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Tired of being railroaded

WEARY Woombye residents are tired of being shunted by the State Government over noise and light spillage from Queensland Rail's controversial stabling facility.

Nearby residents say they are kept awake by whirring air-conditioning units and "stadium-like" light emanating from the controversial yard.

The facility, just up from the Woombye station, is used to "stable" trains overnight. It only became operational recently in February under a Queensland Rail Timetable using Next Generation Rollingstock (NGR) Trains.

Woombye resident James Kasmer said noisy air-conditioning units were left on even when the trains were not being cleaned or in use, sometimes for days at a time. In addition, residents were awoken from 4.40am every morning by klaxon (train horn) and brake testing. Klaxon noise, in terms of loudness and frequency of deployment, often varied markedly, seemingly depending on the whim of the driver.

"They plonked this facility 150m from the closest resident and introduced night time light and noise where none existed before January 2016 other than the occasional mooing from a cow," Mr Kasmer said. "People are flesh and blood. We would expect the right to decent sleep unfettered by Queensland Rail's strict light and noise policies with Stabling being so close to residential areas. Queensland Rail built the facility well aware there were other site options and Woombye Stabling's proximity to residents."

Mr Kasmer said air-conditioning units were left on for long periods of time — such as the four days over Easter, the Labour Day long weekend and the majority of weekends.

"No one can explain why this is necessary when the trains are not being cleaned or in use. Four trains, each comprising six cars, do not require air-conditioning over any weekend if they are sitting idle for two or more days."

He said some additional well-placed light shields, even if not on every light pole, would also be welcomed to help prevent light spillage. "Residents at the top of McCarthy Drive and adjoining streets say they have light in their living spaces at



'We accepted we would have to live with the facility. But can we at least have our sleep?'

James Kasmer and other Woombye residents want timely and reasonable answers to reasonable concerns without being given the runaround.

night from the stabling site."

One resident said the area's topography acted like an amphitheatre and amplified noise up the hill into homes.

On top of everything else Mr Kasmer said they were tired of buck-passing from Queensland Rail's "Community Engagement team" and by the lack of adequate feedback about their pressing concerns.

To rub salt into the wound Mr Kasmer said the Government had promised the line would receive nine additional daily services, once construction of the Stabling was built using NGR Trains. "Construction, including testing and commissioning, was completed mid-2017," Mr Kasmer said. "It then took another two and a half years before stabling began to be used operation-

ally under a QR timetable.

"There was no other benefit to have stabling here," he said. "Other than the nine additional daily services once NGR (New Generation Rolling Stock) trains were available.

"Now, we've been lumped with the facility. They've got their NGRs. But where are our nine additional daily services? We accepted we would have to live with the facility. But can we at least have our sleep? Can we at least have reasonable answers to our questions?"

The residents acknowledge they chose to live next to a rail line, and that comes with some expected noise, but say the recent introduction of night time and early morning noise and light was over the top.

The New Generation Rollingstock (NGR) fleet is owned by the

Department for Transport and Main Roads and maintained by Bombardier. Any changes to the stabling of the fleet need to be agreed by both these organisations, as well as by Queensland Rail. This makes getting straightforward answers a frustrating process for residents.

Background

- Woombye Residents advised of the proposed Stabling Facility in February 2014.

- The community rallied and lodged two separate submissions over March 2014 and March 2015 with Queensland Rail and former Treasurer Jackie Trad MP.

- On 11th May 2015, Jackie Trad, Peter Wellington ex-MP, local Council and media attended the Woombye Bowls Club with 300 resi-

dents to discuss the issue.

- Ms Trad told the meeting, she'd already awarded construction of the facility to CPB Contractors. It was recorded in the Hansard parliamentary minutes on 6th May 2015.

- Local Groups fought the Government and Queensland Rail right up to when construction started in January 2016.

- Construction was to last a year, but took 1.5 years approximately.

- The facility sat idle from mid-2017 once construction had finished, until February 2020, when full operations began using NGR Trains against an official Queensland Rail Timetable.

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We're all in this together, except some are in it up to their necks

Editor's Letter. Cameron Outridge
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ONE of the cruellest outcomes of the economic crisis unfolding in the wake of the COVID response is the uneven way its pain has been inflicted.

It's awful to see the desperation in people's eyes as they contemplate an uncertain future.

Many businesses have been forced to the wall because of government-ordered shutdowns that make their operating models impossible.

Some have been able to quickly adapt to the changed circumstances, but for others, adaptation options are limited.

Most can still operate, but have suffered under the impact of customers being urged to stay home. Although that is now easing.

Businesses and people who lost their jobs understand they had to play their part for the greater good.

But now the virus appears to be under control. Now everyone is accustomed to social distancing and aware of the risks.

Surely it's time to do whatever can be done to lift some of the seemingly overzealous restrictions that are strangling only certain businesses, for no apparent gain.

DETAILS

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Speed bumps remain for pubs and clubs

PUBS and clubs have been given the green light to re-open their doors and serve drinks with meals for up to ten customers at a time.

The restrictions lift was good news for the beleaguered hospitality sector. But few have taken up the opportunity, saying it was not financially viable for them to entertain only ten customers at a time.

Under the conditions, which took effect Saturday, bars and gaming facilities have to remain shut but alcoholic drinks and meals can be sold to seated customers in keeping with social distancing measures.

Nambour RSL CEO Suzanne Long said the change would have little effect on her club. "We won't be opening unfortunately. It is just not viable for 10 people, as people can probably imagine.

"But our takeaways are proving successful, so we're taking some comfort from that."

Rick Gazzard from Beerwah and Palmwoods Hotels also said his bistros would remain closed for "on premise dining" but takeaways were available.

"We thank them for their determination to control COVID-19, keep us safe and healthy and at the same time try to enable businesses and people to get back to work.

"We are continuing our takeaway service as normal and we launched our brand new takeaway menu recently. We look forward to reopening our Bistro, Bars and Gaming Room at some point in the future - hopefully on 10 July."

Maleny Hotel Retail Manager Chris McLeod said his pub would take advantage of the restrictions lift and offer limited dining.

"We're doing takeaways anyway so it's a bit of an extension on top of that," he said. "It's not great, but it's a start for which we're very grateful."

Woombye Pub publican Mark Welchman said the restrictions ease was a step in the right direction and offered some relief. "We're getting there," he said.

"Tentatively we may be able to open next weekend but we're baulking at complying with the COVID-19 Risk Assessment Plan."

"This easing of restrictions is a very, very small step," he said.

"It will probably help to get people to line up all their ducks in a row. The thing that's saving us at the moment is the bottle shop sales.

"There's no doubt it's hard times for everyone. And there's no end date. This is Stage 1 re-opening. Even Stage 3 is not fully open. It's open, but with space restrictions. Even that will only give us about half our normal trade."

Staged comeback:

- Stage 1 allows a maximum of 10 people at any one time for dining in cafes, restaurants, pub bistros, licensed clubs and RSL clubs - but Bars and Gaming must still remain closed.

- Stage 2 is planned to commence on 12 June (subject to COVID 19 remaining "under control") and will see the limit of 10 increased to a maximum of 20 people at any one time for dining in cafes, restaurants, Pub bistros, licensed clubs and RSL clubs - but Bars and Gaming must still remain closed.

