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Carols bring calm after the storm of 2024

By Byron Filmer
Reporter

It is a peaceful way to close a tumultuous year, calm carols singing under the Mossman Raintrees for twins Zoe and Mia Foster and, Lilyanne Collins.

And while 2024 has been one of the toughest

for the Douglas Shire with the long term impacts of Cyclone Jasper and the closure of the Mossman Mill, Pastor Nadia Abraham of the Douglas Shire Combined Churches says the key to getting through is "look after neighbours".

Continued on Page 6

We Can't Pay The Ferryman

Bryan Littlely
Editor

COUNCILLORS will keep a monthly watch on the money spent and potential builder and operator of the proposed \$5 million four-lane Daintree Ferry with Deputy Mayor Roy Zammataro saying council won't be able to pay for it if there is no interest from private enterprise.

At the Tuesday, December 10, council meeting, Cr Zammataro successfully moved that councillors be provided financial reports relating to the Daintree Ferry.

"I think it is something we need to know... how much this ferry is costing and the second point is if we get an update of the interest of private enterprise to purchase and operate it," he said.

"If it is going to cost millions of dollars to build this ferry, I would like to know monthly if we have got people interested and can purchase this ferry.

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A YEAR ON FROM JASPER - Pages 4 & 5

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Merry Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE TEAM AT WILLIAMS CETE & CO

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Port Douglas's dingo debate

Bryan Littlely
Editor

DOUGLAS Shire Council says it will not change its approach to trapping and destroying dingoes in Port Douglas as it responds to multiple reports of the native dogs chasing people near the Port Douglas Sports Complex.

Council says it uses traps to capture dingoes under guidelines set out under Queensland's Biosecurity Act 2014.

"Community safety is the number one priority during this process," the spokesperson said. "A number of residents have contacted Council about dingoes during the second half of this year.

"The incidents have included dingoes stalking and chasing residents. Many of the incidents have occurred at or near the Port Douglas Sports Complex."

Council has sent a strong message that any damage or known interference with dingo traps would be reported to police.

Cairns-based dingo and croc-



Dingoes have made the Port Douglas skatepark their domain.
Picture: Bryan Littlely

codile conservationist Luke Cooper races to protect the dingoes, calling it "absolute nonsense" and "crazy" to try to trap them which will, by the law of the Act, mean they must be destroyed.

"What I think Port Douglas needs is signage and education about the dingoes... if people are educated, you're not going to be getting reports of problems with dingoes," he said.

"I'm going to working on these laws to be changed and getting signage up, along with broader education on dingoes to get that protection for them happening faster."

Croc sightings have risen in 2024

Shaun Hollis
Journalist

THERE have been at least 42 reported crocodile sightings in the Port Douglas area so far this year, up from 34 in 2023.

Crocodiles have been seen basking on suburban streets, swimming at Four Mile Beach, and sunning themselves on golf courses and near local lagoons, according to the State Government Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation Department (DETSI) official figures.

At least two crocs have been removed from the region in the past two years to help protect the safety of residents. The exclusive figures have been released by DETSI in an effort to remind people to stay vigilant about the presence of crocodiles and always stay "Crocwise".

There have been multiple reports this year from Warri Park Wetland, Port Douglas, including a 2.5m-3m animal. In May last year a member of the public reported that a "large crocodile charged out of the lake and headed for his dog on a lead".

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Farewell our local locos

Bryan Littlely
Editor

IT WAS both enthralling and heartbreaking, the loading up of every last loco from the Mossman Sugar Mill to transport them around 200km to MSF Sugar's operations at South Johnstone on Tuesday, December 10

Ian Arcus watched on across all of Tuesday, camera and video in hand as part of his Ian Arcus Photographics business, as the rolling stock rolled out of the mill to be lifted by two cranes and placed in a precision operation onto low-loaders for the trip to their new homes.

And as the much loved mill locos left, seen trundling through Mossman for the last time - on trucks and not tracks - and mixed in traffic on the range, Douglas residents have emotionally responded on Newport's Facebook page.

"I saw one of the locos leaving town today on the back of a truck. The 'Faughy'. So sad to see," said Ethel Woods.



Mossman Mill locomotives being loaded onto trucks and transported to MSF Sugar's South Johnstone operations. Picture: Ian Arcus Photographics C-2024

"My 8 year old was very excited and then sad to see 'Douglas' on the back of the truck," added Lara Doctor. And from Sam Gusmeroli: "Oh no! My 3 year old son makes us drive into the mill to see them. He's going to be devastated! No more toot toot's for Bear".

