



Scenic News

Tamborine Mountain, Canungra, Tamborine, Beechmont, Beaudesert, Cedar Creek, Boyland

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LITTLE BEES ARE A SECRET NO MORE

Alex Griffiths in Little Bee's Secret Garden at Canungra. A little like its name, this small but cheerful and inspiring business remained a bit of a secret at first, but is now becoming a 'must see' destination for a growing number of students and visitors from throughout the Scenic Rim and beyond. Little Bee's Secret Garden is a native bee garden and nursery which arranges regular demonstration workshops and sells a range of plants, native bee 'hotels' and other bee products. See Q and A on Page 9.


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MOVE TO THE GOLD COAST THE CASE FOR AND AGAINST

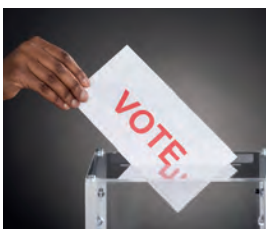
ONE BALLOT BOX RELOCATED

The Red Ballot box at the Tamborine Medical Centre has been relocated to a more accessible and populous location in the IGA Centre at the Thirsty Camel Bottle Shop. It is just in the door on the left as you walk in. I hope this makes it easier for you to access, in a larger carpark.

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AS YOU CAST YOUR HOUSEHOLD PLEBISCITE VOTE.

- Did you know that both Boonah and Beaudesert towns are considerably smaller than Tamborine Mountain, yet they have a Government Agency which includes a Transport and Main Roads Office, but Tamborine Mountain doesn't? WHY IS THAT?
- Did you know that Scenic Rim Regional Council (SRRC) built three "signature playgrounds in Boonah, Beaudesert and Canungra but not on Tamborine Mountain? WHY IS THAT?
- Did you know that over the last nine years more than \$100 million has been spent on Scenic Rim bridges, and \$100 million on roads. Firstly, we don't have any bridges nor has money been spent on a single major road project on Tamborine Mountain since SRRC began. The state of our roads and pothole is appalling! WHY IS THAT?
- Over the life of Scenic Rim Council less than 4 per cent of the Council Capital Budget has been spent on Tamborine Mountain yet it has the highest population and pays the highest average rates. WHY IS THAT?
- Did you know that Beaudesert has a Government subsidised TransLink bus service (Route 540) to Browns Plains that operates Monday to Friday leaving and returning to Beaudesert hourly from 6.50am to 6.15pm in the evening? Tamborine Mountain has a once-a-day service to Beenleigh Station? WHY IS THAT?
- Have you ever noticed the public gardens in almost every other Centre and Town in Scenic Rim has Council-maintained flower gardens, yet not a single flower is planted at council roundabouts, the cenotaph, or in road landscaping on Tamborine Mountain, the tourist capital of the SRRC? WHY IS THAT?
- I average nearly one Office of Independent Assessor complaint a week about Council internal matters from anonymous complainants (up to 40 now in just 13 months) that most often try and stop me from writing my columns to keep you informed, and former Councillor Nigel Waistell received similar treatment about forwarding emails. WHY IS THAT?
- Did you know that most State Government grants are channelled through the Scenic Rim Regional Council, yet when both the State and Federal Governments are throwing money at infrastructure projects, Scenic Rim Council has made no applications for major funding such as ... an aquatic centre to replace our "unfit for purpose pool", or the Long Road extension to mitigate fire risk, or for our clogged and in disrepair Main Western Road, or for a western escarpment bikeway; and no funding for Stage 2 of the Tamborine Mountain Sports Association Clubhouse after waiting for nine years, or for a new indoor basketball facility, a toilet for Lions Park, or parking area for the buses at Tamborine State School ... just to name a few. SRRC has no plans for facilities that would house numerous much-needed State-provided Social Services for the Mountain. WHY IS THAT?
- Despite thousands of people signing petitions, Council closed down the pig and calf saleyards in Beaudesert as it objected to its being Heritage listed and had made plans to remove all the mature shade trees in the beautiful Boonah main street without community consultation. WHY IS THAT?
- Did you know that your Council rates support the operation of a Cultural Centre in Boonah, an indoor Aquatic Centre in Boonah, plus an Administration Centre that has had hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on upgrading it in the last few years? Beaudesert also has a Cultural Centre that cost about \$3 million to convert from the former Civic Hall, and Beaudesert has a very large administration centre, soon to have an approximate \$12.5 million library added to it as well as an \$8 million parkland precinct with ancillary works. Yet no Council or State funds have been applied for to create or assist any type of Cultural Centre or Artisans Centre for Tamborine Mountain, the capital of the Scenic Rim for creative industries? WHY IS THAT?
- Council has a "One size fits all approach" to Planning and Council Policies and a "One Scenic Rim" Marketing and Renaming agenda. Tamborine Mountain is unique, an international brand and does not want to morph into, or become JUST like Beaudesert. WHY IS THAT?
- Yes ... we are great rate contributors to Scenic Rim, but the cards will most likely always be stacked against us economically as we are only 1 per cent of the footprint. Your living standards stagnate and/or go backwards, your rates increase, while the rest of Scenic Rim infrastructure prospers. WHY IS IT SO?

Voting is open for two weeks - The Household Plebiscite commenced on Monday 24 May with Ballot Papers being delivered by Australia Post to 3094 households in the postcode 4272 and will close on FRIDAY 11 JUNE AT 12 NOON.



Should you wish to discuss anything with me the following are my contact details:

Derek Swanborough: 0401 306 659

Email: swanyusa@gmail.com

These are my own personal views & I do not purport to speak on behalf of Council. Decisions of Council are made only by majority vote.

ADVERTISEMENT





The Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens team has been working hard to prepare for a major celebration of plants on National Botanic Gardens Day on Sunday 30 May.

The volunteers are joining more than 100 botanic gardens across Australia and New Zealand to host their sixth Botanic Gardens Day celebration with an invitation extended to all.

The renowned Potty Potters have been busy preparing an abundance of plants for sale from 8am until 2pm - or until sold out - and, as usual, there will be a sausage sizzle to tempt the

taste buds. Follow the "Plant Sale" signs through the Gardens to the large propagation enclosure at the southern end.

Plants will be available for as little as \$5 and card payment will be available.

The team is looking forward to a record attendance at the event in the 11-hectare site on Forsythia Drive, with a wide range of plants propagated directly from the Gardens collection.

All funds raised from the plant sales and other events on the day go directly to maintaining and improving the Gardens.

The team has planned some exciting activities for children in Sooty Owl's Creekside Trail. The trail is a wonderful educational path filled with signs explaining how a rainforest environment works. There is also the amazing "thong gong" for children to play tunes, a crooked house and water wheel, a water pump, and a space for exchanging questions.

The new Upper Hillside Walk is almost complete with large interpretive signs now in place, describing the Mountain before and immediately after white settlement. The planted forest surrounding the walk is made up of trees and shrubs that existed on the Mountain before white settlement.

For details of Botanic Gardens Day, visit the website tmbotanicgardens.org.au or the Facebook page.

Top: The Potty Potters have been working hard to have a wide variety of plants available for sale on BGANZ Day.

Left: Volunteers take a rest while working to prepare Sooty Owl's Creekside Trail for Sunday's festivities.



For a full summary of Derek Swanborough's MOVE TO THE GOLD COAST: THE CASE FOR AND AGAINST, visit www.scenicnews.com.au/plebiscite-info to download the PDF

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Relationships



D.R.A.I.N. - Neglecting Values

Nothing will drain your relationships more than neglecting your values. Values are our deepest desires for who we want to be and what we want to stand for.

They guide our behaviour and decision-making and motivate our actions - most of the time! Living your values brings stability and authenticity to your life, because you know who you are and what you stand for (or won't stand for). Instead of living with regret, you live with confidence and a sense of purpose. Living in alignment with your values also brings you closer to those around you.

Sometimes we treat our values like our wardrobe. We have the outfits that we reserve for special occasions when we really want to impress. We hang them on special hangers and treat them with care. Then there are those items that we wear around the house - the kind we stuff all wrinkled into a drawer. It doesn't matter what they look like when we put them on, after all it's only family that sees us wearing it. Have you ever been in the middle of a heated argument with your spouse and suddenly there is a knock on the door? You open it and are greeted by a friend you haven't seen in a long time. Hostile and frustrated partner outfit is quickly discarded to be replaced with welcoming and affectionate friend outfit!

The home environment is often where we let our values slip. If you were asked what sort of partner or parent you want to be, would your answer include moody, aggressive, sulky, nagging, distant, manipulative? Not likely! Yet, in times of stress, trauma, failure, loss



or sudden change, we can get out of alignment with our values and our actions can resemble some of those descriptors. When we're out of alignment it doesn't feel great because we recognise we are not our best self.

