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Visitors to the recent Springtime on the Mountain Open Gardens (here at 'Belicia', on Beacon Road) were treated to more than just a floral feast for the eyes – the Men's Shed resident band of minstrels - The Offcuts – provided a musical backdrop to the day, and were here joined by local councillors Jeff McConnell and Amanda Hay (pictured at centre), with Polly on guest vocals.

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 Good sized home with small self-contained unit, renovations have been started but not completed so sieze the moment and make it your next DIY project and call it home

#### \$797,000 Negotible

#### AGENTS: Linda Hogan 0414 300 558





#### Pretty as a picture

#### 107-109 Sierra Drive, Tamborine Mountain

- This cottage has a lot to offer. 2 bedrooms with a 3rd that could be bedroom or study, lots of natural light
- · 2 living areas, 2-bay garage plus workshop
- · New water pump, electric gate, alarm system

AGENTS: Linda Hogan 0414 300 558



\$1,150,000

#### **OPEN HOMES - Sat 14th**

10.30 - 11	131 Kinabalu Drive
11 - 11.30	17-21 Romana Court
11.30 - 12	23-31 Power Parade
12.15-1.00	10 Tabor Drive
12.30 - 1	151-153 Macdonnell Road
1.30 - 2	107-109 Sierra Drive
1.30 - 2.15	12-14 Winema Drive
_	

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Professionals would like to welcome another lovely couple to the Mountain, with such a great community and cooler weather for summer, who wouldnt want to move here.

**AGENTS** Karan Kienert 0429 004 840





#### 117-133 Sundown Court, Tamborine

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- Room for horses or small farm animals
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- Separate garage/workshop

\$1.350.000 Guide AGENTS: Linda Hogan

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# **GEORGIA RETURNS TO WHERE IT ALL STARTED**

16-year-old Mountain resident Georgia Lorange, (pictured) who has already graced the cover of this publication, has been kicking more goals than Pele in recent months. Just two weeks ago, she won first prize at the Australian edition of the prestigious Youth America Grand Prix in Sydney, and at the end of July, she was one of eight finalists in the Sydney Eisteddfod and was invited to dance on stage at the Sydney Opera House.

Late last year, she placed 3rd in the Paris edition of the Youth America Grand Prix, earning her four shortterm scholarships in Europe. On her return from Paris, back in January, she was chosen to dance the leading role in Brisbane City Youth Ballet's production of *Cinderella* (pictured below) held at the Conservatorium Theatre in Brisbane.





She returned to Europe in March for the four week-long scholarships she had earned in Paris, training in London, Stuttgart, Zurich and Amsterdam.

Georgia started ballet at Tamborine Mountain Dance Academy at just three years-old under Anne Anderson and was a student there for seven years. Life for her has now come full circle, as she is now teaching ballet back at her old school, Tamborine Mountain Dance Academy, passing on her experience to the younger students.

# **SPRINGTIME GARDENS DELIVER A DELIGHT FOR ALL AGES**

Congratulations to all who played a part in the joyful creations of the 2023 Springtime on the Mountain Open Gardens Festival held nearly two weeks ago in wonderfully welcoming weather conditions. The generosity of the garden creators,

the myriad volunteers and a highly appreciative visiting public made for a wonderful start to the weekend, and is exactly the type of event that furthers the Mountain's reputation. *Photos: Linda Galbraith* 











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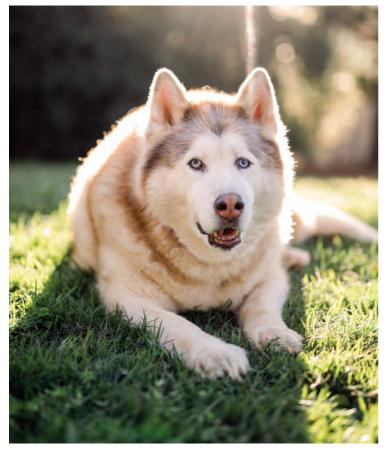
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What sets Goodwin Real Estate apart is a deep commitment to animal welfare. They believe that animals rely on people





to do the right thing by them, and are dedicated to making a positive impact. Today, medical expenses for animals, including surgery, can be exorbitant, and pet insurance doesn't always cover these costs.

As humans, we have a responsibility to do more, do better, and give back to our furry friends. Goodwin Real Estate is heavily focused on animal welfare, and takes pride in acting to make a difference.

With each property settlement, they make it their mission to contribute financially to saving lives. Specifically, they allocate funds from each settlement to help cover the cost of surgeries and medical treatments for animals in need, making sure that animals get the care they deserve and have a chance at a better life.

Photos: (top) Fanta gets a hug from Lana Goodwin and (left) Keesha



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#### one small place on earth

#### FEMALE JUMPING SPIDER AND PREY

Opisthoncus sp., Picket Fence, Driscoll Lane



Two successive issues featuring a male and female of the same genus of spider, photographed on successive days. The male was on the metal railing which is separated from the picket fence by a house front and a hedge. I contacted an entomologist at the Queensland Museum in the hope that he could identify the prey, but have not heard from him. To give you a sense of scale, the nail next to the spider, is 5 mm in diameter. The prey looks like a cricket nymph. A wide shot shows the hind leg, used for propelling the insect, stretched straight out to a length of 30-35 mm.

**Peter Kuttner** 



Here is something to smile about: Mention this ad, and your check-up, clean and x-rays procedure is only \$200 (limited time only).

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#### 44-56 Chestnut Road , Tamborine One door closes, another opens!

To my lovely vendors Yohann and family, enjoy your new life in NSW to be closer to extended family, all the very best. My buyer Peter, making the best choice ever! Leaving the city behind for the country lifestyle in Tamborine, I know you can't wait to get into that shed!

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**AGENTS:** Linda Hogan 0414 300 558



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# **Councillor's Comment**

These are my own personal views. I do not purport to speak on behalf of Council. Decisions of Council are made only by majority vote, legislative authority or under authority delegated by Council. Please note my comments are written several days prior to the printing of this paper.



**More on the "water issue":** The QUT 243-page Tamborine Mountain groundwater study has finally been released and can be viewed at: https://eprints.qut.edu.au/242732/ This is a searchable documents and its content includes Water

stress, Groundwater footprint, Recharge, Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems, Tamborine Mountain, Basalt aquifers, Chloride Mass Balance, Water use, Tourism water use and Water Table Fluctuations.



## **Development Applications of interest:** (Source: DAP Online).

MCU23/143 – "Utility Installation" – 45-63 Hartley Rd. No details available; OPW23/049 – Clearing of Vegetation – 66 Wongawallan Rd; MCU23/136 - Food and Drink outlet – 125-127 Curtis Rd (The Old Church); MCU23/114 – Dwelling house establishment or extension second – 86-88 Cliff Rd – existing wooden shed to be converted to a secondary dwelling; MCU23/140 – Dwelling house establishment or extension second – 82-84 Cliff Rd – no documents available.

There is also an application for a "second dwelling" on a property where the primary "dwelling" appears to be a fulltime Air B'n'B. My question: If the primary "dwelling" is not a residence, why is a second dwelling required?...and what rate category do properties not used as residences but as income producing short-term accommodation fall into?

**Unapproved developments:** Please could developers wishing to cash in on opportunities on the Mountain follow the required application and approval process. It is simply unacceptable for property owners to significantly expand their tourism operations, advertise the unapproved use/s widely and commence operation all the while impacting on their neighbours. No wonder there are complaints from neighbours and subsequent "Show Cause" notices issued. If you live next to/near what appears to be an unapproved operation or building, please let me know. I will be only too happy to ascertain the status of any approvals as this information is usually in the public domain (unless a Building Certifier was used in some instances). I advocate a level playing field and often I wonder why we bother to have a Planning Scheme.

**Out and About:** Youth Mental Health update – Beaudesert Hospital; Audit & Risk Committee Meeting (Financial Statements); Springtime on the Mountain; site meetings re overhanging branches, drainage issues and unapproved tourism operations. I also attended the opening of the Boonah Dog Park, the fourth such facility in the Scenic Rim.