There has also been almost as much speculation on what it means for Mossman Mill that the

locos have been sold and removed, many commentators saying it signals the end of the line for the mill.

"That's the last knife in the back for the mill," wrote Steve Fuller.

"Mill's been on life support for last 5 plus yrs, had multiple owners, all bailed out," added Russ Cook.

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Spiegelent gone from Carnivale

The Carnivale is over for the captivating Wonderland Spiegelent, the powers behind the authentic 1920s Spiegelent at Dixie Park, saying the fallout from Cyclone Jasper and road closures on the eve of their 2024 season delivered an unrecoverable hit

"This year, while fulfilling the last year of our contract for the Port Douglas Carnivale 2024, we were significantly impacted by the repercussions of Cyclone Jasper, as were all businesses in the Shire," Wonderland Presents' Melissa Head said.

"We were down 70 per cent in presales in February, and road closures announced to begin on May 8 forced us to cancel eight shows, resulting in a loss of 2000 tickets.

"The road closure on May 8 worsened this severe life-changing blow to our business and the 2024 season, our heavy reliance on customers from Cairns and beyond, especially for the shows we programmed outside of Carnivale week, leaving us with a hit from which we could not recover."

Wonderland Presents suggested the economic impact the production brings to the Douglas Shire region annually is 4000 people in 10 days and more than \$1 million in the economy for accommodation, overnight stays, and restaurants.

"Although we successfully navigated the challenges of the COVID-19 years, the exceedingly harsh economic climate we've faced over the past 12 months and the hit from Cyclone Jasper in Far North QLD have made it impossible to continue our operations," Melissa said.

Petition against Cooya Quarry

A petition opposing the development of a large-scale sand quarry on Bonnie Doon Road into Cooya Beach has garnered around 500 signatures in just a week, with those behind it calling for Douglas Shire Council to reject the development application for the sand quarry.

The petition highlights significant environmental and community concerns with residents who have voiced their support through comments and signatures.

Bernard Nagan, the petitioner, whose family home is less than

50m from the boundary of the proposed quarry says "This proposed sand quarry threatens not only the character of our rural community but also poses serious environmental risks to the wetlands vital to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People.

"We must protect our land and heritage from such developments," he added.

Protecting the land and consulting with traditional owners who have the knowledge of the fragile environment is something Linc Walker of Kuku Yalanji Cul-

tural Habitat Tours says must be front of mind.

"But they have so far completely ignored us and there has been no consultation," Mr Walker said. "They have done a cultural survey... but they have not spoken to us. This has to be stopped.

"The mangrove trees are the biggest carbon grabber in the world... it's just recovered but one flood through a quarry would devastate them and the seagrasses out there.

"The fishing industry should be very worried about this proposal."



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THEN & NOW... A YEAR ON FROM JASPER



The toilet block near Foxton Bridge during the floods. Picture: Douglas Shire Council collection. Inset: Gavin Creek and Wally Reid. Picture: Bryan Littlely

Our Ancestors 'gave it a flush'

Kuku-Yalanji man Gavin Creek says the Mossman River flooding following Cyclone Jasper must have been "the old people thinking it was time it had a good flush."

"Our ancestors are always looking after us and this land, night and day," he said when we caught up

with him at the park near Foxton Bridge, Mossman River North.

"Back in the days, the water wouldn't have come that far up."

Images from the floods show the mural covered toilets almost completely submerged. 18 people were rescued in the flooding.

A ghostly reminder

Armed with a torch, Tanya Bown, stood in the News Extra shop window on the Sunday afternoon waving to Pia McKeown to show that she was there. In the aftermath of the frightening day, the photographer thought the grainy figure in the photograph was a ghost.

Tanya said while she was very much real, and safe at the moment

the picture was taken, it was a surreal experience.

"The whole thing was quite frightening," Tanya said. "I was ok and safe but when emergency services came they said I absolutely had to leave and I was very grateful of their advice and help. "I had that Sunday night at the Woolies car park as a lot of people did."



Tanya Bown casts a ghostly figure in the window of the News Extra in Front Street, Mossman. INSET: Tanya Bown this week. Pic: Pia McKeown.

