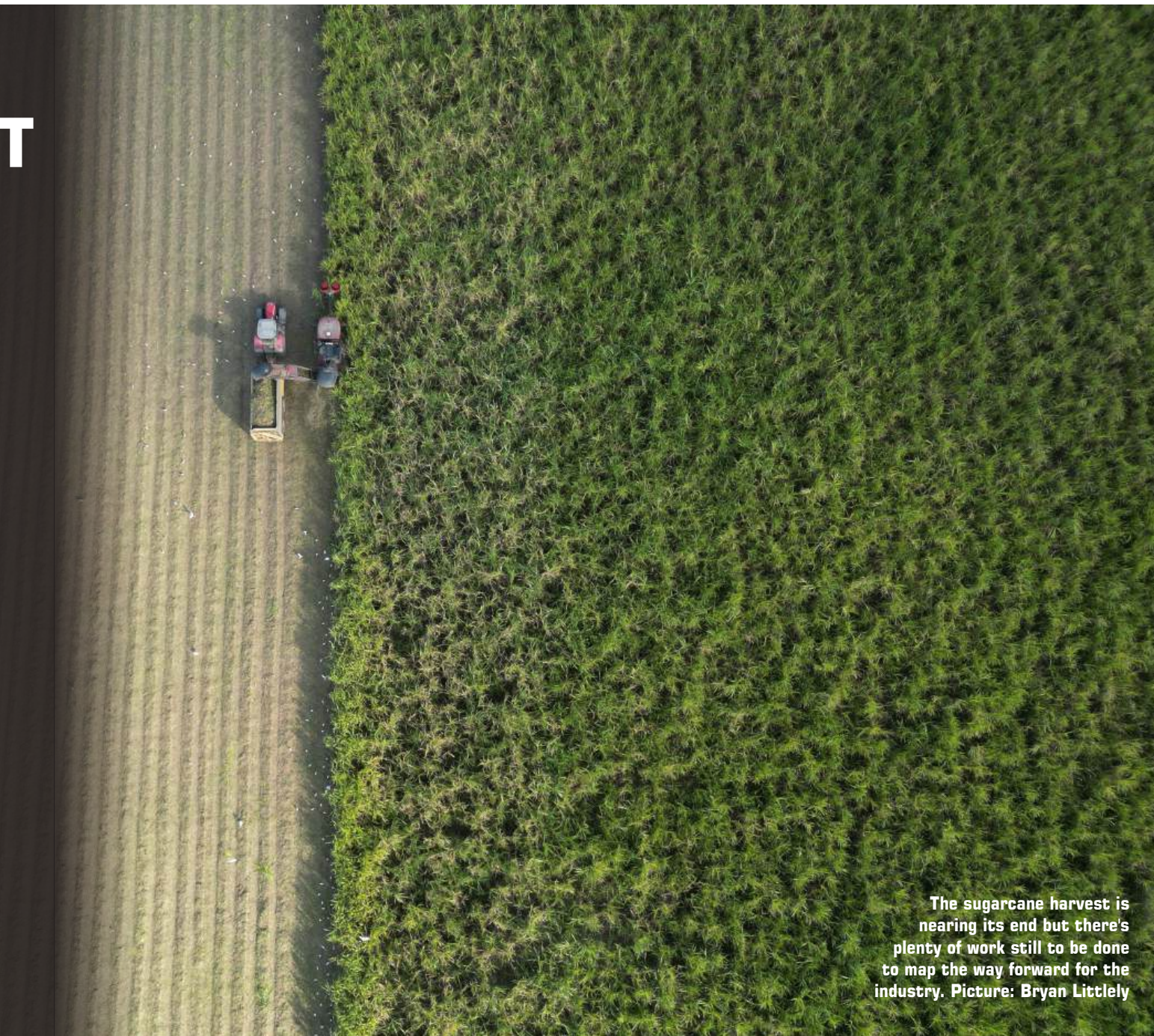
The sugarcane harvest is fast coming to a close, but the work to map the future for the industry and its growers is still in full swing.

As results from the Cane-growers AGM on November 20 are tallied to determine the new executive, with a commitment from LNP to support next year's local harvest and the Transition Plan still a talking point, there's plenty of news to harvest too.

Newsport has been and will continue to be there to harvest that news... first and freshest through our website, email alerts and in print.