**Topics of concern raised recently:** Ongoing Shelf Road issues, locked gate on previously publicly accessible land, stormwater issues, accumulated dry vegetation representing a potential fire hazard, menacing dogs, interference with a nature strip, bus parking issues at Curtis Falls, and the topic of the week: the proliferation of advertising signs.

The roundabout at IGA looks like a dog's breakfast. There are rules about signage. Please see SRRC Local Law No. 1 page 28, and Subordinate Local Law No. 1.4 (Installation of Advertising Devices) 2011 which sets out requirements for signage



devices. See: MODEL LOCAL LAW NO (scenicrim.qld.gov.au) Any signs attached to power poles should be reported to Energex on 131253 and quote the pole number. See: Illegal sign posters put lives on the line | Energex



Is the Scenic Rim Regional Council dysfunctional?

would have to say "yes", purely in relation to its bureaucratic "leadership" team (for want of a better word) after the extraordinary (confidential) events which have taken place over the past two weeks. Our Council staff and elected Councillors do an excellent job under the current challenging and uncertain conditions and our Council tends to function in spite of this. I find I am swimming against the tide in an increasingly toxic workplace at management level and that major changes are required immediately.

#### "Do No Harm"

I can be contacted on 0448 376 650 or via e-mail at amanda.h@scenicrim.qld.gov.au Cr Amanda Hay Division 1



**NOTICE:** Tamborine Pet Farmstay Luxury Pet Hotel will be closed till 1st November for repairs and maintenance. The doggy guests are already missed, and we look forward to seeing them again in a few weeks. Tamborine Pet Farmstay offers many services, and soon

the much-awaited cattery will be on its way to being built at last! We thank you for your patience and your loyalty is much appreciated. Harriet Shari Hughes 1897 Beaudesert-Beenleigh Rd, Tamborine (07) 5543 8800



#### **TOM SHARP FOR MAYOR 2024 - PATHWAY TO TRANSPARENCY**

#### Evidence of need

- Even after the appointment of a new CEO in 2022 and after six months of supervision by a State Government Advisor at ratepayers' expense in 2023, your Council is shifting away from Transparency. It recently reduced its public meetings from one per fortnight to one monthly open to the media and public.
- Your council has demonstrated it wants to keep you in the dark, despite its Customer Charter that says, "We will be honest and transparent with you, ... we won't hide facts from you or keep you in the dark." This is untruthful, and the evidence is clear. Council words are not matched by its actions.
- Council now has more secret briefings than it ever had with its new portfolio meetings between councillors and management, and you don't know what is spoken or decided in those meetings. It's shameful.
- Secret briefings hidden from the media and public open the door to corruption, waste, influence, cover-ups, and inefficiency.
- The existing councillors have agreed to give the CEO extraordinary powers to make decisions on almost any issue, with few limitations and virtually no requirements to report on how the delegations are used. Councillors can legally be kept in the dark on what is occurring; his/her decisions only go to Council meetings for ratification, as he chooses to do this. This opens the door to favouritism waste and circumvents the need even to have Councillors making decisions.
- Council has a Policy called "Management of Confidential Information" and a Procedure called "Management of information of Council by Councillors". It is draconian and effectively gags councillors from speaking about anything that hasn't been considered in an Ordinary Meeting of Council (now held monthly), which means all the confidential briefings and discussions Council have with Officers about their portfolios, which is 95% of everything they discuss.
- I am unable to properly determine the degree of policing and monitoring of email traffic between elected councillors, their constituents and staff. I am certain that a certain amount of it exists as does the general policing by bureaucrats of constituents communication with their member. Not only does it enhance the strength of secrecy but it acts as a severe restriction on members to adequately and properly preform their duty.
- The council Administration recommendations voted in favour by existing councillors believe it can set its own rules contrary to the *Local Government Act* regarding information being kept secret. I refer to the Council's Standing Orders, policy, and procedures. For instance, they have ignored the provisions of the local government regulations, which specifically say when information going to Council meetings must be in open session and when it can be deemed confidential. The Council has even ignored the council watchdog Department of Local Government, which says it cannot do this.
- The State Government has advised the council that it is unnecessary to have a confidentiality policy, as the local government act sets out what is confidential information and what is not, but it continues to have one. We can understand why.
- The Councillors are not allowed to talk to constituents about anything unless it has been published on the council website.
- The annual budget and all relating financial documentation provides little or no detail of how, when, where, why our money is spent and who spends it i.e. consultants, contractors or staff. Cost benefit analysis before it is spent and an accounting assessment of the objectives of the analysis fulfilled after the expenditure are not provided.

#### Solution

• The basic premise to solving the problems identified above simply rests with a will to do it on the part of



the mayor and councillors and staff should follow that direction designed to eliminate the secrecy and closeddoor approaches that exist today.

- Obtain a full assessment of the interference by bureaucrats of councillors. A similar assessment of the communication between ratepayers and bureaucrats.
- Training for all staff and Executive Managers, CEO and Councillors in the values of Transparency and open decision-making.
- Report to Council quarterly on positive steps taken to educate staff and actions taken to promote transparency.
- Promote a culture of transparency and Open decisionmaking.
- Appoint a qualified and experienced Customer Service Manager with responsibilities across the whole organisation to develop meaningful Key performance indicators (KPIs) and meaningful customer engagement and development of relevant performance data to benchmark customer satisfaction.
- Rescind the Confidentiality of Information Policy and procedures and revert to the *Local Government Act* in accordance with the States' advice to the Council.
- Establish the following committees: Finance, Executive & Administration Committee, Sub-Division & Town Planning Committee, Works Committee (including Capital & Operational), Asset Management Committee and lastly a Budget & Performance Review Committee. All 5 committees will be open to the public and media excepting where common sense negotiations and business confidentiality are required in accordance with the Local Govt. Act.
- Amend the Standing Orders to allow discussion in Council Meetings.
- Introduce new standards and procedures for the examination of Councillor emails and report to Council regularly on who has accessed third-party emails and the reasons on a quarterly basis.
- Ensure that the CEO's annual Performance plan contains valid organisation Customer satisfaction targets linked to his/her performance contract.
- Ensure all Executive managers and Managers have departmental customer service standard KPIs to meet in annual performance plans.
- Review all delegations, ensuring that Councillors become the decision makers on matters that affect the budget, operational plans, all town planning subdivisions, Impact assessable developments, Minor change applications and compliance action where Town planning conditions or approvals have not been obtained or met.

#### To get in touch, please send me an email or call me, and let's talk about The Scenic Rim, it's YOUR council."

#### contact@tomsharp.com.au

Authorised by Tom Sharp - 424 Binna Burra Road, Beechmont 4211

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# JON KRAUSE MP

State Member for Scenic Rim

# LABOR'S GP TAX CONFUSION CONTINUES

Locals continue to raise with me concerns about accessing doctors' appointments at local GP clinics. It can take a long time to get in to see a doctor, and that's why it was outrageous that the Palaszczuk Government carried on with plans to impose a payroll tax burden on GP doctor clinics – a GP tax - that would threaten bulk billing, make it cost you more to see a doctor, and see doctors driven out of general practice.

Tax rises like this would need to be passed on to patients. The LNP fought against this, forcing the Government to act. Unfortunately, the Government's action has not removed all uncertainty. Rather than abolishing this tax altogether, GP practices may be forced to apply for an exemption or undergo expensive restructuring of business arrangements to avoid payroll tax. All of this adds costs to GP practices, putting pressure on bulk billing and fees charged to patients. The LNP will continue to fight against this GP tax and hold the Government to account.

## HOUSING CRISIS: PALASZCZUK GOVERNMENT FAILS ON NEW LOTS

At a time when people simply cannot find a place to live, recently released data from the Queensland Government Statistician's Office has revealed that the rate of new residential lots approved in Queensland has fallen by 30% since 2015, even though Queensland's population has increased by around 13% in that period. This data underlines the failure the Palaszczuk Government to plan for Queensland's growth, in conjunction with local government. We see evidence of this failure with housing shortages and skyrocketing rents.

#### YMCA YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Youth Member for Scenic Rim, Luka Allen *(pictured at right)* from Tamborine Mountain State High School, gave a terrific speech during the Queensland Youth Parliament. It was good to be in the chamber acting as a Chair of proceedings when Luka spoke to a youth bill about protecting agricultural land from urban encroachment – an issue quite relevant to our region. Congratulations, Luka, on your part in the Youth Parliament. We have had many talented people from our region participate in Youth Parliament over the years. Meeting with them to talk about issues and how policy ideas can be developed is something I enjoy doing and it was good to see great ideas and opinions on display in Parliament House.

