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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: DEREK DRAWS THE LINE



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Fearless advocate for Tamborine Mountain and its residents over many years, ex- Scenic Rim Regional Council Division One Councillor Derek Swanborough has finally drawn the line, in a surprise decision to resign his position with little over a year until the next election. Stories pages 3 and 4. Photo: Gary Stubbs

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AGENTS:

Linda Hogan
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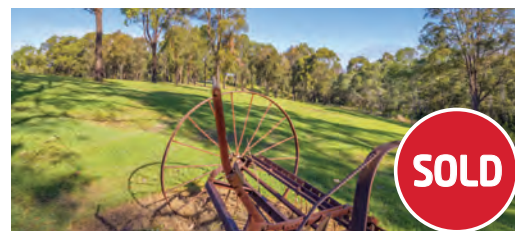
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| 11 - 11.30 | 5 Katmai Court |
| 11 - 11.30 | 90 Hazel Road, Tamborine |
| 12.15 - 12.45 | 5-7 Boise Court |
| 12.15 - 1.00 | 9 Maipu Court |
| 1.15 - 1.45 | 1D Esme Street |
| 2.15 - 2.45 | 4 Nipa Court |



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Robyn Marshall



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\$670,000 Price guide

AGENTS:

Ton Wolf 0424 591 012
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SALE  2  1  1  1,428m²

5 Katmai Court, Tamborine Mountain

- Open plan kitchen, living, high raked ceiling
- Loft bedroom upstairs, perfect for a guest
- Covered entry porch plus side patios
- Single carport, great location within walking distance to cafes, botanic gardens

\$697,000+

AGENTS:

Elizabeth Stirling
0400 449 978



SALE  4  2  2  1,012m²

203-205 Macdonnell Road, Tamborine Mtn

- Only 1 yr old, still under builder warranty
- Modern, large living area with lots of light
- High ceilings, covered patio overlooking yard
- Low maintenance garden, UV filtration system
- Easy access off the Mountain

\$850,000 Price guide

AGENTS:

Linda Hogan
0414 300 558



RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR SWANBOROUGH

Derek Swanborough has resigned as Division One Councillor in the Scenic Rim Regional Council.

“My resignation is directly related to the litany of complaints unjustly lodged against me to the Office of Independent Assessor (OIA) – approximately 70 plus in three years, including two just before Christmas and one as recently as January 27, only three weeks ago. It averages almost one per fortnight for the last three years where I must spend hours, days, and weeks sometimes, to prove my innocence.

“Both the OIA and the Scenic Rim Regional Council have failed in their duty to provide a safe local government workplace, free from constant and unreasonable pressure and anxiety.

“All but one complaint to my knowledge or referral to the OIA have been initiated internally in a flawed process that then often allows these same anonymous voting-aligned accusers to sit in judgment, to determine heavy monetary penalties.

“The OIA has failed me, and most likely the people of Queensland, by a process that has forced me – a democratically elected councillor with 43 years of service to local government, including seven as an elected councillor – to resign.

“I am now able speak as a private citizen and I want the people of the Scenic Rim, and those living in Division One, to understand that I choose not to work in a poor culture containing alleged management and leadership dishonesty.

“I choose not to work in an organisation that has commenced a process of cost recovery through the legal process against one of my constituents. Her only ‘crime’ is to work tirelessly as a volunteer for our Tamborine Mountain community in defending inappropriate development.

“I choose not work for an organisation that has started a process of cost recovery against the Tamborine Mountain Progress Association, a voluntary organisation that has tirelessly and courageously served our community for 107 years and may yet face winding up, unable to pay its debt.

“The OIA and the Scenic Rim Regional Council together – like some kind of “judge and jury” in matters of alleged inappropriate conduct or misconduct – have allowed this flawed process and power of prosecution to degenerate into one of persecution and punishment.



“The recent inquiry into the OIA fell well short of addressing this issue of misuse of the process for political or personal reasons, and in my view, failed local government in Queensland.

“Let’s be very clear – why would any citizen wanting to become a councillor wish to put themselves in such an environment.

“Government protection of the OIA and its legislation perpetuates sustained anonymous complaints or referrals for political persecution, even from anonymous bureaucrats, CEOs and Mayors, and other councillors who may not welcome differing views around the decision-making table, and who may have questionable motives that have been influenced by a toxic leadership culture.”

Derek Swanborough
Former Councillor
Scenic Rim Regional Council

more on this topic, page 4



Testimonial vendor: ★★★★★

Linda was always professionals from the day we met her. Her experience and down to earth manner captured us from the minute we met. Would recommend her highly as an agent.

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RESIGNATION LEAVES MANY QUESTIONS UNADDRESSED

Scenic Rim Councillor Derek Swanborough's surprise resignation last Tuesday has sparked a by-election for Division 1. Many speculate that his resignation was a response to the failings of the Palaszczuk Government's local government reforms, particularly with regards to the Office of the Independent Assessor (OIA), a council watchdog that has received widespread criticism. Swanborough's resignation was effective immediately, just over a year before the next election. If he had resigned next month, the Christensen administration could have appointed a replacement councillor leading up to the next local government election.



In a statement following his resignation, Swanborough criticised the OIA and the Scenic Rim Regional Council for the 70-plus unjust complaints that were lodged against him over the past three years, which amounted to nearly one complaint per fortnight. He noted that he had to spend an inordinate amount of time proving his innocence, making it difficult for him to carry out his duties effectively. Swanborough argued that the OIA and the council allowed the flawed process to degenerate into persecution and punishment. According to Swanborough, the recent inquiry into the OIA did not address the issue of misuse of the process for political or personal reasons and failed local government in Queensland.

He also criticised the culture in council under the Christensen administration, alleging that the OIA and the Council failed to provide a safe workplace free from constant and unreasonable pressure and anxiety. He noted that all but one complaint to his knowledge had been initiated internally in a flawed process that allowed anonymous voting-aligned accusers to determine heavy monetary penalties.

Swanborough pointed to the Council's decision to pursue the Tamborine Mountain Progress Association and Tamborine Mountain resident Amanda Hay for court costs in their appeal over the controversial Eagles Retreat Place development as one of the reasons for his resignation. He refused to work for an organisation that had commenced a process of cost recovery through the legal process against his constituents, including a voluntary organisation that had served the community for over 100 years and may yet face winding up, unable to pay its debt. Swanborough, who has over 40 years of experience in local government, has been an advocate for transparency in decision-making, lower rates, improved customer service, and efficient operations. He also campaigned for Tamborine Mountain to leave Scenic Rim Regional Council and join Gold Coast City Council. In his statement, he acknowledged that there was still much more to do and that his efforts had not been well received by some of his elected colleagues and the administration.



Ian MacAllan
LAWYER
5545 4303

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AN EXTREME DREAM BECOMES A REALITY - TAMBORINE MT UNIVERSE HAS THE GREEN LIGHT

After hundreds of volunteer hours and donated expertise to get us to this point, Tamborine Mountain Universe has received formal approval from Scenic Rim Regional Council to proceed with development of the land on Long Road, to build TM Universe Precinct (a state of the art immersive reality science and education facility and six short term tourist cabins).

In approving the Development Application at the Council meeting on 21 February 2023, the Mayor stated in a press release that, "While the proposed development did not comply with all aspects of the *Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020*, it has much merit to its approval, subject to reasonable and relevant conditions."

There was an existing approval for a function centre and short term accommodation at the site, which is next to Cauldron Distillery and adjacent to sports fields and other tourism attractions.

"The Planetarium will be an educational space for locals and visitors alike and add to the Mountain's wealth of tourism offerings. It supports tourism proposals that are consistent with the area's character and minimises impact to neighbouring properties." The Mayor said.

"This is wonderful and exciting news for all involved in the TMU Project. Inspiring and encouraging," said innovative pioneer of the Project, community stalwart Jaap Vogel.

This much anticipated news has been well received from all involved in the TMU project. The Project, which started in 2017 gathered momentum with local investors and community support from the Buy-a-Brick campaign to raise money needed to proceed. A four-acre block of land was later purchased on Long Road in 2021.

We are keen to start work on the next stage of the project, getting shovel-ready with working drawings, QS and a few engineering reports and completing final studies, getting us ready for stage four, to apply for state and federal grants as well as sponsorships/partnerships.

