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PNG trek to rediscover WW2 plane crash site

Mapleton's Peter Gamgee will lead a trek through dense forest in Papua New Guinea in June to find a World War Two plane crash site which has not been visited for 30 years. He hopes finding it will help disadvantaged and isolated villages. Photo: Supplied. Full story page 5

Happy 100th birthday to Woombye's Terry Parkes

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Saga of the not-so-simple carport

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Just do it!



Kerry Brown
Publisher

BE in absolutely no doubt, I am not running for any councillor position in this election. You can safely ignore the rumours.

Congratulations to all candidates who are running in division five or 10. I wish you all the very best in your campaigns.

Working long hours and having to make tough decisions that can potentially polarise a community is not for the faint-hearted.

As a publisher and journo, I have first-hand insight into how hard our own councillors work. It is not unusual for me to see councillors Jenny McKay and Greg Rogerson several times in the one day. Be it an early morning breakfast, a late-night meeting or a weekend event, they are always there.

And like many others, I have not always agreed with everything they say and do, but I admire, respect and acknowledge their energy and solid commitment to representing this region.

It is more than a job, it is an incredible sacrifice. They spend time away from their families and work in roles where public expectations are both diverse and extremely high. In tough times, I have seen them dig deep to make every effort to help constituents. They are both remarkable humans.

No matter what battle they endure, both Jenny and Greg turn up to the next gig ready to face the any challenge. They mingle, laugh, cry and share cups of tea with people from all walks of life. In all the years I have worked with them I have seen them give 150 percent to the job. They will be tough acts to follow.

So, I will miss these two councillors. In a few weeks they will cross the finish line, and as they prepare for the next chapter in life I, too, will be moving on.

When I started this newspaper some years ago, many said it was "against all odds" but I promised to "just do it" and I did it.

In the next edition, you will meet the new owners, local people with the same passion for this region as me. I can't wait for you to meet them. I know our readers will be as excited as I am for the Gazette to be going into great hands.

So, look out for the next edition. Just do it.

Kerry

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The Sunshine Valley Gazette is a locally owned independent newspaper circulated in the Hinterland Communities of Woombye, Palmwoods, Nambour, Chevallum, Diddillibah, Eudlo, Yandina, Forest Glen, Kunda Park, Buderim, Sippy Downs, Montville, Mapleton, Mooloolah Valley, Maleny, Kenilworth and Conondale.

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Contact the Sunshine Valley Gazette

Office: 130 Main Street, Montville, Qld 4560

Phone 0408 459 624

Kerry Brown - Publisher

design@svgazette.com.au

0408 459 624

Office hours: Mon. to Fri. 9am - 4pm

Editor

editorial@svgazette.com.au

Long-time resident recognised for making Montville great



Jocelyn Bannister has won the ultimate Montville accolade, being named a Lifetime Citizen.

NO matter where Jocelyn Bannister goes in future, she will always be a Montville citizen.

Mrs Bannister was presented with the 2020 Montville Lifetime Citizen Award last month in recognition of her contribution to the community.

The local resident of 36 years was a little embarrassed by the accolade.

"I haven't done anything on my own - it's always been with other people," she said.

Mrs Bannister's connections with the Montville community have been through owning and working in various businesses in the town and involvement in different

community groups.

However, some of her most important work has been in steering the renovation of St Mary's Hall, the former RSL hall.

Mrs Bannister originally hailed from a cattle property about 90 minutes from Eidsvold, and worked in a stock and station agency, a governess in western Queensland, and a nanny in Tasmania.

After meeting and marrying Allan, the couple moved to a property near Biloela where they farmed for 16 years, initially dairying but then moving into lucerne, wheat, cotton and beef cattle.

After briefly dabbling in a motel, they bought the Montville Village Store

with Jocelyn's brother and his wife, and quickly got to know the area and its residents.

After some time working long hours in the store, they sold and Mrs Bannister had a year off before purchasing the post office, where her old school friend, Gillie Warren came to work for her, eventually taking it over.

In semi-retirement, Mrs Bannister relieved at other post offices and businesses and worked at a clothing store, at The Bowerbird, and at a gallery.

She began volunteering in the 1980s with Meals on Wheels, but also got involved with Neighbourhood Watch, St Mary's Church and St Mary's Hall. These days, she

volunteers one afternoon a week at the Range Care Op Shop.

The Bannisters have moved several times since they came to Montville but have always remained in the area.

In Mrs Bannister's eyes, Montville has the perfect combination of small town, natural beauty, green trees, and temperate climate.

"It's a nice community. We like the small, village type of area," Mrs Bannister said.

"We have thought about moving but if you look around, there's nowhere else that has everything we have here on the Range."

This is a lifetime citizen whose heart will always be in Montville.

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Woombye rail stable operations start without promised train services



Woombye's rail stable yards have become fully operational this week but without the extra nine train services that were promised to the community to sweeten the deal.

THE contentious rail stabling yard at Woombye have become operational but without the nine extra train services that were promised to the community.

The yard had met with strong opposition from residents when it was announced in 2015 but despite their concerns about noise and light issues, it was still built.

Until now, the yard has been used for the testing and commissioning of New Generation Rollingstock – Indian-made electric trains – but as of Monday, has been housing up to four NGR trains as they are deployed on the Sunshine Coast network.

The trains will pull into the stabling yard for cleaning and maintenance at night and residents are concerned about noise and light issues.

Mike Melzer, who has lived adjacent to the train line for 30 years, said he felt a “level of apprehension” about the yard becoming fully

operational.

“We’ve lived here for over 30 years. We bought a property next to the railway line. We knew what we were buying into but we didn’t expect that they’d built a facility like that,” he said.

Mr Melzer said it was “wait and see” what the noise and light would be like during the night.

James Kasmer said he was aware of the glow from lights at the yard in his house at night, even though they had only been running at only 40% capacity until this week.

He said there were also noise issues when train air-conditioning had mistakenly been left on all night although Queensland Rail had rectified the problem.

A Queensland Rail spokesperson said three trains would arrive at the yard morning and night, the latest at 8pm, four cleaning and maintenance staff would work there between 10pm

and 5am, and three driver-and-guard train crews would come and go to operate the trains.

The spokesperson said trains would sound a klaxon – horn – for one second once upon entering and leaving as a safety measure.

The spokesperson said light would be on at 100% while there was activity in an area of the yards but would then dim, and that QR had done what it could to minimise the impact of the yards on residents.

As for the nine extra rail services which were promised, the spokesperson said two extra off-peak services had been running since 2016 and an extra morning peak service between Nambour and Elimbah would begin on March 2.

The spokesperson said priorities were now on restoring service levels following “significant change” and commissioning the NGR fleet.

Council CEO bows out

THE Sunshine Coast Council’s chief executive officer, Michael Whittaker, has resigned.

Mayor Mark Jamieson informed last Thursday’s council meeting of Mr Whittaker’s decision.

Mr Whittaker, who started with the council in September 2015, has been on sick leave since February 10.

Mr Jamieson said Mr Whittaker had overseen major corporate changes and led the delivery of region-shaping and other major projects.

He wished Mr Whittaker, his wife Rebecca and their daughters the best for the future.

“We also wish Michael a speedy return to good

health and thank him for his contribution to our council,” Mr Jamieson said.

As the council is now in caretaker period in the lead-up to local government elections in March, the next CEO will be recruited by the new council.

Senior executive Warren Bunker is acting CEO.



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Kenilworth dunny puts art into fart



Division 10 councillor Greg Rogerson and members of the committee flew the loo paper at the launch.



Mayor Mark Jamieson and division 10 councillor Greg Rogerson, flanked by dunny committee members and division five councillor Jenny McKay, tore toilet paper to declare the designer dunny open.



