

BUNDABERGNOW

weekender

Saturday 26 September 2020

**Troy Elder
relives
Sydney
Olympics**

**Bluesummer to
build custom
disability housing**

**Passing of a
local "Queen"
103 years ago**

**Elijah accepts
no butts from
litterers**

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readies for
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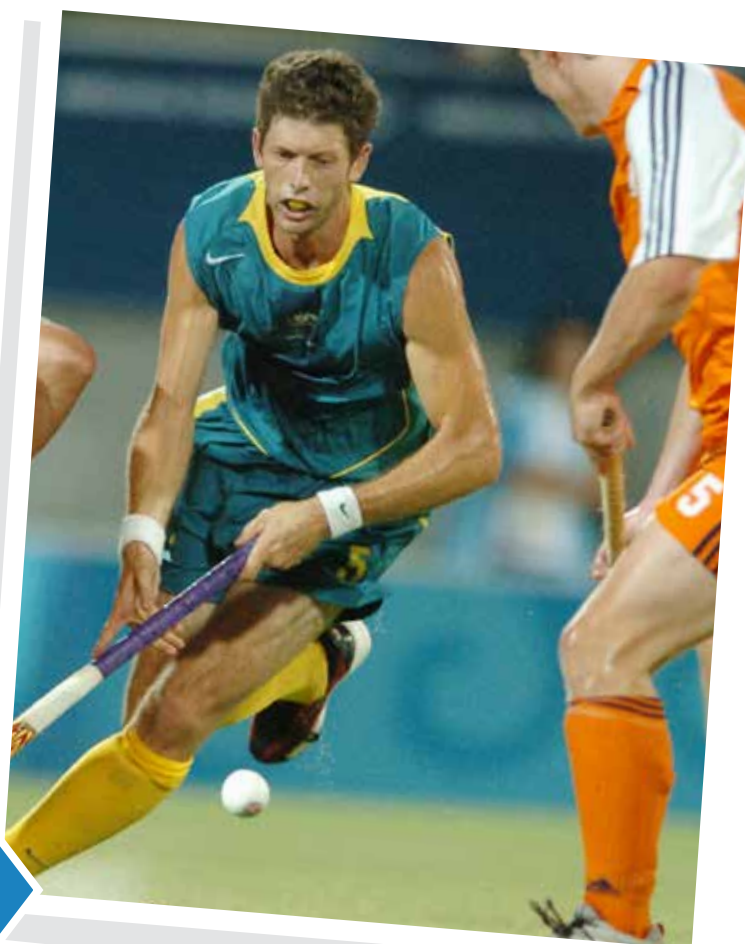
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Olympics



The NRMA Woodgate Beach Holiday Park has lodged development plans with Council to add more caravan sites and introduce mini golf.

Woodgate Beach Holiday Park plans to expand

Megan Dean

The NRMA Woodgate Beach Holiday Park has lodged plans with Council to add more caravan sites and a mini golf course.

The beachfront 3.6 hectare park already offers a range of accommodation options, including camping and caravan sites, houses, villas and newly opened glamping tents.

The proposed extension would see the holiday park add 19 new caravan sites and a 150m mini golf course, two ensuite cabins and a new internal road.

The development application, recently lodged with Bundaberg Regional Council, seeks a material change of use in response to “increasing demand”.

“The expansion is responding to the tourism market, specifically the increasing demand for caravan sites, noting the tourist park also offers houses, villas and cabins,” the application states.

“The additional caravan sites and new internal roadway logically and cohesively extends upon the current tourist park layout.”

The application says the development would “achieve a compact, efficient and functional urban form and maintain Woodgate’s small-scale coastal character”.

It also highlighted the park’s “contribution towards growing the local tourism industry to ensure a more diversified and resilient regional economy”.

The demand for the park was evident when earlier this year the NRMA Woodgate Beach Holiday Park received the most bookings of any NRMA tourist facility in Australia as part of a national marketing campaign.

At the time, park manager Dean Beer said the popularity of the park just kept building.

“We are at capacity most weekends and our mid-week bookings have also been great,” Dean said.

“From now right through to the end of January bookings are very heavy.

“Obviously the pandemic has encouraged many people to seek a getaway from their homes and we are finding that a lot of our bookings are coming from locations close to the Bundaberg Region.”

The application for the NRMA Woodgate Beach Holiday Park material change of use is currently with Council’s development group for assessment.



Arne Huysamen has built Leisure Build into a one stop fibreglass shop.