- Stage 3 is planned to commence on 10 July (subject to COVID-19 remaining "under control") and will see the limit of 20 increased to a maximum of 100 people at any one time for dining in cafes, restaurants, Pub bistros, licensed clubs and RSL clubs. Only in Stage 3 will Bars and Gaming be permitted to reopen in Pubs.

Hinterland Tourism spearheads rescue plan

WEDDINGS at Tiffany's was transformed into a makeshift war room last week as a group from Hinterland Tourism created a plan to revive the beleaguered sector.

"We're calling on the State Government to relax the 4m2 density rule that makes it impossible to host normal weddings, even when Stage 3 of the recovery is implemented on July 10," said Hinterland Tourism President Kerry Brown.

The group has written to the Premier seeking relaxation of a rule which limits the number of people a venue can hold to just one every 4 square metres. The letter also offers a six-point plan to deploy tracking and tracing protocols to minimise infection and contain any outbreak.

Glass House MP Andrew Powell was to table the letter to Parliament tomorrow, Thursday May 21.

"The industry, already shut down by COVID-19 restrictions, faces further hardship unless the rule is relaxed," said Ms Brown.

"There is no Queensland Wedding Association. The regions have all worked independently in the past. It's not until something like this happens that it's even an issue. So we at Hinterland Tourism initiated it. We're all working together on this to try and come up with a solution for the industry, state-wide.

"This is a \$700 million industry. People from all over Queensland have been ringing us saying thanks."

The 'crisis committee' includes Ms Brown, hinterland wedding expert Marlene Murray, Tiffany's Kelly Tilse and wedding celebrant Adam Johnson.

Glimmer of hope offset by concern for fellow operators

ON June 12 overnight accommodation will be allowed again in an industry that is normally thriving in the hinterland.

It's a promising sign for many in the sector driven to the edge of a financial cliff by enforced closure.

But, while Secrets on the Lake owner Aldy Johnston said the news was good, and the phones had started to ring, she was concerned for others in her industry.

"The point is I feel for the people who aren't as established as we are who are really going to struggle," Ms Johnston said.

"It is a glimmer of hope but for a lot of people it's going to be really tough. To be frank, as far as the local industry is concerned, I really don't think we've been looked after.

"They really should be doing a better job of letting everyone know what we're about. There are little accommodation places right across the hinterland that are totally isolated. People could come here and they don't even have to talk to anyone. They would be safer here than practically anywhere else.

"This is the general feeling of frustration here on the Range where isolated places are being bulked in with places where everyone is living on top of one another. And these more



Aldy and George Johnston.

isolated places are told we're not to do anything until June 12.

"We've been able to build a reputation for 20-odd years, so we're relatively lucky. We've got loyal customers and we will end up having a reasonable winter once we can get started. But these are people who have been coming every winter, some of them for 23 years, so we're lucky. But for the average people who may have just bought the business, they need

all the encouragement they can get. And if you have a place where people are able to self-isolate you should be able to be open now. "I don't blame Visit Sunshine Coast, they're trying hard, giving us moral support. But the tourism bodies at the high end need to realise it's not just one big business that are all the same. There are different categories and some of those categories should be able to be open right now. Especially compared to what else is being allowed to happen."

Recipe for revival limited by the numbers

MANY local businesses, including cafes and restaurants reopened from Saturday and are permitted to seat 10 people at a time.

Sunshine Coast Council said businesses should refer to the Queensland Government's COVID Safe Checklist and other online resources before re-opening.

Council said it would assist food businesses to meet the new restrictions, mindful that business owners were facing challenging times and changing requirements. Visit www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/coronavirus.

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Weddings at Tiffany's Director Kelly Tilse ... "There are thousands upon thousands of people in Queensland who rely solely on the wedding industry for their income. That's a lot of people who are going to end up at Centrelink and that's not what we want."

Path to recovery has road blocks for wedding venues

WEDDINGS at Tiffany's Director Kelly Tilse thought she might finally be able to deliver some good news to desperate brides waiting to hear when they could be married.

But her hopes were dashed in the fine print of Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's Roadmap to Recovery.

Stage 3 of the COVID-19 restrictions lift allows weddings of up to 100 people from July 10. But the sting comes in a practically unworkable requirement to maintain an "average density of 4m2 per person".

Ms Tilse said this made hosting regular-sized weddings at venues impractical.

"We were all excited and cheering and happy," said Ms Tilse. "But that elation was quickly deflated when we found out the 4m2 rule was still going to apply. This makes it incredibly difficult for venues to operate."

Ms Tilse said Tiffany's Chapel normally seated up to 120 people. "But with the 4m2 density rule we can only have 25 people maximum in the Chapel at one time."

Ms Tilse said that was devastating for couples who would normally have 50 to 100 guests.

"And what are we going to do? Are we going to have 25 people in the Chapel and then 75 people outside standing in the car park watching? Then if it rains we have to give them all umbrellas."

Ms Tilse said 25-guest weddings were financially unviable.

"With the infrastructure, the costs, the overheads that we have ... this is devastating for an industry that is already on its knees because of the restrictions. It will collapse if we are not able to have the 4m2 rural relaxed."

Six Point Plan to get weddings going

"So a group of us from Hinterland Tourism have got together and we're trying to represent the whole of the Queensland wedding

industry by coming up with a really concise six-point plan.

"Under the plan each venue will track and trace every single person who arrives at our venue so that we can host those numbers of 100.

"We're hoping that the 4m2 rule can be relaxed for us. Because we are able to then trace, exactly, every single person who has attended the venue on that day. They will be providing us with their names and details. Everyone will be accounted for.

"There will be no people coming and going like you have at supermarkets and at Bunnings. Where you've got hundreds of people coming in and out and nobody knows who they are or where they came from.

"We will implement hand-washing requirements and ask people if they have the COVID-Safe app to let us know. If they don't have it then we'll have their names and details anyway.

"If something does occur they're going to be able to jump on it really quickly and contain it. Everyone will be traceable."

Roller Coaster ride for venues and brides

"For some brides it's been a 12 to 18 months journey together with them putting together the details of their big day, for them to find out 'oh my gosh I can't get married', and 'when can I get married?'"

"It's really heartbreaking. I've been in tears all through this. It's been very emotional for all of us.

"All we can do is keep them from not having to worry too much, stay in constant contact with them. We are always available to them. We just can't wait to be able to make those phone calls to couples and let them know "guess what guys, we're good to go. Let's do this."



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A welcome reprieve for lockdowners

Ted O'Brien
Federal Member for Fairfax



AFTER weeks of being homebound, the past few days offered a welcome reprieve as we ventured back into public playgrounds, skate parks and outdoor gyms.

These relaxations are part of the Stage One step-down approach to easing COVID-19 restrictions.

Other relaxations included allowing up to 5 visitors into private homes, while gatherings of up to 10 people are now allowed for outdoor, non-contact activities like personal training, hiking and other recreational activities in national and state parks.

The 10 person rule also applies to swimming pools, libraries, weddings and places of worship allowing them to open once more.

Dining in restaurants, cafes, pubs and clubs has also resumed.

Open homes and auctions are back on the agenda too, while beauty therapy and nail salons can now operate with a COVID safe plan. These venues can each host up to 10 people at a time.

It is important to note that all indoor premises must have four square metres of floor space per person, which may mean fewer than 10 people are allowed.