Living consistently by our values is not easy but writing down your values can be a helpful step toward living them. By writing them down, we elevate our values to something important and give them significance. Allocate each value its own page. Think about what this value means to you and write down a personal definition. Defining your values in your own words is a powerful way to connect deeply with what's most important to you. Next, reflect on times when you have demonstrated this value. Write down the ways you see this value showing up in your life. Begin to think about how you might build on what you are already doing. When it comes to your relationships, what would a consistent life see you doing more of or less of?

Yes, we all have times when we are out of alignment and we say or do things we later regret. Make things right with the other person and determine to get back to the core of who you are.

Linda Gray
linda@relationshipsanctuary.com.au
0401 517 243

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Jon KRAUSE MP
Member for **Scenic Rim**

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FREE SERVICE AT ROSLYN LODGE

Physique Physiotherapy is teaming up with Griffith University and Beaumont Care's Roslyn Lodge to provide an amazing service to the community once again.

We are incredibly proud and excited to announce our free physiotherapy service for people with neurological conditions and injuries.

Finding the right medical care and help after being diagnosed with a neurological condition is one of the biggest struggles people face and we are extremely pleased to be able to offer some help to people in need.

Here are the exciting details:

Physique is hosting a five-week clinic at Roslyn Lodge specifically for our Mountain residents who suffer from neurological conditions. The clinic will be run from 14 June to 16 July; it will involve a comprehensive assessment, personal rehabilitation plan and unparalleled access to physiotherapy treatment at no cost.

We will be working with physiotherapy students completing their final placements from Griffith University – this is amazing as they are full of the latest, most up to date knowledge and cutting-edge treatment techniques.

The goal is to provide a service that enables our community members with a neurological diagnosis to access free physiotherapy rehabilitation services in a local setting. While we do treat a lot of these clients already at Physique, we felt that there was still a treatment gap in the local community.

I will be running the clinic and supervising the students along with a Griffith University physiotherapy lecturer and researcher Ben Goodlich. We are so excited to be able to bring the service back again as it was such a great help for the community in 2019 when we initially ran it.

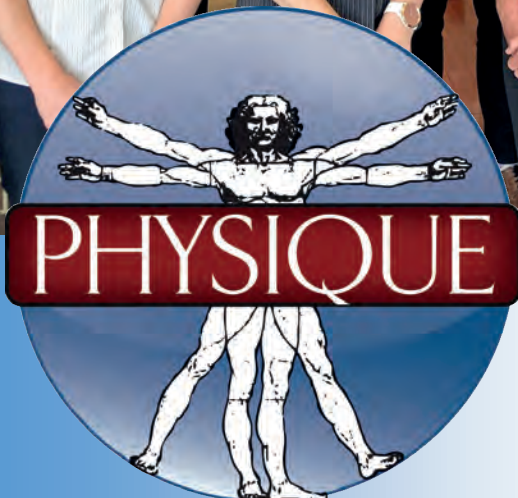
Physiotherapy is an incredibly important aspect of treating all neurological conditions – we aim to ensure our clients are strong, have good balance and are maintaining their health to the highest possible standards. The evidence shows that good quality, regular exercise with appropriate guidance is essential to reduce risk of falling, increase life expectancy and most importantly quality of life.

We at Physique are looking for clients for the students to help. Some examples of conditions that are eligible to access the unique clinic are: Alzheimer's Disease; Amputees; Parkinson's Disease; Brain Aneurysm; Brain Tumour; Brain Injury; Cerebral Palsy; Dementia; Gullian-Barre Syndrome; Motor Neurone Disease; Multiple Sclerosis; Muscular Dystrophy; Spinal Cord Injury; Stroke; Vertigo; Patients at risk of falls; Elderly patients requiring rehabilitation due to deconditioning as a result of a fall, hospital admission, injury or surgery.

We cannot wait to help as many of our community as we can, so please don't hesitate to contact us at the clinic to secure your spot.

Phone: 5545 1133

Email: admin@physiquehealth.com.au



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Property of the week

SALE 🛏️ 5 🛁 4 🚗 4 ✂️ 11 acres

Spectacular panoramic views \$4,987,000+

Lot 10/163 Curtis Road, Tamborine Mountain

- Great outdoor living, gourmet kitchen, heated spa, firepit area
- Guest level with own kitchenette, living & outdoor area
- Home office, wine cellar in basement & elevator
- Fully air-conditioned, gas fireplace, bore & solar

AGENTS: Ton Wolf 0424 591 012
Paul Edwards 0419 249 271
Heleen van Daalen 0424 591 011



Property of the week

SALE 🛏️ - 🛁 - 🚗 - ✂️ 2,137 m²

Prime development opportunity \$999,000 +

22-24 Manila Street, Beenleigh

- Cleared level site, 34-metre street front located between Brisbane and Gold Coast, easy access to Pacific Highway & Logan Motorway
- Zoned low-med density with Preliminary approval to build 38 units
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AGENTS:
Mark Inwood 0407 292 036
Debra Opie 0409 210 362



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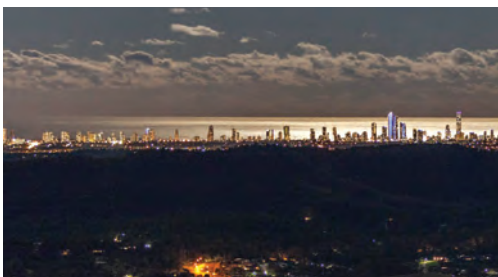
register L1/ 135-139 Eagle Heights Rd



Review: 18-52 Fenwick Road ★★★★★

Mark and Debra worked as a great team. From the initial contact, when Mark offered to appraise our property, to the closure of the sale, we have been treated with utmost respect and consideration. The outcome was great, all parties happy.

AGENTS:
Mark Inwood 0407 292 036
Debra Opie 0409 210 362



SALE 🛏️ 🛁 🚗 ✂️ 1.98 ha

Lot 2/163 Curtis Rd, Tamborine Mountain

- Expansive Gold Coast views
- Level building site, North facing aspect
- Secure & private in Numala Estate
- Underground power, intercom entrance
- Surrounded by quality homes

EOI

AGENTS: Ton 0424 591 012
Paul Edwards 0419 249 271
Heleen 0424 591 011



SALE 🛏️ 4 🛁 3 🚗 1 ✂️ 1,091 m²

28 Central Avenue, Tamborine Mountain

- Sought-after location within walking distance to everything you may need
- Spacious lounge/dining with gas fire
- Great entertainment area
- Fitted out studio, garden & yard fully fenced

\$975,000

AGENTS:
Elizabeth Stirling
0400 449 978



SALE 🛏️ 3 🛁 2 🚗 2 ✂️ 830 m²

285-287 Macdonnell Road, Tamborine Mtn

- Very private, great outdoor decks all adding to living space in all weather
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AGENTS:
Barry Chick
0418 876 191





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for the

QUEENSLAND DAY

FREE MORNING TEA
Wednesday 2 June | 10am - 11am
Tamborine Mountain Library

Thursday 3 June | 10am - 11am
Boonah Forecourt

FREE FAMILY EVENT
Sunday 6 June | 10am - 1pm
Jubilee Park, Beaudesert

Win vouchers for fresh local produce in our **Steak-themed games**, in support of our Scenic Rim producers. Music, pony rides, bush buddies, jumping castle, face painting, stalls and more

 **queenslandday**

These events are part of the Queensland Government's Queensland Day celebrations 29 May - 6 June 2021.




CCS2021.0014

INTO THE CLOUD

We have always maintained that the best record keeping system for you to use is the one you feel the most comfortable with. This could be a simple paper-based cash book, a series of spreadsheets or the more well-known bookkeeping products put out by Xero, MYOB, and QuickBooks. Generally speaking, if you are comfortable then you are also accurate, and if you are not then at least we can track the errors quickly.

As you start out in business, basic books and spreadsheets might be all you need. However, before long you may need to register for GST and file BAS returns. Regulation adds a layer of complexity and accuracy becomes more important. These days, if you employ others, then to meet the ATO's single touch payroll obligations you most certainly will need software.

As accountants we see and can work with all manner of record keeping – it is what we have been doing for more years than I can remember! However, a client with clear records means we can get straight to work with tax and achieving great outcomes. Good records mean less risk with any ATO scrutiny too!

Most importantly, what about you? You need good records too. A good record keeping system will enable you to keep an eye on your business. Are you making a profit? Is your business growing? Are you being paid on time? Can you afford to pay your bills? Are your prices correct? If your system cannot give you these answers then frankly you need a better system, and this is where modern cloud-based software solutions win hands down.

So, what is the cloud? Simply put, the cloud is where your files and data live. When you use services such as email, Facebook, internet banking – you are using the cloud. The cloud is a platform to make data and software accessible online anytime, anywhere and from any device with an internet connection. It enables you to run your business from work, home or on the go.