Leisure Build: a one stop fibreglass shop

Derek Schlenstedt

When the global financial crisis hit and light plane sales halted, Arne Huysamen was quick to diversify his Bundaberg business Leisure Build into a one-stop fibreglass shop.

Leisure Build has thrived to become a leading fibreglass manufacturer in the region.

“We started about 14 years ago mainly doing the Jabiru aircraft,” Arne said.

“We assembled them, painted them and upholstered them so that when they left our doors they were ready to fly.

“We did that until the GFC became a problem all over Australia and declines in those sales lead us to diversification in general fibreglass.

“Our main areas are aircraft, boats and caravans but also trucks, jet skis and surfboards, so if you’ve got something with fibreglass, we can help you out.”

In the last two years, Arne said the business has become responsible for manufacturing Monsoon Aquatics coral tanks.

“We also do coral tanks for a company in Bundaberg, Monsoon Aquatics, and we’ve been dealing with them for over two years,” he said.

“To date we’ve probably made around 36 tanks and I believe this last order that we’re busy with now is being shipped off to Darwin.”

With decades of experience in the fibreglass industry, Arne has also manufactured a boat made completely of fibreglass.

The Leisure Boats Mudskipper is a 3.8 metre fishing boat with level flotation, which Arne said makes it unique and extremely safe.

“I’m a keen fisherman and very family orientated so I wanted to build a practical, stable and safe fishing boat for all ages,” he said.

“The Mudskipper 3.8 has level flotation which means it is very safe and official testing was done by an approved surveyor from the Gold Coast.

“The boat was physically swamped full of water with its load rating of four people inside and the outboard motor, but it did not sink or topple over. It’s a great little boat.”

Arne said the business has sought to become Bundaberg’s fibreglass specialist, complete with a specialised spray paint booth for all paint repairs.

“We’ve had everything and anything in here, a lady with a dog trailer, we’ve just refurbished a 1917 surfboard for someone for Father’s Day, and we’ve had hovercraft’s and beach buggies.”

“We’re trying to get to the point where we are a one stop shop.”

Leisure Build is located in the Airport Club carpark on 15 Squadron Drive.



Southern Cross CEO Cheryl Barrett and Bluesummer Properties Project Manager Jason Medcalf in front of the site for new disability housing.

Bluesummer to build custom disability housing

Megan Dean

Bluesummer Properties is progressing plans to build a block of four units which will be its first custom designed disability housing project in Bundaberg.

The disability housing specialist is aligned with locally owned Southern Cross Support Services with the two organisations working in tandem to deliver essential services and safe and comfortable accommodation for the disabled.

A development application was recently lodged with Bundaberg Regional Council for the construction of the block of units which will provide a “forever home” for four clients.

Bluesummer Properties project manager Jason Medcalf said they already had nine properties in the region which had been modified to meet the needs of clients, but this project would be the first specialised housing project.

“The advantage that we have being partnered with Southern Cross, the homes that are designed are designed to suit the clients as a forever home,” Jason said.

“Our unit design is based on the fact that a lot of people with a disability like to have their own castle.

“We don’t jam five or six clients in the one house, we generally build them their own unit.

“It’s not the profit it’s the smiles on faces.”

Jason said Bluesummer’s alignment with Southern Cross gave them an advantage in designing and delivering disability housing

because it was based around the experience Southern Cross had gained over 10 years in the local industry.

That has led to certain design considerations like including an overnight support room which carers can use as often as required.

“That opportunity there is to be able to be flexible in the support depending on the client’s needs.”

He said the units would include the latest technology as well as video monitoring at entrances and emergency buttons throughout to ensure client safety.

As project manager he’s also ensured all units are capable of retrofitting ceiling hoists and rails should they be needed in future.

“We build it to the absolute highest standard we can.

“It’s better to be there and not needed.”

Clients have already been identified to live in two of the units and Jason anticipates that all four units will be filled by the time the Bluesummer disability housing is complete.

“We built four knowing full well there’s that demand there,” Jason said.

Based in Bundaberg, Jason said Bluesummer delivers disability housing from Cairns in the north to the Gold Coast in the south.

With a total of 22 properties across Queensland it is currently in the process of building nine units in Hervey Bay and six in Mackay.

What's ON BUNDABERG



David Attenborough A LIFE ON OUR PLANET

2 Oct

One man has seen more of the natural world than any other. This unique cinema release is his witness statement.

**29 Aug
- 18 Oct**

A Bridge Through Time

A Brief History of Bundaberg's Iconic Bridges by the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads.

**29 Aug
- 18 Oct**

FOUND! Studio Dog Exhibition

Local artist Adrienne Williams has curated the works of 40 artists in Gallery One & Vault spaces.

