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Mayoral candidate Rosanna Natoli



Mayoral candidate Wayne Parcel



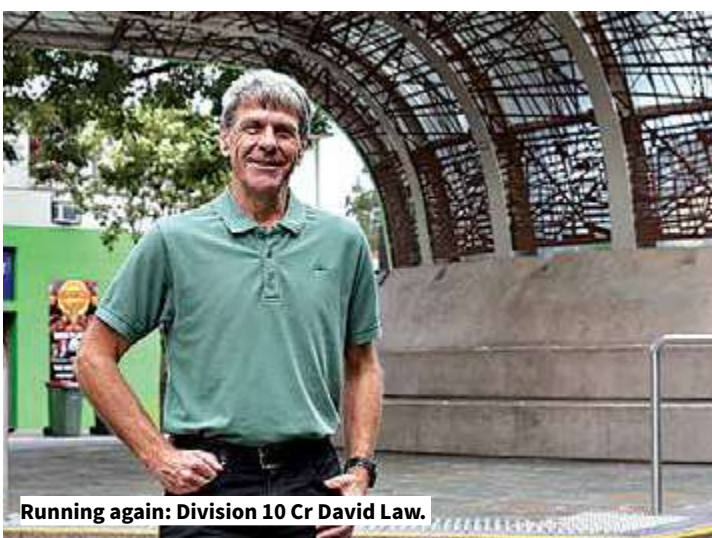
Santa Tours the Hinterland: p 12



Sculpture on the Edge socials p 24



Running again: Division 5 Cr Winston Johnston.



Running again: Division 10 Cr David Law.



Raise your own chooks p 23

# YOUR CHOICE Council candidates line up

MAYORAL candidates Rosanna Natoli and Wayne Parcel have announced their candidacy for the vacant post while Cr Winston Johnston (Div 5) and David Law (Div 10) have announced their intentions to run again in the March 2024 local government elections.

Read all about them pages 2-5.



Cop on the beat in Kenilworth p 8



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**Gazette**

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

ANOTHER year is almost over and it's time to extend our warmest Christmas greetings to our readers and advertisers.

This time of year invites us to appreciate the spirit of the people, families businesses and organisations that make up our hinterland community.

In our pages each edition, we are privileged to share stories that epitomise our community – not necessarily through the grand or controversial – but often through the small acts of kindness, hope and charity that we try to notice and to report every edition.

These stories are the lifeblood of our community. Like the story this week about John Rowe, who puts his woodwork skills to use for people in need.

We believe part of our role as a local newspaper is to capture this spirit, offering meaningful recognition for those who make our community a better place.

We're truly grateful to be able to acknowledge the people who provide inspiration and a counterpoint to the mainstream news cycle. Our focus on local stories reveals a world filled with remarkable people doing remarkable things.

May their actions remind us of the power of community and the strength found in unity and kindness.

As we look forward to the new year, we remain committed to bringing you these stories, shining a light on the positivity and resilience that defines the hinterland.

Our commitment to delivering the local news that matters to you remains steadfast. We thank you for your continued support and trust in our work.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with joy and a New Year brimming with health, hope and prosperity.

– Cameron and Tanya Outridge, owners.

# Rosanna Natoli aims to bring community voice to Sunshine Coast leadership

by Janine Hill

TELEVISION presenter and university lecturer Rosanna Natoli has formally announced she will run for mayor of the Sunshine Coast at the March local government elections.

If successful, Ms Natoli will be the second mayor in her household.

Her husband, Joe, the sitting councillor for division four, was mayor of Maroochy Shire prior to its amalgamation with Caloundra and Noosa shires in 2008 to form the Sunshine Coast Council.

She revealed she had been thinking about nominating long before current mayor Mark Jamieson's mid-November announcement that he would step down at the next election.

"I was thinking about it for a couple of years when it really started to be the community colliding with decisions being made by the council," she said.

"That's when I started to think the community wasn't being listened to and local government is meant to be the level of government closest to the people and it hasn't been really close for a while."

Aside from meaningful consultation, Ms Natoli said infrastructure was a big issue for the Sunshine Coast and she would advocate for heavy rail from Beerwah to Maroochydore, the duplication of the train line to Nambour and hydro or electric buses to every suburb on the Coast.

She said she would like to see more gravel roads sealed, more support for agricultural businesses in the hinterland, and different ways of providing housing "because what we have done isn't working".

Mr Jamieson has said that someone with experience running a big business would suit the job of mayor but Rosanna believes her professional experience, community involvement, and ability to communicate stands her in good stead.

She planned to spend the next three-and-a-half months connecting with the community as much as possible.

"I think that's what people want, someone



Rosanna Natoli said infrastructure was a big issue for the Sunshine Coast and she would advocate for heavy rail from Beerwah to Maroochydore and the duplication of the train line to Nambour.

who represents them," she said.

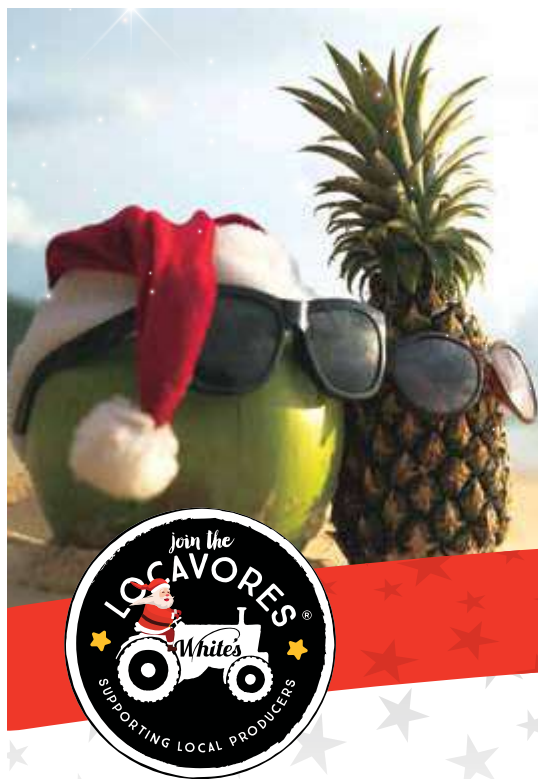
A journalist who has worked with Channel Seven on the Sunshine Coast for 29 years and taught at the University of the Sunshine Coast for 24 years, Ms Natoli has donated her time to MC at charity functions.

The mother-of-three is patron of homelessness charity Roofs to Recovery, the Sunshine Coast Oriana Choir, the Maroochydore Orchid Society, the Sunshine Troop disabled dancers, and the Rise2 Foundation for domestic and

family violence recovery, is an ambassador for the Buderim Hospital Cindy Mackenzie Breast Cancer Foundation, and is a member of the Journalism Education and Research Association of Australia.

Ms Natoli said her husband had been supportive of her decision to run for mayor from the start.

She felt society had advanced enough to accept that a woman could be mayor at the same time as her husband was a councillor.



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Wayne Parcell in Nambour last week said hinterland people were not being heard by Council.

# Festival director and lawyer to run for mayor

by Janine Hill

A HINTERLAND dynamo has become the second person to put up their hand for the Sunshine Coast's top job.

Wayne Parcell, a Montville resident of almost 20 years, has publicly declared his intention to run for mayor of the Sunshine Coast at the March 2024 local government election.

Mr Parcell's announcement follows that of television personality and university lecturer Rosanna Natoli, wife of division four councillor Joe Natoli.

Mr Parcell, a lawyer by profession, is director of The Rangebow Festival, a celebration of diversity, inclusion, sustainability and reconciliation spread across the hinterland towns of Maleny, Montville, Flaxton and Mapleton.

He is also the president of the Montville Village Association and when president of the Montville Tennis Club, has driven the rejuvenation of the Montville tennis courts.

Running for public office has been on Mr Parcell's mind since he was a teenager but he decided to finally do it after a bit of a push from others following Mark Jamieson's announcement that he would not seek a third term as mayor.

"The time is right. The mood I'm picking up from people is that they are looking for a change. They are looking for a different way of the council doing business," he said.

"I think the council has done a good job but I think people are looking for a more open and transparent type of operation from council so they can be more confident in the decisions that are being made and have more faith in what's happening and have a higher level of satisfaction in what the council does," he said.

Mr Parcell, who has adopted the slogan "change that matters to you," said hinterland people did not feel they were being heard by the council while coastal residents could be heard but not understand why certain decisions were made.



He said the Sunshine Coast's population was diverse and he would like to see the council engaging with a wide variety of people.

"There's many different communities out there that have different needs. They need to be included. They need to be understood."

Mr Parcell, 64, a part-time strategic consultant for a law firm, believes he has the right skill set for the job of mayor.

After growing up in a domestic violence household on Brisbane's southside, he went on to study law at university and worked in the public service for 15 years, earning a medal in the Queen's birthday honours for his outstanding work.

He has more than 30 years' experience in immigration law in private practice and with a global firm and 25 years on the boards of charities, including for homeless LGBTIQ+ youth.

His husband, Brett, and two adult children from his first marriage, who compete with two Burmese cats for his affections, are supportive of his run for mayor.

Any questions or meeting invitations for Mr Parcell can be emailed to [Parcell.for.Mayor@gmail.com](mailto:Parcell.for.Mayor@gmail.com). **Div 8 Cr Jason O'Pray was also believed to be launching his campaign for mayor at time of print yesterday.**

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## Genealogy group to hold Irish seminar

GENEALOGY Sunshine Coast is holding a Seminar by two well-known Irish researchers Fintan Mullen and Gillian Hunt on the Saturday 17th February 2024 at the Nambour Showgrounds. Various topics will be discussed during the day and these researchers will also be available on Friday 16th for one-to-one sessions which need to be booked.

These are the same researchers who visited Australia in 2017 and presented at our premises in Petrie Park Road, Nambour which was very successful. Many new records are now available, and these researchers will be able to help us access them. The cost is \$100 for the day which includes morning and afternoon tea as well as lunch.

Please contact our Society by email [genealogy@gmail.com](mailto:genealogy@gmail.com) or by phone on 07-5329-2315 to book in.

## Thriving Families Dads' Group

NAMBOUR Community Centre has created an activity-based space where fathers can bring their kids, meet other dads and have fun.

The Thriving Families Dads Group aims to encourage parent engagement in activities while promoting support for dads from other dads.

"This free and exciting activity-based group is a monthly event, open to all men who live in or around Nambour who care for a child, whether as a parent, relative, or part of the extended family," said organiser Peter Hogg.

This year's previous monthly gatherings have included lawn bowls at Woombye Bowls Club, water slides at the Nambour Aquatic Centre and Pinball at Sunshine Coast Pinball.

► Contact Erin Buchanan on 0481 163 850 or Peter Hogg 0423 785 772 at Nambour Community Centre for more information. Or check out Nambour Community Centre and Thriving Families Facebook pages where you can find our Dads Group updates.

# Cr Law confirms second run for Division 10

by Janine Hill

DIVISION 10 councillor David Law has confirmed he will seek a second term on the Sunshine Coast Council.

"I have the energy and passion to represent the people of Division 10 in all the towns; Nambour, Mapleton, Kenilworth, Yandina, North Arm and Eumundi," he said.

Councillor Law said he approached the role of councillor by listening to what communities and individuals really wanted, then acting on their behalf, citing the Mapleton off-leash dog park as an example.

"It was started and completed within two years of my election in response to overwhelming community demand. It is very well used and an asset to the town," he said.

Cr Law has pledged to continue his regular high attendance at community meetings across the division, as well as continuing twice-yearly drop-in sessions in every town.

"That is how I stay connected to the communities and can be most effective," he said.

A Nambour local for over 20 years and the father of three now adult children, Cr Law says the Nambour Revitalisation Project will remain a major focus for him.

"The overall aim is to make Nambour more 'people-friendly', so more shade trees, wider pavements, more space for people to walk and sit, better connection between areas," he said.

"The award-winning re-design of Nambour Council Forecourt has transformed a hot, concrete space into a green, welcoming, shady area with seating.

"This shows us what is possible throughout the rest of the town.

"Community feedback tells us which areas to focus on first.

"In addition I have secured funding for Nambour Library and Customer Service Centre to be renewed as well as creating new community meeting spaces. There continues to be 200 council staff working out of Nambour."

