Sunshine Palley Gazette

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The little cafe with a big heart ... Sweethearts Cafe owner Sharon Knight and her son Adam (holding new fruit and veggie box) & daughter Beth with baby Rex ... "Being a family business we just have to survive and we have a huge passion for this small community and surrounds."

Getting on with business

AS businesses across the hinterland adapt to cope with the impacts of COVID-19 one small cafe in the tiny town of Eudlo stands as a beacon of inspiration.

Since opening three years ago, the aptly named Sweethearts Cafe in Eudlo has been a truly community-focussed, family affair.

With conditions deteriorating and mouths to feed, owner Sharon Knight knew she had to change with the circumstances. "Being a family business we just have to survive," she said. "We have a huge passion for this small community and surrounds. I am

just so very grateful for the support from our beautiful customers who are certainly a loyal bunch. Anything that we can do to make life easier for them we will as it helps us keep our doors open."

Sweethearts offers traineeships and work experience for kids with special needs, through Busy@Work and Tursa. "And we are working hard to keep these young people on through these difficult times. We have always reached out to and supported local growers and producers. Not only because of the quality of what they provide, but because

we have such a strong belief in the power of community. That is certainly being put to the test right now, and we have never been more determined to make this work.

"We take the COVID-19 restrictions very seriously and have changed our offerings to comply as well as to support our customers and suppliers, many of whom are really suffering right now."

Sweethearts is open with their full menu available for takeaways. They have extended their hours to include Friday, Saturday and Sunday night until 7pm.

"We now supply weekly fruit and veggie boxes, sourced locally, and from this week we will be adding other fresh staples such as beautiful local bacon and small goods, meat packs, Sunshine Coast milk, and juice.

"Palmwoods Bakery have come on board, so you can buy fresh-baked bread and other bakery goodies to add to your produce box, as long as you pre-order it. It is a saying that we are all being encouraged to remember at the moment. But it is so true. We really are all in it together." Weekly specials are on their Facebook Page or phone 5445 9665.



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Sunshine Valley Gazette

Thanks for your contributions

Editor's Letter, Cameron Outridge editor@sunshinevalleygazette.com.au

PART of our mission is about connecting communities through story and it's never been more important. We put out a call last week for people to send us stories of how they're adapting, coping and caring through COVID-19.

As you'll see in this edition, the response has been terrific. We aim to continue to cover these types of stories. So let us know if you or someone you know is doing something inspiring.

Everyone is overwhelmed and anxious right now. You know that, and I don't need to say much more about it. One thing I DO know is that when life feels uncertain, a little sunshine goes a

We know we can only do so much, but we hope the stories this week of people caring, coping and adapting, and simply "continuing" as best they can offer a little bright spark in these turbulent times.

Our front page story of the Knights is a case in point. They are truly inspiring. Talk about the little town with a big

Inspiration is a precious commodity right now but I hope you'll find some as you read the paper.

Mum and dad operators out there are getting on with business. Local representatives are offering support. Community groups are giving back (as usual).

Enjoy the paper.

And remember to check on your neighbours, self isolate, social distance, clean your hands, support the elderly. And support local because local matters more than ever.



Kay Nixon from the Little Book Nook has plenty of beautiful books to keep children entertained.

Looking for a book to amuse and uplift kids stuck at home?

THE Little Book Nook, the Palmwoods bookshop up the lane off Little Main Street, is still open for business with some adap-

"We have books, games and puzzles for all ages but specialise in a great range of

We are offering free delivery to a radius of 30 minutes drive so this would include Nambour, Woombye, Buderim, Montville etcetera (for orders over \$10).

"We can also post. We have a website which you can peruse and place an order. You can also keep up to date via our Face-

mentally and spiritually during this difficult

The Little Book Nook is in Shop 5, 4-6

Election results still in balance

DAVID Law was leading the field in the race for Sunshine Coast Regional Division 10 Councillor while Winston Johnston was narrowly ahead in Division 5.

But with preferences still to be distributed, and counting slow due to Queensland Electoral Commission COVID-19 protocols, the results are still too close to call from the March 28 poll.

The Returning Officer anticipated not being able to distribute preferences before Thursday April 9 at the earliest.

Greens candidates Sue Etheridge (Division 10) and Tracy Burton (Division 5) were coming second in both divisions, and could pull ahead once preferences are distrib-

Division 10		
Candidate	Count	Percentage
LAW, David	2990	21.04%
ETHERIDGE, Sue	2418	17.01%
WALLACE, Hilary	2211	15.56%
FILIPPI, Matthew	1696	11.93%
MONAGHAN, Paul	1065	7.49%
CAMPBELL, Keith	1582	11.13%
CLARIDGE, Cortney	2251	15.84%

Division 5		
Candidate	Count	Percentage
CUTLACK, Greg	686	4.55%
BURTON, Tracy	3318	22.01%
SANIM, Tracie	1218	8.08%
BRUINSMA, Kiti	764	5.07%
WILLIAMS, Greg	1280	8.49%
WARING, Clive	515	3.42%
BARRY-JONES, Alison	1193	7.91%
HODGSON, Charles	1094	7.26%
GRIMARD, James	1158	7.68%
JOHNSTON, Winston	3852	25.55%



STEPS delivered hot cross buns to local businesses including Nambour's Ken Mills

STEPS delivers Easter kindness to supporters

STEPS Pathways College students set out with a carload of carefully prepared 'kindness packages' to give their supporters

STEPS Charity executive manager Bec Whitehouse said their 'big dose of hope and love' was well received by their business supporters in these uncertain times.

"It was wonderful for our students to have the opportunity to give a little back to those who give so much," she said.

"They baked the hot cross buns with love and care onsite at STEPS Caloundra, all part of our student living and learning program, practical learning that builds the skills students need to live a life of independence."

The hot cross buns were delivered to The Fleet Office, Ken Mills Toyota; BA Murphy Constructions; Fuji Xerox Business Centre Sunshine Coast; Home Care Assistance Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay; Caloundra RSL; Linda Feltman - McGrath Caloundra, McGrath Caloundra, Spire Law; Express Print & Mail & ARB Maroochydore.



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Business Features

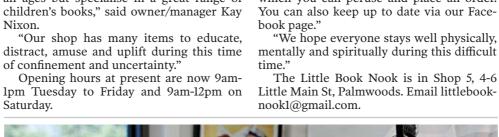
Stand out from the crowd with a story written and photographed by The Gazette. Business Features are engaging, memorable and they make all your other marketing perform better.

Support Rates

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Distribution

10,000 copies are distributed to popular pick-up points throughout the hinterland including at Palmwoods, Woombye, Nambour, Chevallum, Eudlo, Mooloolah, Hunchy, Yandina, Maleny, Montville, Flaxton, Mapleton.





Small Business owner Deb Rowlands allowed herself one day to get over the shock of deteriorating business conditions before re-focussing.

Dressmaker launches Drop-Sew-Go

THE wedding and social sphere is not exactly at its peak right now and that has had devastating effects for all concerned.

Still, Nambour dressmaker Deb Rowlands was determined to make the best of a terrible situation. Deb provides dressmaking and clothing alterations and repairs from her home in Nambour and business is down due to forced cancellations.

"A customer rang and asked how I was going and I told her I was still in my pyjamas and it was 4.30 in the afternoon and she burst out laughing.

"So I allowed myself that one day of sadness and then thought 'what am I going to do to get this business up and running again'.

"So I have adjusted my business practices by offering a 'Drop-Sew-Go' service that allows my customers to still receive some of my services that do not require personal contact fittings.

"Also as a thank you for their business I am offering customers a washable fabric face mask to help make them feel safer."

Deb can also launder and professionally press five business shirts for \$28.

Deb's sewing blog explains the new service in detail.

For more information www.ISew4U.org/ post/drop-sew-go or phone 0414 388 238.



Great news ... The Big Pineapple Music Festival has been rescheduled.

Local Music Festival announces new dates

by Alex Gallagher March 25, 2020

BIG Pineapple Music Festival was originally scheduled to take place this May, but organisers have announced rescheduled dates in light of COVID-19. Big Pineapple will now take place in Woombye on Saturday November 21.

Thankfully, the lineup will remain more or less as per the original announcement.

"We've been working in overdrive the past few days to finalise our lineup for the rescheduled date and are stoked that we've managed to keep it almost exactly the same," said festival organisers.

All but one act on the festival's original lineup – which included the likes of Hilltop Hoods, Alison Wonderland and Dune Rats – have signed on to perform. Sadly, The Amity Affliction are unable to make the revised November date work, so in their stead, The Chats will be stepping up and taking their place.

"We'd like to thank you all again for your

support in this crazy time and can't wait to party with you come November," organisers commented. "Until then, stay safe, stay in and keep washing those hands!"

Big Pineapple 2020 Lineup

Hilltop Hoods, Alison Wonderland, The Chats, Dune Rats, Example, G Flip, Kingswood, Odette, Thelma Plum, Winston Surfshirt, Kwame, Cxloe, Jessb, Nyxen, Kyle Lionhart, Bootleg Rascal, A Swayze & The Ghosts, Roland Tings, Death By Denim, Jawbreakers, Gold Member, Mady Mooda, Jack Botts, The Jensens, First Beige, Forrest Run.

ACMA Concert cancelled

THE ACMA country music concert to be held at the Hall of Fame, 24 Steggalls Road, Yandina on Sunday 19th May will be cancelled due to the Corona Virus outbreak. All future concerts will be cancelled until further notice We look forward to seeing you all again soon. Enquiries 0437 191004

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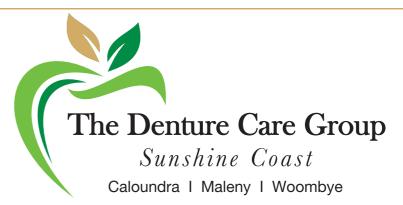
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Daisy writes a book. That's one smart pup!

by Cameron Outridge

NAMBOUR'S Robi O'Keeffe wanted to write a book. Not just any book. But a book about life through the eyes of a dog. And not just any dog. It had to be her faithful companion Daisy, a six-year-old golden retriever, trained by Smartpups.

Smartpups trains assistance dogs for special-needs children and Robi is their Coordinator of Community Fundraising.

The pair are well-known for their work promoting the organisation to clubs and schools.

"Daisy's job is very important," said Robi. "As well as being an author she's Smartpups' official ambassador. She was also a wonderful mother and she's my own assistance dog. She's written three books now through the eye of a four-foot and she gives her perspective on the world."

Daisy's first book, Miss Daisy's Diary, is in its third reprint of 100. The second book is Miss Daisy's Family.

The latest book, Miss Daisy's Adventures, tells of her adventures all over Australia, touring with Robi and husband Richard in their 1972 Kombi Campervan.

"From the Gulf of Carpentaria to the very bottom of Tasmania and all points in between," said Robi.