**29 Aug
- 9 Nov**

Art as an Act of Optimism

A retrospective of the #artsbundiyathome initiative and the artworks created during shutdown due to COVID-19.

**19 Sept
- 5 Oct**

2020 Hinkler Hometown Holiday Special

Are you a local resident of the Bundaberg Region and looking for some school holiday fun?

2 Oct

Aladdin - Free Family Film

Bundaberg Regional Council presents a free screening of Aladdin at the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre.

2 Oct

2020 Gidji Art Community Mosaic Workshop

This event is a tiling mosaic which will be held weekly, every Friday up until project is completed.

Be the
first to know

whatsonbundaberg.com.au



Flood protection has been identified as one of Bundaberg Regional Council's priorities for the State Election.

Flood levee a Council priority for State Election

Michael Gorey

Flood protection, a new Bundaberg Hospital and fixing Paradise Dam top Bundaberg Regional Council's State Election advocacy priorities.

Council has released its advocacy document for the state election, outlining 29 economic, social, community and environmental initiatives.

Mayor Jack Dempsey said the aim was to get support from all political parties and candidates for a positive regional agenda.

"Our advocacy priorities are aligned with the needs of our community and opportunities to grow our region over the next few decades," he said.

"Our priorities seek to achieve strong economic and social outcomes across our community, while also protecting the environment.

"In many cases Council has shovel-ready projects to create jobs and deliver much-needed community infrastructure."

Mayor Dempsey said implementation of the 10-year Flood Action Plan was essential to provide investor confidence in the Bundaberg CBD, give residents peace of mind and reduce insurance premiums.

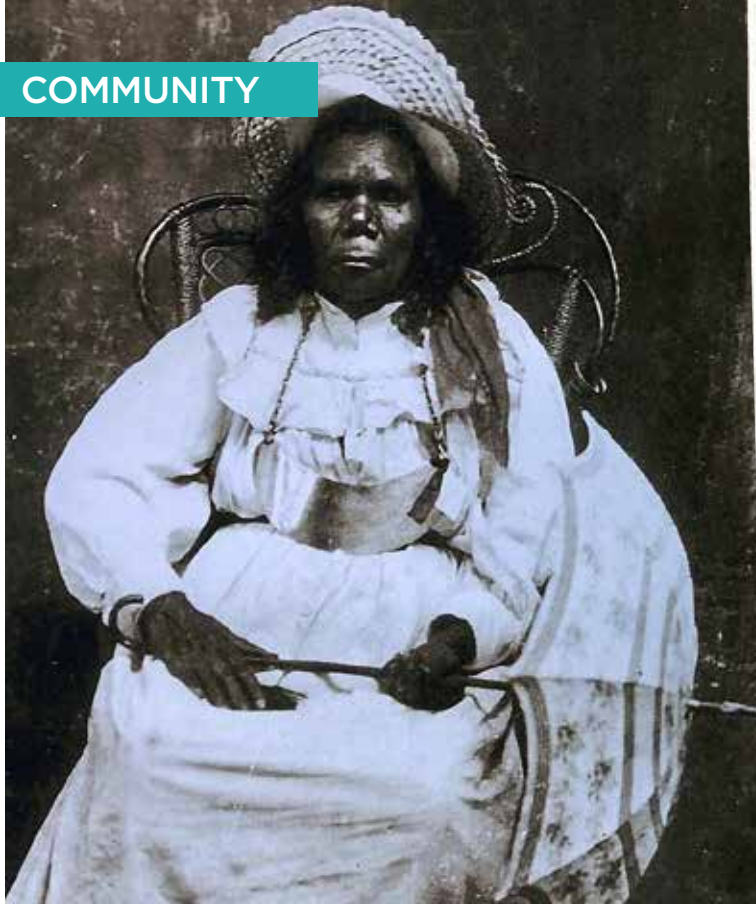
"The Bundaberg East Levee is estimated to cost approximately \$80 million," he said.

"Our position is that before the end of 2020, the State Government commits to funding and delivering the Bundaberg East Levee including all ongoing operational and maintenance costs.

The Bundaberg East Levee is estimated to cost approximately \$80 million

Mayor Dempsey said other projects included delivering the new Bundaberg Hospital, water security, diverting heavy traffic from Quay Street, funding the proposed regional aquatic centre, upgrading Moore Park Road and building a cycle path to Bargara.

"We're seeking bipartisan support from all parties and candidates to deliver the priorities listed in this document," he said.