No stranger to advocacy, Cr Law said the skills learned in his career in disability, which ended with him as national manager, would continue to drive important projects for the hinterland.

High on his agenda is the Nambour-Cooloolta Recreation Trail, the Petrie Creek masterplan, Nambour Revitalisation Project, Eumundi Streetscaping and Yandina off-leash dog park.

As the councillor with the Community Strategy Portfolio, Cr Law instigated the council's Housing and Homelessness Action Plan, adopted unanimously by the full council in July 2023.

"We now have a plan so that, in collaboration with the community housing sector, we can create affordable housing. I'm excited to continue this work."

Cr Law remains a self-funded independent candidate who has never belonged to a political party.



Cr Law, pictured in the Nambour town square, says the Nambour Revitalisation Project will remain a major focus for him.

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Cr Johnston has advocated for parking, roads and the expansion of Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve during his latest term.

# Cr Johnston back for more amidst council changes

by Janine Hill

DIVISION five councillor Winston Johnston will throw his hat in the ring for another term on Sunshine Coast Council.

Councillor Johnston is something of a local government veteran. He was first elected to the Landsborough Shire Council in 1982 and remained in office until 1991, by which time Landsborough Shire was known as Caloundra City Council, a forerunner of the Sunshine Coast Council area.

He made a local government comeback in 2020 when he successfully stood for election against nine other candidates for division five after the retirement of long-serving councillor Jenny Mackay.

Councillor Johnston's opponents this time will include Greens candidate Tracy Burton, who came second last time, and journalist and former political staffer Richard Bruinsma.

Cr Johnston said the Sunshine Coast Council was in a good position and continuity was important given mayor Mark Jamieson's decision not to seek a third term.

"The Sunshine Coast Council is probably one of the biggest, if not the biggest business on the

Sunshine Coast," Cr Johnston said.

"It can take a bit long to get things done but overall, I'm very happy with what's been achieved over the last four years," he said.

Cr Johnston said the council had sold the airport lease at a profit and the involvement of the Walker Corporation in the Maroochydore CBD had turned that from a loss-making to a profit-making project.

He said the council had been able to lobby for the retention of inter-urban green break to the south and had also bought land for environmental purposes, including an expansion of the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve at Maleny.

The council was now ready to begin enacting an excellent master plan for an ecological park adjoining the existing reserve which would be a project of major significance to the hinterland, he said.

Cr Johnston said he had successfully advocated for over-grown vegetation obscuring the views from three major lookouts on the Range to be cleared.

"Personally, I believe the state of our parking, roads and lookouts has been improved, especially parking in my division. I've put in requests for works to be done."

## Hinterland schools make top grade

HINTERLAND schools have ranked alongside elite private schools as top academic performers in new NAPLAN results released last week.

Montville State School and Mapleton State School made the top four of the Sunshine Coast's best performing primary schools while Nambour Christian College and Suncoast Christian College were among the best secondary schools as ranked in the independent analysis of 2023 NAPLAN results for Year 5 and Year 9 tests.

### 10 best performing primary schools

- Matthew Flinders Anglican College: 541.8
- Montville State School: 537.0**
- Immanuel Lutheran College: 529.8
- Mapleton State School: 517.2**
- Pacific Lutheran College: 516.6

- Good Shepherd Lutheran College: 515.2
- St Andrew's Anglican College: 513.6
- Buderim Mountain State School: 510.8
- Sunshine Coast Grammar School: 510.2
- Sunshine Beach State School: 508.2

### 10 best performing secondary schools

- Immanuel Lutheran College: 610.4
- Sunshine Coast Grammar School: 609.8
- Matthew Flinders Anglican College: 606.6
- Caloundra City Private School: 603.0
- St Andrew's Anglican College: 594.8
- Nambour Christian College: 592.4**
- Unity College: 585.6
- Good Shepherd Lutheran College: 585.0
- Siena Catholic College: 584.2
- Suncoast Christian College: 583.0**

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## Have a joyous holiday season

from David Law

Division 10 Councillor  
david.law@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



I would like to personally wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year. I am very much looking forward to next year to continue to deliver for Division 10. Wishing you all the best for this next year! Have a joyous holiday season.

### Minor Grants

A total of 80 community groups will benefit from Council's Community Grants Program, which saw more than \$133,000 awarded in its latest Minor Grants round. The funds will help groups making a difference purchase equipment and run a variety of programs and projects. Congratulations to all recipients! Local community groups benefiting from this latest round include Nambour & District Historical Museum Association receiving \$1720 towards underground electrical and concreting works. View the full list of recipients on Council's website.

### Summer School Holidays

It's time to make magical school holiday memories with Sunshine Coast Council – from workshops to events, and take-home activities to amazing days out – there is plenty on offer to keep the kids busy this summer. There's something for everyone, why not try a new Adventure Sunshine Coast trail or visit your local library. Defeat school holiday boredom, visit Council's website to discover the fun.

### Seeds of Hope

Volunteers have come out in force to support victims of domestic, family and gender-based violence, planting more than 500 native seedlings at Alexandra Headlands for Seeds of Hope earlier this month. The community-based event took place as part of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. The seedlings will rehabilitate and build resilience in our coastal dunes, while also acknowledging victims of domestic and family violence on the Sunshine Coast. Search 'prevention of domestic and family violence' on Council's website for more information.

# Yandina Pony Club in limbo

## Seeking new home amidst growth

by Janine Hill

IT was the Australian pony club of the year last year, but the Yandina Pony Club is effectively homeless.

The pony club has been forced to use other club grounds and even hold events off the Sunshine Coast because its 1.2ha Andersons Road grounds are too small and have no water or electricity.

Sunshine Coast Council, which has high hopes of hosting Olympic events in 2032, has not connected the basic infrastructure the club has been seeking for at least eight years.

President Kate Pilcher said that without water, it is difficult for the pony clubbers to give their steeds a drink.

"We have a solar pump and a tank and can pump some water but people generally have to bring their own water for their horses," she said.

While waiting for the council to come to the party with water and electricity, the thriving club's membership has more than doubled over eight years to close to about 130, meaning the grounds are too small for it.

Kate said 4ha grounds at Fellowship Drive, Doonan, which had been used by the Eumundi Pony Club prior to its closure last year, would be suitable but were occupied by Hoofbeats, a horse sanctuary and trauma healing service for women and girls.

"The council contacted us 12 months ago saying, 'We've found a solution. Would you like to go to the old Eumundi Pony Club grounds?' Absolutely. And then they said we can't get in for at least 12 months."



The thriving club's membership has more than doubled over eight years to close to 130 and has outgrown its facilities.

be "club-hopping" around four different locations in February and March and was unlikely to be able to host some of the events it had planned for 2024.

"We keep seeing light at the end of the tunnel but then it goes dark," she said.

Kate said the lack of a suitable, permanent grounds was starting to affect the thriving club's membership.

"We're now in danger of losing members because we haven't got suitable grounds," she said.

Kate said swapping the locations of Hoofbeats and Yandina Pony Club made sense but the pony club would also be interested in sharing Fellowship Drive with Hoofbeats.

A Sunshine Coast Council spokesman said the council had been in discussions with Yandina Pony Club about a tenure solution at Fellowship Drive, Doonan.

Kate said the council then offered the pony club the use of another section of the Fellowship Drive property but it was over-run with weeds and unsafe.

Kate said the council has made other suggestions, including using the Nambour Showgrounds, which turned out to be fully booked; using other pony clubs' grounds, which came at a cost; or seeking out private land, which it did but the council then demanded the club obtain event permits or apply for a material change of use, at a cost of thousands of dollars. Secretary Chenoa Trama said the club would

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## Have a Wonderful Christmas!

from Andrew Powell

State Member for Glass House  
glass.house@parliament.qld.gov.au



Thank you to all my wonderful Glass House communities for another fantastic year of serving you both locally and in Queensland Parliament.

Together, we've achieved a lot, including a multitude of upgrades to Maleny-Kenilworth Road which is now almost entirely sealed in both directions, making for a much safer route for locals and tourists alike.

I've had the privilege of donating 22 marquees to community groups and schools, crowned another winner of my Joyce Newton OAM Memorial Bursary, walked one million steps to raise funds for Parkinsons research and hosted celebrations for small business owners and employees in the electorate.

Unfortunately though, it hasn't been all good news this year. Kilcoy-Beerwah Road near its intersection with Maleny-Stanley River Road is coming up on two years operating as a single, traffic light-controlled lane. Despite numerous requests to TMR and the relevant Minister, we are still no closer to knowing when the road will be restored.

I'm also aware that for many, this will be a difficult time of year as cost-of-living pressures continue to rise. It's hard to factor in presents under the tree and extra food on the table when bills, rent and grocery costs are still on the rise. Next year is an election year and I look forward to sharing with you how an LNP Government will demonstrate we have the Right Priorities for Queensland's Future – including tackling the cost of living.

As the Christmas holidays approach, my team and I will be closing the office for a short period – Friday, 22 December 2023 till Sunday, 14 January 2024. As always, emails will be checked during that period so if you have an urgent matter please email me at Glass.House@parliament.qld.gov.au.

With 2024 being an election year for me, I'm looking forward to some time with Taryn and the kids. I hope you are able to make time to be with those who are precious to you and to celebrate all that is brilliant about living in our beautiful part of the world.

# Local man 77, crafts a better Christmas for people in need

by Janine Hill

JOHN Rowe always wanted to be a carpenter, wound up working behind a desk, but has turned out to be a local legend.

Working with wood has been John's hobby, passion and sanity for years.

Given a hoard of timber, the Woombye pensioner has been putting it to use building gifts for people he has never met.

The results of John's hard work have been offered to St Vincent de Paul with the request that they be given to people who, through unfortunate circumstances, have lost everything.

His wife, quite the scribe, wrote:

"John is an unassuming man of 77 years. With quiet dignity he lives life guided by the Catholic belief that the blessings in life are meant to be shared.

'I always wanted to be a carpenter but there was no training or job available at the time,' he said.

'I've been a desk jockey all my life and just doodled at building things like wooden toys or sewing desks, kitchen chairs; whatever was requested.'

John lives with his wife of 47 years. Louise suffers from MS, Parkinson's, inflammatory arthritis and numerous other health issues.

He said that the establishment of the NDIS scheme freed him from full time carer and allowed him to fulfill his life making things that would help those who lost possessions through drought, fire or floods.



Blessings are meant to be shared: John Rowe with his prolific woodworking donations.

John's Christmas donation includes eight stained garden planters, 14 bench seats and three practical, large storage boxes. The latter can also be used as bench seats.

All are made from Australian hardwood and will last a lifetime.

The timber was given to John by a neighbour who is proud to be part of this gift to others this Christmas.

Almost the entire street has been in awe of John's achievement because they saw his commitment even during his radiology of six weeks of daily treatments for melanoma cancer. He never wavered.

If Santa's elves are ever struggling to meet deadline, this is a bloke ready, willing and able to lend a hand.



Senior Constable Michael Grigalius commenced on Monday November 27 and will reside in town.

## Police commit to more consistent presence in Kenilworth

SUNSHINE Coast District Superintendent Craig Hawkins has reassured Kenilworth residents the Queensland Police Service is aware that concerns have been raised in the area regarding the absence of the town's regular police officer.

"I can provide some reassurance that I am aware and monitoring the challenges this absence causes however (we) have put measures into place to ensure this community is being provided with a policing service.

"Whilst relieving officers have taken up the position for some of the time the regular officer has been absent, there has been times where this wasn't possible. However, where a police officer hasn't been stationed at Kenilworth, a policing response has been provided by neighbouring divisions.

"We are working towards providing a more consistent local presence and to that end Senior Constable Michael Grigalius commenced on Monday 27th November, residing in Kenilworth to provide a local policing presence and response and continue with the commitment we have to the Kenilworth community."