We would like to recognise the efforts of TM Universe Association Inc, TJ Kelly, Clark & Granger, Inform Design, All Seasons Building Services and everyone else that contributed to the Project so far.

Contact: info@tmuniverse.com.au

Julie Wilkinson
The TM Universe Project

TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT SHOOTS FOR THE STARS

A development incorporating a planetarium and tourist cabins at Tamborine Mountain is set to join the Scenic Rim's offering of stellar attractions following its approval by Council.

Scenic Rim Regional Council approved the TM Universe Inc's application for a planetarium that is projected to bring thousands of visitors annually to Tamborine Mountain, as well as six individual single-storey cabins to accommodate guests at the Long Road site.

The development, with the planetarium as the first stage and the cabins as the second, was in keeping with the surrounding area and would be another visitor drawcard for the Mountain.

The site, adjacent to sports fields, a distillery, wineries, and a glow worm cave, and a short distance from the commercial centre of the Mountain's Main Street and the Gallery Walk tourism hub, had prior approval for a function facility and short-term accommodation. The addition of a planetarium will enhance the area's tourism offerings and serve as an educational space for both locals and visitors.

The planetarium will feature a main hall containing a cosmic sphere, an exhibition area, an audio-visual theatre to seat 50, an education centre, a café with indoor and outdoor seating and a small retail area for souvenirs and other merchandise.

With a maximum of 100 visitors on the site at any time, the planetarium is proposed to operate seven days a week, from 10am to 5pm, with a limited number of evening events each year which would extend the closing time to 10pm.

The natural values of the area are to be enhanced by native plants in the landscaping of a previously cleared allotment.

In addition to providing another boost for the local economy through an increase in visitor numbers, the planetarium is expected to create employment opportunities with the equivalent of some 10 full-time positions.

"The Planning Scheme recognises that the Tamborine Mountain Community's unique natural environment, scenic beauty and semi-rural character makes this such a desirable destination for visitors," Cr Christensen said.



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XYLORYCTIDAE MOTH

Cryptophasa rubescens – garage, Central Ave



Kindly indulge me for featuring this rather prosaic moth. It is an Australian species in the family *Xyloryctidae*, which is found in Queensland, New South Wales, The Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. Its wingspan is 45 mm. I photographed it nearly a month ago. For almost a year, moths at this once prolific site, have been few and far between. It was one of three or four I saw that morning, attracted by the heat and humidity. I had other moths of the genus in my album, but not this one. Which made the occasion all the more of a red-letter day.

Peter Kuttner



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TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

MONDAY (13-FEB-23)

1. 58.33% CHERYL FINLAYSON - MARIAN GIBBONS
2. 56.94% BETTY BULL - RICHARD BULL
3. 56.25% JOHN LODGE - PETER MORRIS

WEDNESDAY (15-FEB-23)

- NS 1. 55.33% SHEILA IRVINE-BROWN - JANE DOYLE
- NS 2. 55.00% CHRIS PENDER - ERNIE ANDREWS
- NS 3. 51.80% LINDY WILLIAMS - EDDIE HEINEMEYER

- EW 1. 64.10% CHERYL FINLAYSON - JULIE GUTHRIE
- EW 2. 56.00% JENNY STRACHAN - LAWRENCE BEUTEL
- EW 3. 51.83% HANK VAN LIESHOUT - MAX IRVINE-BROWN

THURSDAY (16-FEB-23)

- NS 1. 67.33% PATRICK RASMUSSEN - PETER MORRIS
- NS 2. 64.83% KEVIN HAMILTON-REEN - MARY SIMON
- NS 3. 52.33% CHERYL FINLAYSON - SHEILA IRVINE-BROWN

- EW 1. 70.29% EDDIE HEINEMEYER - JENNY STRACHAN
- EW 2. 51.21% LAURENE HASSARD - LINDY WILLIAMS
- EW 3. 47.64% HEIKE EDRICH - CAROLE COOKE

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4 3 2 4,093m²

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- Double carport
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4 3 13 6.3 acres

CONTACT AGENT:
Linda Hogan
0414 300 558

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price guide



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Whether your passion is journeying down the rivers of the world, through the oceans of the world or exploring the more exotic destinations by expedition ship, Viking Cruises offer so many options, they are bound to have something which excites the inner traveller in you. As you read this I will be sailing on Viking Sky from Barcelona across the Med to Rome. Do come and join me on my return to hear all about it. We are having a free information session on Wednesday 15th March and Leon from Viking will be coming to the mountain to share information about their wonderful cruises.

Iconic cities, quaint towns, and vibrant villages line river banks the world over. And there's no better way to discover these extraordinary destinations and meet the people who call them home, than on a river cruise. Unpack once and enjoy the ever-changing landscapes and breathtaking scenery as you sail on board our award winning river ships, featuring all the comforts of a fine hotel, arriving in each port rested, relaxed and ready to explore.

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Ocean cruising on Viking's modern state of the art fleet is a joy – no casinos, no kids and a dedication to their philosophy of being the 'Thinking Man's Cruise'. When I sailed out of Sydney recently one of their vessels was in harbour – she struck an elegant line as she sailed down the harbour at sunset. These ships offer a relaxed atmosphere with no formal nights and lots of space to find your own style of holiday. There are several small restaurants on board to try and they are all included. Beer and wine are included with lunch and dinner so there is little to pay once you step onboard. With a maximum 930 guests on board you won't feel swamped by other passengers and you are bound to have the holiday of a lifetime.



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PROBUS CELEBRATES ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

At its February general meeting the Tamborine Mountain Men's Probus Club celebrated the beginning of its 40th year.

Celebrations included the cutting of the anniversary cake by the club's longest serving club member, Ian Wallace. Ian has been a club member for 33 years.

President Max Irving-Brown also presented the club's framed Presidents Collar (1983 to 2011) to 11 past presidents who were able to attend this special occasion.

Club historian, John Clem, provided some interesting statistics on the club. From February 1983 to January 2023 there have been 371 members, 38 Presidents, 12 Secretaries and 14 Treasurers. Club meetings have only been cancelled because of two extreme events. Cyclone Oswald in January 2013 (one meeting) and COVID-19 between March 2020 and January 2022 (nine meetings).

With a large number of members passing through the club the most popular Christian name, by a large margin, was John (39) followed by Robert (16), David (14) and Raymond (14).

Activities will continue through to March 2024 with historical articles in the monthly newsletters and five minute presentations by past presidents, reflecting on their presidential year.

If you are retired or semi-retired and enjoy the company of like minded individuals, you too could enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie within our club. Call the Membership Secretary Bob Hepple 0411 776 888 for an invitation to attend one of our meetings.

Check out our website via the QR code.



Photos: (main) Past presidents: Rob Tolmie 2020-21, Barry Chick 2015, Norm Gahan 2017, Hank Van Lieshout 2016, Roger Bell 2006, Roger Sutton 2019, Nev Goodrick 2010, Grahame Griffin 2012, John Gallo 2018, John Clem 2013, (David Bird standing in for) Doug Heidke 2009.

(middle) Current president Max Irvine-Brown and 40th anniversary event organizer John Clem with club shield of past presidents.

(bottom right) Life member and member since 1990, Ian Wallace cuts the cake.



"The Accidents"

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2023

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FOR SALE | Offers Over \$1,549,000
17 Lombok Court, Tamborine Mountain



FOR SALE | Contact Agent
570-576 Main Western Rd, Tamborine Mountain



FOR SALE | Offers Over \$799,000
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JON KRAUSE MP

State Member for Scenic Rim

YOUTH JUSTICE

As I wrote last edition, the LNP gave Queenslanders a result with getting a cut to learner licence fees, and last week the Government 'pinched' another LNP policy by announcing changes to bail for youth offenders. Making a breach of that bail an offence is about ensuring there are some consequences for action. What's the point of bail conditions if breaching them carries no consequence? I'll have more to say on this, and the LNP will keep highlighting the Government's massive youth justice failures and seeking a better system.

SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL

Following is a contribution to Queensland Parliament last week:

"This week Scenic Rim councillor Derek Swanborough resigned from Council...