Traditional accounting software came in a box or was downloaded. Data was only up to date when you completed the data entry, software needed frequent updates and relied on you to back it up. The whole process was fraught with the danger of being lost or corrupted.

Nowadays, cloud-based software is linked to your bank account – it is live and up to date. Your software can have multiple users which means key people (like us!) can access your business data, pitch in to help when you have an issue and work on your file when required. No need to bring in records on USBs, by email or by post.

Updates which normally caused headaches and problems are usually carried out by the software provider and there is no need for backups. Typically, you subscribe to cloud-based software by the month, a bit like a Netflix subscription. There is nothing to download, so it's both cheap and easy to get up and running.

Would you like to take a look at what cloud-based software can do for your business? Get up and ready for the new financial year by attending our next in-house event where we will walk you through Xero software. We love Xero – it's easy to use and very visual ... so you don't have to like numbers to know how your business is going.



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Q&A with the Scenic News

Alex Griffiths is the creator, owner and passionate custodian of Little Bee's Secret Garden, located at 8 Kidston Street, Canungra. Visitors to the cozy nook that is home to Little Bee's Secret Garden invariably come away relaxed and enthused.

What inspired you to open your business and what do you have planned in 2021?

After a rocky start to my forties, my business Little Bee's Secret Garden was born from the four things that inspire me the most: my children, native bees, gardening, and reading. "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." (Native American proverb)

I began this journey at the Canungra Community Garden, which I also started. I was able to source funding for a colony of stingless bees, and I was done, down the rabbit hole, hook line and sinker in love with native bees. I just loved everything about them: the fact that they look all sugar-and-spice sweet but are truly warriors; the way they carry pollen on their hind legs, their sense of community and getting the jobs done, the matrifocal society, the way they can tumble in and out of their door clumsily like a bad army roll. They are fascinating creatures, and I'm sure everyone would agree!

2021 will see more workshopping and speaking events (that had to get put on hold last year due to COVID-19) and an upgrade to Little Bee's Secret Garden.

What did you do before opening your business?

I have been (in decreasing order of age) a stay-at-home, homeschooling mum, a police officer, a wedding coordinator for Japanese weddings, and cabin crew for Japan Airlines.

How would you describe your business?

Little Bee's Secret Garden is designed to inspire all to create bee-friendly greenspaces. It is an open garden designed to be an ideas palette, and the platform for raising awareness of Australia's native bees. I sell plants, gifts (all bee-focused, of course), bee hotels, and native bees from Little Bee's Secret Garden.

What is it about your business that you love?

Sharing what I love with others and seeing them get addicted to native bees too; and being in the garden all day.



Alex Griffiths

Is it a business that gives you satisfaction?

I created my business on the premise of combining my passions so that my work would fill my cup, and yes, it does.

If you were not doing this what would your ideal job be?

Presenter on Gardening Australia. I wish.

Interesting facts about yourself?

If I'm eating chocolate, it can only be 70 per cent dark chocolate, and I prefer my coffee long, black and sugar-free. I'm the quiet type but make a great audience as I laugh at all the bad Dad jokes. I have two degrees, the first was a Japanese language degree, and the second was psychology.

What do you do for fun?

Planting flowers and spotting native bees is up there, but I'm loving the bushwalks, and dancing with my kids in the living room.

Final thoughts

Bees are essential workers in the preservation of biodiversity and ecological balance. In fact, the presence of bees is an indicator of a properly functioning ecosystem, and it would crumble without them. Our food security relies upon their pollination services, but they are also essential pollinators of our wildflowers and native plants. The bees' vibrational buzz is powerfully meditative, and they have taught me far more about myself, humanity, community, and togetherness, than I could ever hope to condense into one small business.



JON KRAUSE MP

State Member for Scenic Rim

GOAT TRACK OPENING SOME TIME OFF

Last week in my column I acknowledged the concerns held by residents and business owners with respect to the Department of Transport and Main Roads' timeframe for repairs of the landslip on the 'Goat Track' (Tamborine Mountain Road) between Canungra and Tamborine Mountain. I got to visit the site last week and posted a video on Facebook showing the extent of the damage. It will be some time yet before this road reopens; unfortunately, the indicated timeframe from Main Roads for completed repairs is the end of the year.

Following the initial rockfall last year, it has taken a long time - and a lot more fallen rocks - to get to a point where the site is stable to the point that a contract can be awarded to actually fix the road. The frustration of this road being closed is something I know is being felt by many, and this has been conveyed to Main Roads by me. All the rain in recent months hasn't helped and caused further instability and delay. Fixing it will be a tough job and involves some risk to people on site. As further information becomes available, I will let you know.



GAMBLING COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Round 110 of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund is now open and community organisations have until 30 June to apply for grants of up to \$35,000. I have provided letters of support for numerous community groups, and together with other grant initiatives, our region has received more than \$18 million in grant funds for community organisations since I was elected as your representative in 2012. Please contact my office for more information or to request a letter of support, and visit justice.qld.gov.au

CONGRATULATORY LETTERS

Do you know someone with a significant birthday or anniversary coming up? I'd love to write them a letter to celebrate the occasion. You can also receive a letter from Federal Member, Scott Buchholz MP, the Premier of Queensland, Governor of Queensland, Prime Minister of Australia, Governor-General, or Her Majesty the Queen. For more information or to request a congratulatory letter, please contact my office on 5515 1100 or email scenicrim@parliament.qld.gov.au

If you have an issue that you think should be fixed, I encourage you to contact my office, toll-free on 1800 813 960, so I can lobby on your behalf in Brisbane. Quick question? SMS 0401 63 44 88.



SCOTT BUCHHOLZ

Federal Member for Wright

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DROPS AGAIN

Labour force figures released last week show there were 13,040,400 Australians in work in April 2021, with the level of employment now 45,900 (or 0.4 per cent) above its pre-COVID level in March 2020 and 902,500 (or 7.4 per cent) higher than the trough in the labour market recorded in May 2020.

Encouragingly, full-time employment rose by 33,800 (or 0.4 per cent) over the month, to a record high of 8,889,500 in April 2021, and is now 24,600 (or 0.3 per cent) above the level recorded in March 2020. The Morrison Government's 2021-22 Budget will help to cement Australia's economic recovery and will secure our prosperity.

LOCKING IN AUSTRALIA'S FUEL SECURITY

The Morrison Government is taking strong action to further boost Australia's long-term fuel security by locking in the future of our refining sector. Its fuel security package will help secure Australia's recovery from the COVID crisis and build self-reliance through our fuel stocks and refining capability, protecting 1250 jobs and supporting families and businesses from higher fuel prices. This investment will also produce better quality fuels, including ultra-low sulphur levels, which will improve air quality and deliver an estimated \$1 billion in lower health costs.

NATIONAL FLU VACCINATION PROGRAM

Influenza vaccines are now available through community pharmacy and GPs around the country. It is important to get the flu jab from now to ensure you are protected at the peak of the season which is usually between July and September. Flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines protect against different viruses, both of which are potentially serious. Everyone aged over six months should receive a flu jab, and all adults should also receive their COVID-19 vaccine when it is scheduled.

ELECTRICITY PRICES AT NINE-YEAR LOW

Australians are continuing to access low-cost energy, save money and get ahead, with yet another report confirming electricity prices keep falling. The Australian Energy Regulator's recent report found average electricity prices across the National Electricity Market are at their lowest first quarter levels since 2012. Lower energy prices will help secure Australia's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, putting more money back into the pockets of households and businesses.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF YOUNG



The Morrison Government is continuing our support for the mental health and wellbeing of children and young Australians with a \$26.8 million investment in the Yourtown Kids Helpline. Caring for the mental health and wellbeing of Australians, particularly children and young people, is one of the Australian Government's highest priorities. The service provides a free, private and confidential 24/7 telephone and webchat counselling support, specifically for young people aged five to 25 years.



PLEA FOR NEW MOUNTAIN SWIMMING POOL

As a frequent swimmer, I would like to plead for a better and larger swimming pool on Tamborine Mountain.

First of all, I would like to thank the Rackley team for looking after us and many other people who have been visiting the local swimming pool for many years.

The team has been doing an excellent job, despite the many challenges of unexpected high visitor numbers, hot days, impact of COVID-19, equipment failures and maintenance issues.

The present pool dates back to 1981; it is now 40 years old. It measures only 9.15m by 25m, allowing just six lanes for lap swimming. Change room and shower and toilet facilities are inadequate. The pool has no or limited facilities e.g., for infants and toddlers, disabled and special needs people.