"As a member of the family I thought Daisy should be able to comment from her perspective of how the family operates. It's very much Daisy's book."

Robi said Smartpups were trained to improve children's independence and quality of life. Incredibly, they can assist with autism support, seizure response, mobility assistance, medical or diabetic alert.

"They can warn up to 20 minutes before a child is about to have a seizure," said Robi. "They can smell it on the child's breath.

"It's quite incredible. When a child is

getting distressed our dogs can read body language but they can also sense the stress chemicals. We teach our dogs to comfort a distraught child, to interrupt harmful, repetitive behaviours or meltdowns. The dog will come and touch them as if to say 'it's okay, I'm here, calm down'."

The dogs were also responsible guardians. "It's hard to ask a little boy to hold mummy's hand in a public place but they're quite pleased with the responsibility of having the dog tied to them. What they never figure out is it's the dog that is keeping an eye on them and not the other way around. And if the child wanders a certain distance away from the carer the dog will just flop down like a bag of wet cement. They can't do a runner with 30kg of dog dragging behind.

"Even if they do get away our dogs are all taught tracking. But we can teach them anything we need to teach to suit the child. It's not a one-size fits all. Each is trained task-specific for their child.

"We have one little boy with 11 major medical issues and his dog is so multi-skilled it would just take your breath away."

The books are \$18 each or \$50 if you buy all three at once. Email robi@smartpups. com.au or Smartpups volunteer Terry Clark at tclarkagencies@gmail.com or 0416 150 742 to order the books.

The organisation can always do with help, through fundraising, sponsoring, or foster carers. They have also just been endorsed by the Department of Veterans Affairs as the training facility to provide service dogs for returned veterans suffering PTSD. Details: www.smartpups.org.au.

Smartpups' Robi O'Keeffe with her companion, ambassador, author, adoring mum and adventurer Daisy.





WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS SURVIVING COVID-19?

Most businesses have a plan to keep their people and customers safe, but what about the \$?

= COVID-19 restrictions are impacting small businesses.

Some will flourish. Some will collapse.

I want to help local businesses survive and thrive.

I am volunteering my time and resources.

I genuinely want to see all our local businesses survive and thrive, through & after, our current state of uncertainty.

If you need help, or just want to talk through your plans to see you have everything covered please get in touch.

Is it really free?

Yes it is! There is no obligation at all, and no attempt to sell you anything. The only thing it will cost you is your time.

What qualifications and experience do you have?

40 years in business, 3 major economic events - Stockmarket Collapse 1987, Pilot Strike 1989, GFC 2008.

Will we meet face-to-face?

That is up to you. I can help you (via phone) set up Skype, Zoom, Facetime for a video call on your PC/laptop/tablet or smartphone.

Are you a local?

Yes - I live in Mapleton.

How long is this offer open?

Until I max out on my available time, or 25 April (ANZAC Day) - whichever comes first.

More background?

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Brewery marketing & events manager Toby Stodart with a sample 6-pack & meal.

Brewery initiates home deliveries

THEY say every dark cloud has a silver lining and what could be better than home delivered craft beer and meals?

Brouhaha Brewery Maleny has just launched the new home delivery service in response to COVID-19.

"We are delivering ready made meals, pantry items — which we will be adding to as we go — fruit & veg boxes and obviously craft beer," said spokesperson Toby Stodart.

You can order delivery at www.brouha-habrewery.com.au



Danielle Freeman is pleased that customers have been complying with the new conditions and har business remains open

Bakery keeps serving our daily bread

MAN can not live by bread alone, but it certainly helps in a crisis.

Lucky then, that Woombye Bakery & Coffee Shoppe is still open Monday to Friday 5am-4.30pm and Saturday 5am-3pm. It's takeaway only of course and only two people are allowed in the shop at one time.

Owner Danielle Freeman says people have been complying with the conditions

7 Stevens St Yandina, Q 4561

and things have run smoothly.

 \bullet

"We are taking phone orders so customers can pay over the phone or upon pickup," said Danielle. "We have also put menu's on the outside walls of the shop to allow customers to peruse prior to entering or to make phone orders." The menu is also online on the Bakery's Facebook page. Phone the bakery on 5442 1344.

Avoid gatherings or risk \$1334 'crowding' fine

"STAY home" should be a pretty simple message in the COVID-19 world in which we now live but Sunshine Coast Council has warned more needs to be done to get the word out.

Mayor and Local Disaster Management Group Chair Mark Jamieson urged everyone to avoid crowding and gathering in groups – even when exercising.

"If people don't make sensible choices on their own, then public areas like beaches will be closed," Mayor Jamieson said.

"I made that clear last week and this is the final warning. Staying home is the safest place to be at this time.

"Queensland's Chief Health Officer has been very clear — there is absolutely no reason any Sunshine Coast resident should leave their home other than for essential shopping, medical care, exercise, work or education.

"If you do go out to exercise and your favourite walking track, beach or dog park is crowded, turn around and go home." Mayor Jamieson advised residents not to take matters into their own hands.

"We've had reports of people attempting to restrict access to crowded areas and locations by placing signs at entry points.

"This cannot and should not happen – if there are concerns about people congregating in a local area, then the best thing to do is to contact Queensland Police.

"The last thing we want is for frustrations to boil over and matters to get out of hand."

"If you think you're helping by restricting access to a public area – you are not.

"Anyone flouting the social distancing rules risks a \$1334 fine, but more importantly, they may be risking someone's life.

"Those who are on the beaches or in parks sunbaking, reading or gathering together to eat or socialise are in breach of the law."

He reminded residents not to invite people to visit for Easter. "Staying home and complying with the national public health directions is what we should all be doing."

'Flawed' loan program won't help local brewing company: MPs

FLAWS in the Palaszczuk Labor Government's COVID-19 package for business must be urgently fixed to allow recently-founded firms to apply for interest-free loans.

Shadow Small Business Minister Fiona Simpson and Nicklin MP Marty Hunt have called on the State Government to cut redtape blocking companies such as Terella Brewing of North Arm from accessing the COVID-19 loan package.

"These loans are meant to help businesses facing bankruptcy, but many employers are now discovering the loans are a cruel hoax in their current format," Ms Simpson said.

"Terella Brewing has 13 employees but they've been told they don't qualify because they were established after July 2017.

"The rule is wrong and denies these small businesses the help they say they need."

Mr Hunt said: "Our community has been pushing really hard for new investments and employment. I understand we are facing difficult times but someone like Brandt Bamford of Terella Brewing deserves the support that other businesses are getting.

"He's not asking for a hand out, he just wants fairness and to be eligible for one of the State Government loans to keep his business going. We need innovative people like Brandt in business locally, employing locals and helping drive our economy.

"I'm calling on the Treasurer to extend the eligibility rules around the business loans as too many like Brandt are missing out. It is difficult enough in our current situation for businesses to survive and we need to help people like Brandt come out the other side of this and continue his great new local business."

Ms Simpson said the date should be changed to offer the loans to any Queensland businesses founded before January 31 this year.

"It's heartbreaking when people who think they have help then find out they're denied on a flawed rule," Ms Simpson said.

Collectorama Fair cancelled

THE next scheduled Collectorama Fair, May 30th, Nambour Showgrounds, has been cancelled due to the pandemic. Fingers crossed we'll all back on track for our September 5th and November 7th Events. We are in our 29th year and intend to keep on going strong — Laurie and Tom Wall





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USC courses available online from 30 March

USC will deliver its courses online from Monday 30 March after pausing classes this week to ensure all learning and teaching materials are now accessible to students via technology.

C lasses will be provided through various platforms like Zoom and Blackboard to help students enrolled at USC's six Queensland campuses follow social distancing requirements during the coronavirus pandemic.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Professor Robert Elliot thanked students for their patience this week and praised USC's academic and technical staff for their work in developing technology-assisted coursework.

"Face-to-face learning and teaching has been the mainstay of USC's offerings since the University opened in 1996, with students from our various communities often stating that they prefer it over online learning," he said.

"But the circumstances associated with the coronavirus pandemic demanded that we move all our learning and teaching resources online. We'll provide wonderful learning experiences for our students."

Vinnies shops close but support services open

THE CEO of Vinnies Queensland is sending a message to anyone affected by COVID-19 joblessness, underemployment or poverty.

"While we may have had to close our Vinnies shops, St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland's essential services providing emergency relief, supporting the homeless, domestic violence, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, family support and community services across the State are still operating. Under the current health crisis and its direct impact on people's lives – our state needs us more than ever," said Kevin Mercer.



The day-to-day running of Maleny Credit Union will not change. Nor will the happy faces. Pic taken before COVID-19 restrictions

Conditions change but the service is the same as Credit Union adapts

MALENY Credit Union is seen as an essential service so will stay open as long as they can, according to Business Development Officer Nicole Hilton.

"Our hours may be shortened over coming weeks and sometimes we may shut at lunches to allow our staff to get their break.

"But we want to assure our customers that our services will not change. If our doors are shut during office hours you will still get us on the phone.

Ms Hilton said MCU staff would stay employed through the crisis. "If our doors do need to shut we are all set up to work from home on our secured network. The day to day running of a financial institu-

For more information visit sundale.org.au or call 1800 786 325.

tion would not stop even if our doors had to close. Of course, we would not be able to do any in-branch banking such as over the counter deposits and withdrawals. However, we are working with those customers that use our branch facilities to ensure they have something in place to meet their needs if this time arises."

"In the last two weeks we have had many new customers join MCU which is very encouraging and it's definitely keeping our staff busy. Thank you for supporting local!"

"We wish all our customers and our community the best at this time and we are here to serve you."

Phone 5499 8988 or email us at info@

61 Jubilee Dr, Palmwoods

We can still show our Anzac spirit: MP

ANZAC Day should be commemorated this year as best we can under the current circumstances.

With that in mind Member for Nicklin Marty Hunt is encouraging everyone to take the RSL's suggestion of standing out on their driveways at 6am for a minutes silence on ANZAC Day but also to take it one step further and dress up with his #wearyoursuit campaign.

"Ever since I was a kid we always dressed up in our best gear for ANZAC Day out of respect for the Diggers," said Mr Hunt.

"I think we can make a statement as a country how important ANZAC Day is to us by going to that extra effort and keeping the day as meaningful as possible under the current restrictions", he said.

Mr Hunt is also running a daily local ANZAC heroes tribute on his facebook page highlighting a Nicklin local who paid the ultimate sacrifice in war.

The community is invited to submit a photograph and short story to his email for inclusion in the tribute.

"I felt like this would be a good way for us as a community to join together in remembrance of our local soldiers who didn't come home to us and also a small project for our seniors to take part in whilst they may be missing visits from family and other activities they usually enjoy at this time," he said.