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THEN & NOW... A YEAR ON FROM JASPER



Pia and Peter McKeown, with granddaughter Georgie Zboril, outside their Temptations Cafe this week. Picture: Bryan Littlely INSET: At the height of the flooding on December 15. Picture: Douglas Shire Council supplied.

Mossman after the flood

Baby Georgie Zboril is not too sure what all the fuss is about but is happy to be in a photograph with her grandparents Pia and Peter McKeown outside their Temptations Cafe in Front Street, Mossman.

Little Georgie has just three months of life experience, enough to bring a lot of joy to her family in the last part of a year from hell, but not enough to know the beast that delivered that hell for them, their neighbours, business owners and the broader Mossman and Douglas community on December 13, 2023... Cyclone Jasper.

She will, though, in time be able to look at the stacks of images family and friends took of the floods which followed Jasper and hear the story of how the town she calls home was changed forever.

On the anniversary of Cyclone Jasper striking our region, we've taken a 'then and now' look at images provided by residents for the Douglas Shire Council's display of events in the days of devastation.

"The cyclone wasn't a problem but it was that rain and aftermath," Pia McKeown said outside Temptations, one of two business she owns in Front Street, Mossman, impacted by the floods.



Staff at Casa Mia start the clean-up process a year ago. Picture: Courtesy Douglas Shire Council

"We had never seen water in our businesses before."

Husband Peter said his mother-in-law has lived all her life in Mossman and had never seen flooding come from the southern end of the town.

"It was just disgusting," Pia said of the aftermath and clean-up of shops and businesses through the township.

"Everyone has done it tough or 12 months. People are just starting to get their insurance sorted now in some cases.

"Business are still closed or have relocated and shops shut up. It has been exhausting and really draining."

The McKeown's other business, fashion outlet Casa Mia, also took the impact of the floodwaters.

LDMP installed on eve of anniversary

On the eve of the one year anniversary of Cyclone Jasper, Douglas Shire Council has approved its local disaster management plan, putting the seal on it at the meeting on Tuesday, December 10.

Under the Disaster Management Act 2003, a local government must prepare and approve a plan for disaster management in the local government's area.

While work on updating the existing plan has been ongoing as the council managed the recovery process for Cyclone Jasper and the subsequent flooding, including a more than \$37 million spend of Queensland Disaster Relief Funds through the Queensland Reconstruction Authority for works, "minor errors" in the plan needed to be addressed.

Reviewed by the Local Disaster Coordinator, Paul Hoyer, it also needed to have added context in relation to key assets and the recovery from Cyclone Jasper and the associated flooding and to reflect the new Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group, Mayor Lisa Scmazzon.

Councillor Damian Meadows paid tribute to the work of Mr Hoyer in moving the motion to accept the plan.

"The experience that Paul has in this space is second to none in Far North Queensland and I have heard many people from other shires who have spoken about Paul's experience," he said.

Councillor Michael Rees called those from council on the Local Disaster Management Group, the "golden trifecta" of Mr Hoyer, Mayor Scmazzon and ex-police Sergeant Cr Damian Meadows.

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Carols bring calm

Continued from Page 1

Pastor Abraham said there had been a rise in locals visiting church over the past 12 months.

"A lot more people have approached us this year outside of our services," she said.

"We could offer emotional support and simply give them someone to talk to. We made a substantial difference after the floods.

"Christmas is about peace and love and care for one another. Have comfort in the knowledge that community is so caring and loving; we have seen evidence of that this Year.

"This is what Christmas is all about... Care for your neighbour."

Mossman Red Cross

Mossman Red Cross has staged a successful fundraising raffle, branch secretary Marveen Hodgson saying the branch is very grateful to the continuing support from the donors and also to the general public for support.

The winners are: Quicksilver: Jo, Hartley's Crocodile Adventures : Val, Wildlife Habitat: Jacki, Marano's Fuel: Glen Stratton, Daintree River Cruise Centre: Pauline, Birdworld and Kuranda Koala Gardens: Wayne, Chillys: Leanne, Mossman Memorial Bowls Club Inc: Heather, Ron Savage, Liz, Dinner Service (Donated): Barbara Singe.

Quicksilver cruises to 20 years of Christmas

THE HOLIDAY season will be brighter for many in Far North Queensland as the annual Quicksilver Group Christmas Charity Appeal marks its 20th year of supporting those in need.

