

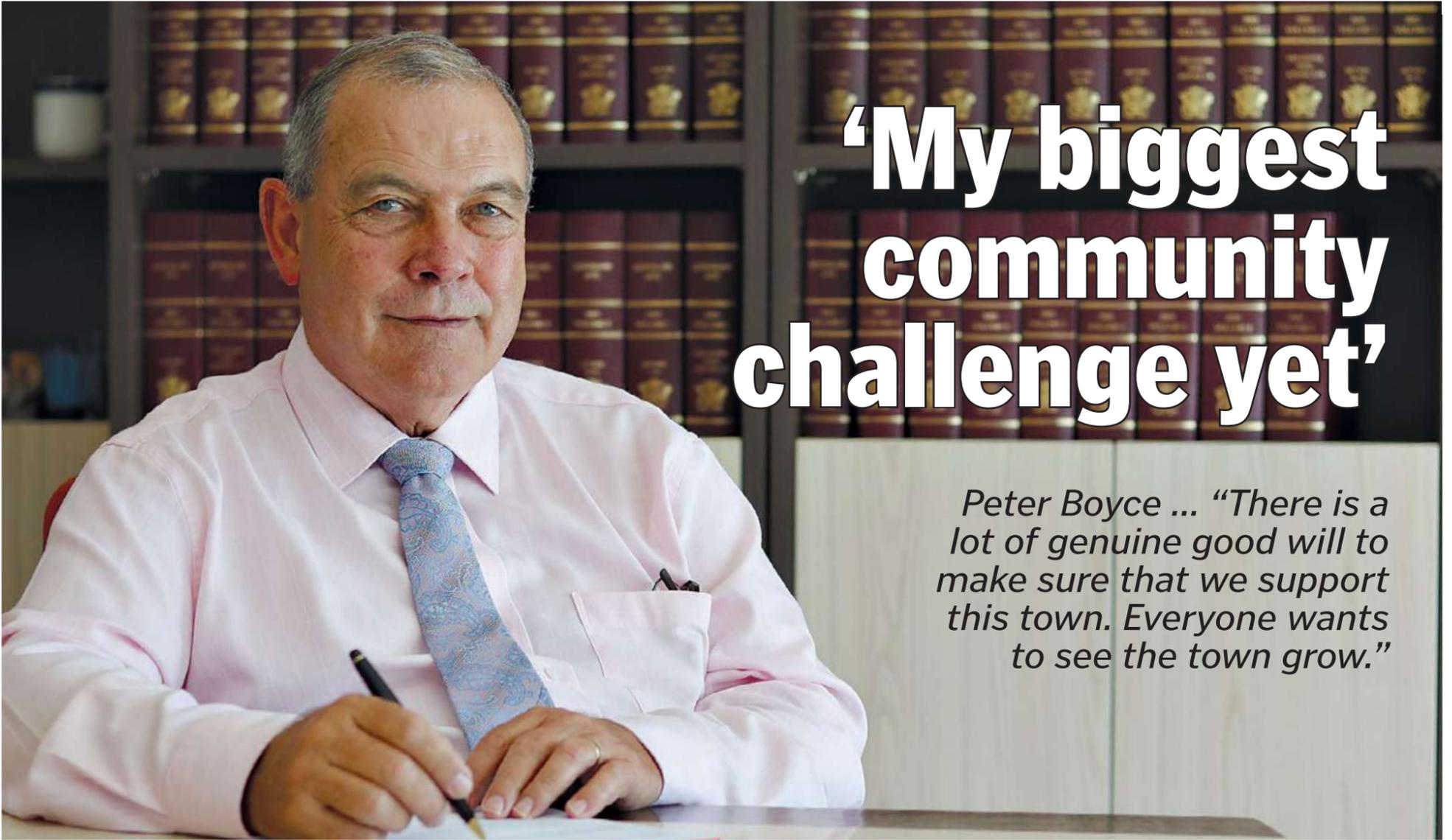
Sunshine Valley Gazette

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'My biggest community challenge yet'

Peter Boyce ... "There is a lot of genuine good will to make sure that we support this town. Everyone wants to see the town grow."

RECENTLY-APPOINTED chairman of Reimagine Nambour Peter Boyce is determined to stimulate investment and pride in a town that has seen more than its fair share of adversity.

The chairman of the Sunshine Coast Turf Club and Wishlist and foundation board member of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation expects Reimagine Nambour to be his biggest community challenge to date, particularly since it now faces the crushing blow of COVID-19.

"Of all the committees I think I've been involved in this is certainly one of the most major tasks and takes a lot of hard work and a lot of resilience and persistence. But there is a lot of genuine goodwill to make sure that we support this town. Everyone wants to see the town grow."

Mr Boyce leads a board of volunteers whose priorities include improving safety and bringing business and visitors back to the CBD.

The Moreton Mill's closure in 2003,

the relocation of hospital staff from Nambour to the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Council's shifting emphasis from Nambour operations to the proposed \$60-\$80 million Sunshine Coast City Hall at Maroochydore city centre have raised serious questions about the town's future.

"There are not many towns around that you could say have suffered what Nambour has suffered"

"There are not many towns around that you could say have suffered what Nambour has suffered," Mr Boyce said. "If you take a walk around this town and you see what used to be vibrant areas that are now just closed you realise we have a long way to go. But there's no doubt those areas can be filled. The question is what do we fill them with. If we make them attractive people will come here."

"Sugar cane farming used to be a huge industry. When it was booming the town was going great guns because people had lots of money and the economy was strong. Farmers and the mill employed a lot of people. It's interesting when you go to where Coles is now — that was the site of the mill. To see how big that site is tells you how big it was."

Mr Boyce said the second major blow happened when thousands of Nambour hospital staff moved to the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital in Kawana in 2017.

"It's serious if you take thousands of workers out of this town per day, that's a lot of people."

"The next blow was Council saying 'we're off see you later' and planning a move to the new Maroochydore CBD. They are three major events in the life of a small-ish country town. So it's no wonder that we have to rebuild."

Still, an optimistic Mr Boyce said the setbacks presented an "interesting challenge".

"Provided we don't have a closed mind as to what fits here, the door is open to make sure we properly promote the area. Nambour and the Hinterland have got some amazing things, completely different to all the other coastal towns and that's good. We don't want to be the same."

Mr Boyce sees Nambour's recent designation as a Special Entertainment Precinct as a huge impetus for initiative that can be utilised by local bars, restaurants and live entertainment areas.

"Council have recognised that we're a bit alternative, in a sense, and they've designated Nambour as an entertainment precinct. That's a major coup for the town, provided it's managed properly. This will help make the town more vibrant."

The director of Butler McDermott Lawyers is an inspiring figure in Nambour, seen widely as the small-town lawyer who helped put sex offender and murderer Peter Cowan behind

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Hang tough. And go easy on yourselves. This is a crisis after all

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

BUSINESSES and communities are resilient. People have certainly had to “bounce back” and pivot their offerings in ways they wouldn’t have dreamt of just a month ago.

Take Range Care and their cooperation with Flaxton restaurants for example (page 11). Or the Farm Gym and Mill St Kitchen and Pantry (pages 2, 3). Inspiring stuff.

But the fact is there are no COVID-19 game plans, we are all learning as we go. Day by day, organisations and small business owners need to make decisions that will ultimately determine if they will survive to see the new economy.

What’s the moral of the story? ... Don’t be too hard on yourselves. Managing your business through a crisis is hard!

But one day soon(-ish) things are going to return to normal(-ish).

While we all have to follow precautions and take care, it’s okay to have an eye on the future. Which will be brighter. For instance, already city slickers are looking to escape to nearby hinterland areas to practice social isolation in a country environment. With the new rush to work-from-home, people won’t need to commute so much any more. That may be good news for local real estate values.

Also, as Peter Gangee explains (page 11) while international travel is down for the count and will be for while, that means, one day soon, people will be looking to travel domestically. And the Sunshine Coast will surely be high on any destination list. Hopefully that’s some light at the end of the tunnel for our hard-hit tourism sector.

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Farm Gym owner Luke Harvison ... “We’ve got 20 sets of hands saying ‘let’s go’. That spirit is helping keep our community together through these challenges.” Inset: member Emma Clarke has volunteered for work on the farm.

New direction provides fertile ground for growth, volunteers

FORCED to cancel their in-person sessions due to Coronavirus restrictions, Farm Gym owner Luke Harvison and his wife Acacia pivoted quickly.

They now train their members online and have redirected energy to the farming side of their business.

“Looking back on what’s made Nambour great is that people have had that same adaptable, adventurous spirit,” Luke said. “That same will to go head first into what they saw could become a reality and just keep forging ahead until it shaped itself into something remarkable.”

“We’ve managed to transfer the ethos behind the Farm Gym and our reason why to our online sessions, where we still work hard and strive to earn a small improvement everyday.”

“And for my wife Acacia and myself it’s freed us up to do more for our second passion of organic farming.”

An unexpected mutually-beneficial outcome of the crisis has seen members who have recently lost their jobs volunteer for work on the primary production side of the

business: Farm Gym Harvest.

“A lot of our guys are, unfortunately on their own without work and going stir-crazy at home,” said Luke.