He cited the 70 complaints—approximately one per fortnight for three years—and the process of constantly having to prove his innocence as reasons for his resignation. I will say more about this in the future, but for now I say that the OIA [Office of the Independent Assessor that deals with councillor conduct complaints] and conduct provisions for local government and councillors fail Queenslanders, diminish local government and seriously deter people from standing as councillors.

The OIA report tabled last year was a missed opportunity. There were some good things in it, but it could have gone a lot further. More staff and resources for the OIA, as recommended, is all well and good. However, I believe more than anything that the substance of the conduct system needs to be fixed. That is where the problem lies. In addition, it is now 20 months since the Deputy Premier promised to fix the conflict of interest provisions that can be weaponised—just like conduct complaints—to stifle debate and silence councillors. Fix it, Deputy Premier. How much longer does local government have to wait to get the conflict of interest provisions fixed, as he promised to do in June 2021?"

UKRAINE AND UNCERTAIN TIMES

24 February 2023 marked one year anniversary of Russia's violent invasion of Ukraine - it's worth remembering five million people had to leave their homes because of that invasion. In addition to that, over 200,000 pets and animals were left behind. I want to highlight some work being done by the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation - it's a great organisation and they're helping the volunteers left in Ukraine helping those animals. Governments all over the world, including Australia's, have sent a lot of money and aid to help Ukraine in their effort and the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation is doing their bit to help the animals left behind. For more information, visit thepurplepoppy.com.au and make a donation or find out more.

The events in Ukraine - even though a long way away in physical terms - have the potential to cause huge disruption to Australia by destabilising the international trade we depend on, pushing the price of essentials even higher and reducing overall national income. These events reinforce the need for affordable, reliable energy and policies to support our businesses and industries at home in Queensland and Australia. While we hope for peace and prosperity, uncertainty looms large on the horizon and we must do whatever we can to ensure the independence and sustainability of our economy and way of life into the future, even in the face of huge disruption that may come our way from over the seas.

ADVERTISEMENT

Jon KRAUSE MP
Member for **Scenic Rim**

Fighting for our fair share

07 5515 1100 f JonKrauseMP

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



Letters to

PRO-FORMAS – OF WHAT VALUE ARE THEY?

The short answer is, it is whatever value Scenic Rim Regional Council wants to place on them.

Tamborine Mountain residents for more than a century have played a strong role in the way the mountain has acquired its unique environmental/semi-rural character. Having owned and managed the *Tamborine Mountain News* (sold in 2012 and now called the *Scenic News*), Tamborine Mountain Progress Association was able to relay for about fifty years, unadulterated news of Council's doings on a fortnightly basis. The paper had editorial independence.

As a media outlet TMPA was privy to all monthly minutes and agendas. One member's sole job was to attend all Council meetings and bring up the big fat envelope. A central group examined the hard copy contents and news of importance to mountain residents was then published. Tamborine Mountain residents were very well informed.

Many earlier residents still here have a better than usual understanding of how Council works, and joined by newer residents who have come for a similar lifestyle they are strongly protective of the established mountain core character. Hence the unusually strong responses.

The recommendations for approval or refusal of development applications are made by Council town planners.

More than a decade ago, new town planners with an urban view started arriving in Council. Resident objection submissions to inappropriate development applications were receiving blanket "irrelevant" dismissals. Many objection submissions did not use planning terms and much content did not specifically relate to the planning scheme.

Consequently, to help residents TMPA began publishing in the local papers pro-formas framed in town planning terms and using the broad community's core values. These have been established over decades from questionnaires, forums and compilation of development control plans, etc. In this way Council's town planners were encouraged to take notice, plus Council could gauge the strength of community responses to particular DA's.

In attempting to apply his project to a site which breaches the intent of the planning scheme, and worse, likely to raise wide resident objections, a hungry developer engages specialised firms and experts at great expense to present his case to Council.

Providing pro-formas, often compiled by town planners, TMPA provides to residents this same service free of charge. They are easy to read, can be added to or items deleted and when signed, dated and with an address they are legal documents.

So when Council in the early stages of an inappropriate development application climbs into

bed with developers without consideration for mountain residents (ratepayers) the value Council places on resident pro-formas is typically zilch.

Degrading and devaluing carefully prepared legal documents submitted by residents of Tamborine Mountain illustrates to what depths Scenic Rim Regional Council has sunk.

Jeanette Lockey
President,
Tamborine Mtn Progress Association

COMMUNITY SERVICE INCURS OUTRAGEOUS PENALTY

In what can be described only as heinous and vindictive, an action by the Scenic Rim Regional Council (SRRC) together with a developer, has resulted in the extinction of a not-for-profit public service organisation and in the grave risk of horrendous and unprecedented costs to an individual whose only 'crime' is altruistic service to fellow citizens and ratepayers. The organisation is the 107 year-old Tamborine Mountain Progress Association (TMPA) and the individual is Amanda Hay, a recent nominee for an Australia Day Award for service to her community.

For trying to help Tamborine Mountain residents who were confronted by a massive commercial development in their hitherto quiet Eagles Retreat Place residential neighbourhood, they have been hit with court costs in excess of \$200,000, to be shared equally. No break-down of these costs has been included to date in the vengeful claims. It could be interpreted that the developer involved is determined to deter any future opposition to planned projects, and it would appear that Scenic Rim Regional Council is intent on wiping out opposition to, and criticism of its many planning decisions in favour of developers in spite of planning scheme constraints and the projected deleterious effect on nearby residents, the environment and wildlife.

Previously all parties to disputes in the Planning and Environment court bore their own costs. After all, the regulations governing such proceeding refer to an investigation into the merits and drawbacks of each project. Nowhere do these regulations refer to a trial. Yet in what many see as a dangerous precedent the court has not only seen fit to conduct proceedings as a trial, but by setting costs against respondents has ensured that unless people have very deep pockets, opposition to any development, no matter how appalling or scandalous, is decidedly risky and inadvisable. This appears precisely what SRRC had in mind with regard to TMPA and Ms Hay. Shame on all councillors who voted in favour of this malicious action.

TMPA has no tangible assets and will have to fold. SRRC will receive nothing for its actions and moreover TMPA can resurrect under another banner and continue its community service, proving the inadequacy of SRRC's powers of reasoning. In the case of Ms Hay, unless she receives considerable help from the shire-wide community, her payment of these costs could mean the loss of her home is a distinct possibility. I appeal to all fair minded people in the shire to contribute to Amanda Hay's court cost funding. Donations could be sent to the newspaper you are reading or direct to Amanda's bank, details of which are: BSB: 814-282, Acc: 30063911, Name: A. Hay. Thank you one and all.

Roland Lindenmayer

COURT COSTS UPDATE

Firstly, 'thank you' to the many people who have made donations towards my court costs. As promised, the amount donated to date is \$ 13,115.00 from 25 donors, many of whom I have never heard of and am therefore unable to send an expression of thanks.

For those who may wish to make a donation towards my costs, which are in excess of \$100,000 (between Council and the developer), the account to which donations can be made is: BSB: 814-282 Account number 30063911, which is in my name.

continued on p14

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clarke@varroclarke.com.au

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Varro Clarke
Margaret Steen

Consultant
Stephen Train
Special Counsel

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Secondly, as a result of former Division 1 Cr Derek Swanborough's resignation on 21 February 2023, there will be a by-election conducted shortly. Please ensure that your details are up to date on the Electoral Roll, as every vote counts.

Amanda Hay
Resident and Ratepayer

MOVE ALONG – NO DEMOCRACY TO SEE HERE!

I am appalled that, in an Agenda Item for the 21 February Council meeting, valid and properly made submissions from concerned ratepayers were subjected to a bizarre Council Planning Department caste system where they were classified as either 'pro-forma – not unique' and/or being from persons 'not directly impacted' by the proposal.

There is to be a Referendum soon. The voting paper will be pro-forma. Will the outcome be in question because voters did not submit 'unique' responses? The Senate ballot paper is pro-forma. One can vote with a single number above the line or 'uniquely' below the line. Are these votes considered differently?

This is Australia. We have the right to express our opinions in whatever way we wish, within reason. If I read a pro-forma, agree with the content and verify it with my signature, I expect it to carry as much weight as any other submission. I also expect Council to respect my submission, not relegate it to a sub-class. If Council wishes to do this, it might care to publish this policy at the time of inviting submissions.