Kenilworth now has a loo that is a view.

By Janine Hill

THE designer dunny devised to put Kenilworth on the tourist itinerary is now officially open for business.

The sometimes controversial dunny in Isaac Moore Park, on the Eumundi-Kenilworth Road approach to town, has been a four-year, \$580,000 project.

Designed to resemble an unfinished indigenous fishing basket, it is the hinterland's answer to the Loo with a View, a public art project with the combined purposes of amenity and attraction.

Division 10 councillor Greg

Rogerson, who has been a firm advocate of the project from start to finish, said the dunny was now doing its bit to put Kenilworth on the tourist map.

"I believe that every RV guidebook will say the designer dunny has now been opened," he said.

People will say, 'You could go and have a look at that' and if they get to this place, then they're going to go further. They'll come to see the cheese factory, the famous bakery, maybe even get a kilogram donut.

"It's about making Kenilworth sustainable and

something different to every other town."

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Mayor Mark Jamieson acknowledged that the project had drawn some criticism but the end product "makes the investment worthwhile."

The designer dunny was conceived following a public meeting to discuss art projects for the town, where some locals raised the issue of public toilets for the park.

Mr Rogerson credited Regina Wagner for her idea to combine public art with a toilet block in an arty dunny. Maleny architect/designer/

illustrator Michael Lennie won a \$10,000 competition for a dunny design with his creation, Canistrum – Latin for wicker basket.

The original design was higher, surrounded by a pool of water, topped with a water tank, and with a timber walkway coiled around it but modifications were made when the estimated building cost blew out beyond expectations.

The building has been built to the Q20 flood level, with an L-shaped walkway, a skylight dotted with Mary River cod crowns it instead of a water tank, and

it is surrounded by modest landscaping.

Mr Rogers paid tribute to council project delivery manager Chris Sturgess, recreation project coordinator Peter Osborne and project inspector John Markwell for seeing the project through for the community.

Mr Lennie is happy with the finished product.

"It turned out to be quite a complicated thing in the end. I think it was a bit of a challenge for the builders," he said.

Mr Lennie said it took a whole day to just arrange the

"straws" which curl at the top of the basket in a random arrangement to give it an unfinished look.

He envisages the dunny will be becoming a meeting point for groups such as motorcyclists out for a ride.

Mr Jamieson, on a roll after the opening of a new amenities block at Conondale only the weekend prior, quipped the council was "flush with success".

However, the line of the day belonged to Graeme White, one of the dunny committee members: "It can rightly be said, we put the art into fart."

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Local author launches anthology, Fun, fantasy and feelings

Contributed story

CAROL Brunello was born in New Zealand and has called Australia home for over 45 years, and recently launched her book, Fun, Fantasy & Feelings; Along Life's Path. She has been a resident at Halcyon Landing, Bli Bli for six years and has often been asked to write for occasions within the community.

Her writing covers many topics and spans from one written when she was 14 years old until the present. Some have come from current events or amusing incidents, some were created after a subject was given in a writing class or group such as U3A while others were written when she simply had a need to express emotion. Her style is very

much her own and often demonstrates deep feelings, a sense of humour or a vivid imagination.

Carol's anthology concludes with her most recent poignant poem written just before her 78th birthday: - "Australia Burns" reflects on the disastrous fires of Summer 2019/2020. With 168 items within 111 pages there is sure to be some

which strike a cord or give you joy!

Carol keeps fit cycling, enjoys gardening and helping with the resident "chooks" at Halcyon Landing. She was a ghost writer for her friend Ann Kerr whose book, 'At a Moment's Notice' was published in 2015.

To purchase a signed copy please email cfbrunello@gmail.com



L-R standing, Hugh Milne (cover and illustrator) and Valerie Merwood (proof reader) with author Carol Brunello.



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PNG trek to rediscover WW2 crash site

The story of Flying Dutchman



Locals keen to help their villages ventured into country they had never visited to try and help Peter Gamgee find the Flying Dutchman wreck. Photo: Supplied



The territory where the wreck is located is thickly vegetated and involves steep climbs and descents. Photo: Supplied



Mapleton's Peter Gamgee

THE C-47 DL aircraft nicknamed Flying Dutchman crashed on the way from Port Moresby to Pongani, near PNG's north coast, on November 10, 1942.

Six people were killed in the crash, another died the following day. Four survivors decided to walk for help, of which two died trying to cross a river.

Another party of four also left to walk for help using a compass from the aircraft's instrument panel. Villagers found the crash site about two months later.

The sole survivor, the chaplain, died in their arms. The injured and burnt crash survivors who remained at the scene kept a rough diary on the plane door which is now on display in a US museum.

Only the six men who walked out for help lived to tell the tale.



The Flying Dutchman wreck, with main door visible, was last visited in the 1980s. Photo: Bruce Hoy



The US military transport aircraft C-47 DL, nicknamed Flying Dutchman, crashed in PNG in 1942. Photo: Bruce Hoy

A MAPLETON man will lead a trek through the dense rainforest of Papua New Guinea in June to find a World War Two plane crash site which has not been visited for at least 30 years.

Peter Gamgee hopes the Flying Dutchman wreck will be a point of interest for trekkers and help isolated and disadvantaged PNG villages become more sustainable.

Mr Gamgee believes he made it to within a kilometre of the crash site during a reconnaissance mission in January with some of the local villagers.

"It was the first time some of them had been into that part of their own country," he said.

The C-47 DL Flying Dutchman was a US military transport aircraft which crashed while flying over

the Owen Stanley Range on the way from Port Moresby to Pongani on November 10, 1942.

Six of 23 people on board died in the crash but the only eventual survivors were six of eight men who trekked for help.

Villagers found the crash site two months later, a recovery party visited in early 1943, and the wreckage was again located in 1961 during the search for another aircraft crash.

Mr Gamgee, a business consultant and part-time trek leader in PNG, will take a group of up to 20 people back in June for an eight-day trek to try and locate the site, followed by another eight-day trek on the Kapa Kapa trail.

"Both of these are fundraising trips to buy medical supplies and

schoolbooks and we'll be taking them into these remote areas," he said,

Mr Gamgee's January trek was made with the aim of verifying the crash site but he discovered that village knowledge had become distorted over generations.

He resorted to piecing together information such as latitude and longitude, photographs, and descriptions to try and find the wreck during a trek into remote countryside where local guides cut tracks with machetes through the dense rainforest.

"It would take at least 10 minutes to do 50 metres, sometimes longer," he said.

Mr Gamgee described one day as "the equivalent of two or three days on Kokoda" and recalled a weather change on a mountain top where the temperature

dropped from 36 degrees and 98% humidity to a cold and wet 5 degrees

Mr Gamgee believes his party found the approximate position before time dictated they turn back to camp and start walking out the next day.

"On the way back, in one day, we walked what had taken three days on the way in," Mr Gamgee said.

Before Mr Gamgee left the villagers, he was asked to help two women, one with a wound which had eaten to the bone of her big toe and the other with a leg infection where dead skin had turned black.

"If I'd been concerned about not finding the wreck, I was called up to treat people in the village and it convinced me of the need to get medical services into the area," he said

Villagers are attempting to cut an easier track to the crash site area than the route taken in January.

"They may well find it before we get here but if they don't, we will be getting into a position with more people to look at a wider area," Mr Gamgee said.

He said the crash site would help draw visitors but believes the difficult terrain and the popularity of other treks, such as Kokoda and the Kapa Kapa, will prevent it from becoming over-commercialised.

"They fellows that are cutting the track know they have the opportunity to open things up for their village. If they were just doing it for the money, this wouldn't work," he said.