‘It’s freed us up to do more for our second passion of organic farming’

“From a business owner’s perspective, you want to get help and you want to pay them something ... but what you don’t realise is that the value exchange in this case is them just having something worthwhile to do and to be part of something they believe in.”

“If you can offer an inspiring authentic environment coupled with a worthwhile task and truly elaborate on the meaning of where you’re going and how it can benefit those around you, you’ll end up with a wake of people behind you that just want to help.”

“Our crew come in at a moment’s notice and we’ve got 10 sets of hands ready to go.”

“That spirit has helped keep our commu-

nity together through these challenges.”

In normal times at The Farm Gym Luke combines the farm environment and his background in constructing challenges and props on the American Survivor series to create a game-based training program in a rural setting.

“We’ve used a lot of task based gamification to make something epic here,” he said. “the work becomes fun when you’re going head to head against our other classes”.

“Even when you’re training in our shed everything around you is green. The environment is literally the key to it all. If you’re going to train somewhere why not include nature into the mix? as it’s only going to boost your experience.”

“People love our farm environment which has made transitioning to our online platform interesting. We’re approaching COVID-19 like any other challenge: we train to overcome adapt and thrive. The gym is also getting some love and attention and will come back ready to go, better than before, when the time comes.”

— by Cameron Outridge

Leader’s biggest community challenge yet

From Page 1

bars when he represented Bruce and Denise Morcombe in their son Daniel’s inquest.

Like Nambour, Mr Boyce says his firm has survived the ups-and-downs of the economy through “hard work” and adapting to the setbacks.

Reimagine Nambour’s long-term goal — within two to five years — was to attract another major industry, which Mr Boyce said required planners to recognise the potential in under-utilised land.

Drug use and anti-social behaviour, especially around C-Square, was an area of safety concern, which was unavoidable given the mental health and employment services based in the CBD precinct.

Mr Boyce said moving the methadone clinic from the town centre to the hospital, seemed a common-sense solution. The hospital had appropriate facilities which people could use without going through town, where robberies have occurred and locals

complain of regular drug use and anti-social and threatening behaviour.

“People come here from as far as Caboolture and Gympie (for methadone) and it’s a problem we’ve had to confront and the last thing we want people to feel is any insecurity or safety issues.”

Mr Boyce said the recent trial of two new police officers, dedicated to watching over its streets, had inspired a sense of security in town. “The reaction from business owners has been very positive. We’re still working with police making sure that anyone who’s here should never have any safety issues.”

Mr Boyce acknowledged the work of Member for Fairfax Ted O’Brien for laying the foundations for Reimagine Nambour. Similarly he praised Sunshine Coast Council for being fully supportive of the project.

Board goals included incorporating the Nambour Heritage Tramway project, making the most of the Showgrounds as a resource and streetscaping and beautifying the town.

“There’s heaps of potential already in Nambour. You only have to look at how many people have come here and are building new homes in Burnside and off Coes Creek Road — that’s a lot of people and a lot of those people have kids.

“If we could get a major uplift in the Uni with some of its programs that would be good. Still, I’m sure that the shopkeepers are getting tired of people saying ‘we’re going to do this’ and nothing ever happens. We need to be doers, not pretenders. The board certainly wants us to have a reasonable plan to make sure that this town gets a positive uplift.”

“We would like people to understand that we’re not about anything other than trying to make sure that this is a really good place to live.

“It’s good that our local authority has a clear understanding of what we’ve lost over the years and they’re behind us. The real challenge for us is that we need to get those shops in the CBD that are empty, we need to get them full again.” — Cameron Outridge



Mill St Kitchen & Pantry part owner James Ostridge ... "We're not doing this for a fad, we're doing this because we care about our local suppliers."

Local food, loyalty leads cafe through adversity

JUST six months into their new business venture COVID-19 caused à la carte sales at Nambour's Mill St Kitchen & Pantry to drop 90 percent overnight.

But part owner James Ostridge and the team are not ones to shrink in the face of adversity. "You have to be able to adapt," said James. "We're just learning every day. Changing every single day."

"While à la carte has dropped, the shop side has picked up because of the changes we've made. So we're probably still 20 percent down. But we're doing all right," he said with a grin that betrayed some justified pride.

"We changed our business model in six days from à la carte to take-home delivery. So I might do one bacon and egg muffin for brekky now, if I'm lucky."

"But then, the take-home stuff has really taken off. And we do free local delivery as well. We're very lucky here because we're a retail shop as well as à la carte. A lot of cafes are just cafes — whereas there's a retail side to our business."

What also helps keep the store going is a commitment to local produce and local producers.

"I've been a chef for 25 years and I come from the UK," said James. "And back home you use local produce all the time."

"We always use local produce from small producers and this is something I'm not really willing to budge on. It may not be as cheap as other produce but you know

you're getting quality product and you're supporting the local community at the same time.

"We're not doing this for a fad, we're doing this because we care about our local suppliers. My baker was in a minute ago and he bought stuff off me. My mushroom guy came in before and he had lunch. What goes around comes around. It's about knowing about their story and knowing about their lives. They've got families as well, you know. So it's a case of supporting each other because the product is better and the product supports a local family."

"And in turn, our customers want that quality product and that's what it's about. Quality over quantity."

The Pantry sells local produce like goat's cheese, kimchee, eggs, yogurt, cheese, ice-cream, veggies and meat.

"We've got Woombye cheese, Maleny mushrooms and even crab. The kale shoots, these are from a lady called Nomi up in Maleny. We've even got local Kin Kin cleaning products. And we have a whole-foods room. Yeah, so there's lots going on."

Mill St Kitchen & Pantry is at 7 Mill Street Nambour out front of Coles and near the Nambour Heritage Tram.

"We're in a beautiful building that has been here 120 years. These were the old Mill buildings."

Nambour's Moreton Central Sugar Mill closed in 2003 on the site now occupied by the Coles complex. — by Cameron Outridge



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Nambour can't afford to lose any more workers, says new councillor

DIVISION 10

NEW Division 10 Councillor David Law is under no illusions about the challenges the new council will face when it leads the community recovery in the wake of COVID-19.

"Before COVID-19 I had a bit of a picture of what things might look like if I was successful and I was starting out in the role," Cr Law said. "But that picture has changed completely as we all get used to the day-by-day restrictions and what might be coming next."

Cr Law said council would have to re-evaluate many issues currently on the table, including the \$60-\$80 million Sunshine Coast City Hall at Maroochydore city centre.

"Some of those major projects will have to be looked at," he said. "At this stage I don't

have the level of detail to know whether it's even possible (to cancel the project), in terms of what point things have got to contractually."

Cr Law said the new building represented a financial burden to the Coast and a major blow to Nambour in particular.

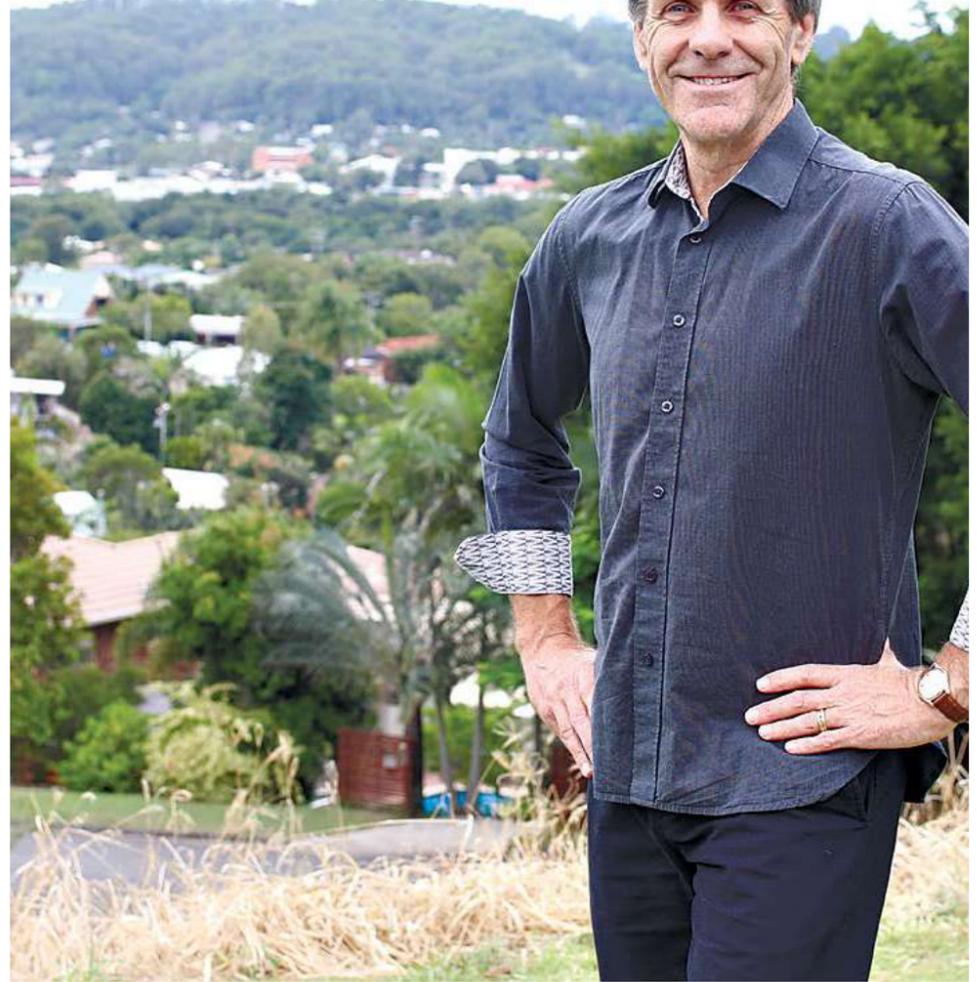
"Throughout my campaign I was certainly wanting to understand why council was building new chambers and why it wanted to move all those employees out of Nambour. ... the locals who work here, between 350 and 400 people. That's not a part of Nambour life that we want to change or can afford to change. And even more so now as the economy is likely to decline. When we start to emerge from this crisis having those 300 or 400 people there is going to be a vital part of the local recovery."