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*A Special Time of Joy, Happiness,  
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and a Wonderful 2024



*Palmwoods* Community Branch Ltd  
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*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

## Landslip works to stabilise roadsides

from **Winston Johnston**  
Division 5 Councillor  
Division5@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au



I am committed to providing high-level maintenance, construction and asset management services for our communities. Early next year, we will be delivering reconstruction and repair works to stabilise embankments on Howard Road, Bald knob and Perrins Road in Eudlo. The works are in response to the severe weather and disaster conditions and are expected to be completed in May, weather and site conditions permitting. These works will be carried out by Council with assistance from the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

### Maleny skate park

Calling all skaters – have you tried out the new half pipe in the hinterland yet? I'm pleased to see Council finish installing a new half pipe ramp with a railing on top, at Maleny Skate Park, next to the main concrete skate park in the Maleny Showgrounds. Due to age and safety concerns, the existing metal half pipe was replaced with a modern one. The word on the street is that the local kids love it and it's getting plenty of use already these school holidays.

### Thank you for your feedback

Council has been working with the Maleny skating community on a design for the skate park. A final design has been refined directly from your feedback and skating experts. For all the details on the new design, visit Council's Have Your Say website.

### Railway Bridge

The surface and reseat works of Railway Bridge along Blackall Range Road in Woombye have been completed. Fog Line works will follow and will cause minimal traffic disruption.

### Season's greeting

I would like to share my best wishes to you and your family for a safe, happy and enjoyable Christmas and a prosperous New Year! Everyone experiences this time of year differently, so please look after one another and be extra safe on the roads. All the best.

# Indigenous culture celebrated at Gathaa market, Forest Glen

by **Janine Hill**

A NEW market has sprung up at Forest Glen offering something different from the usual cheap vegetables and plants.

The Gathaa First Nations market showcases indigenous culture and creativity on Gubbi Gubbi country.

The market, an initiative of My Dilly Bag, debuted at the Forest Glen Village, 354 Mons Road, on Sunday, 10 December, with 18 stalls, a bushfood cooking demonstration by My Dilly Bag owner Dale Chapman, plus workshops on

cultural weaving with Cholena Hughes and painting a deadly dot pot with Mandy Draper.

Lyndon Davis gave a Welcome to Country.

Twenty—three stalls are booked so far for the next Gathaa on Sunday, 14 January, from 8am to 1pm.

Market coordinator Carissa Cooney said the first event attracted a good crowd.

"We didn't know what to expect," she said. "We knew we'd have our mob show up and they came, but it was really lovely for everyone to be there and to be together and support our First Nations businesses and stallholders. We were really well supported," she said.

Carissa said Dale Chapman had the right network to make the event a success.

"When Auntie Dale was first talking to me about it, I thought, 'There's nothing like this on the Sunshine Coast,'" she said.

"There's a lot of on-off events but there's not really anything like this and it's what the Sunshine Coast needs.

"Obviously, for our First Nations artists and people that are starting their own businesses, it's a great platform for them, particularly if they don't have a shopfront or a strong online presence.



Deadly painted dot pots by Ocher Bee were among the items for sale at the first Gathaa market. Photo by Red Handed Productions.



Dale Chapman and Lyndon Davis at the first Gathaa market. Photo by Martin Duncan.

"They are getting traction and reaching out. All of the people are really excited about the next one."

January's Gathaa will include a bush cooking demonstration by Tanika Orr, of Nooks and Cooks; a drawing workshop with Jinibara elder Uncle Noel Blair inspired by his Ganan Ganan series; and an emu feather string Workshop with Ocher Bee.

There will be bushfoods, food trucks, coffee and live music.

▶ Bookings for the workshops can be made through the My Dilly Bag website [www.mydillybag.com.au/pages/GATHAA](http://www.mydillybag.com.au/pages/GATHAA).

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David Wood, Ian and Leanne Harrison, Kent and Dessi Roberts, Rod McKinnon.

## Grant to help 200 families

THE Buderim Foundation Thompson Charitable Fund is pleased to announce a new \$50,000 grant to Aus Living Support Ltd to assist vulnerable Sunshine Coast residents find more permanent housing.

Buderim Foundation Chair Rod McKinnon said Aus Living Support Ltd is a Sunshine Coast charity supporting the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless by helping with rent relief.

"Housing affordability and the cost-of-living are issues affecting more and more people in our community and the Buderim Foundation is pleased to be able to work with organisations providing real relief for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness," Rod McKinnon said.

Aus Living Support Ltd CEO Ian Harrison said the \$50,000 grant would assist 200 families on the Sunshine Coast over about a year.

Aus Living Support started in 2019 and operates two Op Shops - in Maroochydore and Nambour - with the funds raised and grants

providing a rental supplement scheme.

"We provide up to \$200 a week of rental or mortgage support for families for an initial period of up to three months," Mr Harrison said.

He said clients were often single mothers, some reestablishing themselves and their children after escaping domestic violence, often away from the support of families and friends, who were facing multiple challenges.

"This rental support gives our clients a chance to breathe, regroup and gain the courage to face the challenges so they can again support themselves and their children.

Mr Harrison said through the applications received by Aus Living, they could see that the average rent for a small home on the Sunshine Coast had increased to about \$700 a week.

► For more information, about Aus Living Support Ltd, visit [auslivingsupport.org.au/](http://auslivingsupport.org.au/) and for more information about the Buderim Foundation visit [buderimfoundation.org.au](http://buderimfoundation.org.au).



The ground-breaking \$20 million expansion at Yandina Industrial Park.

## Workers needed as Yandina furniture powerhouse expands operations

ONE of the Sunshine Coast's largest employers is calling for more workers as it announces a ground-breaking \$20 million expansion at Yandina Industrial Park.

Furniture leader BFX's significant expansion at its new global distribution centre means around 50 jobs will be up for grabs this summer, from machine operators to furniture assemblers to upholstery workers and more.

For more than 35 years, the company has been specialising in manufacturing Australia's widest range of furniture and contributing to better outcomes in schools and the community.

The state-of-the-art 9000 square metre distribution centre takes BFX's total manufacturing footprint to a massive 22,000 square metres under roof.

The new facility also supports BFX's continued growth and broader distribution of

products across Australia and Southeast Asia while tapping into emerging export markets including the Pacific Islands.

Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson celebrated the expansion at Yandina Industrial Estate with a tour and ribbon-cutting at the new facility.

"The expansion of this powerhouse business is projected to inject \$39.06 million into our local economy, generating 160 new jobs directly and indirectly once the facility is fully operational," he said.

BFX Chairman Denis Moore said the new facility had tripled BFX's loading and dispatch capacity to meet the increasing demand for more products.

"By freeing up thousands of metres of space on our original Yandina site, we can pave the way for further expansion and supply to more customers, particularly during the peak 'back to school' period," Mr Moore said.



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# Santa gets sneak peek at region's treats

THE big man, Santa Claus, recently conducted a special tour in order to update his knowledge of the Nambour & hinterland region and was suitably impressed.

"There's so much to do and see," he told the *Gazette*. "I can't wait to come back Christmas day."

*I Am Nambour* ambassador Rhonda Billett said the tour was a reminder to everyone that the *Gateway to the Sunshine Coast Hinterland Region* had heaps to offer this holiday season.

"Taking Santa on tour was our way of having some fun and showing what we have," she said.

"We have an amazing mosaic of things to experience in this region, from arriving at Sunshine Coast Airport, staying at luxury farm stays or boutique BnBs, to visiting places like the Big Pine-apple, Wild Life HQ Zoo, then onto dining at local restaurants, getting caffeinated at our amazing cafés, visiting our national parks, playing at our two water slide locations, following the Nambour op shop trail, looking at the stunning gardens, exploring local waterfalls, spotting wild platypus enjoying local picnic spots and supporting local road side food stalls.

"There is so much to experience in this Sunshine Coast Hinterland region, on any budget this holiday season whether you are a long time local or visiting the region. And Santa loved these experiences."

Nambour Chamber of Commerce, Nambour Team Co, Nambour Retailers Group have joined forces under their *I Am Nambour* banner with working partners Sunshine Coast Council and Visit Sunshine Coast to show off the Gateway to the Sunshine Coast Hinterland region.



Brown Sugar Nambour's Lahni Thorogood had some carrot cake set aside for Santa.



At Majestic Cinemas Nambour Santa grabbed some popcorn from Jemma Baddock.



Hamming it up with Danny Dunne from Nambour Heights Butcher.



With Mel Tollen from Fruity life.



Spar Supermarket Woombye is the spot to grab local delights like Woombye Cheese.



With Bec Galler from Frankies Woombye.



Maiori Pizzeria in Bury Street owner Antonio Masella serves traditional wood fired pizza.



With Small Change berrista Jed White.

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Organiser Rhonda Billet and Compass team leader Bec Jeffress, front, centre, and the team from Compass celebrate the win.

### Support for Young Mothers

from Ted O'Brien  
Federal Member for Fairfax  
ted.obrien.mp@aph.gov.au



A toad race is not something you come across often. However, each year the people of Nambour at the Tramfest Christmas Festival cheer on an athletic group of toads as they race away to raise funds for a program called STEMM; the riveting event is known as the 'Nambour Cup.'

This year \$1000 was raised to go towards the program that brings education, mentoring and mothering support to the young mothers at Burnside State High School. This program is life-changing for those it impacts, and it could not have been done without our dedicated sponsors.

The organisations that supported the STEMM program this year were TramCo Nambour, Sunshine Valley Gazette, Century 21 Living Local, Ken Mills Toyota, Nambour Chamber of Commerce, CAVU Distilling, Senator James McGrath, Nambour RSL Club, Marty Hunt and the office of Ted O'Brien MP.

### Make a Difference this Christmas

Christmas can be a difficult time for many. For some, it can be a reminder of what they don't have and for others, the expenses can be hard to keep up with. In the cost-of-living crisis Australia currently faces under the Albanese Government, this pressure is now being felt more than ever.

Foodbank Australia reported that in the past year a staggering 3.7 million Australian households - 36% of the population - have experienced food insecurity. Therefore, I have partnered with the 'Trees of Hope' campaign by The Shack Community Centre in Nambour to help bring Christmas food hampers to Sunshine Coast locals.

My office became a drop off location for the initiative, and constituents generously got involved to make a difference. Christmas is only a few days away but if you're feeling the desire to donate, then it's not too late to donate funds to The Shack Community Centre so they can get a few more hampers to a few more people. Visit this link to see their details bit.ly/DonateHamper

Merry Christmas and a happy new year!

# Nambour Christmas Decoration Competition

NAMBOUR Christmas Decoration Competition results are in and the winners of the people's choice category is the Compass Institute Office in C-Square off Currie Street.

In the initiative, Nambour Chamber of Commerce, Nambour Tram and Nambour Retailers Group all joined forces under their I Am Nambour brand with working partner Sunshine Coast Council to bring the streets of the CBD alive with lights, decorations and sparkle.

"We are excited about putting a little extra sparkle into the Nambour CBD this holiday season, it's been a big year for so many locals," said Judge Ange Dunne.

### The businesses who registered to enter the competition were:

- ▶ Bloomhill Op Shops - 97 Blackall Terrace.
- ▶ C21 Living Local - Shop 58, 52-64 Currie Street.
- ▶ The Compass Institute Inc - Shop 53 C Square, Currie Street.
- ▶ DownTown Nambour - 113 Currie Street.
- ▶ Fabric Cartel - 20-22 Queen Street.
- ▶ Purpose Real Estate - 42 Howard Street.

- ▶ Wabi Sabi Creations - 64 Currie Street.
- ▶ Hammond Optometry - 44 Lowe Street.
- ▶ Seven seas tattoo co - 29 Short Street.

### WINNERS

#### Category: Best Decorated Shop Front

Comments: We had two winners in this category as both businesses presented unique shopfront displays celebrating Christmas in a way that was so relevant to the business.

Winners: (1) Fabric Cartel 20-22 Queen Street, Nambour (2) Bloomhill Op shop 97 Blackall Terrace, Nambour

Prize: \$60 Voucher each for Nambour Heights Gift and Christmas Shop.

#### Category: Best Decorated Business

Comments: A truly festive display throughout this business that is sure to ignite the Christmas cheer in even the greenest of grinchies!

Winner: DownTown Nambour 113 Currie Street, Nambour

Prize: \$200 voucher for lunch for your work

team from one of our local Cafe/Restaurants

#### Category: Peoples Choice - Highest Number Of Votes

Comments: The people spoke with their votes, securing 27% of the total votes meant Compass Institute had this one in the bag!