The last seasons have seen increasing numbers of visitors to the swimming pool - a growing number of Mountain residents, school students requiring swimming classes, and visitors to the Mountain. On many occasions it is impossible to find a lane to swim.

Unfortunately, our swimming pool is not heated and is only open for swimming six months of the year. The present small-sized pool becomes a public health hazard, especially on hot days when large numbers of visitors stretch its facilities. This swimming season the pool had over 10,000 visitors.

A bigger pool with an indoor section would benefit the health and wellbeing of so many local residents.

Having an adequate all-year round pool has been a priority for Tamborine Mountain for many years. This should provide a dedicated area for small children to play, adequate access for special needs people and for teaching how to swim. Many of my patients would benefit from a heated indoor pool section, allowing all year-round swimming. The only larger outdoor pool in the Scenic Rim is located at Beaudesert. That's a 45-minute trip one way for most locals, and especially for the schools it is too far and impractical.

A new swimming pool with indoor section was planned for in the development of the sports grounds at Long Road. Unfortunately, without any Scenic Rim Council funding for grounds



maintenance, the TMSA (Tamborine Mountain Sports Association) is currently already struggling to make ends meet, let alone have funds for a new swimming pool.

The Scenic Rim Council has no plans to provide a new pool for Tamborine Mountain. In my personal opinion it seems very unlikely we will ever get a new pool on Tamborine Mountain. It is for this reason and the simple reason of economy of scale, that I support Councillor Derek Swanborough's quest for Tamborine Mountain to leave the Scenic Rim Council and amalgamate with the Gold Coast City Council.

Dr Jan Zomerdijk

A CALL TO KEEP ON VOICING CONCERNS

I applaud Vanessa Bull for her efforts to sustain a vibrant and well community, both during her time as councillor and most recently for her frank Letter to the Editor, that relates to Derek Swanborough's advertisements about moving to the Gold Coast City Council.

Thank you also to Phil Giffard who followed with a similarly open letter that went back a little further in time to unpack some of Vanessa's reputable achievements, that it seems were built on Mr. Giffard's strong leadership during his tenure.

With equal interest I read Tom Sharp's comments who challenges Derek Swanborough's notion of shifting to the Gold Coast City Council by noting the

way to fix our council's issues is not to run away but to stand and demand good governance and leadership.

Although in a different local publication, I also welcome Nigel Waistell's viewpoint given he is not in favour of such a move either.

I hold concerns we may be within a period of autocratic leadership; a leader-centred style or authoritarian style. I am more acquainted with servant leadership that is characterised by listening, empathy, healing and building community.

I therefore urge those of us against the move to the Gold Coast City Council, who may not be willing or able to put advertising in our local publication, to keep voicing concerns, publicly and privately, so that our servants (councillors) have no choice but to hear us.

Felicity Mandile

WORK WITH THE DEVIL WE KNOW

When I arrived on the Gold Coast 38 years ago, the population was 160,000 approximately, and Surfers Paradise was a small beachside township - not a high rise in sight. Great for bringing up kids. Look at it now!

Choking traffic congestion, inadequate public transport, high crime rate, out of control drug trafficking, an exploding immigration of new residents from

continued page 12



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN MEDICAL PRACTICE

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Dr Cobie Powell
Dr Hok-Yee Siu
Dr Marije Dalebout
Dr Jardin Taha
Dr Nisha Nangrani
Dr Lauren Ries

Accredited by



Letters to the Editor

continued from page 11

southern states - it is within this environment the Gold Coast City Council has to survive.

Thus, for the Gold Coast City Council any new source of revenue is an advantage. For example, the Mayor and Council recently approved an increase in building heights = increased revenue.

On the "spend" side of the ledger, take a look at the new HOTA Art Gallery. Years of planning, international design competition, consultation with the population (those interested enough to take note), and finally a building which houses an Art Gallery, and a couple of "high end" restaurants, embodied in what looks like an imploding Rubik's Cube.

Cost to the ratepayers: \$60.5 million whether you voted "Yes", "No" or "Indifferent".

Before agreeing to change irrevocably the Tamborine Mountain you live in and treasure for its gentle paced life, its magnificent forests and fresh mountain air, think carefully. Are you prepared for the possibility of being developed into a full-blown tourist destination?

Perhaps it may be wiser to become proactive and put more pressure on the council you already know. Ask for transparency. Let's know what funds are being allocated to what/whom and why haven't our previous requests been fulfilled. Residents have a voice, and it needs to be heard every day, not just on polling day.

Follow the lead of the new Mayor of Ipswich Council who was elected on a platform of transparency. Let's work with the devil we know, get transparency, and try to preserve our community in the best possible way.

E. R. Ford

GARDENS NAME CHANGE DILUTES UNIQUE QUALITY

The beautiful and much admired Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens has resulted from a huge effort made over a number of decades by Garden Club members and other supportive residents.

The Springtime on the Mountain festivals brought in the much-needed funds whilst members and residents worked hard at establishing wonderful gardens at a site originally proposed for a sewerage disposal area in 1983. Several years ago, a group split from

the Garden Club to form a separate Botanic Gardens organisation. They continued to work to produce the splendid gardens we see today.

However, the proposal with the best of intentions to broaden its name to regional and shire wide dimensions is perhaps something the proponents have not thought through sufficiently. Apart from dividing the community, the proposed name change dilutes and devalues the unique quality of the Tamborine Mountain Botanic Gardens.

The gardens display plants which originate from all over the world. However, what distinguishes Tamborine Mountain gardens from anywhere else is the collection of a unique cross-section of plants not found in other gardens such as in Scenic Rim, Brisbane or the Gold Coast. Located on a plateau, with something like four seasons, we are able to grow tropical plants as well as cold climate ones. This is the exceptional distinguishing quality that has attracted admiring people from far and wide. Why would you want to disguise it?

If one Googles the list of Queensland botanic gardens, of the 30 listed, four list "region" in their title and about half do not include the specific location. Everyone knows that Queen's Park Gardens is in Toowoomba. Unnecessary words are being proposed for a bulky name change.

Here the term "region" is misleading. Tamborine Mountain is a regional asset of South East Queensland. It has up to 80 per cent of the flora and fauna of the Gold Coast region. And then again, it is part of the shire of Scenic Rim.

Inclusion of location is unnecessary. Tamborine Mountain itself has been world famous since the late 1800s. It is the most visited day destination in South East Queensland. International cruise ships when in port at Brisbane list it as a day excursion. Its gardens have reached international fame, with several presidents of Queensland Gardening Australia owning spectacular gardens here.

But there are wider problems. This proposed name change comes at a time when we are struggling to have the name "Tamborine Mountain" out there in neon lights. This is to alert off-mountain decision makers steering the Mountain's future development. So far, no one has been listening that Tamborine Mountain has unique value qualities and is immensely vulnerable to inappropriate development.

These alarm signals from many residents have been muted by the current Mayor's grand vision for Scenic Rim shire. This is a "one voice, one size fits all" vision that is lethal to the Mountain's distinct core character. Other communities in the shire have their own problems where historic and community values are being ignored.

Not recognising that Tamborine Mountain (without reticulated water and minimum infrastructure) has limited development potential, decision makers have injected significant population growth here in last year's new planning scheme. And then there is the water problem. Despite the now year-long water moratorium, a fourth off-mountain supplier for bottled water has snuck in under the radar.

The Mountain's residents just don't need the title "Tamborine Mountain" further airbrushed out of existence.

J. Lockey

WEAPONIZING THE COMPLAINTS PROCESS

I refer to Jon Krause MP's column in the 13 May 2021 edition of *Scenic News*. The Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA) was established on 3 December 2018 as part of the Queensland Government's commitment to local government reform. It was under-resourced and under-funded from Day 1 and received a staggering number of complaints in its first year.

Those within council who have despotic tendencies can lodge ridiculous, innumerable time-wasting complaints against councillors, as happened to Cr Waistell (55 complaints) and now Cr Swanborough (approaching 40 and none upheld to date).

This is an abuse of power and of the function of the OIA. Better still, the threat of an \$11,000 fine for lodging a frivolous or vexatious complaint (as happened to me) does not seem to apply to complaints originating from within council.

When a councillor/mayor gets a whiff of a potential complaint against them, the trick is to "self-refer" to the OIA. That way, the OIA may well make its decision solely on what the person provided to them, usually not the full story, as was the case with the decision made on 13 April 2021, which states "The OIA considered all the relevant information in relation to this matter, including advice from council that the decision in relation to the legal assistance provision was

made independently by the CEO under an existing delegation."

The flip side of the use of delegated authority, under council's own Legal Assistance Policy and Guideline, is that any such approval MUST be presented to the next council meeting for a vote by councillors. That would have been the meeting of 19 January 2021. Not on the Agenda, not in the audio recording and not in the Minutes. Why not?