"They can see the benefits that this will bring."

For information on the two fundraising treks, email peter.gamgee@bigpond.com

• After this story was written, the Gazette made contact with Bruce Hoy, former director of the Papua New Guinea National Museum's modern history department, who visited the Flying Dutchman crash site twice in the 1980s and was involved in the recovery of further remains which were repatriated to the United States. Although the site has been cleared by the US military, Mr Hoy said he regarded it as a "war grave" and had some reservations about it being visited. Mr Gamgee hopes to discuss the crash location further with him.



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Happy 100th birthday to Woombye's Terry Parkes



Terry Parkes celebrate his centenary.

HE came to Australia as a young 10 pound pom and this week Woombye Care resident Terry Parkes celebrated his lucky life turning 100 years young.

His only daughter Pat Rogers told the Gazette her father arrived in Melbourne where he worked as a fitter and turner before moving to Nambour.

When his wife died in 2018, Mr Parkes moved into Woombye Care where he has been well looked after since

the day he arrived.

Woombye Care staff prepared a beautiful morning tea to celebrate Mr Parkes' 100th birthday, one staff member made a beautiful cake for the party.

Mr Parkes was emotional as staff, residents and family surrounded him to sing happy birthday, it was a very special celebration.

Wishing Mr Terry Parkes and very happy 100th birthday, and many more to come.

Woombye School of Arts Hall committee calling for a new secretary



Woombye School of Arts Hall.

THE Woombye Hall has been an integral part of the town for more than 130 years hosting celebrations, classes and gatherings for numerous local groups.

A small but dedicated voluntary committee manage the hall and their long-time secretary Julie Cobham is retiring so the hall needs someone to take on the secretary position.

Woombye School of Arts Hall president, Kerry Brown said Julie has served on the hall committee for the last six years. "We will miss her hard work and dedication," she

said. "The hall is Woombye's best asset. We estimate it brings in more than 1000 people a week to the town for classes and all sorts of activities. It is important we find someone to take her place."

The committee meets on the last Tuesday of every month for around half an hour. The position is voluntary and takes no more than four hours a month to complete tasks.

Nomination for the secretary position can be sent to bookings@woombyeschoolofarts.com.au

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The Little Book Nook, keeping reading alive in Palmwoods



The Little Book Nook, Palmwoods, is a find.

Contributed Story

HAVING worked in the Book Trade for 35 years, Kay Nixon decided it was time to open her own bookshop in her local community. Tucked away up the Lane next to Home Grown Café in Little Main Street, the shop is in a beautiful setting with a courtyard for storytelling and events.

Surrounding gardens add to the inviting atmosphere.

The Little Book Nook specialises children's books but also has an enticing display of fiction and non-fiction for the adults. Kay has created an enchanting destination which even features flying books to add to the magic.

There have already been a number of events at the shop

with visiting authors and they host an evening event monthly called "Simply Read" where booklovers can mingle and hear reviews about the latest new releases and some classic favourites. These feature on their active Facebook page.

Kay believes that reading helps to create empathy and understanding while bookshops and bookclubs bring the community together to connect and grow. Children need to be nurtured in the value of reading and encouraging the imagination. "I have already met so many lovely young families wanting to instil a love of reading in their children. As written on one of my bookmarks: 'A child who reads will be an adult who thinks!'"

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Goodbye to Nambour's 'nice guy'



The death of Nambour Produce Agency owner Bob Horn has left customers heartbroken.

HE was Nambour's Mr Nice Guy.

During his 30 years at Nambour Produce Agency, Bob Horn had become the

go-to guy for anybody who had a question relating to their chooks, guinea pigs, horses, cows and more.

His sudden death in a fall at on February 2 left his customers, as well as his family and friends, devastated.

Mr Horn's patience and kindness to his customers has been repaid to his sister and brother-in-law, Christine and Trevor Raymond, who have stepped in to keep his business running.

Customers have waited patiently while the Raymonds have familiarised themselves with Mr Horn's "systems" and two even volunteered to sort the stock so they could

find things easily.

Speaking at Mr Horn's funeral, celebrant Tonic Prasser explained how customers had shown kindness and honesty when the Raymonds were sorting out prices and card payments.

"Trevor said, 'Take your goods and come back and see me and fix me up,' and I don't think anyone has not come back yet, and I think that's an amazing reflection of the respect that the community has for Bob, and the respect you have for Bob's family," Mr Prasser told mourners.

The crowd at Mr Horn's funeral included friends from his younger days in outback Queensland and people who

had been his customers for decades.

Mr Horn was originally from Mitchell, the youngest of three children.

He trained and qualified as an electrician before starting his own business, Aramac Electrical, and later purchasing an electrical business, CWQ Electrical in Longreach with his parents, Keith and Fay, and another couple.

After his father retired as shire clerk of Aramac, he and his parents moved to the Sunshine Coast, where they had enjoyed many holidays.

They settled at Woombye and bought a Price Street business, Nambour Produce,

which they relocated to a shed they built on land at National Park Road.

After Keith's death in 1994, Mr Horn continued running the business on his own, caring for his mother, Fay, and looking after their acreage property at Woombye.

He never married but was dedicated to his family and his business. In 31 years, he never had a day off, which made his sudden death difficult to comprehend.

Tributes flowed on Facebook as people learned of his passing.

"We are heartbroken over his passing. He was a genuine man," wrote Tess Morley

"Our sincere condolences. Bob was always kind and patient with my children, they loved calling in to see him. He will be missed," Crystal Maybury wrote.

"Bob was very patient with me about my chooks. I did not do anything until I asked Bob..."

"I believe the world needs more like your Bob," wrote Jami Galindo.

"Rip Bob, going to miss our chats each week whilst u load my car to capacity," Michelle Sims wrote.

Belinda Moresby-White summed up with her comment: "Bob will be sadly missed. He always went above and beyond to help."

Council protects land

THE Sunshine Coast Council has confirmed that about 90 hectares of council-owned land on the Maroochy floodplain will be managed for conservation and will be added to council's environment reserve network.

Mayor Jamieson said the land, located west of the Sunshine Motorway at Coolool Beach, offered

an exciting opportunity to establish an estuarine wetland, due to the frequent tidal inundation of the site.

The land is within a 5000ha zone the council has dubbed the Blue Heart.

Comprising both publicly and privately owned land, the Blue Heart is as an important land and water management area.

The Blue Heart project looks to identify conservation, recreation, flood mitigation and carbon storage opportunities.

"Through the Blue Heart project, council will work with landholders and local communities to explore land-use options for private properties," Mr Jamieson said.

"By working together, we can build the future economic and environmental resilience of our region, as we strive to achieve our vision to be Australia's most sustainable region, healthy, smart, creative."

A forum on blue carbon research is scheduled to be held on the Sunshine Coast next month.

Arts foundation launched

THE Sunshine Coast Council has provided three years of funding to establish a philanthropic organisation to develop the arts on the Sunshine Coast.

The Sunshine Coast Arts Foundation was launched last week at a function attended by 140 supporters at the The Events Centre, at Caloundra.

The foundation is chaired

by Maleny's Professor Jennifer Radbourne, who recently received the council's Australia Day Creative Award.

The foundation's board includes deputy chair Sue Sara, secretary Tony Sowden, councillor Rick Baberowski, Robert Forbes, Ferre De Deyne and Rebecca Grisman.

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Literature lovers make it date night at Mapleton



M.J. Gibbs signs a copy of Arriving Home.



Terry Gardiner came along to support his mate, John Aylmer, who was speaking about his book, Staying Alive.



Book lovers Dot Zupp and Peter Brown.