Cr Law said it would be wise to save the money especially since the facilities in Nambour and Caloundra seemed to be able to perform the role in their current form.

"I would certainly be looking to review them. From a Nambour perspective it's going to be incredibly bad timing if we're looking to reinvigorate and revitalise the Nambour community and economy again and you take away a significant part of the local workforce."

Cr Law has lived in Nambour for 19 years. He was the first manager of the Children's Therapy Centre and has run disability services across Australia in the not-for-profit sector. "I stand for strong communities, environmentally and socially responsible development, the re-creation of Nambour town centre, mental and physical health and wellbeing, the creative arts and equity for our hinterland towns.

"We bought a block of land and built a house in Nambour 19 years ago and we still live in the same house, 15 minutes walk from town. I've seen the town in much better, more vibrant times and it is sad to see how it is at the



Above: Div 10 Cr David Law wants to understand why council wants to move "all those workers out of Nambour". Below: The new City Hall planned for Maroochydore.

moment. We need to support our businesses to be able to continue with the COVID crisis."

Cr Law said a bright spot on the horizon was Nambour's recent designation as a Special Entertainment Precinct. "That is one of the most significant things to happen in Nambour in recent times," he said. It will be a critical part of Nambour's rejuvenation.

"There are people who have plans ready to go and I hope they will be able to continue with those plans and help Nambour really take advantage of this entertainment zoning."

Cr Law said the zoning could potentially bring new opportunities connected with the Nambour Heritage Tramway project which he also saw as an essential part of Nambour's future.

"It may represent an opportunity for the tram to run in the evenings and include the tram as part of the entertainment concept of what Nambour can become. I don't know if it's possible but I'd be wanting to connect with the special project officer and obviously the Reimagine Nambour team. They will be some of the first people that I will be connecting with to see where things are up to and how best we can continue with that work, bearing in mind that we now live with COVID-19."



Cr Law thanked the voters for trusting him. "I will make sure I am always contactable and will make sure I follow up with all questions and enquiries. I'm very aware that Division 10 covers a large, diverse area and is more than just Nambour.

"I will be out in the whole of the region and making sure that projects currently under way in the rural areas can continue. Each town has its unique appeal and each is a unique community."

— Cameron Outridge

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COVID-19 a wake-up call

'Council has to get out of the way of the community'

THIRTY-EIGHT years after he was elected a Landsborough Shire Div 2 Councillor (1982-1991) Winston Johnston is back.

The successful businessman and new Division 5 representative hopes to draw on a lifetime of business and community acumen to help lead the community through the current COVID-19 uncertainty. Cr Johnston won by 545 votes from Greens Candidate Tracy Burton and said he was mindful that 45 percent of voters did not vote or preference either himself or the Greens Candidate.

He said finding a replacement for Sunshine Coast Council CEO Michael Whitaker was an immediate issue with far reaching consequences and expressed grave concerns about the proposed construction of a nine-storey City Hall in the Maroochydore CBD. He said Council needed to get out of the way of the community and businesses and help the local economy heal and recover from COVID 19.

"It'll be hard to justify spending money on major projects like new Council chambers, which I thought were questionable at best anyway," he said.

"Admittedly, I haven't been party to all of the briefings and the discussions in relation to this issue. However from the information that I've been able to glean and the facts I've been told about it from other councillors: in my opinion, it was questionable in the first place. It's hard to see that it can be justified."

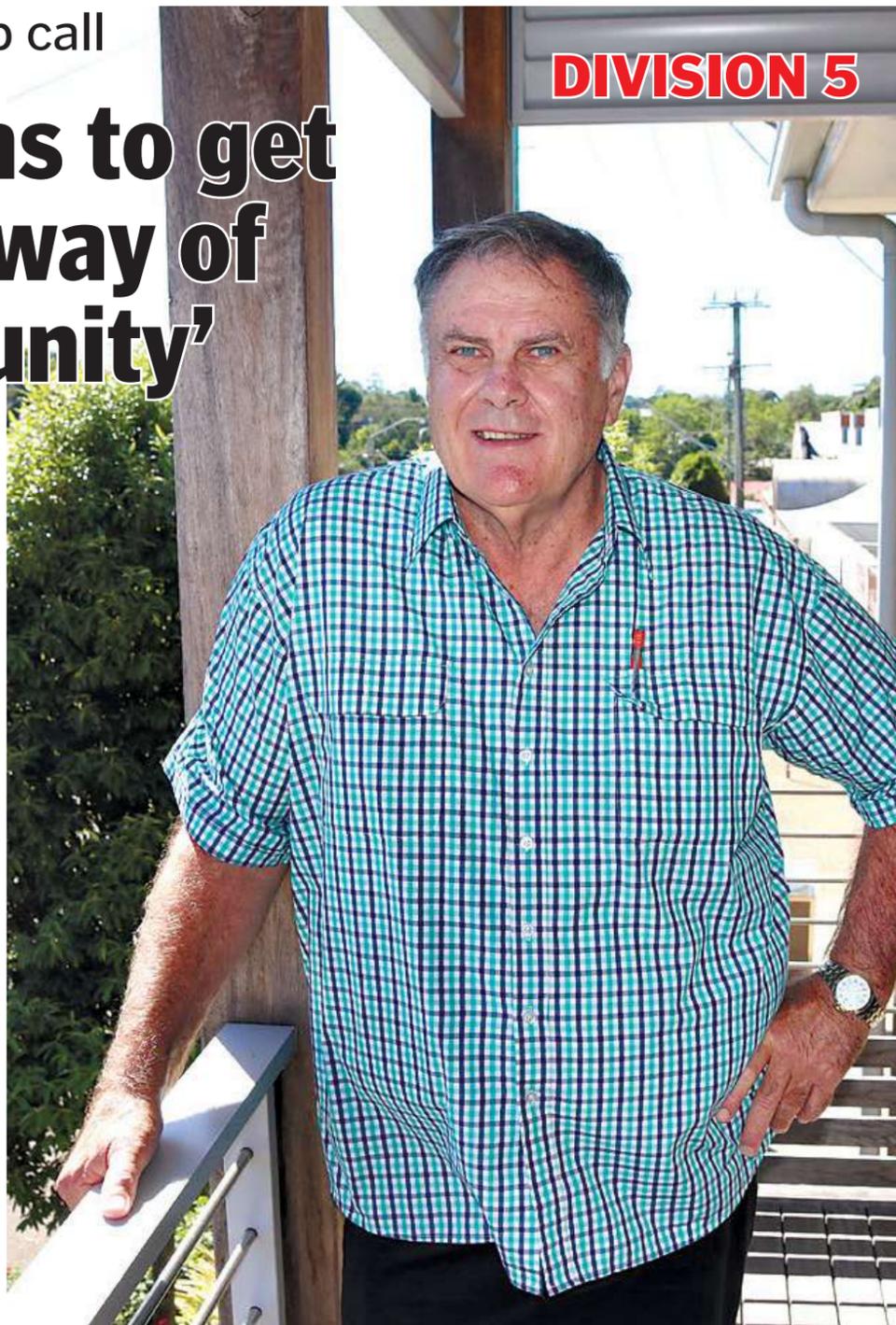
Cr Johnston said everything has to be on the table for renegotiation: "Budgets, 10-year plans, major projects, even down to fees and charges, how Council goes about town planning applications and numerous other things like Councillors' salaries and expenses.

"COVID 19 is a wake-up call for Council and we have to get out of the way of the community, whether they be volunteer workers, ordinary residents, or businesses and we're going to have to help them and hold their hand to a large extent for the next few years. Look, I'm not saying we get out of the way of developers, I'm saying we get out of the way of business people and our community by ensuring Council helps and not hinders.

"Because if we don't do that, our area is not going to recover the way it should and needs to.

"There's a lot of small businesses that have been forced to close down because of COVID-19. By the very nature of small business you generally don't have a lot of capital backing and you don't have a lot of savings because profits are reinvested in small businesses.

Cr Johnston said operators in the wedding, tourism, hospitality and club industries had been devastated. "The restaurants, cafeterias, coffee shops, wedding businesses



Cr Johnston has outlined his ideas to help the community recover in the wake of COVID-19.

and clubs are on their knees.

