



News

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

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TIME FOR A CUPPA AT BARGAIN CENTRE



Volunteers (from left) Carol Gregg, Di Smith, Lyn Furness, Barry Nicol, Cathy Wogandt and Elyn Young take time out for a well-earned cup of tea during a hectic morning's activity last week at the Presbyterian Church Bargain Centre in Main Street, North Tamborine. The centre is a popular port of call for those seeking good quality, budget-priced items such as clothing, accessories, kitchenware, bric-a-brac, bedding, furniture, books and small appliances.

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AGENTS:

Linda Hogan
0414 300 558



Property of the week

SALE 🛏️ 4 🛁 3 🚗 4 ✂️ 6.45 ha

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240-290 Geissmann Drive, Tamborine Mountain

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AGENTS:

Ton Wolf 0424 591 012
Heleen van Daalen 0424 591 011



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- 12 - 12.30 17 Tweed Heads Ave
- 1 - 1.30 7 Tweed Heads Ave



Review: Seller - 161-169 Eagle Heights Rd
Ton was both our selling and buying agent. He worked on our behalf to ensure we had a smooth transition. He responded promptly to all our questions and requests. We found him very easy to work with and are more than happy with the result of our sale and purchase.



AGENTS: Ton 0424 591 012
Heleen 0424 591 011



SALE 🛏️ 3 🛁 2 🚗 2 ✂️ 1,000m²

50 Kinabalu Drive, Tamborine Mountain

- Walk to the iconic T.M. Botanic Gardens
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AGENTS:

Mark Inwood 0407 292 036
Debra Opie 0409 210 362



SALE 🛏️ 2 🛁 1 🚗 - ✂️ 100m²

4/27-31 Southport Ave Tamborine Mountain

- Always sought-after! great unit and location
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AGENTS:

Linda Hogan
0414 300 558



SALE 🛏️ 5 🛁 2 🚗 2 ✂️ 1,004m²

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AGENTS:

Monique Clemens 0429 004 840
Erin McGee 0427 078 757



GALLERY WALK PRECINCT BUSINESS CASE

Scenic Rim Regional Council has launched a 'Have Your Say' campaign to support a Tamborine Mountain Gallery Walk Precinct Business Case.

Over the past 20 years there's been a number of projects that identified issues and opportunities to improve the precinct, but without external funding none of these projects have been able to progress.

Council has now received funding from the Queensland Government's Building Our Regions program to deliver a concept design and a business case to directly support future funding applications to all tiers of government. Mayor Greg Christensen said the business case would support Council to advocate for specific upgrades for the Gallery Walk Precinct.

"Gallery Walk is an important regional visitor destination and Council needs a costed business case to apply for grant funding before it can move on to detailed designs and begin construction," he said.

"Council is grateful to the Queensland Government for its support of this critical stepping-stone.

"We acknowledge there will be consultation fatigue in relation to the Gallery Walk Precinct because in the past 20 years there have been several projects that asked for input from the Tamborine Mountain community.

The point of difference for this planning project is the inclusion of a costed business case.

"The clear message previously was that more parking was needed to address congestion and safety concerns for this popular pedestrian shopping and hospitality precinct that boasts more than 70 speciality shops in one block.

"Before the concept designs are

drafted, we need up-to-date input from the local community, visitors, and businesses and landlords to help the project team evaluate the best options for pedestrian and traffic accessibility, including on and off-street customer carparking and visitor coach and visitors' vehicle parking.

"Community feedback will also shape concept designs with respect to public amenities and the streetscape, including shade, informative signage, and opportunities for alfresco dining.

"The concept designs will involve continued consultation with the Department of Transport and Main Roads because Gallery Walk Precinct is located on Tamborine Mountain's Long Road, which is a State controlled road.

"The geometry of Long Road means there are complexities with regard to drainage requirements and public utility infrastructure.

"Input from an online and printed survey to the community, a Listening Post event in the precinct on Saturday and facilitated stakeholder meetings will be used to inform the concept designs, which will be released publicly in October.

"Those concept designs will then be available for further community feedback and another round of 'Have Your Say' opportunities.

"Council will decide on the final concept design by December to support the finalisation of a costed business case in early 2022."

Council's website says that to ensure the final concept design provides good value for money, a business case that will outline the construction, operation and maintenance costs over the determined life of the project will be prepared and compared to the tangible



and intangible benefits the precinct can bring in terms of economic, social, environmental and cultural improvements.

The online survey opened last week, and printed postcard surveys are being distributed to Tamborine Mountain households.

Printed surveys are also available at the Tamborine Mountain Library and Tamborine Mountain Visitor Information Centre.

On Saturday 21 August between 9am and 1pm, locals and visitors will be able to share their ideas in person at a Listening Post at Rhoda Rushbrook Park on the corner of Long and Eagle Heights Roads, and also pick up a copy of the printed survey.

Events and meetings will be managed in line with Queensland Health directives on public gatherings.

The survey closes on Sunday 5 September 2021.

More detailed information about this planning project and the online survey is available at www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/say



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GOAT TRACK UPDATE - AUGUST 19



Emergency stability works on the Goat Track have been completed. To date, crews have brought down more than 20,000 tonnes of unsafe material. This will be finalised in coming weeks.

TMR would like to thank the local community for its patience while they carry out the emergency works.

TMR has stated that shortly the successful contractor for the permanent and specialist reconstruction works will be announced, and their works were expected to have commenced in late July 2021. These works are jointly funded by the Australian Government and Queensland Government.



Tamborine Mountain Road (the Goat Track) will remain closed for the safety of motorists until later this year while these permanent restoration works are undertaken. TMR understands that this road closure is an inconvenience to the residents of Mingara Estate and the local community, however the safety of this site for motorists and workers remains the number one priority.

More information around the progress of the works and the exact timing of the closure will be provided once the contractor has commenced work and a construction program is known.

Motorists will be kept informed of traffic changes via electronic message signals and regular updates on TMR's traffic and travel information website www.QLDtraffic.qld.gov.au.

Should you require further information about these works, please contact TMR's South Coast Regional Office on (07) 5563 6600 or send an email to southcoast@tmr.qld.gov.au.

Jon Krause MP

(Goat Track update provided by Mr Krause on July 19; the above photos were taken earlier this week)

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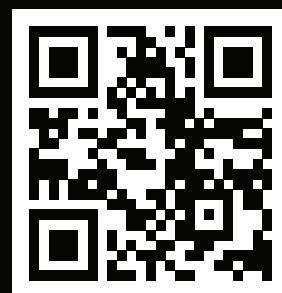
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Pink-tongued Lizard

Pink-tongued Lizard – *Cyclodomorphus gerrardii*, garage roof, Eagle Heights.



I photographed this unexpected reptile two weeks ago on what turned out to be the last day of the mild weather during what has been a very cold season. It had emerged from its winter abode, the roof of the garages at my unit block. The brown form is unusual for this species, which typically looks like its close relative, the blue-tongued lizard, which is black and grey. The species is quite large, growing to an overall length of 45cm. It is found in coastal regions from mid New South Wales to the Cairns region. It flickered its tongue only once while I was watching. It looks as if it is re-growing its tail.

Peter Kuttner

COUPLE IN A FRANTIC RACE TO BEAT COVID LOCKDOWN



Enjoying a fun-filled morning on her wedding day with her bridal posse, Edwina Stigwood was beyond excited to be marrying the love of her life Matt Berry.