Is this the path this country is heading down? Or is this ridiculous situation due to our dysfunctional Council, to which the State Government has seen fit to appoint an Advisor – only the third time in Queensland history? Apparently, the presence of this august person hasn't curbed Council's urge to quell or manipulate democracy on Tamborine Mountain.

Does my address determine if I am 'directly impacted' by a development? As residents of Tamborine Mountain who value the amazing 'sense of place' it gives us all, we have a right to express our concerns to Council if we believe our precious lifestyle and environment are under threat. I believe that classifies me as 'directly impacted' – whether I live next door to the development in question or not.

'Directly impacted' appears to be another Planning Department fabrication. Who determined the meaning of the term, let alone its inclusion in Council documents as a means of discriminating between submissions? I can't find this term in the Planning Scheme, nor in the current Development Assessment Rules (*link: Microsoft Word - D20 228936 Development Assessment Rules Version 1.3 Realigned Version(2).DOCX (windows.net)*). These rules also do not mention any differentiation between proforma and unique submissions.

Where did the terms originate? Perhaps Council Officers could provide the precedents they have relied upon? Another example is a current case in which Planning Officers have conceded impacts to the Escarpment by a proposed development yet have described those impacts as negligible due to the site being 'remote' (Planning Department speak for a 2-minute drive to St Bernard's Hotel). The term 'remote' doesn't appear in the Zone Code either. Precedent, please?

Common Law does contain numerous precedents for the principle that the Planning Scheme is a manifestation of Community Expectation. Our Council apparently disagrees, diluting Community Expectation into sub-categories to suit the purpose du jour. What precedent is it, that gives SRRC that power? Could Council's bizarre and apparently discriminatory actions be, in part, why it is now leashed, albeit loosely, by the State Government?

Our unique lifestyle is being white-anted by non-compliant developments. Council is doing nothing. Well, less than nothing, if you consider that a development application submitted in August 2020 has apparently progressed to a 'deemed refusal' because Planning Officers state that they ran out of time to make a decision by March 2023.

In cases such as this, Council takes the gormless stance of voting, after the fact, that it would have approved the development, effectively leaving ratepayers holding the Appeal costs bag. Perhaps that is a more appropriate description of 'directly impacted'? It hurts twice as much that our rates fund Council ineptitude in the first place.

If Council was an animal, you'd act to humanely finish it up due to its inability to function. The State Government has put it under care, but it doesn't seem to be responding to treatment and is biting the ratepayer hands that feed it.

Council elections are coming up. To cut out the rot, the change must come from the very top – and preferably prior to the next election.

Name and address provided

Scott BUCHHOLZ MP
Federal Member for **Wright**

Working for Wright

- 📍 21 William Street, Beaudesert QLD 4285
- ☎ 07 5541 0150
- ✉ scott.buchholz.mp@aph.gov.au
- 🌐 scottbuchholz.com.au
- 📱 SBuchholzMP

Authorised by S. Buchholz, Liberal National Party of Queensland, 21 William Street, Beaudesert QLD 4285.

U3A AGM

U3A Annual General Meeting
We look forward to welcoming you to the AGM:

Date: 17th March 2023
Time: 2 pm

Venue: Masonic Lodge Hall,
10 Knoll Road, North Tamborine



Councillor's Comment

JEFF McCONNELL
DIVISION 2

PUBLIC MEETING

I held a public meeting on Friday 17 February with the Tamborine community to discuss options for the themes/styles for a sculptural gateway artwork for Tamborine Village. Although the turnout was smaller than I would have hoped, the themes and ideas that came from the residents showed the passion that locals have for the area. I will be posting the list of themes on my Facebook page.

Following the conversation on the gateway artwork, I then opened the floor for questions, and we had a great hour-long discussion about the budget, rates, roads and the need for the State-appointed Governance Advisor.

HEADSPACE MURAL

It was great to meet up recently with Dale from headspace Beaudesert and the fantastic group of young people who worked together to produce such an inspirational piece of mural art on an otherwise unused Energex wall in the Woolworths carpark. The mural was made possible through a grant funded by Council and with paint supplies from Mitre 10 Beaudesert. Great work by all involved!

OUR ROAD NETWORK

Council appreciates that there has been a lot of talk about the road network across our region. We understand your frustration. However, there are some very real reasons why there have been delays to the repair of some of our roads. This includes staff shortages, the inability to access contractors and skilled trades, as well as a national shortage of supplies to complete the works. It is important to note that we have experienced seven weather events in the past three years, which has had a massive impact on our ability to deliver the works required. Council has established a *Let's Talk Scenic Rim* page that outlines all of these particulars. If you are seeking more information on our roads, or would like to join in the conversation, please visit letstalk.scenicrim.qld.gov.au

VANDALISM

I am aware of the campaign that is encouraging residents to #grabaspraycan and spray paint our road network to identify the potholes on roads across the region. I ask that you please refrain from participating in these activities. Again, I understand your frustration, but participating in these acts of vandalism will not result in your road being repaired sooner. This type of action may also result in Council crews having to attend a site due to the introduction of new hazard or to deal with the use of offensive language in the graffiti, resulting in increased costs to the community and further delays to the reconstruction program. I appreciate your frustration but this could easily escalate to spray painting other things you want fixed, which will only turn our spectacular region into something looking like a ghetto. #report it - don't spray it.

BUDGET COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In coming weeks, Council will commence a community consultation process regarding the 2023-2024 Draft Budget. This means that you will have the chance to provide input and feedback on the draft budget. Your feedback is really important to Council, and I encourage you to join in the conversation. By registering on the *Let's Talk Scenic Rim* platform, residents can share their feedback online. Alternatively, residents can register to attend one of three community consultation sessions. I will provide a further update on this in my next column.

Quote of the Day – “We must consult our means rather than our wishes.” – George Washington

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

FROM STATE PARLIAMENT

Mr JON KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.04 pm):
This week Scenic Rim councillor Derek Swanborough resigned from Council, and I table the statement he issued after his resignation.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled *'Information Release, Resignation of Councillor Swanborough'*.

He cited the 70 complaints—approximately one per fortnight for three years—and the process of constantly having to prove his innocence as reasons for his resignation. I will say more about this in the future, but for now I say that the OIA and conduct provisions for local government and councillors fail Queenslanders, diminish local government and seriously deter people from standing as councillors.

The OIA report tabled last year was a missed opportunity. There were some good things in it, but it could have gone a lot further. More staff and resources for the OIA, as recommended, is all well and good. However, I believe more than anything that the substance of the conduct system needs to be fixed. That is where the problem lies. In addition, it is now 20 months since the Deputy Premier promised to fix the conflict of interest provisions that can be weaponised—just like conduct complaints—to stifle debate and silence councillors. Fix it, Deputy Premier. How much longer does local government have to wait to get the conflict of interest provisions fixed, as he promised to do in June 2021?

In other matters, concerns have also been brought to my attention that there has been some delay in the awarding of national emergency medals for rural firefighters and other people who assisted during the 2019-20 bushfires in Queensland. It has now been over three years since that horrific event shook so many parts of Queensland including the Scenic Rim. There were so many wonderful volunteer rural fires, auxiliary firefighters, SES volunteers and others in the community who assisted not only in their own region but also in other regions across the state. I know there is a process to go through in terms of putting people's name forward for one of those medals; it has to go through the Rural Fire Service, then to the minister and then to the Commonwealth as well. However, it has now been three years since that incident. It should have progressed.

As I understand, as it has been put to me, it is not that there is a delay at the Queensland level in that recommendation being made to the government or Government House in Canberra. I urge the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services to look into this and if there is a delay, to please ensure that is progressed as quickly as possible. There was so much good volunteering and there are people who deserve to be recognised through receiving that award. It should be done as soon as possible.

Jon Krause

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Fire ants are a much greater risk to animals, humans, the environment and the Australian economy than the treatment itself

Have you ever used flea treatment on your pets or mosquito control around your home?

The product being used to eradicate fire ants from Australia contains the exact same active ingredients but at a lower concentration.

The treatment is not a poison. It is tried, tested and approved by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) and is safe for humans and animals when used according to the label and APVMA permits.

