

grounds are being groomed to their former glory with the help of locals Josh (left) and Dylan (right) - pictured here



with owner Lihua Song. Story page 18.



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\*\*\*\*

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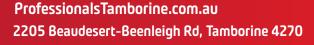
#### **AGENTS:**

0429 004 840 Monique Erin McGee 0427 078 757









# ANOTHER MEETING — ANOTHER STALEMATE IN CEO DEBACLE

Mayor Greg Christensen simply refuses to accept Scenic Rim Council's decision to not renew CEO Jon Gibbons' employment contract and is doing all in his power to resist it being implemented.

He's nothing if not stubborn, and to date there have been five separate council meetings called to deal with the issue of the CEO's employment. It's now an issue which is debilitating the council and causing disquiet within the business and residential communities.

Yet another meeting has been called for the week commencing 14 February following last week's acrimonious three-hour meeting that ended in another stalemate.

This whole sorry, unedifying spectacle has emerged following a properly constituted four-votes-to-three majority decision by councillors on November 9 to not renew Mr Gibbons' contract – a decision that the Mayor is doing everything to circumvent.

Astonishingly, this decision was not officially communicated to Mr Gibbons. Never one to miss a chance, Cr Christensen seized on this procedural failure, and on 12 January attempted to orchestrate an outcome that would have repealed the 9 November vote. It failed spectacularly after he attempted to use conflict-of interest provisions in the *Local Government Act* to debar Cr Swanborough from voting. After six hours' debate, Council finally resolved that all councillors had a potential conflict of interest and no vote was taken.

Fast forward to last week and the matter was again before the council.

Last week's three-hour Special Meeting, called by Crs Swanborough, McInnes, Chalk and McConnell, in a signed letter to Acting CEO Oliver Pring, specifically stated its purpose was to reaffirm Council's decision of 9 November and to resolve that notification of the decision be

Twilight Sedation Teeth Whitening officially sent to Mr Gibbons within seven days.

Curiously, the meeting agenda was made up by Mr Pring, who has a long association with Mr Gibbons and was appointed by him around 2018. Mr Pring ignored the councillors' request and offered up an agenda that did not reflect what the meeting was called for.

The Mayor alleged that conflicts of interest were held by Crs Swanborough, McInnes, Chalk and McConnell, allegations that appeared to be frivolous and vexatious. After hours of debate, the meeting was adjourned until next week.

Twice now Cr Christensen has tried to use conflict-ofinterest provisions in the *Act* to overturn the majority decision of 9 November.

After Cr Swanborough advised the CEO that he would be absent from meetings in January, the Mayor wasted no time in calling a special meeting for 12 January, with a motion to rescind the decision of 9 November. With a councillor not present, he could have used his casting vote to overturn the decision. Cr Swanborough's circumstances changed, and he attended the meeting, thwarting the Mayor's move.

As of this week, with the inaction of an administration wing that gives every sign of acting in a partisan way to keep their CEO, that decision still stands. Neither the Mayor nor the council's administrative wing will say who made the call to not officially inform Mr Gibbons of Council's decision.

The one certain thing in this unedifying affair is that the Mayor, through his actions, is bringing the whole council and its governance into disrepute and is wasting tens of thousands of dollars of ratepayers' money.

And in this whole sorry spectacle, while it might not be his intention, he is surely not helping the future career prospects of his close ally Jon Gibbons.



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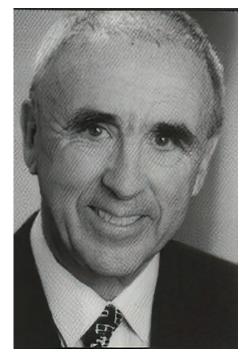
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### **FIRST U3A LUNCH FOR 2022**

Frank Rotherham is well-known to people on Tamborine for his Off the Beaten Track travel presentations — and now he is going to share another experience from his long and interesting life in a lunchtime talk for U3A members on February 25.



In the 1950s Frank and his father started a moulded plywood business under his parents' Sydney home. Within a decade, the fast-growing enterprise was housed in a factory covering one acre under roof. The factory made a variety of furnishing and sports goods and supplied the wooden parts and some wall panels for the Sydney Opera House, plus furniture and panelling for the new New South Wales Parliament House.

More than 50 per cent of the fastgrowing business' sales were for export which led to Frank being asked to join Australian trade missions overseas, including one to China in 1997. Given our deteriorating relations with that country today, Frank's talk is a timely reminder that not so long-

ago Australia had its own successful manufacturing history thanks to the determination of those with a good idea and the determination to make a success of it.

Venue is Club Tamborine (Bowls Club) on Beacon Road and starting time is noon. Cost is \$30 for a two-course lunch.

### TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

Mon 31st N/S Peter Zaremba - Keith Bowman

E/W Sheila Irvine-Brown - Sheena Pollock

Wed 2nd N/S Kevin Hamilton-Reen - Mary Simon

E/W Eddie Heinemeyer - Lindy Williams

Thur 3rd N/S Daria Williams - Peter Lyons

E/W Sheena Pollock - Denise Merrin



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### **GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, FEBRUARY 2022**

In future planning to deal with the huge population growth expected in South East Queensland, the State government has distributed to each shire what numbers they should absorb in the next twenty years. Scenic Rim Regional Council has been asked to accommodate an additional 11,000 dwellings in the region by 2041.

To this end, Council has implemented a Growth Management Strategy. This consists of four Phases. We are now at Phase 3, and beginning 4th February till 6th March, residents are being asked to comment on the draft drawn up after Phase 2.

In December 2020, following a two-hour presentation in Brisbane to four senior bureaucrats in the State Local Government department regarding the problems for Tamborine Mountain, TMPA was advised the community's best step to check unwanted extra growth was to respond to Council's Growth Management Strategy, Phase Two, April, 2021.

At that stage Council's "Have Your say" offered two ticka-box options plus a blank box for other suggestions. Option A proposed the majority of new dwellings should be concentrated in Beaudesert and to a lesser extent at Boonah, Canungra, Kalbar, Aratula, Tamborine Mountain, Tamborine and Kooralbyn. Option B proposed that new dwellings are dispersed proportionally across all our towns and villages with more opportunities for acreage living. No distinction was made for Tamborine Mountain.

The response by hundreds of Tamborine Mountain residents was met by the mayor's media statement that "a population cap is the preference of some on Tamborine Mountain, but it is not one that could be enforced by a local government". Why not? Clearly, from our meeting, State government has left it to Council to develop a growth strategy that would take account of residents' views.

No reason has been given by Council why any extra people need to be crammed on to a small plateau devoid of reticulated water and sewerage, and with only minimal infrastructure. Moreover, the mountain's population density is far greater than either of the other two towns and their surrounds. The shire is large, with wide open spaces everywhere - except on Tamborine Mountain.

Over three decades, residents have consistently listed population cap as one of their three major concerns. The other two are environment and water. These responses have come through forums, planning scheme data, questionnaires and many thousands of responses to threatening development applications. An estimated over 90% want to retain the mountain's core character semi-rural, laid back and in a rich natural environment.

This dire situation has come about because the current mayor's vision of a "one size fits all" Scenic Rim precludes identifying Tamborine Mountain as different from e.g., Beaudesert or Boonah. Unfortunately, due to its unique attractive location, no urban area anywhere experiences the huge inappropriate development pressure as Tamborine Mountain. And worse, Council has had for many years a reputation of "being in league with developers". Breaches of the planning schemes continue to be passed, adding to growth.

Details of the alarming further damage now set to be done are currently being covered by Councillor Swanborough and ex-Councillor Waistell. As the voice of several hundred residents was not heard in Beaudesert following Phase Two, it is imperative, if mountain residents wish to remain living our enviable lifestyle that as many residents as possible amplify the message that population growth on Tamborine Mountain is just not an option for the Growth Management Strategy.

A pro-forma on page 11 lists serious concerns you may wish to convey to Council. Consider copies for your family and friends. Space is added for your own comments. This can be handed into the library, posted, or emailed. It needs to be in by March 6th.

Description of GMS is on Council's website https://www.scenicrim.qld.gov.au/gms to "Let's Talk" project page for relevant documents.

J. Lockey **President** Tamborine Mt. Progress Ass'n www.tamborinemountainprogressassociation.com

# POWER UP, UP AND AWAY! ENERGEX BEGINS CHOPPER INSPECTIONS OF THE POWER NETWORK

Communities across South East Queensland may see low-flying choppers or drones above Energex's electrical network over the coming months.