Then her bridesmaid heard the news - in six hours Tamborine Mountain was going back into COVID lockdown. It was a classic, panicky 'what are we going to do?' moment. Edwina and Matt had already postponed their wedding once – surely not again!

The phone calls started between Edwina, Donna from Cedar Creek Winery Estate, marriage celebrant Kim Burgess, Matt, and his mum Tania from Stonehaven Manor Guesthouse. Decision made – move the ceremony forward and celebrate afterwards with a mini reception.

The hair and make up team went into overdrive to have the bridal party ready early. The wedding cars arrived early to transport the girls. Text and Facebook posts made sure the guests knew to arrive earlier.

The only person who could not be reached was the bagpiper – a surprise wedding day gift from Matt's mum. Then, contact made: he had just finished another wedding but was on his way.

As the bridal party began arriving, the piper was still en route.

Kim whisked everyone into the chapel and held Matt and his boys outside. The piper duly arrived and piped them into the chapel. Venue staff then whisked him back up the driveway where he greeted the arriving girls with the traditional *The Skye Boat Song*, escorting the bridal car to the chapel.

A micro reception was held after the ceremony, providing a fairy tale ending to a whirlwind of emotions.

Photo: Wattleseed Collective

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BROKEN RECORD?

The last two weekends have been great weather wise, and we saw a fresh influx of tourists enjoying what Tamborine Mountain has on offer. For me, I was lucky enough to be enjoying a coffee at a local establishment where I had various members of the community talk to me about their various thoughts and concerns.

One prominent point (again) was about the state of some of the roads and the unsightly Robert Sowter (hang gliders) carpark area. Your local council is responsible for the hang gliders carpark area so please contact them about your concerns and suggestions for preventative measures; it's all about providing a safe environment, hmmm...

Speaking of safety, we have had concerns from the schools regarding drivers not obeying the road rules and signs about the place. Kids and cars don't mix; U-turns over solid lines; parking in drop off zones and general disregard for other road users doesn't help anyone. The crews will be out and about, and don't be surprised if an infringement notice is issued; it's not like I haven't mentioned it once or twice before – another 'hmmm' moment...

We've had a dirty plunderer place themselves in an invidious position recently through the theft of avos from a local grove. Not just one or two: I'm talking over a dozen trees were stripped. It's a rotten act and deserves condemnation as this is someone's livelihood being stolen. Any information as to the perpetrators would be appreciated.

All this has me speculating that an often quoted but not necessarily employed concept might be useful here: 'Love thy neighbour'??? It seems modern times, lockdowns and all matter of things going on has resulted in many forgetting what it means to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Just some food for thought, as I'm not the local vicar, and it's timely.

As always, report matters that might seem suspicious; your information is just a phone call away and may help save someone's life or protect their property; you never know.

Sgt Mark Shields
North Tamborine Police

Councillor's Comment



VIRGINIA WEST
DIVISION 3

THE ANNIVERSARY EFFECT – BINNA BURRA

The team at Binna Burra is hosting a second anniversary of the 2019 bushfire devastation on Wednesday 8 September commencing at 10.30am at Groom's Cottage. The morning will be a relaxed catch-up around a campfire to share stories, memories and what the future plans are for this historic site. Check the website www.binnaburralodge.com.au for registration details and further events coming up, especially for Father's Day.

empowHER HIKING PROGRAM

Council recently received \$100,000 of funding from the Queensland Government to launch this exciting program to encourage more residents, especially women and girls, to get out and exercise in our spectacular backyard. Council will team up with Mount Barney Lodge, Park Tours and O'Reilly's Rainforest Retreat to deliver this exciting program early next year. This follows on from the hugely successful Gondwana Festival, which saw all events fully booked by local residents and visitors.



AGRICULTURAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Council has received funding from the Australian Government's Drought Communities Program to assist and support farmers and producers who may have particular skills but no formal qualifications to operate machinery off the property. The program will operate to not only upskill workers and provide training for new workers looking to enter the agricultural industry but also recognise and formalise prior learning skills. If you are interested in further information, contact Amanda Anderson from DGT on 0409 894 037 or amanda.anderson@dgt.org.au; or myself on 0407 630 052.

THINK LOCAL, BUY LOCAL

With the challenging and uncertain times our communities are facing with frequent lockdowns and attendee restrictions, it is even more vital than ever that we all consciously support our local retailers, trades, suppliers and tourist operators.

SHOWS CANCELLED

For the second year both the Canungra and Beaudesert Shows have been cancelled as a result of the uncertain COVID-19 situation. Both show society executives have worked tirelessly to get the planning to this stage and the decisions for both groups were not taken lightly. It is important to acknowledge the huge community volunteer base which helps with the planning and hosting of such important events in the Scenic Rim. We can only hope that next year will deliver a different environment.

CONTACT ME

I am always available to talk with residents on 5540 5403 or 0407 630 052 or email me at virginia.w@scenicrim.qld.gov.au. I am normally at the Canungra Library on the second Saturday of the month to chat with residents but unable to be there in September due to the opening of the Regeneration Exhibition at the Centre.

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MORE BUSHFIRE FUNDING FOR LOCAL ELECTORATE



Beechmont Landcare Management Committee members, Christine Tod and Susan Cully, with State Member for Scenic Rim, Jon Krause, and Federal Member for Wright, Scott Buchholz at a Beechmont tree planting day following an earlier environmental grant. Beechmont Landcare has received \$12,600 for restoration work at Back Creek under the Federal Government's latest bushfire funding.

Federal Member for Wright, Scott Buchholz, has announced Federal Government funding of \$691,482 for further bushfire recovery projects in the electorate of Wright, to be used for the regeneration of native wildlife and habitat following the Black Summer bushfires.

"I am pleased with the funding support to local community groups to restore native habitats and help our flora and fauna recovery.

"Our partnership with Landcare Australia is linking local groups with the funding they need to undertake important projects and to see the roll-out of this funding go to where the local community knows it is needed.

"These new projects across our

region will not only directly support native species recovery, but also provide benefit for bushfire-affected communities and landholders."

More than 100 new bushfire recovery projects have been selected to aid in the recovery of native wildlife and habitat in seven regions severely impacted by the Black Summer bushfires - part of a \$14 million Government commitment.

Minister for the Environment, Sussan Ley, said Landcare Australia and the National Landcare Network were co-ordinating the projects, which range from South-East Queensland to the NSW north and south coasts, the Blue Mountains, Australian alpine areas, East Gippsland and Kangaroo Island.

Mr Buchholz said he looked forward to seeing the various projects under way and funding flowing.

"This additional grant money will see the installation of artificial hollows, deliver workshops, provide camera trapping surveys, see the purchase of equipment needed on the ground, reduce fire loads and much more.

"Our local environment, world-class and world-heritage areas attract tourists and restoring our local environment is not just good for animal habitat, it is good for landholders, the community and small businesses."

To date, the Morrison Government has committed \$200 million for wildlife and habitat recovery through the \$2 billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund.



A few of the enthusiastic group of women from My Country Escape and Lux & Gather boutiques who recently joined together for a night of fun and teambuilding at Brenden Schutz's Main Street Provedore, Eatery and Espresso – story page 15



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JON KRAUSE MP

State Member for Scenic Rim

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

Wednesday, 18 August, was Vietnam Veterans' Day, an opportunity to pay tribute to the almost 60,000 Australians who served their country in the Vietnam War from 3 August 1962 until 25 April 1975.