Submissions for the tribute page can be made to nicklin@parliament.qld.gov.au. Details of the #wearyoursuit campaign can also be seen on Marty Hunt MP facebook page.

sundale.org.au



Zero-contact landscaping products

BUSINESS FEATURE

LIKE so many businesses at the moment, Coastal Landscape Supplies has adapted its services to carry on, while observing social distancing and keeping staff and customers

"We are fortunate that we have been able to offer online purchasing for nearly eight years," said Director Kylie Pitt.

Now, with people staying home and wanting to work in their gardens and around their yards, it has really come into its own, because Coastal can offer a zero contact ser-

"I think people just seem to naturally understand the benefits of gardening, for both physical and mental health.

"There are going to be a lot of anxious and stressed people in our community right now, and gardening represents a wonderful way to get outside, enjoy the fresh air and sunshine, and de-stress as much as pos-

"I think people just seem to naturally understand the benefits of gardening, for both physical and mental health."

Being a Trade Centre, Coastal Landscape Supplies does not get large volumes of traffic through the yard.

"So from that perspective, we are able to minimize the number of people you are likely to come into contact with.

Customers can browse the full range of products on the website, order and pay from the safety of their homes and Coastal can then deliver, so you do not have to have any physical contact with anyone.

"We are also offering a 'drive through' service for people who have a trailer, don't want a lot of product, and don't need



Above: Mark and Kylie from Coastal Landscape Supplies offer a zero-contact service. Top right: Mark and Kylie's son Makinnley mans the loader. Right: A happy customer takes advantage of the zero-contact drive-in service.

delivery. You can simply phone ahead to order and pay, then drive through to collect. You don't even have to get out of the car.

Coastal Landscape Supplies' range is the largest on the Coast.

"And it's the most competitively priced," said Kylie. "Plus, because we are a Trade Centre, we can supply any volume, from a bucket full, to a truck and dog load.

"We are able to service any size project or budget. This is great for people living in rural areas, and on acreage properties.

"In the lead up to winter, mulching is important, and we can supply bulk quantities for those with large areas to cover.

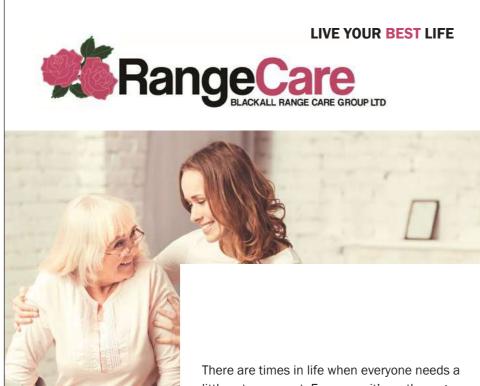
"We also have signature products, like our Premium Blend garden soil (which is mixed on site to ensure quality and consistency), and has been popular with people who want to grow their own vegetables. It is perfect for this purpose, because it is loaded with nutrients.

"People not only want to grow their own food, but want to find things to do with their children while they are home."

Coastal Landscape Supplies is at 18 Kerryl Street, Kunda Park. You can view their full product range on www.CoastalLandscape-Supplies.com.au and call to speak with their knowledgeable staff on 5453 7100.







little extra support. For many, it's as they age; for others, support may be needed following medical treatment or when adjusting to a new way of living after injury or other major life event. RangeCare has been supporting people along the range for more than 30 years. And with more than 120 employees and 200 volunteers, we're here to support you.

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'We'll load your rural supplies for you'



Woombye Rural Supplies looks after people on acreage properties, hobby farms and regular households as well.



Adam and Narelle Kither of Woombye Rural Supplies ... "with so many people now self isolating and spending heaps more time at home, they are getting back out into their gardens and starting gardening projects".



BUSINESS FEATURE

ADAM and Narelle Kither of Woombye Rural Supplies have quickly adapted their shop and services to comply with COVID-19 regulations, to keep their staff and cus-

"We have arranged things so that we are able to offer our customers a zero contact service," Adam said. "People can call ahead, order their goods, pay and then drive in and we can load up their vehicle. It is a way that people can get on with their lives as much as possible and we can all stay safe and help to slow the spread of COVID-19."

"We are also restricting the number of people in the shop at any given time, and

have plenty of hand sanitizer available for people to use."

Woombye Rural Supplies looks after people on acreage properties, hobby farms and regular households as well.

"We are pretty much able to service most needs for people in our area," said Adam.

Woombye Rural Supplies have a full range of products for people who keep stock, including feed and supplements, rural fencing and gates, hardware and plumbing lines and pumps and pet food and accessories for cats and dogs too.

"It is interesting to see how many people are looking at keeping chooks and growing their own food at the moment. I guess it is a real sign of the times. And with so many people now self isolating and spending heaps more time at home, they are getting back out into their gardens and starting gardening projects.

"We can help with all of those things because we sell potting mix, various plant seeds and fertiliser. Lots of people are having problems with lawn grub right now, which is a shame after we have finally had rain and things have greened up. So we keep pesticides, herbicides and lawn grub killer too."

Woombye Rural Supplies is at 6-10 Blackall Street Woombye, phone 5442 1190. You can check out their website on www. woombyeruralsupplies.com.au and find them on Facebook at @woombyeruralsup-

Think. Bank. Support.

Palmwoods Community Branch, Margaret Street, Palmwoods QLD 4555 07 5457 3344 or visit palmwoodsbranch@heritage.com.au



Is it time for new curtains or shades?

BUSINESS FEATURE

THE reality of our lives at the moment, is that most of us are spending more time at home than ever before. That being the case, it is important that our home provides us with a sense of safety, calm and comfort.

"We are finding that as people are confined to their homes, and are working from home, how they feel in their physical surroundings has become really important," said Julie Dudley of Custom Curtains and Shade.

"We have made a number of adaptations to our business in accordance with the COVID-19 regulations, to ensure our staff and customers are safe," said Jim Dudley. "But in reality, we are not a 'big numbers' business, and more than two people in our showroom at any one time is a rush for us. Mostly, our consulting services are provided to people in their homes. And we are finding that our clients are also very mindful of the situation as well. We all double check that everyone is well before a consultation, and practice strict social distancing.

"Prior to an in home consultation with a client, I get a great deal of information from them about what they want from their curtains, blinds or shades. Then I select a specific bunch of samples to show them, so that there is minimal handling of fabrics or products," said Julie. "When I use my iPad during consultations, I do not allow the client to touch it."

"Our installer Jeff, practices social distancing, and also goes through a series of procedures during installations to ensure that both he and the client are safe. This ranges from sanitising the tools after each job, wiping all of the chains on blinds with sanitiser, and cleaning up before he leaves the premises. We are all taking the situation very seriously."

With a background working with fabrics and colour in the fashion industry, the tran-



sition to interior decor was a fairly natural one for Julie. "People usually have a strong sense of what they want from their window dressing, but when we appraise their homes during the consultation phase, we often find that what they think they want won't give them the outcome they are looking for," Julie said.

"Having been in this business for a long time now, we know that the decisions must be made with the long term in mind. I often tell my clients to remember that they will be living with their window dressings for many years.

"There are also factors that people are

unaware of," said Jim. "Things like where the sun comes in, airflow, privacy and glare. It's quite funny now that people are home so much more, they want window coverings because they have suddenly noticed the glare off their TV screen or home computer in the middle of the day! As more people are working from home, this will be increasingly important. We are also getting more enquiries from shift workers who need proper block out curtains so that they get better sleep during the day.

"The best part of what we do is the feedback we get from our customers," said Julie. "When customers tell me how beautiful their home feels with the new dressings, it makes my day. And the real test comes over time. We recently had a customer call to order some new curtains, 12 years after we installed the first ones. She told us that she wanted us to choose what to do next, because she was so happy with the last lot. That is incredibly rewarding for us. It is so important not to underestimate the impact our surroundings have on us, especially when we are confined to them."

You can contact Jim and Julie on 5494 6898. Their website is https://www.custom-curtains.com.au/ and you can find them on Facebook at @customcurtainsandshade

Let Us Tell Your Story

with a Business Feature ...

- Simplify Your Message
- Create An Emotional Connection
- Grow Your Business

Call Tanya: 0400 069 711

Sunshine Valley **Gazette**



Sunshine Coast, COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

Community Wild Dog Baiting Program Autumn 2020

Sunshine Coast Council in partnership with Biosecurity Queensland is supporting a community-based coordinated Wild Dog Baiting Program. Failure to control wild dogs can result in livestock losses, attacks on domestic pets and the loss of native fauna. Landholders have a legislative responsibility to control declared pests on their land and participation in this program is an effective way to help meet this responsibility. The Wild Dog Baiting Program will be held throughout

Bald Knob, Beerburrum, Beerwah, Belli Park, Cambroon, Conondale, Coochin Creek, Coolabine, Crohamhurst, Curramore, Elaman Creek, Glass House Mountains, Kenilworth, Kidaman Creek, Landsborough, Obi Obi, Peachester, Reesville, Witta and Wootha areas from 20 Apr-15 May, 2020.

For more information please contact:

Sunshine Coast Council

T 07 5475 7272 **F** 07 5475 7277

E mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Business as usual at MCU

You may be seeing many messages about shopping local but banking local is also important. Some of the key points are:

- Strengthens the local economy
- Keeps local people employed
- Banking with people that know our community
- Every loan drawn benefits a local not for profit organisation

At MCU we give customised service to each and every customer. Our friendly qualified staff really want what is best for you. MCU has a dedicated staff member that works in the community supporting local groups and events, another unique MCU initiative.

Call us on 5499 8988 or email us at info@mcu.com.au Open 9:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday





Maleny Credit Union (MCU Ltd Trading as) ABN 52 087 650 995 AFSL & Australian credit licence 246921 | BSB 704-606 Fhone: 07 5499 8988 | Website: www.mcu.com.au | Bunya House, 28 Maple St, Maleny Q 4552 | Mail: PO Box 1099, Maleny Q 4552

Frames in harmony with your decor

BUSINESS FEATURE

RECENT events have given people a chance to contemplate the nature of how society works and how the economy is connected to our daily lives.

The drive for ever-lower costs in a world where consumption is king has had profound effects. One consequence in Australia has seen the rise of products being supplied from the new manufacturing powerhouses centred around China and Asia generally.

Manufacturing in Australia has gone through some significant changes as a result. The COVID-19 crisis is giving us all pause for thought about the wisdom of having all our supply chain eggs in a single basket.

A case in point is Yandina Art and Framing. Proprietor Bill Gissane explains. "The business opened in 1995 with Brian Curry at the helm. Brian's ethos was providing superior quality work with a dedication to ensuring the frame was in harmony with the décor of the customer's home or business," Bill said.

"When my wife and I bought the business five years ago it was for the purpose of having my son continue in Brian's footsteps. An incident three years ago prevented him from continuing working, and we were able to attract local artist and artisan Alice Graham to take over the management. As the managing partner, Alice has been an inspiration. Alice's years in framing and her eye for colour and composition have burnished the reputation Brian initiated decades ago."