Area Manager Kevin Lavender said Energex conducts aerial inspections of the power network this time every year, inspecting for any damage the grid may have sustained over the severe weather season.

"Storms, high winds and other severe weather can damage the power network in places you can't easily see from the ground so we use helicopters and drones to take high resolution images of poles, cross arms and other electrical infrastructure from above," Mr Lavender said.

"The photos of the network are then sent to our technicians who look for any damage on the top of the grid and then organise for any repairs.

"This is a much faster, safer and efficient way of inspecting South East Queensland's power network allowing us to prepare and maintain a safe and reliable electricity supply for the year ahead."

The helicopters will be primarily seen on longer and harder to access sections of the power network at low-level in rural



areas and at 300 metres in urban areas. The drones will be operating in more residential urban areas and are very quiet.

Energex's chopper contractors will contact livestock owners who have asked to be advised of flight times and dates to prepare or move animals that may be distressed.

Anyone with livestock that may be troubled by the aircraft can contact the flight team on 0410 221 884 to find out when helicopters will be near their property.

#### **BUY LOCAL WINNER TO KEEP IT LOCAL**

Winner of the 2021 Buy Local Christmas competition, Tony Nykvist plans on spending his winnings locally, after being presented with a \$1,000 cheque from LNP MPs Scott Buchholz and Jon Krause.

After putting his receipt in the draw at Ritchies IGA Boonah, Mr Nykvist was drawn the winner of the \$1,000 cash prize.

Mr Nykvist said there were a few things from Mitre10 he had his eye on, and thanks to the win, he no longer had to wait for the next pay.

"There are a few things we have our eye on, some camping gear we want to buy and an esky up there at Mitre10 we have had our eye on.

"Thanks to this, we don't need to wait until next pay. This is a great initiative to support local business and I thank Scott Buchholz and Jon Krause," Mr Nykvist said.

"Now, we are off to buy a lottery ticket!" Mr Nykvist said.

LNP Member for Wright, Scott Buchholz said there were a few thousand entries from across the Scenic Rim and he was glad the winner planned on spending local.

"Tony came up a winner, how lucky is he – but thanks to Tony for supporting local business, you have to be in it to win it and he has.

"A thousand dollars extra now in the Nykvist's bank account and it is great to hear that they plan on spending this money locally, to buy something a little extra and to support local business.

"My message to residents and visitors, is support local business and that supports local people, the pandemic and restrictions have been tough," Mr Buchholz said.

LNP Member for Scenic Rim, Jon Krause said it was great



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that a local had come out the winner ,and who planned on maintaining support for local business.

"This is a great initiative that has supported our business in the lead up to and over Christmas, with some 3,000 entries across the Scenic Rim, we hope the buy local message will be maintained.

"Our community has so much to offer, fresh produce, high quality products and access to all the goods and services you could want – buy local," Mr Krause said.

PHOTO: Jon Krause, Scott Buchholz, Wendy and Tony Nykvist

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Rim area, we are passionate about creating a strong local community and sharing our love for and deep knowledge of the area with our clients. We always aim to go above and beyond, providing a memorable experience. With our wealth of knowledge in project management, marketing, customer experience, data analytics, and real estate, we will supply a stress-free experience every step of the way, handling all the heavy lifting on your behalf.

When we listen to people, we do find that there is a common ask across the board: that they are not communicated with enough, and feel lost at times.

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having seen how people live in so many interesting places, we have gained a deep understanding of any growing family's needs. We have a heartfelt appreciation for location, culture, sustainability and what it takes to find a dream home in a caring community. We also pay close attention to how those needs might change at various stages of life.

After many years of exploring, we have found our calling in pursuing sustainable rural living and are blessed to share this with our two beautiful daughters in the stunning natural Scenic Rim region.

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#### A CALL-OUT TO THE COMMUNITY TO HAVE A SAY ON COUNCIL SERVICES

Community members are being asked to rate their satisfaction with Scenic Rim Regional Council services in a survey beginning last week.

The Customer Satisfaction Survey runs until Sunday 27 February and will gather community feedback as the next step towards creating an even more customer-focused organisation.

Scenic Rim Mayor Greg Christensen urged community members to take part in the survey to help Council to continue to improve its services for the more than 43,000 people who call the Scenic Rim home.

"They are our customers, as are our 26,000 ratepayers, 4,500 businesses, hundreds of community groups and the 1.8 million visitors who come to our region each year," he said.

"From residents, animal owners to builders and developers, corporate investors and Queensland and Australian government agencies, each is a customer with specific needs and expectations.

"We are committed to putting our customers at the heart of everything we do and we want to ensure the decisions we make and the services we provide support the diverse needs of our community through a high-performing and financially sustainable organisation."

Through the survey, Council is seeking feedback on its waste services, planning and development services, roads and footpaths, Council-owned facilities, the region's lifestyle and identity, and communications and regulatory services.

Survey participants have the option to rate their level of satisfaction across all categories or to choose to respond only to questions relating to specific service areas relevant to them.

The survey is one of the first community engagement projects on Council's newly-launched online platform, Let's Talk Scenic Rim, where community members can stay engaged, and have their say on Council projects and programs and by sharing their views to help guide Council's decision making.

The survey is live and available at via the link: letstalk. scenicrim.gld.gov.au/customer-satisfaction-survey

Copies of the survey form are also available at Council's Customer Service and Administration Centres and libraries.

The Customer Satisfaction Survey represents the next step in the pursuit of continuous improvement in customer service, which began with Council's adoption of its Customer Charter in 2020, followed by the release in April 2021 of its Customer Experience Strategy 2021-2023.

"Within this strategy, the Customer Experience Improvements Plan outlines how we are going to improve our service delivery, our interactions with customers, and our relationships between our communities, customers and Council," Cr Christensen said.

"The survey results will help us identify our customers' priorities and enable us to better meet their needs, so I encourage all members of the Scenic Rim community to have their say."



### JON KRAUSE MP

**State Member for Scenic Rim** 

### **INTEGRITY MATTERS**

In my role as Chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee (the committee in QLD Parliament that oversees the Crime and Corruption Commission), in December I tabled a report outlining findings made by the committee following its inquiry into the CCC's investigation of several former Logan City Councillors who were charged and suspended from office, only to have these charges discontinued two years later.

Serious findings were made (on a bipartisan basis, without any dissent), including that the CCC failed to always act impartially and independently, and that the CCC Chairperson failed to ensure this occurred. The CCC has a vital role to play combatting major crime and corruption, and they have been entrusted with extraordinary powers to do that - including to compel people to give evidence, under threat of imprisonment if they don't talk. Public confidence and trust in the CCC relies on the CCC always being, and being seen to be, impartial and independent - it could be argued that if this is lacking in one matter, what about other investigations? The serious findings and recommendations of the committee reflect that this situation is unsatisfactory and must be fixed. The inquiry into the CCC's powers and structure (in which Mr Tony Fitzgerald will act a commissioner) was recommended by the committee. It is my hope it makes recommendations that enhance public confidence in the CCC all-round.

Since the tabling of this report, a stream of integrity issues have arisen within the QLD Government — including allegations of coverups, deletion of public records and a culture of retribution against officials seeking to do the right thing — and I support calls for a wide-ranging inquiry into the state of government in Queensland. If things can go awry within our leading integrity body, there is no doubt that integrity issues within the Queensland Government need to have a light shone on them. Only a wide-ranging commission of inquiry will bring this about.

#### **OUEENSLAND YOUTH PARLIAMENT**

In the past, we have been very fortunate to have some wonderful Youth Parliamentarians representing our electorate and I am eager for this to occur again this year. The Queensland Youth Parliament (QYP) is for anyone aged 15-25 with a passion for their local community and an interest in the parliamentary process. Members of the QYP learn about parliamentary debate, Bill writing and much more. All that's needed is enthusiasm, and participants are taught everything they need to know.

Nominations are now open and close on 20 February. There are limited positions in the QYP and nominees are encouraged to continue applying if they are unsuccessful this round. For more information, or to nominate visit: **ymcaqyp.org.au** 

#### **GET READY FOR THE GCBF SUPER ROUND**

From this year, there will be changes to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants. There will be four funding rounds each year, with three of these rounds having funding available up to \$35,000 and one super round (GCBF Round 113) with up to \$100,000 of funding available.