Australia lost 521 soldiers in conflict, more than 3000 were wounded and many more veterans suffered and continue to suffer to this day as a result of their service. We remember the Battle of Long Tan, a battle which has come to symbolise our nation's involvement in the Vietnam War because of the bravery, tenacity and sacrifice with which the Australian and New Zealand soldiers fought. I take this opportunity to commend our Vietnam Veterans - you served our nation with distinction, honour and valour.

Thank you to all of our men and women who have served Australia in operations overseas. This week has seen some horrific scenes coming out of Afghanistan, as Taliban forces overran the country. Words fail me. I know many of our most recent returned service personnel served in Afghanistan, and the impacts of this week for those people cannot be estimated. All of us should be extremely grateful and in awe of the commitment and dedication of those who put it all on the line – mentally and physically – as part of the call to service. We should also be extremely grateful for the peace we have in Australia and be ready to keep protected the institutions and values that serve that peace.

BEAUDESERT SHOW CANCELLED TWO YEARS IN A ROW

The tough decision was made last week to cancel the Beaudesert Show for the second year in a row due to COVID-19 and the ongoing restrictions that would make it near impossible to run the two-day event.

More than ever, our local producers, farmers and businesses need our support, not only for the jobs they provide but for the contribution that so many give back to our community through sponsorships and support for great causes – whether by donations to sporting clubs, other community activities or community service organisations.

Small businesses are the engine room of the Scenic Rim Electorate, driving innovation, employment and economic progress. When you shop locally, your money stays local, with one dollar spent at a local business returning up to five times that amount through employee wages, rates and the purchase of materials and supplies. Let's support those who support us – especially when revenue for them may have been cut due to lockdowns and the flow-on of events in the past 18 months.

MY OFFICE

There's a lot of things that need doing, building and investing in for our region, and I'm constantly fighting for our fair share. So often we see the Scenic Rim miss out on what would be called 'standard services' in the city, or even in similar sized communities in other parts of Queensland, because of an unwillingness to bring new services where they have not been before. We need to keep making our voices heard – if you need any assistance with a Queensland Government matter, or to raise your concerns with me, please do not hesitate to contact my office – scenicrim@parliament.qld.gov.au or phone 1800 813 960.

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Jon KRAUSE MP
Member for **Scenic Rim**

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Authorised by J.Krause, 91 Brisbane Street, Beaudesert QLD 4285.



SCOTT BUCHHOLZ

Federal Member for Wright

\$600 MILLION PACKAGE TO HELP QUEENSLAND BUSINESS

The Australian and Queensland Governments have reached a 50/50 funding agreement that will see the value of the Queensland COVID-19 Business Support Grants rise to \$600 million. As part of the package, additional support for businesses that have had a decline in turnover of more than 30 per cent will include:

- A \$1000 one-off grant to non-employing sole traders across Queensland that have had a decline in turnover of more than 30 per cent
- Payroll-based support for all businesses across Queensland, that have had a decline in turnover of more than 30 per cent
- A \$5000 one-off, top-up grant to small business with payroll of less than \$1.3 million
- A \$10,000 one-off, top-up grant to medium sized business with payroll between \$1.3 million and \$10 million
- A \$25,000 one-off, top-up grant to large sized tourism and hospitality focused businesses only with payroll of greater than \$10 million.

This new business support package recognises that the impact of lockdowns is felt right across Australia. It will help to keep businesses in business and Queenslanders in jobs and builds on the almost \$30 billion in economic support the Morrison Government has provided Queensland households and businesses during the pandemic.

We will continue to work with the Palaszczuk Government to ensure the Queensland economy continues to recover from the impact of COVID-19. This support goes beyond the recent income provisions put in place to support locals who lost hours of work.

Full details about the program can be accessed on the Business Queensland website.

VACCINE ROLLOUT

A total of 15 million doses have been administered so far, including 1.5 million up to Friday last week. Let's keep it up. That is 5.3 million plus doses in the last month, an incredible effort, Australia. Thanks to all our health workers doing their best to deliver the vaccine.

I have had my first dose of AZ and I am booked for my second. My advice is this: Take your information from credible sources; speak to your GP and get vaccinated as soon as you can.

OUR FOCUS: THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE

The global COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage; it remains our focus. We must suppress the virus and deliver the vaccine, because this enables us to cement our economic recovery to create jobs.

However, COVID-19 does not hinder the whole-of-government work we are doing. I was pleased to see nearly \$700,000 in additional bushfire funds announced for our region last week and further announcements to support aged care and additional listings on the PBS.



SHARP COMMENT

TOM SHARP

GAZUMPED BY NONE OTHER THAN THE SRRC

Rumours were alive and well that Scenic Rim Regional Council would get their hands on the “old IGA” site next to the Tamborine Mountain Library and back in May rumours became fact when the SRRC officially announced the acquisition.

This time it came with a twist.

Christey Johansson, now a Tamborine Mountain local, previously enjoyed an international career in design, production, promotion and publishing at the highest level, freelancing for internationally recognised icons such as Swarovski and cutting her teeth in earlier times as a designer and illustrator for Penguin Books. Additionally, she has worked with a number of galleries and museums often in a volunteering capacity.

These days Christey’s highest priority is her family and raising her young daughter.

In early 2020, Christey took all that experience and passion, along with her sense of community, and developed a concept and business plan for what she called Superm’ART – a retail zone featuring regionally sourced products including art, craft, design and exhibition souvenirs, a gift shop, café (sourcing local produce) information services, markets, all in a multi-gallery type setting.

To understand the detail of this brilliant concept, I refer you to the *Scenic News* 4 March 2021 edition and the cover story “New Life Planned for Well-Known Vacant Building” page 20.

The well-known vacant building refers to the “old IGA” located next to the Tamborine Mountain Library. An 800 square metre space with outdoor areas and parking to well accommodate Christey’s amazing hub of artistic and community activity.

Christey, after months and months of planning, development and negotiations, had secured the old IGA site by way of a five-year “offer to lease” agreement and had paid a bond to the owner.

The agreement was professionally arranged and negotiated by NAI Harcourts of the Gold Coast acting as agent for the owner.

The basic terms of the “offer to lease” had been agreed, a deposit paid and final conditions were being negotiated in relation to site conditions – in this instance a rather nasty case of “black mould” that needed to be dealt with.

Christey had also shared her concept with Scenic Rim Regional Council officers and her local government and State Government representative in late 2020 seeking support and various grant funding opportunities.

The SRRC were well aware of Christey’s

plans and while extremely exciting they were a little too ambitious for their taste, and her RADF grant application was unsuccessful. In short, she was advised that the application was outside the scope of the grant and that once she was up and running, she should consider submitting the grant then. One would question the need for a grant once up and running and can only assume the scope of the grant falls within the corridors of existing operators.

Officers had also been advised of the site in question and were sent the floor plans and layout.

In early April leading up to the commencement of Christey’s lease, the agent acting for the owner had contacted Christey advising her a prospective buyer of the site had requested a copy of her business plan/concept.

Alarm bells started ringing and Christey was hopeful that should the sale go ahead the lease would be valid in the face of the law.