Coincidentally, last week, the OIA published Insight Edition 9 | Office of the Independent Assessor (oia.qld.gov.au) highlighting complaints issues. Unfortunately, the stats for SRRC are forever buried within the regional stats published under "Greater Brisbane/Darling Downs", the regional area with the greatest number of complaints and containing a mix of various categories of councils, including Category 3. My request to the OIA to provide stats specific to SRRC was speedily refused. I have requested a review.

For those interested in the SRRC complaints made and finalised to date (37 at the last count), they can be viewed here: ECM_11248192_v1_RE: Councillor Conduct Register April 2020 - March 2024 as at 18 March 2021 (scenicrim.qld.gov.au)

Rather than an image and logo change, I suggest a name change to be more reflective of "our" council: Scenic Rim Retribution Council.

If you want a more transparent and accountable council, please consider signing the petition to be presented to the Queensland Premier: Petition · Stop the Rot at Scenic Rim Regional Council · Change.org

Amanda Hay

SOLUTION IS NOT TO HEAD INTO UNKNOWN

Much is wrong with the way the Scenic Rim Regional Council manages our affairs. Ex-Councillor Nigel Waistell summarises this very well in his recent letter to *Scenic News*.

Also, it should not be forgotten that our Mayor, during his election campaign, promised higher levels of transparency and community consultation.

Ominously, both have since sunk to record lows. It doesn't help that we on the Mountain seem to be treated as weirdos to be routinely disregarded.

Even though we have about 20 per cent of the shire population, we don't have the numbers in Council, we have

little clout, and our views and priorities don't count. Also, it rankles that the percentage of the shire rates we pay is kept a deep, dark secret.

However, shifting to the Gold Coast would make our lack of representation much worse. With the hope of achieving lower rates, we would be sacrificing any last vestiges of influence over the future of our Mountain.

Each of the Gold Coast's Divisions has about the same population as the entire Scenic Rim. So, in our Gold Coast Division, we would have the same numbers problem as we now have in the Scenic Rim. To make it worse, our councillor would probably not be from the Mountain. The real crunch is yet to come. The Gold Coast has 14 divisions so our little squeak would be diluted another 14 times and would disappear in the noise. We would have to stake everything on the belief that the huge majority on the Gold Coast would respect our priorities. I don't have that belief.

The carrot of lower rates for properties of unchanged valuation dangles from a rather shaky stick. I think the comparison should be between properties offering the same environment and lifestyle. Of course, there are anomalies near the boundaries of the two local authorities. Those just over the boundary into Gold Coast have the benefit of both lifestyle and low rates.

I also have a problem with the plebiscite format. There are to be only 3094 ballot papers delivered singly to households. They thus seem to be directed preferentially to rate payers and the result could be biased. Incidentally, how is a majority to be defined?

The behaviour of our Council has become unacceptable. It seems that the solution is not to head off into the dark unknown but, as a community, take every step possible to be heard and to have the present situation corrected.

Phil Giffard

LOCAL GOVERNANCE OBLIGATIONS IGNORED

In launching his plebiscite promoting the exit of Tamborine Mountain from the Scenic Rim to the Gold Coast Council, Derek Swanborough continues to blatantly ignore his obligations under the *Local Government Act 2009* whilst collecting his councillor remuneration of \$70,759 plus expenses. (July 1, 2021).

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Letters to the Editor

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Readers are reminded that letters to the editor must show full name of writer for publication.

Section 12 of the *Local Government Act (2009)* spells out the obligations for all councillors and Sect. 12 (6) states When performing a responsibility, a councillor must serve the overall public interest of the whole local government area.

Dereck Swanborough is clearly and knowingly acting contrary to his legislated obligations to serve the overall public interest of the whole of the Scenic Rim government area. Derek is absolutely entitled to promote his exit plebiscite but not as a sitting councillor, so Derek quit your \$70,759 position and do so as an unelected ratepayer. I object to subsidising your salary through my rates.

Your preoccupation with your Exit campaign has denied Tamborine Mountain residents from effective representation.

How can we expect a council to consider any proposal from you whilst you are doing your best to weaken that council? The result is no effective local representation on the community improvements that are needed. Little wonder Council capital expenditure seems to bypass Tamborine Mountain when Derek is promoting the exit from the Scenic Rim Council area.

It appears that the editor of the *Scenic News* is supportive of Councillor Swanborough and his plebiscite goals with a front cover depicting Derek standing in front of a Conservation Area on the Gold Coast boundary inferring that the Gold Coast Council is more conservation focussed and anti-development than the Scenic Rim Council. We all know that is a nonsense and let us not forget that Derek used his casting vote to approve a development application against the express and formalised objections of the Justin Avenue neighbours to the proposed development.

During the last two months we have been subjected to a series of paid advertisements in *Scenic News* purporting to put the for and against case for EXIT. It has been a very one-sided and blatantly biased campaign. As an example, Derek outlined the case for remaining in the Scenic Rim with a number of one-line reasons for remaining, followed by a one paragraph immediate rebuttal of such reasons: hardly a balance presentation of the for and against case.

During the past few weeks, I have been impressed by letters and articles by past Councillor Vanessa Bull and Tom Sharp who have spoken against any move to the Gold Coast whilst emphasising that that the real problem

is the quality of the representation not only in Tamborine Mountain but across the Scenic Rim in general. Vanessa put her view in a very controlled and civil manner which I find difficult to replicate, so annoyed am I regarding Derek's lack of adherence to fundamental governance obligations as a sitting councillor.

There have been so many vindictive letters to the editor regarding the Scenic Rim Council's operational processes and behaviours that I no longer know what is correct or incorrect. However, any council that has 40 complaints lodged against a sitting councillor not only reflects poorly on that councillor but also the council itself. Such a situation is untenable and inconsistent with good, focussed, and constructive council decision making.

There is enough doubt around the performance of the Scenic Rim Council and its elected representatives to indicate improvement is necessary, but the answer is not an exit of Tamborine Mountain to the Gold Coast. I for one will not be participating in Derek Swanborough's plebiscite, as by doing so adds a perceived element of legitimacy to a flawed process promoted by a sitting councillor acting in breach of his legislated obligations. I, for one, cannot ignore such an appalling defiance of basic governance principles.

Ian Langdon

TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN IS NOT THE GOLD COAST

I choose to live on Tamborine Mountain precisely because it is not the Gold Coast.

Having been involved, along with many other residents and associations, in lots of fights to protect the character and identity of the Mountain, I will not support or endorse the current push to give away our beautiful Mountain to the Gold Coast City Council.

Tamborine Mountain is the "Jewel in the Crown" and would inevitably become the target of the two overriding Gold Coast cultures of development and mass tourism, despite all the optimistic assurances.

Regarding the rates, the amount we currently pay is surely a very small price to pay for the privilege of living on the Mountain - and not living on the Gold Coast.

I do not want to live in a just another Gold Coast suburb with minimal representation on the Gold Coast

City Council and our Mountain to be promoted like a theme park and as a "must see" destination to all Gold Coast visitors. (Remember the cable way fight).

I am sure that these feelings are shared by a considerable majority of residents, as they were in 2007 during the formation of the Scenic Rim, when 99 per cent of the Mountain population overwhelmingly stated that they wanted to stay in a semi-rural, environmentally focussed shire and did not want to be consumed by the Gold Coast.

Everyone I talk to says that they take in a great big breath of fresh air as they come back up the Mountain after the hustles and hassles of the Gold Coast or Brisbane and all that traffic.

It seems that the root cause of this proposal are the current issues including the always recurring ones of planning and rates. However, these problems certainly do not warrant removing ourselves to the Gold Coast City Council.

The right place to resolve these problems, and push for new initiatives, is within the SRRC itself, however challenging and time consuming this process may be. This is what councils and councillors, including our own representative, are there to do, as in any local government anywhere.

For us, the residents, the remedy, as always, is at the ballot box when the performance of the current council, mayor and councillors can be assessed and they can be voted back in again, or not, as we decide.

To propose that these current problems justify the massive risk of giving the Mountain and all that we hold dear to the Gold Coast for them to solve for us is out of all proportion.

Two old sayings are very appropriate: "You don't use a sledgehammer to crack a nut" and "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water". Shades of Brexit all over again.

I would encourage every resident to consider the options and the future of our unique lifestyle with the greatest caution and care. Please don't be complacent.

The consequences of supporting this proposal would be absolutely permanent - joining the Gold Coast would be forever and losing the Mountain's special and separate identity would be forever.

Save the Mountain. Say "No" to the Gold Coast.

Richard Pratt

Councillor's Comment

VIRGINIA WEST
DIVISION 3

HOW THE PLANNING PROCESS WORKS

I am often asked by residents how the planning process works, and I will try to explain it in the limited space available.