Our team is committed to bringing you the news, sports and community coverage of the Douglas Shire.

Help us harvest it... send your tips, letters, pics and questions to editor@newsport.com.au



The sugarcane harvest is nearing its end but there's plenty of work still to be done to map the way forward for the industry. Picture: Bryan Littlely

## Council to de-nut more coconut palms

The number of coconut palms needing to be "de-nutted" to reduce the risk of a nut falling on someone's head has increased by close to 9 per cent since July, a new Douglas Shire Council audit reveals.

Although the full results of the comprehensive survey have not yet been fully collated, at least 1600 coconut palms would likely now be undergoing the twice-yearly treatment across the district, based on figures from the 2015/16 financial year when the most recent audit was done.

During the last audit a decade ago, the price tag for de-nutting and other coconut palm maintenance totalled \$250,000.

Although it is unclear yet how much the total cost will be this financial year, it has gone up by at least 39 per cent, the audit shows.

## The final count is in for seat of Cook

The Electoral Commission of Queensland has announced all declarations for the 2024 State General election have been completed and the writ has been returned to the Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Dr Jeanette Young.

In the seat of Cook, LNP's David Kempton was officially declared victor with 14,419 (54.98%) of the preferential vote, defeating Labor's Cynthia Lui with 11,808 (45.02%).

The official first preference vote, however, had Ms Lui just a nose in front of Mr Kempton, by 16 votes, 8744 to 8728.

KAP candidat Duane "Mossy" Amos picked up 5158 of the 26,227 votes cast in Cook, with Pauline Hanson's One Nation Queensland Division runner Peter Campion polling 1832 votes and Queensland Greens Troy Miller getting 1765 votes.

# It's all GO for Slow Street

Newsport's snap poll on the speed limit drop coming to the Macrossan Street main drag of Port Douglas has landed a minimal "YES" vote... but the weight of commentary from readers suggests 40kph for the full length of the strip is enough.

A total 210 votes were cast in the poll, 115 (55%) in favour of a drop in the speed with 95 saying "NO" (45%).

But comments made on the story and through Newsport's Facebook page suggest a mix of speed limits - 40kph from Davidson Street to Grant Street, and 30kph from Grant to Wharf Street - is confusing.

Reader Ethel Krantz commented: "Between Grant and Wharf St traffic already moves at 30kph or less due to the pedestrian crossings



Blue Dog Surf's Pam Lewis says 40kph speed limits for the entire Macrossan St would be suitable. Picture: Bryan Littlely

and cars looking for a parking spot. If the point of this is to improve pedestrian safety then traffic calming devices at the intersection of Mac-

rossan and Davidson would be a better suggestion."

While one reader called for the justification for the speed limit drop saying, "When was

anyone killed or maimed by a vehicle in Macrossan St? Where is the justification for a reduction? Who is instigating this reduction and why? Produce the accident figures to substantiate."

Close to 50 comments were posted on the story on Newsport's Facebook, overwhelmingly critical of the speed drop or steering towards a 40kph speed for the length of the street to save on confusion.

And we received Letters and comments to the Editor on the topic also, including from a professional driver - a taxi driver - who fears driving down the street due to the risk of young pedestrians stepping out in front of him.

"I'm a taxi driver. I think 30kph is the safest speed limit reason being people just

walk out in front of vehicles all the time," Allan Way said.

"Teenagers and young children are my biggest fear, or idiots in cars parked in centre road parking. So please consider 30kph."

Angela Blyth overlooks part of the street and made another suggestion to improve safety.

"How about a stop sign at the corner of Blake Street and Garrick Street?" she said.

"Nobody stops at the corner, I have a great view from my verandah. I've seen many near misses, and a couple of hits. Get rid of the give way sign, replace with a Stop sign."

The speed limit changes are expected to be in place any day, and operational by the end of November. The changes are the actions of the Department of Transport.

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# 10 YEARS AGO

## Community groups receive funding from Bendigo Bank

Bendigo Bank has handed out over \$15,000 to local community groups at a cheque presentation ceremony in Port Douglas on Tuesday night.

At the presentations, held at Niramaya Resort and Spa, Bendigo Bank Far North Queensland manager Tony Jensen presented cheques to member organisations of Cairns Community Enterprise, including Paws for Claws in Mossman and the Clink Theatre in Port Douglas.