## LIONS CLUB OF TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN: DANCING WITH CELEBRITIES

I look forward to attending this event on Saturday 14 October, and congratulate the Lions Club and all participants involved in putting this event on for the second year.

#### HAVE A QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT ISSUE?

Please email scenicrim@parliament.qld.gov.au, call 5515 1100 or SMS 0401 634 488 if you have any Queensland Government matters you would like to raise with me.



### **CRICKET BLASTERS PROGRAM FOR 5-9 YEAR OLDS HERE SOON**



Looking for something fun to do on a Friday night with your kids?

- Something with high energy, lots of fun and which is completely inclusive of all abilities.
- Parent involvement is actively encouraged.
- The Tamborine Mountain Canungra Cricket Club is proud to announce that our Cricket Blasters program will be starting in early November on a Friday arvo from 4pm – 5:30pm.
- This is an incredibly fun and interactive way for our younger kids to participate in cricket.
- Call Neil Bell on 0403 854 699 to find out more.



Member for Scenic Rim, Jon Krause MP with Luka Allen



# Letters to the Editor

Please limit letters to 200 words. Publication is at the discretion of the editor and subject to space availability.

# **CR McCONNELL DECIDES**

Following much deliberation and consideration, I would like to formally announce my intention to run for the position of Mayor, Scenic Rim Regional Council in the upcoming 2024 Local Government elections with an official declaration scheduled for 15 October 2023 at 3:00pm at the Scenic Rim Regional Council building.

I don't make this decision lightly. I have been fortunate to work within the Council environment for the past four years as Councillor and the previous eight years in the capacity as Local Controller, Scenic Rim State Emergency Services. This has provided me with the opportunity to identify and experience the strengths within our Council and the areas where we are vulnerable. I have also listened to residents and business owners who are advocating for me to take on this challenging role. I absolutely believe I am the right person to build on these strengths and provide the much-needed leadership to address the vulnerabilities and take us into the future.

My leadership positions within the military and the State Emergency Service equip me with the required skills and I believe my inclusive, transformational leadership style is exactly what the Council requires. I have demonstrated my commitment to my role as Councillor and affirm that I will perform duties as Mayor with equal vigour, passion and commitment.

If I am elected Mayor, my term will be about Leadership, Respect and Stability. The elected Councillors in this Region need to be empowered to make a difference and be respected for the skills that they bring to these elected positions. My commitment is to foster their skills and strengths, bring unity and stability to the Council and to pave the way to ensure our Region is successful well into the future.

I have consulted and listened with many people across the Region who are all saying the same thing... They want a different style of leadership in Council. I believe that I will fulfill that mandate.

I look forward to discussing this further at my official announcement on Sunday 15 October 2023.

Jeff McConnell Mayoral Candidate Scenic Rim Regional Council

# LAMENTABLE LOSS

The Tamborine Mountain Progress Association (TMPA) had operated for 108 years. It gave residents a common point for input to the development of our iconic Island in the Sky. The success of this thoughtful approach is evident. The area is recognised as a major regional resource much enjoyed by residents and visitors. And now the TMPA is gone. That this was due to action by our Council is an outrage. Regrettably, the ground rules have been changed and the long-term consequences must be of great concern.

The present disaster arose from Council's actions in the Land and Environment Court. This Court is often called on to settle disputes involving interpretations of Planning Schemes. Residents can be severely affected. They must be able to put their case without the spectre of being required to pay the possibly massive costs of other parties. For that reason, this Court has a very strong convention. This is that parties pay their own costs with no claims for the award of costs being made. Under these circumstances, it has been quite usual for minor parties to appear in their own right or to become Co-Respondents with one of the major parties. If they wish, they can then take part in the hearing. I have successfully done that.

In the present case, the Council was late in deciding about an Application. The Applicant deemed that a refusal and appealed. The Council defended against the Appeal. It was joined by others as Co-Respondents: Jeanette Lockey representing the TMPA, other local residents representing themselves and Amanda Hay representing herself and other as Co-Respondents by Election. Partway through the hearing, incredibly the Council switched sides leaving the Co-Respondents stranded. After some messiness the finding was in favour of the Applicant. Flouting convention the Council then lodged a claim against their previous Co-Respondents for substantial costs. The Applicant joined in the party by making even larger claims. The Judge found in the claimants' favour. That led to the end of the TMPA and left Amanda facing massive personal costs reputedly in the many tens of thousands of dollars. If bankruptcy resulted, she would have been disqualified from being a Councillor for several years.

However deplorable is such a sequence of events, the consequences could be even worse. The Council has set a precedent in breaking that critical convention. Not only has the Progress Association gone as an organiser but what resident would become involved if faced with the possibility of financially crippling cost awards. The ground rules have been completely changed. There would be much less restraint of a Council going its own merry way regardless of residents' priorities. That is not good!

It wasn't always like this. My period in Council 1994/97 was largely devoted to a new Development Control Plan. This recognised the potential values of our plateau region, Councillors

LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

## VARRO CLARKE

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Est. North Tamborine 1985

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# **BUYING NOW IN TAMBORINE!**

With the current trend of downsizing and decluttering, now presents a fantastic opportunity to turn those unwanted items into cash. "We are enthusiastic buyers, particularly interested in gold jewellery, whether broken or intact, antique jewellery, gold and silver coins, collectibles including military medals, and banknotes, as well as mechanical watches."

"Everyone possesses something we would like to acquire, and no item is too insignificant for our consideration. We are just as happy to buy one item, as we are buying 10,000!" says Mike Cornish, the company's chief buyer.

Father and son duo, Mike and Nathaniel (Nate) will be at Club Tamborine on Monday 30th, and Tuesday 31st October. If you are in doubt about any items you wish to sell, take them

in for an instant appraisal. See advertisement on page opposite for the full details.

Gold and Silver still at high prices

With the gold price still at higher than traditional



levels, right now is an opportune time to explore your jewellery box and dig out those old gold chains, rings, and brooches, to turn them into cash. Mike emphasizes, "This is an ideal time to sell. We will buy anything made of gold – old jewellery, coins, virtually anything, even gold teeth! We also need silver in any form, including bars of any size."

#### SPRINGTIME VOLUNTEERS PLAY A VITAL PART IN SUCCESSFUL OPEN GARDENS FESTIVAL

Warmly welcoming visitors to Pond Hall on Beacon Rd were Cherie Todd and Debbie Sartori



# Hidden treasures among old coins

Check those drawers and cupboards, you may have a rarity lurking amongst your coins. "We want to see any coin collections or accumulations, even old foreign coins. We will be quite happy to go through your coins on the spot and give you an idea of what we can pay. You just never know what can turn up!"

#### **Desire for Mechanical Watches**

Our buyers are urgently seeking mechanical watches. "Collectors currently favour brands like Rolex, Omega, Patek Philippe, Longines, and Seiko, to name a few. These brands can command excellent prices depending on their model and condition. Nevertheless, we're willing to purchase any mechanical watch, even if it's only worth a few dollars for spare parts," Mike explains. "If you are unsure, bring your watches in for an appraisal."

While we maintain a safe environment at our venues, we also offer home visits for those unable to visit us, or those with too much to carry. Refer to our advertisement for home visit times and call Nate on 0426 820 646 to book your appointment.

For complete details, including venue times and locations, please see the advertisement on the page opposite.



# Buying Now

Mike and Nate Cornish will be travelling to the Tamborine area for **2 days only on Monday, 30th, and Tuesday, 31st October.** We want to buy your unwanted items listed below. Please visit us at Club Tamborine as shown below, for an on the spot appraisal.

If you live outside the area, have too many items to bring in, or would like a home visit, phone Nate on 0426 820 646 NOW to arrange a time.