The following month witnessed no communication from the owner, after numerous attempts at finalising the lease for a June 1 start date.

Then came down the SRRC axe, and Superm’ART was no longer.

Christey has not been able to make contact with the former owner directly as yet.

She has, however, had a lengthy meeting with Mayor Christensen and council officers.

The burning question for Christey was how is it that once Christey had advised Council of her intentions and shared her plans with Council, along with the public news stories published in both local newspapers that Council all of a sudden out of the blue turn around and purchase the site, burning her dream along with \$36,000 of investment and 2500 hours of blood, sweat and toil.

In short, the Mayor stated he was not ever aware of any such plans. He further added that he does not read the Tamborine Mountain local papers and he did not necessarily consider the *Scenic News* a reliable source.

The property division of Council equally stated they had no knowledge of the intended project and lease agreement.

Council cited the situation as mere coincidence and had no explanation to offer.

As for remedy, Council advised Ms Johansson that she would need to take up the matter with the former owner.

How is it the SRRC has no local knowledge of what is happening in our communities?

I wonder if we are witnessing “Scenic Rim Farm Box” all over again?

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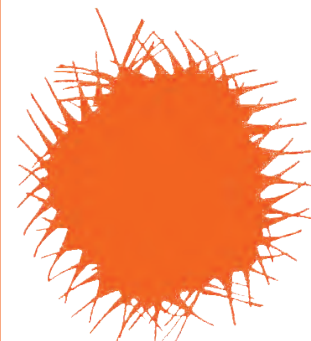
Workshops focus on various techniques including Punch Needle Rug Making; Rug Making by Hand (Proggy and Hooky); and Bohemian Braid Rug Making, and all sessions can accommodate all skill levels - from beginner to experienced to those simply wanting to revisit the art form.

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Photos: Sabine Bannard



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IT'S NEARLY CRICKET SEASON AGAIN... WHO'S UP FOR IT?

I did not grow up in a sporting family. I was the youngest of five children, by a long way (surprise) and everyone else had left home by the time I was 10. My limbs did not seem to coordinate in a way that any team sport agreed with, but thankfully it was still in the days where you could ride your bike around the neighbourhood from breakfast until dinnertime.

So, as you can imagine, when I met Neil, it was a very steep learning curve when it came to sport. There was regular rugby league talk at his family dinner table, weekend sport to attend and observe as the good girlfriend I was, and lots of nodding along to discussions where I was trying to learn this different, foreign language. And the cricket! Well, the only thing that I could see this was good for was a long sleep on Boxing Day – except for when Michael Bevan was playing.

Well, I have learnt a thing or two about team sports over the 28 years we have been together. However, it has only been in the last few years that I have developed a greater understanding of and even a love for the game of cricket.



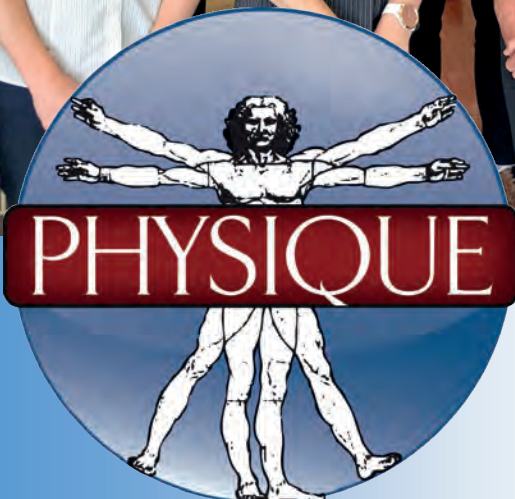
Several years ago, Neil and I re-started the junior cricket section of his beloved "Bushrats Tamborine Mountain" cricket side. Beginning with a very laid-back skills afternoon at first, it slowly took off until we had two under 11s teams. This grew into

an Under 11s and Under 12s team last season. With the littlies also continuing, led by some amazing volunteers, it has been so lovely to see.

Most of the kids on the cricket teams had not played before, and some found it difficult at first to bowl a full length of the pitch. Gradually, you could see their skills develop, and it was funny to watch them at training compare with pride their bruises from the hardball. They supported each other and built each other up, pushing and challenging themselves each week. The Under 11s team were hard to beat, and the Under 12s made it to the semi-finals last season. It really did fill my heart with pride to see them give it their all. Most importantly, it was the camaraderie of both teams that was just amazing.

Physique loves sponsoring clubs like the cricket club. Giving back to the community that gives to us. We love watching kids fulfil, not just their physical potential, but also their emotional potential in life. Team sport teaches you so much about yourself and how to work as a group. Cricket gives you the opportunity to work on your PB – whether it be bowling, batting, keeping or even fielding (thankfully there are those who love it and are really good at it). However, you are part of a bigger picture within the team. And for the parents – our junior games only actually last for about two hours on a Saturday morning! Yes – cricket does not have to consume your whole weekend.

So, although my limbs are not conducive to even backyard cricket, I am so glad to have the opportunity to watch my kids play, and be taught by my kids to learn to love cricket. If you would like to get your kids involved in something great, please phone Neil Bell from the TM Cricket Club on 0403 854 699.



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Letters to the Editor

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

DISBANDING THE SRRC A JOB FOR STATE MINISTER

Your editorial on the future of SRRC in the 29/7/21 *Scenic News* hit the nail on the head. It's what I've been saying to people at Beechmont and Canungra for some time.

The only sensible thing to do in my view is to place the western section of Scenic Rim Regional Council into the Ipswich local government area, the central section into the Logan local government area, and all the eastern section i.e., Beechmont, Canungra and Tamborine Mountain into the Gold Coast local government area.

This would place all SRRC citizens in an economically viable local government area which, ironically, was the objective of the 2007 reforms. Had this been done at the start, a lot of grief would have been avoided for a lot of people. Under such an arrangement, each of these LGAs would have its own hinterland (expanded in the case of GCCC) and all could still jointly promote the Scenic Rim area just as all the councils did before 2008. Such an arrangement would also end the senseless situation in which Beechmont and Lower Beechmont are in different LGAs.

If ever there was an acid test for the economic viability of the SRRC, it is the unresolved planning failure at the head of Back Creek Gorge on Beechmont, as outlined in my letter of 15/10/20 to this paper and confirmed in the next edition by the President of the Beechmont Area Progress Association (BAPA).

As explained previously, this fiasco would have been addressed long ago had Beechmont been in the Gold Coast LGA. Time and again we have been told publicly and privately by both the SRRC Mayor, Cr Greg Christensen, and Division 3 Councillor, Virginia West, that SRRC is a small council that lacks the capacity of the Gold Coast City Council to address this planning failure and hence is unable to preserve this area for public recreation and our tourism industry.

And yet nobody in SRRC has had the ticker or the tummy to support BAPA and seek assistance from the State Government to implement the solution which is staring us all in the face. Their only response has been to ignore this problem and to stay silent in the hope that it will go away. Many in the Tamborine Mountain Bushwalkers' Club are well aware of this wonderful Back Creek Gorge opportunity and are trying to help us.

Previously, the Tamborine Mountain Historical Society provided us with a tourist map from the 1920s (before Binna Burra was thought of) showing all seven waterfalls on Back Creek. This helped establish the cultural and historical heritage values of this area, recognised by the Australian Heritage Commission in its special listing of the Back Creek Landscape in 1996. So why shouldn't the Tamborine Mountain and Beechmont communities work together now to build a truly sustainable future of which present and future generations can be proud?