Bendigo made \$9596.31 in direct contributions and gave \$6000 in grants on the night.

The evening was also used to announce an ambitious project by local economic development group Douglas Inc to provide free Wi-Fi in Port Douglas, which Bendigo Bank has provided funding for.

Mr Jensen said the amount of money given indicated the success of Bendigo's Community Bank model, where the bank's customers nominate fundraising recipients in their



Community Groups received over \$15,000 from the Bendigo Bank

local area.

"Tonight is showcasing some of the great outcomes we've been able to achieve, and it's all off the back of people locally banking with Bendigo Bank," Mr Jensen said.

"It's great to see everyone getting out and supporting their community like this.

Mr Jensen pointed out the success of some of the Port Douglas's branch's key local projects, including the provision of an oven to the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre.



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# Meet Sotheby's dynamic duo



Jamie Jansen  
Journalist

Amanda Haines, a well-known face at Queensland Sotheby's Realty in Port Douglas, is kicking off an exciting new adventure alongside local real estate powerhouse Barbara Wolveridge. Together, they form Team Wolveridge, a dynamic duo set to elevate the high-end property experience across the region.

With Ms Wolveridge's expert negotiation skills and Ms Haines's flair for innovative marketing and property presentation, Team Wolveridge brings a powerful synergy to the Douglas Shire's high-end real estate market.

Though both agents maintain their own listings, their collaboration means clients benefit from a team approach.

"Clients who work with Barbara will also have my support with marketing and enquiries, and vice versa," Ms Haines added.

"By joining forces, we can handle a higher volume of listings without sacrificing quality or personalised service - something that would be much harder if we were each working solo."

Ms Haines's transition to her new role is supported by a solid background in operations and client experi-



Barbara Wolveridge and Amanda Haines, the dynamic duo behind Team Wolveridge, bring their combined expertise and passion to luxury real estate in the Douglas Shire. Picture: Queensland Sotheby's International Realty

ence management, from her decade in luxury charters, paired with hands-on experience at Sotheby's over the past year.

Her structured, detail-oriented approach perfectly complements Ms Wolveridge's energetic, client-focused style.

"Together, we offer a full spectrum of skills to benefit our clients," Ms Haines explained.

"Barbara has an incredible way of connecting with cli-

ents and leveraging her extensive network, while I focus on making listings stand out through high-quality marketing, impactful media assets, and social media presence."

When asked about her vision for clients and the community, Ms Haines emphasised the importance of clear, consistent communication.

"It's essential to listen and truly understand both buyers' and vendors' goals," she said. "It's not just about finding a house; it's about helping

clients find a home that fits their lifestyle."

For Ms Haines, matching clients to their ideal property goes beyond aesthetics; it's about capturing the feeling they want in a home.

"While some clients may be drawn to minimalist, open spaces, their daily lifestyle might call for something else entirely. That's why I ask, 'What does your ideal day look like at home?' It's about uncovering those personal nuances."

This dedication to understanding client needs is also a hallmark of Ms Wolveridge's approach, which has built her lasting relationships in the community.

"Barbara's clients keep coming back because she forms lasting bonds. She's often helped clients buy and sell multiple times, guiding them to new homes that match their evolving lifestyles," Ms Haines said.

With a blend of experience, creativity, and a deep commitment to client satisfaction, Team Wolveridge is set to make waves in the Douglas Shire's luxury real estate scene.



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# Dave fires through 50 years

Bryan Littlely  
Editor

Wonga Beach Rural Fire Service volunteer David Price, 68, may not head out on the truck anymore, but his dedication to helping to protect life and property throughout his community has not waned for 50 years.

David began his rural fire-fighting journey aged "around 18" in Goulburn, NSW, spending 40 years as a volunteer in NSW before moving to Wonga where he has been a constant face at the Wonga Beach RFS for the past decade.

On Australia Day, 2025, his 50 years of volunteering will be recognised by his peers and the community.

"I had some mates where I used to live go along to the fire service so I just went along too as it was something to get involved in," he said.



Wonga Beach RFS volunteer has hit 50 years of service as a firefighter. Picture: Bryan Littlely

"It was known then as Civil Defence, then the Bushfire Brigade and later the Rural Fire Service."

His firefighting took him

into the devastation of the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria where 173 people lost their lives, and he was there in Canberra in Jan-

uary 2003 "the day fire blew over Canberra".