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#### TAMBORINE MONDAY 30TH OCT

**Club Tamborine** (Main Club Area) **10:00am – 1:00pm** 6-12 Beacon Road, Tamborine Mountain

Home Visits 1:00pm - 6:00pm Phone 0426 820 646 For a Home Visit

#### TAMBORINE TUESDAY 31ST OCT

Club Tamborine (Main Club Area) 10:00am - 1:00pm 6-12 Beacon Road, Tamborine Mountain

Home Visits 1:00pm - 6:00pm Phone 0426 820 646 For a Home Visit

Missed us? Call Nate on 0426 820 646 for notice of our next visit.



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50 years of continuous service to the Tamborine Mountain community

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and Council Officers could not have been more helpful in drafting a far-seeing Plan implementing community priorities. provided such successful protection of our essential natural and semi-rural ambience. How things have changed!

#### Phil Giffard

#### WHO DOES THIS VOICE REFERENDUM AFFECT?

All indigenous Australians. Who is indigenous? Anyone who claims to have a biological connection to an ancient race, regardless of their skin colour, personal assets, income or political standing.

There is no requirement to prove an Indigenous connection.

Senators Jacinta Price and Warren Mundine are elected representatives of these communities and have faced the problems that exist there. Listen to what they have to say and why they say 'No'.

Those pushing for the 'Yes' vote, including indigenous leaders; Marcia Langton, Noel Pearson and Thomas Mayo are well assimilated in white society, educated, wealthy, well connected and powerful. They have not been elected by the Aboriginal people to represent them.

Consider the face behind the Voice, Former Trade Unionist Thomas Mayo a key adviser to the Albanese government, also previously involved in Australian Communist Party forums He is on record for calling for reparations and compensation for indigenous people.

Prime Minister Albanese is the man who patted himself on the back for removing the racebased ban on alcohol in indigenous communities, without consulting the leaders. Within weeks, this saw an alarming spike in violent youth crime, alcohol related injuries and increase in family violence.

Six months later, Albanese called for an immediate restriction on alcohol sales to indigenous to stem the out- of-control violence. Where was his willingness then to listen to Aboriginal concerns on race-based problems?

The referendum details that most people want to hear are based on the Uluru Statement from the Heart, according to the PM. He insists that he has read the document and agrees with it entirely. He only read the first page. The Uluru statement from the Heart contains 26 pages in its entirety, according to the document on file and accessible to everyone to download through the *Freedom of Information Act*.

What is the meaning of a Voice to Parliament? What it means is the group would have input, but elected members of parliament would be the ones accountable to make any changes – and there's no requirement for the government to actually listen to what the voice says. So, what the PM is asking you to vote for is a Voice that is not supported by many traditional Aboriginal people, is based on a statement that he hasn't read in its entirety, can't be enforced anyway and there is no way of identifying who is actually included as indigenous.

And that's coming from a PM who told you to go out and plug your electric vehicle into the solar system to charge overnight.

The push for the Voice is supported by the rich and powerful, big corporations, sporting bodies, Activists, politicians but not by the Aboriginals it claims to benefit.

You are being coerced into voting Yes by corporate money thrown at famous, sporting identities who have never had a real job and have succeeded due to the present system and support provided.

Is this how intelligent people make decisions? Listen to the Aboriginal people who have been living this way. They see the problems of further interference by an inept government.

One who expected them to understand economics without ever having a language for numbers, to fill in forms and apply for benefits when they didn't even have birth certificates. They don't want to be socialised into accepting our complex system.

The real racial injustice here is the expectation that tribal people, living according to their traditional values, be expected to assimilate with our complex culture.

#### Julie Wilkinson





Conveyancing

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# TRAVELLING PLACES with Gina

There is lots of enthusiasm for travelling – both domestically in Australia and internationally. There doesn't seem to be any one destination people are heading off worldwide. We have some organised people who have already booked components of their 2025 trip, mainly cruise bookings; people book that far in advance to secure the best deal and also the cabin they prefer.

Everyone is asking about airfares at the moment – understandably because there has been so much press coverage regarding Qantas. Currently demand outstrips supply because we don't have as many flights operating, so this means airfares are higher than pre-pandemic levels. No doubt you've all seen the promotions – fly to Sydney for \$100 and when you go online and look all the fares you see are \$150 and higher. Why this happens is that airlines sell a few seats at the cheapest fare and when they have gone the price goes up and then they increase again as the aircraft fills up – this is all monitored by revenue control. Unless there is a remarkable increase in flights, I don't see this changing in the foreseeable future. So, the best option is to fly off peak or shoulder seasons and to book early. Airlines generally require full payment within a few days of booking.

Cruise lines generally offer the best deals to those who book early. Usually these require a deposit and final payment 90 to 120 days prior to departure. This applies to both river and ocean cruises.

Another consideration with booking travel at the moment is to lock in things that you can in Australian dollars. Our dollar is currently on the slide, today buying US63c, Euro 60c and British pounds 52 pence. The foreign exchange markets are

#### **TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS**

MONDAY (2-0CT-23)

NS 1. 64.58% HEIKE EDRICH - DAVID DONALDSON NS 2. 58.75% EDDIE HEINEMEYER - LINDY WILLIAMS NS 3. 52.92% HELEN STAFFSMITH - CHRIS PENDER

EW 1. 70.36% PETER ZAREMBA - WENDY CHRISTIE EW 2. 56.07% MARIAN GIBBONS - LEWIS ADAMS EW 3. 48.57% CHRISTINE YOUNGMAN - SHEILA IRVINE-BROWN

#### WEDNESDAY (4-0CT-23)

1. 63.19% JENNY STRACHAN - LAWRENCE BEUTEL 2. 61.11% ALAN SECOMBE - CHRIS PENDER 3. 55.32% LINDY WILLIAMS - EDDIE HEINEMEYER

THURSDAY 5TH OCT 23 (5-OCT-23) INTERCLUB CHALLENGE TM VS BROADWATER (UPPER COOMERA)

**OVERALL WINNER - BROADWATER** 

NS 1. 59.17% NEIL DELLACA - JULIE DELLACA

NS 2. 56.46% ALEX HOOD - CHRIS PENDER

NS 3. 56.04% JENNY STRACHAN - EDDIE HEINEMEYER

EW 1. 62.50% DEIDRE NIXON - NIMAL WEERASINGHE

EW 2. 61.11% HEIKE EDRICH - CAROLE COOKE

EW 3. 57.87% CHARMAINE HANLON - GILLIAN HISLOP

Beginners Welcome - Contact Sheila 0407 451 973. Sessions Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu at TM Bridge Club Sports Ground, 400 Long Rd. tmbridgeclub.org.au



predicting that the dollar will slip further. This is also making travel more expensive because when you buy an airline ticket, accommodation, sightseeing, coach tour or a cruise they are all based in foreign currency and then converted to Australian dollars.

When you book through us, we can lock in the Australian dollar rate, you pay us in advance and there is no more to worry about. There are several websites that advertise prices in Australian dollars but in fact you pay in local currency, this could change quite a lot between booking and paying, so make sure you are aware if you are paying in local currency or a fixed Australian dollar amount.

If you are planning a trip in 2024, I would suggest you make contact with us soon so that we can start the planning process. The planning process is fun and we would be delighted to help and to share our experience and ideas to book your dreamed of holiday.



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# clark<sup>+</sup>granger

# **DESIGNING A NATIVE AUSTRALIAN GARDEN**

By Jez Clark Principal - Clark+Granger

Australia is well known for its vibrant landscapes and truly unique biodiversity. As we modernise and urbanise, there's still an innate desire to connect with the natural world, preserve local ecosystems and foster a deep appreciation for our distinct native flora and fauna. Designing a native Australian garden provides a fantastic opportunity for us to bridge the gap between modern living and nature, allowing both to coexist in harmony whilst contributing to the preservation of our treasured native species.



Australia has a huge array of native plants, roughly 24,000 species in fact including unique and iconic species such as the banksias and grevilleas. It's obvious, really. But the thing is, Australia is known to have a harsh climate and native plant species have just had to evolve to cope with it. Living in Australia, we've grown accustomed to this kind of environment – dry summers, severe droughts, torrential rain and even fires. Imported plants have a hard time surviving and enduring these challenging periods.

Australian native plants are known to be hardy, are lowmaintenance plants to grow and upkeep. Australian natives thrive in Australian conditions and won't require too much preparation work to ensure they grow correctly. Many native species can survive entirely on rainfall alone, so there's no need to get out the hose! If you're a one-and-done kind of a gardener, consider an Australian native garden.