Bill had no direct experience in framing but 40 years as a working engineer and manager in manufacturing allowed him to bring planning and business acumen to this Sunshine Coast Hinterland gem. He has even obtained a Certificate 3 in picture framing and works in with Alice's dedicated staff of three local women.

"Bill's contribution to the business has been in having us all think about what sort



Managing partner, Alice Graham & proprietor Bill Gissane ... "Alice's years in framing and her eye for colour and composition have burnished the reputation Brian initiated decades ago.



of future we want and how we make it a reality," Alice said. "He's always ensuring we follow a systematic approach to our



work. But I have to make sure I keep him in line with the precise and delicate nature of our work! We have a vision for Yandina as a haven for the arts community and aim to be big part of that future."

As for the current crisis, the business is not letting restrictions prevent customers from having their artworks adorned. As would be expected from such a creative group, imagination and boldness are to the fore. A revamped on-line website is being developed and consultations are offered using all the technological avenues available.

FaceTime, Skype, Zoom and the many other forms of virtual communication offer new ways for Alice and her team to assess and offer framing alternatives while showing the biggest stock of moulding samples in the

In addition, on-line ordering and sampling will form part of Yandina Art and Framing's offering. The most exciting development sees local artists having their work offered for sale directly or on-line. This will open the possibility for high quality prints in addition to the original works and a virtually unlimited catalogue of stock prints.

"Picture framing has been in existence since the Egyptians, right through the Byzantine Empire gold framed icons, the magnificence of Renaissance works and now right up to today's hand-crafted frames,'

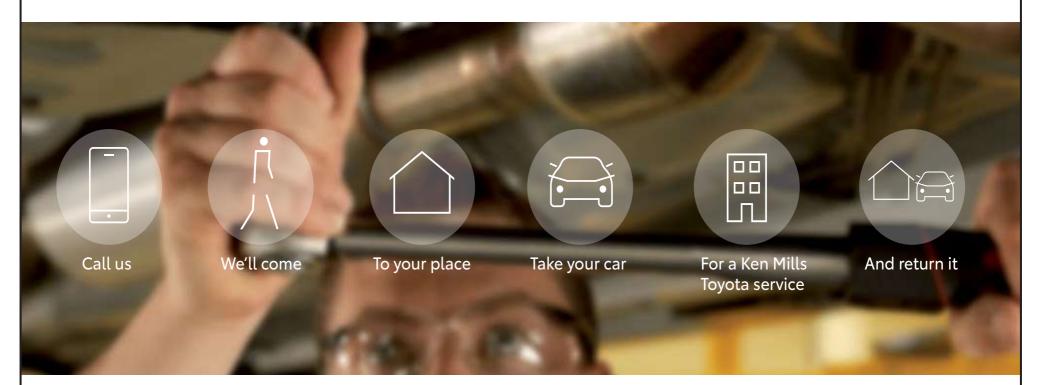
"We see ourselves inheriting that tradition. With the realisation that buying locally-made items is better value than cheap imports, we see COVID-19 as an opportunity to allow everyone to have high quality work in their home or business at a reason-

Yandina Art and Framing is located in the heart of quaint Yandina village at 7 Stevens

While not able to accommodate customers in their showroom for the moment, they offer free pickup and delivery and are available for your phone enquiry on 5446 8000 or via email alice@yandinaartframing. com.au. The website is www.yandinaartframing.com

Do you need your vehicle serviced? Call Ken Mills Toyota today!





Ken Mills Toyota

82 Sugar Road, Maroochydore T: 5443 6277

W: maroochydore.kenmillstoyota.com.au

Ken Mills Toyota

107 Coronation Drive, Nambour T: 5441 1544 W: nambour.kenmillstoyota.com.au



Our region. **Healthy.** Smart. Creative.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Now, more than ever, we need to come together as a community, support each other, show kindness and consideration.

Council is committed to supporting Queensland Health as the lead agency responsible for responding to COVID-19 and will ensure our community is kept informed.

Anyone with health concerns can call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) or find up-to-date reliable information on the Queensland Health

To find out the most up-to-date information, follow the dedicated COVID-19 link from the home page of our website.

#CovidKindness - how you can help

At times like this, it's essential we support one another and show compassion to those who need it, neighbour to neighbour, street to street.

Together we can build a strong community. Council has brought together resources, ideas and information to help you explore new opportunities to become a more connected and supportive neighbourhood - during and after COVID-19.

Go to Council's website to download your #CovidKindness postcard to pop into your neighbour's mailbox with your phone number and offer of how you can help.

CUSTOMER CONTACT

sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Council/Contact-Council

There are many ways to contact Council that don't involve face-to-face interaction.

MyCouncil - Council's online gateway to view rates notices, submit service requests and registrations.

LiveChat - online facility operates during business hours and is not a robot.

Call Back - Council also operates a convenient and time saving call back function for our customers to use.

Email - at customerservice@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au and we will action your request promptly.

Support for businesses

Federal, state and local governments are providing support for businesses who are affected by novel coronavirus. For more information go to Council's website and click on the dedicated Support for Business page.

Online library services

Stuck at home? Access Sunshine Coast Libraries' eLibrary anytime and anywhere, 24/7. Update your technology skills, learn a new language, access quality information and learn how to play a musical instrument. There is so much on offer, which you can access from the comfort of your lounge room. Check out the latest eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, eMusic, eMovies and more.

Head to the eLibrary section of the libraries website for more information:

library.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

07 5475 7272 mail@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au













www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au

Boost for farmers as visas extended for holiday workers

SUNSHINE Coast farm businesses and communities stand to benefit from an announcement made by the Australian Government to extend working holiday-maker and other visas amid the COVID-19 crisis.

Federal Member for Fisher Andrew Wallace said that the visa changes would allow Pacific seasonal workers, working holiday makers and a range of other visa holders who are unable to depart Australia, including on the Sunshine Coast, to continue to work until this health crisis has passed or they are able to return to their home countries.

Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said agriculture was an essential sector and relied on temporary visa holders, many of whom arrive and depart Australia on a seasonal basis.

"These visa holders fill a critical workforce gap in this sector," Mr Littleproud said.

"That is why the Australian Government is putting temporary measures in place to allow important work



in the agriculture sector to continue and enable workers already here to extend their stay and remain lawfully in Australia until they are able to return to their home countries.

"At the same time it is critical we

manage this labour force to support the on-going health of regional communities and we've acted to include requirements to ensure visa holders follow self-isolation requirements when they move between regions".

Range Care Group maintains commitment

From Range Care Group

YOU may have noticed that the Range-Care Op Shop has recently closed along with our Day Centres.

This is due to restrictions on group

What we want you to know is that we are still doing what we do best delivering in-home services to our clients, many of whom are now obliged to "stay at home".

We realise that everyone's needs have begun to change and will continue to change. So, we have already started to offer new and alternative services to ensure that we do whatever we can to support our clients and the wider community. Tell us what you need and we will continue to expand our services to help.

These are some of the new Range-Care and Nambour & District Care services that we have already started to provide to our clients who can't come out to play;

- Personal shopping We can do your shopping for you, help you to manage online shopping orders or collect groceries on your behalf.
- Postal assistance We can assist with the drop off or collection of your mail or packages.
- Flu shot We can arrange for one of our registered nurses to come into your home and administer your annual flu shot.
- Pharmacy collection We can assist by dropping off scripts and picking up your medication.
- Food services We are partnering with local cafes and restaurants to

provide a new bulk meal delivery service, giving you the option of a wide range of meals delivered to your door.

 Social support - New technology will soon be rolled out to help you connect with others and we will have activities to make the day more inter-

We want to reassure you that we are fully functioning to deliver services as we always have and can also meet your changing needs. When we come out the other side of this we will be here doing what we have always done so well. Until then, please give us a call on (07) 5445 7044 during business hours and let us know how we can help you, should the need arise.

www.rangecare.org.au | 5445 7044 PO BOX 140, Montville, QLD 4560 info@brcg.org.au





Excellence scholarships: Halimah Reynolds from St John's College Nambour and Zawad Aziz from Nambour State College.

Students earn scholarships to pursue degrees

TWO Nambour students have received Thompson Excellence Scholarships for highachieving new undergraduate students who have also demonstrated leadership skills and financial need. Halimah Reynolds (St John's College Nambour) and Zawad Aziz (Nambour State College) have each been awarded the scholarship, worth \$4000 a semester for the length of a degree. The scholarship was launched by USC in 2015 following a major donation from philanthropists Roy and Nola Thompson.

Halimah and Zawad and two other recipients are all enrolled in USC's Bachelor of Medical Science, a three-year, full-time degree requiring

Palmwoods Tennis suspends play

Queensland TENNIS announced the directive to close all affiliated tennis venues.

Palmwoods Tennis Club endeavored to stay open observing hand washing and personal distancing, which is fairly easy to achieve on the court. However there were still some concerns about the tennis ball being a potential carrier of infec-

So for all tennis players at the Palmwoods Tennis club: members, court hirers, social tennis players and coaching students, we are sorry but we are closed until further notice.

Current members' membership period will be extended to compensate for lost months. We hope you all stay well and we look forward to seeing you back on the court in due course.

Robyn Combes, President, Palmwoods Tennis club Inc. palmwoodstenn is @gmail.com.

Riding for the Disabled suspended

AS a duty of care to Sunshine Coast Riding for the Disabled's vulnerable participants and volunteers, the committee has decided to close the Centre and suspend programs until further notice.

The horses were moved to the

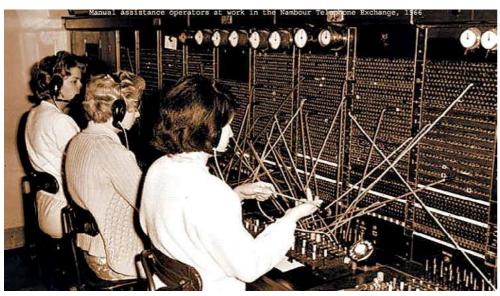
Verrierdale property on March

Thanks to our usual team of float owners for your help with this move

The AGM was due to be held on March 27 but has had to be postponed due to COVID-19.

CSIRO begins testing COVID-19 vaccines

AUSTRALIA'S national science agency has commenced the first stage of testing potential vaccines for COVID-19. The testing, expected to take three months, is underway at CSIRO's high-containment biosecurity facility, the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong. To prepare for disease outbreaks, last year CSIRO partnered with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), a global group that aims to derail epidemics by speeding up the development of vaccines.



Former staffers operate the manual exchange at Nambour in 1966.

Museum seeks technical advice & hands-on assistance for exhibits

From Graham Morton of the **Nambour Museum**

DO you remember the days when the telephone operator answered your call and asked this magic question? "Number Please?"