Beneficiaries of this year's appeal include the Douglas Shire community, Salvation Army Cairns, and St Vincent de Paul Cairns, with all donations helping to make the season special for families and individuals experiencing hardship.

Tony Baker, Managing Director of the Quicksilver Group, expressed pride in the appeal's enduring legacy.

"This year marks 20 years since our annual Christmas Charity Appeal first began in 2004 and over the years we're exceptionally proud of what has been achieved," Mr Baker said.

"Along with the wonderful support and generosity of our local suppliers, industry colleagues and the company's 500 strong staff, food and gifts donated will assist the charities in making this time



Marking 20 years, the Quicksilver Christmas Appeal supports charities to help families in need this festive season. Picture: Quicksilver Group

of year brighter for less fortunate and vulnerable members of our community."

All goods are distributed directly by the charities to families and individuals in need.

This year, the Salvation Army alone are preparing hampers for 500 local families and individuals and we hope this will make a difference to many.

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Mossman State High School Ace student Niamh Zillfleisch Picture: Bryan Littlely

Niamh is tops at Mossman

THE RESULTS are in, and a new benchmark has been set at Mossman State High School following the release of the Year 12 results for their senior

studies. Ace student Niamh Zillfleisch received an incredibly high ATAR of 96.05, the highest ATAR ever achieved by a student at Mossman State

High School, the ranking putting her in the top 3.95 per cent of graduating students across Queensland.

Dollar watch on Daintree ferry

Continued from Page 1

“It will cost around \$5 to \$6 million dollars to build a ferry of this size. If nobody does tender, council simply cannot afford to build a ferry of this size.”

Cr Zammataro had support across the council, his motion also raising questions about the landside infrastructure for the ferry.

“I look at the infrastructure.... Do we need to know what the ferry looks like before we start working on the infrastructure?” he asked.

CEO Scott Osman responded, saying the intent is that the ferry will be four lanes so the landside infrastructure will be constructed to suit a four lane ferry.

“The primary design will accommodate that size ferry. The details around the actual construction of the ferry won’t make a difference, so long as it is built to that size,” Mr Osman said.

He added council had gone to market to determine the interest in the construction of the landside infrastructure but if nobody decides to build a four lane fer-

ry there could be changes to the landside infrastructure required.

“There is some benefit to some of the infrastructure. If it means (construction) of the locals lane, the priority lane, which the community has requested, so I think there would still be some landside infrastructure required,” Mr Osman said.

“Whether it is to the scope that was proposed will need to be determined.”

Mr Osman added a “non-performing tender” to build less than a four-lane ferry is an option.

VOLUNTEERING INQUIRY: Volunteering Queensland, the state’s peak body for volunteering, has enthusiastically welcomed the establishment of a Parliamentary Inquiry into volunteering in Queensland.

Jane Hedger, CEO Volunteering Queensland, said “This is a significant opportunity for volunteers, organisations, communities and the people who benefit from volunteering, to tell their story and put forward their ideas.

“Christmas time is busier than usual for many volunteers in our communities, making it appropriate to start putting this spotlight on the contribution volunteering makes and the challenges we face if volunteering rates still decline.”

JABALBINA DEVELOPMENT APPROVED: Plans to build an Indigenous tourism park at Cape Tribulation has been given the green light by Council.

The Jabalbina development application for an environmental facility, nature-based tourism, an outstation and a caretaker’s residence was approved subject to numerous conditions.

The development includes 11 accommodation units, a performance circle, interpretative areas, and a keeping place for storage of cultural items.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE GRANTS: The Government has launched the Torres Strait & Northern Peninsula Area Climate Resilience Grant Program to build climate resilience and address climate change impacts in the region.

The program is an important component of achieving the goals of the Torres Strait and Northern Peninsula Area Climate Resilience Centre, a \$15.9m investment fund.

10 YEARS AGO

Bruce builds his tally to 200k

Hundreds farewell Daniel at Sugar Wharf

Hundreds of people turned out at the Sugar Wharf in Port Douglas on Wednesday afternoon to farewell 18-year-old local Daniel Smith, who was killed in a shark attack on Monday.

Daniel had been spearfishing at Rudder Reef, 20 kilometres offshore from Cape Tribulation, when the attack occurred. He had just graduated from Mossman State High School.