There has been a lot of work carried out on creating garden cultivars over the past decades. Grevilleas have proven extremely well suited to hybridisation and now come in a wide range of colours and forms. We have the rich honey tones of Golden Lyre, the pale creamy white of Moonlight and even the pale lilac flowers of the superb shrub Grevillea Dorothy Gordon.

Today, many of these plants are used for native garden design, from sustainable pioneers to patriotic horticulturists, green thumb wizards experimenting with different plants to botanical gardens keen to promote Australia's beautiful trees, shrubs and flowers.

Fiona Brockhoff is one of Australia's most celebrated Landscape Designers. Her subtle and thoughtful gardens are grounded in the landscapes which surround and inspire them. Fiona is renowned for her creative and experimental use of indigenous plants, with many pruned and shaped in her own garden 'Karkalla' located on the southern end of Victoria's Mornington Peninsula. She has been instrumental in introducing native Australian species into the garden showcasing how our native species can be woven into our garden stories.

You would be wrong to assume that all native gardens have to be wild places. Many native species are well adapted to topiary and shaping. The Coastal Rosemarys are a great subject for shaping. Westringia Blue Moon is a hardy, compact variety with dense foliage growth that is perfect for low hedges, pathway borders or layered gardens while it's cousin Westringia 'Wyanabbie Gem' can be shaped into larger domes between 1.2-1.5m round. Acmena smithii Allyn Magic will naturally form a mounded shape and can be easily trimmed into small compact balls. These can look great against the strappy leaves of Lomandras. Yes, I know Lomandras have a bit of a bad name, but there are many more delicate and elegant varieties to choose from other than the common Matt Rush. Lomandra Tropic Cascade is a great lush green variety with long arching leaves well suited to our humid summers. Lomandra Shara is a delicate and compact dwarf grass that adds a light texture in the garden border.

If you're looking for a dramatic plant, then Doryanhthes palmeri or the Giant Spear Lily is an excellent choice. This native succulent perennial from the eastern seaboard grows in large rosettes of leaves reaching three metres in length, with 5m tall flower spikes rising up from the centre of the plant in the Springtime.

There are so many beautiful and hardy shrubs available to the gardener. Correas and Hakeas are really a delight. Adenanthos sericeus (Dwarf Woolly Bush) and Prostranthera nivea (Snowy Mint Bush) are excellent shrubs and Myoporum parviflolium (Creeping Boobiella) makes a great dense ground cover with the bonus of hundreds of tiny star shaped flowers.

Here in my own garden at Chalk House I have been experimenting with native plants for several years, expanding my native garden and playing with textures and forms to create a low maintenance garden style that is both beautiful to look at and resilient to the recent changing weather patterns. I have really enjoyed working with native plants as part of my garden journey here in Australia and look forward to adding more native gardens to my property over the coming years.

Visit Clark+Granger at www.cplusg.com.au or phone 0456 111 120 to find out more.



# **SAVAGE ATTACK AT LOCAL PARK**



This week locals reported a violent act that took place in one of Tamborine's local parks involving two 11-year-old boys. Witnesses were few but after a light skirmish one of the boys, armed with a stick, struck the other in the face resulting in two broken teeth. The perpetrator quickly ran from the scene but he is known to the victim who has since dobbed him in. The bullying incident was determined to be gang related.

It appears the child will recover from his injuries but may require further dental work. Nevertheless, to avoid a lawsuit, the children's parents, the Raleighs and the Novaks agreed to have a civil discussion about how to deal with the unruly behaviour of their boys.

Unfortunately, with their parenting skills put to the test, things got out of hand, with conflict resolution impossible. A verbal battle of the sexes ensued and after plenty of name-calling, finger pointing, tantrums and tears, the adults' façade of civility was shattered.

Yasmina Reza's Tony Award winning play *GOD OF CARNAGE* is a pitchblack comedy of manners... without the manners, fuelled on pure bile and savage instinct.

It's being performed by a stellar cast at the Zamia Theatre from Oct. 6-21. Tickets available @ www.trybooking.com/CLDUF. *Warning*: The play contains strong language and is not suitable for children. Book early to be as close to the action as possible. You might even see a bit of yourselves in reflection.



#### What happens when two couples meet to discuss a fight between their young sons?

ZAMIA THEATRE, TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN 6th - 21st OCTOBER, 2023 TICKETS AVAILABLE @ www.trybooking.com/CLUDF



Warning: this play contains strong language and is not suitable for children. amateur production by Arrangement with ORIGIN Theatrical on behalf of the RIGHTS HOLDER

# **ROTARY THANKS CADETS FOR TM CAR SHOW EFFORTS**

The Scenic Rim Cadets helped with parking at the Tamborine Mountain Car Show last August 20th, helping to make the event a great success. The organisers – TM Rotary and TM Men's Shed – were able to present them a \$1500 cheque for their achievement. The Cadets President is Patricia Padilha Meade. The Cadets meet every Monday at Tamborine Village and come from a large area in the Scenic Rim, from as far as Greenbank.

**PHOTOS:** (far right) Bernie Day, president of the TM Men's Shed, Lt .Col. Leslie Meade – Commanding Officer; (below centre) Jan Zomerdijk, TM Rotary with Col. Meade and (bottom left) some of the cadets.

Jan Zomerdijk TM Rotary









Due to COVID-19, conditions of entry may apply - please check. SUPPORT LOCAL - GO LOCAL - GROW LOCAL

# LOCAL DINING, SHOPPING AND SERVICES



# hooked on books

SCENIC RIM LIBRARIES

#### OUR NEW LIBRARY IS OPEN!

#### THE BOOK CABINET IS NOW OPEN!



The new Friends' bookshop will be open on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10am-4pm with a range of second-hand books. Come and find a bargain or a treasure at The Book Cabinet!

#### TRIVIA TIME AT THE LIBRARY



Enjoy a morning of friendly fun, fact and frivolity. No teams, just you versus the crowd!

#### Tuesday 17 October 10.30 - 12

#### **BorrowBox**

Borrow, download and enjoy the greatest Australian and international authors of



the world's best eBooks and eAudiobooks. BorrowBox is your library in one app.

#### MAKERSPACE

Screen printing beginner classes have started, join one now for access to the freestyle screen printing workshops.



'Sew a tote' beginner sewing classes have begun. Running for four consecutive sessions, it will cover basic sewing and machine familiarisation.

Induction sessions will start soon to allow access to the items and resources in the makerspace.

#### CROCHET FOR BEGINNERS

Try something new in our Handmade session and learn the art of crocheting. Create simple and stylish



coasters while learning the basics of crocheting in circles.

Bookings required.

#### Wednesday 1 November 10am-12

#### BUSY FINGERS - KNITTING GROUP - TUESDAYS 1 - 3 PM Do you want to learn to knit?



Or want to join a new group of knitters? Come and join our group to brush up your skills for winter woollies. Please note bookings are essential for health regulations. **Please call 5540 5473 to book a spot.** 

#### TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN LIBRARY NEWS by Friends of

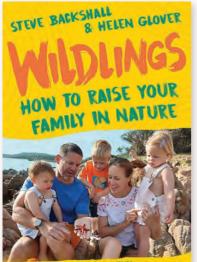
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# **OUR STAFF BOOK CHOICE:** *WILDLINGS: HOW TO RAISE YOUR FAMILY IN NATURE* by Stephen Backshall and Helen Glover



A WORLD OF PRE-INTERNET FUN

The ultimate handbook for raising wilder, happier, muddier, more resilient kids - whatever the weather and wherever you live.

Being outdoors is crucial for your family's wellbeing - but getting kids outside is not always easy. That's where this book comes in. From minibeasts in the garden and pond dipping, all the way through to beach Olympics and sea swimming (via rainy days, wild woods and river exploration), Wildlings is crammed full of ideas small and big for all ages to get them - and you - back to nature and the wildlife in it.

#### With contributions from:

Bear Grylls on embracing adventure, Ed Stafford on flirting with danger, Sir Chris Hoy on riding bikes, Judy Murray on rainy day kitchen games, Michaela Strachan on creative word games, Gordon Buchanan on toasting marshmallows, Caroline Lucas on protecting the planet, Wayne Bridge on garden football, and many more, *Wildlings* is a map to a more adventurous, wilder future.