The new Minister for the Environment, Meaghan Scanlon, is saying that this Back Creek Gorge planning failure is a SRRC problem. Leaving aside for the moment the parlous copout that Minister Scanlon is engaging in, her position is the kiss of death for the SRRC.

So perhaps the Minister for Local Government, Steven Miles, can provide the statesmanship needed in this situation by disbanding the SRRC and placing its constituents in truly economically viable LGAs, thus able to face the challenges of today and the future. If he were to do this, Minister Miles would (albeit indirectly) also honour his 2017 commitment to help preserve and keep safe all the heritage and tourism assets of Back Creek Gorge which, so far, is an opportunity going to waste all because of the short-sightedness and wilful obstinacy of our state and local governments.

It is often said: "The standard we walk past is the standard we accept." Who is prepared to accept all the low standards confronting us in this situation?

**Pat Fitzgerald
Lower Beechmont**



Photos © Taylah Elise Photography

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT FOR BOUTIQUE STAFF

Separate, but one in purpose and style, is probably the best way to describe two of the Scenic Rim's outstanding fashion, gift and homeware boutiques.

My Country Escape in Canungra and Lux and Gather on Tamborine Mountain are simply two quality shops that would not be out of place in a Brisbane or Gold Coast setting.

My Country Escape is currently celebrating its sixth birthday while Lux and Gather is coming up for its first anniversary. Each displays a superb range of fashion, gifts and homewares in a stylish and inviting setting.

The ties that bind them, however, go much further than that.

My Country Escape owner, Michelle Roper-Dennis, co-owns Lux and Gather with Nadine Beckhouse, and not surprisingly both boutiques are staffed by an enthusiastic group of women who recently joined together for a night of fun and teambuilding at Brenden Schutz's Main Street Provedore, Eatery and Espresso – a night described by Michelle as "breaking bread together".

"There were 11 of us and essentially it



was a get-together between the two businesses. We wanted the girls from both boutiques to come together and to know that even though the boutiques are separate they can still call on each other for support, encouragement and the skills needed for working within their respective businesses.

"By having nights like Breaking Bread, it really builds and encourages them to get to know each other and feel free to ask questions of each other, and so build the team in a fun way. With the two businesses growing, it's good to know they are also able to grow and support each other as well.

"Both My Country Escape and Lux and Gather have a strong ethos of women supporting women in the work environment and being able to have some fun and 'make bread' at the same time is fantastic. It is also really important to support local places like Provedore, rather than going off the Mountain.

"Brenden was loads of fun and shared some of his cooking skills with us, including how to make bread, which we all appreciated.

Team members attending the night included Michelle Roper-Dennis, Nadine Beckhouse, Sam Dusting, Kelly-Joe Uccetta, Danielle Stone, Nicky Stroud, Kim Williamson, Ally King, Lucy Stephens, Michele McNicol and Janelle Veitch.



To celebrate its sixth birthday, any purchase made in store at My Country Escape during August goes into the draw at the end of the month to win a \$600 gift voucher.



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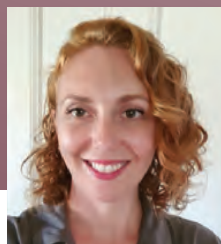
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PRIORITISING PREPARATION

Our first child was born in central London, and because we lived on a boat and either walked in crowded uneven streets or caught the tube, a pram was impractical, so we only had a baby sling for him.

When he was three months old, we moved back to Australia (to a house) and after a few months in Brisbane I found that I needed a pram. I got a basic one, I think it cost about \$150 which I thought was a lot of money, and as he got bigger, I would alternate between sling and the pram. I was recently having a chat with my friend who had bought a new pram on a half-price sale for her baby and I was astounded that the 'good price' was six times what I had paid for mine only seven years ago.

There are so many cool gadgets you can buy for your baby when you're preparing for their arrival, that it's easy to blitz through a few grand on things you think you need. A good quality pram is definitely a need, and if I ever push a new pram these days, I do notice the difference in smooth ride and manoeuvrability. I am not denying that for long walks and the toll on your body, it is a good idea to get a decent pram, but there are also plenty of things sold to you when you're pregnant or with a newborn that are 'guaranteed' to make your life easier with a little person, or to 'fix' an issue that you may have and they often don't live up to expectations. However, something that is not always as highly valued as it could be is childbirth/newborn education and the importance of having a knowledgeable health care provider.

How many parents have done a first aid course for children? How much time do parents spend researching new prams but not doing pregnancy and birth courses? I am not trying to shame anyone here or make any parents feel bad about not doing these things. It is really exciting having a new baby, and who doesn't love buying new things that are practical but also look beautiful in the nursery?

I love making my home look nice and in the recent lockdown I entirely reshuffled the furniture and needed some new things to finish off the new look. But what I'm saying is that proportionally, the priorities should be skewed more towards the preparation for parenthood and birth and keeping the other aspects as a side note.

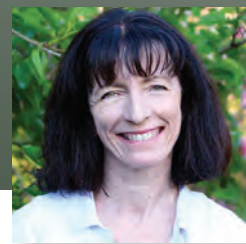
There have been several women seeing me recently who have appointments with obstetricians about their birth. They have been given up-to-date and relevant recommendations based on what is happening in their pregnancy. However, because the appointments are only for a short period of time and there's no opportunity to ask questions at a later date because you can't speak to that doctor again, sometimes women have unanswered questions a few days later. I am then able to read their notes and discuss with them why the recommendations have been made, discuss risks and benefits with them, discuss alternative options, and then they have been able to make more informed decisions.

Additionally, I see many women attend the hospital in labour who have not had antenatal classes or looked into any pre-birth preparation, who do not know what normal labour looks like, who aren't aware of how long it can sometimes take, who don't understand what an induction of labour actually means, who haven't got any plans beyond wanting an epidural and who don't understand that we can't routinely offer that at 1cm dilated.

Preparation for birth is so important. Preparation for parenthood is so important. All the other things are nice and help you to feel like a baby really is coming and get excited to have your baby, but it isn't always the best thing to have as a priority. The maternity system in Australia in the antenatal and postnatal period is absolutely inadequate. There is not enough access to midwives, not enough appointments with them, not enough opportunity for education.

We as midwives are all too aware of this and find it saddening, as we long for how it used to be. But that doesn't mean you can't find out information yourself. Look at reputable websites on positioning and exercises in pregnancy, stay fit and healthy, find a local birth class either online or in person, look up mindfulness techniques, find a midwife who can give you some education or explain things if you haven't understood what is being recommended and why. Birth can be amazing, and beautiful, and I promise it can be the best experience of your life. But that old saying is true: birth is a marathon, and you wouldn't turn up to run one without having done any training.

Bree Lowing is a Registered Midwife and provides bulk-billed in-home antenatal and postnatal services through The Mountain Midwife www.themountainmidwife.com.au



THE FAMILY TABLE

Do you have early childhood memories of gathering around a family table? One of my earliest memories is Sunday lunches at the home of my great-grandparents. They lived in a tiny miner's cottage. The living area was small and dominated by a large table that the family often gathered around.