When a Development Application is lodged with Council, the planning team have the role to assess the application under framework set out in planning legislation by the Queensland Government which includes:

1. **State Planning** involves the *Planning Act 2016*, State Planning Policy, Queensland Infrastructure Program, Priority Development Areas, Community Infrastructure Designations, State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA) and Development Assessment Rules.
2. **Regional Planning** which includes the *South East Queensland Regional Plan 2017* (Shaping SEQ)
3. **Local Planning** includes *Scenic Rim Regional Council Planning Scheme 2020* which is the statutory local planning document that provides local controls and planning provisions for development applications within our local government area.

Council must comply with the broader planning frameworks and legislative provisions. Development applications are generally either Code Assessable or Impact Assessable and only Impact Assessable applications are publicly advertised for public submission.

Following approval or refusal of an application the applicant and/or submitters have the right of appeal through the Queensland Planning and Environment Court.

I am happy if residents wish to contact me for further or more extensive information.

GOAT TRACK UPDATE

The Department of Transport and Main Roads officers took the local councillors on site last week to view the damage and work to date. The site remains very unstable and persistent rock falls require clearing to even expose the road site. Work continues and the road is not expected to reopen until later in the year. DTMR have agreed to keep our local communities updated on a regular basis.

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Under the *Local Government Act* only the Minister may propose a change of local government boundaries. In such cases a proper legislated process takes place via the independent Change Commission who assess the proposal and consider if it is in the public interest and consistent with legislation.

EAT LOCAL WEEK

Don't forget to pick up a brochure or check out the website www.eatlocalweek.com.au so you can take your family and friends to one of the spectacular events that showcase local food and beverages grown and produced in the Scenic Rim. Don't forget the Canungra Beer, Food and Wine Festival with the food trucks at Moriarty Park, June 27 from 10am till 3pm. Gold coin donation entry.

CONTACT ME

Phone: 5540 5403 or 0407 630 052
Email: virginia.w@scenicrim.qld.gov.au
Canungra Library: I am back at the Library again as of the second Saturday of the month from 9am till 11am to see residents. Next date is June 12.



Live Music

Friday
May 28th

from 8.30pm
Enjoy an evening of live
entertainment with this
local band.

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**Bring your blankets/bean bags for
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6



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9



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12



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14



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Councillor's Comment

These are my own personal views. I do not purport to speak on behalf of Council.

JEFF McCONNELL
DIVISION 2

Derek – stop this divisive madness. The REXIT vote that you have advertised is purely a stunt to further divide the Tamborine Mountain community.

You did not get a mandate at the election to continue your agenda as you only received 31.4 per cent of the primary vote. However, you have spent the last year continually denigrating council in our local papers to achieve your desired result, a split from the Scenic Rim.

The Mountain community has only heard your biased side of the issue without getting the full facts and now you want them to vote without being fully informed.

Derek, why did you stand for election because you did not need to become the councillor to push your move to the Gold Coast agenda; you could have done that as a normal resident.

A majority of nearly 70 per cent of the residents of Division 1 did not support your move to the Gold Coast agenda; however, you have totally ignored their vote.

As an elected Councillor you have a responsibility to the Scenic Rim Community, not just to Tamborine Mountain. Every councillor in the Scenic Rim would love to have more money spent on their Division but given our small population and large area that is simply not possible. We must use the limited financial resources that we have and spread them out to create the greatest benefit for the whole of the Scenic Rim community.

By continuing this divisive campaign, you have sown a seed of discontent among what is a great community on the Mountain that will take years to mend. Is the Scenic Rim Council perfect in everything it does? No, it is not, but neither is any council or

level of government. Every council has its own problems and as the elected representatives for the residents it is our responsibility to create a stable and effective council that is frugal with the money raised from ratepayers.

RATES: In all of your columns and articles you never once detailed why rates are higher in the Scenic Rim than the Gold Coast. They are higher because we do not have the same rate base as the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast has a population of 635,000 people and approximately 210,000 rateable properties with just over 75,000 businesses who account for approximately 40 per cent of all general rates, crammed into an area which is less than a third of the Scenic Rim.

The Scenic Rim population is 43,625 with approximately 18,100 rateable properties, and with fewer than 5000 businesses, with 96 per cent being small business or 6 per cent of general rates.

We simply do not have the same economy of scale as the Gold Coast. Imagine if every community that lived next to a larger council with lower rates decided that they would rather save \$1000 than be part of their own wider community.

COMMUNITY OF INTEREST: You continue on about the Mountain's community of interest being the Gold Coast not the Scenic Rim, and that is probably true. However, that can be said of any community that sits on the edge of a council area, especially one that has the Gold Coast next to it. The problem is the Scenic Rim residents see Tamborine Mountain as part of their community and we regularly go up there to visit friends.

INFRASTRUCTURE: You have implied in your articles the following: that the Gold Coast Council would build a new 50m indoor heated swimming pool, indoor multi-use basketball stadium,

full upgrade to the sports field, as well as public transport, and they would get Main Roads to fix all the roads etc. This is simply not true. If Tamborine Mountain decided that they wanted any of the above, then a separate Special Rate would probably be added to the residents' rates as Gold Coast Council have done.

HYPOCRISY: You claim in your articles that Tamborine Mountain is the CASH COW for the remainder of the Scenic Rim but now you want to move to the Gold Coast and have them pay for everything. Beaudesert is the HUB of the Scenic Rim and has a greater rate base catchment than that of the Mountain. The Beaudesert area is, and with the expected population growth in the next 20 years, will be the economic centre for the region if we can grow it in a sustainable way.

LIFESTYLE: Why is it that with our high rates that families still move to the Mountain and the Scenic Rim? People move here because they want the relaxed rural lifestyle that the Scenic Rim offers.

CONCLUSION: Derek, I have no problem with you holding the Mayor and Council accountable and I have supported you at times, but you need to have a good inward soul-searching look at your actions and behaviour over the last year and ask yourself, am I acting in the best interests of the Scenic Rim Community for which you were elected.

I will always be available to talk with residents on my mobile 0436 327 434, or email Jeff.m@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

**Follow me on Facebook –
Jeff McConnell
Councillor for Division 2
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I am happy to meet with anyone who requests a meeting.

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Can you solve it? A head for hats

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 7 | 9 | | | | |
| | 6 | 9 | | | | | 8 | 2 |
| | | | | | | 3 | | |
| | 5 | 7 | 1 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | 5 | | 4 | |
| 1 | | | | | | | 3 | |
| 7 | | | 4 | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | 3 | | 2 | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | 9 |

Sudoku - Medium



Today's puzzle concerns these three folk standing in a line, as illustrated at left. They are all extremely logical people, and they can only see who is in front of them.

A hat seller shows them three white and two black hats. She places a hat on each person and hides the remaining two.

She asks: "Does anyone know what colour hat they have?"

No answer.

She repeats: "Now does anyone know what colour hat they have?"

No answer.

She asks again: "Now does anyone know what colour hat they have?"

One person answers.

Which person and what colour hat?

[To be clear: the people in the line can only see the hats of the people in front of them, which they know come from a set of three white and two black hats. Before the seller asks her first question they have no other information.]

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| 4 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 1 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 |
| 1 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 8 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 6 |

Puzzles ©Alex Bellos (The Guardian)
Answers at scenicnews.com.au on Friday



TRAVELLING PLACES By Gina Storey

(Part 2 of our private aircraft tour of Outback Queensland)

Leaving Longreach, we headed north to Mareeba on the Atherton Tableland. The one-and-a-half-hour flight took us from dry Central Queensland to the lush coastal region, following the Great Dividing Range with glimpses of the sea in the distance.

On arrival, we headed inland to the small township of Dimbulah and the somewhat eccentric Camp 64 – a quirky coffee shop overflowing with memorabilia of yesteryear, frequented by unconventional yet fascinating locals, serving excellent locally grown coffee, and by the looks, yummy home-made snacks. It was a great stop and very entertaining.

Further west we were back in Outback country, dirt roads, scrub, eucalypts, and grazing cattle. As there had been recent rains, we came across billabongs with water lilies in full bloom and were lucky enough to see a wild brumby that was as much curious to see us as we were to see this wild and skittish horse in its habitat.



Eventually we came across the brow of a hill and stopped. Here in front of us was the enormous Mt Mulligan. This monolith is nearly twice the size of Uluru and a sacred site for the local Aboriginal community; it is known to them as the birthplace of the rainbow serpent. There are natural springs and water pockets that carbon dating has recorded as over 5000 years old; and tracks and creeks amid the landscape.

Well known for the coal and gold mining of early last century, there was a booming township until tragedy struck and many of the coal miners were killed. After burying 75 men from one catastrophic mining accident in 1921, they resurrected mining in the area, but it did not last long.