As things move towards getting back to normal, it is important to understand that measures remain and must not be forgotten. Social distancing is still required in the above settings, so maintaining a minimum of 1.5 metres between you and others.

Sanitising or washing your hands needs to continue.

You still need to stay home if you are sick and if you have any sign of a cough or cold please contact your doctor about being tested for Coronavirus.

Finally, if you haven't already, can I please urge you all to download the COVIDSafe app. It uses Bluetooth technology, is fully encrypted and privacy protections have now passed into law following last week's Parliament.

Stage 2 restrictions in Queensland are expected to come into effect 11:59pm June 12.



From left, Federal Member for Fairfax Ted O'Brien MP, Show Society President Rowan O'Hara and Show Society Treasurer Jasmine Bethell.

Nambour Show gets a lift

WITH the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show unable to proceed this year, the Show Society has shifted its focus to the future.

They are determined to make next year's show bigger, better and more accessible, thanks to an Agricultural Show Development Grant.

Member for Fairfax Ted O'Brien said the funding was timely given the effect of Coronavirus on this year's event.

"The Show Society is to receive just over \$100,000 in funding to allow it to install a passenger lift in the main pavilion," Mr O'Brien said.

"Our annual show is always a big event, it brings together people from all walks of life and attracts upwards of 25,000 patrons every year. So to be able to increase access for people with mobility issues is a wonderful endeavour.

Sunshine Coast Show Society President Rowan O'Hara said the grant would tick a big item off their wish list.

"It's something that we've had on our wish list for probably 10 years now and in that

time we've had a lot of complaints about only having stairs, so we just couldn't go on without the ability to allow the disabled and elderly people access to that part of the Show," Mr O'Hara said.

"We could have applied for something different like new horse jumps, but this will help the rest of the community as well as us because people that couldn't make it up the steps will now have the opportunity to visit the top level easily and to be able to see all those exhibits.

"It opens up that area for other community groups too. It is actually the home of Nambour Darts, so they meet there on a weekly basis and they've had disabled people there and have had to carry them up the stairs. So that group, and others, can expand with all ability access, so it will become a lot more usable space now."

The cost for the lift is \$140,000. The Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show Society is receiving \$100,402 from the Federal Government with the remainder unanimously voted to be taken from the Showgrounds Levy Fund.

Queensland Rail working on issues

QUEENSLAND Rail provided the following response to the Gazette's stories on pages 1 and 5.

Queensland Rail is taking the feedback of residents near the Woombye stabling facility very seriously and is working to address their concerns as quickly and effectively as possible while ensuring we adhere to national rail safety guidelines.

Since receiving feedback from residents, QR has implemented several measures to try to minimise noise and lighting impacts, including the installation of a barrier to minimise sound, planting more than 10,300 square metres of vegetation, and the installation of shields on streetlights at the facility.

Queensland Rail staff were on site earlier this month and returned last week to further examine lighting to ensure it was operating at the correct levels and assess the possibility of reducing glare and light spillage. We are also working with the Department of Transport and Main Roads as well as train manufacturer Bombardier to examine options for the air-conditioning units on the New Generation Rollingstock (NGR) trains to further minimise background noise, as we appreciate the impact this is having on nearby residents.

As with all stabling facilities across Australia, the facility in Woombye is required to conduct daily mandatory safety testing, which unfortunately generates noise and includes the testing of train horns and brakes.

Each morning the crews are required to test the horns before the first train goes into service at approximately 5.45am. The trains are also required to undertake mandatory brake testing, which results in some additional noise being generated as a result of compressed air being vented, ensuring the safe and effective running of the trains' braking systems.

There is also a pedestrian crossing at the Woombye facility which requires the driver to sound the horn as an essential safety requirement to ensure that anyone who may be about to cross the tracks is aware there is a train coming.

Since the commitment to increase services on the Sunshine Coast line, a peak service has been added each weekday for stations between Nambour & Elimbah. In 2016, two inbound off-peak services were introduced for the line.

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'Sort of Guantanamo Bay style treatment'



Mike Melzer with the stabling facility at Woombye in the background.

MIKE and Kath Melzer have lived adjoining the railway line, just south of the Woombye Station since 1986. They have grown accustomed to the normal sounds of railway operations for over 30 years.

Despite their objections they accept that the stabling facility is a new part of life. What they object to now is being driven round the bend by constant noise from airconditioning units left running night and day for "operational reasons". And being given the run-around by the powers that be.

"Our right to unbroken sleep was taken away last night as at least one train in the Woombye Stabling facility was not in stabling mode," Mr Melzer said last week. "In addition to the constant background hum of the stabled trains we had to endure a louder, pulsating roaring all night. Well until 5am when the usual klaxon (train horn) and brake system testing now regularly wakes us. This is unacceptable and inhumane.

"Our Mothers' Day lunch on our back veranda with our son was serenaded by the background hum of four unused trains."

There seems to be no reason to leave the AC units running.

"Surely operational procedures can be revised to prioritise the human residents of Woombye over the inability of Bombardier to shut down a train for two days and restart it on Monday morning.

"We have constantly been in touch with QR before, during and after the construction of the stabling facility," Mr Melzer said. "Since it began operating fully in February we have been constantly pleading with QR and (State Member for Nicklin) Marty Hunt to do something about the noise of the air conditioning units being left running over the weekends and long weekends.

"We also requested QR review their early morning testing of klaxons (train horns) and

brake systems before the trains move out."

Mr Melzer said he and his wife were woken every morning at 4.40am, when the first klaxons were tested. Testing continues intermittently until 6.30am.

"So every time we doze back off to sleep we are again awoken — sort of Guantanamo Bay style treatment."

Mr Melzer said he was also concerned at the noise and apparent waste of electricity from a fourth train left at the facility which hasn't moved since February.

"This train is unused," he said. "It goes nowhere. Hasn't moved since February. Yet its air conditioner is left on all day, every day. In our opinion, this one unit makes as much noise as when there are four units parked for the weekend. During the day, there is no silence. Just a constant buzzing and humming coming from the stabling yard. We go to bed and of course, there it is, still going, with four units running their air cons."

Mr Melzer said one unit was bad enough, but when a number of units were left running together, the sound resonated and pulsed making sleep even more difficult.

QR Community Engagement's response to Mr Melzer's questions about leaving airconditioning units running when the trains are not being used for several days follows:

"The New Generation Rollingstock (NGR) fleet is owned by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and maintained by Bombardier. Any changes to the stabling of the fleet would need to be agreed by both these organisations, as well as by Queensland Rail. We are currently having discussions with TMR and Bombardier about the issues you have raised.

"This includes examining whether there is any flexibility to change the requirement to leave the air-conditioning on when there are longer periods between services, including Easter and long weekends."

A frustrated Mr Melzer said it was a typically disappointing response.

"It seems QR can't control their own fleet in the stabling facility without getting approval from other parties," he said.



Member for Nicklin Marty Hunt ... "Promises were made about nine extra services and now the promises have been broken despite the noisy facility being operational."

'Where are our nine extra services, as promised?': MP

FIVE years after forcing a stabling facility on the Woombye community, the State Government needed to deliver a promised 9 extra services, according to Member for Nicklin Marty Hunt.