Maria, Queen of Childers circa 1910. Her umbrella and breastplate, complete with inscription and engravings of a kangaroo and emu, were synonymous with this highly respected Aboriginal elder.

Passing of a local “Queen” 103 years ago

Wayne Heidrich

Located in the Apple Tree Creek Cemetery is an unspectacular rock with a simple plaque attached marking the final resting place of an Indigenous woman once feted as “Queen of Childers”.

This Friday, according to a 1926 Childers newspaper report, marks 103 years since the passing of Maria, Queen of Childers. The report states that Maria passed away on September 25, 1917 at the Childers Hospital aged 80 years.

Like so many details surrounding Indigenous residents of the era, the December 21, 1926 newspaper reports conflicts with the plaque at Apple Tree Creek Cemetery which states Maria passed on March 26, 1917. The 1926 report is from the Isis Recorder, the local newspaper at the time and it could be surmised that the same newspaper may have reported on the passing of Maria in 1917.

However, a list of recorded deaths purportedly from Council cemetery records, confirms a date of March 26, 1917 with a simple entry of “Maria”.

The story of this elder of the Butchulla (Batjala) people is peppered with contradictions and uncertainty but what is not in doubt is her seemingly revered status in the early years of the Childers community.

In the early 1900’s Maria was known as one of the last remaining members of the Gubbi Gubbi tribe living in the Childers area.

Businessman Alan Holmes, owner and founder of Towcha Technology identifies Maria as his great, great grandmother. Towcha Technology is an Indigenous business providing high level technology support and development to Australian corporations and governments.

The company has offices in Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

As part of the company profile Mr Holmes, a Gubbi Gubbi man, writes that “Towcha” is his ancestral family name.

“Maria Towcha, a Batjala Kabi woman, otherwise known as ‘Queen Maria of Childers’, was my great, great grandmother,” said Mr Holmes.

“She was a famous local Indigenous woman who lived behind the Childers courthouse and was a

popular figure in her community. Interestingly, the European settlers of Childers engraved her name on a breastplate as a gift for Maria and, to this day, this memento is regarded as a rare family treasure.”

Reports confirm that Maria did live, quietly and undisturbed, in a feed room behind the courthouse. The origins of the engraved brass breastplate which is secured at the Isis District Historical Society complex in Taylor Street, are also a little clouded.

Maria Towcha, a Batjala Kabi woman, otherwise known as ‘Queen Maria of Childers’

Some reports claim the breastplate was given to Maria by local solicitor Mr JJ Butler. Other reports indicate the presentation was made by Colonel CDW Rankin.

It may well be that the breastplate was organised by Mr Butler but that Colonel Rankin, being the areas Member in the Federal Parliament, added further gravitas to the award by making the presentation to Maria.

Maria was reportedly delighted to receive the recognition highlighting her position as an elder among the Butchulla people and it apparently did allow her a certain status in the local community.

Breastplates bearing inscriptions for Aboriginal kings and queens were commonplace in the early 1900’s. Bundaberg had a “King Charlie”. Both Maria and Charlie are listed among literally hundreds of such Indigenous breastplate holders across the nation.



A simple stone and plaque mark the final resting place at Apple Tree Creek Cemetery of Maria, Queen of Childers.

Maria had two sons - Woppi, who lived at Theodolite Creek for many years, and Cobbo whose descendants still remain in the Cherbourg - Murgon Region.



BE ACTIVE, BE ALIVE!

An initiative of the Bundaberg Regional Council

2020

Free Activities Program
across the Bundaberg Region

October - December

Four
weeks
of

**PARK
workouts**

mSwing
Fitness for Life
Mind and body

Four
weeks
of

**POOL
workouts**

bundaberg.qld.gov.au/healthy-programs

No prior registration required

Just turn up and sign on for the FREE activity

Numbers limited due to COVID-19



Weeding out the nasties: Heather Wieland (left) and Vicki Williams undertake their usual Wednesday morning activities as Woodgate Weedbusters.

Wednesday is weedbuster day at Woodgate

Wayne Heidrich

The Woodgate Weedbusters are community volunteers who help to keep the Woodgate Beach foreshore free of invasive weeds.

They scour the foreshore dunes every Wednesday and weed out unwelcome plants while also collecting pieces of litter.

The Woodgate Weedbusters provide an invaluable service to the local community and support the work of Bundaberg Regional Council.

A Woodgate Weedbuster with around 20 years' service is Heather Wieland who remains passionate about ensuring Woodgate's dunal systems do not harbour invasive species that compete with native vegetation.