First found in Brisbane in 2001, fire ants are a category 1 restricted matter (*Biosecurity Act 2014*). While only 2–6 mm in size, fire ants can destroy crops, damage machinery, and render paddocks, parks, playgrounds and backyards unusable. They have the potential to cost the Australian economy.

The National Fire Ant Eradication Program has a challenging but very important job to do, and we are currently working in parts of the Lockyer Valley, Scenic Rim, Somerset and Ipswich local government areas.

So what does eradication involve?

Eradication treatment is the only proven way to eliminate fire ants from our landscape and protect the Australia we know and love.

Fire ant expert and entomologist Dr Ross Wylie says we are eradicating fire ants using the best available methods internationally.

“Eradication involves treating targeted areas multiple times, over several years with an insect growth regulator. We can’t just treat once or twice, we need to keep coming back. This is part of the plan,” says Dr Wylie.

“There could be nests on your property or on a neighbouring property and you may not even know it.”

Treatment is delivered between **September and June** using helicopters, utility terrain vehicles, and handheld spreaders on smaller, more easily accessible areas.

“The treatment we use consists of small pieces of corn grit soaked in soybean oil which contains a low concentration of insect growth regulator.

It essentially acts as ‘the pill’ for ants, preventing the fire ant queen from reproducing workers.

If she can’t replenish her workforce to look after her, she and the colony will eventually die,” says Dr Wylie.

The product contains pyriproxyfen, which is registered for use with horticultural crops—for treating whiteflies and scale insects—as well as animal flea collars, fly control spray and pest and parasite management for horses and cattle.

Our eradication treatment contains minimal insecticide. With 5 g of insecticide within each kg, the active ingredient equates to only 0.5% of the total product.

For a 500 m² block, just 100 g of product would be applied containing only 1/2 gram of the active ingredient. On a 10 ac (4 ha) property, 8 kg of the product would be applied containing only 40 g of insecticide.

This ensures minimal impact on flora and fauna, and little chance for animals to source enough of the treatment product to negatively affect their health.

An animal, for example a horse, would need to consume every single granule sprinkled on a 3,333 m² property to be impacted by the treatment.



Even then, the low concentration of active ingredient has minimal effect, and the granules sink deep into the grass making it practically impossible for any animal that isn’t a fire ant to detect each piece.

On limited occasions we also use a product containing S-methoprene when treating near waterways. We do this to protect aquatic life, as S-methoprene has been shown to have a lower effect on aquatic animals.

The presence of fire ants in our environment is a much greater risk to local wildlife, pets and farm animals than the treatment itself.

By following the product application guidelines and permit requirements, we can protect the people and animals within our treatment area.

It is vital we treat every property, whether you see signs of fire ants or not. Just one missed nest could be the difference between reinfestation and further spread, jeopardising our eradication efforts.

We all have a role to play in protecting Australia from fire ants, and we can achieve eradication if we work together.

Visit fireants.org.au or call 13 25 23 for more information.



FIRE ANTS HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR YOUR YARD

Help us treat your property

Our officers will treat your property for fire ants **multiple times** between now and June. When they visit, you must provide them access to your outdoor areas. To learn more about our treatment activities, scan the QR code, visit fireants.org.au or call 13 25 23.



NATIONAL
Fire Ant Eradication
PROGRAM



Queensland
Government

Authorised by the Queensland Government, William Street, Brisbane.

REBECCA'S EDGE FUNDRAISER A WELCOME SUCCESS



Saturday, 25th February saw an enthusiastic turnout for a fundraiser for Bowel Cancer Australia, co-hosted by our *Beauty & Wellness* columnist Rebecca Mander, with friend and owner of Edge Hairdressing, Samijo Cranney. Rebecca honoured a promise made to a dear friend to cut off her hair, donate it to make wigs for cancer fighters and \$1500 was raised on the day for Bowel Cancer fighters and survivors. Amongst supporters were Naturally COS, Edge Hairdressing, Maternal Grounding and Balance Lane. *Story page 24*

PUBLIC NOTICE



Planning Act 2016

ADOPTION OF SCENIC RIM PLANNING SCHEME 2020 AMENDMENT NO. 5

Notice is given that on 21 February 2023, Scenic Rim Regional Council adopted an Administrative Amendment to the *Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020* (Planning Scheme). The Administrative Amendment is made in accordance with the *Planning Act 2016* and Chapter 2, Part 1 of the *Minister's Guidelines and Rules* (Version 1.1).

The purpose of this Administrative Amendment is to update the Digital Cadastral Database (DCDB) and the presentation of Precincts on the Zone Maps.

The amendment is described as Amendment No. 5 and will have effect on and from Friday 24 February 2023. The Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020 is available for viewing on the Scenic Rim Regional Council website: scenicrim.qld.gov.au and for purchase at the Beaudesert Customer Service Centre located at 82 Brisbane Street, Beaudesert.

For further information, please visit Council's customer service centre, telephone Council on 5540 5111, or email mail@scenicrim.qld.gov.au

David Keenan
Chief Executive Officer
Scenic Rim Regional Council
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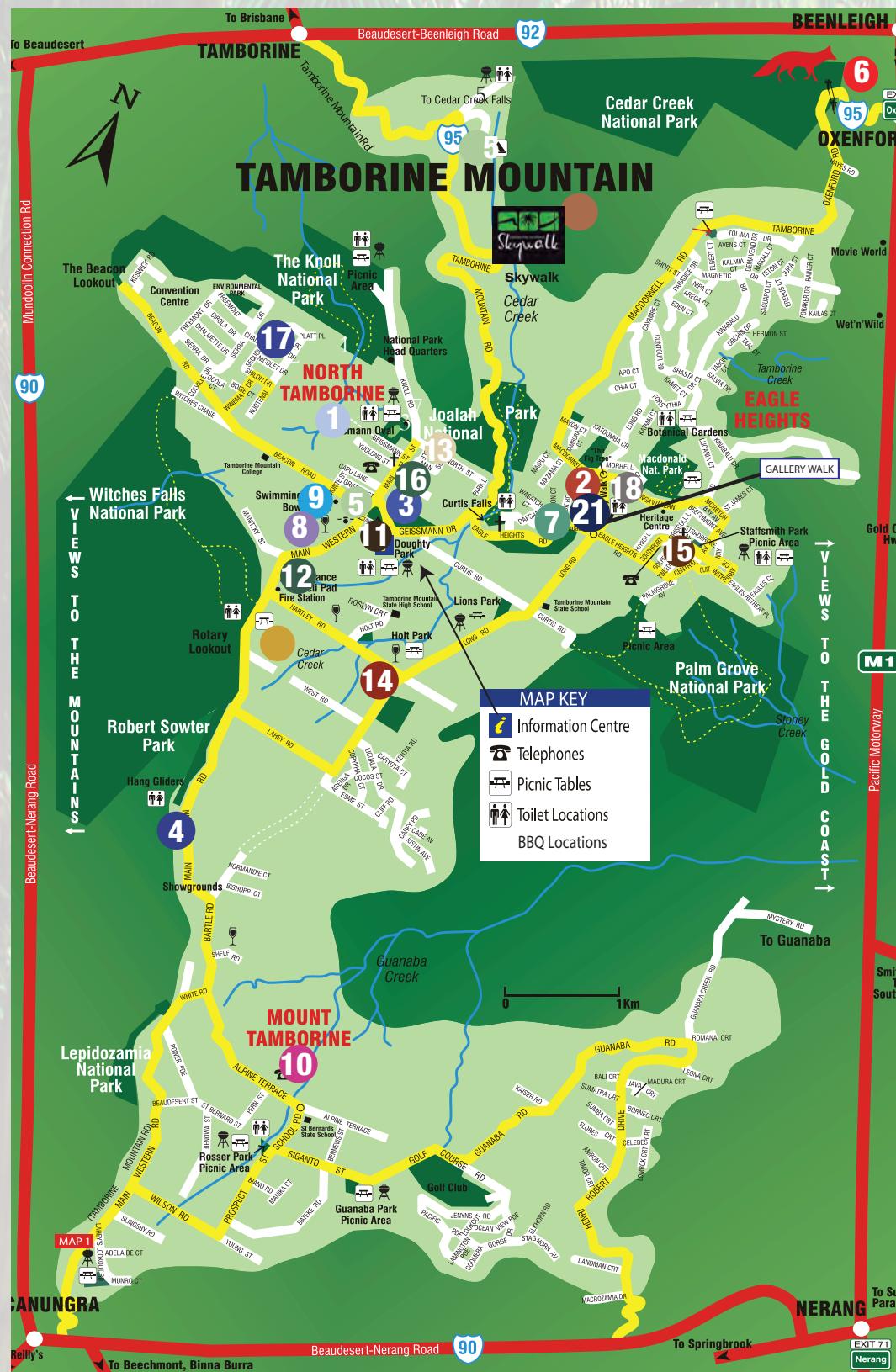