Family, community members and total strangers all packed out the Sugar Wharf but it was Daniel's close-knit circle of mates that offered perhaps the most touching farewell as a circle of them raised their drinks and called "cheers" simultaneously.

Daniel's motorbike, a photo and flowers were placed at the Sugar Wharf.



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Jamie Jansen
Journalist

Proving that age is no barrier to making a difference, Bruce Ferguson has done it again. Earlier this year, he collected 100,000 recyclables and donated \$10,000 to the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre. Now, he's reached an impressive milestone of 200,000 containers, continuing to give back to his community with unwavering dedication.

Every day, Bruce spends 4 to 5 hours making his rounds through town, often diving into wheelie bins at local resorts.

"It's not about me, it's about what we can do for the community. Every little bit helps," Bruce said when asked about his motivation.

The funds raised from his latest milestone have already made a tangible impact.

They've been used to purchase a new donation bin for the NicNak Shed, install much-needed shades at the entrance of the Neighbourhood Centre, fund a new barbecue for the Men's Breakfast, provide monthly dinners for the Men's



Bruce Ferguson and Neighbourhood Centre Manager Emma Travers stand proudly in front of the donation bin made possible through Bruce's hard work. Picture: Newsport, Jamie Jansen.

Breakfast group and renovating the centre's Emergency Relief room and reception area to create a comfortable, welcoming space where people can connect with staff and seek assistance.

And Bruce isn't stopping there, more community projects are already in the pipeline such as re-insulating the roof of the Neigh-

bourhood Centre's work shed.

Bruce's work doesn't come without challenges. When interviewed, he was nursing wounds on his leg from dropping a plastic crate he uses to transport recyclables.

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SPIEGELTENT BLOWN OUT OF CARNIVALE

Kent Fordham

Wow. The biggest drawcard of Carnivale, canned. I guess we can hope that CRC steps in and finds a place in their schedule, but a huge loss for Port Douglas.

Ricky Dawn - Newsport Facebook

I wonder if there are any plans to find similar replacement entertainment? Admittedly, the Spiegel Tent did cater to all age groups and interests, so it will be hard to replicate that diversity of performance, but let's let ourselves be surprised.

Marnie Elizabeth Splatt

That's terrible news. I loved going there every year. Such a huge part of carnival.

Lawrence Mason

You would hope the Mayor is on a plane and asking some questions in Brisbane? With Kempton by her side. And the bloody road still looks the same.

Adam Breen

Maybe just time for a bit of a revamp it can still be amazing.

Chrissy Geyer

So that's Carnivale done then. That was the best part. No point having it now.

Rod Davis

The 'big beige' of Douglas continues.

LOVED LOCOS MOVE OUT OF MOSSMAN

Mark Sorri

Mossman will live on, but the mill and sugar are gone, the rails will disappear, the cane fields will grow guinea grass so people, go see the mill before it gets demolished for scrap, life goes on even

though some of us wished it were different.

Lyn Buffington

This is so sad to see. We loved to see them running through town....it was just so part of our "MOSSMAN"

Margaret Benington

So sad. Such a tourism iconic view, to see the Cane trains trundling along. At least the Bally Hooley is preserved for all to see.

Margaret Chandler

Would be great if they opened the rail from Port to Mossman.

Andrew Caruana

It is so sad to see Australia closing everything down. Car industry, Power stations and now the sugar mills. That would have been much better natural power source than these wind farms. Anyway what would I know?

Robert Steinberg

That's the finish of the Mossman sugar mill sorry to see it gone

Berto Ricardo

The sugar industry has been declining for decades. If it was profitable it would be expanding. Only a matter of time when no sugar is produced in Australia. I used to harvest 30 years ago but I saw the writing on the wall.

THE DOUGLAS DINGO DEBATE

Jen Parker

The Dingoes must be protected. They are a keystone species. Champions of biodiversity! They deserve better. Dingoes are our only top land apex predator necessary in keeping all our ecosystems in a healthy natural balance. Trapping and killing these animals is a huge mistake.



How We See It!



Shaun Hollis and Bryan Littlely bring you a lighter look at local news online every Saturday

Monica Halas

Must protect dingos

John Guerillot

Is that a Dingo or a cross Dingo? If it's a cross what's the next one going to be? Are they still Dingoes?

Geordie Bye

I wonder how many people will blame the council if one bites someone as per what they are doing on a regular basis on Fraser Island. I'm not saying anything about killing them but just curious about the above fact.