LIBRARY OPENING TIMES MON-FRI 9AM-5.30PM • SAT 9AM-12PM Tamborine Mountain Library is proudly operated by Scenic Rim Regional Council.

# INSPIRING CREATIVITY AND EMBRACING NATURE at Tamborine Mountain Community Kindergarten (TMCK)

We are currently enrolling children for our 2024 program. We invite families to attend our upcoming orientation sessions on Tuesday 20th and 24th October and Friday 3rd and 7th November. Sessions will run from 9:00 – 10:30am.

"Orientation sessions are an invitation for children, and their families, to get a glimpse of what it is like to participate in our holistic, play-based kindergarten program." Tamara Garvey – Teacher

We invite families to come and see what makes our community kindergarten so special. We are proud to have been operating on Tamborine Mountain for over 42 years, providing children with opportunities to build confidence, explore their creativity, connect with nature, foster friendships and develop a strong sense of belonging within our local community.

TMCK has welcomed the news that kindy will be FREE for eligible-aged children who attend our government approved program for 15 hours a week (600 hours a year) from 1 January 2024. This is a fantastic step forward, to remove the barrier of cost for all of our mountain families.

If you would like further information please check our Facebook page @tmckindy or contact staff@tmckindy.org.au



# ENROL NOW FOR 2024

FREE KINDY .Conditions Apply

Tamborine Mountain Community Kindergarten

"Inspiring Creativity, Embracing Nature" Group A: 8:30am- 4:00pm Mon and Tues Group B: 8:30am - 2:30pm Wed, Thurs and Alt Fri Contact: 07 5545 2224 Staff@tmckindy.org.au



### **MORGAN BELL IS 2023 TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN TENNIS CHAMPION**

The final day of play in the Tamborine Mountain Tennis Club 2023 men's singles championships saw some extremely exciting and close matches. It came down to the final sets of the round robin phase to decide whether Julien Parrot, Dallas Walsh or Andrew Hill would face reigning champion Morgan Bell in the final. Morgan had won his way into the final without dropping a set and only a loss of four games. In the end, Julien had a tight win over Andrew to join Morgan in the final.

The battle was on, a best-of-three-set final between Morgan Bell (*pictured far right - white shirt*), title holder, against the enthusiastic young up-and-coming challenger, Julien Parrot (*at right*). As the final started, the spectators were treated to a feast of service aces, perfectly timed drop shots, tactical lobs and short cross-court angles where both players used the whole court to try to out-position their opponent.

Despite Julien's best efforts, it was the masterful shot selection, consistency and experience that saw Morgan Bell take the Tamborine Mountain Singles Championship for the second year running with a score of 6-1, 6-2. Congratulations to Morgan and thanks to tournament director Denis McKeown for organising another year of successful competition.

Think you could take on Morgan? Or maybe just play for fun, some healthy exercise and to meet new people? Tamborine Mountain Tennis Club is at 88 Beacon Rd North Tamborine and has social tennis from 6.30pm Mon, 7.30am Tue, 6.30pm Wed and 3.00pm Sun. Ladies from 7.30am Fri. Fit Hit



(coaching and cardio) 6.30pm Tue. All welcome, no need to book, just turn up. Public court hire and membership at tennis. com.au/tmtennisclub. Contact Henry Rich 0477 775 671.

## PUBLIC ARTWORK CELEBRATES SCENIC RIM'S FAUNA



Vibrant artworks featuring some of the Scenic Rim's celebrated wildlife are set to transform an alleyway and block wall in Beaudesert's town centre into colourful public spaces.

Artist Ash Taylor's concept was chosen by the Scenic Rim Arts Reference Group and Clarke & Turton Lawyers to decorate the front and side of the law firm's building on William Street following a competitive selection process.

Inspired by the Wildlife Prevention Society of Queensland's Yellowbellied Glider Project, the murals will feature two species threatened with extinction in Australia, the Feathertail Glider and the Greater Glider, along with their preferred food, the pink bloodwood tree.

Scenic Rim Community, Arts and Culture Portfolio Councillor Michael Enright said Ms Taylor was an accomplished artist who understood the need to raise awareness of the conservation of vulnerable species in the region.

"Ash's artwork was one of three shortlisted entries, including designs from Yannick Blattner and Sarah Sculley, and was chosen from eight submissions received by Scenic Rim Regional Council," he said.

"These three finalists were considered by the Scenic Rim Arts Reference Group and building owner Clarke & Turton Lawyers and assessed based on several criteria, including connection to the local natural



environment, the community and existing regional public artwork."

In her proposal, Ms Taylor said her concept for the Beaudesert mural would highlight species found in the region that needed to be 'seen' and would use photographs provided by the Yellow-bellied Glider Project as real-life references.

"Conservation and bringing awareness to the local environmental concerns are initiatives I am engaged in and have adopted as a primary focus of my work," she said.

The \$10,000 mural project, with a combined length of 20 metres, will be funded from the Scenic Rim Story Marker Project budget and will form part of a planned regional public artwork trail.

*Photos:* (at top) Scenic Rim Arts Reference Group Chair Cr Michael Enright inspects the mural fronting William Street with Lesley Turton

of Clarke & Turton Lawyers and artist Ash Taylor. (*above, centre*): Watch this space... The block wall in the alleyway as an artwork in progress, and (*at right*) close-up of the mural on William Street.





These collars are quite popular, they are used mainly for large, uncontrollable strong dogs. I have used both the Halti and Gentle leader with two very large rescued dogs and the dogs walked well. But there are very few dogs that will tolerate them and it takes an introduction period and training for acceptance. Most dogs paw at their face, shake their head and roll around to get out of it. The dog pictured has a long muzzle, so it does not sit right under his eyes but most do and it can't - shouldn't be used on short-muzzled dogs. The dog's muzzle is very sensitive and has an abundant nerve supply, so the strap across the nose ought to be padded.

This equipment is supposed to be used gently as a guide, not to be pulled or yanked as they can cause damage to a dog's neck and spine if the dog lunges, or it pulls hard on the lead. It is also best to avoid meeting other dogs while wearing it, and they are meant to be used for walking only. Many dogs I see wearing a Halti appear suppressed, similar to dogs experiencing non-contingent punishment. Because dogs delight in following their nose, sniffing out scents, stopping to "smell the roses" halters make it uncomfortable, sniffing is what makes walks fun for them. The Halti should be a training tool while learning to understand and respond to words and commands with rewards, to not pull. Ideally, in the long term a Martingale collar ought to be sufficient, or a non-pull harness, these two I use together when walking, the harness for comfort and the Martingale collar for more control if needed.

For the horse, the halter sits well down on the long bony part of the muzzle, far away from the eyes, not just under the edge. The canine head does not readily lend itself to haltering. For centuries people have used collars and harnesses for dogs, reserving halters for animals better suited to it.

However, the Halti for dogs is seen by many trainers as positive and humane. In some situations, head halters may be a suitable choice, but it should be viewed as a temporary phase, not a life-long solution.

Pam Brandis Dip. Canine.Prac.



# **BUTTER CHICKEN CURRY**

My twist on this traditional Indian dish has juicy marinated BBQ chicken pieces and red lentils coated in a tomato-based sauce. This mild spiced curry is absolutely jam packed with flavour and is so easy to make you will be astounded.

I know it may sound crazy, but I've removed a lot of the butter and cream from this dish. I know, I know – sacrilege, right? But trust me on this one as it has 3 major benefits: 1. It reduces the calories, which means you can eat it more often and your waistline and heart will thank you. 2. It's less rich so you feel light after eating and 3. It lasts longer in the fridge so you can have an amazingly delicious meal later on in the week ready in mere minutes. Seriously, every time I've made this it gets absolutely demolished. It really is an absolute foolproof people pleaser. Perfect for a potluck dinner or weeknight wonder.