Mr Hunt said the community's ongoing fears about noise and light spillage were now being realised. "Jackie Trad, as former transport Minister, basically came to a community meeting in 2015 and told Woombye residents that they were getting the stabling facility regardless of community concerns," Mr Hunt said.

"Promises were made about nine extra services and now the promises have been broken, despite the noisy facility being operational. I have had several people now contact my office unable to sleep or keep their windows open for air at night. It's just not fair for Woombye."

Local resident James Kasmer has been involved in the community protest against the facility when it was first mooted in 2014 and remembers the promises made at the time. "It was apparent in early 2015 they were determined not to look at other options. It had to be Woombye," he said.

"We were told the benefits of Rail Stabling in Woombye would be nine additional daily services. This was promised by Peter Wellington and Jackie Trad, and not the Newman Government, to my face and to others in

public," he said

Mr Hunt said his questions in parliament to Transport Minister Mark Bailey were met with "a diatribe of political spin".

He called on the Minister to come to Woombye and hear community concerns.

"They were very keen to come and tell us what we were getting — whether we liked it or not. But now that operations have started — promises broken about extra services and community fears about noise being realised — we need to see the Minister come and listen to community concerns," he said.

Spokesperson for "Rail Back on Track" Jeff Addison said the community was frustrated. "Once again, like the promises of the past, this government has broken their word," he said.

"Integrity, ethics and honesty clearly mean nothing to this callous, spiteful government who delight in trumpeting actions and selfies on Gold Coast trains whilst spurning us on the massively growing Sunshine Coast. No Ministerial selfies occur on our degraded services and single-track line," he said

To sign a petition calling on the Minister to deliver the promised extra services go to www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/tableOffice/questionsAnswers/2020/320-2020.pdf

Statement from the minister

Transport and Main Roads Minister Mark Bailey

THE Palaszczuk Government has introduced new services on the Sunshine Coast line and is planning more as we get ready to build the Coast's largest rail project: the \$550 million Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade.

The Palaszczuk Government started and completed the business case after Sunshine Coast rail was ignored by the previous LNP government and we've been successful securing joint funding from the Federal Government to build it which is great news for commuters.

Early works are already underway over the past 12 months and more activity will ramp up in the coming months. Mr Hunt deliberately ignores his LNP's colossal failures in a convenient case of railway amnesia.

His LNP cut more than \$600 million in transport funding, cut the critical Cross River

Rail project, ordered new trains that were not disability compliant as well sacking a third of TMR's staff and 1,700 Queensland Rail staff.

It's only the Palaszczuk Government's investment in the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade and Cross River Rail that will allow more trains to run more often.

Queensland Rail staff will be out on-site this week to look into and address concerns that have been raised, and have also offered to meet with Woombye residents.

The LNP's three-year crusade of cutting services, sacking workers and selling public assets added years to the delivery of major infrastructure across the state, including the Sunshine Coast Rail Duplication.

It's also disappointing to see Mr Addison abandon the impartial approach to commuter advocacy by Rail Back on Track by co-authoring the LNP's media release full of predictable political spin.



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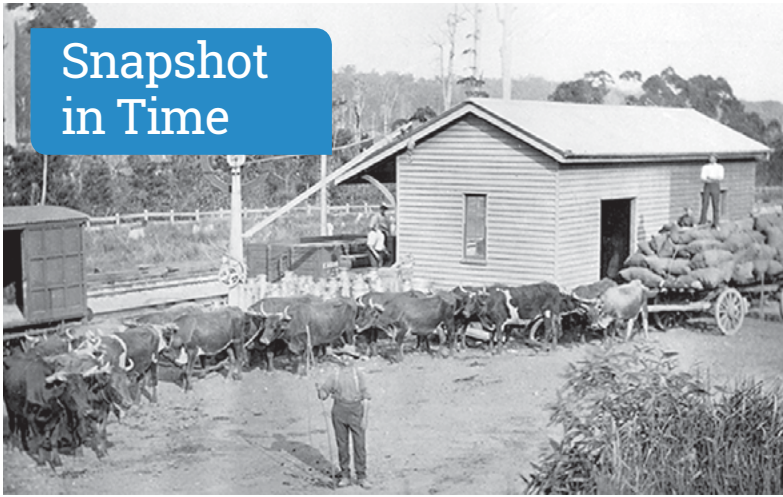
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Snapshot in Time



With railways in the news it seemed timely to present this photo of a bullock team with a load of produce at Woombye Railway Station, 1920. It was in the 1890s that steam trains injected new life into the area. The North Coast Line provided much needed faster transport links to and from Brisbane at a time when roads were of poor condition. Transportation to the region was either by sea or along the main track, the Gympie Road, to the goldfields. This journey could take days by coach, cart or horseback. — Source: Sunshine Coast Council Library



Andrew Wallace MP, with Maleny Show Society Patron Andrew Powell MP, President Winston Johnston and members of the Maleny Show Society at the Showgrounds.

Maleny Show's \$500K facelift

THE Maleny Show will look a little different next year, thanks to a \$486,111 grant announced recently by Federal Member for Fisher Andrew Wallace. The grant will go towards the construction of new facilities to help reinvigorate the well-used grounds.

The grant would help alleviate some of the disappointment with the cancellation of this year's show. "Every year this event is absolutely the biggest show in town and it has been very disappointing for all of us in Maleny to miss out in 2020," Mr Wallace said.

"The grant will be used by the Maleny Show Society to build a new workshop and shed, to extend their offices to provide more capacity for

putting together a terrific show, and to construct new accessible amenities to make it easier for people with disabilities to come along and take part in the fun.

"That is going to benefit not only our show, but our whole community in providing work for local builders in the short term and drawing more visitors to our community in the years to come.

Maleny Show Society President and newly elected Div 5 Councillor Winston Johnston said the organisation was privileged to receive the money.

"This grant will benefit not only the Show Society but TS Centaur, the cricket club, the soccer club and many more," Cr Johnston said.

"At the present moment we are

starved for these kinds of facilities and our ground staff desperately need more area for working and storage. We want to thank the Federal Government for honouring us with such a large grant," Mr Johnston said.

"I'd also like to thank my team, because the Maleny Show Committee is a team. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved. Maleny Show is undoubtedly one of the best country shows in Queensland," he said.

"This grant means that the Show can move on the next stage and grow even bigger. We're going to go to the next level. We will be a bigger show, and we're adding new things to our entertainment every year."