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18



WAKING WITH THE SUN

Waking just before dawn is an integral part of living the life of a yogi. Just like the birds, whose dawn chorus starts about 90 minutes before sunrise, yogis use this time to meditate, exercise,

practice yoga and tune into the sounds and wisdom of the universe. On yoga retreat, we wake before the dawn in silence so that we can practice a walking meditation towards the rising sun. On retreat, under a silvery, starry sky and dodging the odd owl, when I do my rounds to wake up my students, I listen to the world waking up in layers. First the birds, usually the males singing and calling to the females and reconfirming their territories. In Springbrook, on yoga retreat, the whipbird dominates the morning song. Then the small marsupials, the night animals scurrying back to bed and the early feeders like the red-necked pademelons under the trees. And finally, the insects, reptiles and flowers, who need warmth and light to activate and open.

In yoga we call this time before dawn from 3.45am to 6am, Brahma Muhurta, the 4th prahar of the night. Both Ayurveda and Chinese medicine put a huge emphasis on waking with the rising light of dawn. In the West we call your wake/sleep cycle your circadian rhythm. This is your body's biological clock, which is ruled by the master clock, the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) in the brain. The SCN is stimulated with the onset of light. At dawn, the SCN sends signals to increase body temperature and secrete cortisol for waking up. It also helps in correcting the onset of melatonin secretion when the retina perceives darkness.

Dysfunction of your circadian rhythm results in insomnia and much more. Your circadian cycle influences your metabolism and blood sugar, it influences your immune system and your fertility, and disruption of this cycle can also lead to an increased risk of psychiatric illnesses like depression, bipolar disorder and dementia.

So, what happens if you are a night owl? And we have them on retreat, they simply can't join us on our pre-dawn walking meditation and that's just fine. How boring would our world be if we were all early risers and we had none of those sparkly night owls trawling the internet in the wee hours and connecting to people in different time zones? But, as always, it's good to walk the middle path and seek a relatively "normal" circadian rhythm. How can you reset a disrupted circadian rhythm? Seek out the sun: exposure to early morning light helps reinforce your strongest circadian cue. Follow a consistent sleep schedule and keep those afternoon naps short. Avoid caffeine after 12 noon, exercise daily, and limit electronic light before bed. Who knows, you might reset so much that you become a fan of the pre-dawn world of silence!

Margot Wagner
Yoga Under the Bodhi Tree

(Find and like articles similar to this on my Facebook Page: Yoga Under the Bodhi Tree)

Relationships



EMBRACING LIFE

I recently read an article on Eileen Kramer, Australian dancer, choreographer, writer and painter. Eileen currently writes film scripts and choreographs dances. What makes this so extraordinary is that Eileen is 108 years of age and has no plans to retire.

Some people regret choices made in their past and live with a sense that it's too late for them to begin a new career path or enjoy healthy relationships. They are so fixated on the rear view mirror that they fail to see the forward vista through the windscreen. As a result, they live a directionless life. The contrast between rear view watchers and Eileen is the attitude that life is a gift to be embraced.



No doubt, Eileen has had her share of disappointments in her long

life. Who hasn't? It's easy to embrace life when we're achieving our dreams, enjoying success and everything is going well. However, life eventually tends to throw some curve balls: loss of a loved one, health crisis, retrenchment, financial loss, a break-up. These challenges can hit us with unexpected force, knocking us off our planned trajectory.

Our first task is to stop and recover. We need time to reset and process what our loss means. Give yourself permission to experience arising emotions. Carl Jung once said, "The word happiness would lose its meaning if it were not balanced by sadness." Every emotion teaches us about ourselves and what is important to us. While it may be painful, grief can be a helpful companion guiding us to a new normal.

If your new normal isn't something you envisaged, it's necessary to arrive at a place of acceptance. Acceptance doesn't mean agreeing with, liking, or thinking positively about a situation. It means just being okay with it and being aware that this new change cannot be controlled. When we start the process of acceptance, we make space for a new perspective and come up with the energy to adjust. We are able to see change as an opportunity for a new routine, a new interest, a new outlook. Have a good look through your windscreen and notice what you haven't lost. In the seismic shift it's easy to become consumed by loss, losing sight of what you still have. Appreciate what remains, adjust your expectations and reevaluate your priorities. This will help you develop new goals.

The biography of your life has many chapters. Not all chapters are happy stories. Some chapters are objectively difficult. Write a story about how you coped in this time in order to make it as good as it can be. Remind yourself that all chapters have an end, there are more chapters to be written. This will help avoid feeling engulfed and offer hope for a brighter future.

None of us know how much time we have on this planet and how many chapters we will write, so keep making plans like Eileen while the making the most of every day like it's your last.

Linda Gray
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0401 517 243

Physio Talk



AVOIDING THE CURSE OF SPORT

Don't you hate it when you're cheering your sports team on (I assume most people like me support the St George Illawarra Dragons) and you're watching your favourite player carving everyone up (doesn't happen a lot if you support the Dragons) and all of a sudden, they've hurt themselves. You watch your team's season go up in flames, they're rolling around on the ground in pain, the team doctor and physio take them off and your team gets flogged (it's a Dragons thing). Wouldn't it be better if nobody got injured?

Big sporting clubs all over the world have invested millions of dollars to try and achieve just that – no more injuries. They pour astronomical amounts into research to try and prevent injuries where possible; the professional players are paid so much that reducing injuries can improve their bottom line by insane amounts. Let's take Manchester City's highest paid player: Kevin De Bruyne. Kevin's annual salary is nearly \$37,000,000 Australian Dollars. This means his weekly wage is approximately \$700,000. Kevin misses 2 weeks for a sprained ankle, and he costs the club \$1.4 Million to sit on the sidelines!

Physiotherapists have traditionally been the people fixing injuries but we now have the ability to try and prevent them. It's the old "dentist can't officially recommend certain toothpaste because it would put them out of a job" trick. Most sporting organisations in Australia have adopted their own version of an injury prevention strategy.

Netball Australia has the 'KNEE Program', Football Australia has the 'FIFA 11+' program and there are countless others across the country - all with great evidence to say they are likely to reduce knee injuries!

Physique has been lucky enough to work with the vast majority of sporting clubs on Tamborine Mountain to implement these strategies with good success. We will be working again with the clubs to reiterate these strategies and try to reduce injuries for the upcoming seasons.

Unfortunately they're not 100% foolproof and as always, people will get injuries.

My top strategies for avoiding injuries are as follows:

- 1. Don't Ignore the Niggles:** Playing sport comes with aches and pains following games if you're playing hard and exerting yourself. However if you have ongoing soreness that isn't improving it's very important to get it seen to as it may be the start of something more significant and can be stopped with appropriate management!
- 2. Tape/Brace:** Professional athletes in Australia are generally strapped before every game and training session for a reason – it is effective at reducing injuries! Taping is particularly effective in reducing ankle, knee and shoulder injuries. Correct taping is important so you need guidance, and expert advice is necessary.
- 3. Train Hard:** It's important to train like you play and play like you train to best prepare yourself for the games. Most injuries happen within games and are freak accidents – expert advice generally tells us that the best way to avoid injuries this way is to expose your body to these loads a lot so you know how to deal with it when it happens.

Good luck to everyone who will be beginning their sporting seasons soon – play well and most importantly, have some fun! If you would like advice on how best to avoid injury don't hesitate to give Physique a call for expert advice.



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DOG RESCUE TEAMS HELP EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Over a dozen countries with dog rescue teams flew almost immediately to Turkey and Syria following the recent devastating earthquakes. The dogs will work to help find survivors, then recover non-survivors. Over thirty countries so far have offered aid to Turkey and Syria.