The first call of this type on the Sunshine Coast was connected in 1908 at the Nambour Post Office.

Two years later the town firmly established itself as the communications hub of the North Coast region when the first telephone exchange was installed there.

Telecommunications has changed a great deal over the years and the Nambour Museum has assumed the role of preserving that history and those memories for everyone to share.

The Museum has gained an excellent reputation for its work and extensive heritage collections with the Telecommunications display considered among the best in regional Australia.

It is now developing an exciting new display incorporating many of the features and facilities of the traditional old Post Office which embraced postal, telephone and telegraph services.

With a large and diverse collection of communications equipment from years gone by at its disposal, the Museum is keen to develop more inter-active and practical exhibits for visitors of all ages to experience.

To achieve this objective, the Museum desperately requires technical advice and hands-on assistance from those who worked in any sector of the industry with Telstra, Telecom Australia and/or the former Postmaster General's Department.

Equipment waiting for that special touch includes basic and intercom telephones, customer switchboards, manual and automatic telephone exchanges of all types plus public telephones, telegraph and telex services. Suitable Post Office memorabilia would also be welcome.

The Nambour Museum is located at 18 Mitchell Street but is temporarily closed at present.

Anyone with relevant experience, skills and a desire to assist with this important project is asked to contact Graham Morton on 5441 3121 in the first instance.

\$5m for long-awaited road upgrade

IT only took a decade. But the upgrade of Maleny-Kenilworth Road is on its way!

After 11 years of lobbying, Member for Glass House Andrew Powell announced that nearly \$5 million is heading the way of Maleny-Kenilworth Road in upgrades.

"The decade of petitions, emails, me walking the road and even locals blockading the road at one point have all paid off ... finally. We've secured the funding," said Mr Powell.

The \$4.9 million will be used to design and construct two lanes – one in each direction – on Maleny-Kenilworth Road between Lees Road and Cambroon Creek and around the Booloumba Creek Road intersection.

"Maleny-Kenilworth Road is a designated tourist route. For it to have a single bitumen lane to accommodate tourists, locals, school buses and heavy vehicles has been disgraceful and dangerous. Ever since I became the Member for Glass House, it has been one of my highest priorities to get it fixed."

"I can't tell you what a thrill it is to hear this news. It's something that we in the valley have been waiting and looking forward to for many a long year" said Conondale resident Ian Fleiter.

Surveyors will be on the road soon to undertake detailed design work and the upgrade is expected to be completed in September 2021.

'We're just here to help people'

MIKE Burns Property at Palmwoods is still operating despite the turbulent times.

"We're continuing to monitor authorities regarding tenants and landlords. It's a tough time for all," said Principal Mike Burns.

Mike's main focus was on prioritising the health and safety of his clients and his team while supporting and complying with health recommendations. "Basically we're just here to help people right now," he said.

"There's a lot of uncertainty. It's a challenging time. But we are still listing property for sale and buyers are still there. We urge everyone to stay safe. If our doors are shut during office hours you will still get us on the phone."

Phone Mike 0418 991 702 or email mike@burnsproperty.com.au.



Mike Burns ... "We're just here to help people right now."

Zonta refocuses to continue its good work

FACE-TO-FACE meetings may be suspended, but the Zonta Club of Blackall Range will continue, according to president Judith Ross-Smith.

"Maybe not as usual, but at least for the foreseeable future, via Zoom, until the crisis in Australia is over," she said.

"At this time of isolation it is more than ever important we stay together, focus on ways of connecting with each other, each day, each week and at the times we usually schedule meetings."

The Blackall Range Club is one of 45 clubs that cover the whole of Queensland, that is District 22, and one of 1200 other clubs throughout the world of more than 29,000 Zontians that together make up Zonta International

Leader of this District is District Governor, Sandy Venn- Brown, who has taken decisive action to keep the members in touch with each other, by instituting tutorials on how to hold a meeting via Zoom.

"For older Zontians like me the idea is a bit confronting at first, but once we took part in the tutorial, 'put our hands up' to speak and managed to chat with each other while we saw the expressions on our faces, it became an exciting new way of keeping in touch and allowing business to proceed.

"Even our dogs barking in the background lent a sort of reality to the situation, and lightened the seriousness of the moment," said Judith Ross-Smith.

The international organisation had its beginnings more than 100 years ago in November 1919, in Buffalo New York.

"Zonta was born during the flu pandemic that was the worst health disaster since the plague; and now again people, companies and organisations are fighting for life in a world bunkered down in isolation as a result of a virus that so far has no antidote.

"We owe it to those five women who started the organisation in an attempt to encourage the education of girls and take the first steps towards improving the status of women, not to let the legacy die," she said.

On a local level clubs work towards the welfare of women in their own communities.

Some have developed women's refuges, most give tertiary scholarships to young women, and encourage women and girls to apply for international awards and bursaries to help them continue higher education and increase gender equality.



Committee chair Ann Keonig, Woman of Achievement 2020 Lynda Burgess, Zonta Blackall Range president Judi Ross-Smith.

Zonta Blackall Range are seeking women to apply for their two scholarships, as this editorial goes to print, and chair of the Scholarship committee for Zonta Blackall Range, Linda McElrea, said skilling young women was very important to the club.

"We are currently seeking women in tertiary education to apply for two scholarships each worth \$1500, one for students of STEM and one for women studying in the Humanities.

"As well as that we are looking for a girl from a local school to apply for our club's \$500 prize so we can forward her application on to our District where the winner receives US\$1500, and hopefully to International where 10 extraordinary young women will receive a Young Women in Public Affairs award worth US\$4000. Applications are still current for all those," she said.

On March 8th the club held its International Women's Day event Dusk on the Deck, that saw local volunteer Lynda Burgess win the annual Blackall Range Woman of achievement award, given to a local woman who has given outstanding service to her community.

It has recently nominated the Maleny Temporary Accommodation for women auspiced by the Maleny Neighbourhood Centre as its special project.

"These activities multiplied all over the world supports and rewards women exponentially in a ripple effect – this is something we must not lose.

"As District Governor Sandra Venn-Brown said, 'together we are stronger than the strongest individual', so maybe it is Zoom that will be our saviour," said Zonta Blackall Range's president.

Routine breast screening service suspended

BREASTSCREEN Queensland has temporarily suspended routine breast screening due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All women with cancelled appointments will be notified and appointments rescheduled as soon as possible. If you have questions or concerns call 13 20 50 or visit www.breastscreen.qld. gov.au

Yandina & District Community Association

YANDINA & District Community Association meetings are suspended until further notice as we all do our best to keep healthy and comply with government guidelines to stay at home and prevent the spread of COVID-19

Phone YADCA secretary Kahren 0438

Drive in grooming? That's just pawfect

KEEPING your precious pooch clean and looking good is so important to dog owners.

Lisa Collier of Pampered Paws dog grooming in Palmwoods understands this, and has tailored her service during the COVID-19 situation so that her clients can safely continue to bring their pups for their regular groom. "I am fortunate that I work from my home, and can offer a 'drive in' service to my clients," said Lisa. "I am more than happy for my clients to remain in their car, and I will come and collect their dog from them. They don't have to leave the vehicle at all. I am scrupulous about hand hygiene and the environment of my work space in ordinary times anyway, because that is extremely important to me. Book an appointment on 0417 194 399.



Staying Safe &

Getting on with Business

THE Sunshine Valley Gazette invited local businesses to tell us how they were coping and adapting in light of the COVID-19 pandemic despite the often-devastating effects on their livelihoods.

As we all pull together to get through this crisis one thing is certain. Businesses have been heartened by the local response and acts of kindness and support.

As you will understand, individual business's situations are very fluid, so please be aware that the information here may have changed. Please support all local businesses as much as you can while staying safe. Now, more than ever, local matters.

Business innovation



consultant offers support

TRACIE Sanim would like to volunteer her services as a business innovation consultant for sole traders and micro businesses.

The recent Division 5 Candidate's business, Innovate Sunshine Coast, is based in Montville. "I have post-graduate qualifications in business management and also innovation and entrepreneurship," Tracie said.

"And, now that the election is over, I am happy to spend time over the next few weeks and months supporting whoever I can."

Phone 0412 021 250. Email ignite@innovatesunshinecoast.com.au

Shali's Cafe and Bakery Montville

SHALI'S Cafe and Bakery in Montville wishes to advise it is open 7 days from 7am to 2pm.

"Homemade Indian Curries are available available hot or cold," said owner Shalini Carnevale.

Small is \$10, Large \$18.50 (both Served with Rice and Pappadum).

Also available are burgers, chips, sandwiches and wraps, homemade pies, sausage rolls and pasties.

Shali's Cafe is at 176 Main St, Montville. Phone 5442 9488.

Need help finding the right words in uncertain times?

WITH all the changes COVID-19 has brought to our daily lives, many people have had to rethink their careers and business models overnight, says writer, editor and author Sabrina Rogers-Anderson.

"Maybe you've decided to take your existing business in a different direction to keep up with the times or you've dreamt up a new business that you can run from the comfort of your home," said writer, editor and author Sabrina Rogers-Anderson.

"You might be unsure how to present your new path to the world without seeming opportunistic."

Ms Rogers-Anderson said she could help people navigate these uncertain times.

"I'm offering a special copywriting rate for April, to help individuals and businesses affected by COVID-19." Email sabrinakellyrogers@gmail.com.



'Collect, Service and Return' offer at Ken Mills

KEN Mills Toyota is open for sales, service and parts and have introduced an initiative to save their customers two trips.

"Our main focus is on prioritising the health and safety of our guests and team while we fully support and comply with all State and Federal Government health warnings and recommendation," a spokesperson said.

"In addition to our high standard of commercial cleaning operations, we have additional measures in place including social distancing and a Safe Work Practice around our interaction with vehicles.

"You can call us, come into the dealership or connect with us online – including to purchase a vehicle or book a service. If you would like your vehicle serviced but wish to remain at home, we can collect it, complete the service at our dealership, and return the vehicle to you."

Ken Mills is at 107 Coronation Ave, Nambour. Phone 5453 8980.

Woombye & Districts Community Bank Branch

DURING these uncertain times surrounding COVID-19, Bendigo Bank has announced a raft of support packages.

"Please contact your local branch or visit bendigobank.com.au and follow the links for a full list of our support packages," said Woombye Community Bank Branch Manager Daniel Hausler.

The packages include:

- Home loan support and repayment relief
- Reduced rates, range of support and assistance packages for all businesses including faster process times for business
- Agribusiness support and range of assistance packages.

Nambour jeweller still repairing, creating on site

FERRO Jewellers Nambour are still open and following all government guidelines to keep staff and customers safe.

Ferro Jewellers repair and manufacture jewellery on site and are open Monday to Friday 9am till 4pm in 32 Queen Street

Nambour. Email michaelferrojewellers@gmail.com.