**Did you know?** In India there is no such thing as butter chicken: it's called 'Murgh Makhani'.

Legend has it one fateful evening back in 1947 in the aromatic depths of Delhi's Moti Mahal kitchen, a culinary masterpiece simmered to life. Chef Kundan Lal Jaggi, a maestro of spices, faced a dilemma: customers complained his tandoori chicken lacked succulence. Hurt by this he became determined and embarked on a flavour crusade. Inspired by the hues of the setting sun at dusk, he melded ripe tomatoes, velvety cream, and golden butter with a secret masala blend and created a mesmerising sauce. Thus, Murgh Makhani was born, a dish woven with the ingenuity of a passionate chef. The first bite tantalised the taste buds, silenced the critics and a legend was etched in India's gastronomic saga. Each velvety mouthful whispered the story of Chef Jaggi's brilliance, transforming a kitchen conundrum into an explosion of flavours now cherished around the world.

**Chef Dylan's tips:** The secret to this dish is marinating the chicken thigh for at least a couple of hours, or even better, overnight before grilling on the BBQ. It gives the dish the most amazing flavour and is a perfect excuse to get the blokes to fire up the grill. Making the sauce takes no time at all and then all you have to do is let it simmer away on low allowing all the spices to meld into a harmonious symphony of flavour.

#### Kathmandu, Nepal – 2011

The worn leather strap presses deeply into my palm, a lifeline in this rattling tin can as we hurtle over potholes. Each bump sends shockwaves through my body, making my sandpaper-dry throat ache even more. I attempt a gulp, but my mouth is devoid of moisture, the arid desert within me demanding sustenance. Slowly, I breathe in through my nose, only to be met with a noxious odour. A blend of human sweat, unwashed hair, and the pungency of feet, reminiscent of ripe blue cheese. A wave of nausea threatens to overwhelm me, and I turn to my love, desperation etched on my face. "Any water left?" I plead. Her eyes, dark and sympathetic, mirror my desperation as she shakes her head, the cruel truth evident in her gaze.

Peering through the grimy window, distant lights flicker in a polluted night sky like twinkling stars. The bus shudders to a stop and we spill out onto the street. The feeble glow of headlights from passing cars is our only source of light, electricity out due to load shedding. My fingers fumble inside my bag, retrieving a mud map of a hotel's address hastily drawn in last night's internet cafe. The idea of pulling out my phone feels risky, a beacon in the darkness that might attract unwanted attention. A voice, soft yet insistent, pierces the ambient noise. "You need a hotel, sir?" Spoken from a young man no older than twenty, sporting a kind smile and earnest eyes. "My uncle runs a hotel only 5 minutes' walk," he adds, his finger tracing a route on my map. "No, we're fine," I say, but his persistence wears down my defences. "Alright, let's see," I say, glancing at my weary companion. She rolls her eyes, exhaustion written all over her face.

We manoeuvre through the sluggish, stop-start traffic, following the guide like lost souls seeking refuge. The crumbling facade of a five-story building emerges from the darkness. The moment we step into what passes for a 'foyer,' the acrid stench of urine slaps me in the face, a rude awakening in the pitch-black surroundings. "Candle?" the boy offers, "No," I snap, refusing to endure this nightmare any longer. "We can't stay here," I declare firmly, "Yes, yes, upstairs, room upstairs," he stammers, but my resolve is unyielding. "No," I retort, adamant in my decision. He deflates, his eyes pleading, but I remain resolute. "We're leaving," I assert, and we swiftly retreat back into the uncertain night.

Fortunately, I quickly flag down a passing taxi. "Can you take us here?" I point at the map, my finger hovering over our intended destination. The elderly driver, his face etched with the wisdom of years, nods understandingly. "How much?" I inquire, prepared for the customary haggling. "500 rupees," he replies, I calculate about 5 bucks, a fair price for our deliverance. I nod, relief flooding my senses as we pile our bags into the worn interior. In the safety of the taxi, I exhale deeply, meeting my love's gaze. "We totally dodged a bullet," I say, promising that such blind trust won't happen again. Her anger softens as she nods slightly. "Let me make it up to you. Makhani's on me tonight". A faint smile flickers across her face. Grateful, sensing her understanding, I whisper cheekily, "Lucky you love me".

As the ordeal swiftly fades into memory, I'm happy with the promise of a safe bed and the comfort of a warm meal that awaits us at the end of this arduous day's journey.

### Prep Time 15 mins Cook Time 80 mins Serves 4/6



#### INGREDIENTS

#### Marinade

- 1kg chicken thigh, cut into 3cm chunks
  2x tbs butter chicken curry paste
- 2x tos butter chicken curry pa (i use maharajah's choice)
   2x the pil
- 3x tbs oil
  1x tbs salt
- 1x tbs salt
  1x tbs pepper

#### Sauce

•

- 1x small brown onion, diced
- 4x cloves garlic, diced
  - 1x tbs butter
- 2 x tbs oil
- 1x tbs butter chicken curry paste
- 1x tbs tomato paste
- 1x tinned tomato crushed
- 1x Itr chicken stock
- 1/2 cup red lentils
- 1x tbs sour cream

#### Method

- In a large bowl mix all the marinade ingredients together to form a paste, add the diced chicken pieces and coat well. Leave to marinate on the bench for a couple of hours or overnight in the fridge.
- 2. Heat a large frypan or saucepan on medium heat and add oil and butter, as the butter froths add in the onion and sizzle. Add garlic and cook until fragrant.
- Turn down to low and add curry paste then cook for ~1min, be sure to stir to stop any paste catching on the bottom. Cook until it smells amazing then add tomato paste and cook for ~2 mins stirring.
- 4. Turn heat up to medium and add the stock and stir to combine. Bring to a simmer.
- 5. Turn heat to low and simmer for about an hour.
- Add red lentils and stir in. Cook stirring every now and then for ~10mins until the lentils start to soften then add sour cream and stir to mix through.
- 7. Heat BBQ to medium heat and grill chicken on both sides until cooked through.
- Add cooked chicken to sauce and simmer for ~10 mins. Taste and season if necessary (it should taste a little salty as the rice will dilute the flavour)
- Garnish with a little coriander and some fresh chilli for those who like a bit of kick.
- 10. Cook rice and serve hot.



# YOGA AND GARDENING, A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

We've just enjoyed the Springtime on the Mountain Open Garden trail and

what a glorious array of beautiful gardens. Bustling crowds of excited gardeners, exquisite plantings and breathtaking colours, it's an awesome weekend for gardeners and nature lovers alike. And gardening is one of those divine pursuits that can unite the most different of people. It's a simple joy that's creative, delicious, physical, silent and immensely satisfying. Being outside, smelling rain on the soil, discovering new buds on a deciduous tree signalling the start of spring or tiny staghorn ferns clinging to the SE side of eucalypt, blown there by the wind and bravely taking up residence – gardens are places where miracles happen every day.

And gardening has always been the pleasure of mystics and poets. Rumi and Hafiz use the analogy of a garden extensively in their poetry. The Persian garden was conceived to symbolise Eden and the four Zoroastrian elements of sky, earth, water and plants. Like the Mahabhutas (the 5 elements in the Vedic tradition: earth, water, fire, air and ether) a healthy human being and a healthy garden are a perfect balance of these elements. Persian gardens were the first recorded gardens using design principles for functionality, productivity and pleasure. Persian garden design had a major influence on and served as inspiration for other gardens around the world-from the Alhambra in Spain to the Taj Mahal and Mongolian Garden in India to the paved and tiled Andalusian courtyards with arcades, pools, and fountains testifying to their Persian roots.

Apart from the peace and the physicality of the garden, one of the biggest benefits of regular gardening is it's creativity. A new gardening project is something lovely to focus on and provides a respite from the chaos of life and everything that's going on in the world. Gardening stimulates your senses and gives you an immediate boost to morale, whether from growing seeds or postweeding. Gardening is wonderful for mental anxiety. We are nature embodied and having a conscious, loving relationship with nature is also about having that same relationship with ourselves. Nature teaches us to notice, listen to and follow the natural rhythms within us which mirror the seasons, the lunar cycle, when to seed and plant, when to let go and compost. Gardening is about being in relationship with the life, death, life cycle.

So, what has this all got to do with yoga? Well, in the same way yoga students feel calmer when they're practicing yoga, the garden offers similar benefits. It's physical and silent and gives you an opportunity to focus solely on the practical be it planting or weeding. You can't be in your head in a garden or a yoga class, you have to be in the present moment and in your own body.