The dogs are trained for disaster scenarios, nothing can match canine skills for finding people over a wide area in the least amount of time. They air scent the presence of live humans and can hear the slightest sounds. Some survivors can be too weak to make themselves heard. The dogs excitedly indicate to their handlers when someone is alive and buried, they show where to excavate with precision. Dogs are trained for a year or more at demolition sites, learning to walk on seesaws and ladders. Search and rescue dogs are often the unsung heroes of earthquake victims.



It is critical to find trapped people within the first 72 hours after an earthquake, as the survival rate without water and medical attention drops sharply after that. There is also the risk of hypothermia for those trapped, as freezing temperatures sweep the area. Searching dogs usually receive a rest after a few hours of intensive work but if teams do not have back-up, they keep on searching. The Swiss emergency rescue teams are recognised as the best in the world for finding people trapped under rubble, mud or snow.

At least one veterinarian is present and on call 24 hours a day with dog teams. Some dogs wear protective equipment and booties to prevent their paws from being injured by shards of metal and glass.

Searching for dead bodies is a sombre job, the pervasive scent of death can cause rescue dogs to become depressed because they are trained and rewarded to find signs of life. A dog that locates a dead body will quietly raise a paw or tap at the ground. Some dogs become so depressed that their handlers will sometimes stage a success to keep up a dog's spirit.

All animals deserve an advocate or voice to make sure they are valued and treated well. And no other animal serves humanity in such diverse ways and areas as canines. Most military and other working dog organisations honour their canines with awards, medals, a retirement plan and formal funerals. But for canines in the civilian world, the priority for their wellbeing is very low, insignificant. Governments are failing 'man's best friend.'

Pam Brandis,
Dip. Canine Prac.

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2. Jodi MEYNELL

Fri 10th 1. Glenys KELLY

2. Athol & James MCDONALD

Fri 17th 1. Harry O'NEILL

2. Mark & Narelle BONSALL

Fri 24th 1. Tanya JOHNSTON-HIRD

2. Helen STAFFSMITH

Fri 31st 1. Leo & Maryann GOGGINS

2. Linda DUBBERLEY

ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION UNIT

Promoting the right of all older people to live free from abuse.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Unit (EAPU) was established in 1997 following the release of “A Report of the Project on Abuse of Older People” (1994) commissioned by the then Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs. The unit is funded by the Queensland Government to provide a state-wide service to respond to the abuse of older people in Queensland and operates under Uniting Care Qld, Child and Family Services.

The Elder Abuse Prevention Helpline is a first port-of-call for support, referrals and information about elder abuse. We provide free assistance to anyone who experiences, witnesses or suspects the abuse of an older person by someone they know and trust. All calls to our Helpline are confidential and the caller is welcome to remain anonymous; we do not record calls or keep notes. The Helpline is senior-focused, respectful and non-judgmental and offers you the time to talk things over at your pace. Elder Abuse is a complex issue and our role is to work with you on what the best options may be for you and your family. Sometimes, contact with a number of agencies may be required.

“Elder Abuse is a single or repeated act, lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.” (WHO, 2002). Abuse can be experienced by men and women, rich and poor from all cultures and races. An abused older person may live on their own or in a household. They could be taking care of themselves, caring for someone, or being cared for by someone. The person doing the abusing is often someone the older person knows and should be able to trust; such as a daughter or son, grandchild, spouse, other family member, Carer or friend.

Types of Abuse

Financial – the illegal and improper use of an older person’s money and or property

Psychological – causing mental anguish, fear of violence feelings of shame, humiliation and powerlessness

Physical – inflicting pain or injury such as hitting, slapping, restraining or under medicating

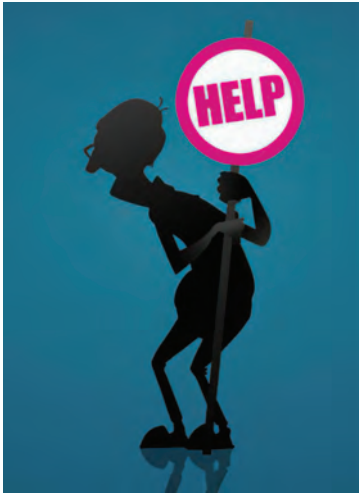
Neglect- intentional or unintentional failure of a Carer to provide necessities of life to a person who depends on them



Sexual – assault, rape or any activity that makes the senior feel uncomfortable about their gender.

Protecting Yourself

- If in immediate danger – call the Police on 000 (triple zero)
- Have a safety plan
- Call Elder Abuse Prevention Helpline for support, information and referrals to agencies who may be of practical assistance
- Do not make major life decisions and changes at a time of crisis
- Retain as much control over your life as possible and remain socially connected
- Make informed decisions by seeking independent legal and financial advisors rather than using your son’s/ daughter’s advisors. Use accredited interpreters if needed.



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THE FULL BUCKET THEORY

Hello *Scenic News* readers. I hope the last days of Summer and the people in them are treating you well. There is no soul food quite like great people filling your bucket.

And yes, I'm using the primary school metaphor of bucket-filling. Why? I am about to share with you just that. And if you've never heard about Bucket-Filling – it's simple. You do good deeds, you be a good person. You help others around you feel good and it fills your bucket. (Just to be clear, the bucket is 100% a metaphor). We're not carrying around magical buckets for you to fill... (*Queue a giggle*).

On Saturday the 25th February, I co-hosted with my incredible friend and owner of Edge Hairdressing, a fundraiser for Bowel Cancer Australia. I haven't hosted a fundraiser before, I was rather clueless. The idea for it was simple. I made a promise to cut off my hair, donate it to make wigs for cancer fighters and raise a whole lot of cash for Bowel Cancer fighters and survivors. I made this promise to my dear friend Megy. If you ever want the full and incredible, soul bursting story about this woman, I will happily tell you. But for now, I'll say that Megy was taken from us in November 2021. I didn't get to donate my hair or raise money because it wasn't long enough. I was too late to fulfil my promise. But, for two years now I've been growing it. Finally, the magic happened and I got the go ahead. And here we are. In the process of fulfilling this promise to Megy, I met Sam. When I messaged Sam and asked if she would cut my hair, those 3 little dots came up instantly on my phone with an "absolutely". Since that moment, this fundraiser was not just mine, but ours. Sam threw all her support behind it.

What I also witnessed was how incredibly respected she is by her staff. And the mutual respect she has for them. I asked her to follow the fundraiser "how did you manage to create that environment?" And truly, it's something I've not witnessed from a "boss" or "owner" before. That level of respect and family vibe. It was bucket-filling at its best.

BEAUTY & WELLNESS

Sam sent me many messages detailing what she does. It's so simple and effective. But requires commitment. Of all the things on the list and it was extensive, celebrating life's moments together got me. The entire team, which is small, celebrate life's moments together. Professionally and otherwise.

In the salon I saw them laughing, mucking around, and enjoying life. At work! I know, it's crazy. But I have video evidence to prove it.

It's that kind of attitude in life that others gravitate towards. The person that fills your bucket, that shows up for you and with you. Without question or hesitation.

I say it at the end of each column, because I truly mean it. *Spread kindness like jam on toast*. We all love it, we all thrive off it and it fills those giant buckets of ours. Big smiles all round.

Rebecca



with Rebecca Mander





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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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EGYPTIAN BABA GANOUSH

This super simple, slightly smokey dip is lusciously light, with smooth, nutty tahini notes, tangy garlic, a hint of cumin, and balanced perfectly with zingy, freshly squeezed lemon. Once you taste this one, you will be questioning “where has this epic dip been all my life?!”

Dip with some fresh carrot sticks, red or green capsicum strips and celery for a healthy snack, spread it in a sandwich to add a creamy Middle Eastern twist, or simply serve with some warm flatbreads. This recipe will blow any supermarket version out of the water, and once you see how easy it is to make, you will want to add it to your bag of tricks.

When it comes to popular Middle Eastern dips in Australia, hummus seems to get all the praise and for good reason: it's delightful. But the lesser known little brother *baba ganoush* can hold its own as a remarkably delicious dish. It's been around for 3000 years and has graced the banquet tables of Pharaohs, Kings, Queens and Emperors and is, to this day, served in any good Middle Eastern restaurant.