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Facilities re-opening

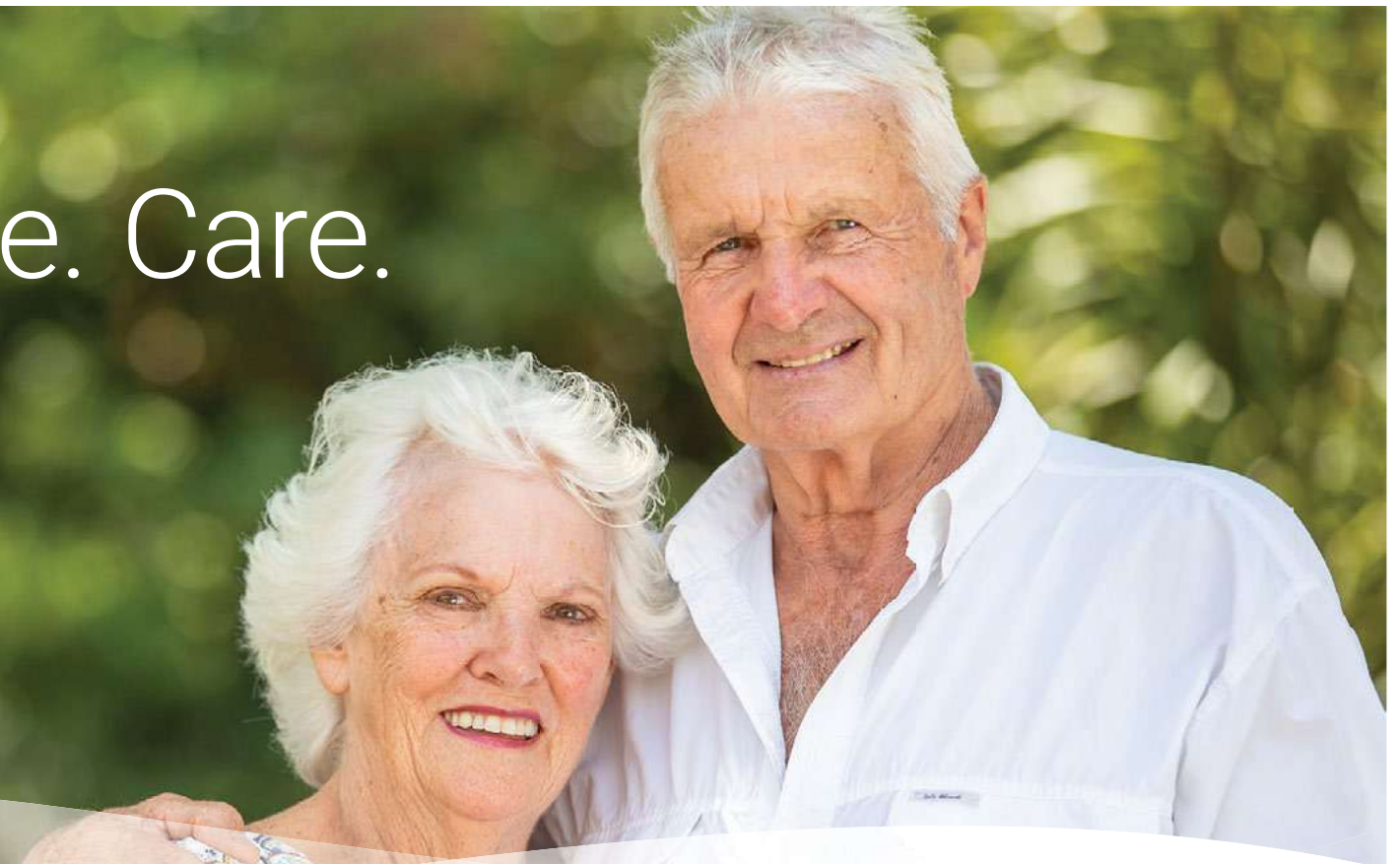
PLAYGROUNDS, exercise equipment and skate parks re-opened from Saturday, May 16, following the Queensland Government's plan to ease COVID-19 restrictions.

A maximum of 10 people can use a facility at any one time.

Personal trainers will also be able to hold sessions for up to ten people (including the trainer) on council land, as long as they can demonstrate COVID-safe practices and have an existing permit in place.

Residents and visitors must continue to comply with social distancing requirements.

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Beau Scott, year 3, is justifiably proud of the work done by his fellow Nambour Christian College students.

Young visual artists take exhibition online

STUDENTS in Junior School at Nambour Christian College engaged in a series of visual art lessons in preparation for a school art gallery exhibition. The focus of the artwork was on portraiture, and students drew either themselves or a significant person in their lives.

Students were supported in their learning through the expertise of community artists Mrs Jess Le Clerc and Mrs Mel Kronk, who modelled artist techniques. Skills and habits of mind of careful observation, perseverance and using angles and shading to show perspective and depth were developed through practice. The students were also supported to write an artist statement to share their thinking about their artwork.

Eleven finalists were selected and sent to the national 'Young Archie 2020' competition which is a sibling of the Archibald competition for adults run by the Art Gallery of NSW.

Sarah Bauer a Year 5 student finalist said "When we were first told that we were going to be drawing portraits of people that were significant to us, I wasn't very excited because I didn't like drawing or art very much. But after our classroom lesson with Mrs Le Clerc and

working on it at school I discovered that art isn't as bad as I thought it was and it turns out it is quite fun!

"When I was told that my portrait of my Grandma had been chosen as a finalist in the Young Archie national competition in NSW, I was shocked and amazed and also very proud. Now I am excited to try drawing different things in my spare time at home."

Adapting to the radical changes due to COVID-19, the public opening of the gallery had to be cancelled, but a virtual exhibition was created and launched last Friday.

The virtual exhibition provides wider viewing of the artwork in the comfort and safety of the home and serves as an example of the skills of the Junior school students of the College.

The exhibition can be opened on the following links via a computer using Chrome.

Gallery 1: Finalists and semi-finalists from Year 1 to Year 6. <https://publish.exhibit.com/gallery/88429031/long-gallery-17958/>

Gallery 2: All students from Prep to Year 6 <https://publish.exhibit.com/gallery/88429031/long-gallery-19046/>

Balancing cash flow a challenge

Business Advice
by Peter Gamgee



AMAZING is how you could describe the response by business owners to manage the little reserves they have to see them through until trading starts again. Now as the doors are opening the tightrope walk with cash flow starts again.

Whilst we have the roadmap for lifting restrictions this is not necessarily a forecast of return to good cash flow. The uncertainties still exist. How many customers will return and how much will they spend now? How much trade can I do whilst social distancing restrictions apply? At what point will I receive or be ineligible for government assistance?

It costs money to open those doors to procure stock, supplies and engage staff. Will the business coming in the near future support that? Have I still enough reserves, or access to funds until I get my cashflow happening again? Will I ever be able to repay the debt I am accruing?

Then there are those who are trying to obtain and balance the government job keeper allowance criteria with being open again for business. Business may take a long time to get back to pre COVID levels, however job keeper will cease at a point in time, or when turnover gets to the threshold - but will that be enough to sustain adequate cash flow including accu-

mulated debt?

Added to this will be customer behaviour. Most customers will be appreciative of the situation and will "do the right thing" as far as social distancing is concerned, paying fair prices, shopping locally. But there will be some who cause stress through haggling, disregarding other people's social space and expecting levels of service simply not possible right now.

All of these factors combined plus the personal stresses with family and friends can easily become an absolute nightmare that does not go away during the day!

There is help though if you are prepared to reach out.

You can and should be talking to your accountant about your cash flow and the government incentives. Remember though they are also struggling to deal with the complexities, frequent criteria changes by government and the number of clients needing assistance.

There are others you can talk to: business owners in a similar situation, mentors and coaches if you have them, retired business owners, or other trusted people you can use as a sounding board. If you are stuck you can get some support from the Sunshine Coast Professional Advice Support Program.

Centred around cashflow, but including staff considerations, check your decisions with that sounding board you select. Don't expect miracle answers, but the discussion should help you gain confidence in your decisions to walk the forthcoming tightrope with a little more balance.

Who won the tickets to 'Evening of Magic & Wizards?'