"All of our jewellery is hand made here on Sunshine Coast. Nothing is imported," Michael said. "If you want quotes for work just drop us a text message and we can take it from there!"

Hypnotherapy on Sunshine Coast remains open

AS a health service, Hypnotherapy on Sunshine Coast remains open, while abiding by strict health precautions and delivering individual care.

"To try and help people through this time, we have reduced prices of all sessions to up to 50 percent, including health card rates," said Lesley Jerman.

Ms Jerman said it was a great opportunity to get rid of those expensive habits such as smoking, alcohol use and other drug addictions. Please ring 0456 293 283.

Need help with sleep, anxiety?

CANNOPATHY & Hinterland Healing in Montville is still open. "We are currently operating in Montville under Government advice for retail stores," said Stephen.

"We will continue to assist our community with their sleep, anxiety, pain and inflammation relief and will continue in-store and on our website.

Additionally, we have commenced delivery service to the Sunshine Coast, in selected areas."

Call for area coverage 5478 5957. The business has also introduced a Cannopathy affiliate program for people who may require a supplemented income in these uncertain times and ongoing into the future.

Email: info@hinterlandhealing.com for details regarding the Cannopathy affiliate program.

Hotels offer takeaway meals

Palmwoods & Beerwah Hotels are making the health and wellbeing of staff and patrons their highest priority.

The situation with COVID-19 is ever changing. To keep up to date with all the information please see hotel statements on the website or follow their Facebook pages for quick updates.

Bottleshops are open and takeaway meals are available in line with strict government guidelines. See www.palmwoodshotel.com. au and www.beerwahhotel.com.au

Maleny IGA introduces 'Click and Collect'

MALENY IGA offers 'Click and Collect' shopping on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You can ring the IGA on 5494 2257, or go to the website malenyiga.com.au

Depending on the number of orders received, the IGA is working to achieve same-day pickup. If you have friends or family who can assist you, they can collect your order from the rear loading dock on your behalf.

We have a dedicated Sanitisation Team sanitising high-traffic areas of the store.

All front end registers have hand santisers and additional wipes are provided at front and at key points of sale.

Purchase numbers are limited for high-demand items.

Every Wednesday, our store opens between 5.30am to 6am to provide shopping opportunities exclusively for individuals with a Pension, Seniors Card or disability.

You can still get out into the garden

BRUSH Turkey Enterprises, Maleny, understands the importance of doing something positive and active during self-isolation. They have created a "zero contact" ordering system for people to use and be able to continue gardening.

"Gardeners can collect or download the form and browse at their convenience the long list of native plants and fruit trees," said owner Karen Shaw. "We can also arrange delivery in the local area on Wednesday & Fridays."

Forest Heart nursery is at 20 Coral St, Maleny. Phone 5494 3642. Go to www. forestheart.com.au/zero-contact-ordering-system/ or their Facebook page.

MenuArt is here to help with cafe blackboards

IF you are a cafe or restaurant and need a takeaway menu, contact Lorraine Taylor for a special deal on blackboards.

Lorraine can deliver all over Australia. Phone 0417613099. Instagram @menuart.

Coping with COVID-19

Belle Beauty & Fragrance hand sanitiser

BELLE Beauty and Fragrance has recently relocated to Shop 1, 166 Main Street, Montville from 127 Main Street.

"We were doing quite well promoting our special \$15 Express Beauty Services, but they have been stopped due to COVID-19," said owner Katrina Grace. "However we do offer beautiful giftware, along with bath and body products including Botanical Hand Sanitiser and Wash. It's Made in Australia and it has antimicrobial properties.

"We also carry a large range of beautiful soaps, gorgeous giftware and ladies' accessories. We will be open as long as we are allowed to, adhering to the rules. Hopefully we can brighten someone's day in these challenging times." Phone 0407 762 436 or www.bellebeautyandfragrance.com.au.

Home & Renovators Warehouse

HOME & Renovators Warehouse say they can service all customer product needs throughout this period of uncertainty.

"While monitoring the fact that the outbreak is changing on a daily bases we currently predict little impact on supply of products within Australia at the moment," said Yvonne James.

"Our priority is to ensure that we are creating a safe working environment for our staff and putting in place actions to reduce the risk of exposure for our staff and customers. The more distancing we can achieve, the better our chances are of staying safe, and minimising the spread of the virus."

"Please take precautions, stay safe, and thank you for your understanding."

Yvonne James www.renowarehouse.com. au Email: info@renowarehouse.com.au

Firefly Solutions available to help with marketing

FIREFLY Solutions offers a full suite of marketing activities and are available to work for you from their home office.

Firefly offers website development, social media, copywriting, media releases, collateral such as brochures or flyers, email marketing/EDMs, surveys, market research, advertising and strategic marketing plans. "We also do grant writing, so keep our details up your sleeve to help write a winning application—there are a few grant opportunities now and likely to be more in the future," said Firefly's Danielle Taylor.

If you'd like more information visit www. fireflysolutions.com.au or email danielle@ fireflysolutions.com.au

Andrew Gardiner Law team at your disposal

LAWYER Andrew Gardiner said he hoped people were keeping well during these uncertain times.

"Our staff has been working tirelessly to assist our clients with all their legal needs," he said. "The show must go on and new legal issues relating to COVID-19 have also arisen. We're here to answer your questions and offer our assistance. We have the necessary technology to access your files at all times and communicate easily with other staff members. We also have online identity verification procedures if you need documents witnessed and settlements can be done electronically. Face-to-face meetings are also possible while the latest social distancing regulations are respected."

Phone 5391 4900 or info@andrewgardinerlaw.com.au.

Mapleton IGA

MAPLETON IGA installed the 1.5m-wide and 80cm-tall glass screens on Tuesday to protect its customers and employees.



Wayne Knetter from 4CP Promotional Products in Woombye ... "I have loved stickers since I was a boy. I was that annoying kid who went into shops and said 'You got any stickers mister?"

Printer has sticky solution to social distancing signage

4CP Promotional Products in Woombye is printing social distancing stickers to help businesses and their customers abide by government guidelines.

"One of the areas that will hopefully pull my business through is stickers," said owner Wayne Knetter.

"I have loved stickers since I was a boy. I was that annoying kid who went into shops and said 'You got any stickers mister?'

"I now print several different types of stickers on various machines daily. I love and live it."

Wayne said vinyl floor stickers demonstrating safe social distancing practices were becoming popular.

"These stickers use the correct non-slip laminate to make them OHS compliant. Many different designs are popping up on social media and can be customised for your business."

Wayne also sells 're-positionable stickers' that stick to glass or walls with 'gecko' technology. These low cost, large signs are effective at communicating good hygiene practices in the office, kitchen and restrooms.

4CP Promotional Products & Graphic Design is in Shed 8, (down Sunny Side Lane) 18 Blackall Street, Woombye. Phone 5442



Keith Ladley: "In accordance with Government regulations, I am following extremely strict protocols before visiting customers."

Keith adapts to keep clients safe

KEITH Ladley of Keith Electrical & Air Conditioning is continuing to run his business, and can still look after you having adjusted his service delivery to keep his customers safe.

"Firstly, I ask anyone I come into contact with if they are in self isolation, have recently been overseas, have flu like symptoms, or have had contact with a person who has contracted Coronavirus.

"I practice social distancing, so I limit the exposure to myself, and lower the risk of potentially passing on a virus. Personally, I am in very good health.

"I wash my hands thoroughly before and after I visit every workplace or home, and use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day," he said.

"If customers would feel more comfortable, I am more than happy to wear a mask and gloves when I attend their home or

"Despite the turmoil we are all living with, there are still circumstances that can only be dealt with by an electrician."

Keith offers a rate equivalent to 20 percent off the average rate per hour and accepts all major credit or EFTPOS cards. Keith Electrical service homes, apartments, offices, medical centres, industrial sites and any other commercial location on the Sunshine Coast."

You can call Keith on 0400 222 740.

Stay up to date, stay positive

From Andrew Wallace Federal Member for Fisher



Government support available

Ted O'Brien

Federal Member for Fairfax



I know that all of us on the Sunshine Coast are doing it tough right now.

We are all working hard doing our bit during this pandemic and many people are suffering already.

My office is receiving hundreds of new emails and phone calls every day and we are doing our very best to get back to everyone and help as quickly as we can.

If you have contacted me but have not had an immediate reply, please have patience. I will get to your enquiry very soon.

In just the last two weeks the Federal Government has made dramatic announcements of historic importance totalling \$320 billion on healthcare; direct wage subsidies for employees to keep workers in jobs; large increases to the welfare safety net; childcare; support to keep businesses open, and on measures to help keep us safe from the coronavirus itself.

It is very important that you stay up to date with all the latest information, as these changes will have profound effects on all of our lives.

The Federal Government has introduced many ways that you can do that.

You can visit www.australia.gov.au, where you will find the latest information on every coronavirus topic.

You can now download a free app, called Coronavirus "Australian Government COVID19" from both the Apple App Store and the Play Store, or join a WhatsApp group at www.aus.gov.au/whatsapp.

I am providing the most important information regularly through my email distribution list and you can sign up for that at www. andrewwallacemp.com.au on the "Contact" tab. You can also find daily updates on my Facebook page: www.facebook.com/wallace4fisher.

These are hard times.

However, if we work together and support one another, there is no doubt that we will come out of this stronger than ever; just as we have so many times before.

WHILE the impact of COVID-19 continues to affect us all, the Federal Government remains staunchly focused on saving lives and livelihoods.

March saw the Government pass three, multi-billion economic support packages each bigger than the last.

The first (\$17.6 billion) was largely about helping small businesses with their cash flow. The second (\$66.1 billion) was about cushioning the blow with support for low income earners, affected businesses or people suddenly unemployed. The third (\$130 billion) is primarily about keeping people in jobs.

Some of the latest measures include:

JobKeeper Payment: Businesses, including sole traders, that are set to lose 30 percent or more of their revenues due to Coronavirus, will be able to claim a fortnightly payment of \$1500 per eligible employee, for a maximum of six months (backdated to 30 March), with that full \$1,500 to be passed directly onto their employees to help keep workers in jobs.

Partner income threshold - From March 31, the 'partner income test' for welfare support was lifted from \$48,000 to more than \$79,000, making it possible for tens of thousands more Australians to access a range of government allowances.

Free childcare - Last week the Prime Minister and Education Minister announced changes to the childcare and early childhood education sector. Free childcare will be available from Monday 6 April for all working families. Find out more at https://www.dese. gov.au/news/coronavirus-covid-19

The Government site www.australia.gov. au continues to be the best place to go to access all information including health measures, information about self-isolation and financial support for families.

The support measures can also be found at www.treasury.gov.au or call the Business Hotline on 13 28 46; or the State Government's Business Hotline on 1300 654 687.