Studies have shown that over the past three decades, family time at the dinner table has declined significantly. Families with children under age 18 report having family dinners three to four times per week. One third of families with 11 to 18-year-olds eat only one or two meals a week together. Only a quarter of families interviewed eat seven family meals each week around a table. The experience at the meal table has also declined in quality, with the increase in distractions such as television watching, text messaging, phone conversations and social media.

Family meals are powerful for many reasons. They offer the opportunity to spend time together; reconnect after a busy day; communicate with and listen to each other; share values and ideas and problem solve. Family meals provide structure for the day, allowing children to feel more secure and safe, knowing what to expect.



When extended to neighbours and friends, family meals allow children to learn and appreciate social interactions, understand the importance of community, and experience different ideas while under the guidance of their parents. A child's world is mostly spent with peers and teachers; the family table gives them a chance to see parents and other adults interact, negotiate, solve problems, express emotion and treat one another with respect.

Connecting over meals is a perfect opportunity for parents to monitor their children's moods, behaviour and activities. It provides parents with insight into the emotional well-being of their children. Teenagers that experience frequent family dinners are more likely to report having excellent relationships with their family. In one survey, 71 per cent of teenagers said that they consider talking/catching up, and spending time with family members as the best part of family dinners.

Studies show that families who dine at home together are happier as well as healthier. A paediatric meta-analysis of 50 studies in this area found six components to be consistently associated with the nutritional benefits for the children. These were: turning off the television; parental modelling of healthy eating; higher food quality; a positive atmosphere; children's assistance with food preparation; longer meal duration.

We know that families should eat together, but sometimes it's tough to find the time. Work, school, sports practices and other obligations all seem to get in the way. However, making the family table a priority can prevent many of the harms that children experience from a hurried lifestyle.

Whether your family mealtime happens every night or only once a week, or whether you adopt a weekend breakfast or lunch together, it's important to take advantage of whatever opportunity you have to nourish the mind, soul and stomach of everyone who gathers around your table.

Linda Gray
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TOM KHA THAI PRAWN CURRY

This is a delicious weeknight curry that can be made in 30 minutes. It is the perfect balance of sweet and sour and also has a bit of a spicy kick for those who like a medium spiced curry.

You may have heard of Tom Yum soup. Well, this is the creamier curry style cousin of that famous Thai dish. The coconut milk gives it a little more thickness and flavour in my opinion. You will need to buy 500g of fresh prawns if they have the shell on, as you lose approximately 50 per cent to the shell and head. I use a Tom Yum paste; most pastes will be based on the core Tom Yum ingredients of lemongrass, galangal, lime leaves and a smoked chilli paste called Nam Prik Pao. The subtle smoked flavour of the chilli is another good reason to buy store bought. It's hard to find Nam Prik Pao. You can find Tom Yum paste in your local Asian grocery store.

Did you know: Tom is the Thai word for "boil" and "kha" means galangal. The first written record of a Tom Yum recipe, which dates from 1888, is titled 'Snakehead Fish Tom Yum'. The first mention of prawn in a Tom Yum soup is found in a food dictionary from 1897, written by an American missionary, in a recipe titled 'Tom Yum Goong with additional garnish'. Though the spicy and sour flavours still lie at the core of the soup, not much else is similar. Neither recipe resembles what Tom Yum looks like today. The former makes use of shredded green mango and pickled garlic brine, and the latter uses the madan fruit instead of limes to achieve the sour taste.

The best Tom Kha I ever had was in Penang. My wife and I had just hired a small 50cc moped style scooter for the day and had decided to head inland to a botanic garden, but not just your average botanic garden; this was a garden totally dedicated to herbs and spices. A chef's dream come true! I turn the ignition to start up the bike and it instantly roars to life. "Jump on then," I say to my wife and as soon as I feel her arms wrap around my waist, I flick on the blinker and we merge into the chaos that is a Penang road.

Luckily, I have been riding motorbikes since I was a teenager and got my licence as soon as I could get it at age 16, so I was very comfortable weaving

in and out of the traffic of the streets as we leave the capital George Town. The cool air is a godsend as we begin to pick up speed and start winding our way up the coastline. Travelling through small villages, we pass waving, smiling children dressed in oversized fake Nike and Adidas clothing, and with bare feet. I smell the botanic garden before I see it, and as we pull into the small, almost empty carpark I'm delighted, as it means we won't be shoulder to shoulder with other tourists.

The lady at the desk gives us our tickets and as I enter through the turnstile, I feel like I've been admitted into the Garden of Eden. To my left I see a pepper vine deeply laden with peppercorns hanging down like fingers just waiting to be picked. To my right is a garden bed of galangal, turmeric, ginger and garlic, and my brain starts to explode. "How good is this?", I ask my wife. To my delight we then spent the next two hours exploring all kinds of familiar and ancient exotic herbs and spices.

As we are pulling out of the carpark, I remembered seeing a small red shack on the coast with a chalkboard out front saying simply 'Tom Kha 10RM', which is about \$5. As we sat down on red plastic chairs at a green plastic table, we had a glorious view overlooking the bay. We ordered, and within ten minutes a bubbling bowl of creamy prawn soup was in front of us. I knew instantly I had made the right decision because of the divine aroma that greeted me. Underneath the fresh coriander were juicy fresh prawns swimming in a sea of red oil and creamy coconut soup. The taste? Mind-blowing.

INGREDIENTS

- 250g large, peeled and de-veined prawns
- 50g (3 tbs) Tom Yum paste
- 500ml chicken stock
- 2 spring onions, sliced



- 1 clove garlic, sliced
- thumb-sized piece galangal (cut into matchsticks)
- 100g sliced mushrooms
- 200ml (1/2 tin) coconut milk
- 1 tbsp fish sauce
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- 1 tbsp cooking oil
- 1 medium tomato
- 1 tbsp lime juice
- 1 long red chilli, sliced
- 1 handful coriander, chopped

METHOD

1. Heat medium sized pot on a high heat.
2. When hot add the oil and the red Tom Yum paste, then fry for 30 seconds.
3. Add the garlic and cook for another 30 seconds.
4. Add in the galangal, spring onion and mushrooms, and fry for 2 minutes.
5. Add prawns and cook for 3 to 4 minutes stirring every minute or so.
6. Add in the sugar, fish sauce and lime juice and stir before adding in tomato and simmering for 2 minutes.
7. Pour in the coconut milk and chicken stock, stir, and cook for a final minute or two.
8. Garnish with chopped coriander and fresh chilli. Serve and enjoy.



TRAVELLING PLACES By Gina Storey

Last week was a fascinating one. A few months ago, we were invited to join Virtuoso, a group of the top one per cent of travel agencies worldwide, which has a focus on service, on understanding its clients' requirements, on designing bespoke itineraries, and on operating its business in an ethical way. This band of like-minded businesses came together during the week for a virtual conference.

Modern technology is a fantastic thing. I was able to watch the two-hour opening ceremony with a mixture of live presentations on the Las Vegas stage and presenters beamed in

from wherever they may be in the world. During the week I had a number of one-on-one meetings with international travel suppliers – as far afield as Athens, Paris, Lisbon, Costa Rica, Los Angeles and even Sydney. These partners of Virtuoso value the relationship they have forged with the group and offer our clients exclusive amenities – it may be room upgrades, free breakfasts, free late check out, a bonus offer of funds for food, beverages or the spa. These are valuable free benefits to our clients at partner hotels and cruise companies.