"I helped set up Weedbusters about 20 years ago. Our main goal was to stem the tide of mother-of-millions, a declared pest plant that was really taking a hold along the foreshore area," Heather said.

"Thankfully Council also came on board and they have conducted spraying programs that have greatly stemmed the spread of the plant.

"We have a couple of teams who turn out each Wednesday morning for up to 90 minutes and simply patrol areas looking for pest plants."

Heather's offside Vicki Williams has been volunteering for about three years.

"It's just nice to do something for the community in which you live," she said.

"We've also got a pretty tough workplace," she laughed, indicating the broad expanse of beach and blue ocean.

"There's a number of plants for which we are on the lookout.

"Scotch thistles, burrs and a plant commonly called New Zealand Spinach are among the ones we are eradicating with a particular emphasis on the burrs."

In addition to their regular weedbusting efforts, Heather and Vicki recently joined with local groups including emergency services personnel to undertake a Woodgate clean-up day before the school holidays.

"The day is organised by the Woodgate Residents and Ratepayers Association," Heather said.

"Due to current COVID-19 restrictions we were not able to undertake our annual Clean-up Australia Day activities earlier in the year, but this recent effort ensured we were able to spruce up prior to the influx of visitors.

"We had a team of about 20 and we managed to get out as far as the vet's premises at 951 Woodgate Road, which was a pretty fair effort."

Heather said it was always heartening to hear positive feedback about the attractiveness of Woodgate Beach.

"Recently there has been some wonderful feedback through organisations like Trip Advisor and I know the local Holiday Park has also been the subject of some very positive commentary."

"It's nice to think that the little bit of time we contribute does go towards that positive image of Woodgate Beach and its community," Vicki said.



Elijah Richardson with a container of cigarette butts he cleaned up from Innes Park North.

Elijah accepts no butts from litterers

Megan Dean

Seven-year-old Elijah Richardson is cleaning up the region's beaches and has asked people to stop littering after collecting hundreds of cigarette butts in a matter of days.

Elijah became a self-made eco warrior by chance after becoming increasingly concerned by the amount of litter he saw near waterways.

He has been cleaning up any time he's out and about but in an effort to inspire more people to do the same, he's started to coordinate clean up days which the community can participate in.

The high volume of cigarette butts found in recent weeks played a big role in Elijah's desire to up the ante with his cleaning efforts.

"One of the times we found 157 cigarette butts," Elijah said.

"A week later there were about 54.

"It's really lots and I feel really sad about it because people are just dropping them and not being caring.

"Where I've been picking it up from, it's only 15 steps away from the bin."

Elijah, who is a Reef Guardian School student, keeps a clipboard on him when cleaning up to record the data and keep a tally of rubbish collected.

The highlights from his litter haul are also published on his Instagram page Elijah's World Qld.

He's hoping his story will encourage people to stop littering.

"It's important because every creature that lives on the reef can be affected by it.

"If they are left on the ground here the wind will just take them all the way into the ocean then they can break down or any creature can eat them.

He's hoping his story will encourage people to stop littering.

"I really hope that people do because it's just so helpful for the environment."

He targets beaches throughout the region including Mon Repos, Burnett Heads, Bargara and Innes Park North.

Elijah encouraged anyone interested to join him for a clean up event at the Bundaberg Port Marina on Saturday 10 October from 8 am to 11 am on 15 - 17 Marina Drive, meeting at the Lady Musgrave carpark by the path near the water.

"People can just come and join in," he said.

"We'll give people bags and gloves."



Bundaberg resident David Eslick received a Lions hearing dog called Jake and says the fox terrier-jack russell cross is a lifesaver.

Hearing dog is more than a set of ears

Derek Schlenstedt

You've heard about a guide dog, but what about a hearing dog?

Bundaberg resident David Eslick received a Lions hearing dog called Jake on 18 September and describes the 15-month-old terrier-cross as a lifesaver.

With the canine companion by his side, David said he knows when the doorbell rings, when the oven's ready or when the phone's calling.

"I really am so lucky to have him," David said.

"Everybody takes for granted the normal things like the telephone ringing, smoke alarm going off or the microwave and oven ringing.

"Those things I can't hear, so Jake knows these sounds and he can alert me to any of these.

"What he does is jump on me when the oven or doorbell is going and takes me to the sound."

Jake is dog number 621 as part of the Australian Lions Hearing Dog program, which has been helping deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals around Australia since 1982.

The cost to train an Australian Lions Hearing Dog is currently \$37,000, however they are given out

free of charge to hearing-impaired people as a gift from Lions Clubs of Australia.