There are the remnants and stumps of the old township and we also saw a couple of cemeteries – how sad to see the very young and the not so old buried in this remote part of the world. The hospital still stands and is used today to house staff working at the lodge.

Mt Mulligan Lodge was fabulous. Part of the Luxury Lodges of Australia group, this wonderful oasis was our home in the wilderness. The rooms were spacious and comfortable, and I think we could all have stayed a week!

Everything was included; excellent farm to table meals were accompanied by fine Australian wines and activities were fun. A guided walking tour around the weir lake brought to life the bush tucker and medicine trees. Kites and birds of prey flew overhead. The dawn chorus was a fitting awakening to the red ochre colour of the mighty mountain.

Like Uluru, Mt Mulligan changes colour throughout the day; unlike Uluru it has trees and bushland around it. Whether you chose to kayak on the lake or take the ATV (all-terrain vehicle) ride through the scrub we all had fun. Kitting up for the ATV trip included a balaclava and goggles – foolishly I wore a white top and much to everyone's amusement this turned ochre as we crossed the dusty countryside and forded creeks.

What better way to finish this wonderful trip than to stop on Hamilton Island, catch the ferry to nearby Dent Island and have a glorious lunch overlooking the Whitsundays.

I think we all ended up wondering where our next adventure would take us.

WINE CHAT

Verdelho: with Witches Falls Winery From the Portuguese Coast to the Sunshine State



After a long year of grape shortages, our unwooded Verdelho is back and better than ever.

In the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak last year, many of us were forced to scrap all overseas travel plans for the foreseeable future. For those of us consumed by an insatiable appetite for globe-trotting, the reality was bittersweet. One year on, while grateful for the safety and security our island home provides, many of us are getting restless, once again caught by the travel bug. As many countries tentatively begin opening their doors to tourists, it seems the long road to freedom is paved with more obstacles than anyone could have imagined.

But if COVID-19 has taught us anything, it's how to traverse the globe without even setting foot in an aeroplane. Travel is a state of mind as much as anything else. While cooped up at home, we've learned to escape in our own ways. While some reach for books to transport themselves to far-away lands, some may switch on the telly to watch a foreign film. You might even test your culinary skills with a recipe for Japanese Ramen or French classic, like Boeuf Bourguignon. Here at Witches Falls, we see wine as a means of travel too, the contents of a glass of wine providing a snapshot of a country's oenological culture.

That's why we're so excited to announce the return of our unwooded Verdelho — an undisputed Witches Falls classic. It's the very essence of a European summer, carefully condensed into a bottle. Just one sip will transport you to the coast of Portugal, Verdelho's ancestral home. I imagine myself sharing a bottle with friends on a terrace. In the distance, a bay of crystal-clear water opens onto a seaside village where time stands still, and siestas are mandatory. Serene white-stone villas topped with terracotta roofs share the hillside with great swathes of bougainvillea. If only I could start packing now...

Yet, while travel lovers like myself love to dream of visiting these romantic far-away places, I think it's equally as important to remind ourselves of the richness in our own backyard. While Portugal is the ancestral home of Verdelho, we like to think that Queensland is its spiritual home. Verdelho fruit thrives in the Granite Belt and its juicy flavours reflect Queensland's sub-tropical climate. We've modernised Verdelho into a refreshing, balanced wine that reflects our way of life: laidback, easy going — lovers of sun, sea, and living well.

Verdelho has been sorely missed by regulars and staff alike. Due to suboptimal conditions in the Granite Belt last vintage, a lack of quality grapes meant our production of this gorgeous variety had to be put on hold. A year on, the vines have bounced back, and Verdelho is once again thriving. It's just as you remember, if not better.

Stainless steel fermentation lends a striking crispness. Aromas of ripe pineapple lead into a generous palate full of luscious, vibrant tropical fruits. Boasting extreme freshness, our Verdelho is ready to drink and will pair beautifully with spicy Asian dishes or fresh, juicy seafood — think crab, lobster, and prawns!

**Cheers and stay hydrated,
Alexandra Douglas and the Witches Falls crew**



CHICKEN, LEEK AND BACON PIE

With the cooler weather settling in, why not treat your loved ones with a delicious home-made pie. Trust me, the smells that come with preparing and cooking this dish will have your family salivating and waiting with bated breath for you to pull this steaming golden crusted beauty fresh out of the oven.

A lot of people get nervous about making their own pastry but believe me when I say it's not that difficult to get right, and once you do it a few times you will begin to master it and from there you can make many, many people happy with this skill.

Did you know? The Ancient Egyptians were the first to invent a dish close to what we know as a pie today. They had a honey filling covered in a crusty cake made from oats, wheat, rye or barley.

A recipe for chicken pie was also discovered on a clay tablet carved prior to 2000 BC. So, it can be safe to say we have been eating pies for a long time. Later on, a bit closer to the 5th Century BC, it is believed the Ancient Greeks were first to invent pie pastry, because it is mentioned in the plays of the writer Aristophanes and it was even possible to work as a pastry chef in this era; it was a totally separate trade to a baker.

The Romans took the concept of pies even further. They would make a pastry of flour, oil and water to cover up meat, but this was intended to preserve the juices and flavour of the filling and was not intended to be eaten.

A Roman cookbook from the 1st Century, called Apicius, mentions recipes that include pie cases. There is even one that we would recognise as a cheesecake, using pastry for a base, which has the interesting name placenta.

While working as a chef in the French Alps at a ski resort I found myself one day in a bit of a pickle. I had just returned from a morning of snowboarding on fresh white powder and was feeling on a high that soon turned to a low when I discovered to my horror, as I began to select the ingredients for that night's chicken, leek and bacon pie dinner that:



- A) someone had come into the chalet and stolen the bacon
- B) someone from the chalet had stolen the bacon, or
- C) I had forgotten to buy it.

I'll leave you dear reader to ponder what could have happened; the fact remained the same. I had no bacon. Unfortunately for me the nearest shop was down in the valley a three-hour return trip to buy some more.

I went down to one of the local restaurants and asked if I could buy some in my very poor French. "Non," was the curt reply. I tried another four, all deciding they needed their bacon. My last hope was a cranky chef named Pierre who owned a restaurant high in the ski fields.

As I approached, I could see the fresh snow that had covered his seating area with 30cm of pow pow. I knocked on the kitchen door and asked if he could spare some bacon. "Sure, as soon as you clear off all that snow from my deck the bacon is all yours," he said with a sly grin.

Let's just say I hope the guests enjoyed the bacon in their pie that night because it took me two hours to clear that deck.

INGREDIENTS

Pie filling

- 600g chicken breast
- 200g smoked bacon sliced into lardons
- 2 leeks washed and finely sliced
- 500ml chicken stock (stock cube can substitute)

Pastry

- 350g plain flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 200g butter or combination of

- butter and lard
- 1 beaten egg
- 1 tbsp cold water if needed
- beaten egg to seal and glaze pie

Sauce

- 30g plain flour
- 30g butter
- 250ml milk mixed with 250ml of poaching stock.

METHOD

- Make the pastry by pulsing the flour, salt and fat together, then adding in the beaten egg and sufficient water to make a dough.
- Divide into 2 portions of 1/3 and 2/3 then refrigerate wrapped in cling film for 30 minutes.
- Poach the chicken in the stock for about 15 minutes and retain 250ml stock for the sauce and shred the chicken.
- In a large pan add 1tbs olive oil and fry the bacon, then add the leeks, cook until soft, then add in the chicken and combine evenly.
- Heat milk and stock in a jug in the microwave until hot.
- Make the sauce in a pot by melting the butter, then adding the flour, and stir together to make a paste; add the heated stock and milk and stir with a whisk on medium heat until it boils, then pour the sauce over the chicken mixture; mix in and allow to cool.
- Roll out the larger piece of dough to line a pie dish and add the meat mixture before topping with the remaining dough and sealing the edges with the beaten egg.
- Glaze the pie top with egg and cook for about 30 minutes at 190C until golden. Serve with a nice crisp unoaked Chardonnay.

hooked on books



**29-30 May 2021
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by Friends of Tamborine Mountain Library

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Genre: Contemporary - Fiction

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TRIVIA

A Capital idea ...



1. Which capital is the world's most northerly?
2. Which capital is the world's most southerly?
3. Which city is the capital of Ukraine?
4. Which European capital's name translates as 'Black Lake'?
5. Islamabad is now the capital of which country?
6. Which city is the capital of Canada?
7. Bratislava is the capital of which former communist country?
8. København is the native name for which capital?
9. Which city is the capital of the Greek island of Crete?
10. Which city was the former capital of the USA?