"Some of them have been able to stay open through improvisation and being able to sell some takeaway food, but there's a limit to that. All that'll probably do is pay their insurance, electricity and gas bill plus a few other minor things."

Cr Johnston said he would be encouraging his fellow councillors to reduce red tape and thoroughly investigate and review rates, fees and charges.

"Whether we give a moratorium on them and for how long will need to be closely considered. We certainly can't afford to be increasing rates. If anything, we should be trying to help the community by finding ways where maybe, just possibly, we can actually reduce rates and eliminate some fees and charges. But that may not be achievable.

"Make no mistake, this council is going to be judged comprehensively on how good a job they do in helping the Coast to recover. If we don't do a good job and we stuff it up,

well the community will not thank us and will rightly punish us at the first opportunity.

"Whilst it's wonderful to be elected, it's tempered by the fact that this is going to be a very difficult and complex period that we're entering in the history of the Sunshine Coast."

New Council Lineup

Mayor: Mark Jamieson
 Division 1: Rick Baberowski
 Division 2: Terry Landsberg
 Division 3: Peter Cox
 Division 4: Joe Natoli
 Division 5: Winston Johnston
 Division 6: Christian Dickson
 Division 7: Ted Hungerford
 Division 8: Jason O'Pray
 Division 9: Maria Suarez
 Division 10: David Law

- Cameron Outridge

Greens stand tall, maintain call for transparency, after near misses in Divisions 5 & 10

THE Queensland Greens are both thrilled and disappointed at the close result that saw their Division 5 candidate, Tracy Burton, narrowly defeated in the recent Sunshine Coast Council elections.

Ms Burton pushed independent candidate and LNP Life Member, Winston Johnston to a 52.75 per cent win after preferences.

And in Division 10, the Greens Sue Etheridge gave winner David Law a run for his money.

"We lost Division 5 by a mere 545 votes," Ms Burton, pictured, said.

"While I am thrilled with that support, clearly Mr Johnston is to be congratulated on his success."

In a 10-candidate field, Ms Burton put her strong showing down to a vigorous grassroots campaign and a change in voter priorities.

"My Greens team were out in force in the community, and I touched base with a wide range of constituents concerned with the inappropriate development on the Sunshine Coast.

"Many people want far greater protection of our forests and wildlife, both on the coast and in the hinterland.

"Despite my disappointment, I want to assure Sunshine Coasters that the Greens will be watching the new council carefully, and holding it to account if it continues the questionable practices of the past, such as multiple closed-door meetings where important decisions are made away from public scrutiny. Integrity and transparency is well overdue.

"The next few months of council will be a critical time to ensure our community is looked after during this incredibly challenging COVID-19 pandemic."

Ms Burton said a split vote from the huge candidate field, along with optional preferential voting and a low voter turnout in the coronavirus lockdown, had presented challenges for her campaign.

However, "the journey does not stop here", she said.

"We will be running an excellent candidate in the state election in October, and will strive to turn that 47.25 per cent Greens vote into a seat in the Queensland Parliament.

"The Greens will continue to fight for what is right; to spread our message of environmental sustainability, economic justice and a fairer society for us all."



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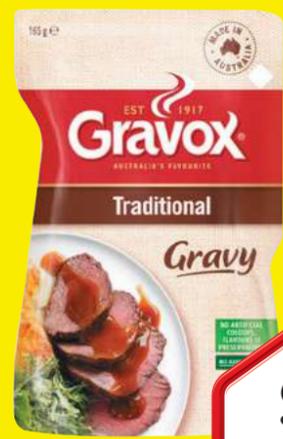
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Over-50s lifestyle resort proposed for Mapleton

A development application for a 95-home over 50s lifestyle community in Mapleton has been lodged with the Sunshine Coast Council.

The developer says the proposed facility at 81 Flaxton Drive would give local residents the opportunity to continue to live in the area and enjoy the hinterland lifestyle they were accustomed to as they transitioned into retirement.

The application describes the facility as a "first class" gated, over-50s lifestyle resort.

IRBS Development Manager Dennis Morgan said the community had been largely supportive of the facility.

"I've spoken to the representatives of the Mens Shed and the president of the Community Association today and there were a few questions, as there always are, but generally the majority of the town seems to be happy for it to happen."

Mr Morgan said there was little available for people in the area who wanted to downsize from larger acreage blocks without leaving town. He said the land was zoned for retirement living.

"We call them lifestyle resorts. Generally they attract younger retirees. While there are no age limitations on our resorts — you don't have to be a certain age — they do tend to attract that demographic, people who are still active in the community and in their lives.



Plans include a recreation centre, community centre, workshop and outdoor dining and

"The resort gardens get looked after. It's a secure community, and people can continue to enjoy the relationships they established within their local community. They can engage with their network of friends and service providers and everything else."

Plans include a recreation centre, community centre, workshop and outdoor dining and seating areas.

Meanwhile, newly sworn in Division 10 Councillor David Law said he'd had

a number of people contact him in relation to the proposed retirement village in Mapleton.

"The people I've spoken to have concerns around the density of the development and that the infrastructure won't be able to support the number of dwellings proposed. Obviously I'll be looking at that one and making sure I'm across it and that Mapleton gets something that represents the community wishes."

Hotgas Yandina delivers, in good times and bad

LPG supply is an essential service for residents and businesses so it's good to know that Hotgas Yandina is open and still operating with a full team and regular delivery days.

"We are committed to serving the Sunshine Coast safely through these challenging times," said Business Manager Shannon Arnold.

"Of course, we have implemented additional measures to ensure the safety of our customers, our team and the community."

Hotgas is a Sunshine Coast, family owned and operated business. It services Boreen Point to Pelican Waters, Amamoor to Conondale and everywhere in between. Phone 5446 8777 or email sales@hotgas.com.au for more information.

No food security issues, says Minister

THE latest report by Australia's Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Science (ABARES) has confirmed Australia has one of the most secure food supplies in the world and is not at risk because of COVID-19.

Australia ranks in the top 10 percent of countries under the Global Food Security Index defined by the World Food Summit. The index measures 34 criteria covering affordability, availability, quality and safety.

"Australia will always have enough food. We produce far more food than we consume. COVID-19 does not change that," Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud said.

"We remain a net exporter of food. We export 70 per cent of our agricultural production.

Toastmasters goes online

LIKE other organizations, Nambour Toastmasters have had to adjust to these difficult times.

However, meetings are now held on line using Zoom.

The first meeting was held on April 2 with a varied program that contained both humour as well as speaking and leadership items.

Naturally there were a few "hiccups" but overall it was a great success with almost a full complement of members participating.

The next meeting will be held on April 16 and all members now feel up to the challenge. For more information Phone Chris 0408 782 753 or Coral 0438 417 880

Woombye Pub open and delivering

WOOMBYE Pub wishes to advise that its bottle shop remains open 10am - 8pm daily, with a same day free delivery service if order placed before 2pm.

Our kitchen also remains open for both pickup and local delivery, from 4pm to 8pm, 7 days a week.

Our full menu is available on our facebook and we've now brought in online ordering. Go to Facebook.com/thewoombyepub

Council faces massive challenges



SUNSHINE Coast Council on Monday commenced its new term with Acting CEO Warren Bunker taking individual declarations of office from the incoming Councillors.

The composition of the 2020-2024 Council is:

- Mayor Mark Jamieson
- Cr Rick Baberowski (Division 1)
- Cr Terry Landsberg (Division 2)
- Cr Peter Cox (Division 3)
- Cr Joe Natoli (Division 4)
- Cr Winston Johnston (Division 5)
- Cr Christian Dickson (Division 6)
- Cr Ted Hungerford (Division 7)
- Cr Jason O'Pray (Division 8)
- Cr Maria Suarez (Division 9)
- Cr David Law (Division 10).

"This is an important day for our region and on behalf of all members of our community, I congratulate the councillors on their

election and look forward to working with them over the course of the next four years," Mayor Jamieson said.

"Potentially, no other council has come into office in this region at such a challenging time, with our focus very much on supporting our community as it manages its way through the most significant public health challenge in more than a century.

"I impressed on all councillors our important role as guardians for the well-being of our community as we deal with the implications of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the associated national public health directions.

"Likewise, it is incumbent on us as a council to ensure we have in place a coherent plan to support the region navigate into and through the recovery phase and be well-positioned into the future."

A statutory post-election meeting will be

held within 14 days of the conclusion of the election, at which time council will consider the appointment of a Deputy Mayor and the council meeting schedule for the remainder of the year.

The first Ordinary Meeting of council will be determined at the post-election meeting, but must take place before the end of April.

To enable councils to comply with national public health directions related to COVID-19, the Local Government Regulation 2012 has recently been amended in relation to public attendance at council meetings. It is anticipated a notice will be published on council's website in the near future indicating that the public gallery will not be available, but that both meetings can be viewed live from Council's website www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/Council/CouncilMeetings.

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RangeCare has provided community care services since 1986.

Decades later, we are continuing to support the community's changing needs and have expanded our traditional, in-home services to continue to maintain your independence.