John Hutton

Why wouldn't we want wild predators living near our children's skate park? As long as they don't cut down any trees or paint signs on the road I'm sure they'll be fine!

Susan Morgan

Let's just shoot with a camera shall we?

Joost Andrew Bakker

There's only 2 places in Australia where the wild dogs are classed as dingos (according to the gov). Fraser Island and somewhere in the N.T. The rest are classed as wild dogs.

Tyler Dawson

They are going after the young, weak calves getting around on cattle properties, so they are definitely well fed. Expecting to see many more over the years to come.

Paul Cain

While working on Macrossan St during recent night works traffic control reported and logged a dingo on Macrossan St at 2.45am last Wednesday.

Pauline Halsall

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Carols Under the Raintrees...
Newsport's
Bryan Littlely
was there.
Were you?



Gingerbread Delight: Ingrid Juchem had a stall



Elf on a 'scooter': Ray Ribes



Sneaky Treat:
Michael
Robinson
and his
parakeet



Candles under the stars: Kisharna, Pippa, Jaylyke, Keaon, Amira, Sakura and Jase.



Puppy power: Josh Castles, Ella Hall and "Peaches".

WHAT'S ON

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DECEMBER 20

Richie Langford @ The Little Larder's Afternoon Session, Time: 3pm - 7pm, Location: The Little Larder Port Douglas

Andy Brassett @ Ellis Beach Bar and Grill, Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

Wet Season Indoor Golf League, Time: 10am - 9pm, Location: Daddyshack PD golf shop, bottom of Grant St, Port Douglas. Opposite the Quicksilver building.

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

DECEMBER 21

Christmas Extravaganza, Time: 4:00 PM - 8:30 PM, Location: George Davis Park, Mossman

The Bowies - A Very Bowie Christmas, Time: 7:30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

DECEMBER 22

End of Year Member's Draw, Time: 7pm - 8pm, Location: The Tin Shed

DECEMBER 25

Community Christmas Day Lunch, Time: 11am - 2pm, Location: Mossman Shire Hall, 6 Mill Street Mossman

REAL ESTATE

OPEN HOME,
42 Endeavour St, Port Douglas
Thursday 19 December
9:30am - 10:00am
Tony McGrath

OPEN HOME,
53/11-15 Port Douglas Road, Port Douglas
Saturday 21 December
9:30am - 10:00am
Ray White

OPEN HOME,
1299 Mossman Daintree Road, Rocky Point
Saturday 21 December
10:45am - 11:15am
Ray White



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

DECEMBER 27

Nicole Nighthawk @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 5:30pm - 8:30pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

Wet Season Indoor Golf League, Time: 10am - 9pm, Location: Daddyshack PD golf shop, bottom of Grant St, Port Douglas. Opposite the Quicksilver building.

DECEMBER 28

Koahlition Reggae Band @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 6:00pm - 9:00pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill

DECEMBER 29

Dave Cooke @ Ellis Beach Bar & Grill, Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Location: Ellis Beach Bar & Grill the Quicksilver building

DECEMBER 31

Welcome 2025 - WHITE PARTY!, Time: 07 PM - 02 AM, Location: Sugar Wharf, Port Douglas

NEW YEAR'S 2024,
Time: 10:00 pm - 4:00 am, Location: Iron Bar, Port Douglas

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

SPORTS DIGEST

Local athletes at championship

Three local athletes have shone at the recent Chemist Warehouse Australian All Schools Athletics Championship.

The event saw Ailbe Hamilton achieve his SB in U14 Pole Vault, Caitlyn Butland achieving her SB in U16 90m Hurdles as well as placing 2nd in U16 Pole Vault.

Ezi Masi-Lansana also competed qualifying 3rd in his 200m heat, Ezi also competed as a team member in the U18 4 x 100m relay alongside fellow athlete Gout Gout earning a gold medal.



Ezi Masi-Lansana in the team event earning Gold.



Peter Worley in action. Picture: Bryan Littleley

Mossman Men's Bowls - Social Competition, Saturday December 14

Dick Pitt, Mike Sims and Ted Holmes win + 2, Derek Franklin, Wayne Parkes and Troy Churchill win + 10, Bernard Savage and Bernie Wolland win + 12 and ham winners of the day Peter Worley, David Blain and Ranald Edwards win + 23.