THE winner of the double pass to see 'An Evening of Magic & Wizards' with the famed Wesley twins was Kathy Pope from Eudlo.

"I entered the competition so I could take my daughter, Olive, 13, who is a Harry Potter fan. It was she who told me the correct answer to the contest question: that George is the

better Quidditch player. We live in Eudlo and are very excited to go to the show."

Kathy and Olive will enjoy the three-hour show, billed as "the best fix for all Harry Potter fans", coming to Caloundra Indoor Stadium on Tuesday, 27 October from 6.30pm. Go to hpquizzshow.com.au for more.

Club ties strengthen community fabric, virus or no virus

by Stewart Medland

COVID-19 has had far reaching affects, with ongoing challenges faced by many. Understandably, the focus has been to protect the community with strict guidelines and regulations. Local not for profit clubs and organisations have complied with the immediate closure of their facilities and cancellation of group activities.

But this has left many in difficult situations regarding membership numbers, ongoing costs and uncertainty surrounding future reopening.

Woombye Snakes F.C.

Woombye Snakes F.C. President Andy Kinden said the shutdown could barely have come at a worse time.



Nambour & District Poultry Club Treasurer & Chief Steward Mark Cockroft.

“We’d only just had sign on and registrations for the new season when the directive was announced to close and suspend all games and training,” he said.

“Water usage, power and maintenance costs still need to be met. With the suspension of games we are not bringing in the revenue associated with match days and club activities. This season the canteen had been tendered out to independent operators so they’ve felt the effect to their hospitality business.

“There’s talk about a late start to the season, running into November but that could pose problems, clashing with summer sports such as Cricket & Surf Club Carnivals.”

Andy and other committee members have been trying to keep everyone at the club informed via their website and facebook page and will continue to oversee operations to ensure footy fans can once again enjoy their sport at the Snakepit.

Palmwoods CWA

The Palmwoods CWA was established in 1934, with their Hall being built in 1937. This is the first time they have been forced to close.

President Yvonne Dalziel and her team of dedicated volunteers are managing to keep branch members active while continuing to reach out to the community.

The Welcome To Palmwoods Facebook page features CWA competitions with prizes such as Beeswax Wraps — the environmental alternative to plastic wrap — made from locally-sourced Palmwoods Honey.

Members are carrying out ongoing maintenance in line with current restrictions: cleaning the hall and tending to the edible veggie garden.

They are also busily planning for the future, including the 2021 Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show, and continuing with their main focus of



Woombye Snakes F.C. President Andy Kinden.

supporting the local community.

Poultry Club

Another long standing club that has had to rethink their activities is Nambour & District Poultry Club.

Club Treasurer/Chief Steward Mark Cockroft said changes had been necessary.

“The club has been around for 37 years with a small dedicated group of enthusiasts that attend the many shows throughout the year,” he said.

“We decided early on to cancel our own annual event at the Nambour Showgrounds. This can attract several hundred people and over 400 birds.

“We are also very involved in the Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show which, of course, has also been cancelled this year. Regular phone calls between the members and other clubs throughout the area have kept some contact going, but for a lot of us it’s the social aspect and sharing of knowledge that we’re missing.”

Unfortunately for all clubs, there are decisions that can’t be made until there are new guidelines regarding group numbers and the reopening of these facilities.

Works fast-laned at swim facilities

LOCAL swimming facilities like Palmwoods Aquatic Centre are undergoing improvements after Sunshine Coast Council fast-tracked capital works and maintenance programs.

Council says the work was to help keep money circulating with local businesses and reduce interruptions to patrons.

Libraries still remain closed at this time while council plans for their safe operation while restrictions on group numbers and social distancing requirements remain.

Dogs in Business



THIS week, meet Sachi. Sachi is the chief meeter, greeter, and all-round sparkly-eyed sweetie at Burns Property in Palmwoods.

It’s impossible not to smile when you see her. Here, she is with the boss, Mike Burns and she had just been to the groomer (so she was quite happy to have her photo taken, and was especially pleased with herself).

Proud to support our local community

Palmwoods Community Branch is a joint venture between the Palmwoods Community and Heritage Bank. By doing your banking with the Palmwoods Community Branch you can assist with generating the funds to support your local community. We are proud to have contributed over \$100,000 towards the Palmwoods Boardwalk and Federation Park exercise equipment.

Visit your local community branch at Palmwoods Plaza or call 5457 3344.

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Love finds a way: Harry and Dorothy Clewett celebrate their 76th wedding anniversary despite restrictions.

Contactless 76th anniversary was touching, nonetheless

PALMWOODS couple Harry and Dorothy Clewett celebrated their 76th wedding anniversary through a doorway last week due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Estia Health helped make the most of an unfortunate circumstance and set up Harry in his room looking out at Dorothy, 94, who enjoyed her dinner outside.

"Unfortunately this year the celebration couldn't be so big as Dad is living in the aged care facility and Mum still lives at home. So they are not able to celebrate in the same room," said daughter Gail Seville.

"But the home has been amazing with the care and respect to helping

the two of them celebrate another milestone anniversary.

"Staff decorated a doorway with streamers and balloons and then placed a long table in the middle so that Dad sat one end and Mum sat the other end and we placed the cake in the middle.

"So they ate together but were separated with enough distance to maintain safety.

"Dad's request was for steak and kidney pie with mashed potato laced with raw onion. His absolute favourite meal. So it was a very successful day."

It was the second major celebration of the year for Harry who also marked his 100th birthday at Nambour RSL

with close to 80 friends and relatives. "Luckily that was before COVID-19 shut everything down," said Gail.

The couple was married in 1944 on May 13. It was a quick wedding while Harry was on leave from the Army.

"Dorothy kept the home fires burning while Harry was in the Army during the war years," said Gail.

"And after the war finished, Harry built the family a home and began a new life as an orchardist in Grose Vale in NSW."

They have three boys and a girl, seven grand-children and nine great-grandchildren. Dorothy still lives in Palmwoods and is a member of Palmwoods Bowls Club.

Glass House Mountains named by Lieutenant Cook 250 years ago

IT'S a significant event that came and went with little fanfare, but Member for Glass House Andrew Powell wants to remind people of the 250th anniversary of the naming of the Glass House Mountains by then Lieutenant (later Captain) James Cook.

May 17, was the exact day 250 years ago that the Endeavour sailed past and Cook named the mountains.

"Many of us know the rich Indigenous history and legend associated with the mountains and nearly all bear an Indigenous name," said Mr Powell.

"But not so many know it was Cook who gave the formations their collective name."

When James Cook navigated the land surrounding the mountains, he wrote in his journal: "these hills lie but a little way inland, and not far from each other: they are remarkable for the singular form of their elevation, which very much resembles a glass house, and for this reason I called them Glass Houses."

"How proud he would be to know that hundreds of years later, these mountains are still a cherished Australian icon," said Mr Powell.

In 1799, some twenty-nine years after Cook, Lieutenant Matthew Flinders disembarked from his boat to scale Mount Beerburum with his Aboriginal companion Bongaree.

Lieutenant Flinders remarked that "The view of the bay and neighbouring country was very extensive".

"In commemorating the 250th anniversary of the naming of the mountains, I also want to acknowledge locals like Ivon Northage and Ron Gillinder and the team at Celebrate Glasshouse Country, who have done so much in the way of educating locals and tourists about Cook and Flinders' initial discoveries."