Wonga Beach RFS has around 20 active members, and David says it is a strong

team who all get along well.

David says that, due to his health, he can no longer go on the trucks to attend fires and other emergencies, but he still is able to and enjoys manning the station and keeping that operating smoothly.

"We did a lot of clean up after Cyclone Jasper... We were busy for a long time with that.

"The group we've got here get along together. They're very welcoming and we've built a bigger station in the time that we have been here."

David's wife, Michelle, also is a dedicated volunteer with Wonga Beach RFS and still attends fire emergencies, herself closing in on 50 years of service.

Wonga Beach rural fire brigade captain Stuart Yendle was in August recognised by Queensland RFS as the Volunteer of the Year for the Northern Region.

## PALM COVE SHINES

Tourism Palm Cove president Matthew Cork has praised premier Palm Cove tourism operators The Reef House Adults Retreat and Skypark Cairns by AJ Hackett as winners at the Queensland Tourism and Industry Council Awards held on Friday night, November 15.

The Reef House Adults Retreat won the award for 5-Star Luxury Accommodation, while Skypark Cairns by AJ Hackett took home the gong for RACQ People's Choice Experiences and Service.

Also picking up an award was Cape York Peninsula Lodge for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Tourism Experiences.

## NEW GRADUATE COPS

More than 40 new Queensland Police Service (QPS) officers were sworn in during a twilight ceremony at the QPS Academy in Oxley on Thursday, November 14.

Nearly all recruits who graduated from this cohort will be deployed outside Brisbane to support regional communities, with one graduate penciled in to be posted at Mossman.

Aged between 19 and 40, these officers are a result of QPS's record-breaking global recruitment drive.

## New crew, same Daintree vibe

New owners of the eclectic Daintree Village Caravan Park Michael Heiser, his wife Elena and son Bryle "Bill" are no strangers to living in a remote paradise.

They have been living and working in the caravan park, tour and even crocodile business for years up Cape York, on Entrance Island and

Thursday Island, and coming to Daintree Village has been a bit of a look at increased civilisation.

"I love it here," Michael said.

"Why wouldn't you love it? It oozes history.

"This town wouldn't be here without a lot of the stuff that is on show here in this

museum," he said.

A diverse mix of historic timber trade and heritage items along with "pop culture" pieces including the still serving Mr Whippy van which acts as a kiosk, are some of the things visitors can enjoy at the park, even if they are not staying as guests.



Michael, Elena and Bryle Heiser have taken over the Daintree Village Caravan Park. Picture: Bryan Littlely

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# JUNGLE DRUM: A Wonderful Time Of Year

Over the past twelve months, you would have to be a rare individual if you had not questioned living in this region. Biblical deluges with mountains literally dissolving before our eyes, roads in tatters, water supply tenuous, and follow up rain relentless.

It's not at all uncommon to see people who have moved here recently pack up and leave with a 'For Sale' sign out front. In years such as this it's often only a matter of time before the bugs, crocs and snakes combine with the never ending mould and people return to the cold but more familiar place they came from.

I have lived here all my life and at times have wondered why the hell I am still here at times this year. I can't imagine what it is like for a newby. But then, almost every year, October comes in with its magic weather and all is forgiven. Sometimes like this year, the magic continues into November.

Cool, clear nights with lovely warm days, and mostly calm seas. Hot enough to enjoy a swim in the creek, but not muggy and sweaty. Cool enough at night to need a sheet to stay warm. Dry enough that the bugs are down to a dull roar.

Look up to the hills and the Silky Oaks are flowering and a light green already covering

many of the landslides. The Woopos are back and many of the birds are active and nesting. Baby Cassowaries are learning the ropes under Dad's watchful eye.

The sea is a beautiful blue, the coral getting ready to spawn, and the coastline so amazing I doubt the best artist could fully capture it. Now is when we take the marketing images....

The Jakfruit and Mango-steens are laden with fruit, and the Durians, Rambutans, Breadfruit and other tropical fruit will soon flower.

The Crocodiles and Snakes have arisen from their winter dormancy, and that does require some caution, but most of us know the drill.

I can never for the life of me understand why this time of the year is a 'shoulder'. People come here in droves in winter risking howling south easters and freezing rain squalls. Many of our reptiles and amphibians are simply snoozing, waiting for warmth, and while we can and do get amazing winter weather, the risks of bad weather can be high.