Lenore Tonk, Margaret Boyd and Di Greer ended their night on a high.



Locals Gavin Bennink caught up with Peter Gamgee during a break.



Phillipa Robertson talks about Intuition to Inspiration.



Biographers Peter Nolan, author of *Trang: the more you give*, with Russell McGregor, author of *Idling in Green Places: the life of Alec Chisholm*.



Historical fiction authors Jay Ludowyke, with *Carpathia*, and Melanie Meyer, with *Meet Me At Lennon's*.



Ladies of mystery Helen and Gen.



Who needs wine and chocolates for Valentine's Day when you have books?

BIOGRAPHIES, historical fiction, self-help and children's picture books – there is no shortage of writing talent hiding in the hills of the hinterland.

Six local authors spoke about their books at Mapleton Community Library's recent Lovers of Books evening.

If you were not there, here's some of what you missed.

Ross McGregor, *Idling in Green Places: a life of Alec Chisholm*

Mr McGregor has written the first biography of pioneering Australian conservationist Alec Chisholm.

He said Mr Chisholm, a self-educated polymath who left school at 15, not only wanted Australians to understand

the birds and wildlife "but to embrace them as part of their identity".

Jay Ludowyke, *Carpathia*

Ms Ludowyke has told the story of the vessel which went to rescue the survivors of Titanic.

She said the *Carpathia's* wireless operator had missed the initial distress call sent by the Titanic when it hit and iceberg but happened to check in with them as he was going to bed.

"Had *Carpathia* not come to the rescue, they would have been in dire straits.

M. J. Gibbs, *Arriving Home*

The former schoolteacher has written a children's picture book which has been

illustrated by members of an art group which meets at the Mapleton Community Library

The book explores the themes of courage, community, communication, friendship, belonging.

"Read to a child and if you can't read to them, have a go at writing your own story," Ms Gibbs said.

John Aylmer, *Staying Alive: surviving Tropical North Queensland and beyond*

Mr Aylmer has combined the observations and memories of about 20 families to preserve the history of the town of Clare and surrounds in north Queensland.

"This book won't tell you

how much water was flowing under the Burdekin at the time. It will tell you how the families lived, their sorrows and their joys," he said.

Phillipa Robertson, *Intuition to Inspiration*

Ms Robertson believes people can better use their intuition and has written a book to help people activate latent skills to lead an empowered life.

"Most people are careful about the food they eat but are they careful about the food they put in their brain?" she said.

Peter Nolan, *Trang: the more you give*

Mr Nolan has written the story of Professor Trang Thomas, a brilliant Vietnamese student who

won a scholarship to study in Australia just as the Vietnam War was starting.

She became the first Asian woman to graduate from the University of New South Wales, completed first class honours, then her masters, but despite being better qualified than her husband, got a university tutor's role when he picked up a lecturer's position.

The "casual racism" did not stop her from doing her PhD to become the first female professor at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, and the first female chair of the Victorian Multicultural Commission.

"She's probably Australia's highest ever achieving lady," Mr Nolan said.

Melanie Meyer, *Meet Me At Lennon's*

Set in Brisbane during World War Two and originally named Garrison Town, this book won Ms Meyer the 2019 Queensland Literary Award for Emerging Writer.

Ms Meyer explores the popularity of American troops with the local ladies, who were becoming more independent, and the tensions this led to with the local boys.

"Women were really taken by the Americans – they wooed. It wasn't just flowers and chocolates. It was their manners. They knew how to speak to women and that's how Australian men were shown up."

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CURTAINS, COVERS and FLOORING

Wet Wednesday

IT was like someone turned on an overhead tap and could not turn it off.

A massive downpour on February 12 took the hinterland by surprise and caused localised flash flooding around Nambour, Palmwoods, Chevallum and surrounds.

Vehicles parked in the Short Street carpark at Nambour were swamped by the murky brown waters of Petrie Creek, which rose rapidly while shoppers and workers went about their business.

The Bureau of Meteorology recorded 200.8mm at Nambour, although the highest fall of 231.8mm was at the Sunshine Coast Airport.

Falls were more modest around Kenilworth and Moy Pocket, where 64.2mm and 39mm fell respectively.

Anecdotally, 43mm fell in one location in an hour but further rainfall figures for the area are difficult to obtain from the BoM, which relies on a dwindling band of volunteers to measure and record rainfall.



Cars went under when Petrie Creek flooded the Short Street carpark. Photo: Dale Myers



Within an hour, the water was lapping at the edge of the carpark under Superheap Auto in Nambour. Photo: Dale Myers



The water left the Snakes' ground awash at Woombye. Photo: Janine Hill



The swimming holes downhill from Wappa Dam turned into rapids. Photo: Dale Myers



This vehicle hit water on Nambour-Bli Bli Road in the dark and aquaplained into a pond near Clayton's. This was all that was visible the following morning. Photo: Janine Hill



Tow trucks came to retrieve cars from Short Street, Nambour, as the floodwaters rose. Photo: Maddison Early



The morning after, it was evident how high Petrie Creek had risen the night before. Photo: Janine Hill



Flood debris showed the creek water had covered all 14 steps to this rotunda at Quota Park, Nambour. Photo: Janine Hill



The force of the water left this ball stuck in the railings of the footbridge over Petrie Creek at Quota Park. Photo: Janine Hill



Flooding cut Eudlo School Road, Eudlo. Photo: Michelle Crow




Water pushed over the Old Palmwoods Road, Palmwoods. Photo: Tania Monloup




The swollen brown waters of Whalley Creek at Burnside. Photo: Joan McRae

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Yandina business takes on council over flooding



Gabrielle Pawson believes streetscaping has contributed to flooding in her store.



Kaye Deeley maintains council infrastructure could not cope with heavy rain even before streetscaping. Photo: Kaye Deeley



Water pooled around the "build out" during a short period of rain on Monday but councillor Greg Rogerson said water had long collected in this area but pointed out that it did drain away.

A YANDINA family have resorted to sleeping at their business during rain to protect it from flooding which they blame on council streetscaping.

Yandina Hardware was flooded during a downpour on February 12, damaging stock worth about \$4000 at cost.

Owner Gabrielle Pawson said the store had never flooded during her 16 years with the business until the Sunshine Coast Council completed streetscaping to calm traffic through the town.

She claims the streetscaping has increased the flow of water towards the shop and reduced her ability to clear water from the property by effectively "damming" further down the street.

Mrs Pawson said she and her husband, Wayne, now set up sandbags every time they left work and came back to the business if it started raining, even having "sleep overs" with their children at the shop to manage the flooding.

"We try and keep the kids in bed but when there's a big deluge coming, we make

sure at least one of is down here," she said.

Mrs Pawson said that during heavy rain, drainage pits overflowed onto the footpath and road and a pedestrian refuge in Farrell Street blocked water from streaming away across the road.

She said the water had washed out the driveway to their storage shed and pooled in the carpark, unable to escape because water built up at a "build out" on the roadside and sucked back through stormwater drain pipes.

Mrs Pawson said the council refused to accept that the streetscaping was the problem when "everyone can see it".

Kaye Deeley, of nearby business Lawn Espresso, supported Mrs Pawson's claims that the streetscaping had caused the flooding.

She said the streetscaping had exacerbated problems caused by inadequate drainage infrastructure.

"It's just been a mess. I just feel so sorry for Gabby and Wayne," she said.

Division 10 councillor

Greg Rogerson has backed the work of council staff who he said had completed modelling which showed the streetscaping was not the cause of the problem.

Mr Rogerson said council staff had been looking at the issues raised but it was possibly only an inspection during heavy rain which conclusively prove who was right and who was wrong.