Jenifer Carter, assistant secretary at the Lions Club of Moore Park Beach said they helped sponsor and fund the dog's delivery.

"We were lucky enough to meet Jake on Thursday and he is such a sweet little dog," Jenifer said.

What he does is jump on me when the oven or doorbell is going and takes me to the sound.

"The Lions Australia have funded this little dog, and the Moore Park Lions have also put in a certain amount of funding.

"The training is actually done in Adelaide, so Jake flew up from South Australia and had his own seat on the plane."

“We’re extremely fortunate to be delivered and help people in this way and we’ll be checking up with Jake and David to see how they get on.”

In public an Australian Lions Hearing Dog can help a deaf or hearing-impaired person pick up on environmental sounds that they may normally miss, such as a person coming up behind them with a trolley.

Having Jake and a hearing dog improves my quality of life.

As with guide dogs for the vision impaired, hearing dogs wear a special identification harness when outside and are allowed into all public spaces.

David said living with deafness can often be a lonely, isolating experience, but hearing dogs offer love, company and independence.

He said the hearing dog program was relatively unknown and he urged others to apply.

“My deafness comes about from years in the entertainment sound industry and can’t be fixed with a Cochlear implant,” David said.



Jake the hearing dog.

“Having Jake and a hearing dog improves my quality of life.

“I can go out with confidence now. I can go out and not have to worry about missing things or relying on people to tell me things.

“It wouldn’t be possible without the Lions Club of Moore Park Beach and the Australian Lions and I’m so thankful to them.

“This is a great program that really helps people with deafness and the more people that know about it the better.”



Take advantage of sweet potatoes grown locally in the Bundaberg Region with this tasty recipe for roasted sweet potato soup.

Sweet Potatoes Australia’s seven-ingredient recipe is easy to make and can be ready from pot to bowl within just an hour.

Roasted sweet potato soup

Serves 4

Ingredients

500g of peeled, diced sweet potato
300g of peeled, diced carrots
Salt and pepper
Olive oil
2 peeled and diced onions
2 cloves of garlic, peeled and crushed
1 litre vegetable stock
Sour cream and cracked pepper to serve

Method

Roast sweet potato and carrot together for 25-30 minutes at 180°C with a drizzle of olive oil and salt and pepper to taste.

Heat some olive oil in a large pot and fry onions until soft.

Add crushed garlic to the pot, and cook until aromatic.

Add vegetable stock and bring to the boil. Simmer for 5 minutes.

Add roasted vegetables to the pot and blend with stick mixer until smooth.

Serve into bowls with a dollop of sour cream and a sprinkle of cracked black pepper.

To find more sweet potato recipes click [here](#).



The newly renovated foyer of the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre. Inset: Rod Ainsworth and Cr John Learmonth at the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre ready for the reopening on 2 October.

Moncrieff readies for reopening

Derek Schlenstedt

It's been a long six months but on 2 October the **Moncrieff Entertainment Centre** will reopen to the public.

During the six-month COVID closure, Moncrieff Entertainment Centre staff have taken the opportunity to give the centre a major revamp, with work being undertaken on the foyer, bar and auditorium.

Bundaberg Regional Council arts and culture portfolio spokesperson, Cr John Learmonth, said he was looking forward to seeing audiences come through the door.

"It's been a very long time since we've seen audiences in the venue," he said.

"This is wonderful news for our arts landscape and I am delighted the Moncrieff Entertainment Centre is reopening.

"The show will go on with live music events about to begin again, the Travelling Film Festival coming to town and the COVID-safe plans are all in place. The Moncrieff is back!"

A fresh new look

Patrons coming through the doors at the Moncrieff may notice a number of new changes, most notably in the auditorium.

Centre manager Rod Ainsworth said the COVID closure provided ample time to complete improvements.

"We had a bunch of projects which were planned throughout the year, so we pushed them all together," he said.

Patrons coming through the doors at the Moncrieff may notice a number of new changes

"We've upgraded all the front of house, food and beverage service areas and the auditorium and the ticketing system and the point of sale

systems have been upgraded too. We've done as much as we possibly can in this time."

Rod said the auditorium has been designed to improve the sound quality for live performances.

"The auditorium will look incredibly different," he said.

"It's more of a variable acoustic, so we can have great acoustics for cinema and for amplified events and then we can automatically pull the curtains up and get a great live sound for orchestras, live theatre and other non-amplified events. It allows for the best of both worlds."

Revised program launched

The Moncrieff Entertainment Centre has also rebooted its official program, with the release of the new Resprung booklet just in time for the reopening.