For me, the time from late September to mid November is the 'most wonderful time of the year'.



To read more of Jungle Drum scan this QR code



In celebration of Seniors Month, Port Douglas locals joined the "Seniors Ride to Lunch," fostering friendships and community bonds through a scenic group bike ride. Picture: Rainforest n Reef Cycling Club

## Seniors wheel into friendship

Jamie Jansen  
Journalist

Who says you can't pedal your way to new friendships? This October, in honour of Seniors Month, one Port Douglas local took a creative spin on combatting loneliness, organising a "Seniors Ride to Lunch" event that got residents on two wheels and building connections.

The event's spark came from Angela Johnson, a key member of the Rainforest n Reef Cycling Club and owner of the Bike Shop & Hire, who saw the need for seniors to connect in meaningful ways.

The "Seniors Ride to Lunch" attracted 23 participants of varying cycling backgrounds, from beginners to more seasoned riders, all ready to embrace the ride's

core mission: to promote cycling as a way to connect, support one another, and build strong bonds.

As they cycled along Port Douglas's scenic routes, riders shared stories, laughter, and memorable moments, leaving the day-to-day stresses behind in exchange for a true sense of belonging.


Reflecting on the day, Angela Johnson noted that the

event was about much more than exercise.

"It's a powerful way to connect and we saw friendships formed and even people who came alone found themselves leaving with new connections," Ms Johnson said.



To read the full story scan this QR code



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# SOCIALS

Jamie Jansen visited Mossman High School to capture the graduates.

Colour Run: Mossman High Students



**Sporting Representative Honours – House Captains, Nikita McDonald, Hannah Jacobsen, Prudence Dean with sporting reps – Caitlyn Butland, Jezzelle Brim, Zamirah Wild, Blair Zahnnow, Brooke Harold, Sophie Hamilton FRONT – Ezi Masi-Lansana, Charlie Brischetto, Kai Wall, Reilly De Carlo, Billy Meager, Dallas Shepherdson.**



**Cody Lundstrom-Postlewaight (Gold Award for Instrumentalist of the Year & The Jack Heywood Foundation Arts & Culture Award)**



**School Captain Byron Filmer**



**Neesha Bayne, Tahla Merrilees & Tilly Borzi (Year 12 students)**



**House Captains announcing the Sporting Awards – Sophie Hamilton (Junior Sportmanship), Byron Filmer, Jasmine Allery, Nikita McDonald, Veronica Reynolds (P&C Secretary), Hannah Jacobsen, Prudence Dean.**

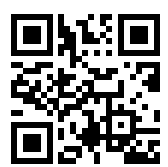


**> Natasha Scenna – Year 8 JCU Shield**

# WHAT'S ON

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



## NOVEMBER 22

Big Pups @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

Friday Night Sound Healing, Time: 7pm - 8pm, Location: Port Douglas Yoga Studio

## NOVEMBER 23

The Panda Room Presents - Mosh Potatoes, Time: 4:00pm - 10:00pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

Saturday Casual Ice-Bathing, Time: 11.30 Am - 1.30 Pm, Location: Yoga In The Tropics Studio

Hay Bale Gardening At Circle Of Plenty, Time: 8 Am - 10 Am, Location: Circle Of Plenty, Mossman Botanic Garden

## NOVEMBER 24

Port Douglas' Soprano Holly Dowell Recital, Time: 3pm - 4.30pm, Location: St Mary Catholic Church

Ivy Amara @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

## NOVEMBER 26

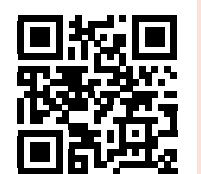
Gardening at the CIRCLE OF PLENTY, Time: 7 am - 8.30am, Location: Circle of Plenty, Mossman Botanic Garden