If your organisation plans to apply in the super round, you should carefully consider the 1-round exclusion period. If your organisation's grant has been successful in previous rounds, it may be ineligible to apply in the super round.

To apply for the program visit: **www.justice.qld.gov.au/grants** or for more information contact Jon Krause's office via email scenicrim@parliament.qld.gov.au or phone (07) 5515 1100.

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.



### SCOTT BUCHHOLZ

**Federal Member for Wright** 

### BACKING AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION

The Prime Minister outlined the Government's plan to put university innovation and industry collaboration at the centre of Australia's economic recovery.

The University Research Commercialisation Action Plan will supercharge the translation of Australian research into commercial products that will generate new employment and export opportunities.

The Action Plan is backed by a \$1.6 billion investment program, allowing Australian innovators to access funding to help projects achieve their commercial potential. The commitment also includes an additional \$296 million to fund 1,800 industry PhDs and over 800 fellowships over 10 years.

### \$800 BONUS PAYMENT TO SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S AGED CARE WORKFORCE

The Morrison Government will provide \$210 million to support the aged care workforce to continue to care for older Australians during the COVID-19 pandemic. A bonus of up to \$800 will be made in two instalments of up to \$400 each. This is the fourth bonus paid in recognition of the significant commitment aged care workers have made to the care of senior Australians during the pandemic.

#### APPRENTICESHIP NUMBERS REACH DECADE HIGH

The latest data from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research confirms the Morrison Governments skills policies are delivering results for young Australians. The survey found more than a quarter of Australian employers (27.4 per cent) currently have an apprentice or trainee, the highest level since 2011. It also found 38 percent of businesses had increased the number of apprentices or trainees during the pandemic compared with previous years, supported by the Government's training policies.

### NEW INVESTMENT TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

The Morrison Government is investing a further \$61.7 million into countering violent extremism (CVE) programs, to keep Australians safe from the full range of extremist ideologies. Initiatives include expanding intervention programs into rural and regional areas, and establishing a national program to rehabilitate and reintegrate violent extremists in custody. The Morrison Government is ensuring that Australia's CVE programs remain effective in an evolving and increasingly complex environment. This latest investment means the Government has nearly doubled the total investment in CVE programs since such initiatives began in 2013.





### Letters to the Editor

Readers are reminded that letters to the editor must show full name of writer for publication.
Please limit letters to 200 words. Publication is at the discretion of the editor and subject to space availability.

# CABINS, DODGY DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND HYPOCRISY

On the Council Agenda for 08 February 2022 and recommended for approval is the 10 cabin DA for 36 Young St. Who knew anywhere on the Mountain was a "remote location"? Who knew that a Geological Report was not needed for a development under the Landslide Hazard and Steep Slope Overlay in a land-slip area before Councillors vote? The 200 objectors' concerns were dismissed. Council has advised that my formal complaint re:- how this DA has been handled by Council staff has been assessed, and referred to the CCC for consideration.

Given the issues I raised, why is it still up for a vote? Agenda: Agenda of Ordinary Meeting – 8 February 2022 (infocouncil.biz) Perhaps other development applications previously approved or currently under assessment should be the subject of greater external scrutiny also, given what went on with this one.

Who else wasted 3 hours of their life and listened to the SRRC "Special Meeting" held on 03 February 2022? The mayor performed true to form but at least this time it took only 3 hours rather than 6 to reach an impasse and the meeting was adjourned without a single outcome. Another dark day for Council's, and, sadly, the Scenic Rim's, reputation. Time for a major shake-up at Council, starting with the appointment of an Administrator, for the good of all residents and ratepayers. Have a listen: scroll to the bottom of Meetings And Agendas – Scenic Rim Regional Council and click on "The audio recording is available here." Was this a constructive and productive use of Council time and resources? Your rates pay for this nonsense. Perhaps

Council needs to focus on Rates, Roads and Rubbish after all. It gets lively at around the 1 hour 50 minute mark.

**Amanda Hay** 

### **DEAR MAYOR,**

I am sending this missive because I am disgusted with how you disregard the basic principles of integrity, openness and transparency in local government and how you treat the Scenic Rim as your own personal fiefdom.

I worked hard to help you get elected in 2016, and I feel used, duped and betrayed. You have not brought about any of the reforms and innovations that you promised in your election speeches and in your election brochures. Furthermore I believe you have introduced a democracy-destroying culture into the Scenic Rim, whereby the the Administrative arm of our local government seems to act autonomously and unilaterally without regard to the elected councillors or the residents and ratepayers they represent.

In spite of input from councillors for Divisions 1 and 2, you have allowed the planning department to override the planning scheme in particular as it applies to Tamborine Mountain and its surrounds. Indeed all divisions in the Scenic Rim seem to be suffering the same fate. Under your watch developers seem to be in collusion with your planning department, disregarding laws to protect native fauna and flora, and even seem to be coached in how to get exactly what they want, increment by increment, via change of material use lodgements. Little by little under your one-size-fits-all mantra, unique sections of the Scenic Rim are being over developed or inappropriately developed and lost forever.

It seems to me you use frequent and frivolous complaints to the Office of the Independent Assessor as a means of keeping some councillors so busy defending themselves that the time they can spend on legitimate council business and looking after the interests of their constituents, is extremely compromised.

Continued page 12

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**Dr Ann Bennett** Dr Leeann Carr-Brown Dr Jan Zomerdijk Dr Sanne Kreijkamp-Kaspers **Dr Henri Coombs Dr Cobie Powell** Dr Hok-Yee Siu Dr Mariie Dalebout Dr Jardin Taha Dr Igbal Meeran



Accredited by



### **HOW CAN BUSINESS LEADERS INSPIRE CHANGE** IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Humans are adaptable. That's how we've survived for a long time! No surprises, then, that people have quickly responded to COVIDimposed changes, like complying with lockdowns, wearing masks or working from home. However, sustaining these changes for a long time is much more challenging.

The problem gets more complex because we don't know how long we will live in an 'altered state' or if/when that 'altered state' may become 'normal'. In this environment, leaders are required to encourage changed behaviour... but may face a hostile and divided response.

A starting point for a business leader, might be to focus more on understanding their employees. That means learning about their mindset, their motivations and their fears. This knowledge allows change to be presented in a sensitive way, which becomes the foundation for compliance, or people adhering to new (and sometimes unpopular) rules.

Successful leaders don't assume things. For example, there is a lot of information around... but do people have the time and skills to analyse and form opinions with confidence? Often, they are left confused, bewildered and nervous and react by 'digging in the heels'. Taking a stand makes them feel in control, whether or not it's in their best interests, or those of the organisation. An early, transparent, accurate, detailed presentation of information makes it more likely employees will build trust and support change.

It is important to tailor the messages, as groups may differ. For example, some cultures or age groups will have different perspectives on family, the organisation, customers, politics or the economy. Some employees may enjoy working from home while others find it a huge and unmanageable imposition. It's perfectly acceptable to have different rules for these segments to accommodate the differences.

Policies and regulations traditionally drive compliance by prescribing rules and even punishments for doing the wrong thing. It's more productive, however, to emphasise the advantages of doing the right thing. Set out to encourage compliant behaviour and, in some cases, offer rewards. Acknowledge successes and progress that's been made. Share data which demonstrates the team's actions have made a positive difference.

People embrace change where they feel confident and knowledgeable. So, this a good time to invest in education, but not necessarily in a topdown way. Encourage team members to reveal gaps in their knowledge. Show that you recognise the unusual situation and are open to a fresh approach. Keep things simple. A small investment in new skills can make a big difference to attitudes, capabilities and motivation.

People imitate and learn, consciously and subconsciously, from others around them. Successful leaders set an example, and this may involve 'being in the trenches' with employees on certain issues. It also helps where influential team members 'buy in' and set the right example too. Sometimes 'symbolic acts', such as leaders giving up salaries or donating bonuses, can have good results.

'Every cloud has a silver lining'. No situation is ever entirely gloom and doom. Many businesses and individuals have found new ways of doing things and will emerge stronger because of current challenges. Successful leaders will identify and share good news to generate a positive atmosphere. We all look forward to resuming normal lives... whatever that may mean. Meanwhile, applying the lessons above will lead to positive outcomes for your business and your team.

#### **Chrissie Hanneford & Stephen Hall Hall Hanneford Chartered Accountants**

This information is presented in summary form as a guide only for readers. It should not be relied on as a substitute for detailed advice or solely as the basis for making taxation, business or investment decisions.