Roger Reilly of Celebrate Glasshouse Country, encouraged locals to head to their YouTube channel to watch a series of short videos on the explorers that were associated with the Glass House Mountains.



Nambour RSL Executive Chef Matt Smyth ... "We're offering restaurant-quality winter warmer food."

Comfort food on the menu as RSL launches takeaways

NAMBOURIANS hankering for their regular meal at the RSL can rest easy. The local club has launched a takeaway menu so you can select your meal, pre-pay over the phone and make your collection curbside.

Apparently the menu hit the spot with locals straight off the bat. *The Gazette* was there for the launch last Wednesday and Executive Chef Matt Smyth was already busy with orders.

"We're offering restaurant-quality winter warmer comfort food," he said. "Our menu will change regularly to keep things interesting, so people need to keep their eye on the website."

Nambour RSL CEO Suzanne Long said it was a welcome move back to normality amidst the COVID shutdown.

"A lot of people have been enquiring about what we're doing and wondering when we're coming back," she said.

"This is a great way to support our members, the community and our staff.

"We're excited to see familiar faces and meet new friends. So be sure to view our menu and give us a try."

The menu is available every Wednesday, Thursday & Friday from 12.30pm-7pm.

Phone 0402 086 548 from 8am on take-away-days, place your order and staff will meet you curbside of the main entrance with your meals.

Menu: nambourrsl.com.au/dining-bars/takeaways

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How to be a good 'Citizen Scientist'

Wildlife Volunteers 5441 6200
by Donna Brennan, wilvos.org.au

CITIZEN Science is a great way to help our wildlife. I like to regard all callers to our WILVOS 5441 6200 Hotline as 'Citizen Scientists'.

Besides helping injured and orphaned wildlife, the data we collect helps ensure a brighter future for wildlife. Ever the optimist, I hope these statistics will help our local, state and federal governments make more environmentally friendly decisions on the land development front.

Wildlife problems are often seasonal. As the days are shorter the wallabies and kangaroos are out grazing at the same time as people are heading to and from work. There were three calls before 8am the morning I wrote this column, for kangaroos hit by cars. One little joey was taken to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital for a checkup and it is now on its way to me. Thank you to WILVO Graham for being the taxi service!

We are very grateful to these 'Citizen Scientists' who call us when they see animals in danger. It surprises me that someone can hit an animal and keep driving but it does happen. Even a phone call on arrival at a destination helps, with a description of where the event happened. It may mean an animal can be quickly euthanized if necessary. Or, that a joey can be saved before it becomes a road accident victim.

There is also an increase in exudative dermatitis in possum populations. This usually begins with a thinning out of fur on the face, rump and tail areas. It gradually gets worse until there are dreadful ulcerated areas. It must be so extremely painful, yet is so treatable in the early stages. It breaks my heart if people ring up and says they have been noticing the condition worsen over a couple of years. By this time the animal is in a dreadful state and suffering they have endured is unthinkable. Please phone if you notice any wildlife injuries. Be a good 'Citizen Scientist'!



Home Grown
Hand Made

Baker's homeschool kit spreads sourdough joy

KATIE Faulkner's love affair with sourdough started when she wanted to bake her children a type of bread that would boost their gut health and raise their immunity.

In 2014, she created her own sourdough starter and focused on perfecting a traditional loaf recipe. Today, her small-batch bakery, The Wonky Loaf, boasts delectable varieties backed by rapidly-growing clientele, boutique venues and caterers.

It was Katie's sourdough baguette that made the cut for Sir Elton John's dressing room during his Sunshine Coast performances.

Inspired by the health benefits of sourdough, Katie wanted to create a user-friendly way for families to learn the ins and outs of making their own sourdough using this ancient method.

The kit is complete with a colourful, step-by-step interactive booklet, some of the Wonky Loaf sourdough starter to kick-start your own and organic flour for all the required

processes. The booklet shares scientific and historical insights and frequently asked questions are answered by Katie.

To order a kit, please visit Katie's Facebook page The Wonky Loaf of email her at baked@thewonkyloaf.com

About the Wonky Loaf

Based in Palmwoods, The Wonky Loaf was established in 2018. It is a small-batch bakery using only superior-quality organic flours and ingredients and wild yeast fermentation. Every batch is fermented for 36 hours which adds outstanding taste and nutritional benefits. The Wonky Loaf pantry is continually growing and currently consists of 9 loaf varieties and par-baked pizza bases available to order or purchase directly at selected cafes and markets. For comprehensive learning experiences, Katie offers hands-on workshops.

For more, visit The Wonky Loaf on Facebook or Instagram.

Working our way out of restrictions in COVID's wake

From **Marty Hunt**
State Member for Nicklin



IN Queensland, we've done a remarkable job keeping the COVID-19 infection rate as low as it is.

There was a time when modelling predicted a much bleaker picture. But because Queenslanders were willing to do their part we are now in a position to start to work our way out of the restrictions.

That means getting back to work. The economy has suffered a great deal of damage and the focus now needs to be getting business open and operating again.

This crisis has shown just how important our local small businesses are to the functioning of our local economy and local jobs.

The State Opposition has been calling on the Government to do more for small business in the form of grants as other States have done.

We will continue to call for that in Parliament this week as it is long overdue.

Some just need a bit of a kickstart to reopen and re-establish themselves and some grants at this point in time might just be the difference between surviving or closing.

In the meantime, we can all do our part by making sure we buy our goods and services locally and look for opportunities to visit and buy from the small businesses in the CBD's of our area.

My office is open to the public from Monday 25 May, but we can assist you very effectively with email or a phone call, so please consider these options in these times.

I will also be considering running mobile offices again soon as I plan to get out and about in the electorate again. So keep an eye on my Facebook page for locations and times.

It is important we keep in mind the health advice as we get out and about more. Maintaining social distancing, not going out if you are ill and hand-washing.

We all want to keep moving through the stages of the restrictions lifting and it is up to us to make this happen. Everyone has done a great job so far and I am confident that this will continue.

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OH WHAT A FEELING

[F3] 1.9% annual percentage rate available to approved business applicants of Toyota Finance to finance all new & demo HiAce Petrol vehicles (build dates from February 2019 - December 2019). Offer available to Bronze and Silver Fleet guests only. Finance applications must be received by 30/06/2020. Maximum finance term of 48 months applies. Terms, conditions, fees and charges apply. Toyota Finance reserves the right to change, extend or withdraw an offer at any time. Ask your local Toyota dealer for more information. Toyota Finance, a division of Toyota Finance Australia Limited ABN 48 002 435 181, AFSL and Australian Credit Licence 392536. [D1] Recommended driveaway price (RDP) shown is applicable for Private customers, Bronze, and Silver Fleet customers, and primary producers, only at participating dealers. Offer available on new January 2020 to April 2020 built models purchased between 01/05/2020 and 30/06/2020 unless extended. RDP includes 12 months registration, 12 months compulsory third party insurance (CTP), a maximum dealer delivery charge and stamp duty. Metallic/Premium paint at additional cost. Toyota reserves the right to extend or amend the offer at any stage.



Buy Aussie call hits right note

IN recent months there has been an upswing in consumer interest in Australian made products from Australian owned companies.