The Virtuoso partners are exceptional and have been chosen because they share the same values as the group; they offer unique opportunities to interact with locals; they offer off the beaten track destinations; they offer mainstream destinations in a unique way. They may be luxury cruise ships or small expedition vessels. They may be activity-based itineraries interacting with the environment around us. They may be peaceful luxury escapes from the world or luxurious havens in the centre of a booming city.

These partners are for discerning travellers who like to travel in 4-star and above style, who travel independently or who may join a small group to explore some regions. What they all do, is travel for the conscious traveller, for those of us who care about the impact we have on the world around us and prefer to travel in a way that benefits and supports local communities, as well as experiencing our fascinating world in comfort and style.

One of the interesting aspects to come out of the virtual conference is how the rest of the world is on the move (and most businesses are reporting tourism to around 75 per cent of pre-COVID levels) – this means that many unique travel opportunities are filling up.

I was talking to Aurora Expeditions, an Australian company that specialises in expedition cruises to Antarctica and the Arctic. They are not marketing their 2021/2 Antarctic season in Australia because we can't travel, yet they are virtually fully booked. They have opened up the 2022/3 Antarctic season for bookings and are offering early booking discounts up to 25 per cent. These are selling well to Europeans and North Americans and if we in Australia don't plan ahead, we may well be disappointed not to be able to travel when the time comes and/or having to pay premium rates for what is left. The world is on the move, and we need to plan for our future travel opportunities.

Let your imagination run wild and let us know where your dreams are taking you.

Contact Travelling Places: 55451600; travel@travellingplaces.com.au

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WINE CHAT

with Witches Falls Winery

WHY COLOUR IS SO IMPORTANT

They say a picture paints a thousand words. When it comes to tasting wine, many of us are so eager for that first sip that we forget to take in the experience using all our senses.



A shrewd eye will be able to discern so much about a wine – its age, body, and style – well before a single drop hits the palate.

Today, we'll break down what different colours can tell us about a wine and how it's made.

First things first—all wines derive their original colour from the pigments naturally present in grape skins. The fleshy interior of a grape is the same colour across the board. Therefore, pure grape juice is always a clear or light straw colour. This is why we can technically get "white" wine from "red" grapes. The famous Blanc de Noirs Champagne is a classic example – a sparkling white made exclusively with Pinot Noir grapes.

White wines are traditionally not exposed to their grape skins. Consequently, they retain a clear or slightly yellow colour. Lighter whites tend to be younger, and are more likely to have been stored in neutral vessels such as stainless steel. Contrastingly, deep golden hues will develop with age. A deep gold can also indicate a wine may have been aged in oak, and therefore may have a woody aroma, fuller mouthfeel, or buttery texture.

When white wine is fermented on skins, we get orange wine! This style is often opaque, with the colour ranging from light tangerine to deep amber. This indicates a wine may have more texture, body, and earthiness compared with traditional white wines.

Rosé is usually made with red grapes. By steeping juice and skins together for only a handful of hours, winemakers create a beautiful peachy pink colour. The shorter the window of skin contact, the lighter the rose. A couple of hours yields a refined salmon hue, while a lengthier soak will create a vibrant dark pink.

Red wine spends the most time on skins – anywhere from a week or so, up to a month. This process – called maceration – is often done at cool temperatures to extract the maximum level of pigment from the grape skins, leading to a pleasing, richly-coloured wine.



How light or dark red wine is may hint at which grape varieties have been used in its production. For example, varieties such as Shiraz, Malbec, and Cabernet Sauvignon tend to have thick skins containing higher levels of anthocyanin – a pigment compound that produces a lush, opaque purple colour as well as robust flavours and textures. Contrastingly, red varieties like Pinot Noir, Gamay, or Grenache have comparatively thinner skins, meaning the finished product will often have a pale, translucent red colour. This is often coupled with finer tannins and an easy-drinking finish. A dull or slightly brownish-red colour is a sure sign of age, whereas vivid, bright reds tend to be more youthful.

Cheers,
Alexandra Douglas and the Witches Falls Team

Living with **DOGS**



THE BOXER DOG BREED

This dog is a descendant of the extinct Bullenbeisser breed from north-east Belgium – they were used for hunting bear, wild boar, and deer for centuries. Extinction came about by cross breeding with mastiff, bulldog, possibly Great Dane and terriers.



In Munich in 1896 the first Boxer breed was established, and its founders became the first Deutscher Boxer Club. These dogs were and are today, intelligent, strong and agile. During World War One the Boxer was co-opted for military work as a messenger dog, pack carrier, attack and guard dog.

After World War Two the breed became popular around the world as many were taken home by returning soldiers. These versatile character dogs made great family pets; some were able to work with K9 units and some were used for herding, depending on the particular dog's ability and traits. They have been used as guide dogs for the blind and alert dogs for epilepsy. Unfortunately, Boxers were also used for dog fighting.

Despite their heritage as a powerful and courageous hunter, the modern-day Boxer's most appealing trait is a tremendous love for their humans, especially children; they are protective and patient. Show breeding preserves and accentuates the look of pedigree dogs but not their working ability and character traits (only working blood lines). Exaggerated breed features win shows, then those winning dogs are seen as top breeders, so breed appearance changes over time; we just need to compare old photos or videos.

The title of "boxer" has a couple of origins: one is the breed's tendency to play by using its forelegs and standing up on the hind legs, which seems to be a common trait of boxers. Bavarian breeders, however, claim the smaller Bullenbeisser dogs were known as boxi, and that boxer is just a corruption of that word.

The most common health issues to which boxers are prone include cancer, heart conditions, hypothyroidism, hip dysplasia, degenerative myelopathy and epilepsy. Cancer appears to be the leading cause of Boxer deaths. The lifespan of the Boxer dog is between eight and 10 years.

Pam Brandis
Dip. Canine. Prac.

Pet of the Week



Lexi - I like to Ride My Tricycle...



Story and photo: Christey Johansson

This week's Pet of the Week is Lexi Munro and as her surname suggests, she truly is beautiful, elegant and graceful.

Lexi is eight and half years old, and is a rescue dog from the picturesque Murray River town of Robinvale. Her loving human Janeece shared with us that there is a rescue dog program run by two sisters and volunteers in this area. They rescue dogs about to be euthanased, foster them and find them homes. An extraordinary program! Lexi was fostered to a family who owned goats and horses, so Janeece knew she would fit perfectly into her world, as she already owned alpacas and sheep. She speaks lovingly: "Lexi would always escape though to go eat the sheep pellets, and there was one particular sheep who would chase her and try to bunt her. Lexi knew she had to sneak into the space to get the treats she loved."

"We don't know what her breeding is, but we find it's fun getting people to guess. She has a beautiful nature and is amazing with people." This is so true! I met her first at the Acacia Rooms on Main Street, and sharing time with her during our interview, I saw how loving and gentle she was towards my young daughter. She loves to give you a kiss on the nose, which I was privy to several times during the interview. Such a sweetie!

Lexi has one of the best humans, who has only care and love for her. She eats a wonderful diet, enjoying a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables, and she adores sardines. Apples and raw broccoli and sweet potato she just loves, and she knows that at 10am every day she gets a treat. "She will take me specifically to local avocado trees on our walks, but I do limit the amount she eats." She also eats 'Prime 100', and this was suggested by local holistic vet at 'Balance Veterinary', located between Tamborine Village and Logan Village, which has a mobile service for the Scenic Rim and specialises in conventional care, rehabilitation treatments and holistic veterinary medicine.