RangeCare's NEW services include the following:

- Order, Collect & Delivery Personal Shopping Service
- Drop off & Collect Postal Assistance
- In-Home Flu Shot Administration
- In-Home Haircuts
- Drop Off & Pick Up Pharmacy Service
- Food Services - New partnerships to include local cafes and restaurants
- Technology Based Social Support Programs

Please give us a call and let us know how we can help you!

CALL 07 5445 7044 www.rangecare.com.au

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Woombye Design Print & Signs

WOOMBYE Design Print & Signs is still open and here to support businesses with printing and signage needs during this crisis.

"We're Still Open' signs, banners & corflutes, 1.5m distancing posters & stickers, floor tapes, directional stickers, warning signs and flat or folded take away menus are some of the items that we can provide for your business during this crisis," said owner Jamie Crichton. The shop is next to Woombye Post Office. Phone 5442 2402 or email info@wdps.com.au.

MP or Uber Eat Driver?

MEMBER for Glasshouse Andrew Powell last week teamed up with Monica's Café in Maleny to purchase and deliver a range of 'heat n eat' meals to local families.

Ten fresh dishes were offered to the first people to put their hands up and Mr Powell ended up delivering to Maleny, Montville, Mooloolah, Glasshouse and Elimbah.

"Deliveries went out to the young and old — families with young kids, working couples, retirees and single people," Mr Powell said. "It's all about supporting everyone in our communities to get through this time."

If you own a similar business and would like Mr Powell to support you to help local families, please get in touch with me and we can organise something.

Businesses step up to spread some sunshine



Stepping up: Rob Outridge, Brett Mills, Anne Nioa, Laura Scherian and Angela and Jim Lee: "We are facing uncertain times, & we know how important it is to rally together to help in these times."

STEPS Charity helped rally the troops recently to deliver a message of kindness and support to local Sunshine Coast families facing uncertain times due to COVID-19.

The Fleet Office director Jim Lee along with Toyota dealership proprietor Brett Mills and Maleny IGA owner Rob Outridge pooled resources to ensure local families wouldn't go without essential items over Easter. Fifty families received special care packages full of essential household items — and a few Easter eggs — thanks to the collaboration.

Mr Lee said he contacted STEPS managing director Carmel Crouch, to see how many families were in need due to the impact of the COVID-19 virus.

"With the STEPS Autism Treehouse Trek for Autism postponed this year we wanted

to do something practical to support local families," Mr Lee said.

"Unfortunately, there's a lot of families doing it tough at the moment and the reasons why they are struggling has had a significant impact on me personally.

"I reached out to my good mates in Brett Mills and Rob Outridge and together we came up with the care package idea.

"Rob has been very generous with supplying the goods and Brett has enlisted his team, including Ken Mills Toyota ambassador Laura Scherian, to help deliver the items," he said.

STEPS Autism Treehouse charity manager Anne Nioa also rolled up her sleeves to help pack up the goods, as they were whisked away to families in need. "We know

that in these extraordinary times it's really important to help support the most vulnerable in our community, we're absolutely blown away by the amazing efforts of Jim and his team," Ms Nioa said.

"It's just great to see such positivity and kindness in the current climate, we really hope others will see this and be inspired to help too.

"STEPS are remaining strong and we'll keep on in delivering for our communities, but we are facing uncertain times, and we know how important it is to rally together to help in these times."

Maleny IGA owner Rob Outridge said he got involved because STEPS is a well-known local charity, that does great work, and Jim is his good friend.

"Jim's so generous, he wanted to pay for everything himself, and for us to make no discounts, what he doesn't know when he gets the bill, we've applied some discounts, and we're happy to do that. Because: A. it's Jim and B. It's STEPS," Mr Outridge said.

Brett Mills said he's holding onto all his staff, but he realised they're entering a slow period due to coronavirus, so he reached out to STEPS to ask what they could do to help.

"I'm personally very happy to get out today in the sunshine, and to not have to think about much because it's been fatiguing, for employers, employees and for everyone," he said.

"It's just nice to get out and do something that makes everyone feel good."

Australian diamond netball player and Ken Mills Toyota ambassador Laura Scherian said she saw the opportunity to be able to get out and help those in need.

"Brett said he was doing the drive today and it was a perfect opportunity for me to jump in and be able to help out a bit," she said. "Obviously the world's a strange place at the moment and everyone needs to help each other out in any way they can," she said.

STEPS Charity provides opportunity and a brighter future for people with a disability. STEPS encourages people to continue to support their local charities and help the most vulnerable in the community. For more information visit www.stepscharity.com.au

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Situated perfectly between the Sunshine Coast's pristine beaches and the Blackall mountain range is Palmwoods Garden Village - by Sundale.

The expansive seven-hectare site boasts two and three-bedroom units, all with private patios and courtyards which overlook established gardens.

Connect with your neighbours in the clubhouse, relax in the spacious outdoor living and entertaining areas or get creative in the hobby shed.

With the Sunshine Coast's best restaurants, cafes and golf courses at your door step, Palmwoods Garden Village – by Sundale can offer you the lifestyle and connection to the community you've been searching for.

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

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When it just has to get there, today

KEN Hooper began Pronto Motorcycle Couriers after experiencing first hand just how important a fast and reliable delivery service was in an urgent situation.

"I was working for a company that fitted out business premises, and we had to complete this job in two days," he said.

"It was a really time sensitive job, to ensure minimal disruption to the office. When we got there (Bundaberg), we discovered that a wrong box of critical components had been sent from Brisbane.

"We couldn't start work the second day without the right items. Someone then had to drive up from Brisbane very early the next morning to be onsite by 7am, so that we could get the job done by the deadline. It was extremely stressful for everyone concerned."

Ken had seen a need like this in numerous industries over many years. Deliveries needed now, not tomorrow or the next day. From there, the concept for Pronto Motorcycle Couriers came about.

'Ours is an emergency delivery service, and we look after one client at a time'

"It has proven to be a service very much in demand," Ken said. "There are lots of courier and delivery services around but very few can actually guarantee same day delivery as the request is made, and often they are delivering goods for multiple clients at a time. Ours is an emergency delivery service, and we look after one client at a time. We don't take on the next job until the last one is complete. We are on-call and fully insured."

Ken and his wife Andrea delivered packages for the medical sector, professional offices, the trades and construction industry and for individuals. Customers don't need an account and payment can be made online.

The decision to use a motorcycle has enabled them to shave back their delivery time, as it is generally a great deal faster getting through traffic, especially in urban



BUSINESS FEATURE

Ken and Andrea Hooper of Pronto Motorcycle Couriers: "There are lots of courier and delivery services around but very few can actually guarantee same day delivery as the request is made."

areas where traffic is congested. "This is crucial as we often deliver to Brisbane and around the Sunshine Coast which can also be quite congested at times," said Ken.

The motorcycle is equipped with state-of-the-art technology which allows them to keep clients up to date with estimated arrival times. The motorcycle's carriage compartment is always locked and is also weather-proof. "When we have successfully delivered the parcel, we give each client a phone call. Then, they can breathe easy. You can't believe how reassuring this is to people."

Ken can carry up to 9kgs on the bike, and documents up to A3 size can be carried flat. They are sealed in security satchels for peace of mind. For larger, heavier items, they use the car.

"Mechanics have called on us for urgent deliveries of parts, because some people cannot be without their car or truck for any length of time. We have delivered parts for

broken down machines that have brought production lines or job sites to a halt. It can be as small as a memory stick, to larger parcels that can only fit into our car.

"We have also been to Brisbane airports for travellers who have left behind a variety of business or personal needs.

Rates are quoted on a custom basis, and include parking fees, fuel, tolls and their time. "We have found that when people start to add up what it would cost them to try and deliver a package themselves, they are shocked at how costly it can be. It is second nature to us, and we have our systems and timing down to a fine art. Most importantly, our customers don't have to worry about a thing once they have handed their parcel over to us."

• Pronto Motorcycle Couriers is offering 10 percent off their courier services. Just mention you saw their story in *The Gazette*. Call Ken on 0422 369 101 or visit prantomotorcyclecouriers.com.au

Heritage Bank's branches open, safety measures in place

from Heritage Bank

HERITAGE Bank reacted quickly to COVID-19 putting in place measures to protect the health of their members and staff while continuing to provide essential banking services.

Their branches are still open for business and ready to help.

But for your wellbeing and that of their staff, Heritage encourages you to visit a branch only if it's essential.

They have a range of online services available via heritage.com.au, and the Heritage Bank Mobile Banking App. And their Contact Centre is available 24/7 to assist on 13 14 22.

As part of their response to this unprecedented situation, Heritage has put in place a number of measures, and will continue to adapt as the situation changes.

This includes:

Additional safety and hygiene measures within branches including limiting the number of customers inside at one time, social distance queue markers, hand sanitiser, perspex screens at counters and regular cleaning of counters and equipment.

Earlier opening hours at select branches to assist seniors, people with a disability, essential, healthcare and emergency services workers.

Establishing a COVID-19 Relief Package for impacted members

Special phone lines for Emergency Services and Healthcare Workers and Seniors so they can fast-track their banking needs.

For more information about Heritage's response to COVID-19 visit their website at heritage.com.au

Think. Bank. Support.

Local

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

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Community Branch

Nambour RSL joins call for tax relief

COMMUNITY Clubs like Nambour RSL face permanent closure unless their calls for additional support from the State Government are heard, they say.