However, he said he would be the first to admit he was wrong if it could be proven that the council's works had caused the problem.

"If you convince me that

what council's done is wrong, I will back you to the hilt," he said.

Mr Rogerson said the flooding had followed exceptionally heavy rain when some areas recorded more than 200mm but Mrs Pawson said the rain was nothing compared to past falls.

"These rains aren't that heavy for us. They're not what we've had," she said.

Mrs Pawson has written to mayor Mark Jamieson seeking a peer review of the council's streetscaping project.

Saga of the not-so-simple carport



The council refused a carport in which is said would have dominated the landscape in Bambaroo Close.



The Chivertons' carport plans.



The planned carport would be partially screened by trees on the neighbour's property.

JOHN and Jill Chiverton thought adding a carport to their Nambour Heights home would be a relatively straightforward process.

Mr Chiverton, keen to do the job properly, had a draftsman draw up the carport, a solid structure of rendered brick piers with a pitched tiled roof, in keeping with the house just behind it.

The Chivertons then engaged a building certifier to submit an application for a development permit, in the expectation that once approved, they would start work and soon have cars under cover, just like

neighbours.

And that is where their plans came to a stop.

The Sunshine Coast Council refused their application on the basis that the carport would have been 1.5 metres from the road. A six metre setback is considered an "Acceptable Outcome" in the Sunshine Coast Planning Scheme 2014 dwelling house code.

The application went to the council's Carport Review Panel and did not get any further, even though every resident of the street had signed a letter to say they did

not object.

The Chivertons were gobsmacked, given other houses in the street have carports, not necessarily set six metres back from the road, and a carport opposite their street is set on the front boundary.

"Everybody thinks it's crazy," Mrs Chiverton said.

The Chiverton's carport application came before a council meeting last week after their local councillor, Greg Rogerson, took up the cause.

A report prepared by council staff recommended

that councillors refuse the application, saying the proposed carport was set well forward of any other buildings within the streetscape and would dominate the landscape.

The report said the carport did not maintain the visual continuity of the street and was inconsistent with the general pattern of buildings within the street.

The councillors, concerned about setting a precedent, decided to vote in accordance with the report and the Chivertons' carpark did not get the nod.

Mrs Chiverton said talk of dominance was nonsense and given that a neighbour's trees ran almost to the boundary fence, very little of the carport would have been in view to vehicles pulling into the street.

She cannot understand why carport rules are not consistent across the region.

"We were driving around a few days ago, down Wises Road way, and they had their bloody carports way up front. There was no way in the world they were six metres (back)," she said.

Mr Rogerson said

approving the carport would not have been the first time the council had approved an application that went against the town plan.

He said applying the six metre setback rule was "ridiculous" given the distance the house was away from the actual road.

"There's a 20 metre road verge - where else do you get a 20 metre road verge?" he said.

The Rogerson said the Chivertons' next avenue was to appeal the council decision in a development tribunal.

and Sippy Downs Buderim Village Gazette

FREE

Council decides to buy Buderim land for carpark



The council will negotiate with the state government to buy two vacant blocks in Buderim's Main Street to improve parking in the area.

THE rolling carpark that is Buderim every morning might roll a little faster following a Sunshine Coast Council decision to buy land opposite the state primary school for carparking.

A proposal to buy two vacant blocks next to the Middy's complex in Main Street, was endorsed at last week's council meeting.

The State Government-owned blocks, totalling about 1ha, had been held for the purposes of a police station but have been deemed

"surplus to requirements" by the Queensland Police Service.

The Public Safety Business Agency offered them for sale at marked value to the council, which holds a permit to occupy the front flat portion of the blocks for carparking.

A report to the council meeting recommended councillors endorse the purchase.

"The site presents an opportunity to secure two key land parcels in Buderim,

with excellent road frontage, located between existing commercial and retail uses," the report said.

"Freehold ownership will provide Council with a strategic site in the centre of Buderim, and more importantly, will secure certainty over the existing provision of public car parking in the area," it said.

The report noted the site is already well used for carparking which is not formulate or regulated.

It said the Sunshine Coast Parking Management Plan 2017 suggested the council negotiate with the State Government to secure the land to formalise current off-street parking.

The report did not specify how "formalised" the parking would be.

In 2017, discussions were held within the community about a multi-storey

carpark for the site, with representatives of Buderim Safe and the Chamber of Commerce supportive of the idea, particularly if it was free.

Brenden Southey, president of 4556 Chamber of Commerce, as the Buderim Chamber of Commerce is now known, said improvements to parking in Buderim were welcome.

Mr Southey said a purpose-built carpark would maximise carparking spaces and make travelling through the area safer at school pick-up and drop-off time.

"We would love to see more carparking. If that land is going to be a carpark, that's good news," he said.

Mr Southey was not able to comment about the possibility of a multi-level carpark for the site but said a carpark behind the post office was under-utilised and had potential.

Applications open for festival funding



Member for Fisher Andrew Wallace MP with Knitfest festival and creative director Deb Swain.

MEMBER for Fisher Andrew Wallace has encouraged local organisations to apply for a slice of \$500,000 in funding for festivals and significant one-off community celebrations.

Festivals Australia funds arts projects including parades, performances, workshops and installations to promote community engagement at local festivals in regional and remote Australia.

"In the last round of this

program, our community received funding to support Knitfest in Maleny. This grant ensured the event could go ahead in full and give more visitors to our region the chance to get hands on and learn a new craft. I want to see us build on that success in 2020." Mr Wallace said.

Mr Wallace said festivals were a highlight on the community calendar for people of all ages in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

"From Sculpture on the Edge to Celebrate Glasshouse Country, festivals and cultural events are a major element of our tourism offering here in the hinterland, bringing new visitors to our community and highlighting our region's cultural richness," he said.

Applications for the Festivals Australia funding close on Sunday, March 22, at 5pm. For information and to apply, go to www.arts.gov.au/festivals.

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As an independent I will evaluate policies carefully and make informed decisions aligned to the views and values of our cherished Hinterland Community - not the interests of a party or lobby group.

- James Grimard
Independent



Winston Johnston
Division 5 Candidate



Dear Editor

YOUR February 12th issue included many great stories. Among them were two stories about the condition of Kalora Park and the dust problem on Citrus Road, Palmwoods. As a Division 5 Candidate I have highlighted both of these issues over recent months on my FaceBook page, Winston Johnston for Division 5.

Congratulation to Adam Mathieson for highlighting the current condition of Kalora Park and to Julian Iezzi for highlighting the dust problem associated with living beside a well travelled gravel road.

If Kalora Park was east of the Bruce Highway it would have been upgraded a long time ago. So I will be ensuring Council moves quickly to take care of this park and other neglected parks in the Hinterland.

Whilst Council will be sealing Citrus Road within two years, and that is good news for the people living there, there are many other well travelled gravel roads

Winston Johnston

in the Palmwoods, Eudlo area. Surely in the current era the existence of gravel surfaced school bus routes is a disgrace. Based upon Councils current ten year resealing program it will be 70-90 years before they are sealed with bitumen. Once again this would not happen east of the Bruce Highway and Council must take urgent action.

It is great for the Coastal strip to benefit from high cost projects such as Maroochy Central, Maroochy Airport Extension and the Undersea Data Cable, but it is wrong for the rest of the area to be neglected and to be made to accept lesser service standards.

When elected I will be tireless in my advocacy for the people of Division 5.

Winston Johnston
0428 995 499

PAID ADVERTORIAL

Cortney Claridge
Division 10 Candidate



Young hinterland resident is ready to bring brave new leadership to Division 10.