Businesses adapt on the run, to cope with virus

Business Advice By Peter Gamgee

INNOVATION and creativity booms in the year 2020! The greatest number ever of new services and products - we didn't even realise we needed. These will have become part of "normal" life. We will also see

a spike in birth rates this coming summer! I am not talking just about developments in the area of health and virus prevention.

I am talking about flexibility of supply chains, diversity of services to the home, and ubiquitous communication for social interaction, engagement of customers and suppliers and virtual workplaces.

I am talking about creative ways to continue and grow business in times of adver-

We have sampled just the tip of the iceberg of these developments and changes.

As an example the interaction with customers has changed.

Personal service was once valued and is now shunned (at least for a while). Some will get used to a virtual shopping experience from the comfort of their own home theatre. Many will still crave that personal interaction and will rush for a "fix" when the restrictions are lifted.

Are you ready for this roller coaster? Do you have products to sell in the baby boom

I am heartened to see businesses "grab the

bull by the horns" so to speak and re-create themselves to continue and even grow their businesses. Even ones that have been shutdown by the mandated restrictions.

Take for example a health and wellness business that specialised in workshops and physical contact through therapeutic massage. In just two weeks they have moved to on-line wellness and counselling - their business is flat out!

Haven't done an overhaul of your business in light of the COVID-19 restrictions and opportunities? - sorry you are missing

It does not matter what business you are in, even if it is temporarily booming, you will be missing out to those who are re-inventing their business. Here are some important steps. The first one you should have already done:

Ensure safety of people and compliance with new regulations - self, family, staff, cus-

Assess the impact on your business, current customers, products & services, and overheads.

Do a "stocktake" of your full assets, physical and intellectual and create new products and services to suit the times.

Review your whole approach to marketing, advertising and conversion of customers - customer profile, thinking & hot buttons; marketing messages; product & service differentiation; advertising medium.

Create a plan to keep you on track and to review as events unfold.

Whatever you do - Do not wait - for government to fix it, for it to "blow over", for someone else to solve the problem, or for your customers to be stolen.



Ginger Factory's Brenda Bailey and Ginger Boy load the car with their Easter Donation to SCUH.

Ginger Factory shares Easter joy with front-line health workers

WHEN the Ginger Factory received a delivery of 500 freshly baked gingerbread rabbits last week, their first thought was, "Who can we share these sweet treats with to bring a little joy during these tough times?".

With the healthcare system under pressure from coronavirus, the obvious answer was to donate the Easter goodies to frontline health workers. The Ginger Factory teamed up with well-known local charity, Wishlist, to deliver these delicious gingerbread rabbits to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital where they were made available to the staff to enjoy in their breaks.

"These gingerbread rabbits were specially designed using our famous gingerbread man recipe and are a favourite of our visitors during the Easter school holidays," said Ginger Factory Tourism Manager Brenda Bailey.

"With everyone now staying safely in their own homes this Easter, we are delighted, with Wishlist's help, to share these goodies with the hardworking team at

Wishlist is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to fundraising for the needs of the Sunshine Coast Hospital. "These are unprecedented times, but our Sunshine Coast community can all pull together to help one another," said Lisa Rowe, Wishlist CEO. "Our healthcare workers will be pushed to the limit over the coming months, and it's simple thank you's like this that can brighten their day."



Kids Art Attack program: presented by Melinda Saunders from A Little Creative offers online edutainment for children.

Go online for art attack program

SUNSHINE Coast Council has launched a new series of online programs and videos. The Stay, Connect, Create program is at

www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

You'll find a variety of workshops, kids' art activities, early literacy, rhyming, science activities, virtual tours, historical stories and more.

Our greatest tool for stopping the spread of COVID-19 is to stay at home, so by moving content online, our community will have opportunities to keep occupied and engaged during these challenging times.

Visit www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/stayconnectcreate



"This was not in the job description" ... Andrew Powell sticks to his word and weeds an elderly resident's garden recently.

MP goes beyond the call of duty

MEMBER for Glasshouse Andrew Powell got a better response than he bargained for after he recently put out the call for people to "sing out if they needed anything at all".

"Well, some of the requests I've received have been a little out of the ordinary so I'd thought I share just a few," he said Monday.

"I've delivered toilet paper, read books to school kids 'virtually' and, most recently, weeded an elderly woman's garden. I'm up for most challenges. If you have any odd requests that I can help with, let me know! I want to be able to help you where I can, provided that we can maintain adequate social distancing, and if I can't personally assist I'll be sure to connect you to someone who can. Keep safe everyone! I hope you are all faring as best you can throughout this difficult time of COVID-19.

Animals are truly a never-ending source of joy

Wildlife **Volunteers** by Donna Brennan, wilvos.org.au

IT is important in these times to have some cheery news.

It is supposed to be most helpful to stay with routine in stressful times, but no one seems to have reminded the media of this. Entertaining nightly television shows are replaced by tales of doom and gloom, with the same news rehashed in a myriad of ways. If I was prone to depression, I'd be totally depressed!

Our animals are a never ending source of joy, whether they be domestic cats, dogs, livestock or wildlife.

They are a respite in a crazy world. Social distancing to me has meant more time to spend with my wildlife and I love that!

I can hug them to bits! Our WILVOS 5441 6200 Hotline remains busy but we are surmising that less cars on the road has made a difference to the number of animals coming into care in the last week.

Sometimes the human impact on our environment and wildlife is just taken for granted. As cities close down the result is that everyday pollution declines. Across the world some countries are amazed at their clear skies and clean waterways. Let's hope the latter don't get choked up with masks and little empty bottles of hand sanitizer in the near future!



Red-necked wallaby returns with joey in pouch.

There are always rewards when caring for wildlife and one of the most enjoyable of these is to see native animals return with young. It is not unusual to see macropods return with joeys in their pouch, but one of our carers recently observed an eastern grey kangaroo, released in the previous year, give birth to a little jelly bean sized joey.

She probably came back to what was a familiar safe place to perform this miracle!

I am just happy to have the privilege of return visits from Novak, the echidna, as he emerges from somewhere in the garden every couple of days for a feed and a chat. Yes, I'm sure he listens intently to me!

Donna Brennan Wildlife Volunteers Assoc Inc (WILVOS) PO Box 4805 Sunshine Coast Mail Centre Q 4560 PH 5441 6200 www.wilvos.org.au

Locals pull together in crisis

From **Marty Hunt** State Member for Nicklin



THE world has changed rather rapidly for all of us. Getting used to the "new normal" is challenging and for some quite distressing. My "new normal" as your local representative has become trying to help many people faced with losing their job, losing their business, fears about their health, confusion with the rules and what might be considered exceptions to those rules. Everyone has been impacted differently but everyone has been impacted. However, as we are all in this together can I suggest some ways we might help each other. If you are one of the many people who haven't lost income and are working from home, why not use this time to hire a local tradie to come and fix something you've been putting off. Tradies I have spoken to speak of work "drying up" as people fear or experience income loss. If you have the capacity, now is a good time to give them some work within the social distancing

And what about supplies? Check out the Sunshine Coast Food and Agribusiness Facebook page for ideas on how to support local suppliers. I visited and did media with one of our new local brewers in Yandina, Terella Brewing. They are moving into production of takeaways in order to keep their popular

rules and hygiene practices of course.

business going after the shutdown of their bar area. They should be set up for online orders in the very near future, consider getting your beer there and supporting our local businesses through these times. There are many other local businesses we can support while staying within the rules about going out only for essential reasons. If you're thinking of buying something, think local.

And in saying that, how about supporting this very important paper by supporting their advertisers where you can. When you buy something from them, let them know you saw their ad in *The Sunshine Valley Gazette*. That way you will give them confidence to keep advertising and also keep up the wonderful work of this community newspaper.

One more way we can be creative about maintaining a bit of normality is to try and keep ANZAC Day as meaningful as possible. See my Facebook page for a campaign to get everyone to go to the end of the driveway at 6am for a minute's silence, but to also dress up appropriately as you normally would and #wearyoursuit. I will also be profiling local ANZAC heroes who lost their lives during the month on Facebook. If you have a story and photograph you would like me to include please email to my office.

My staff and I continue to work hard every day answering queries, writing to Ministers and advocating for the things we need. Unfortunately personal visits are out for the time being unless critical. But I'm a phone call or email away. Keep being patient and kind with each other, support local and dress up for ANZAC Day.

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17

Rogo looks back on 16 years

REG Rogerson's first stint in Council was in 2004 as the Division I representative for Maroochy Shire Council. Since then he has proudly served the people of Division 10. 'Rogo' retired at the recent election and we asked him about his time in office.

What were your proudest moments in Council?

My proudest moments stem from the fact that I got and still get a great deal of personal satisfaction out of helping and assisting people. Hence when Mr 'Joe Blow' or Mrs 'Joe Blow' came to me with a legitimate problem, I prided myself on giving them credibility and listening intently to their concern. These 'Joe Blows' came from every Division in the Sunshine Coast region and the more their backsides hung out of their trousers and the more others (Councillors and Bureaucrats alike) had cast them aside, the greater the sense of achievement I derived when we fixed the problem.

There was hardly a week that would go by, where someone in the street wouldn't shake my hand and genuinely thank me for listening to them in the past and acting positively for them. I didn't achieve a 100 percent success rate for everyone who sought my assistance, but I can honestly say I gave it a 100 percent 'crack' in trying!

Best aspect of being Div 10 Cr?

The best aspect of being a Hinterland Councillor, especially the Division 10 Councillor, is the fact that you get to see and witness the social, cultural and individual difference of a multitude of towns and Centres.

No two days in the life of the Division 10 Councillor are ever the same!

You can be discussing a multi million dollar Development proposal with an Applicant in the morning and trying to work out a way to stop neighbours fighting over peacocks scratching out garden beds in the afternoon.

Worst aspect of being a Div 10 Councillor?

The worst aspect of being the Division 10 Councillor was the constant and relentless battle, (no 'WAR' would better describe it!), with my fellow Coastal Councillors over the big Hinterland issues, such as the inequity of 'sewerage pump-out' costs and the lack of funding for the bitumen sealing of dirt/gravel roads.

There should be no excuse for a Coastal Councillor failing to engage and help find solutions to these two paramount concerns experienced in the Hinterland.

Just because they don't have a dirt road or 'pump-out' in their Division, doesn't give them the right to bury their heads in the sand and not give any assistance or thought in trying to address these very real problems.

Biggest achievements?