Winner: Compass Institute Shop 53 C Square, Currie Street, Nambour.

Prize: \$500 Cash

#### Voters Prizes

10 lucky voters were randomly selected as winners in the voters prize pool: Elisa Needles, David Jeffress, Paula Young, Mike Hughston, Rebecca (no surname entered), Mark Roderrick, Ash McIntyre, Jacci Gray-Browne, Sofie Allocca, Calum Shand.

Prizes for voters include: Uptown beauty Pamper Pack, Majestic Cinemas Family pass, Wildlife HQ Double Pass (2 Adults), Nambour Aquatic Centre Family Pass (2 Adults + 2 Child), Maiori Pizza Voucher, Banksia Espresso Voucher.

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# Long-awaited tram project eyes 2025 arrival

by Janine Hill

THE much-anticipated Nambour 'Tram' will arrive a little late at its first stop.

TramCo chair Greg "Rogo" Rogerson said it could take up to six months longer than first thought, or even a little more, to deliver a fully operational tram.

"The original Gantt chart we compiled when we eventually knew all the design, engineering and compliance issues, had delivery at the end of 2024," he said.

"In reality, I don't think it will be this early but I do think around July 2025 is fairly feasible."

Tramco has had to gingerly feel its way with construction of the tram, which has been specifically designed to run on the two-foot gauge, heritage listed, cane train tracks.

Greg said TramCo was in discussion with Bradken Engineering, Innisfail, to nail down a price for the bogeys now that the final drawings and engineering for the tram bogeys had been signed off by Covey Associates Engineering and their Independent Competent Person, ADA Engineering, Melbourne.

He said creator Russell Anderson, who had come up with the extraordinary tram design, had been instructed to collect present day castings on the laser cut, 25mm thick plate steel and associated parts needed for the bogey build.

Greg revealed further details of how the tram

Russell Anderson has come up with a "steampunk" tram design.



would be built, saying it would run on two, four-wheeled bogeys, one at either end, each driven by a 48 volt AC brushless motor, driving through SEW transmissions which will provide power to the front pair of bogey wheels.

The super capacitor-powered, electric tram would rely heavily on regenerative braking, but would also run a six pot/piston disc brake, with a single disc mounted on the "lazy", unpowered axles.

Four of the pistons will be hydraulically actuated, with two pistons being electrically actuated to act as a parking brake. On top of all the above-mentioned braking, the armatures of both electric drive motors will also provide an additional mechanical brake.

Greg said the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator required the tram to have excellent braking and above all, be extremely safe.

"If we're running up and down the street and someone steps out in front of the tram, or a vehicle swerves and stops on the tracks, we need to be able to stop incredibly quickly and safely, which wasn't necessarily the case in the old Moreton Central Sugar Mill days where the locos were diesel and even steam powered, and

they had to contend with the inertia of over 100 metres of heavily loaded cane bins linked behind," he said.

Greg said the project was running to budget but he said it was likely more funding would be needed in the future as costs of materials and manufacture had risen incredibly.

"I would be naive if I didn't flag we were going to need more down the track. I always say that the Good Lord will provide. At the right time, things just seem to happen," he said.

## Tramfest boosts coffers

Tramco has staged TramFest events to help boost the coffers. The last one for the year, which Greg described as a Christmas thank-you to the Nambour and hinterland community which has stuck by the tram project, was held on December 9, bringing music, market stalls and food trucks to Mill Street and the tram terminus.

"We got a lot of support and I'm extremely happy that we're giving back to the community that's supported us," Greg said.

The main event was Powderfinger drummer and former Nambour High student Jon Coghill with swamp bluesman 8 Ball Aitken.

Greg thanked: Clayton's Towing, ASV audio visual, Sunshine Coast Council, Nambour Chamber of Commerce, Terry Kerr Dingo Hire, Marr's Electrical, Wren Souvenirs, the *Sunshine Valley Gazette*, Wilenco, Southern Cross Sheds and all the bands and performers who made the night a huge success.



Greg Rogerson at the Nambour terminus.

# MP maintains advocacy for age verification

IN a recent appearance on the Mamamia podcast, *The Quicky*, Sunshine Coast MP Andrew Wallace discussed his ongoing efforts to implement age verification on online pornography.

The Federal Member for Fisher's advocacy is aimed at protecting young Australians from harmful online content.

The Sunshine Coast MP, who chaired the Protecting the Age of Innocence Inquiry under the former Coalition Government, said he was committed to making the internet a safer place for children and to protecting women from family and domestic violence.

Wallace's campaign addresses growing concerns about the links between pornography consumption and real-world violence against women.

"There is an irrefutable correlation between the access and use of hardcore pornography and domestic violence," Mr Wallace told the podcast. "Access to hardcore porn leads to increased instances of domestic violence. If you maintain that access, then you are effectively giving free license to domestic violence."

"Nobody wants that. We all want domestic violence to be something of yesteryear but, to do that, one of the things we can do is to limit access to hardcore pornography for young people. All we're asking for, is that what you can and can't do in the real world is replicated in the online world. I don't think that's too much to ask for."

Studies show the link between pornography and domestic violence includes reinforced harmful gender stereotypes; unhealthy and sexist views of women and sex; and condoning violence against women.

The total number of women's deaths by alleged violence in 2023 has climbed to 71, according to Australian Femicide Watch.

Last month, the Albanese Government voted down the Opposition's motion to trial age verification technology which Mr Wallace says would help keep children safe online, as recommended by the eSafety Commissioner.

"Other countries are already introducing these restrictions," Mr Wallace said. "It's time we do the same here in Australia."



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS



Ted O'BRIEN MP  
Federal Member for Fairfax  
Shadow Minister for Climate Change and Energy

07 5479 2800 ted.obrien.mp@aph.gov.au

www.tedobrien.com.au 17 Southern Drive, Maroochydore





The Kendray family invite you to the Grand Opening: Georga, Dana, Andrew, Catherine & Rebecca.

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We will be closed from Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December reopening Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.  
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CELLO DREAMING PRESENTS

# SUMMER

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SATURDAY 6 JAN BAROQUE & TANGO 7PM

SUNDAY 7 JAN CELLISSIMO! 3:30PM

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SEARCH CELLO DREAMING ON HUMANITIX



# What's On

Local Events and Entertainment coming up. Preference given to local events of widespread interest. All care taken but please check details with organisers. Send details to [editor@sunshinevalleygazette.com.au](mailto:editor@sunshinevalleygazette.com.au).

## Strings of innovation

### Eudlo Hall hosts dynamic January Concert Series

THE 2024 Summer Concerts series will be held at Eudlo Hall, featuring ten special guest artists performing three diverse programs, produced and curated by renowned cellist Louise King.

Expect innovation, excitement, passion and remarkable music fit for any world stage. On Friday 5 January at 7pm, *Folk and Originals*, Saturday 6 January at 7pm, *Baroque and Tango* and Sunday 7 January at 3.30pm, *Classical Cellissimo!*

"The Summer Concerts are curated for cello lovers," said Louise. "The vision? Cello utopia! This is a brave and bold series, unique to Australia."

The concerts shine a spotlight on the cello, provide a regional stage for homegrown and guest artists.

*"I love the fact that a hall so small, so community-driven has experienced world premieres"*

Louise is the founder and producer and is also the Artistic Director of Long Listen, a new boutique music festival for our region launched in October 2023 to critical acclaim and standing ovations.

She was the inaugural Artistic Director and founding board member of the Sunshine Coast Chamber Music Festival. She has been a local Eudlo resident for 15 years and a professional cellist for over 25.

This summer, Louise has invited international guest artist Gyorgy Deri, Senior Lecturer Queensland Conservatorium Griffith Uni-

versity, originally from Hungary as well as homegrown acts fresh from the Woodford Folk Festival stage. These include singing-cellist Monique Clare, art-pop singer K Mak and Diez Cuerdas Trio, who specialize in Argentinian Tango Nuevo.

#### Why cello?

"Ever since I started learning it back in England, I have been obsessed! ABC classics radio ran a competition this year to see what is the most popular instrument in Australia. Cello won, of course!" says Louise. "Our artist line-up feels more like a national cello festival in its breadth of offering, quality and diversity, and that's exactly what I am going to build next - a national cello festival - we don't have one in Australia!"

#### Why Eudlo?

"I have activated our small hall around the corner from where we live for 15 years now with independent productions, touring ensembles, visiting artists, chamber music concerts, retreats, this summer concert series, festival performances, Dreaming BIG concerts and educational programs. In fifteen years, I have programmed and produced over 230 music events in our hall - all pro bono. Most events I have presented in that space have been unfunded and I have invested my own money, time and industry networks to make them happen!

"When we moved to Eudlo, yoga was the only offering at the hall. I saw the opportunity to bring people to our community around the power of music. It was one of the reasons we bought a house in Eudlo, as I was inspired to leverage my professional music industry network and produce a range of events to connect audiences to artists. I believe that great cultural experiences can happen anywhere, so I activate our hall with my creative practice!"

"I love the fact that a hall so small, so community-driven has experienced world premieres, national attention, Australia's

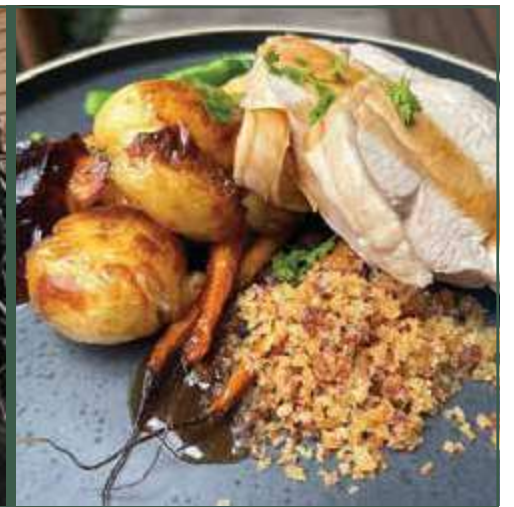
leading artists, ensembles and bands and that music has driven cultural change in our small regional community."

► Tickets \$15-\$45, early bird \$35, family tix \$100. To book tickets, search Cello Dreaming on Humanitix platform. Bar and interval refreshments available.

► Concert 1: Friday 5 January 7pm - Folk and Originals.

► Concert 2: Saturday 6 January 7pm - Baroque and Tango.

► Concert 3: Sunday 7 January 3:30pm - Classical Cellissimo!



**The team at Secrets want to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and we invite you to come and enjoy the experience of dining in the rainforest, overlooking Lake Baroon.**



Secrets Breakfasts are amazing; great food, presented beautifully, and in this heat, it is the perfect time to enjoy our Deck.

Our delicious Christmas Menu is available until the end of December, so let us prepare beautiful celebratory food for you.

**We are closed Christmas Day & Boxing Day,** but still have vacancies for treehouse guests to enjoy our in-house Christmas Package.



February is 'Love Month' at Secrets and we have devised a special menu to celebrate. We are celebrating across the whole of February and open for dinner on Valentine's Day 14th Feb from 5:30pm.

Call us 07 5478 5888 or book on our website [www.secretsonthelake.com.au](http://www.secretsonthelake.com.au) through 'Open Table' • @ f

## Be an 'active bystander' and help stop domestic & family violence

A group of community members in Maleny got together recently for a Bystander Action workshop run by Lifeline and organised by Speak Up Now - Stop Domestic and Family Violence, Maleny and the Blackall Range.

Domestic abuse occurs when one partner in a relationship uses any means to dominate and control the other. This can be physical, verbal, psychological, financial, social, or take many other forms. The causes of domestic violence are complex, and include factors in the individual, the relationship, their community and society.

Key to understanding why most victims of domestic violence are women, is recognising societal beliefs that men should control their partners and women should be submissive. While this is changing, there are still underlying beliefs and attitudes that we may not be fully aware of, that enable behaviours that can lead to domestic violence.

Participants then discussed how community members might consider ways to help prevent domestic violence, and reasons they do not get involved. Finally, they considered actions they might take before, during, and after being aware of situations that could result in domestic or family violence.

Another session is planned for early next year, with generous funding by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. For further information and expressions of interest, email [speakupnowstopdomesticviolence@gmail.com](mailto:speakupnowstopdomesticviolence@gmail.com).