CORTNEY Claridge has today announced she will contest the seat of retiring Councillor Greg Rogerson. Currently working for Brisbane Catholic Education, she is also pursuing her studies in Social Science, International Relations and Public Policy.

“To serve the community as a councillor has always been something I have aspired to, this has pushed me to seek out opportunities to learn and gain the experience I need to provide quality leadership.”

Cortney brings diversity in skills, life experience and education, which she believes is an investment not only to Division 10 but will prove invaluable to the culminated 2020 council.

Cortney is passionate about community and believes that service before self has been ingrained in her from a young age.

“With a family that is heavily involved in the community I have been able

Cortney Claridge

to witness and experience the profound impact of the dedication and hard work of people in this area, strengthening my commitment to upholding and nourishing it.”

She has held numerous positions of leadership across many facets of the community which affirmed to her Division 10’s need to be represented bravely and boldly.

If elected Cortney will rigorously support activation of the entire area through the Reimagine Nambour Project, more accessible public transport and improved access to the hinterland and real support for community group and clubs to continue to provide an invaluable sense of community and belonging to Division 10.

More information is available about Cortney at www.claridge2020.com

Authorised by: Cortney Claridge, 5 Shamley Heath Road, Kureelpa QLD 4560

Matthew Filippi
Division 10 Candidate



Matthew Filippi

MATTHEW Filippi of Burnside, announced his candidacy for Division 10 of the Sunshine Coast Council. Matthew is an Iraq War Veteran and experienced public servant with over 18 years of leadership in various State and Federal government roles, including with the Army, Immigration, and Federal Police. He has seen first-hand the importance of transparency, inclusivity and commonsense in decision-making, and this experience and conviction drives his pursuit of a more engaged, efficient and effective Sunshine Coast Council.

It has also proved valuable as he’s coordinated wide-reaching projects within the public service, requiring complex problem-solving, stakeholder management and the real leadership one finds beyond any classroom. These skills are more necessary than ever, as the Sunshine Coast grapples with a growing population and an increasingly global economy. Matthew’s work has taken him around Australia and the world, but no matter the environment, his leadership

philosophy remains the same: leadership is service above self, always. And it’s not just talk. As a father, veteran and Vice President of the Woombye State School P&C, and in both the Public and Private Sectors, he walks the walk.

He is keenly aware of the requirement to balance the community’s needs now, and those in the future to preserve the Sunshine Coast’s iconic lifestyle and natural assets. After spending most of his adult life in public service, Matthew’s nomination to continue serving his local community comes as no surprise. With the retirement of the incumbent Cr Greg Rogerson, the 40-year-old father considers himself the ideal candidate to carry on from Cr Rogerson.

To learn more about Matthew’s campaign, please visit his website: www.matthewfilippi.com

WINSTON JOHNSTON

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0400 224 401 | greg.williams15558@gmail.com
facebook.com/GregWilliamsDivision5

Authorised by G Williams, 51 Macadamia Ave Maleny 4552

Wildlife Volunteers Assoc Inc (WILVOS)

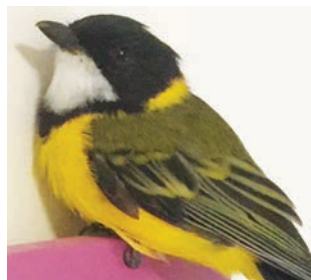


Photo: WILVOS

By Donna Brennan, WILVOS

THE weather patterns do seem to influence the movement of wildlife. This flows on to the calls on the WILVOS Hotline, 5441 6200.

Turtles are now being found by roadsides as they trek around the countryside.

People feel the urge to immediately move them to water but the turtles know where the water is.

As with echidnas, if a turtle is moved off the road, it should be moved in the direction it was going.

The local birds didn't enjoy the constant rain so much. Initially, they love playing and preening themselves in the rain but continuing wet days mean no nectar on the flowers and insects are in short supply for the insectivorous birds.

In wet weather, the lorikeet mix from the supermarket can be placed out in a dish up away from predators. This

gives birds such as lorikeets some sustenance.

It will begin to spoil after an hour, so it is best to take it in when they have had a feed.

The birds will soon learn your habits. It's not good for birds to be always reliant on this food source, as this creates more problems.

It is much better to plant native fruiting, seeding and flowering trees. Bread and honey should not be fed. Processed foods cause diseases in birds, that can eventually lead to their death.

Seed mix should be immediately taken in if it gets damp as it can be toxic to our grain eaters. Our native birds deserve only the very best.

We have exquisite birds in Australia and it is a great educational activity to record the various species that live in your backyard. You would be amazed at how many different birds visit you.

Recently, someone brought me a slightly stunned male Australian Golden Whistler, an example of an incredibly beautiful bird.

Australia is a country of amazing fauna and flora.

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PO Box 4805 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560
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Maroochy Bushland Botanic Gardens

NATIVE PLUMBAGO Plumbago zeylanica



Photo: Greg Miller Photography

By Diane Thomas

STANDING up in clusters, the pretty five-petalled flowers, upon close view, are a pale blue-purple with a deeper purple throat.

This Plumbago can climb but is also used as a groundcover, looking even prettier under trees. In the Maroochy Region Bushland Botanic Gardens, next to the Arts & Ecology Centre, it is kept as a hedge.

The attractive, oval leaves are shiny with wavy edges that end in a point. Plumbago zeylanica grows in full sun but then seems paler. In shade/semi-shade, it would appear more blue. It is said to be water-efficient, handy for our climate.

This Plumbago plant looks similar to the introduced Plumbago auriculata which can be invasive. Our native plant is easier to contain and is helpful for our insects.

The native Plumbago Blue Butterfly uses the plant as its host and other insects are attracted to the flowers.

See native Plumbago plants growing up at the top carpark, just above the information centre at the Arts & Ecology Centre.

Perhaps you could grab a cuppa from the Café in the A&E Centre, or take the kids for a walk at the Maroochy Regional Bushland Botanic Gardens, Palm Creek Road, Tanawha.

Books, Views and News Woombye Library Corner

The Woombye Community Library is accepting book donations again.

By Del Miller

READING for me is spending time with friends. Because I have read most of David Baldacci's books, I feel I have become friends the main characters of his novels.

David Baldacci is one of the world's favourite thriller writers.

His first novel, Absolute Power, was adapted into film of the same name starring and directed by Clint Eastwood.

He is the author of many stand-alone crime and thriller books as well as several much-loved series.

The Pine Atlee series features Pine Atlee, an FBI agent with special skills and a dark past. She is assigned to the remote wilds of US where she spends her life hunting down those who hurt others.

The Will Robie Series is centred round the US government's most professional, disciplined and lethal assassin. With global threats to the US national security a constant threat, it falls to Will Robie to infiltrate the most hostile countries to eliminate threats before they reach U.S. shores.

The Amos Decker series begins with The Memory Man. Following a devastating sporting accident which left him with synaesthesia and a photographic memory, Amos Decker is appointed as an FBI agent, which sets him on a path that will test him to the very limit.

Sean King and Michelle Maxwell are former Secret Service agents turned private investigators. Some of you will remember the TV series King and Maxwell.

The Camel Club series centres around four unlikely partners who seek the truth in Washington DC. It is made up of ex-operatives, army vets and political experts – Oliver Stone, Reuben Rhodes, Caleb Shaw and Milton Fare. In their quest to unearth corruption, they are assisted by an array of friends – SS Alex Ford, homeless Adelphi and con artist Annabelle.

Whether you are already a fan of David Baldacci or new to his work, Woombye Library has an extensive collection for you to enjoy.

Finally, I think reading books is the most pleasurable pastime that mankind has devised.