Chief Executive Officer,
Attn: Strategic Planning,
Scenic Rim Regional Council,
P.O. Box 25,
BEAUDESERT, Qld. 4285

Dear Sir,

Name

#### **Draft Scenic Rim Growth Management Strategy 2041**

There should be no more subdivision on Tamborine Mountain for the following reasons:

- It is contrary to the existing Planning Scheme which says no more subdivision is permitted on Tamborine Mountain.
- Tamborine Mountain has limited infrastructure net works (storm water, water supply, sewer, electricity & telecom/NBN (page 45 of Draft).
- Population growth is already available through occupation of vacant land, dual occupancy and secondary dwellings.
- There has been no review to determine what population growth is currently available through these options in the Planning Scheme.
- No study has been done of the large numbers of cabins, B & B's, Air B & B's etc. and their impact on Tamborine Mountain's current and future density.
- Scenic Rim Regional Council does not need Tamborine Mountain to take up the required growth.
- There is enough vacant land within Scenic Rim, excluding Tamborine Mountain, for extra growth.
- Massive population growth on Tamborine Mountain has already occurred in the past decade unmatched anywhere else in the shire.
- No infrastructure has been put in place to match this growth.
- Any density increase on Tamborine Mountain will lower the amenity for residents. Beaudesert & Boonah do not have this problem as they can expand.
- Located on a plateau, Tamborine Mountain's population of 8344 is vastly greater than Beaudesert or Boonah, so there is no reason to expand here.
- Tamborine Mountain is one third of one per cent of the total footprint of Scenic Rim's total area. There are many
  opportunities elsewhere.

Ample opportunities exist elsewhere in the shire without further damaging the unique character of Tamborine Mountain.

- Tamborine Mountain does not require more population to remain sustainable.
- With no reticulated water, sewerage & minimal infrastructure, a more crowded population will lower the living standards.

Further comments:

Signature\_

Post or email to mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au or this submission can be handed in at the library, North Tamborine by 6th March

Date



### Letters to the Editor

#### Continued from page 9

You also seem to insist that, hypocritically, any comment on almost any subject made by someone other than yourself, especially if it conflicts with your agenda or your interests, is deemed a conflict of interest held by those other persons. That is patently ridiculous, sir.

Another failing of your administration is your reluctance to accept a decision that goes against your agenda. How much time and money is spent by council trying to discredit legitimate critics of your administrative decisions and on using the courts of law to try to reverse heritage rulings for instance, and other decisions made that reflect badly on your judgement, is anybody's guess. I am ashamed to be associated with the Scenic Rim under current conditions set up by you and would welcome a chance to join the Gold Coast City Council, who have a "Green behind the Gold philosophy", unless and until there is a massive change in culture in that you are no longer mayor and the current CEO no longer holds that office.

Mr Mayor, your position is becoming more untenable by the day, and the sooner an Administrator is called in, the better for all of us, including the wildlife and the natural ecology of the many diverse regions within the Scenic Rim. I call on you to recognise and accept that you and your policies are a detriment to the Scenic Rim as a whole and for you to resign your position as mayor as soon as practically possible.

Roland Lindenmayer Erstwhile supporter Resident and ratepayer of the Scenic Rim

# TONES AND I GOES BACK TO BUSKING ROOTS WITH A STUNNING PERFORMANCE IN GOLD COAST HINTERLAND

Global sensation and multiple ARIA Award winning artist Tones And I (real name Toni Watson) has returned to her roots with a busking tour up the East Coast. Beginning her journey in Melbourne, Tones and her crew packed up her van and drove to Queensland, with multiple busking stops along the way including Geelong, Canberra, Sydney, Byron Bay and more.

The tour is a gentle nod to Tones' early career and rise to fame where she packed her things and drove to Byron Bay to try her hand at busking in 2017. It was there she met her now manager Jackson Walkden-Brown (of Artists Only) and began living between her van in Byron and Walkden-Brown's property in Lower Beechmont. During her time in Beechmont, Tones wrote a slew of successful songs, including record-breaking global hit 'Dance Monkey'.

Last week brought Tones And I back to her home away from home, with the superstar putting on an amazing performance at Beechmont's picturesque wedding venue Providence Farm Hall, the location of her very first video shoot in 2018. Complemented by sweeping views of the Gold Coast hinterland and an acoustic performance from her close friend Jackson Van Issum (of Queensland's favourite punk rockers Beddy Rays), Tones played to a lush hillside of friends, residents and families of the Beechmont community as the sun set, creating a truly memorable moment for Scenic Rim locals.

## TRAFFIC ALERT - HOWARD CREEK CAUSEWAY DISRUPTIONS BEGIN

As everyone who travels the Tamborine-Oxenford Road knows, work is being undertaken at Howard Creek, Wongawallan.

From Monday, 7 February 2022 traffic in the work zone (between Coonardoo Court and Colin Meagher Road) will be reduced to one lane 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This single lane closure is expected to be in place until mid-2022. The speed limit through the work zone will be reduced to 40km/h during this time.

Work being undertaken includes:

- Replace culverts below the road with higher and wider box culverts.
- Raise the causeway about 1.5 metres higher and 8 metres wider.
- Upgrade the intersections of Lanes Road and Colin Meagher Road with left and right turn lanes.

Work will continue to be undertaken Monday to Saturday from 6am to 6pm, with Sunday and night works as required.

It is important to note that wet weather, contractor and site conditions may change the work schedule.

On completion of the project, the speed limit along this section of Tamborine–Oxenford Road will be permanently reduced to 60 km/h. In the eastbound direction, the speed limit will remain at 60 km/h until east of the Colin Meagher Road intersection. In the westbound direction, the speed limit will be reduced to 60km/h prior to the Colin Meagher Road intersection.

The speed limit change will provide more time for motorists to see vehicles turning into and out of the side streets including Colin Meagher Road, Lanes Road and Coonardoo Court. Reducing the posted speed limit will also reduce the likelihood and severity of crashes.

via TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE





# DAVE BRINGS HIS WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE TO LOCAL SERVICES

Long time Mountain resident Dave Mackay is now offering his services as an experienced counsellor to locals.

Dave has been living at Eagle Heights for more than 20 years spending the majority of that time working as a high school teacher, special education co-ordinator, and guidance counsellor within the Gold Coast and Logan areas.

As an Education Queensland employee, he not only worked with troubled adolescents, but their families and teachers as well.

Dave has spent the majority of his years on the Mountain helping locals achieve their goals, mainly in the sporting arena.

He currently coaches running twice a week with a group of athletes, aged between 8 and 70, helping them achieve their goals in middle and long-distance running. As well, Dave is the Senior Coach of the Tamborine Mountain Little Athletics Club, which continues to punch above its weight in the Gold Coast region.

He was also the long-time President of the Tamborine Mountain Triathlon Club, during which he represented Australia at six world triathlon championships. These days, he's settled back into ploughing up and down the pool and has achieved gold medals at Australian Masters Swimming Championships, and minor medals at world level. Working currently as a casual lifeguard for the Gold Coast City Council, he ensures that safety is paramount when families are enjoying themselves at the city's various aquatic centres.

As a result of his 20 years of service with Education Queensland, Dave built up a rapport with working with adolescents make their way through the multitude of issues they face as they make their way in the world.

Dave's commitment to helping the community is unquestioned. Formerly a board member of Lifeline Gold Coast, he's now offering his services as a counsellor in





helping to assist with:

- Personal Issues
- Anxiety
- Self Esteem
- Grief
- Adolescents/Youth
- Family

Dave is a registered member of the industry's peak body, the Australian Counselling Association. In addition, he is an approved provider of counselling services by many of the private health services.

He can be contacted on 5545 1245.



### Tamborine Mountain Counselling

5545 1245

Counselling in

- Personal Issues
- Grief
- Anxiety
- Adolescents/Youth
- Self-Esteem
- Family

**Principal Counsellor: David Mackay** 

**Private Health Fund Approved** 

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# Living OGS.

# ANOTHER CHILD DIES ON XMAS EVE FROM A DOG ATTACK

More information will emerge as to how and why this tragedy happened. The information from major news reports states the family were house sitting in Varsity Lakes on the Gold Coast.