Ninderry MP Dan Purdie described a recent offer from the State Government of a three-month deferral of gaming tax for community clubs as a "cruel hoax".

All gaming taxes should be waived until Clubs are able to reopen, he said.

"Our community and service clubs not only employ locals, they also reinvest their profits back into the local community, and they will play a vital role in helping people reconnect at the end of this."

Nambour RSL CEO Suzanne Long said the industry faced great adversity following their forced closure and was concerned about the impact of paying back the gaming tax.

"We are extremely concerned about when clubs are put back online and how long it will take us to get back to where we were before we were closed," she said.

Ms Long said since being closed for a month, Club expenses exceeded \$150,000 "just to keep the venue safe and secure".

"We are pleading with the State Government to give us the ability to use the \$165,000 (from gaming tax) to bring all of our 75 staff back when we can bring them back."

Clubs Queensland, which employs around 22,000 people across the state, re-invests around \$750 million per annum to local communities, and are an important social hub for members and visitors.

Clubs Queensland zone representative and Coolum Surf Club General Manager Mal Wright and General Manager of Alex Surf Club Ash Robinson also backed Mr Purdie's call for stronger support measures.

BCSC Working Bee Report

BCSC Working Bee Report, Florabunda Pocket Saturday 04 April 2020

ZERO of us was allowed to come on the day, because of the ban on BCSC of work by volunteers on BushCare sites.

Fortunately paid people are still allowed to work there and we had a session from the Sunshine Coast Council's Catchment Services team of 4 on Friday 27.

Bana grass and general weeds on the proposed Mormons Planting site, Madeira Vine near the main oval where the main casualties on the day.

There are also plans to have a Skilling Qld team work on the site from about 20 April.

That should keep things under control and even advance the restoration/regeneration program.

Thanks all for your help and interest. Next Bushcare event here will be on a Saturday some time still to be decided in the future.

In the meantime, get stuck into those weeds on land under your control, and Florabunda bushcare can provide plants for you still. Just phone Suzie on 5442 1339.

- Norm Morwood, BCSC Coordinator.

Gardners Falls closed

GARDNERS Falls in Maleny is closed to stop people from gathering at this location and to discourage them from leaving home unnecessarily.

Obi Lane, Maleny was closed ahead of the Easter long weekend blocking access to the car park at Gardners Falls.



Joe Guy: "It is our way of doing our bit to support these front line workers".

Local mechanics offer half price service for frontline health workers

JOE Guy and the team at Nambour's Auto Electrics QLD are offering frontline medical workers a generous discount to thank them for their service.

"In support of our emergency services & medical workers, we are offering 50 percent off general mechanical servicing," said Joe. "It is our way of doing our bit to support these front line workers."

"For all of our existing customers and new customers, we are offering a free cabin filter and car sanitisation with every service," he

said. "We figure if we all do our little bit, we can help keep spirits up and slow the spread of coronavirus."

Mr Guy said keeping your car in good condition was as important as ever. "No-one wants to be stuck with a broken down car. Staying on top of maintenance and servicing is the key."

You can call 5442 2278 to book your service, and take advantage of these special offers. ID will be required for the 50 percent discount.



Montville Mist Springwater driver Nathan Arrowsmith sets out with bottled water donated for people with Parkinson's.

Montville Mist springs into action to hydrate people with Parkinson's

PAULINE had just completed her individual therapy program with Restoring Hope Parkinson's Therapy when she approached Montville Mist Springwater to ask them to donate bottled water for people with Parkinson's.

Owners Peter and Alli Collins are passionate about helping people hydrate with chemical free water and immediately jumped at the opportunity.

Restoring Hope Parkinson's Therapy (RHPT) is a recently established Not-For-Profit charity delivering speech therapy to people living with Parkinson's disease. They help improve quality of life through individual and group therapy.

Pauline has Parkinson's and knows first-

hand the benefits of completing the program offered at RHPT.

"Before I started the program I was very quiet in the way I spoke and people had difficulty hearing what I had to say," she said. "I also had problems with food and would frequently get coughing and choking fits which were embarrassing and frightening. I was self conscious when socialising even with family and friends."

"The program has helped me be confident and more willing to speak clearly and with intent."

To find out more about this new Sunshine Coast charity, Restoring Hope Parkinson's Therapy, visit their website rhtherapy.org.au.

Interior spaces more important than ever



By Julie Dudley
Custom Curtains & Shade

NOW more than ever, our homes are being tasked to function in ways that we may have never anticipated. The private haven of our homes are now being used for work, children's education, as home gyms and for online meetings.

It may quickly become apparent that some things do not work as well as they could.

Night zones become all day zones. Dining and Guest Rooms become a home office, or the garage or patio is suddenly your new work out area. For this reason some tweaking may be required.



Our customers are finding that because of requirements to work at home they are having to move around furniture or spend a lot of time in areas that were seldomly used.

Installing an appropriate window covering could drastically improve the comfort of your new space. Blinds, curtains, or shutters are useful for cutting glare on screens, keeping rooms cooler or hiding distractions.

An external awning can be used for closing in a patio area to use for home workouts, or a curtain could provide a backdrop for your next online webinar or virtual meeting.

Deb Wieland has been working at home for 18 months and had an external blind installed on her office window.

"When I started to work from home, I had to set up a full home office in our spare room. There were many challenges with this, the biggest one being the heat and the glare that came directly onto my computer screens. I enlisted the help of Jim and Julie and a blind was installed on the outside of the window. This blind has been the best addition to our house, it has cut the temperature in my office by about 5 degrees, and has eliminated the glare totally."

Who can young people talk to if they feel unsafe?

From Queensland Police

ISOLATING and social distancing can be difficult, especially for those where home is not always the safest place.

If you are feeling this way as a young person, please know police and specialist support services are here for you.

There is nothing so awful that you can't tell someone about it. 24/7 people are available to help.

If you are worried about someone else, checking in on them virtually is a good start as is getting additional information and advice from the support services below.

If you have serious concerns, contact Policelink on 131 444.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, or a life-threatening situation, call Triple Zero (000).

For further advice and information:

- Kids Helpline - 1800 551 800
- National Sexual Assault, Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service - 1800 737 732
- Queensland Police Service Policelink - 131 444
- Crime Stoppers - 1800 333 000
- Family and Child Connect - 13 32 64
- eSafety Commissioner for information about online abuse and staying safe online.

Fruit, veggies & meat packs to your door



Donna Klease and Chaffey Backhouse from Range Care set off on a delivery.

RANGECARE and Nambour & District Care are now selling and delivering fresh fruit, produce and meat packs straight to your doorstep.

"This service is a natural progression following on from the success of the launch of RangeCare and Nambour & District Care partnership with The Barn and Le Relais Bressan to create a restaurant quality bulk, frozen meals service," said Range Care Marketing Officer Jess Garey.

"New partnerships with *The Farmers Gate* and *Maple Street Meats - Butcher Shop*, Mapleton will allow vulnerable and isolated members of the community to access nutritional and fresh food via a contactless service and support local businesses."

Please visit rangecare.org.au or give RangeCare a call on 07 5445 7044 to find out more.

Mayor's praise for viral cooperation

SUNSHINE Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson has praised the majority of Sunshine Coast residents for complying with the national public health directions over the Easter weekend.

Mayor Jamieson said the closure of the beachside car parks worked well to limit the number of people at beaches.

"Generally, the reports were very pleasing and from what I observed myself, the vast majority of people decided to stay home and if they did go out for essential reasons, they were complying with social distancing requirements," Mayor Jamieson said.

"So, I want to say a big thank you to our community for continuing to do the right thing as we seek to manage our way through the implications of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Mayor Jamieson reminded Sunshine Coast residents that the various restrictions including closure of beachside car parks remain in place until further notice to minimise the likelihood of people gathering at our beaches and coastal parks.



Range Care and Flaxton businesses have joined forces to deliver restaurant quality meals. Pictured: Angela Bowen and Danielle Birks from The Barn on Flaxton.

Community ties drive Flaxton meal initiative

RANGECARE and Nambour & District Care have joined forces with The Barn on Flaxton and Le Coq Bressan (Le Relais Bressan) Flaxton to deliver restaurant quality meals straight to people's doors.

The Barn on Flaxton part-owner Danielle Birks said the joint effort was the brainchild of newly appointed Range Care CEO Greg Mannion. "Greg was having his regular coffee here and he noticed what we were doing with our heat and eat meals for those that can't get out and about and he must have had a brainwave," said Danielle. "He took the idea and ran with it."

Thierry Clerc from Le Coq Bressan said the idea was mutually beneficial. "Range Care send us the orders. We prepare the meals. Then they come and collect and deliver the meals," he said.

One happy customer at Le Coq Bressan said her friend had recommended the Duck and Orange Sauce. "My friend said it was so good she was just about slurping the juice from the pate," the customer said.

Meals start at \$10 and can be ordered online or via the phone.

Thierry said his pre-packed meals would now become a regular offering, irrespective of Coronavirus. Please visit www.rangecare.org.au or give RangeCare a call on 07 5445 7044 to find out more.