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Community Noticeboard

MALENY LIBRARY

FRIENDS of Maleny Library will hold their next book sale in Maleny Library on Saturday, March 7, from 9am until noon. Fill a bag for \$5 from ex-library stock and donated books. Buy CDs and DVDs at bargain prices.

★ ★ ★

PETRIE CREEK BUSHCARE

WANT some exercise in the open air and intense satisfaction while improving the lot of our native animals?

You could join in the Bushcare working bees along Petrie Creek where we are creating natural habitat for them.

The next event is on Saturday, March 7, for two hours from 7am at Florabunda Pocket down Laidlaw Road, Woombye. Turn right through the big mesh gates just above the gymnastics hall. On Saturday, March 21 March, from 7am, volunteers will be at Namba Creek in the Model Railway Park, Florence Sreet, Nambour.

Phone Norm Morwood 0409 63 99 44 or email normmorwood@gmail.com for more detail, or check out Petrie Creek on Facebook.

★ ★ ★

LITTLE VILLAGE CHOIR

ANYBODY who would like to sing regularly with the choir should go along to the Guide Hall on the corner of Lingara Ave and Palmwoods/Montville Road, Palmwoods, every Monday from 12.45pm to 2.45 pm during term-time. For information, call Pat Atkinson on 0404 980 222.

★ ★ ★

YANDINA COMMUNITY GARDENS

SATURDAY, March 7 -

Garden tour;

Tuesday, March 10 - Volunteer induction morning;

Saturday, March 21 - Splitting your Australian Stingless Beehive with Mel Marx;

Saturday, March 28 - War on Waste with Sandie Johnston.

For all bookings and more information, go to <https://yandinacommunitygardens.com.au/> or email info@yandinacommunitygardens.com.au.

YANDINA AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASS.

MEET Division 10 candidates at a forum hosted by the Yandina and District Community Association on Monday, March 9, at 7pm at Connections, corner Farrell and Low Streets, Yandina.

★ ★ ★

BUDERIM GARDEN CLUB

BUDERIM Garden Club members braved the heat and humidity, participating enthusiastically in this year's Buderim Australia Day Parade. Beautiful flowers, bouquet garni posies, herbs and cuttings were handed out from overflowing baskets to the cheering crowds and were very happily received, especially by the children. A wonderful morning was had by all.

The Parade is a wonderful family event, in which Buderim Garden Club participates each year.

Friday, March 13 will be the next monthly meeting, at the Memorial Hall, Buderim 1:30pm for 2pm start.

The guest speaker will be Anne Sutherland, sharing the Bankfoot House story. All the usual highlights of the meeting will be in place.

Flower/foilage/photography competitions, plant sales, lucky door prize, raffles and of course the meeting is followed by a scrumptious afternoon tea on the verandah.

New members and visitors are very welcome. Visit www.buderimgardenclub.com, or contact John 0448 714 561 for more information.

★ ★ ★

NAMBOUR CROQUET

HOW about starting the New Year with a new interest? Croquet. It is an excellent game for fitness (you can walk 4km during a 45 minute game). It is good exercise and helps coordination, age is not a problem. There are juniors and players in their nineties.

Play is on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9am till noon. The club is located next to the Nambour Bowls Club. The first four visits are free, tuition,

mallets and balls are included.

You only need to wear soft-soled shoes. Morning tea is provided.

We are a very social group so come along have a go.

We also play mah-jong on Monday morning from 9am till noon. Cost is \$4 and morning tea is included. If you have never played, we are happy to teach you. It's a great fun game.

For information, email Patrick at berpat@bigpond.com or phone 5472 7287.

★ ★ ★

PROBUS NAMBOUR 90

PROBUS is a club where retired and semi-retired business and professional people can meet and enjoy the company and fellowship of like-minded people.

Club activities include a monthly meeting with an interesting guest speaker as well as social activities.

Meetings are held on the on the fourth Monday of the month from 10am at the Palmwoods Bowls Club.

New members are welcome.

For more information contact Bill on Ph 5441 1364 Mob 0408 887 585.

★ ★ ★

NAMBOUR GARDEN CLUB

FOODIE? Gardener?

Come and hear Sharon Goski. Find out which flowers already in your garden could add a zing to that dinner party dish, or special birthday cake?

March 2nd, 8.30am Uniting Church, Nambour. Visitors and new members welcome.

Contact Karel for information on 0490 415 067.

★ ★ ★

WOODIES OPEN DAY

MAKE a note in your diary March to visit the Blackall Range Woodcrafters Guild's Open Day on Saturday, March 21.

The Open Day at the Guild's two big sheds, adjacent to the Montville sporting field and tennis court, will commence at 9am and finish at 1pm.

There will be something for everyone viz, second-hand tool sale, timber sales and items made by woodies for sale.

There will also be displays of

milling timber, wood turning demonstrations, pyrography (burning images into wood), scroll sawing and wood carving.

Car parking will be available with assistance given by parking attendants.

The woodies stress that all timber used is sourced from trees felled on private property and that would otherwise go to waste.

★ ★ ★

PALMWOODS TENNIS

OPEN Court Sessions are being held at Palmwoods Tennis Club each Monday from 6pm-7.30pm now until March 9.

The Open Court Sessions are part of Tennis Australia's Get Your Racquet On initiative. If you feel inspired to get on the court after seeing the Australian Open, this is the session for you.

It's a fun format of tennis including triples, pickle ball, singles and doubles with a warm up and cool down session, and suitable for ages 18 and up.

Snacks and drinks are provided along with all equipment. Come along for a different take on tennis.

The cost is \$15 per person. You can book online at play.tennis.com.au (look for Open Court Sessions and Palmwoods) or phone 0401 146 451, email palmwoodstennis@gmail.com or just turn up.

★ ★ ★

MEET THE CANDIDATES

THE Mapleton and District Community Association (MADCA) has organized a Meet the Candidates Night (Division 10) for the upcoming Sunshine Coast Council elections. The event will be held at the Mapleton Bowls Club, 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start, on Tuesday, March 10. The event is free and the bar will be open. This event was previously scheduled for March 3 - please not the change of date.

★ ★ ★

MAROOCHY RIVER COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

WILL hold a March Concert on Sunday 8th, commencing 12 noon. Venue: Heritage Hall, Willis Road, Bli Bli. \$8 entry fee includes free afternoon tea. Walk up singers are welcome

and there will be a Recognition award presented to the club founder Kev Rimmington for his many years of service to Country Music on the Sunshine Coast.

Enquiries please phone Darryl on 0467 248 077.

★ ★ ★

YANDINA QCWA HIGH TEA

THE Yandina Branch of the Queensland Country Women's Association invites you to attend their High Tea to celebrate International Women's Day on Friday, March 13, from noon at the QCWA Hall, at 11 Stevens Street, Yandina.

This year's guest speaker is from the locally based Care Outreach, which helps out people in rural and remote Australia.

Come along and enjoy delicious food prepared by the QCWA ladies, and lovely company as you celebrate International Women's Day. Cost is \$20 each. Tickets must be pre-purchased by contacting our president, Maureen on 0478 659 639. Please note numbers are limited so get in early.

★ ★ ★

BREAST SCREENING

BREASTSCREEN Queensland Mobile Service will be at Kenilworth Showgrounds from March 17 to 19 providing free breast cancer screening. Women aged 50 - 74 are encouraged to have a breast screen every two years. Book now on 13 20 50 or at www.breastscreen.qld.gov.au

★ ★ ★

OBI SURPLUS

FEBRUARY'S Surplus was bigger than ever and participants feasted on many different types of traditional breads and fermented foods prepared by James Cutcliffe, the chapter leader of the Weston A. Price Foundation.