Resprung highlights the feast of exclusive events coming to the region along with a variety of holiday events.



The aptly called resprung booklet, launched on 21 September, highlights the feast of exclusive events coming to the region along with a variety of holiday events.

"We've got a whole bunch of cinema events starting with a free movie for the kids on 2 October," Rod said.

"We've also got the travelling film festival and it's fantastic that we've got that as we smashed records last year and it's immensely popular."

"Then there's also a couple of live events that are happening such as Mzaza with their show The Birth and Death of Stars. Mzaza are a fantastic folk band out of Ipswich."

Looking to the future

Once the theatre has reopened, Rod and the team are faced with imagining what the future might look like, but plans are already being made for 2021.

"We're already looking at putting together a great program for 2021 which includes all the things that we postponed this year and turn next year into a cracker," he said.

"We're also beginning to program 2022.

"We are proud to be able to open and to offer our patrons a brand-new feel and it's our pleasure to continue to add to the cultural, social and economic fabric of our community."

MONCRIEFF

resprung

NEW PROGRAM
OUT NOW

BUNDABERG REGIONAL COUNCIL | MONCRIEFF ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

artsbundaberg.com.au

kanopy



NOW Streaming

Thoughtful Entertainment

I Am Not Your Negro

Watch with your library card

Instant access to over
30,000 films on your
desktop, tv or mobile



kanopy.com

Bundy teacher wins Spirit of Catholic Education Award

Contributed

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Bundaberg teacher Pauline Merefield won the 2020 Spirit of Catholic Education state award.

She was selected from a record number of nominations with 215 received from across Queensland.

Pauline has been an active member of the school and Holy Rosary Parish communities for more than 30 years, volunteering to teach religion in state schools for 33 years and acting as chairperson of the local Catechist group for 25 years.

As a specialist science teacher at catholic schools in Bundaberg, Pauline has facilitated enrichment days for all year levels and organised regular intensive days for science investigation.

She has been Coordinator of OPTIMINDS teams to local, state and national titles for over 25 years.

“We were very humbled by this award . . . we love what we do, and we never forget where we come from and why we do what we do”

Pauline has also championed the school's environmental projects and established a corridor of endangered Woongarra Scrub that Year 4 and 5 students contribute to and maintain every year.

This project has been operating for 12 years.

Pauline said she was shocked to be named the recipient of the 2020 Spirit of Catholic Education Award.



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Bundaberg teacher Pauline Merefield won the 2020 Spirit of Catholic Education state award.

“It came as quite a surprise and is very humbling, but this is a team effort as St Joseph's school is very supportive enabling me to do the things I do, particularly around the environment,” Pauline said.

“Church and faith are a big part of my life and have certainly influenced the way I look at life and my ministry across both school and parish.

“Service and Mission are the foundations of this faith that I live by.”

Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton was also pleased to announce its Indigenous Education Team was one of two state recipients of this year's Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award.

Just one of many highlights, the team has developed the Indigenous Education Growth and Development Tool which schools use to promote insightful and honest reflection about ways of working toward true reconciliation and deep respect.

Team members Brad Jarro, Indigenous Education Coordinator; Phillippa Johnson, Indigenous Education Support Officer and Shelley Major, Indigenous Career and Transition Pathways Officer were thrilled with the award.

“We were very humbled by this award ... we love what we do, and we never forget where we come from and why we do what we do,” Phillippa said.

Rockhampton Diocesan Director of Catholic Education Leesa Jeffcoat congratulated all who were nominated for a 2020 Spirit of Catholic Education Award.

“I extend to them and to all who partner with them in the Ministry of Catholic Education, my heartfelt thanks for all they do nurture in the students entrusted to our care a love of God, a love of neighbour, a love of the natural environment and a love of learning that will last a lifetime,” Miss Jeffcoat said.



Council workers Jason and Jacob assist volunteer Ray from the Community Centre maintain the gardens.



Moore Park Beach garden a labour of love

Trish Mears

While visitors to the Moore Park Beach Community Centre all appreciate the colour and variety in the gardens, they may not realise the hard work that has gone into it.

Community Centre coordinator Silvia Abel said the transformation has been breathtaking.

“I have been involved with the Community Centre for nine years and when I first started the gardens were overgrown and unloved,” Silvia said.

“Five years ago Ray joined us as a volunteer and he has been amazing.”

Ray, along with Council staff Jason and Jacob from parks and gardens who look after the public spaces at Moore Park Beach, have developed the Community Centre gardens together over the past three years.