The five year old child had been playing with the dog, a bull terrier cross breed. Later, it savagely attacked him. His grandmother tried to pull the dog off the boy and was herself injured; apparently a neighbour helped her restrain

the dog. The boy suffered deep wounds around his neck and back. When the rescue team arrived, the boy may have had a cardiac arrest – he was given a blood transfusion and was revived. However, while undergoing surgery later, he died. The dog



responsible, above, was taken by Council and destroyed. This is the fourth time in one year someone has died or been severely mauled.

- Amanda Carmichael was mauled in June by three dogs at Maryborough and died from her injuries.
- In July on the central coast of NSW, a five week-old baby died after the family pet of six years attacked the baby.
- Last September in NSW a mother and daughter were attacked by the family dog (owned by her son). They were air-lifted to hospital with deep puncture wounds to their head, neck and torso. The neighbour who helped received minor bites. The son refused to co-operate with police and refused to hand over security vision.

Councils only have two options: euthanase the dog, or have the owners have the dog declared dangerous. Neither is a solution that will prevent this increasingly common tragedy happening over and over. The Gold Coast Council has asked Mark Furner - the Minister for Agriculture & Fisheries - for more powers after they received 547 dog attack complaints from January to October 2021; the complaints include dogs attacking someone's pet. Another issue raised is that 60,000 dogs are registered with the GCC, but they estimate there are around that number again that are not registered.

In NSW a data base from all Councils recorded that 700 people have been attacked by dogs. https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/NSW-Report-Dog-Attack-Incidents-4th-quarter-report-2020-21.pdf

Any dog can attack and bite someone, but statistics do indicate the Bull breeds are the most common attackers. Therefore, owners need show they have the knowledge and skills to have this breed. The QLD Government *Animal Management Act* (for cats & dogs) 2008 is outdated, with a long list of 229 divisions and parts of impractical, complex bureaucratic babble. Just give Councils the power to approve dog ownership and to issue fines.

Pam Brandis, Dip.Canine.Prac.

## Relationships



### **A TOUGH GIG**

We said yet another goodbye to our son this week. He was finally able to visit us for a few weeks from his base in Europe. The weeks went way too fast and before we knew it, we were returning to the airport, putting on brave faces and waving as his diminishing silhouette disappeared down the corridor to boarding.

Being a parent is a tough gig. It begins with a painful process aptly named labour. This is followed by sleep deprivation, 24/7 on call, while constantly questioning



yourself. This little human, who is dependent on you for everything, has changed life as you know it. Of course, being the sun in your little one's life, comes with great rewards. There is nothing better than witnessing the love in your child's adoring eyes or receiving their hugs or their finger painting portrait of you.

Of course you can't get too comfortable on your pedestal, the teen years are looming. The child who held your hand is now pushing you away. As they go through the process of finding their own identity they may even seem like a stranger to you. These years test your resolve, your patience, your ability to keep your mouth shut when picking your battles. You may wonder where you went wrong when you see your child mess up. You worry about their complicated world that is so different to the one you grew up in. You grow frustrated with the condition of your relationship.

Then one day when you least expect it, you feel something shift. The push-pull has subsided and you see glimpses of the person they are becoming. It's then time to build a new relationship with your grown-up child. You are no longer their sun, but you can be their moon. You can provide them with direction when needed and light in their dark moments. Like the phases of the moon, there will be times when they need the fullness of your light and there will be times when your input is insignificant. Putting aside your expectations and simply being available ensures that your child knows where to find safe harbour when life gets rough.

If you perform your role well, you are rewarded with confident offspring who will carve their own path in places near or distant from you. It can be heartwrenching to support your child's choice when you secretly want to sabotage it because of how it affects you. I'm experienced at that! However, I remind myself that my connection and influence will always remain with my children. We had them on loan for a few precious years and during that formative period we sowed values, wisdom, lessons and a whole lot of love.

The day after our farewell, we received a message from our son. "Made it to the couch after lunch and a shower. Missing you already but my heart is full of love and memories." Parents, it may seem like a tough gig at times but parenting is life's most important and rewarding gig of all.

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

#### **DESIGN MATTERS - MEMORY AND BUILDINGS**



Above is an image of the collective capital 'A' buildings of the last 20 years, as portrayed by the Dutch Architect Rem Koolhaas.

It's almost comical when viewed like this, a 'party bag' of flashy forms and shapes that seem to be fighting for selfimportance.

We are all impacted by the built environment. Yet, when I look at these structures, the memorable somehow seems only momentary. Sort of like the high that comes from eating fairy-floss at the country markets.

What forges lasting recollection is the splendour and messiness of life lived in space over time.

A friend of mine sent me an article back in 2012 that gives me goosebumps every time I read it. I want to share it below. It is worth reminding ourselves that our relationships within space are what matter.

#### Anthony Rigg - Bleuscape Design

"A home begins life as a blank canvas of walls, ceilings, and floors, room upon room of precise measure, angles and architraves, plaster, brick, wood, and glass.

Beautifully rendered surfaces effortlessly hide the strength of the solid foundation within and yet home is more than a design of rooms and things. Home becomes the unacknowledged witness to the raggedness of our living, breathing humanity.

These floors know the first tentative steps of infancy, the stampede of children's play, the collapse of a grief-racked body failing utterly.

Doors that observe good night kisses are the same that are slammed in fits of rage. Dark corners watch frustrated tears, hear desperate prayers.

A home endures much as its inhabitants sculpt it with their living. As life's journey unravels, a home is shaped. With human lives clutched close to heart, a home speaks a terrible and beautiful tale of humanity's journey from and to home.

This home speaks of us.

A home is not merely a structure of wood, brick, stone, and steel. A home speaks, its voice reflecting the terms of our occupation, reminding us of what we deem most important.

This world boasts its carnival of architecture, something for everyone and everything, no matter the cost. Oppressive skylines crush the soul, hope struggling to breathe under the weight. Passion wains as the opulent man trades concern for apathy.

Our surroundings influence our thoughts more than we care to admit, shaping our identity, altering our perception of truth. Prone to wander, the human heart is easily led from its intended home to a lifeless counterfeit. Presented with such choice, how then should one build? And to what pattern remain true?

Ever planning, the architect's design is hidden to eyes that do not see, regardless the architecture portrays vividly who we might ideally be--patterns, strength, intricate, unexpected.

How then to build with the majesty of a city on a hill and the humility of a swallow's nest? A building poetic in its understated simplicity.

A home created to train hands for service, guiding hearts towards others.

A lamplight burning bright, a door open to those yet unknown.

Regret burns, the realisation of this great divorce made manifest. With heart bruised and hope fading, home is remembered once more.

Rebellion surrenders to remorse, repentance, and footsteps turn homeward. Eyes weary, hesitant.

Familiar recollections of home dimmed by the journey away are recalled--glimpses of what once was and could be again.

In this place, we are known, and we know it--this place of origin where we are allowed to simply be.

Every agenda surrendered to the will of the architect; every piece finds its appointed place. A single floorboard with its individual grain and knot is not diminished when joined to the carpenter's geometry. Fixed in formation with iron nails, the single voice becomes a choir.

Steel tempered in the furnace graciously bends to a higher function. Vision giving strength its purpose. Structured frames lend their support to others and together a home for the wandering prodigal is built. Freedom for many found in holy submission.

Some come with boldness and urgency sensing their inherited place. Others stoop on bended knee, scarcely believing the invitation. Some bare wounds and enter with hesitant faltering hope. But it is the coming home that matters most.

This same final step shared by all. Acceptance is found within--undeserved and scandalous favour.

It is in the dialog with pain that many beautiful things acquire their value, and it is through great pain and sacrifice that this home is fashioned.

The table is set. The places long ago prepared are finally filled. Words always no, finally understood.

Returned prodigals from a disappointing land look around their home and remember who they really are. Wondering hearts have come home to be free."

From 'Hillsong Live Vision Film 2012 | Cornerstone Album' choreographed by Paul Nevison.

#### Pethers Rainforest Restaurant Intimate, romantic dining experience

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3



5

#### Tamborine Mountain Pasta

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### Rainforest Restaurant & Lounge Bar

Dining within a tranquil rainforest setting! "Loved the atmosphere and the service was very warm and friendly. The food was beyond great and we would love to come back every night if we could. Fantastic.