## Christmas Lunch organisers plan for record numbers

NAMBOUR'S annual Christmas Day Community Lunch organisers are expecting to see a record attendance this year.

The Nambour Community Centre event is open to everyone who would like a meal and community warmth on a day that can be tough for some.

Sponsored by local business Entag, the event aims to extend an invitation for people to have lunch together.

Entag owners Kris and Charlotte Furmston coordinate the event and love being part of creating a memorable experience for people on Christmas day.

"It's important for us to make people feel valued and have something nice to look forward to on a day that can be particularly lonely for members of our community," said Charlotte.

"Christmas can be overwhelming for everyone, so we're hoping to make that a little easier.

"We've been involved for a number of years and been so overwhelmed by the generosity of the incredible volunteers that want to help out



The lunch is overseen by Sunshine Coast charity Suncoast Care.

in making this day special for everyone."

"There are a lot of special people out there, who want to help and give back. It's a great opportunity to make people smile and make a difference".

With over 30 volunteers involved, Charlotte hopes that there will be a great turn-out for the event.

The lunch is overseen by Suncoast Care, a local Sunshine Coast charity, which runs several initiatives over Christmas. The charity is on mission to support those feeling the economic pressures particularly.

Karen Gullo, Operations Manager of Suncoast Care is passionate about the role the organisation plays within the community and its ability to give hope when it is most needed.

"Recent research from Foodbank Australia has revealed that close to one in four Australians have experienced severe food insecurity in the past 12 months," Karen said.

"This means that many have had to skip meals or go the whole day without food. Our heart with Suncoast Care is to meet people in their place of need."

### "Hope Hampers", "Daily Bread" and "Christmas Dinner"

Suncoast Care also runs "Hope Hampers", "Daily Bread" and "Christmas Dinner" in addition to the "Christmas Day Community Lunch".

The "Christmas Day Community Lunch" will be held at Nambour Community Centre, 2 Shearer Street on December 25 from noon-2pm. You can volunteer or RSVP via [www.suncoastchristiancare.com.au/upcoming-events](http://www.suncoastchristiancare.com.au/upcoming-events) or email the Daily Bread team at [dailybread@suncoast.org.au](mailto:dailybread@suncoast.org.au). The soup kitchen arm of the charity - Daily Bread, is also running a Christmas Dinner Wednesday December 20 at its Nambour location which is open to all who'd like a hot meal and some connection.

## SUNSHINE VALLEY Gazette

### Editorial

If it matters to you, it matters to us. Send your news to Cameron Outridge 0409 424 487 or [editor@SVGazette.com.au](mailto:editor@SVGazette.com.au)

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### Gazette in Print, Email, Online & on FB

The Gazette is Printed Fortnightly & Online Always. A pdf form of the printed paper can be found on our website. Stories are also posted on Facebook, on our blog and via email to our subscribers.

### Editorial Policy

Every endeavour is made to publish submissions but we can never guarantee that any article will definitely appear. We prioritise constructive news which strengthens the community fabric. Our broad aims are to:

- Connect the Community.
- Acknowledge Achievement.
- Back Business.

We encourage respectful & constructive debate on local issues in our letters section.

### Thanks to our Advertisers

The Gazette is completely funded by our advertisers who make community journalism possible. Without them, there would be no paper. Please support them where possible and let them know you found them in the Gazette.

### Wheels of hope:

## Maleny Resident rides 10,000kms on eBike pilot program

SIMON Raby jumped at the offer to hire an ebike from Maleny bike co-op in order to ease his daily commute to work.

Simon has ridden around 10,000 kms in 18 months on the e-bike which he says "flattens out the hills".

"And, yes, I'm grateful for the motor after a day's work," he admitted. "I live 12.5 kilometres from town. I can get to town and back twice on one charge."

It costs about 10c to charge an e-bike, so it has cost Simon about \$20 in electricity and about \$300 in maintenance to travel the 10,000 kilometres. A new car on finance would have cost him \$27,000 for that same time.

But it's not just about the money. "My health and fitness have never been better," Simon said. "I was in good shape in my 20s, but I hit that slippery slope. I wasn't well - physically or mentally; quite depressed actually. I faced my 50s with dread."

"So I ditched the car and was lucky enough to be chosen for the Maleny eBike pilot program. 18 months of riding instead of driving helped me to turn that emotional and mental



Eco Villages Australia Co-Founder Andrew McLean, left, and Simon Raby who ditched his car and hopped on an e-bike.

battle around. I look forward to be fitter in my 60s than I was at 20."

In fact, Simon reflects with a solemn tone, "I wouldn't be here today if I were still behind the wheel."

The eBikes were supplied by Eco Villages Australia. "Active travel makes sense, we know the benefits," said Co-Founder Andrew McLean.

"Enjoying the journey is more important for our mental and physical health than the destination."

"Good for us, good for the planet - it's a win-win. We call on governments to provide better active travel infrastructure so that more people like Simon can benefit. At fraction of the cost of what we spend on roads."

## Small things can make such a big difference to little lives

**Nature Watch News** from Donna Brennan Wildlife Volunteers, WILVOS, 5441 6200 [www.wilvos.org.au](http://www.wilvos.org.au)

**M**ANY wildlife injuries are easily preventable. Fishing line entanglements are always upsetting to see.

It helps to cut fishing line into small pieces, place in a container and take home for disposal. Add a scissors to the tackle box, so no lengths of line, or hooks, end up in our waterways.

The plastic bait bags are also a danger to our native animals. Another beautiful little platypus recently died because of ingestion of a small plastic bag. It is an ongoing battle for our majestic marine turtles.

There are more vehicle impact situations with animals as Christmas approaches. I remember starting my Christmas Day a few years back with the unpleasant task of having to have a lovely big kangaroo euthanized. She had been hit by a car and left severely

injured at the side of the road. Fortunately, a wonderful passerby rang the Hotline so the kangaroo could be put out of her pain and suffering.

There is also an increase in reports of dogs chasing wildlife. Kangaroo joeys are often found days after the mother has been attacked, or just chased. It is a long haul back to health for these little joeys.

Christmas is a happy time to be spent with family and friends, so if out and about always remember the WILVOS Hotline operates 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

WILVOS would love to thank everyone for their support throughout the year. So many animals are saved thanks to RSPCA's Eumundi Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, The Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital, our local vets, Emergency Services and amazing members of the public. We hope you all have a happy and safe Christmas, with lots of joy and frivolity! The very best to everyone for 2024!



# Thank you from Ray White Nambour

RayWhite.

2023 was an astounding year for the Nambour community, we saw the Rodeo raise \$97,773.29 which was donated to local non-for profit organisations including; Relmagine Nambour, The Men's Shed and Sundale Foundation.



"A short note to express my heartfelt appreciation of Matt O'Grady and the team at Ray White Nambour. Every year the energetic Ray White Nambour team holds a brilliant fund raising rodeo at Nambour Showgrounds. When the money is in the bank, they set about giving that cash back to the community. At Sundale Community Foundation, we were thrilled to receive \$10 Thousand dollars to distribute to worthy causes in Nambour. In a world where corporate responsibility is paramount, Ray White Nambour stands out as a beacon of goodwill. Their commitment to community, working hard to stage an amazing local event, then spreading that cash around the town, is second to none."

- Caroline Hutchinson; Sundale Community Foundation Chair

"My name is Bob Ward and I am the President of the Nambour Men's Shed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Matt O'Grady from Ray White Nambour and his team's tireless efforts in hosting the very successful Nambour Rodeo. We had the opportunity to raise some much needed funds for our shed while helping out with Car-parking Duties this year and look forward helping again in 2024. The Rodeo also raised a lot money which was donated to local community based nonprofit groups that were all very thankful for the support, I would again like to thank Matt and the team for a job well done and look forward to a bigger and better Rodeo in 2024."

- Bob Ward; President of the Nambour Men's Shed

Thank you again Nambour, for all of your efforts & supporting us to put back into the community that we are so proud to be apart of!

*Looking forward to the year 2024.*



## Lavish Locavore: enjoy customizable, local platters for festive entertaining

FROM work Christmas functions to extended entertaining with family and friends, the Silly Season potentially brings with it a good deal more work, expense, and stress in the kitchen.

White's IGA has recognised that beautifully curated food platters could help their customers negate all of those things.

The Forest Glen store's 'Platter Queen', Sandy Flannery, explained that their platters have become incredibly popular not only because of the convenience factor, but also due to the range and quality of the ingredients.

"We have such a fantastic selection of fresh produce and products to choose from and I think what really elevates our platters is our access to locally sourced products," she said.

"Although we are able to do any type of platter you would like, our 'Locavore' platters have quickly become extremely popular."

There are standard platter menus for customers to choose from, including fruit, vegetable, cheese, meat, vegetarian, vegan, Locavore, and mouthwatering desserts.

Or the helpful deli teams in each of the White's IGA stores can customise a delicious platter to your taste and budget.

"We are happy to make suggestions for customers as well, because we have been doing this for a long time now and we have a very good idea of what flavours work well together, and what people seem to enjoy," Sandy said.

"I think our customers really appreciate the convenience of entertaining this way. In reality, by the time you do the shopping yourself and then put it all together, it can often cost a good deal more than if you let us take care of it for you."

Fresh, tasty and local ingredients aside, Sandy reckons the real key to the popularity of their platters is care.

"We really care about what we do and we have such a great time putting together exciting combinations for our customers," she said. "I think the real secret ingredient is love!"

► You can order your deli platters by contacting the store on 5380 6355.

## From Orchard to Airbnb:

# Evolution of Denbie House

**This Old House:** telling the stories of landmark homes of the Blackall Range. This week G Plowman of the Montville History Group visits Denbie at 334 Flaxton Drive

**T**HIS old house at 334 Flaxton Drive, Flaxton just north of The Craft, has withstood the test of time, and is as recognisable today as it was in the early 1930s when Frank and Doris Hetherington made it their home.

They bought the house and a parcel of land where Frank established a mandarin orchard and ran a few cattle in the back paddock. His choice of property may well be attributed to his elder brother, D'Arcy owning the farm directly opposite. The proud homeowners called their forever home, Denbie, after the ancestral home Denbie House in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, and a neatly framed name plaque above the front door welcomed their visitors.

Frank and Doris had five children, David, Shirley, Robert, D'Arcy and Enid. They all grew up at Denbie and attended the Flaxton Provisional School.

Frank, a veteran of WWI, devoted much of his spare time to supporting local men and women who went on to serve in WWII.

He also took an active role in the Patriotic Society and in fund-raising for the Flaxton School and other community events.

He helped build the Montville Soldiers Memorial Hall, now St Mary's Church and Community Hall, and in later life became a church elder.

Doris helped run the Brownies and supported the CWA.

The house, typical of its time, had wide front verandahs looking eastwards towards the sea.

The front steps were few in number but because of the uneven hillside location, many more steps were needed to access the kitchen via the back door on the western side.

The high wooden piers on the northern side permitted access beneath the house.

This was always a handy space for storage and as a place for kids to play on a rainy day.

It also permitted access for pest control which, in years past, usually consisted of spreading a layer of lime over the dirt beneath the house.

Lime was seen as a deterrent for fleas and cockroaches.

Apart from signage on the rooftop and battens enclosing the underfloor area, the



The entrance is cheery with a curving, paved path and sunflowers in the garden.

external appearance is little changed.

Before electricity was connected the kitchen contained the mandatory wood stove and stove recess. Frank, Doris and the kids spent considerable time with axe in hand splitting firewood at the woodheap close to the back steps.

They then had to be lugged up the steps and dumped into the wood box beside the stove.

Older houses like Hetheringtons had no built-in cupboards or wardrobes.

The kitchen dresser housed the dishes and cutlery and a shelf above the stove recess carried canisters and containers of food items for everyday use. Each bedroom had a wardrobe and dressing table or chest of drawers.

A tall-boy or linen cupboard stored clean sheets and towels where the lady of the house often left a small sachet of lavender to impart a pleasant clean smell.

The lounge cum sitting room looked north through a line of casement windows fitted with panes of translucent 'bubbly' glass.

The Hetheringtons kept a wind-up gramophone here and when they played their old 78RPM records, the music wafted like a zephyr to fill the adjacent garden and trees with melodies.