Like every dog, Lexi loves car trips, road trips, laying in comfortable places in the sun, and running... but one thing Lexi loves most is riding on her tricycle. "This was converted especially for her and many locals know the two very well. We're sure people laugh at us but that's OK," says Janeece lovingly. "There are some parts where Lexi has to get out, like near Curtis Falls, as it's too steep, and we lose a bit of traction."

Lexi also has a few dog friends in the neighbourhood, thanks to Janeece's caring spirit. "It is good for the dogs' wellbeing and also helps members in our community. We have one dog friend who we know is very scared of thunderstorms, so we'll go get them as soon as there is a storm in our area. It means the owner isn't worried when they're at work or away." Wouldn't it be great to start a program in the area promoting community care of animals? Janeece and I shared many ideas about how this could work, and I agree with her: "It's the animals who would truly benefit from such community collective care."

hooked on books

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Did you know?

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One of Harvard Library's books, *Des destinées de l'ame*, is 99.9% certain to have been bound in human skin. It has been sitting in Harvard's Houghton Library since the 1930s.

The practice of binding books in human skin was not at all uncommon in the 15th century, and was done to commemorate the dead, among other reasons.



Our Book Choice: *Painting in the Shadows* by Katherine Kovacic

Art dealer Alex Clayton and conservator John Porter are thrilled to be previewing the Melbourne International Museum of Art's (MIMA) newest exhibition, until they witness a museum worker collapse and badly damage a reportedly cursed painting. Belief in the curse is strengthened when MIMA's senior conservator Meredith Buchanan dies less than twenty-four hours later while repairing the work. But Alex and John are convinced there is a decidedly human element at work in the museum.

The evidence sets them on the trail of a mysterious painting that could hold a key to Meredith's death, and the stakes are raised higher when Alex is offered her dream job at MIMA. Damaging the museum's reputation will jeopardise her professional future. The friends soon realise they are facing an adversary far more ruthless than they had anticipated, and there is much more at risk than Alex's career.

Genre: mystery, thriller

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TRIVIA

Mixed Bag



1. What is another name for hemicrania?
2. What does a pogonophobe fear?
3. What kind of creature is a sidewinder?
4. Which British shipping forecast sea area is the most northerly?
5. Where are the Monte Bello islands, site of the first UK atomic bomb test in 1952?
6. From which other name do the names Jennifer and Gaynor come?
7. How many violin concertos were composed by Beethoven?
8. A hippophobe fears what kind of animal?
9. Yuan Shikai was the last emperor of which country?
10. Which video cassette format was dropped in favour of VHS?
11. What was the name of the Indian ritual where widows threw themselves onto their husbands' funeral pyres?
12. What is a berceuse?
13. With which composition by Sir Edward Elgar is Jacqueline du Pre especially associated?
14. In which sport did Hungarian-born Aladar Gerevich excel, winning ten Olympic medals over a 28-year period?

Answers on page 25

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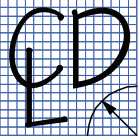
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Answers to TRIVIA from page 23

1 Migraine, 2 Beards, 3 A snake, 4 South-east Iceland, 5 Off the coast of Western Australia, 6 Guinevere, 7 One, 8 Horses, 9 China, 10 Betamax, 11 Suttee, 12 A cradle song, 13 The Cello Concerto, 14 Fencing.

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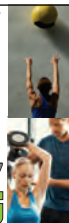
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The world's tallest horse, Luscombe Nodram (aka Noddy) as a seven-year-old Shire horse standing 2.05 metres tall, with owner Jane Greenman at Gatton, west of Brisbane on March 15, 2010.

Tamborine Mountain's Helen Appleton, of TRANSEQ horse transport, recently had the challenge of transporting Noddy, or Luscombe Nodrum – the Guinness Book of Records World's Tallest Horse – from his now home near Mullumbimby to Gatton Veterinary Hospital to treat a problematic abscess in his hoof.

The last time Helen transported Noddy was when she took him to Gatton in 2010 for a superstar appearance at Gatton Heavy Horse Show. Noddy is now a lovely old gentleman of 18 years, who stands 20.2 hands high. He was born and bred by Sue Bailey at Shires of Luscombe. Whenever Helen has a client looking to transport a really big horse and who is worried about a vehicle big enough to accommodate him, Helen is able to boast that she has transported the world's tallest horse.

"Shire Horses are recognised as the World's tallest horse breed in the world and Luscombe Nodram (Noddy) is proving that claim, standing 20.2 hands.

Luscombe Nodram started life just like all of our other foals. He was a normal height when he was born and a normal height as a weanling. That is where Noddy stops being normal. He just kept growing and growing. Now Nodram stands 20.2 hands. Nodram was bred by and born at the Shires of Luscombe in Queensland. His sire is the grey Shire Stallion, Luscombe What's Wanted ("Ted"), and his dam is the black Shire Mare, Cedars Annabella. Both of these horses stand 18 hands.

Nodram's great great grandsire, Ladbrook Invader, was also tall. In 1981 he was in the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest living horse, standing 19.2 hands.

Not only is Nodram is the tallest horse in Australia, he is the tallest horse in the world. He is a purebred shire gelding. He is broken to saddle and harness. However, Noddy has outgrown all of his harnesses, so he spends his time now enjoying life on the farm with his mate.

Nodram was the normal size of any foal born at the Shires



Helen Appleton with Noddy

of Luscombe. He left home as a six-month old weanling to go and live with Jane in Victoria. He was 15 hands, the usual size for our weanlings. Jane however was not expecting such a big 'foal', even though she wanted a Shire that was grey and that would grow to be a big horse. Little did she know she would end up with the World's Tallest Horse.

Nodram has been a special guest at Equitana and the Royal Easter Show in Sydney, in the past as well as making many other appearances in Victoria. He is the star of national and international TV shows, magazines and newspaper clippings. Noddy was a special guest at the Snowy River Festival in December 2012."

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diane.pihl@professionals.com.au

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Meet our generational team - Michael and Di. Diane is an highly experienced property professional with a building background, Michael is relatively new to the real estate industry with previous experience in business ownership, and all things equestrian. Both bring diverse life skills to the table.

Having agents that come from different working backgrounds gives them an edge when finding you that perfect home, or finding the right buyer for your property. They think outside the box, go above and beyond, and see things from a different perspective which works in everyone's favour.

This newly formed team are fun, dedicated, diligent and will listen to your needs and requirements. You will feel confident when listing or buying with team Michael & Di as they strive for an excellent outcome for both buyers & sellers.



Appreciate the professionalism Throughout the buying process Michael was prompt & professional, keeping us updated & facilitating communication with the seller to arrange site inspections & negotiations. Above & beyond this he had great local knowledge that helped us along with our planning & feeling welcome to the area. I would 100% recommend buying or selling with Michael and the team. Thank you - Kia and Sam.

Great team: Seller Diane managed a recent land sale for our family, I was very impressed with her approach from start to finish. She was approachable, efficient, well-informed & professional throughout the whole process delivering an excellent result within a very short time-frame. I would have no hesitation in recommending Di

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