Brad C. - The Fork

Thunderbird Park, cnr Cedar Creek Falls Rd 07 5545 7990



#### Three Little Pigs Bistro and Bar

Fine food and fabulous wine. Perfect place for relaxing and catching up with friends and family, or as a special treat. 13 Main Street Nth Tamborine 07 5545 4484







#### Club Tamborine

Visitors welcome Your local on the Mountain: Full bar, Bistro, Gaming, Ubet, Keno, Fox Sports, regular live entertainment and bowls in a relaxed environment. 6-12 Beacon Road (07) 5545 1308





#### Cauldron Estate & Distillery

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Beautiful established vineyards and lush green meadows perfect for picnics, lawn games or kicking back for an afternoon of R&R. Enjoy our locally made spirits or drinks from the Cauldron Bar, relish our mountaininspired 'Bar tucker' and picnic hampers, and even





make your own bottle of gin in our distillery to take home. 89-123 Hartley Road, Tamborine Mountain Qld 4272 CauldronDistillery.com.au

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#### Fox and Hounds Country Inn Gold Coast's only Authentic English Pub

Share a hearty dining experience with friends and family, while soaking up the spectacular surrounds. Open for lunch and dinner 7 days. 7 Elevation Drive, Wongawallan





6

### Witches Falls Winery & Cellar Door

Tamborine Mountain's only working winery Wines that shine with individuality and confidence. Enjoy wine tasting in our relaxed and picturesque setting. Locals receive members pricing. Open daily 10am to 4pm weekdays and 10am to 5pm weekends.

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8

#### St Bernards Hotel

Idyllic location with sweeping views, spectacular, fine dining for every occasion. Perfect for weddings, functions, conferences.Come and be greeted by our two St Bernards, and enjoy real country hospitality!

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Come for the warmth, laughter and great MEXICAN FOOD!

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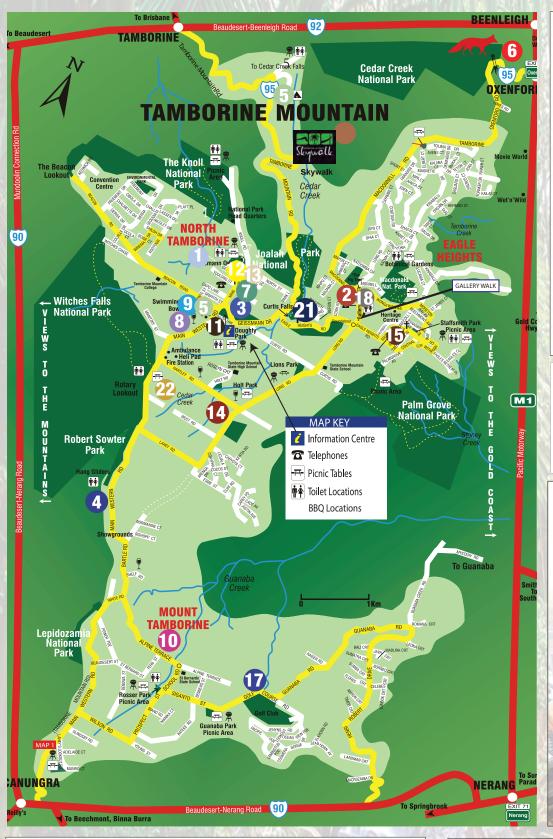
Flame Tree Plaza 16-20 Main Western Rd North Tamborine 07 5545 4003







### LOCAL DINING, SHOPPING AND SERVICES





### Getaway Day Spa Tamborine Mountain

Open 5 Days

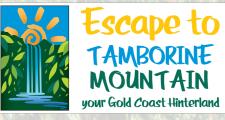
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - Saturday

Treatments available 9am - 5pm Spa only available 5pm - 8pm

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# LOCAL EXPORTER TURNS THE COVID CORNER, STARTS HIRING AGAIN, AND REWARDS LOCALS



Jasmin Organics has been manufacturing on the Mountain for 15 years. At its peak, Jasmin supplied to 16 countries and had 45 staff working on the Mountain. Sales to China continued to grow, and came to dominate.

Just as China effectively banned Australian beef, barle, and red wine, it also effectively banned Australian organics. For a while, the busloads of overseas, mostly Asian, tourists visiting the Mountain kept the business working, then COVID-19 came and stopped all that.

Staff at the factory was cut to three, and then to part-time The gardens suffered. For two years the only thing keeping the business alive was locals and visitors coming to the factory shop, and lovely gardens, at 197 Long Road.

Then, the pulse got stronger. People paid for wedding photos. The Visitors Centre stocked the skincare product. Recently, Trade Investment Queensland (TIQ) helped Jasmin and other Queenstand companies find new overseas markets. Jasmin now has new distributors covering Hong Kong, Macao and three countries in the middle east.

The first local hires have been made: two school leavers to look after the gardens and to start their careers. Now, Jasmin is looking for a customer-friendly marketing assistant for weekends, from 10 till 4, and to also look after social media. A uni student interested in a marketing career and skincare would be ideal.

(see POSITION VACANT details on page 23)

PHOTOS: (top) Locals Josh (left) and Dylan (on ride-on mower) with Jasmin founder Lihua Song. (below, left) Lihua with some of the sensitive skin selection of products and (below) with some of the award-winning Jasmin range.

See top right of opposite page for Jasmin offers for locals.



# "HOLY PLANTING!" – IT'S A BAT PLANT – ON SALE AT THE BOTANIC GARDENS

Looking for that special plant for your indoor collection or maybe in a shady spot in the garden?

Throughout February, the Potty Potters at the Botanic Gardens have a ton of specials on offer. The warm weather and plentiful rain has meant that everything in the Gardens is growing rapidly. None more so than the Potty Potters' collection. And they must go out – at special low prices.

And none is more special and weird than bat plants.

But you will need to be quick. We have a limited consignment of these extraordinary plants on special along with a wide range of other specialised plants available at our propagation shed every Wednesday and Thursday morning.

The black bat plant (*Tacca chantrieri*) is part of the yam family (*Dioscoreaceae*), grown for its bizarre flowers that look like a bat's face! It is a true shade lover, and prefers humidity and a sub-tropical to tropical environment. Its larger cousin, the white bat plant (*Tacca integrifolia*), is a more sensitive creature and may need winter protection, even in south-east Queensland.

The Potty Potters cultivate their collection with care, using a special potting mix designed to stimulate strong root growth before they go on sale. A special irrigation system ensures they are all provided with just the right amount of water at all times.

Plants are available every Wednesday and Thursday morning at the pavilion at the southern end of the Gardens. Just follow the signs. The Potty Potters can take cash or cards. Bring a bag to take home your spoils. And if you are lucky, your own bat plant.

#### **Denby Browning**

Photos: (below) The bat plant has a weird face and whiskers (right) A fabulous variety of health plants is available for sale



Jasmin Organics, your skincare maker on the Mountain, now offers 20% off to locals at our factory shop.

All skincare is made on the mountain, covering:

- Aromatherapy (essential oils)
- Organic Premium Skincare
- Mother, baby and sensitive skin collection
- Try before you buy on all products
- ALL contents are made on the Mountain
- Any locals suffering from cancer will receive a free suncare oil

197 Long Road, Tamborine Mountain 07 5545 2006





#### travelling places

With something for everyone..



### TRAVELLING PLACES

By Gina Storey

Imagine walking in outback Australia and exploring the Flinders Ranges, staying in luxury glamping tents, eating dinner under the stars and enjoying good conversations around the fire pit. Combine this with a couple of days in the Clare Valley learning about the history of the region, enjoying wine tastings and sampling the local produce. Top this all off with a few days in Adelaide and an excellent farewell degustation dinner in the Adelaide markets.

Join our small group of 10 as we head off in May to discover parts of South Australia less visited. Enjoy our first afternoon in Adelaide – perhaps visit an art gallery,

the Adelaide Oval, or take the tram to Glenelg.

Travel north to the magnificent red Flinders Ranges where we overnight at Arkaba Homestead. This once expansive cattle property has been converted to a conservancy – think private



national park. The environment has been regenerated to wilderness with wildlife returning to the landscape. Our 3 days 2-night walk is run by the owners of Arkaba. We walk about 10 kms per day with our expert field guide, stopping enroute to discover more about the area and deepen our connection with this remote land. A welcome end to our day is our permanent camp with a hot shower, a deserved glass of wine and a delicious dinner under the vast Australian night sky. Returning after 2 nights in the outback to the homestead, enjoy a dip in the pool or relax on the shady verandah.

Ralf Bestic from the *Telegraph UK* wrote of his recent visit "This is outback luxury set deep within a 500-million-year-old landscape. The pink light of dawn, as seen from a lookout an easy 25-minute walk from the 19th century homestead, is something to remember. It drifts in from the surrounding Elder Range and mysterious Wilpena Pound, a natural amphitheatre, and gently floods the undulating eucalyptus wooded landscape on which the homestead is situated."