For years, a tall avocado tree grew in the front yard, and it became a favourite tree to climb for generations of Flaxton kids.

Like the bamboos at Dixon's corner, Hetheringtons' avocado tree also served as a landmark to guide unfamiliar travellers.

Frank died in 1984 and with all their children now adults, Doris left the district.

During their long years of residence in Flaxton, the Hetherington family were respected members of the community and were always ready to lend a helping hand whenever it was needed.

No longer a family home, the house has become a commercial enterprise firstly as Hilltop Gallery and more recently as an Airbnb.

## INITIATE TRUE WELL-BEING

### Gift Vouchers Available for Christmas



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## Positivity in the face of Parkinson's

**ED:** In the story last edition about Peter Stidolph we used the wrong photo in error. Please see, here, the corrected version with Peter in the photo. We apologise for the error.

PETER Stidolph decided on his approach to Parkinson's disease the night after receiving his diagnosis.

While the rest of the world went to sleep, Peter went through a storm of emotions before reaching a decision before sunrise which has defined the last six years of his life.

"I thought, 'How the bloody hell am I going to get through this? We have three girls ... I was expecting I couldn't work,'" he said.

"And then I thought, 'You've never thought this way before. Get off your a...e, boy. You've never thought about your symptoms like this before so turn it around.'"

Peter, of Palmwoods, had been living with symptoms of Parkinson's for years before he was diagnosed with the disease so he resolved to keep living and approach life with positivity rather than surrender.

With that attitude, he has become involved in supporting others with Parkinson's and initiating fundraising activities despite his own personal challenges.

His involvement includes the Restoring Hope Parkinson's Therapy annual carols at Sundale Palmwoods, the Parkinson's Queensland fundraising walk in 2022 and 2023, the Nambour and District Parkinson's Support Group management group, and the Sundale Palmwoods residents committee.



Peter Stidolph was diagnosed with Parkinson's and resolved to approach life with positivity rather than surrender.

Peter was one of several Glass House electorate residents presented with volunteer awards by MP Andrew Powell on 17 November.

# How to keep backyard chickens

Hinterland Homesteading by Racheal Pascoe

A delightful childhood memory I have is the excitement of checking for chicken eggs. I can still remember the thrill of finding eggs.

I wanted our children to have the same wonderful experience, so we have kept chickens for years now... they provide us with eggs and are a terrific animal for children to learn to care for.

Keeping chickens is not difficult, but there is a bit of set up involved to be organised and also a little daily care of the birds is required.

The Sunshine Coast Council has a document on their website called 'Keeping Poultry and Birds' which outlines the rules, so you will be able to find out what applies to where you live.

It defines how many birds and what sort of birds you are allowed to keep regarding the area (suburb) and size of land you live on.

The placement of the pen on your property is also important, it must be a certain distance away from perimeter fences and neighbours' buildings, so keep this in mind when planning.

Read and research first, so you will be doing the right thing when you get your chickens.

The last thing you want to do is get your neighbours offside by having a noisy rooster and not adhering to the rules.

## Bok bok bok

The initial set up of the pen is important. Chickens need to have a clean and dry run which is fox, dog and cat proof.

This can mean having to concrete mesh into the ground to protect them. Chicken tractors are terrific as they can be moved around but many do not have mesh floors. Dogs and foxes can lift and dig under pens to get to the chickens.

Carpet snakes are sneaky and like to eat chickens but can be kept at bay with fine mesh on the pen. Chickens need to be locked up each night, away from predators.

Keep the cost of building the pen down by



Racheal Pascoe: "Keeping chickens is not difficult, but there's a bit of setup involved and also a little daily care of the birds is required."



sourcing secondhand timber, wire mesh etc from Marketplace, Gumtree and Refuse shops.

## Feeding your chickens

I use the fine laying mash (chicken seed) from the Nambour Produce Agency. Chickens should also have access each day to clean water and some greens as well.

I save kitchen scraps for them and I grow green leafy vegies for chook food. The outside leaves of cabbages are ideal. There are a few foods that are not good for chickens, they include avocado, citrus and onions.

Ask for some bedding straw at the Nambour Produce Agency, that will be ideal to put in the nesting boxes for the girls to lay their eggs on.

A point of lay chicken will cost about \$30 and

it shouldn't be too long before you have your first egg. There isn't anything quite like the delighted squeal from a child as they find their first egg!

## Healthy chickens

You can tell a healthy chicken by the comb on their head. It should be a lovely red colour and standing up.

If it is not standing up, there is a good chance that the bird is not well. Maybe it might need dusting for mites or worming solution put in the water.

Chickens really are easy to keep and healthy birds hardly get an issue, but occasionally you might get a sick chook and the internet is a fabulous source of information to help you nurse your friend back to health. Letting chickens

roam freely around your yard is lovely to see.

## Free poop

They poop as they go which is great for your garden, but it is disappointing when they destroy gardens looking for worms!

This is when it might be time to make a permanent bigger run for them to enjoy.

Keep it interesting for the birds by having a swing made out of rope and a big stick or hang an entire cabbage for them to peck at and fill an old tyre with dry dirt as a dust bath.

They will just love it!  
I still enjoy opening the door to the nesting boxes each day and seeing how many eggs there are. Simple joys each day.

Have a Merry Christmas everyone!

We would like to wish you a very peaceful and happy Christmas and we look forward to serving you in 2024.



## Christmas TRADING HOURS

Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00am - 12:00pm
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSED
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	7:00am - 4:00pm
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7:00am - 4:00pm
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup>	7:00am - 4:00pm
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	8:00am - 12:00pm
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	CLOSED
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	CLOSED
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6:30am - 4:30pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	6:30am - 4:30pm
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:30am - 4:30pm
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30am - 4:30pm

## Plenty of great results along Petrie Creek

Petrie Creek BushCare News with Norm Morwood

THERE have been some great results achieved in our restoration of native forest as habitat for the local animals along Petrie Creek.

We'll be back into the regular bees towards the end of January in Nambour and at Woombye in early February.

If you'd like to help in these activities, you'll need to come in "long everything" bush protective clothing including boots/shoes and a hat. All tools required will be provided.

Then after a couple of hours of good exercise we'll finish with a well-deserved cuppa.

For more info and to check starting times and dates etc of events, see the FB Page <https://www.facebook.com/PetrieCreekCatchment-CareGroupInc/> and for additional info [www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/bushcare](http://www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/bushcare) or contact Norm Morwood 0409 63 99 44 or email [normmorwood@gmail.com](mailto:normmorwood@gmail.com)

## Classifieds

### House For Sale

**FOR SALE:** A new home with a legal structural warranty of 6.5 years. Good size living, dining, kitchen, air conditioned. Fans in bedrooms with two balconies, front and rear. Large garden colour bond shed.

- 2 car accomodation and a very large, beautiful garden.

- situated in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, Over 50s residential Palmwoods tropical village.

- Price by negotiation. **Phone 0401 680 195.**

### Yoga

#### HATHA YOGA/PILATES RELAXATION

Hatha Yoga Pilates is held at the Woombye Hall: Sat 9am & Wed 9.30am. Beginners & Seniors welcome. Cost \$10. Call Christine: 5441 6285 (Cert. in Pilates matwork; Dip. IYTA: Yoga Instructor; USC Sport & Exercise minor: Ex. Prescrip. for Health & Rehab.)

## CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS

FRIDAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER	8AM - 5PM
SATURDAY 23 <sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER	CLOSED
SUNDAY 24 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	CLOSED
MONDAY 25 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	CLOSED
TUESDAY 26 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY 27 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	CLOSED
THURSDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	8AM - 5PM
FRIDAY 29 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	8AM - 5PM
SATURDAY 30 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER	8AM - 12PM
SUNDAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER	CLOSED
MONDAY 1 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY	CLOSED
TUESDAY 2 <sup>ND</sup> JANUARY	8AM - 5PM



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# Art without barriers at sculpture event

## Sculpture festival draws thousands

Story **Janine Hill**  
Photos **Marsha Fotografie**

“GREAT works of art are only great because they are accessible and comprehensible to everyone,” wrote Leo Tolstoy.

If the Russian author’s view on accessibility and art are anything to go by, this year’s Sculpture on the Edge event at Flaxton Gardens was great.

The 18-day festival, which wound up on 10 December, displayed about 190 works from 120 artists and drew about 5,500 visitors.

But for festival director Gretchen Keelty, making art accessible, particularly to those who do not get to experience it easily, was a measure of success.

She said the venue had been wheelchair accessible and large format catalogues were designed to be more easily read by people with vision problems.

Gretchen was pleased to see groups such as Sunshine Butterflies and Compass visit and all-abilities art studio Monte Lupo hosting workshops.

“The lovely thing was seeing these artists really enjoy seeing the reactions of people to what they had made.

“They had all worked on pieces, even some people who were vision impaired, and to see the joy in them having their art admired by the public was the highlight of the festival,” she said.

“They were really inspired and they felt so productive.

“That for me was one of the key moments of the festival.”

She said the festival had benefited from wonderful artists who had hosted workshops to share their knowledge.

Councillor Joe Natoli donated his time to sit for portraiture masterclass.

Another well-known face to make Sculpture on the Edge was Gardening Australia personality Costa Georgiadis, who was particularly taken with extraordinarily realistic porcelain floral arrangements by Iris Syu.

Gretchen said a festival dinner with music and dancers had been a beautiful evening and people had enjoyed listening to a panel of artists about how they had become and forged their way as artists.

“They shared their stories, they shared their passions,” she said.



Shantellah Malap, Sam Walters & Julie Walters.



Fiona Kurnadi, Shiralee Cooper and Susanne Reed.



Mel Cooper & Lyn Cooper.



Rae Saheli Mieke Van Den Berg.



Kerry Brown, Marie Shannon, Lea Parkes & Deborah Hammond.



Lynn Fallen, Pam Maegderao, Victoria McGuin & Jim Cox.



Wayne Malkin & Tracey Malkin.



Janna Pameijer, a Sculpture on the Edge founder, and her work.

# Camels set to inspect iconic Eumundi pub ahead of reopening event

TWO camels are about to become the country’s quirkiest venue inspectors as they prepare to inspect the transformed Joe’s Waterhole pub in Eumundi, which is now reborn as Matso’s Sunshine Coast.

Matso’s is renowned as the creator of Australia’s first alcoholic ginger beer which was brewed to beat the heat and humidity of Broome in Western Australia where Matso’s have their iconic brewery.

Matso’s Brewery spokesperson Mick McKewon said he was eagerly anticipating the opening of Matso’s second Australian location on December 21.

“We scoured the country looking for our second national location and Eumundi ticked so many boxes for us from a brand point of view. Camels are also synonymous with Broome’s Cable Beach so we thought it was important to have some camels here today to inspect the new venue and ensure it is up to the same high standard we hold in West Australia.

“Matso’s is a slightly left of centre brand which is largely driven by our roots in tropical Broome, so the opening of our second home in an equally quirky location such as Eumundi is fitting.

“We believe Broome’s remoteness and its tropical heat makes you think differently and Queensland’s long hot summers are the perfect way to ensure our patrons can enjoy Matso’s range of beverages which we believe is Australia’s original heat relief,” Mick added.

Mick said while the pub has been rebranded to Matso’s Brewery, a number of the iconic features of Joe’s Waterhole have been reused



Matso’s Head brewer Nick Ivey is keen to welcome pub-goers.

and repurposed in the new venue.

“We understand and respect that many current and former patrons have an affinity with Joe’s Waterhole so the venue has been refurbished with timber and materials from the

original pub. We’re breathing new life into Joe’s but keeping pieces of its history, especially in the front bar.

“The new look venue will feature a menu inspired by local ingredients in a relaxed setting

including the front bar, main bar, restaurant, a covered beer garden and pool room as well as a unique Matso’s playground for the kids.

“We’ll be brewing our famous Ginger and Mango beers right here onsite supplying not only the locals but the whole of Queensland. We’re also in the process of installing a distillery to expand our portfolio into spirits and ready-to-drink beverages.

“With a mix of old Queensland heritage at the front and a fun new family-friendly casual dining space with a sprawling outdoor area out the back, Matsos Sunshine Coast has something for everyone. We’re also pet friendly!”