#### Margot Wagner Yoga Under the Bodhi Tree

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



Relationships



# BOUNDARIES FOR KIDS

Once upon a time there lived a family of mum and dad and two daughters. The girls would walk to and from school and their parents had every confidence they were safe in the school environment. In the afternoon the girls would hang out with their neighbourhood friends before returning home for dinner. After dinner they would gather around the only television and watch a family program. Before retiring for the night, mum and dad would lock the doors and go to sleep peacefully knowing that their daughters were safe and pro-tected within their home's walls... This is not a fairytale, this was my life growing up. For today's parents this scenario may seem like a fairytale because the challenges parents face today have dramatically shifted in the past few decades.

A 2023 survey asked thousands of parents their concerns for their children. Forty percent of parents answered that their greatest concern was their child's anxiety or depression. Thirty five percent were concerned their child was being bullied.



Parents' main concerns fell into the following categories: their child's ability to develop positive relationships; the over-use of social media and screen time; internet safety; unhealthy eating; depression/suicide; lack of physical activity. Comments included "The way that society has become less about others and all about the 'cult of me' worries me tremendously as to the world my children will be living in." Parents in the survey said parenting is much harder than they expected, and they feel judgment from various sources. The survey came to this conclusion: Parents in the 21st Century are under considerable pressure to prepare their children for a future they cannot even imagine.

Protecting our kids today is not as simple as making sure the door is locked, because phys-ical walls no longer offer the protection that today's children need. Families are bombarded with influences that have access into homes through internet, mobile phone, social media, streaming services. Children are not born with the ability to discern so parents need to be aware of the content that may pose a threat to their child's wellbeing.

In a recent interview, Matthew McConaughey said "Parenting is an incredible responsibility and privilege. We can give our kids everything they want and not give them what they need. Loving a child is a lot harder if you really give a damn. 'No' takes a lot more energy, it's a lot easier to say 'yes'." Matthew and his wife's son had to wait till his 15th birthday to join social media. For three years they allowed him to shadow his parents' social media, having conversations with him about the pitfalls and ensuring he was equipped for having his own account.

The challenges parents face today are enormous, tough decisions on a daily basis which make you unpopular with your kids. The family unit was not designed to be totally selfsufficient. Surround yourself with like-minded parents. Every family needs an authentic community where they can feel encouraged and supported in their efforts.

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

# Physio Talk



# THE BUSHRATS ARE BACK

It's cricket season!

My favourite time of the year. I love cricket. I love watching it, I love checking the Australian team scores online and I love playing for the Tamborine Mountain Canungra Bushrats. Cricket's a funny game though. Some of us (the sane ones) love it and some of us totally hate it. I get it. It is hard to explain why I love the game so much to someone who sees 5 days of people standing around doing boring stuff and a game that ends in a draw after all that time. It has a certain magical appeal that is hard to explain to people who just don't get it.

So why do I play? In general, I love team sports. I think it is the best way to "do" sport. And certainly, for me, my favourite way to exercise.

And it's not just cricket. I love any team sport. My encouragement to everyone in our community is to get out and join in with one of the myriad team sport options we have on the Mountain. It is a sure-fire way to increase your fitness levels, lose weight, improve your mental health, gain an emotional sense of belonging and to meet new people.

And there is a tremendous amount of evidence to back this up. Studies have concluded that athletes who play team sports are healthier, more satisfied with life, have increased levels of long-term happiness and have better academic results. They also live longer and have a decreased risk of disease such as heart disease, Alzheimer's and Dementia.

Wow. How cool. But that's not why I play.

I love the camaraderie. I love hanging out with a bunch of people who have the same passion as me and I love being around people who have my back. I enjoy the gentle ribbing that we give each other, and I love watching someone defend their teammate. And I love the time after the game.



with NEIL BELL

The time where we talk about our families, our work, what's happening at school or how our kids are getting

on. I love that the Bushrats have senior sides with people ranging from 16 to 65 years of age. It is unique and it is special.

Yep, you got it, this is an unashamed plug for the cricket club. If you love cricket just give me



a ring. Who knows, maybe you will get a chance to get back on the pitch again, chase that little red ball and hear the sound of willow on leather.

But more than that, this is an encouragement for all of you to get off your butt and join in some team sport in this amazing community. We have so many options for all ages. Every club on the Mountain has junior teams and senior teams, quite a few also have social as well as competitive teams. No more excuses. Find out what is out there and go and join in. If you don't know where to start, give me a ring at Physique and I'll get back to you with what options there are in this awesome community.

Team sport. The benefits are incredible. Go and find something that suits you.

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# FINDING THE RIGHT BALANCE

Hello *Scenic News* readers, I'm Rebecca from Naturally COS, and we're going to find that elusive balance of physical, mental, and emotional health and wellbeing. Aka the Unicorn.

If you can't fit everything you need to in a day, and letting go of something seems impossible, it might be time to stop, go for a walk and breathe.

I provided facials at Balance Lane Open day and met Alex, the owner of this gorgeous, open, and soul filling Yoga and Barre studio. Alex guided me with some facts about Yoga, misconceptions, and it was interesting because with my background and her extensive fitness background there were some great ideas to help women to find a balance that's right for them without a life overhaul, which I will share later below.

What I learnt is that Yoga is primarily for physical health and stress relief. Poses the instructors speak so much about are curated positions that tone a body and calm the mind. "It's a workout for the body and a retreat for the mind" Alex's words not mine. But certainly, words I respect.

What was eye opening to observe was the faces of women as they arrived and then as they left. There was a refreshed, calm, balanced, open feeling. Not a strained, 'pushed myself hard' – or 'l'II feel that tomorrow' anguished appearance. It was so relaxed.



The main benefits of yoga - and again - until I try it for myself this is coming from others who have completed a class at**Balance Lane.** 

• Keeps you strong and flexible.

Mood lifting

Grounding and quietens overstimulating minds

# BEAUTY & WELLNESS

- Encourages compassion and kindness
- Eco-friendly no electronic equipment. Just you and your breath.

Learning the history of this little yoga oasis from its beginnings during lockdown was uplifting to say the least. Alex started a free online Yoga exercise program to help



with Rebecca Mander

people navigate such a strange period in time. It grew internationally and then became a physical studio. The very beginnings of Balance Lane was to show compassion, kindness and community.

#### And below as promised are 5 tips that may help you find balance:

- Keep drinking that 2 Litres of water but add some citrus and mint to boost your nutrient goals
- Every 60 minutes, stop and breathe. Focus on 3 things around you. Name them and their colours. It will help regulate your emotions.
- Wake up to a glass of warm lemon water wakes up your gut and your mind.
- Try Yoga. Free passes are available or online in 2024.
- If 8 hours of sleep a night isn't achievable (mums and shift workers: I am talking to you), try a 30 minute meditation before bed, to help your mind chill.

Regardless of what you try, or don't, do what fits your life and your needs.

As always, spread kindness like it's jam on toast.

Rebecca – Naturally COS





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# TRIVIA

Fruits and Veggies



- 1. What fruit is known as the "king of fruits" and has a distinctive smell?
- 2. Which vegetable is known for its ability to promote good eyesight due to its high beta-carotene content?
- 3. What is the main ingredient in guacamole, a popular dip?
- 4. Which fruit grows on palm trees and is often used to make a refreshing drink?
- 5. What vegetable is commonly used to make pickles and is a member of the gourd family?
- 6. Which citrus fruit is known for its sour taste and is often used in cooking and baking?
- 7. What green vegetable is often used in salads and is a good source of vitamin K?
- 8. Which fruit shares its name with a color and is often associated with relaxation and tropical vacations?
- 9. What vegetable, also known as ladyfinger, is commonly used in gumbo dishes?
- 10. Which fruit is often called a "berry" but botanically classified as a "aggregate fruit" and comes in varieties like red, black, and yellow?
- 11. What vegetable, a member of the cabbage family, is often used to make coleslaw?
- 12. Which tropical fruit has a spiky exterior and a sweet, tangy taste, and is often used in desserts and smoothies?

Answers p35

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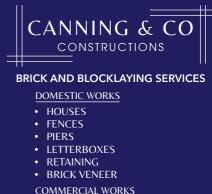
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