The beetroot kvass was such a hit that James is coming back to demonstrate the making of this crimson brew in March.

More than ever items were reused and rehomed. Maya and Wala played with the old school pegs Wala had dressed up and drawn faces on. Local author Mel Shieldhouse came looking

for a cucumber plant and was happy to find one.

Some people especially grow plants to share, some declutter the house and others come along to see what is on offer. Anything that isn't taken goes to Kenilworth Shed The Light Op Shop.

Obi Surplus Enjoyment is a free due to the generous support of the Obi Obi Hall Association. The Obi Obi Hall is proud of its role of connecting people in the valley and is always looking for new ways to support the community. Did you know that you can do yoga at the hall once a week?

The Surplus is just as much about enjoying the wooden heritage building covered in fairy lights as it is to keep the avalanche of things we all accumulate flowing in the right direction - away from landfill. And just for kicks, did you know that community halls helped pioneer Australia's wonderful film industry?

Keep watching this space to learn more juicy tidbits about the lovely Obi Obi Hall. And don't forget, Surplus is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 9:30am.

★ ★ ★

OP SHOP BONANZA

ST AUGUSTINE'S Op Shop, 21 Main St Palmwoods is back in full swing for the summer with lots of new stock but still with the same low prices and great bargains. The shop is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 9.30am until 1pm. You'll be assured of a warm welcome and friendly faces. Volunteers and donations are always appreciated.

★ ★ ★

SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS

NOW being played in the Nambour area 9.30am to 12.30pm Mondays and Wednesdays. Come along and get fit while having fun. Players of all experience levels are welcome as well as beginners. Coaching available 9.30am to 12.30pm on Fridays. Contact Ken Hay 5492 2830 for more details.

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Gazette Sport

Nambour student powers up aquathlon field



Millan Power is proving himself in aquathlon while sampling a variety of sports.

By Janine Hill

A NAMBOUR Christian College student competing in only his second aquathlon has made the state team to compete at the national titles next month.

Millan Power finished 9th out of 135 competitors in the Queensland School Sports Aquathlon at Hervey Bay last weekend, earning one of the 16 state representative positions.

The achievement is impressive considering Power does not train specifically for aquathlon but his weekly sporting routine

seems to be training enough.

The 12-year-old swims, and does cross country, little athletics and water polo.

"He's a very sporty kid," his mum, Alana Gread-Power said.

"If he's not at the pool, he's at the track or riding his bike around the farm," she said.

Power is not yet leaning towards any sport.

"I just like all of them. I just like being out there with my friends," Power said.

His goals this year are to compete at national level and break a few records in swimming and athletics.

He has long jump, triple jump, the 1500 metres and 800 metres in his sights on land, and he is looking for 50 and 100 metres butterfly and breaststroke records in the pool.

He trains twice a week at the University of the Sunshine Coast under track coach Bryce Phillips and four times a week at Cotton Tree Pool under coach Janette Pallister.

Power is proud of recently swimming a personal best of about 31 seconds in the 50 metre freestyle but his success in aquathlon – a 1km run, followed by a 200m

swim and another 1km run – has surprised him.

"I really wanted to go to the nationals and I didn't think I'd be that good. It was very tough, especially the 1km run at the end."

Ms Gread-Power said her took his sporting success in his stride.

"He swims against people are the best in the state and the country but to him, these are just his mates," she said.

If Power continues with aquathlon, he will graduate to triathlon at the end of this year.

Mrs Power and her

husband, who both teach at NCC, are supportive of their son's sporting activities but say it is all up to him.

"He's just that kind of kid that he wants to have a go at everything. We just want him to have an active life and enjoy himself."

Mind you, if he slackens off, his younger brother, Marcello, 8, is waiting in in the wings, already recording some times faster than his older brother.

The boys' sister, Madonna, 4, is yet to indicate her sporting interests.

Hinterland BMX rider mixes it with world's best

Continued from Page 20

"And then I think because I did that, the next day, I rode out with too high expectations. I was riding good but put too much pressure on myself."

At round two in Bathurst, a third place qualified Cunning to continue in the series before rain and extreme winds forced the cancellation of the rest of the round.

Racing at World Cup level has been the step up that Cunning has expected, even after having raced on the United States circuit.

"The intensity is up a level, and because it's an Olympic year, everyone is going all out to try and get a spot," he said.

"The way people ride and how they ride – it's completely different from what I'm used to.

"In America, I have the best starts but out of the people here, I had the worst starts.

The first two rounds have highlighted areas Cunning will need to work on if he wants to one day achieve his Olympic dream but they have also been confidence-building.

Finishing ahead of two past Olympians in one race has helped combat any self-doubt about his abilities.

"I went back to the tent and thought, 'Wow, I really can ride with these guys,'" he said.

"If I get to the gate and race my own race, I do have the capacity to beat these people, and some of them are the best in the world."

Cunning is now talking with sponsors to compete in rounds three and four of the World Series in England and Holland in April and May.



Racing in the first two rounds of the UCI BMS Supercross World Cup series this year has been a learning curve for Jace Cunning. Photo: Mitch Ramm

Solid start but end game wanders off track

THE Sunshine Coast Wanderers gave their supporters hope of a victory in their first National Premier League match but could not quite keep it going until full-time.

The Wanderers led 1-0 against the Peninsular Power for 60 minutes after Jeremy Stewart scored a goal.

However, the Power put three goals in during the last 30 minutes to take victory at their home ground.

It was the Wanderers' first

official NPL match after being promoted to the league as rain had washed out a planned home game earlier this month.

The Wanderers will go up against Capalaba in an away game this Saturday at 4pm.

Locals will have the chance to catch them in action in home games at Buderim's Ballinger Park Youth on Wednesday, March 4, at 8pm, and Redlands United on Saturday March 8, at 4pm.

Maleny Golf Course extended to 18 holes



Maleny Golf Club supporters Bettie and George Diefenbach, club vice-president Max Whitten, and Member for Fisher Andrew Wallace at the official opening of the new holes.

THE final six of the Maleny Golf Course's 18 holes have been opened.

The course opened with 12 holes in 2015 but has been extended with the help of a \$200,000 federal government grant.

The club has sought to remain faithful to the original low environmental impact design by golf architect Graham Papworth, which incorporates and

preserves wetlands and native flora.

Speaking at the official opening, Member for Fisher Andrew Wallace said the extended course would help aspiring golfers pursue their dreams and attract visitors to the area to play in the picturesque surroundings.

"These final six holes are the culmination of an incredible community effort over more than 15 years,

and with the support of the federal government this completed course is going to be a huge asset for people of all ages in the hinterland," Mr Wallace said.

For more information on the Community Sport Infrastructure Program, visit https://www.sportaus.gov.au/grants_and_funding/community_sport_infrastructure_grant_program

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Gazette Sport

Wednesday, 26th February, 2020

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Hinterland BMX rider mixes it with world's best

By Janine Hill

AS learning curves go, the first two rounds of the BMX World Cup series have been as steep for Jayce Cunning as some of the jumps he has faced.

The Tanawha 22-year-old has qualified for the third round of the UCI BMX Supercross World Cup after competing in rounds one and two at Shepparton and Bathurst in this month but admits it was not easy.

Cunning rode well on the first day in round one at Shepparton, finishing well in the top third of competitors, but found the going tough on day two and slipped down the list.

"I went in with no expectations on the first day. I was pretty relaxed and tried to have fun and got 31st out of 150 starters," he said.

Continued on Page 18



Nambour student powers up aquathlon field

Active kid Millan Power has only competed in two aquathons but is already off to race at national level. Full story page 18.

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