Mick said the goal for Matso’s has always been to offer patrons something extraordinary and the team is excited for people to experience their difference.

“With Matso’s Sunshine Coast, we’re bringing that vision to life with a blend of tradition and innovation, a bit of quirkiness, and a whole lot of fun,” he said.

As the craft beer scene on the Sunshine Coast continues to flourish, Matso’s is poised to make its mark as a must-see destination for locals and visitors alike with plans for regular live music events, and an on-site brewery serving fresh, locally brewed beer and cocktails. With Matso’s at the helm, Eumundi’s iconic pub is set to embrace a new chapter in its storied history.

The official public opening of Matso’s Sunshine Coast will be held across the weekend of the 1st and 2nd February.

Guests can enjoy live music and DJs, roaming entertainment, face painting, and Matso’s delicious food and drinks.



## Nambour welcomes new showroom and residential development on Howard Street

by Janine Hill

A NEW showroom development is proposed for Howard Street in what could be a sign of changing times for Nambour.

McArthur and Associates Property Consultants are offering seven showrooms for lease at 131 Howard Street, behind Fruity Life fruit and vegetable shop and Aldi supermarket.

Marketing agent Sam McArthur said construction of the showrooms was expected to commence mid-2024 and be completed mid-2025.

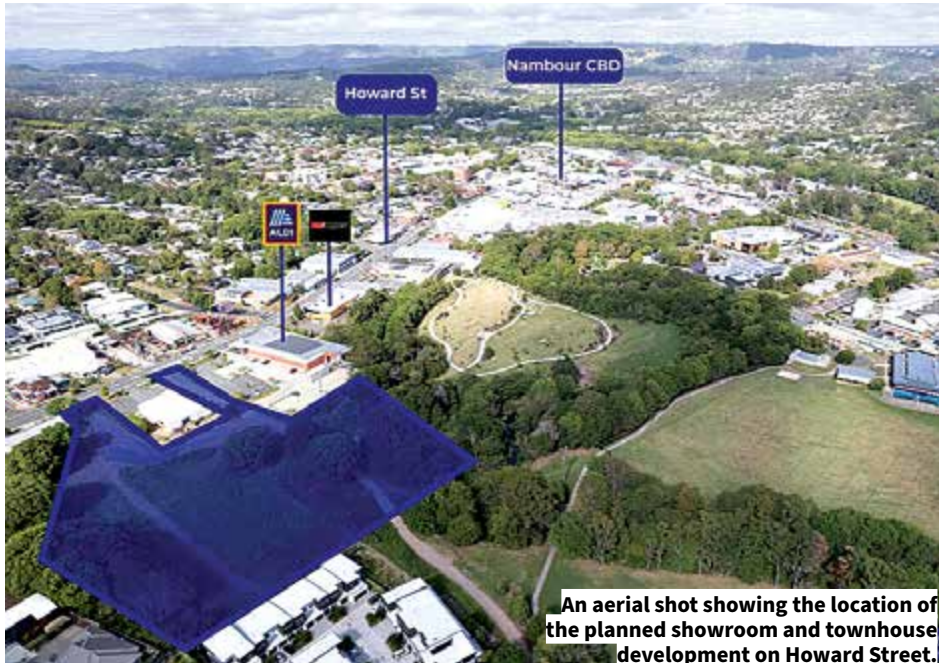
The proposed showrooms range in size from 411sq m up to 500-600sq m but Mr McArthur said two prospective tenants, including a clothing retailer, were looking at taking double showrooms.

"There's a fair bit of interest. I've got two in the pipeline for 1102 and 1158sq m," he said.

Mr McArthur said a pet store, liquor outlet and a food business were also interested in leasing opportunities.

He said plans for the site also included 20 two and three-storey townhouses behind the showrooms.

Access to all would be along a



An aerial shot showing the location of the planned showroom and townhouse development on Howard Street.

driveway on an easement between Aldi and the Healthy Life fruit shop.

The council issued approval in 2017 to Nambour Developments (No 135) Pty Ltd for showrooms plus 20 townhouses on the site.

ASIC records show Nambour Developments (no 135) Pty Ltd is owned by Andrew Bochenski, of Caboolture.

The approval included the provision of 77 carparks for the commercial component and 35 carparking spaces for the residential area.

Local businesswoman Rhonda Billett is pleased about the development, saying it was something

needed in Nambour.

"As a business owner, talking to locals daily, they frequently talk to me about the constant need for more businesses with a strong emphasis on manchester, whitegoods and clothing," she said.

"Investments like this one are significant for locals on this side of the highway who have to currently go to the coast to buy home essentials.

"Developments like this also are a good indicator that investor interest is growing in this area and that's a good thing as it brings jobs and prosperity to communities."



The perfect amount of acreage, privacy, views and the ultimate rural life.

## Time for a cool change: Bellthorpe acreage retreat.

**AGENT'S CHOICE:** 140 Bellthorpe West Road, Bellthorpe.

**T**HIS gorgeous parcel of Hinterland rural acreage features a spacious, modern home that has been finished with timber features and quality fixtures and fittings.

There has been a major focus on outdoor living with the huge, covered deck on the North plus other covered verandahs. This home is perfect and ready to move in.

The stylish kitchen has Caesarstone benchtops throughout, and the combined living and kitchen opens onto the 7m x 6.7m covered deck.

All living areas feature extra high ceilings, and there is a separate retreat-style living space and study nook.

The main bedroom boasts a huge walk in robe and a light, modern ensuite.

The home has access to the NBN via satellite, and the underground power to the home has been reverse wired for the generator.

The property boasts a 6m x 12m workshop plus double lock-up garage to house, asphalt driveway, 6.5KW of solar back to the grid and a 20,000 gallon water tank.

Approximately 20 acres of this property are pastured with the remainder, native timber, offering massive potential. The property is ready to start your very own sustainable lifestyle or keep as the perfect rural weekender.

Just a 25-minute drive from Maleny and just under an hour to Caloundra, you'll be perfectly situated to soak up every aspect of rural life but be on the doorstep of a thriving community, schools, cafes, restaurants and shopping.

If you have been looking for a beautiful home, the perfect amount of acreage, privacy, views and the ultimate rural life, then this is the one to inspect.

► Contact selling agents Jess Luthje on 0438 616 064 and Rodney Millett on 0477 702 073 to book your private viewing.

## Transforming Nambour:

# Urban density via unit-style living key to CBD growth: agent

Q&A with RE/MAX Property Sales Director Tristan Brown

**I**N this interview RE/MAX Property Sales Director Tristan Brown shares his secrets to business success and ideas for transforming Nambour, focusing on urban density and revitalising the town centre to enhance community engagement and lifestyle.

**Q: Real estate is a hugely competitive field and yet you've taken on two agencies in the last few years (Nambour and Caloundra). Can you share one secret that has helped you grow in such a short time?**

"I think for me it's energy. It's always trying to operate with high energy and good intentions. At the end of the day, I think people feed off your energy, they want to be around good people, happy people, people that are striving for something more. That energy can become infectious. And also, the energy can help you when things aren't going well, push you through. If I

look back on the last three years in particular of running the business, we've always tried to maintain and remember how important it is to have the right type of positive energy in the office. And off that, you can build your culture."

**Q: What attracted you to the RE/MAX model?**

"It was the people. 100 percent the people. I think when you talk to most people who have had interactions with any RE/MAX office domestically or internationally, they are good people with a strong culture and really important core values.

"For me, it starts at the top, and RE/MAX Australia is owned by a wonderful family, the Davoren family. And I just always felt that they were coming from the right place. They were interested in always helping me first. And that gives you great security."

**Q: What attracted you to Nambour?**

"Look, I've always been one for the



Tristan Brown: Urban density will encourage more retail, more coffee shops, restaurants & greater nightlife.

underdog. I really have. And when I started selling real estate, I used to have a lot of people tell me, "Why would you want to position yourself in Nambour?"

"And that used to upset me and that was further drive to prove to them that Nambour had a lot to offer. And that the people of Nambour are incredible people. And that as a real estate agent, I could be as successful as any other agent on the Sunshine Coast, selling out of what people deemed as an entry-level location. That's what attracted me to Nambour."

**Q: What would you like to see for Nambour?**

"I think the next thing that I would love to see in Nambour is more high

urban density, that medium-to-high density, it's far more convenient for somebody to simply jump in the lift and go down from their unit, and wander in and have a coffee downstairs or at the restaurant half a block away than it is for mum and dad, who live out on the fringe of Coes Creek, to jump in the car, and drive in, and try and find parking in town. They might as well drive to the Coast."

**Q: Are there any particular values or principles that guide your business practices?**

"I really genuinely believe that passion gets things done and it gets them done all the time. I've always been passionate and I've always had a saying, and it sits on my wall, it says, 'Always remain passionately discontent'. It is a reminder to myself that it does not matter what we achieve, what we do, to always have that little niggling thing in the back of your mind that says, 'Hey, come on, let's look for the next thing. What else can we get excited about?' It is wonderful to look back and reflect on what you've achieved. But again, that is simply just the by-product of the actual journey.

"People tell me I'm always heavily focused on growth. I am, because I find that through growth, you're forced to learn, you're forced to get better, you're forced to make mistakes, you're forced to take risks. And it's a little bit scary, but what keeps me excited is that even if I fail, hopefully in some small way, I've improved personally and professionally."

# Live Local Real Estate

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## Property management market returns to pre-Covid conditions in Nambour

**Real Estate Column** with RE/MAX Nambour Head of Property Management, Jody Chatillon



**T**HIS year has been another busy and successful one in our Property Management Department.

We have seen a return to a more traditional market, for the first time since Covid, which we believe has allowed for slightly more predictable outcomes and which has certainly given some parts of the market a sense of stability.

Nambour and the close surrounds continue to offer a range of living opportunities to those who come here to find their next home. I believe this is a key reason why so many continue to call our town home, and why so many are keen to move here.

Our property management team proudly welcomed 69 new tenants this year, with a couple more likely to be added before the year's end.

The rental market has continued to be tight with properties regularly only needing 1 or 2 open homes before being leased, a trend echoed throughout most of the Sunshine Coast.

We have also continued to see investor enquiry strengthen in 2023, which has been

vital as we saw a number of investors buy during Covid, with the vision of only investing short term, and now seizing the opportunity to move into their properties. Why wouldn't they, we live in such a beautiful part of Australia.

I've been so grateful to be able to work with many investors, often first time investors, that see the value and growth potential in our region. With many fabulous things being planned for our region in 2024 by Council and other community organisations, I am confident that more people will want to call our gateway community home. This is great news for both investors and tenants, and I love being able to share this knowledge with them.

Beyond professional endeavours, my commitment to the Nambour Chamber of Commerce has been a fulfilling journey. 2024 will be my second year as Secretary, and volunteering in this capacity has been a cornerstone in staying connected to the pulse of the local business community. It's an avenue not just to contribute but also to deepen my understanding regarding the area's nuances and the evolving 'wants' of its residents. This engagement has been beyond valuable, as I am able to better service the needs of our clients due to the professional connections made.

From the entire Team at RE/MAX Property Sales, we wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We know that looks different for everyone, but we hope that at this time of year, you can take some time to reflect on what 2023 has been for you and plan for a fabulous 2024. Stay safe and we will be back in 2024 to help you with all your property needs.



**Walking distance to Woombye, families will love the selection of sought-after schools nearby.**

## When quality and size both matter

**AGENT'S CHOICE:** 20 Countryview Street, Woombye.

**T**HIS premium family residence is nestled in a sought-after hinterland enclave close to town. Spacious, bright and airy, with extra-high ceilings and rainforest views at your back door, this property truly ticks all the boxes.

The Plantation Homes design melds classic sophistication with sustainable Queensland living. Three living areas are complemented by a covered alfresco entertainment space, with glass sliding doors providing a seamless indoor-outdoor transition.

The well-equipped kitchen is guaranteed to impress the most discerning home chef. Featuring a five-burner gas cooktop plus a double-drawer Fisher & Paykel dishwasher, the kitchen also boasts stone bench-tops with waterfall edges and sophisticated pendant lighting over the breakfast bar.

The dining space flows effortlessly out to the alfresco zone whenever the weather permits, and offers tranquil garden and rainforest views. There's ample room to install a pool,

subject to council approval.