IN OUR GARDEN

“Ray had a plan to make the gardens easy to look after for any new volunteers and he has certainly achieved that,” Silvia said.

“Everyone who works on the gardens now loves it, as they are such a joy to be around.”

One of the important changes has been growing waterwise plants

One of the important changes has been growing waterwise plants.

Clever planting and landscaping have also played a big part in the garden’s success.



“The garden in front of the hall has been opened up so people can see the front of the hall.”

When asked what she loves about the gardens, Silvia’s answer was simple, but emphatic.

“Everything,” she said.

With the Moore Park Beach Community Centre being used every day by a variety of groups and classes, the joy is certainly spreading.

Ray has a plan to make the gardens easy to look after for any new volunteers and he has certainly achieved that



If you have a favourite garden you would like featured in our weekly In our Garden segment email communications@bundaberg.qld.gov.au.



FREE
Movie

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Bundaberg hockey player Troy Elder won Olympic medals at Sydney 2000 and Athens 2004.

Photo from Brisbane Hockey by Husted Images.

Troy Elder relives Sydney Olympics

Vince Habermann

Twenty years on from the Sydney Olympics, one of Bundaberg's finest sporting products Troy Elder has fond memories of his whole experience as part of the Australian team.

He still cherishes the bronze medal which he earned at those Games, bagging a hat-trick of goals in the Kookaburras men's hockey team's 6-3 win over Pakistan.

"But it was a mixed bag of lollies. We had to get over the disappointment of not making the final, so we didn't achieve what we set out to do but that's what sport is all about," Troy said.

"But it was my first Olympics and holy moly, it was exciting. I got the chance to do what not a lot of athletes get to do - compete in a home Olympics in Sydney and the buzz around Australia was something special.

"The Opening Ceremony was pretty awesome; we were fortunate enough to go along and Hockeyroo Rechelle Hawkes got to read the Athletes' Oath.

"How Cathy Freeman responded to the expectations of public pressure was something to remember and every event we got to see

Australia compete in was memorable, there were lots of milestone events."

Troy said holding the Games was Australia's greatest ever performance to the world as well.

"Unfortunately I didn't get to the pool to see Thorpey and Co but all team members were in their own way highlights for me, whether they won medals or achieved PBs as part of a greater team, and everyone would nod their head and say giddy and good luck," he said.

"Personally, three goals in the bronze medal match was special but I would have preferred to score in the semi-final. I would have traded them in instead of saving them all for that.

"Still a bronze medal was nothing to be sneezed at - an Olympic Medal - you work hard for any achievement and to come away from the Games with something was still a great effort to achieve.

"All the bronze medals were made out of one and two cent pieces that had been taken out circulation and that's also something to explain to the kids."

Four years later in Athens, Troy was a solid contributor when the team finally secured Australia its first Olympic gold medal in men's hockey after 48 years of trying, scoring in three

of the Kookaburras' games, including the first goal in the team's 6-3 win over Spain in the semi-final.

The team beat defending champion the Netherlands 2-1 for the gold.

"Obviously, the gold will always hold pride of place," Troy said.

"It's what hockey holds as the most prestigious event and to achieve that with a group of like-minded people and some of your closest friends was definitely a highlight.

"Just the atmosphere of Sydney was definitely not replicated in Athens.

"In Sydney there were so many people in and around the village and all sports were pretty much in one area and it was more of a sports expo feeling and the village sports centre was a fun and exciting place to be but in Athens, the venues were spread out all over the place."

Troy retired from international hockey at the age of 30 in 2007, going out on a high after the

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Kookaburras won a four-test series against the Netherlands.

He finished with 104 goals in 169 games, but he continued to play for Queensland Blades in the AHL championships for a number of years.

He now lives in Brisbane with his wife and two daughters, eight and 10, and he still plays hockey in between all his work and family commitments.

Troy regularly visits Bundaberg as his parents Ray and Debbie, other family members and many relatives and friends still live here.

He did not get back for the recent Bundaberg Hockey grand finals, won by his childhood club All Blacks in the men's division, completing four straight premierships under the coaching of his younger brother Ricky, who was also a key player in each and who told him all about it.

He also visits periodically in his work position as construction manager of the Water and Wastewater Division of Pensar Infrastructure in Brisbane.

"We also do electrical, roads and anything in constructions," he said.

"We do a fair bit for Bundaberg Regional Council and have just done the water treatment plant upgrade at Branyan."

"Bundaberg will always be home for me, and we are never far away."

Rotary 
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(near airport)

9 October
9am - 7pm

10 October
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