The Clare Valley has an intriguing history. Visit historic colonial houses and discover how society lived in the 19th century. We will visit a couple of vineyards for wine tasting. The local produce is fabulous, and we will enjoy a meal or two in small local restaurants. We can wander down avenues of trees and potter into the local shops.

South Australia is a wonderful state, with a rich history (both ancient and modern), with diverse cultures that relish their diversity, with vast open spaces and delightful country towns. The food and wine scene is excellent and don't tell the Melbournians, but I think the Adelaide central markets give Victoria markets a run for their money.

Join our Outback Luxury Escape and explore South Australia. Due to a cancellation, we have two spaces available on this wonderful journey. Contact Travelling Places for more details

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### WINE CHAT

# with Witches Falls Winery ED TO

NEED TO DECANT MY WINE?

Decanting a wine before serving it is no longer a

common practice given the hustle and bustle of modern life. Who has the time? Most of us start sipping mere minutes after a wine has been opened. Is decanting a practice we should bring back in order to heighten the pleasure of the wine-drinking experience?

Today we're going to break down what decanting is, how to decant a wine, and whether decanting is actually of any benefit to a wine.

First off, what does it mean to decant a wine? What is a decanter? A decanter is a vessel used to serve wine. It is most commonly fabricated from glass or crystal. Design-wise, wine decanters often have a wide base and a slim neck. They can be ornate or minimal in style, but almost always add another layer of elegance to a gathering.

But why not just serve wine straight from the bottle? Is a decanter just an excuse to display your wine in a fancy bottle – perhaps a cunning way of deceiving your guests that the wine they're drinking hasn't been procured on the cheap? There are a few reasons why people choose to decant their wine.

Before the advent of modern winemaking, most wines were not filtered. This left solid by-products – often lees (dead yeast cells – at the base of the bottle. Decanting a wine is a really easy post-hoc way to filter your wine. However, most winemakers today will filter their wines before bottling. Before the mass production of glass bottles, wine was often bought in bulk – either stored in large amphoras or oak barrels. A decanter was used to transport wine from a barrel to the dining table. With the advent of the industrial revolution, glass became more readily available, and bottles became the preferred vessel of choice for storing wine.

The most cited reason for decanting wine is to give it breathing time. Much like a room can get stale and stuffy if it's closed up too long, wines can get a bit funky when they're trapped inside a bottle. Sommeliers will tell you that breathing time allows a wine to mellow – the tannins may soften, the texture will smooth, unpleasant aroma compounds diffuse, and fruity notes will come to the surface. But the jury is still out—some food and beverage scientists report there isn't enough evidence to back up these claims, and that decanting is not going to improve all wines across the board. So which wines should you decant?

There's no need to decant sparkling wine. Most whites will also be at their best straight out of the bottle. Decanting is most valuable when it comes to red wine. The process will bring aromas of fruit and oak to the forefront as oxygen interacts with the compounds in the wine. In many wines, astringent qualities will also slightly dissipate with decanting, making for a softer and smoother drinking experience. Lighter reds may only need about 20-30 minutes before they're good to go. More full-

bodied styles can be left decanted for up to an hour or more. Not convinced? Next time you open a bottle of hearty Shiraz, why not experiment a little? Taste the wine right after it's opened. Then, pour the remainder into a decanter to let it breathe... let's see what happens!

#### Cheers,

Alexandra Douglas and the Witches Falls Winery Team





### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

with Chef Dylan Gittoes

www.gourmetfoodco.com.au





### **SPARTAN EGGPLANT MOUSSAKA**

This epic Greek dish is the long-lost cousin of the Italian lasagna because you use eggplant instead of pasta. This hero of Mediterranean cuisine is an excellent way to mix up your weeknight meals and also lends itself wonderfully as a party dish as it can be made days ahead and simply reheated slowly in the oven.

Pronounced "Moo-saa-KAH" it is traditionally made with eggplant and lamb mince covered with a thick layer of béchamel that turns crispy and golden. Seeing as it's almost impossible to get your hands on lamb mince unless you grind your own, I've used beef mince as a perfectly good substitute. This really is just a 4-step recipe: Step 1. Grill the eggplant. Step 2. Make the sauce. Step Make the thick béchamel. Step 4. Layer it up, baby! For those of you that were successful with the béchamel in the croque madame this is another chance to master this skill. As always, make sure you visit your local butcher for the mince and the greengrocer for your eggplant to ensure the freshest quality. You don't need to salt the eggplant for this recipe as the high heat from the BBQ will purify any remnants of bitterness left over from the selective breeding of the modern eggplant.

Did you know? The word moussaka derives from the Arabic word 'musaggâ'? Which means "moistened" referring perhaps to the tomato juices soaking up the eggplant. It is widely believed that the Turks introduced moussaka to the world when they introduced the eggplant in a vegetable and meat stew which was then baked in the oven, but their version is not layered, and included minced beef. One food historian claims a 13th-century Arabic cookbook, 'A Baghdad Cookery Book' which details a recipe of musakhkhan, a variant from the Levant, a hearty stew with vegetables layered on top of each other, could very well be the ancestor of moussaka. Today, Arabian moussaka is still a common dish in Lebanon and most of the Arab world, a version without meat that consists of eggplant, olive oil, garlic, onions and tomatoes.

For once, the modern version of what we call Greek *moussaka* is actually not disputed because it was invented by the Greek celebrity chef of his time Nikolas Tselementes in the 1920s. He published Greek recipes including a *moussaka* featuring French béchamel sauce on top in an attempt to Europeanise the dish. He believed Greek cuisine was being bastardised by the Arabs and needed a

course correction back to the classical Greek roots. Strangely, he believed that classical French cooking had its roots in classical Greek cuisine. Something the upper-class Greek diners lapped up. Sadly, for poor Nikolas today there seems to be a shift back to the pronounced exotic spices and herb-centred cuisine of the Arabs in modern day Greek restaurants.

Chef Dylan's Tips: Don't add too much oil to the eggplant when grilling or they will catch fire and burn. Don't skip the eggs in the béchamel, as this is what sets it, otherwise it will run all over your plate and look like a big mess. This is a modern version done my way, with a blend of both the Arab style and the classic dish invented by Nikolas, so why don't you have a crack at this flavourful meal...

#### Serves 4 Prep 30 mins Cook time 40 mins

#### Ingredients

#### **Eggplant**

- 1 kg eggplant cut into 2 cm slices
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 3 tbsp olive oil

#### Sauce

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 garlic cloves chopped
- 700 g beef mince
- 125 ml red wine
- 400g crushed tomatoes
- 3 tbsp tomato paste2 tbs Gaucho marinade\*
- Béchamel
- 4 tbsp (60g) butter
- 50 g plain flour
- 625 ml hot milk
- 50g parmesan cheese, grated
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tbs Spartan marinade\*
  - \*Chef Dylan's Gourmet Food Co. marinades

#### Method

#### **Eggplant**

- Heat the BBQ on high with the lid closed until hot then lightly brush the eggplant with oil and grill for 1 or 2 mins each side to 1/2 cook.
- Repeat until all eggplant is done then place on a tray to cool slightly while you make the sauce and béchamel.



#### Sauce

- Heat olive oil in a large fry pan over medium to high heat, then cook the garlic and onion until fragrant.
- Add the beef, turn up the heat to high and let it fry. Then start breaking it up as you go.
- Add tomato paste and cook out stirring for 2 mins.
- 4. Add Gaucho marinade.
- Stir then pour in wine, cook for 2 minutes.
- Add canned tomato and stir to combine. Bring to a simmer, then lower heat to medium low and cook for 15 minutes, or until reduced (to a thick-ish sauce).

#### **Bechamel**

- 1. Melt butter in a pan over medium heat.
- 2. Add flour and cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly.
- With a small whisk stir constantly, slowly add the hot milk. Then whisk regularly for 3 to 5 minutes until it thickens.
- 4. Remove from the stove and whisk in cheese, and Spartan marinade.
- Allow to cool for 5 minutes, then whisk the eggs in. Cover with lid until required.

#### Layer up and cook

- 1. Pre heat oven to 180°C.
- Place half the eggplant in the bottom of a large baking dish then top with all the Filling.
- Top with remaining eggplant, then pour over the Béchamel Sauce.
- Bake for 30-40 minutes or until golden brown. Allow to stand for 10 minutes before serving.