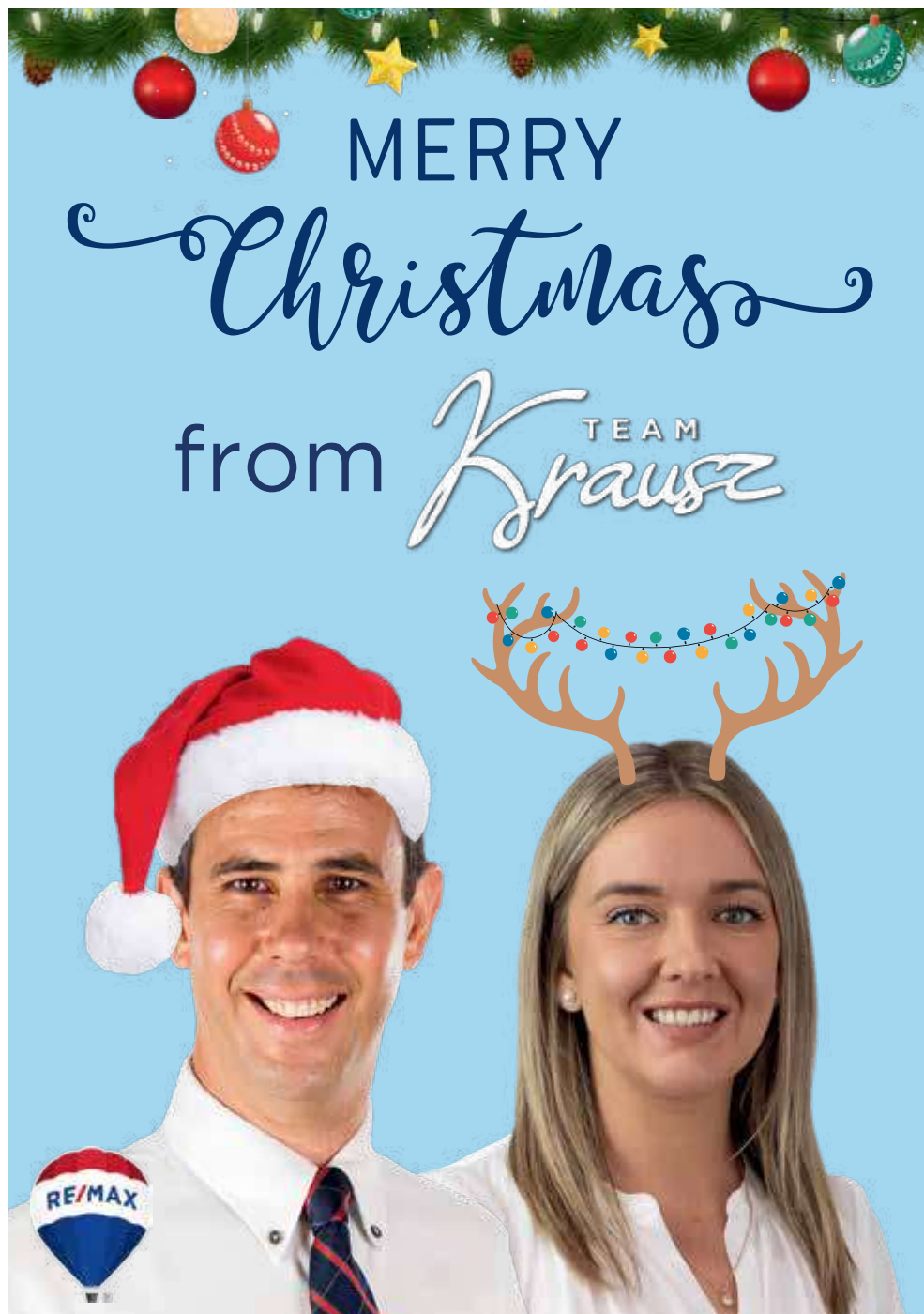
The four bedrooms are all generously proportioned, while the oversized master suite boasts a walk-in wardrobe and ensuite complete with a separate bath and dual sink basins. There's even a dedicated office by the front door, perfect for working from home.

Water and energy efficiency features include 22,000 litres of rainwater tanks, which service the laundry and toilets, while 9kw of solar panels also help to keep your power bills down. Designed to facilitate airflow for natural cooling, the lounge is also air-conditioned for year-round comfort.

The whopping 1221 sqm of land includes broad swathes of level lawns, framed by planter-box gardens. There's an extra-large shed plus six garage spaces.

Within walking distance of Woombye, families will love the selection of sought-after schools nearby.

▶ If quality and space both matter, then you won't want to miss this rare opportunity to purchase a premium family home in a desirable hinterland location. Contact Chris Elliman on 0408 154 947 to register your interest today.



**This solid, classic style highset brick and tile home is filled with lashings of charm and warmth.**

## Elevation, outlook and charm, Burnside

**AGENT'S CHOICE:** 28 Judith Street, Burnside. Offers over \$685,000 considered.

**T**UCKED away in a quiet family-friendly cul-de-sac, perfectly positioned on the upper elevated northern side, is this solid, classic style high-set brick and tile home filled with lashings of charm and warmth.

The home is comprised of three bedrooms, one-bathroom, a modern kitchen with adjacent dining, open plan living, a front patio to enjoy the vista, a private rear timber deck overlooking the lush back garden, a separate laundry, single lock up parking plus masses of storage underneath.

All of this is positioned on an 834m2 block with a child and pet friendly flat fenced backyard. This would make a wonderful first home.

Features of note include split system air-conditioning in the lounge, ceiling fans and polished hardwood floors throughout, stainless

steel appliances, security screen doors, and casement windows.

A majestic Poinciana in the back yard creates great shade and pops of colour when flowering; there is also a plethora of flowering plants, fruit trees and shrubs attracting a variety of bees.

Located in an established pocket of Burnside, this lovely home is within walking distance to St John's College, Burnside Primary and High, Nambour Special School, childcare, TAFE, local shops, and PCYC; plus, just a few minutes' drive to town amenities including hospitals, rail, supermarkets, dining, cinemas, banks, and general retail.

This is a home with great charisma; so welcoming and 'homely', inspections will absolutely delight.

▶ Contact Richard Krausz on 0422 997 810 and Stephanie Black on 0401 977 230 to inspect.

MERRY  
*Christmas*

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR


FROM THE **RE/MAX** TEAM  
Property Sales

Thank you for a great year in **2023**, we look forward to  
working together in **2024!**



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The property is a haven for horse lovers or hobby farmers, with four acres of land to explore and cultivate.

## Rural living, endless potential

**AGENT'S CHOICE:** 50 Ruwoldt Road, Dulong.

**T**HIS four-acre property offers a unique opportunity to embrace the tranquillity of rural living while still being just a short drive from Woombye.

With three bedrooms plus a study, this spacious home provides ample room for a growing family or guests. The master bedroom features sweeping views of the rolling hills as well as a walk-in robe and ensuite.

There is timber flooring throughout the home, and a bit of effort will revive them, bringing a new warmth and charm to the home. The open and airy kitchen and dining area seamlessly blend together, creating a perfect space for family meals and entertaining. There is a "hidden bar," perfect for those who love to entertain.

Outside, the expansive deck overlooks the rolling hills. An additional second large enter-

taining area adds versatility to your outdoor spaces, with the added benefit of a double carport and separate laundry.

The property boasts a sprawling 12m x 9m powered shed, perfect for your projects and storage needs. Not even 10 years old, this fully approved self contained secondary dwelling gives you the ability to earn extra income with an expected rental return of \$350 per week. Alternatively, if you have family staying with you, this is a great set up to give them their own space and independence.

The property is a haven for horse lovers or hobby farmers, with four acres of land to explore and cultivate. While the house is in need of some TLC, this presents an exciting opportunity to put your own personal touch on your new home.

▶ Contact selling agents Ian Black on 0407 587 503 and Gary De Paoli on 0408 731 412 to arrange your inspection.

**CENTURY 21** Living Local

WISHING YOU A  
**Merry Christmas**  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM  
GARY DE PAOLI AND THE TEAM  
AT  
CENTURY 21 LIVING LOCAL

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COOKIES  
SANTA  
SNOWFLAKE  
SNOWMAN  
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140 Bellthorpe West Road **BELLTHORPE**

4 2 4

This gorgeous parcel of Hinterland rural acreage features a spacious, modern home that has been finished with timber features and quality fixtures and fittings.

The land surrounding the home is level and there's ample flat land for a horse arena and stables. This style and quality of home and rural property do not come along often, and it will suit many different lifestyles.

- 39.5 gorgeous Hinterland acres with Northeasterly aspect
- Front and rear decks with views across the property
- Stylish kitchen with Caesarstone benchtops
- Approx 20 acres pastured with a Well; remainder is native timber
- 6m x 12m workshop plus double lock-up garage

**Jess Luthje**  
0438 616 064  
jess@malenyrealestate.com

**FOR SALE**  
Contact Agent  
**INSPECT**  
By Appointment  
**Rodney Millett**  
0477 702 073  
rodney@malenyrealestate.com



84 Bakers Road **ELAMAN CREEK**

2 1 8

Positioned perfectly to capture breezes and magnificent rural views, this cottage offers an absolute retreat from the hustle and bustle; escape the everyday.

- Gorgeous country kitchen
- Lovely rural views and ultra private
- Huge 16m x 13m 3-bay shed; 3 phase power
- Dam with a character shack perfect for lazy summer days
- 25 acres of open grazing land

Just 14 minutes from the vibrant township of Maleny; the best of the Hinterland is on this property's doorstep.

**Jess Luthje**  
0438 616 064  
jess@malenyrealestate.com

**Rodney Millett**  
0477 702 073  
rodney@malenyrealestate.com

**FOR SALE**  
Offers Above \$1.75M  
**INSPECT**  
By Appointment



86 Treehaven Way **MALENY**

3 2 1

Be quick to view this charming character home on over 1 acre (4065m<sup>2</sup>) in sought-after Treehaven Way, just minutes from Maleny. All the elements are in place to make this your forever property, just add your own personal touches inside, and design your dream garden!

- Character-filled timber home with high ceilings and timber floors
- Country kitchen, walk-in pantry
- Open plan, living/dining room, air conditioning and fireplace
- Three spacious bedrooms, en suite and main bathroom
- Wraparound verandah

If you are looking to enter the market, a retiree ready to garden, or an investor looking to grow your portfolio, don't miss this great opportunity!

**FOR SALE**  
Price By Negotiation  
**INSPECT**  
By Appointment  
**Jess Luthje**  
0438 616 064  
jess@malenyrealestate.com



1/20 Avocado Lane **MALENY**

4 2 5

Nestled in highly sought-after Avocado Lane, this perfect family home offers privacy and amazing space; it boasts a very attractive open plan layout, great connection to the outside and beautiful park-like grounds.

- Quiet, private, fully fenced 4622m<sup>2</sup> block
- Kitchen boasts new Smeg appliances- including an induction cooktop
- Separate, fully lined workshop
- Covered entertaining area
- Beautiful birdlife; Black Cockatoos, Kookaburras, Galahs, King Parrots & Rosellas

This much loved and well-maintained home offers everything your move to the Hinterland could need.

**FOR SALE**  
\$1,475,000  
**INSPECT**  
By Appointment

**Rodney Millett**  
0477 702 073  
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WELCOME TO THE MARKET

Villa 66/23 Macadamia Drive **MALENY**

2 1 1

Light-filled and perfectly positioned to capture wonderful breezes, this single level home in Maleny Living Gems offers low maintenance, lifestyle living.

- Open plan living, dining and kitchen area
- Front deck; morning and afternoons well spent
- Side access for a trailer immediately with potential for a caravan or second car
- Single lock-up, remote garage
- Level, sun-filled courtyard areas

Well-presented and beautifully maintained, this single level home is ready for its new owners.

**FOR SALE**  
Contact Agent  
**INSPECT**  
By Appointment  
**Rodney Millett**  
0477 702 073  
rodney@malenyrealestate.com

5494 3022

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Maleny & Hinterland Real Estate

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**SUNTORY -196 6% VARIETIES**  
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750ML



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**HOT PRICE**  
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