Port Douglas Muddies Cricket Results

Round 10 Sunday, December 15 - 2nd Grade Senior Men

Muddies 8/251 (40 overs) d Mulgrave Century Cranes 10/92 (31.4 overs)

C Reid 77, C Adam 50, J Petrenko 45, D Barnes 3/9

Saturday December 14 - 3rd Grade Senior Men

Muddies 0/91 (18 overs) d Mulgrave Copperlode Brewing 10/90 (32 overs)

C Williams 3/11, D Naveen 3/22, G Postans 39no



Muddies keeper Ken Nyko watching Mulgrave's Justin Burgess. Picture: Bryan Littleley



Norbert Schmidt Picture: Bryan Littleley

Mossman Distric Rifle Club - Christmas Shoot

Eleven shooters joined together on the 700m mound for our Double 15 shot Match.

Conditions were hot and steamy but the rain stayed away all afternoon. We finished the meet with a BBQ to celebrate another great year of shooting at Mossman.

F Std: First up was Norbert Schmidt opening with 85.5 then Cameron Leyshon shot

80.2, Brendan Delaney scored 86.4, Bill Kromwyk was up next and shot 89.4 and

lastly Rick Mischlewski shot 89.7.



Shot of the day!

Heath Craft putts, watched on by Dave Allen in Saturday's Mossman Golf Club Ambrose Competition. Picture: Bryan Littleley

christmas extravaganza

LIGHT UP THE PARK

LIVE MUSIC & PERFORMANCES - CHRISTMAS DINNER & DESSERT
FACE PAINTING - SANTA & SANTA PHOTOS AND MORE

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
GEORGE DAVIS PARK \ DEC 21 \ 4-8:30PM

Join us for a special Christmas Trading Weekend at the

port douglas markets

Support local artists, artisans, and small businesses while doing your Christmas shopping in a festive atmosphere.

DATES: Saturday 21st December
Sunday 22nd December

TIME: 8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Find unique handmade gifts, art, craft, food, and more. Don't miss the chance to get something special for everyone on your list while supporting the local community.

See you there!

Your results aren't up there fellas!

Look inside your new look Newsport Daily Print edition to see how the Muddies went and a stack of other results and pics in our SPORTS DIGEST - P11



Rusty's bite at President gig

Bryan Littlely

Editor

Rusty Bradley has been around football and community clubs and in plenty of roles over the years, but he has stepped up to the plate as leader for the first time to become President of the Port Douglas Crocs for season 2025.

The Crocs football operations manager for the past two seasons takes on the role from Barry Lea, who has stepped down to spend more time with grandchildren.

Rusty says he is looking forward to the job and that "the future is looking bright" for the Crocs.

"There's been a big change in

the committee," he said.

"My Vice President is Matt Leskey, a past premiership player with the Crocs and he coached the reserves in 2023.

"Secretary Emelia Rockcliff is in her second year. She was injured in the first women's game for the Crocs and won't be playing but involved still as secretary which is great."

Other committee members include long time Treasurer John Cameron; past president Rob Barnett and ex-champion SA footballer Jim Buckley, along with assistant A-grade coach Lee Staple.

"Three female players have jumped on too... young and en-



Rusty Bradley is the new president of the Port Douglas Crocs. Picture: Bryan Littlely

thusiastic which is really good," Rusty said.

"We need young ideas on the

committee and we have Georgia Walker, Bec Shephardson and Maddy Keeble bringing that.

"And Life members Darren and Louise Wall and John Liddel and Craig Reynolds bring plenty of experience to the committee."

The Crocs have had six sessions of pre-season training and will be on a break until around Australia Day.

"We've got 11 recruits that we are talking to plus we are talking to our base with some good Under 17s coming through," Rusty said.

"We have had half a dozen recruit signings already and we're just waiting on the other five and the depth in the juniors is brilliant."

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Exchange Hotel Backpacker Resort

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PADDY'S

DISCOVER THE CRAIC AT PADDY'S

Open every day offering lunch, dinner, Guinness and Whiskeys.

MACROSSAN STREET, PORT DOUGLAS
11.30AM TIL LATE

MHRC in conjunction with DOUGLAS STATE SCHOOL

Mossman Horse Riding Club
2025 Horsemanship Clinics
Suits beginners and experienced riders

Contact us for more details
Kellie Evans 0438 787 851
60 Finlayvale Road, North Mossman