In-home haircuts also available

RANGECARE and Nambour & District Care have been working quietly behind the scenes, taking calls and incorporating new services to meet ever-changing needs.

They have expanded services to include personal shopping, postal assistance, pharmacy collection, foods services, technology based social support and now in-home haircuts.

"Our qualified hairdresser can cut your hair in the safety and comfort of your home for only \$11," said Range Care Marketing Officer Jess Garey.

Please visit www.rangecare.org.au or call on 07 5445 7044 to find out more.



Thierry Clerc from Le Coq Bressan (Le Relais Bressan) Flaxton.

Will it be a rebound or a steady climb back?



Business Advice by Peter Gamgee

BUSINESS has been massively disrupted. Some are booming, and struggling to keep up. Some are transitioning to a new way of operating. A few are settling in to a new customer base. Many are struggling to cover overheads, or are closed and losing money.

Even those who have made no changes apart from meeting social distancing requirements, are reporting a 40 percent drop in sales due to reduced consumer confidence.

Regardless of your situation there are some things you could be thinking about and acting on right now. Ironically those whose operations have been suspended have more time to prepare for what is to come.

- Fact: All restrictions will not be lifted simultaneously, or in the very near future. The restrictions will be progressively eased. But a return to that same state, pre-COVID-19, will never occur.

- Fact: Vaccinations and cures will not be available for some time.

- Likely: Restrictions will be lifted by type of business, geography and relationship to infection "hot spots".

So what does this mean for you? Each business will need to make its own assessment. Let me show through a simple example.

If you are in the travel industry and you rely on international travel, you will realise that such travel will be the last to be re-established, especially between countries where COVID-19 infection rates are high. Additional vaccination and quarantine requirements are likely. So your international travel business will not recover for years.

Domestic travel, on the other hand, may well be opened up again in the very near future, state by state. Yes there will be additional regulations in place. But if you want to be doing business again any time soon your focus should change to domestic travel. Revisit your clients, marketing, travel operator relationships based on new products and new customers. Do it well because there will be a lot of competition!

The lifting of restrictions must come with new regulations and compliance requirements to continue to contain infection and for fast contact tracing.

Consider these new requirements as additional OH&S standards. Implement the processes and audits to make sure you comply and therefore are ready to "open the doors" again. Keep in touch with industry associations who are already working on what the new requirements and guidelines might look like for your industry.

If you are in the restaurant business hygiene aspects of course will be critical. But have you also considered how you might cluster your floor layout, extend your operating hours with smaller teams, have staff and client declarations and contact details captured, and the new menu to attract people back from their home cooking?

No matter what your business there will be no magical rebound. It will be a steady and exciting climb for those up for the challenge.

Let us help you maintain YOUR INDEPENDENCE at home!

MEAL DELIVERY SERVICE

through RangeCare

SUPPORT A LOCAL BUSINESS AND ORDER TODAY!

THE BARN \$10 MENU

All purchased meals are prepared and delivered Monday - Friday. All orders for The Barn must be placed by 2pm to ensure next day delivery. The Barn orders will be delivered between 3pm and 5pm the next working day.

- CHUNKY CHICKEN, BACON AND MUSHROOM SOUP
- CREAMY POTATO & LEEK SOUP
- BEEF LASAGNE & SALAD
- VEGETABLE QUICHE & SALAD
- LAMB AND BEEF RISSOLE
- GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST
- CURRIED SAUSAGES AND RICE
- VEGETABLE COCONUT CURRY
- BRAISED BEEF AND ONION STEW
- PENNE BOLOGNESE
- PENNE CHICKEN CARBONARA

LE RELAIS BRESSAN \$25 MENU

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Nambour RSL CEO Suzanne Long said members, servicemen and women and staff would desperately miss the traditional Anzac Day ceremony.

Time to hit the street for Driveway Dawn Service

FOR the first time in a hundred years, main streets will be empty on Anzac Day. Gatherings will be cancelled, marches called off. But, rest assured, we will remember the fallen. RSL Clubs are encouraging people to honour the Anzacs during the lockdown by standing in driveways, balconies or living rooms at 6am for a combined dawn service.

Nambour RSL CEO Suzanne Long said members, servicemen and women and staff would desperately miss the traditional Anzac Day ceremony.

"Of course Anzac Day is our most celebrated day we usually have over 4500 people come through the door from the Dawn Service until we close that evening. It's a very important time of the year for a lot of people. Almost all of our 75 staff are on for the day. But as I said to my team, no matter

where we are this year, we'll always feel like we're together commemorating Anzac Day with our members and guests.

"We're encouraging our members and everyone to go to the footpath at 6am on Anzac Day to honour the Anzacs and play the Last Post if that's possible. For a lot of people it's their one day of the year where they get to go out over a beer and have a good chat. A lot of the older demographic don't talk much about war, service or what happened except for that one day of the years. So it's sad that they can't do that.

"But we're still encouraging everyone, whether through family or by telephone or on the footpath, to still remember to celebrate because it's an important day that does need acknowledgement."

RSL encouraged by response

RSL Sunshine Coast and Regional District President, Ian Hall said RSL Queensland was pleased to see so many Australians pledging to be in their driveways at 6am.

"Anzac Day belongs to the Australian people, and that's become even more evident this year," Mr Hall said.

"In the face of the current public health crisis, they've taken the initiative of finding an alternative way to commemorate the occasion.

"Light Up the Dawn is a way for us all to collectively honour the dedication, commitment and sacrifice of our service people - even though we cannot physically be together as we usually would."

From 6am on Anzac Day a number of local radio stations will be broadcasting a special Light Up the Dawn commemorative service prepared by the RSL which will include The Ode, The Last Post, a minute's silence, Reveille and the National Anthem.

There are lots of wonderful tips on the RSL Queensland website to help you prepare for Anzac Day at home, including instructions for how to make a wreath, planting rosemary, what goes into a traditional Gunfire Breakfast and of course, an Anzac biscuit recipe.

Get all of these tips and pledge your participation in the Light Up the Dawn service at <https://rslqld.org/anzacspirit>

George McBride, OAM

GEORGE, formally of Palmwoods, Cooran, Brisbane, Mackay, Glen Innes, Winton and Cairns passed away peacefully, in Alexandra Headland, on Tuesday 14 April 2020, aged 98 years.

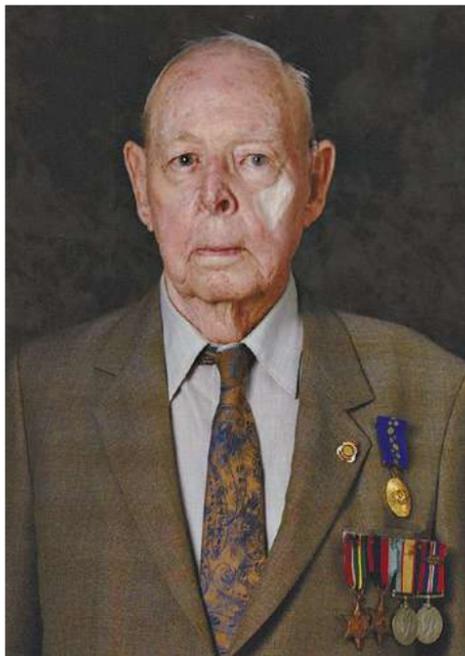
Beloved husband of Joyce (deceased), Father, Father-in-law, Grandfather, Great Grandfather and friend to many.

His memory will live on forever through his generosity and lifelong commitment to community service and his devotion to his country as a World War Two veteran.

A private ceremony was held at Gregson & Weight, Buderim on Monday 20 April.

In 1944 George McBride, together with three other airmen, were involved in a happening in New Guinea that saw a Beaufort Bomber out of Aitipi enroute to Port Moresby, crash in a very remote area of the highlands of New Guinea. George received a Commendation Award from the USAF and was mentioned in RAAF Dispatches for his efforts.

Full story: sunshinevalleygazette.com.au



Yandina & Eumundi RSL remembers online

MEANWHILE, the Yandina & Eumundi RSL sub branch are holding their Anzac day event online. They will live stream key people's contributions from their homes thereby maintaining the current restrictions and still honouring the day.

"We are glad that we are still able to offer a way for our community to come together online to share in this important event from the safety of your home. We are pleased that we can share much of the service that people have come expect with many of our favourite contributors to this event again in Yandina," a spokesperson said.

The commemoration will include hymns and our national anthems by Melissa Isles and the DooWop Dolls;

The Sunshine Coast Caledonian Pipes and Drums; Local iconic bugler Victor Flatt and children from Yandina State School and Yandina Scouts who will be sharing their Anzac Day tributes.



The fallen will be remembered online this year.



Len Friend was a member of the Woombye Light Horse Troop, Nambour Seniors, Neighbourhood Watch, Presbyterian Church, Woombye Palmwoods Lodge, W.C.B.A.

Woombye champions: Lennie and June will remain in our thoughts

Contributed

WELL, here we are on the verge of Anzac Day but, due to the current lockdown situation, we are unable to attend marches or Remembrance ceremonies.

Still, that doesn't mean we can't remember those special people who have gone before us.

I would like to share the memory of two of them ... icons of our community, who have left us but will never be forgotten.