Answers page 25

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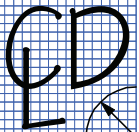
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Answers to TRIVIA from page 23

1. Reykjavik, Iceland
2. Wellington, New Zealand
3. Kiev
4. Dublin
5. Pakistan
6. Ottawa
7. Slovakia
8. Copenhagen
9. Heraklion
10. Philadelphia

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TM ARTS COLLECTIVE: Meetings are usually held at 7.00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month at a designated location (call 5545 0043 for details). We always welcome visitors and enquiries from new artists and artisans. We stand for a stronger arts community on the Mountain, and continue to lobby for a local community

gallery and arts hub. The Collective benefits from our association with the Brisbane Visual Arts Community (BVAC) and members participate in Brisbane and local arts events.

TM BOWLS CLUB – Friday social 1pm winter & 2pm summer; Sunday Scroungers 10.00am-12.00 noon; barefoot bowls & otherwise by arrangement. Competitions for members as notified. Free coaching, new members always welcome. Enquiries: 5545 1308.

TM BRIDGE CLUB meets each Monday at 5.45pm, Wednesday at 1.15pm, Thursday at 12.45pm and in an Assisted Play session on Friday at 12.45pm for those wishing to learn more in a social environment at the Tamborine Mountain Sports Complex, 400 Long Road.

TM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: 2nd Wed. of month. Phone 5545 0944 Email: info@tamborinemountainchamber.com.au

TM COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN ASSOC meets 2nd Wednesday of the month at the kindergarten 23 Coleman Square, North Tamborine at 7.15pm.

TM CREATIVE ARTS: Schedule of Activities MONDAY 9.00am-12.00 noon Patchwork, Quilting, Mahjong. 1.00pm-4.00pm Painting (Tutor fee) 1.15pm-4.15pm Creative Writing (1st,3rd,5th Monday of Month) 6.00pm-9.00pm Mens' Group 7.00pm-9.00pm Sculpture & Pottery **TUESDAY** 9.00am-12.00 noon General Craft, Sculpture & Pottery 9.30am-12.30pm Life Drawing (Model fee) **WEDNESDAY** 9.00am-12.00 noon General Craft, Bridge – 12.30pm - 4.30pm, Sculpture & Pottery, Spinning & Weaving, Embroidery (1st Wed of Month), Machine Sewing (last Wed of Month). **THURSDAY** 9.00am-12.00 noon Sculpture & Pottery, Botanical Drawing 9.00am-1.00pm Weaving (1st & 5th Thursday of month) 1.00pm-4.00pm Wearable Art, (Felting Dyeing etc) **FRIDAY** 9.00am-12.00 noon Wood Artisans, Sculpture & Pottery, 1.00pm-4.00pm Mahjong **SATURDAY** 1.00pm-4.00pm Yarners

TM CROQUET CLUB: Monday and Thursday mornings 8.30 on our green at Club Tamborine. Free coaching, new members always welcome to join us. Ph: Heidi 0488 440 296

TM FAMILY HISTORY GROUP Meetings held 1st Sunday each month (excl. January) at TM Historical Soc, Wongawallan Rd, Eagle Heights, 3–5 pm approx. Please contact Sharon on 0401 830 358

TM GARDEN CLUB: Vonda Youngman Community Centre, Main Street, North Tamborine. Feb - Nov, 2nd Tuesday 9.30. BYO morning tea. Enjoy: Guest speaker, plant sales, borrowing library books, raffle, plant problem solving and meeting fellow gardeners. New members and visitors most welcome. email: tamborinemtg@gmail.com mobile: 0417 623 023

TM GOLF CLUB is open 7 days a week for golf. Ladies play on Tuesdays, Veterans play on Wednesdays and the main competition is on Saturday. Happy hour social event on Friday evenings from 5 pm. Coaching is available by Andrew Revie the club professional. Contact 5545 1788. Happy golfing!

TM HISTORICAL SOCIETY – Member working bee & morning tea every Tuesday mornings. New members always welcome. Please contact Phil Paley 5545 4962 or Muriel Shephard 5545 0481 for further details.

TM LANDCARE: Volunteering opportunities: Forest Regeneration Work: Judith Roland - 0429 808 206 for details; Helping at the Piccabeen Bookshop - 0403 783 757 during office hours

TMLETS: Join at Community Exchange System www.ces.org.za . Enq. 5545 3776.

TM LIONS CLUB Admin meeting held on the 2nd Tuesday and dinner meeting on the 4th Tuesday of the month. For more information please phone 5545 2120 or visit website tamborinemountain.qld. lions.org.au/

TM LITTLE THEATRE: Meetings held 1st Tuesday of month at 7.30pm at the Zamia Theatre. Regular plays, play readings & social events, movie club events. New members welcome. Cath Buckley President 5545 2236.

TM LOCAL PRODUCERS ASSOC. sell local produce every Sunday at the TM Showgrounds from 7am - 12noon Phone 5545 1527.

TM MASONIC LODGE: Meets first Thursday each month, except December. Masonic Centre, 10 Knoll Road, North Tamborine. Contact 3273 3313.

TM MEN'S SHED: Our workshop at 88 Beacon Rd (behind the tennis courts) is open each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. New members welcome. To find out more, drop in for morning tea and a chat or call our President on 5606 8367 or check out our web page at www.tmmensshed.com

TM NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION: Birdwatchers – For further information call 5545 0995. Bushwalkers walk on 2nd & 4th Saturday of month. For further information call 5545 0140 or 0419 314 442. www.naturalhistory.org.au.

TM NETBALL CLUB. Contact Tracey 0438 575 662.

TM ORCHESTRA rehearses from 7pm to 9 pm every Wednesday during school term time. The venue is St George's Anglican Church, Dapsang Drive. New players always welcome. For more information, phone Tricia on 0415 487 581. Check us out on our website www.tamborinemountainorchestra.com; or find us on Facebook.

TM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 34 Main St, North Tamborine www.tmpcq.org.au Sunday Morning Service 9am (including kids church) and Evening Service 5pm (including kids church). Playgroup: Tuesdays 9.30am for 0-5 years. Youth Group: Fridays 4-6 pm for Years 7 – 12. Enquiries: dave.mugridge@tmpcq.org.au | www.tmpcq.org.au

BARGAIN CENTRE: Tuesday to Saturday opens 8am – 12 noon (rear of the Presbyterian Church).

TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN COMBINED PROBUS CLUB: Join our new social club for retirees and semi-retired and enjoy some fun, fellowship and friendship at Club Tamborine, 6-12 Beacon Road, North Tamborine from 9.30am on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Contact Lyndal Drennan (President) on 0450 907 670

TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN PROBUS CLUB INC (MEN'S CLUB): Join like-minded retired and semi-retired men for fun activities at Vonda Youngman Community Centre, 2-4 Knoll Road, North Tamborine on 3rd Wednesday of the month at 10am. Contact Harvey Ruglen on 0490 066 385 for details of next meeting.

TM PROGRESS ASSOCIATION: 1st Tuesday in month. 7.30pm Heritage Centre Wongawallan Rd

TM RSL Sub Branch meets at the RSL rooms underneath the Bowls Club; details are available by phoning 5545 2030.

TM RUGBY: Training Monday and Thursday 3.45pm- 5pm at TMSA, Long Road. Please call John Knight 0400 554 555 or Adam Clarke 0413 214 066 – Facebook: Tamborine Mountain Rugby

TM TENNIS CLUB: Social tennis from 6.30pm Wed and 3.00pm Sun. Doubles comp from 6.30pm Mon. Ladies from 8.00am Fri. 88 Beacon Rd North Tamborine. Contact Henry Rich on 0477 775 671 or 5545 3547

TM WRITERS GROUP: Meets every 1st & 3rd Mon of month, 1.30–3.30pm at Creative Arts Centre, Eagle Heights. Call Patricia on 5545 3403 for details.

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE (U3A). An association for retirees and those preparing for retirement. Learn, teach, socialise. For more info call Delle on 0413 084 571 or access our website www.u3atamborinemountain.com

YOGA: For beginners to advanced students: Hatha, Tantra and Nada Yoga: Tues and Sat 9.30 am and Fri 8am at the Zamia. Margot Wagner 0428 137 391

ZUMBA GOLD: Zumba Gold: dance fitness classes for deconditioned participants and active older adults. Mondays and Thursdays 9.30am at the Zamia. Petra Hunter 0414 505 014 – TamborineMountainZumba@gmail.com



RENTAL  3  2  1  1,012m²

1 Nipa Court, Tamborine Mountain

- Great family home, lounge with wood heater
- Large bedroom downstairs with ensuite & built-in robes
- Upstairs additional bedrooms with built-ins
- Modern kitchen with brand new appliances
- Nice outdoor patio area
- Single carport & garden shed
- Pets on application

\$480.00 per week

AGENTS:

Amy Orr 0474 315 000
Sarah Lewis 0429 001 013



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