## REAL ESTATE

**OPEN HOME,** 26 Solander Boulevard, Port Douglas Thursday 21 November 4:30-5:00pm Ray White

**OPEN HOME,** 42 Endeavour Street, Port Douglas Friday 22 November 9:30am - 10:30am Tony McGrath

**OPEN HOME,** 6/7 Garrick Street, Port Douglas Saturday 23 November 10:00am Raine & Horne



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

## NOVEMBER 28

Light Up The Park event, Time: 3pm - 6pm, Location: George Davis Park

Supa-Sal & Wevs Quiz Night, Time: 7pm, Location: Club Mossman

## NOVEMBER 29

Yahdoh, Time: 7pm - 10:00pm, Location: Club Mossman

Friday Night Sound Healing, Time: 7pm - 8pm, Location: Port Douglas Yoga Studio

## DECEMBER 1

Cloud Nine Reggae band, Time: 4pm - 7pm, Location: Club Mossman

## DECEMBER 4

Free Kids Fun Yoga & Mindfulness Playshop, Time: 10 am, Location: Port Douglas Neighborhood Center

## DECEMBER 5

Open Mic @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 6:00pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

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



Junior Crocs girls players from last season. The Port Douglas team aims to build its female player numbers. Picture: Port Douglas Football Club

## Girl Power

Girls Represent! Junior Crocs have held 'Girls Only' Come & Try sessions at the Port Douglas Junior Football Club this month as it strives to get more local girls into the great game of AFL.

The Crocs hope to add an Under 15s Girls team along with an Under 17s Girls team in the Cairns AFL Comp in 2025.

Crocs U17 Girls coach Darren Senior Women's team

coach Chris Barber and captain Caity Walsh have led fun training sessions for the girls aged 8 to 17.

While the Come & Try days are done, the Crocs are ready to hear from any girls

wanting to play footy, whether they have experience or not.

And they're keen to see current players return to encourage growth in girls footy at the successful club.

## Bag a big one



Pat and Jim Hutton from Mossman Ice, Boat and Tackle Shop say they've heard some tall stories from fishermen. Picture: Bryan Littleley

Shaun Hollis  
Journalist

One of your best chances to reel in a legendary giant of the sea, is right now with the annual marlin fishing competition being held in the region now, November 20 to 23.

The annual Port Douglas Marlin Challenge draws game fishers from far and wide hoping to earn bragging rights by hooking a prized fish.

The area is known for being one of the best marlin fishing areas in the world, and all participants will be dreaming of catching a coveted 1000 pounder.

Long-term Mossman Ice Boat and Tackle Shop owners Pat and Jim Hutton say, although marlin are generally reserved for the high-end fishing market based out of Cairns and Port Douglas, a "select few" more grassroots local fishers sometimes pull

one in.

Pat says her and husband Jim have heard plenty of tall tales of big fish - including marlin and mackerel - throughout their 38-year experience in the industry.

"You hear some stories," Pat says.

"They're all good ones, you've just gotta work out which ones are true."

And people occasionally turn up to the shop with the real-deal marlin on board.

"We had two guys from Bermagui (in NSW) who wanted to store theirs in our fridge," Pat says.

And one local recently posted on a Mossman Boat and Fishing Club social media page a photo of himself with a more than 1.5m mackerel.

Fishing in the Port Douglas Marlin Challenge started at 11am on Wednesday, November 20, with the presentation night to be held on Saturday, November 23, at Salsa.

## A Champion's triumphant return

Giada Pestillo  
Journalist

The sun-drenched sands of Palm Cove have provided the perfect setting for a remarkable race on Melbourne Cup Day, where former equestrian champion Danielle Jackman thrilled the crowd with a comeback performance on horse Mr Nibbles.

Under bright skies at the fundraiser on Tuesday, No-

vember 5, organised by Nu Nu Restaurant, Jackman took Mr Nibbles through a full-speed gallop on the beach, ultimately claiming victory and helping raise more than \$125,000 for charity.

"Any chance to ride a beautiful horse on a beautiful beach, I'm in," Jackman says.

Her background is in elite-level competition, a lifelong passion that led her to compete internationally in

horse trials, which included dressage, cross country and show jumping.

As a teenager, she built her first company providing equestrian support staff across the world, and at 22, she made her international competition debut.

The former elite athlete reflected on her time training with horse-industry legends such as Bart Cummings, Andrew Hoy and Lucinda Green,

sharing how these experiences moulded her approach to both life and competition.

"All great trainers have the same qualities in common - compassion, discipline, and an unending quest to understand their animals," Jackman says.



To read the full story scan this QR code



Danielle Jackman rode horse Mr Nibbles to victory during a Melbourne Cup Day charity race in Palm Cove. Picture: Brian Cassey

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