Maleny IGA owner Rob Outridge came up with an eye-catching new way to mark products that are produced by Australian owned companies.

The 'wobblers' created quite a storm on Social Media after being posted on the store's Facebook page late last month.

"In the early days of the Coronavirus lockdown I spent a lot more time 'on the floor' of the shop, overseeing our social distancing protocols and checking on product supply," Mr Outridge said.

"And more and more people

were openly looking and asking for Australian made products.

"The funny thing is that we have been actively marking Australian products as such for 20 years. But our ticketing was just not cutting through as effectively as we would have liked. By nature, supermarket shelves are very 'busy' to the eye and the ticketing we have used in the past was getting lost with everything else.

"I put the problem to Wayne at 4CP Printing in Woombye, and he came back to me with the first prototype of the 'wobbler'. The first one was a bit big, but he had another go and sent me the one that is in use in our shop now. It is impossible to miss," said Mr Outridge.

"We were blown away after Samantha posted about our 'wobblers' on Social Media. The post received 160,000 plus views and was picked up and shared on au.news.yahoo.com with a plea to

Coles and Woolworths to follow suit.

"In reality, compiling this type of information for our customers is not actually that straightforward or easy to do. There are layers involved in the production and manufacturing process and any aspect of it can involve ingredients, processing or ownership by overseas companies," he said.

"As we see it, it is our job to direct people to products that are owned by Australian companies and then they can read the label and compare in a more informed way. Supporting Australian owned companies is something that we believe is most important because the profits stay in Australia.

"In the end, it's up to the consumer to drive the demand. I think what recent events have highlighted is the importance of Australia being more self sufficient in many product lines, especially food and medical supplies."

Rob Outridge with the eye-catching Wobblers that are making buying Australian easy.

Bring back our weddings

From **Andrew Powell**
State Member for Glass House



I'M joining Hinterland Tourism Sunshine Coast's calls for a sensible solution to hosting weddings before 10th July. With a comprehensive safety plan which includes strict guest number maximums and full guest traceability, the wedding industry should be allowed to operate under slightly relaxed rules. I have tabled their request in Parliament alongside letters of support from many wedding vendors and hope to see a favourable response from the Premier. Our region desperately needs such common sense outcomes.

Last Tuesday was International Nurses' Day, and the 200th birthday of Florence Nightingale - the founder of modern nursing who paved the way for the millions of nurses now serving worldwide. Now more than ever, we truly owe so much to our nurses.

Many nurses work for hours on end with no breaks, pull double shifts, put themselves in harms way and sacrifice so much of themselves to give to others. If you've ever spent time in a hospital, you'll know how caring nurses are. They are true heroes and should be celebrated every single day. If you are a nurse, thank you. Thank you so much.

What Do Dairy Hampers and Animal Feed Have in Common?

They're both items that I've been able to deliver in the electorate over the past week! Thanks to Maleny Dairies and Maleny Cheese, I was able to deliver ten hampers full of milk, cheese, yoghurt and custard to some lucky homes in the electorate.

I also had a great time delivering some bird seed, cat litter and other produce items to D'Aguilar Wildlife who had put out the call for donations to help feed the 600+ animals they have onsite. To return the favour, I was treated to cuddles from some delightful and playful little Marmoset Monkeys! Let me know if you are part of a small business in Glass House who would like to help me deliver goods to residents.

New Telstra station for Booloumba

Andrew Wallace
Federal Member for Fisher



THESE have been dark times on the Sunshine Coast for many, but we've seen amazing resilience and adaptability too. Now we must turn our minds to creating the Sunshine Coast Hinterland we want to see in the months ahead.

I am determined to do everything I can to help our community rebuild, and the Federal Government is already supporting projects in the Hinterland that are going to make a difference.

This month I visited Maleny Show Grounds and announced a grant of \$486,111 to build a new workshop, shed and office space.

This will provide more capacity for putting together an even better Show as well as improved facilities for other community clubs that use the show grounds.

It will also pay for accessible amenities to make it easier for people with disabilities to get involved.

It was disappointing for all of us when the show was cancelled this year but with the help of this grant I am sure that next year will be our best yet.

This is going to benefit our whole community by providing desperately needed work for local builders in the short term and by drawing more visitors to Maleny in the years to come. I can't wait to set up my marquee again next year and get stuck into all the great things that the show has to offer!

I also recently announced that the Hinterland will soon receive a new Telstra base station with the support of Federal Government funding, providing improved mobile coverage in and around Booloumba.

This is the fourth new base station funded by the Federal Government here since 2016, with others in Peachester, Glass House MOUNTAINS and Beerwah, and is another example of the kind of projects I will be fighting for more of in the months to come.

Giving back to the groups who do so much

Div 5 Cr Winston **Johnston**



OUR not-for-profit community organisations are at the heart of Division 5 and council has a range of new grants available to assist those impacted by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

I have been involved in many exceptional community groups over the years and know just how valuable their efforts are to the broader community.

If your group is doing it tough, I encourage you to check out what is on offer and apply as soon as possible.

COVID-19 Community Response Grants include four categories:

- Operational and Maintenance (funding up to \$5000)
- Continuity and Connectivity (funding up to \$5000)
- Capacity Building (funding up to \$3000), and
- Facility Improvement (funding up to \$10,000).

Applicants can make two applications per round, however they must be in different categories.

Applications must respond to a COVID-19 impact and demonstrate evidence of financial hardship and/or need for funding assistance.

These COVID-19 Community Response Grants are now open and applications close Monday June 1 2020.

As well as the COVID-19 Community Response Grants, council has expanded and increased its Emergency Grants to help not-for-profit community organisations requiring a rapid response. Applicants can now apply for up to \$3000, subject to eligibility criteria.

Council strives to process Emergency Grants applications within two weeks.

Applications for all council grants can be made via council's website. For further details, including grant eligibility criteria, visit www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/grants.

Nambour Tram Terminus was inspiring

From Div 10 Cr **David Law**



I had a guided tour of the new Nambour Tram Terminus this week. It is amazing to see what has been achieved as a result of eight years of community effort led by a bunch of very dedicated supporters. The enthusiasm of Peter Clark was palpable for how The Nambour Tram Co will be a crucial part of Nambour's future. The quality of the Terminus sheds and landscaped surrounds is exceptional and already a valuable contribution to the fabric of Nambour.

The space inside the Sheds is massive and there's even space for a live band to play on the platform. I am really looking forward to the next Tramfest being held at the Terminus.

We also looked over the completed plans for stage two which will take the tram right into the showgrounds. Peter explained how the tram will be operated by volunteers and the Terminus will include a Visitor Information Centre and tour booking desk.

Every week the restrictions surrounding COVID-19 are changing and updating, please use reliable information sources to keep up to date. I'm pleased to share with you council has activated the COVID-19 Community Response Grants and expanded its Emergency Grants.

Eligible not-for-profit community groups can apply for grants between \$3000 and \$10,000, conditions apply. Visit council's website. Applications close Monday, June 1.

And lastly, some fun; to give a huge shout out to all the local unsung heroes who are helping their neighbours in so many different ways.

Everyone is encouraged to share inspirational stories of a neighbour or their neighbourhood for the chance to win a \$1500 four person evacuation kit and a street party for their neighbourhood when it's safe to do so.

Entries close on 5 June. Visit haveyouwaysay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/neighborlycomp

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