Any and all achievements that benefited the community of Division 10. However I would like to acknowledge the following projects:

- The Mapleton's Men's Shed. With the support of a close knit executive group and foundational members, we managed to convince council bureaucrats that if they would allow Men's Shed volunteers the chance to prove themselves, despite Council Officer's contrary financial and professional reports, that they would transform the termite-ridden, old Mapleton Forestry Buildings, into a Community masterpiece. They certainly didn't let me or themselves down!
- The Hinterland Connect Bus Service: with the help of Cr McKay and the majority of the Blackall Range Community backing us, we at long last delivered a permanent Public Transport system for residents from Maleny to Nambour and each rural centre in between.
- The Nambour Heritage Tram Project: Despite the fact that an operational Tram is still probably a year away, The Nambour Tramway Company (TNT Co) has finished construction of the Western Terminus, incorporating a brand new Information Centre. Corridor works being undertaken by Shadforth Civil are imminent. The Nambour Community raised \$158k from 'Tramfest' and donations. The Federal Govern-

ment (with the generous help from Ted O'Brien MP) kicked in \$500k and two most generous people by the names Roy and Nola Thompson, donated \$1,000,001 toward the project. This, together with Council's contribution of \$1.65 million, will see the world's only two foot gauge, solar powered, battery electric Tram, running on State Heritage Listed rail lines, through a major town centre, anywhere in the world!

Other achievements I would like to mention, but in no specific order, include:

The Kenilworth Designer Dunny Project, The Kenilworth Public Transport Project, the Upgrade to the Eumundi Terraces and the preservation of the Yandina Railway Gate Keeper's Cottage.



Funniest moment/s?

It seems funny now, but at the time it certainly wasn't regarded as funny by me ... but early in my Councillor career, I was asked to assist the Rotary Club of Nambour in the refurbishment of the Dulong Lookout.

Over a couple of weekends, the Rotary Club members and I built a plinth, restumped the Shelter Shed, concreted some paths and generally made the Lookout, 'spick and span'.

On completion of the Project, Doug Biggs, regarded at the time as the non-elected, yet indisputable Mayor of Nambour, suggested to me that it would be wise to get rid of "that scrub tree" from in front of the Lookout, as it was disrupting the excellent view. Keen to please the Mayor of Nambour, I suggested we prune the top of the tree.

I was quickly put into place, when Mayor Doug said, "forget about the pruning son, the whole tree needs to come down!"

I hastily rang a friend, whom I thought owned the land the tree was growing on and asked him for permission to cut the tree down. Little did he or I know, that the tree was growing in the road reserve which in the past, used to have the Shay locomotive running through it!

"Yeah, no worries Rogo, just cut it down as it's only a scrub tree!"

I went home, grabbed my chainsaw, cut the tree down and made Mayor Biggs very happy, only to be reported to Council by another Cr and fined \$350 dollars for my effort.

In my defence whilst briefing my fellow Councillors on the matter, I ran the argument given to me by a good mate and DPI Horticulturalist, that it was just "canopy management" and to this day all my close friends s till refer to any tree being chopped down as simply "canopy management".

God bless Mayor Doug Biggs!

Apart from the people, what's the best thing about Division 10?

The diversity and uniqueness of each and every town and centre within the Division.

Do you have a message for the new councillor for Division 10?

Always give willingly of your time to your constituents and listen intently to their problems, concerns and aspirations and remember, you can't please everyone, all the time! My 'old man' had a saying, "It's difficult trying to soar with the eagles, when you're scratching around the ground with

the chooks" and what I took from that was it's easy to give too much credence to the 'nay sayers', so be bold, think outside the box and above all, use your 'common sense'!

How do you deal with tough issues, emotionally and practically?

Gee, the questions are getting pretty hard now! I genuinely always tried to demonstrate empathy and a true common sense approach toward everything I did!

Having an exceptional wife, eager to listen and loathe to judge, is a God send!

Why did you retire?

There comes a time in life when people very close to you, see marked changes in the manner and way you cope with things such as stress. My wife Lesley had given me 12 great years to pursue my passion and commitment to serve the Community. Working with and within the community, I found relatively easy. I loved the challenge but what I found progressively more difficult, was the constant undermining by some of the bureaucrats within the Council system, who took it on themselves to make decisions contrary to the better judgement of the elected representatives.

What are you going to do now?

Community wise, I reckon I have about two years of a pretty solid commitment ahead of me to get Nambour's Tram up and operational. The full viability of the project and indeed the Tram's economic stimulus and point of difference for Nambour, will only be fully realised when Stage 2 of the Tram to the Nambour Showgrounds is completed.

Apart from this volunteer role, I now have four beautiful grandsons, Alfie, Knox, Taffy and Bowie (all under 4 years of age), so I would like to be able to spend some valuable time with my wife Lesley, daughters Peta and Hayley and their respective husbands Lucas and Kurt and together with them, teach the grandkids how to pump a few yabbies, catch a fish or two or three, ride a motorbike and waterski!

Biggest challenge for the new council?

Undoubtedly Council's biggest challenge will be endeavouring to assist every SC community member face the current COVID-19 Pandemic and hopefully bring them back into some semblance of normality at it's conclusion, as unscathed as possible!

The world has indeed changed, however we shouldn't lose track of the fact that residents live in the best, most amazing and beautiful part of the world.

Maybe, just maybe, we will all learn heaps about ourselves, our lifestyles and our aspirations, as a result of this crisis and with baby steps, each form of Government (Local, State and Federal) will lead us back into a stable environment where we will appreciate exactly what we've got, better than ever!

Any comments on the election?

Anyone who thought some form of electronic voting system may be introduced into the future, would have had their hopes completely dashed with the absolutely appalling display by the Electoral Commission in posting the current election results on line!

In my estimation, the 2020 election shouldn't have gone ahead and I emailed the State, through the Health Minister Steven Miles to inform him of my sentiments and what I believed to be his responsibility.

Congratulations to every Candidate who got a jersey under the 'one off conditions' thrown at them, however in the back of my mind, I still can't reconcile how a decision as important as electing the Community's representatives for the next 4 year term can be acceptable, when only a little over half the population were willing to risk voting!

What else would you like to say?

I would like to genuinely and sincerely thank the community of Division 10 for the trust they bestowed in me to represent them over a considerable amount of time.

I can honestly declare that whilst the role of Councillor hasn't been a 'walk in the park', I have absolutely and thoroughly loved the job and feel I couldn't have given one skerrick more in time or effort.

Letters to the Editor

Let's have follow-up on domestic violence and homelessness?

DURING the election campaign the mayor-elect championed the cause of both the need for more action on domestic violence & homelessness.

Domestic violence is possibly the biggest social issue manifesting from the current economic difficulties and is, according to the police, the issue that is both consuming a very high proportion of their time & the one most concerning to them.

It is unpleasant fact that we have the highest rate of strangulation, an entire male on female crime, in the state. This is considered a particularly bad indicator of escalating violence in a relationship.

The Coast has a very high rate of domestic violence & all the issues associated with it such as drug & alcohol abuse, economic stress & lack of family support. What concrete measures is the mayor proposing to take?

The Rising Tide of Homelessness

The Coast has about 1000 homeless, but this may well be just the tip of the issue since many who live in cars or other vehicles are not classified as being without a dwelling.

This current crisis will expose the many weaknesses there are in the way we deal with it. That is, do the minimum & allow a set of defacto initiatives to paper over it, such as charities & even individual arrangements rough sleepers have for shelter & food.

A lot of what was excess food from restaurant & cafes supplied to these charities or individuals has disappeared. And the need for social distancing has made some of their previous shelter arrangements unacceptable.

Perhaps the Nambour council chambers could be re-purposed along with some of the other 4199 pieces of property the ex-CEO boasted of the ratepayers owning.

But what measures does the mayor propose to adopt, after all, his statement of his willingness to step outside the square on these two issues is well documented.

— Michael Burgess, ex-Candidate for Mayor, Parrearra

Take care of your wellbeing in tough times

THIS difficult time for people, families and communities will mean building our resilience, doing what we're told, getting information from reliable sources and looking after each other. Social distancing does not have to mean social disconnection.

I'm writing to encourage your readers to take care of their well-being — starting with having routines, being active, eating as well as possible, drinking lots of water, continuing to learn and connecting with others. Experiment with Zoom or Skype to organise your usual group activities. Check out the national Neighbour Day Facebook site (Relationships Australia) for neighbourly tips. If you have conflict with neighbours, now's the time to work it out.

We all have a part to play in creating healthy, suicide safer communities. Keep an eye on people who you know may be vulnerable at this time. Notice if they are not their usual selves. Rather than expecting them to reach out to you, reach in to them and ask about their welfare. Don't accept a glib answer. Be prepared to sit with an uncomfortable response. Listen rather than give advice or try to fix them up.

Follow or like our Suicide Prevention in Local Communities - Sunshine Coast on www.facebook.com/SuicidePreventionIn-LocalCommunities/ We will keep you informed about on line activities that support connection, basic one hour free training about suicide prevention, and future events

For support contact: Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467; DVCONNECT: Womensline 1800 811 811 and Mensline 1800 600 636.

— Merilyn Keene, Coordinator, Suicide Prevention in Communities Reference Group, Hinterland and Sunshine Coast merilyn@calcomm.org.au

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Joke of the Week ...

If you have a favourite joke that will help lift spirits please send to editor@sunshinevalleygazette.com.au and we'll make you famous.

Here's one to kick things off ... The following questions were set in an exam. These, believe it or not (ed: we don't), are genuine answers from 16 year olds ...

Why Teachers Drink

- Q. What is the fibula? A. A small lie (ed: cute)
- Q. What does 'varicose' mean?

water

Healthy Water...

Healthy Life!

- A. Nearby (love it)
 Q. What is the most common form of birth control A. Most people prevent contraception by wearing a
- A. The caesarean section is a district in Rome.
- Q. What is a terminal illness
- timely)
 - Q. What does the word 'benign' mean?

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A. Benign is what you will be after you be eight (be-ril-

- condominium (that would work). Q. Give the meaning of the term 'Caesarean section'
- A. When you are sick at the airport (Irrefutable. And

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Sunshine Palley Gazette

Editorial Assistance for Businesses that are Coping, Caring & Adapting ...

The Coronavirus is a health crisis. For many it's also a business crisis. The Sunshine Valley Gazette can't change the chaos that is out of everyone's control, but we can be there for you, at least in a small way.

We are offering businesses free editorial notices outlining any new services you have created or adaptations you have made to your existing business, in light of COVID-19.

For instance: are you offering new hours of business, pick-up services, zero-contact services, new operational procedures, home deliveries, takeaways or any other adaptations?

Let us know. In about 100 words. And we'll let everybody know.

Please send your notice to editor@sunshinevalleygazette.com.au if you think we can help.

We've also flattened all rates for display ads & business features: Full Page \$525. Half Page \$325. Quarter Page \$185. Eighth Page \$115. 16th Page \$60.

We know people flock to trusted media in times of crisis as a source of local news. Our aim in coming editions is to continue to cover inspiring stories about coping, caring & adapting.

Thanks for your business and we hope we may be able help spread your important messages to our 10,000-plus readers.

— Cameron & Tanya Outridge, owners. editor@sunshinevalleygazette.com.au tanya@sunshinevalleygazette.com.au