They are Major Len Friend (Retired) or just plain "Lennie" to all who knew him, and the wonderful June Dorsett (nee Topp).

June was a lifelong resident of Woombye and part of the local fabric for many decades. She held various jobs and was still running a Dental Surgery well into her 70s.

But it was in "retirement" she excelled by becoming a vital fund raiser for St Margaret's Church, Woombye. She would sit out the front of the church every Friday and Saturday selling jams, pickles, chutney and her famous tomato relish as well as bric-a-brac etc. She always had a smile and a good word for everyone.

She served her country with her twin sister as an ambulance driver during the War and was the last living name (Topp) on the Cenotaph in the Woombye Memorial Park, along with her sister and brother Aub. At her funeral service, her coffin was draped with the Australian Flag, an honour only bestowed upon those who had served their country in time of war.

Then we have "Lennie" who was involved in everything associated with helping others, particularly veterans. He was a member of the Woombye Light Horse Troop, Nambour Seniors, Neighbourhood Watch, Presbyterian Church, Woombye Palmwoods Lodge, W.C.B.A. You name it, he was in it.

He told me many stories of his brief visit to Vietnam as an observer and how it imprinted on his soul the futility of war and the bravery of those involved.

He always read the Ode at the Anzac Day Ceremony in Woombye and marched in the Nambour March until his death at 88 just before Anzac Day in 2018.

Lennie was also responsible for single-handedly reviving Remembrance Day in Woombye a few years prior to his passing as well as taking the salute of the annual Beer-sheba Day parade.

Lennie's epitaph would be, "Here lies an Officer and a Gentleman!"

Both of these people are highly revered by those who knew them and are never forgotten ... and especially not on Anzac Day.

Vale June and Lennie. Lest We Forget.



20 years of service to Div 5



Cr Jenny Mackay, centre, with Denise and Bruce Morcombe ... "It was an honour to be the inaugural recipient of this prestigious award".

Q&A interview

COUNCILLOR Jenny Mackay looks back fondly on her 20 years as Div 5 Councillor in an interview with *The Sunshine Valley Gazette*.

How was your first year in Council?

In 2000 there were less than 5000 residents in the then-Division 2. And believe me, it kept me very busy. I quickly realised that while I had a number of skills I needed more, and so I took advantage of any professional development courses, conferences and online learning to ensure that I had a collection of tools to best do the job. Whilst these were mostly helpful, I was always cognisant of the associated costs and the time involved and sometimes I would joke and say the best thing I learnt was not to attend the next one!

What was your proudest moment in Council, your best achievement?

Over 20 years there have been so many. But two of the more significant ones that come to mind and are close to my heart were championing and overseeing the development of the Maroochy Botanic Gardens Ecology Centre and the Mary Cairncross Scenic Reserve Discovery Centre. I recognise that the success of these projects came about because of the partnership of the volunteer Friends Groups that strongly supported the process. Both facilities have been awarded some of Australia's highest distinctions.

Best aspect of being Div 5 Councillor?

Being a hinterland person myself with strong connections to the farming and local communities, I could relate personally and professionally to many of the concerns of rural residents. For over 40 years I have lived, worked and volunteered in the hinter-

land area. So the local knowledge and connections I gained proved invaluable to not only maintaining old relationships but also in giving me the capacity to achieve new connections and hence achieve new outcomes.

Worst aspect of being a Div 5 Councillor?

To be quite honest there are really no bad aspects to the job. Frustrating sometimes was the lack of mobile coverage and the pure logistics and distance to cover the whole of the division.

Apart from the people, what's the best thing about Division 5?

Without a doubt the beautiful landscape which changes with every kilometre. Hinterland towns with their own character, open space with rolling hills and views over to the Pacific Ocean, broad acres of farming land in the Conondale area through to rich rainforests and nature reserves.

Do you have a message for the new councillor for Division 5?

I wish the incoming Councillor all the very best and hope that they enjoy serving the communities of Division 5 as much as I did. I am staying local, doing local community things and will always be very happy to share a coffee and provide any input into any decisions that are made for the Hinterland. I will certainly not be writing 'Letters to the Editor' as I know what a tough job it is; and with such a diverse group of residents with differing views, it is difficult sometimes to make the best decisions, even with all the information, whilst ensuring the majority of residents support the decisions made within their local areas.

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

I once received some great advice from a local resident who knew me well from our joint community involvements, which I've always remembered ... "You will need a tough skin to do this job, but never let it

harden your heart or lose the empathy you have for all". I remember this conversation clearly even 20 years later which was given while going up the ramp into the Old Post Office in Palmwoods after catching up this lovely ageing lady. I have kept these words of advice close to my heart, checking them from time to time when the going got tough.

Why did you retire?

It was a well thought-out process and after considering family, health, age and desire to return home to relax — the decision became clear. I am also a great believer in renewal and providing opportunities for younger people to step up into roles where they can have some influence on making decision for their generation, this was all a part of my considerations. I have spent 20 years in Local Government, working hard, enjoying every day, or at least most days! It's time to hang up the hat and allow someone else to build, re-focus and take the hinterland into the next decade.

What are you going to do now?

I am looking forward to spending time with my family, enjoying my home, gardening and of course volunteering my time back to the community. I have several offers of part-time work, which I may consider after a break, but for now it is "lock down" to ensure that I am doing my part in restricting the speed of the CaronaVirus! I was looking forward to saying a few more personal goodbyes and thank-yous — but now is not the time so I will need to wait.

What's the biggest challenge for the new council?

Governments of all levels are going to be challenged as we move through the short and long term impacts of the COVID-19. Like all budgets, inevitably something blows out somewhere, and many other nice (long anticipated) things need to go or be deferred until a more financially sustainable time arrives. This council was already challenged with transitioning from a tourism-based economy to broaden its opportunities in industries like, education, technology, agriculture. Major projects like the International Airport expansion, Maroochy Business and City Centre and managing growth. So the future is certainly not without its challenges. Whilst this Council has done a load of work to better place the Hinterland towns in an ever evolving environment there is still much to do to ensure survival and in particular the once-thriving Nambour town.

Any comments on the election?

I wish to congratulate all the Candidates on nominating. It is certainly very disappointing to me that it would now appear that Party Politics have entered the Sunshine Coast Council Election process. Whilst several large councils currently operate within that environment, I believe that local government should not be politically based and all elected represents working independently and hard for the betterment of their communities — together with all persuasions to deliver best outcomes.

A tiny treasure amidst the gloom

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

WITH everyone in lockdown for the Easter Holidays, we expected our WILVOS 5441 6200 Hotline would be much quieter (Where were the Bilby Easter Eggs?).

However, while there were less fishing line entanglements and road accident victims our volunteers were still kept busy.

With the RSPCA Eumundi Wildlife Centre closed till further notice, and some other wildlife groups dealing with emergencies only, WILVOS are on call 24 hours a day as always. We are very aware of strict protocols with social distancing and hygiene.

Every orphaned and injured native animal is important to WILVOS, so fortunately the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital is open. Many kilometres are travelled by WILVO carers, taking wildlife to the hospital and transporting wildlife from the hospital to our carers.



A little fur-less possum joey has been rescued.

Thanks to our wonderful Hotline volunteers, transporters, rehabilitators and most of all thanks to our wonderful members of the public who phone us. Many of those who called in were happy to take injured wildlife to the Wildlife Hospital or to wildlife carers nearby.

My thanks to Bridget who saw a beautiful big possum lying dead on the road. Stopping to check, she found it was a female, with a little fur-less joey in her pouch. Fortunately, Bridget knew not to pull the little one off the teat. After some massaging at the side of the mouth the teat was extricated and the tiny treasure was brought to me soon after.

If animals are unable to be contained and taken somewhere, then our carers are always happy to rescue/catch/collect. We try to minimise person to person contact as much as possible.

If anyone had told us a year ago that we would spend Easter 2020 in lockdown in the midst of a global pandemic, we would have said they were crazy! Maybe there is a silver lining and Australians will become more patriotic in these disastrous times.

I really believe more people will check where their products are produced, will support local businesses and will buy Australian made. There will also be many standing at the end of their driveways at 6am on Anzac Day, with candle burning, and The Last Post playing. I will miss the dawn service in Nambour this year.

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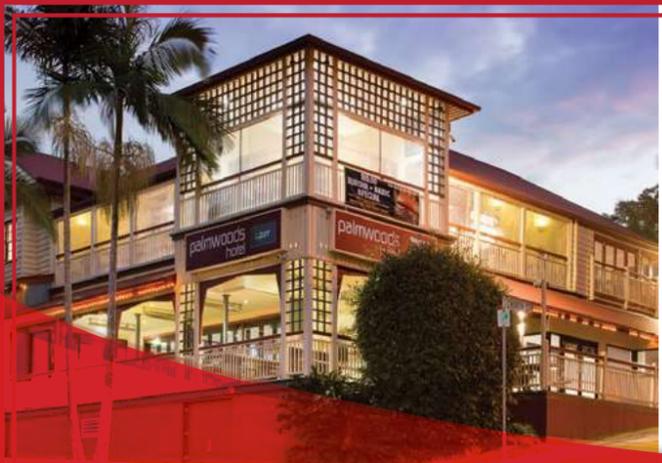
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