Did you know? *Baba* is an endearing way to say father in Arabic, while *ghanouj* means 'spoiled' or 'pampered'. “Why is an eggplant dip then named “pampered father?” I hear you ask. Well, according to old Arabic folklore, there once lived a doting daughter who lovingly mashed all of the food she cooked for her elderly, toothless father, or baba, as he was unable to chew. One day she roasted an eggplant on the coals, peeled and mashed it, then added a few of his other favourite ingredients: salt, lemon juice, tahini and lastly, olive oil. He loved it so much, he insisted the neighbours be called over to try it. One bite had their tastebuds dancing and the recipe spread like wildfire to all the nations of the Levant, which include modern-day Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Egypt.

Chef Dylan's tips: 1. Pay attention when you select your eggplants. Large ones tend to contain more seeds, which can produce a less than desired texture and can be more bitter. So, it's better to use 2-3 smaller eggplants rather than one large eggplant. Also, choose eggplants that are shiny and smooth with no rotten or mushy parts, and which feel heavy for their size. 2. Don't skip the draining step: no one likes a watery *baba ganoush*. 3. For the most authentic consistency and texture don't use a food processor or a blender: this dip is not meant to be super smooth. If you use a food processor it can break down the eggplant too much and cause the dip to become thin and watery. 4. It's best to let the mix chill overnight in the fridge, which will allow the

flavours to integrate, and will help the dip to thicken nicely.

Memory Lane, Luxor, Egypt 2023

The sweet, yet haunting melodic voice of the Imam calling devoted Muslims to morning prayer stirs me from my slumber. I sense the gentle rocking of the felucca, an ancient vessel that has faithfully served Egyptian sailors along the river Nile for millennia, the alluring motion beckons me to drift back into the world of dreams, but my curiosity to see the Nile at dawn inspires me to sit up. I reach for the blood-red makeshift curtain hung around the deck that futilely tried to keep last night's cold Nubian wind at bay. As I poke my head under, the vision revealed is utterly breathtaking. Time seems to stand still, the venerable vista awakening in me some long-lost ephemeral awe. Shaking my head in disbelief ‘*am I dreaming?*’

Suddenly, the distinct acrid smell of tobacco brings me back and lets me know the sailors are nearby. “Chef!” I turn and look up and see the handsome smiling face of Mohammad, our ship's captain, surrounded by a cloudless lilac sky. “Alhamdulillah chef” he says, spreading his arms wide as his broad, bare feet grip to the mast like an extra pair of hands. “Sabah al-khair Mohammad” I respond with a grin. He places an upheld finger to his pursed lips, his cigarette dangling precariously from the corner of his mouth. Cupping his mouth with his free hand and with a mischievous glint in his eye, he whispers down to me “Maybe today I tell you my mother's secret for authentic Egyptian Baba”.

Serves 6 – Prep time 20 mins – Cook time 40 mins

Ingredients

- 1kg (-ish) eggplant (about 2 small-to-medium eggplants)
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- Juice of 1 small lemon
- ¼ cup good quality tahini
- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil (You will need some more for brushing the eggplant and to garnish)
- A few sprigs of flat-leaf parsley, chopped finely (plus extra for garnish)
- 2 teaspoons salt (to taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- Sprinkle of smoked paprika, to garnish.



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 220°C. Line a large oven tray with baking paper to prevent the eggplant from sticking to the tray. Halve the eggplants lengthwise and brush the cut sides lightly with olive oil. Place them in the prepared pan, with the cut halves facing down.
2. Roast the eggplant until the interior is very tender throughout and the skin is collapsing – about 35 to 40 minutes. Set the eggplant aside to cool for a few minutes. Flip the eggplants over and scoop out the flesh with a large spoon; discard the skins.
3. Place a mesh strainer over a large mixing bowl, then transfer the eggplant flesh to the strainer. Pick out any stray bits of eggplant skin and discard. You want to remove as much moisture from the eggplant here as possible, so let the eggplant rest for a few minutes and shake/stir the eggplant to release some more moisture.
4. Discard all of the eggplant juice, dry the mixing bowl with paper towel to remove any liquid and add the eggplant into the bowl.
5. Add the garlic and lemon juice to the eggplant and stir vigorously with a fork until the eggplant breaks down. Add the tahini to the bowl and stir until it's incorporated.
6. While stirring, slowly drizzle in the olive oil. Continue stirring until the mixture is pale and creamy, and use your fork to break up any particularly long strands of eggplant.
7. Stir in the parsley, salt and cumin. Season to taste with more salt.
8. Cover with cling film and rest in the fridge overnight.
9. Transfer the *baba ganoush* to a serving bowl and lightly drizzle olive oil on top.
10. Lastly, sprinkle parsley and smoked paprika on top.



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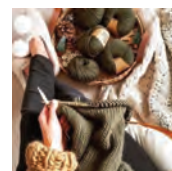
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OUR STAFF BOOK CHOICE: *That Green Eyed Girl* by Julie Owen Moylan



1955: In a cramped apartment on the Lower East Side, school teachers Dovie and Gillian live as lodgers, unable to reveal the truth about their relationship. They guard their private lives fiercely - until someone guesses their secret.

1975: Twenty years on, in the same apartment, Ava Winters is desperately trying to conceal her mother's fragile mental state from the critical eyes of their neighbours. But, one sweltering July morning, Ava's mother escapes.

Alone after her mother's departure, Ava takes delivery of a parcel. The box is addressed only to 'Apartment 3B', and contains a photograph of a woman with the word 'LIAR' scrawled across her face.

Seeking refuge from her own crisis, Ava determines to track the owner of the photograph down. And, in so doing, discovers a shocking chain of kindnesses, lies and betrayals - with one woman at the centre of it all...

GENRE: Historical Fiction - LGBT -Mystery - Thriller

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1. What is the largest desert in Australia?
2. Which Australian state or territory has the highest average temperature?
3. Which island off the coast of Queensland is the largest sand island in the world?
4. Which Australian mountain range runs along the eastern coast of the country?
5. What is the name of the natural rock formation in the Northern Territory that is sacred to the local Anangu people?
6. What is the name of the famous coral reef system that runs along the northeastern coast of Australia?
7. Which city is located at the junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers in New South Wales?
8. What is the name of the largest lake in Australia?
9. Which city in Western Australia is the most isolated major city in the world?
10. Which famous Australian landmark is located in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia?

Answers p33

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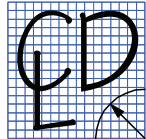
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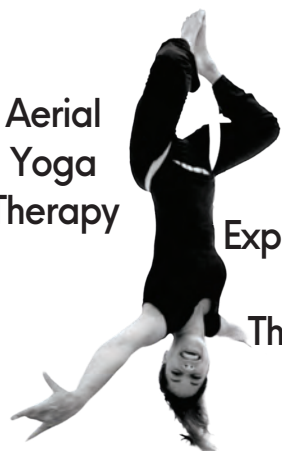
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It's official: St Bernards Hotel is one of the restaurants with the most beautiful views in Australia.

That's according to **HawaiianIslands.com**, which found the Tamborine Mountain restaurant place second in Australia for the number of **TripAdvisor** reviews mentioning its 'beautiful view'.

The local landmark polled second only to Café Sydney, with its fifth-floor rooftop views over Sydney Harbour and a panorama that takes in much of the city skyline, including the Opera House. Second-placed St Bernards Hotel is in very fine company.

You can check out all the winning participants via the QR code:



THE TOP 10 Australian Restaurants WITH THE Most Beautiful Views

In TripAdvisor reviews for **Cafe Sydney, Sydney**, we found **329 mentions** of the restaurant's beautiful views — that's more than any other restaurant in Australia. Located atop the historic Customs House, diners are treated to stunning views of the city's famous harbor. **St Bernard's Hotel on Tamborine Mountain (113 mentions)** comes in second place, offering patrons a picturesque vista of Tamborine Valley.

"Beautiful view" mentions on TripAdvisor

Rank	Restaurant	Location	Mentions
1	Cafe Sydney	SYDNEY	329
2	St Bernard's Hotel	TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN	113
3	The Edge Restaurant	MONTVILLE	106
4	SkyHigh Mount Dandenong	MT DANDENONG	105
5	Chris's Beacon Point Restaurant & Villas	APOLLO BAY	85

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