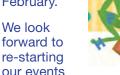
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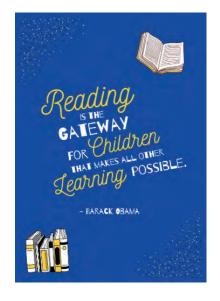
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### Interesting Facts About Bookish things

Jane Austen had a knack for brewing her own beer. She used molasses to give her brews a sweeter taste.

The Netflix adaptation of Julia Quinn's Bridgerton is the most-watched series in the platform's history. Over 82 million households have tuned in.



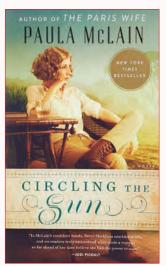
Agatha Christie disappeared for nearly two weeks in 1926, after her first husband told her he wanted a divorce. Her car was found abandoned, 15,000 volunteers

undertook a manhunt, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle consulted a psychic. She was found in a hotel under an



assumed name (borrowed from her husband's mistress), and never offered any explanation, not even in her autobiography.

#### Our Book Choice: Circling the Sun



#### by Paula McLain

Brought to Kenya from England as a child and then abandoned by her mother, Beryl Markham is raised by both her father and the native Kipsigis tribe who share his estate. Her unconventional upbringing transforms Beryl into a bold young woman with a fierce love of all things wild and an inherent understanding of nature's delicate balance.

But even the wild child must grow up, and when everything Beryl knows and trusts dissolves, she is catapulted into a string of disastrous relationships. Beryl forges her own path as a horse trainer, and her uncommon style attracts the eye of the Happy Valley set, a decadent, bohemian community of European expats who also live and love by their own set of rules. But it's the ruggedly charismatic Denys Finch Hatton who ultimately helps Beryl navigate the uncharted territory of her own heart. The intensity of their love reveals Beryl's truest self and her fate: to fly.

Genre: Historical Fiction, Cultural-Africa, Romance,

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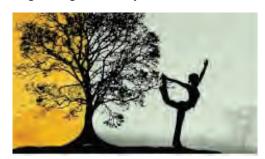
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# TRIVIA

### WEATHER THE STORM

- In atmospheric pressure, what is the metric equivalent of millibars?
- 2. What is the name of the atmosphere's lowest level, in which all weather systems occur?
- 3. In which part of the atmosphere is 90 percent of the ozone layer?
- 4. On the Beaufort scale, what number represents 'storm force'?
- 5. What phenomenon results from rain falling from a relatively warm altitude through a layer of very cold air closer to the ground?
- 6. The place with the coldest annual average temperature (minus 56.6 degrees Celsius) is on which continent?
- 7. The highest recorded wind speed was 231 mph in 1934 at Mount Washington. In which US state is Mount Washington?
- 8. Where is the world's driest place, registering an average of less than one millimetre of rain a year?

**ANSWERS PAGE 27** 

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### Answers to TRIVIA – trom page 23

- 1. The hectopascal
- 2. The troposphere
- 3. The stratosphere
- 4. Force 10
- 5. Freezing rain

- 6. Antarctica
- 7. New Hampshire
- The Atacama Desert, Chile

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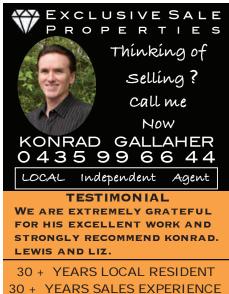
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**Next EDITION:** FEBRUARY 17, 2022

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### **REGULAR MOUNTAIN ACTIVITIES**

**BADMINTON** Social players, all levels. Mon 6.00pm to 7.30pm at the Vonda Youngman Community Centre (except Public Holidays).

**BOOK READERS GROUP** meets once a month, new members welcome. Enguiries at TM library.

**BOTANIC GARDENS** Forsythia Dr, Eagle Hts - Volunteers' working bee every Thurs morning 8-12. 0409 263 666

**FILM CLUB AT THE ZAMIA.** Meets every third Sunday at 5.30pm for 6pm screening. Only \$10 annual fee to join which gives automatic membership to the Tamborine Mt Little Theatre group. All movies are free with membership. Films shown range from the classics to foreign and Australian made. Cabaret seating and the old sling back chairs make it a great evening of entertainment where you can bring along your own refreshments or a take away to enjoy during the film.

**FRIENDS OF TAMBORINE NATIONAL PARK:** meet on the first Saturday of the month (except Jan.) To find out where we will be working contact Len on 3355 7288 or 0428 335 572.

**FRIENDS OF TM LIBRARY** Quarterly booksales held, other volunteering opportunities available. Contact the library for further information 5540 5473.

MARTIAL ARTS: Kyokushin Karate and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Bully Busters, Self Defence, Discipline. Tamborine Mountain Showgrounds Tues & Friday 5.00pm and Saturday 9.30am Contact Cameron: 0433 633 775

**MEDITATION:** Tuesdays 7pm – New Thought, New Life Centre 5545 3700.

**MEDITATION**: (World Community of Christian Meditation). Ecumenical. Tuesdays 8am. St Georges Anglican Church, cnr Dapsang Dr & Eagle Heights Rd. All welcome. 5545 2919.

**MOVIES ON THE MOUNTAIN:** Regular screenings of latest releases at the Zamia Theatre. Ph 5545 3517.

**RELAXED MIND TAI CHI:** Mindfulness in motion, Mondays & Fridays 9.30am, Botanic Gardens. Bookings essential. Phone 0420 349 744.

**ROTARY ON TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN** meets every Wednesday night at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start at the Eagle Heights Hotel. New members and visitors welcome. For information, call David on 0419 743 275

**SINGING** 4-part Acappella singing for women of all ages. If you love singing, come and join us. 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Knoll Road, North Tamborine. Ph Dianne 0413 339 821 or email bellaacapellatamborine@gmail.com

**TAI CHI** Tues mornings, Thurs evenings 110 Eagle Hts Rd, Eagle Hts. Phone Gai Wanless 5545 2409.

#### TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY CARE

**ASSOCIATION:** Service Provider for first - level aged care. Transport to medical appointments, Domestic Assistance, Home Maintenance, Social Support Individual & Group, Podiatry and Computer classes. Open: Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Volunteers welcome. Contact – 5545 4968 Address: 42, Southport Avenue, Tamborine Mountain, Qld.

**TAMBORINE SUSTAINABLE GARDENERS SOC (TSGS)**, a group of enthusiastic gardeners, meets on the last Saturday of each month. Mrs Sue Morris 5545 0102.

**TANGO CLASSES:** Tango and salsa classes: every Monday night at the Zamia theatre. Salsa for beginners from 6.30-7.30pm and tango for experienced from 7.30-8.30pm. Cost is \$30 per couple or \$20 pp. Contact Alejandro at 0413 595 275.

**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: tamborinemtngc@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 **www.tmlt.com.au**.

**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. **TM BUSHWALKERS,** find out about us on the TM Natural History Association website. New members welcome. Enquiries: 0439 869 125 or 0478 414 892. 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 Tamborine Mountain State High School at Holt Rd. New players always welcome. For more information, phone Danielle on 0423 210 949. 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 I www.tmpcq.org.au BARGAIN CENTRE: Tuesday to Saturday opens 8am – 12 noon (rear of the Presbyterian Church.

### TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN COMBINED PROBUS CLUB: Enjoy the company of retired and semi retired women

and men at our social club meetings for fun, friendship & fellowship at Club Tamborine Sports Club,6-12 Beacon Road, North Tamborine on the second Wednesday of the month at 9.15 for 9.30 start. Lyndal Drennan, President 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 Bob Hepple on

**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 President Phil Hunter 0419 662 961.

0411 776 888 for details of next meeting.

**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 Mon, 7.00am Tue, 6.30pm Wed and 3.00pm Sun. Ladies from 7.00am Fri. Fit Hit (cardio) 6.30pm Tue. For all sessions, no need to book, just turn up. 88 Beacon Rd North Tamborine. Contact Henry Rich 0477 775 671

**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 please access our website www.u3atamborinemountain.com

**YOGA**: For beginners to advanced students: Hatha, Tantra and Nada Yoga. Tues 9.30am, Sat 9am at the Zamia and Wed 6pm Creative Arts Centre. 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







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#### **AGENTS:**

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#### U 1/18 Beacon Road, Tamborine Mountain

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