



Scenic

News

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

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**TELL US WE'RE DREAMING:
THE BUCK STOPS
(ROUNDAABOUT) HERE**



To learn that the Council planting-out of the roundabout at the entrance to the IGA cost upwards of \$10,000 – and that without installing any means of irrigation – is to shake one's head in disbelief – yet again. A deeper dig draws focus to Scenic Rim Regional Council's ongoing policy of shielding financials from the prying eyes of pesky ratepayers. Story page 3.

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Property of the week

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24 Coleman Square, Tamborine Mtn \$849,000

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- Charming cottage in the heart of town
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AGENTS:

Linda Hogan
0414 300 558



Property of the week

SALE 🛏️ 4 🚿 2 🚗 2 ✂️ 6,005m²

43-45 Riemore Circuit, Tamborine \$1,295,000

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AGENTS:

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GET READY FOR A COOL CHANGE



SOLD - Wilson Road

Great outcome Linda, another happy buyer has joined the community of Tamborine Mountain. Welcome Bill & Suzy

SOLD BY: ★★★★★

Linda Hogan
0414 300 558



SALE 🛏️ 4 🚿 2 🚗 1 ✂️ 1,107m²

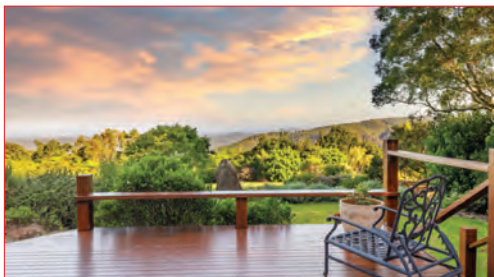
73 Long Road, Tamborine Mountain

- Spend your day relaxing and listening to the sounds of the visiting Kookaburra's
- Double storey home with plenty of space
- Room for home office downstairs
- Enjoy nearby cafes, wineries, priced to sell!

\$949,000

AGENTS:

Linda Hogan
0414 300 558



SALE 🛏️ 4/5 🚿 2 🚗 3 ✂️ 6.62 acres

5/163 Curtis Road, Tamborine Mountain

Views to enjoy from many rooms in this home Master with own private covered balcony
Open plan layout is perfect for the family
Private gated community, established gardens, bore water and lush lawns...a must see home!

\$ 4,500,000 guide

AGENTS:

Linda Hogan
0414 300 558



SALE 🛏️ 4 🚿 3 🚗 5 ✂️ 4,000m²

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TRANSPARENCY TAKES A BACKSEAT AS COUNCIL FINANCES ELUDE ENQUIRING EYES

The March 16 local government elections may well play witness to the accumulated frustrations of the Scenic Rim's ratepayers – tired of being both ignored, then kept in the dark as to the machinations of their local council.

Many have commented on the irony that eight years of Mayoral rule by Cr Greg Christensen – who adamantly professed in 2016 that he was running on a platform of increased transparency and community consultation – have seemingly brought little but obscurity for those seeking to make sense of Council's spending (or equally puzzling instances of NON-spending).

Sometimes, the outrage in the community – as in the case of the planting-out of the IGA roundabout – is disproportionate to the dollar amounts involved, but the perception of being treated as mugs is all too vivid on the Mountain.

Under legislation, Council is required to publish details when contracts involve amounts greater than \$200,000. There is apparently no requirement to publish “accumulative payments of \$200,000 or more” and in fact Council for a while had stopped doing so... eventually Council reconsidered its position and decided to resume publication, but in a significantly changed format.

Previously, Council reported on payments when they accumulatively reached \$200,000 in any financial year, which at least brought transparency of payments to a single entity when payments reached \$200,000 and any amount subsequently paid to that entity in the same financial year. It was relatively simple to ascertain entities which were paid \$200,000 or more in a given financial year.

When it resumed publishing its accumulated payments, Council significantly changed its reporting parameters to

only noting accumulated payments of \$200,000 or more IN ANY GIVEN QUARTER in a financial year. This meant that an entity could potentially be paid \$199,999 in any given quarter and not make it into the quarterly report. Moreover, it could result in an entity receiving \$199,999 for four successive quarters for a total of just under \$800,000 in a financial year, and not being included in the Accumulative Payments report at all.

The exorbitant Alpine Terrace handrail debacle has barely settled, and the distinct impression for Mountain residents is that the regime of the past eight years, helmed by the current Mayor, is all too set in its ways – and that any hope of Council accountability and transparency rests in a clear and emphatic change at the ballot box.



KERBSIDE COLLECTION MAKES MAJOR INROADS INTO DISASTER-RELATED VEGETATION REMOVAL

Major progress continues to be made in Scenic Rim Regional Council's collection of disaster-related vegetation at Tamborine and Tamborine Mountain following the severe Christmas-New Year storms.

Despite ongoing wet weather and some resourcing issues, the mammoth task of removing disaster-related vegetation generated by the storm event impacting homes and access to residential properties is running to schedule.

Collection of disaster-related vegetation in Areas 3 and 4 as outlined in the works schedule will continue as planned with:

- Area 3 - Tamborine Mountain North - East of Geissmann Road and Curtis Road
7am Monday 19 February 2024 to 5pm Friday 23 February 2024, and
- Area 4 - Tamborine Village
7am Monday 26 February 2024 to 5pm Friday 1 March 2024.

While the collection is scheduled to be completed in the Scenic Rim's east by 1 March, Council will continue to monitor the situation to ensure coverage of Areas 3 and 4 until 5pm on Friday 8 March in the event of wet weather or equipment shortages.

Works are ongoing where rain or the availability of plant and equipment disrupted the collection at some sites in Areas 1 and 2 on Tamborine Mountain - south of Curtis Road and Beacon Road and west of Geissmann Road and north of Beacon Road.

However, only disaster-related vegetation that was placed by the kerbside as requested by Council before the collection commenced in these areas earlier this month will be removed.

The collection of disaster-related vegetation generated by the Christmas storm event impacting homes and access to residential properties at Tamborine and Tamborine Mountain is provided through the jointly-funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).



TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN CARNAVAL RECOVERY SHOW



Christmas 2023 will never be forgotten by the residents of Tamborine Mountain, Tamborine and Canungra. It was the night a tornado came - causing destruction, chaos and a lot of heartbreak.

These are resilient communities, however not everyone has come to terms with the mental stress, is completely cleaned up or even repaired or rebuilt as yet.

The Tamborine Mountain A. H. & I. Society has decided to run its **Annual Show** together with a **"Recovery Carnival"** in order to provide a festive and fun occasion for residents to have a carefree community get together under happier conditions.

The date is Saturday 16th March at the Showgrounds. Gates will open at 10am.

There will be Amusement Rides, Food Vans, Fairy Floss, Cake Eating Contests plus all the usual attractions of the local Show running throughout the day. From 4pm until 8pm it will change to become the **"Recovery Carnival"** with "Steph and the Muchachos" (Steph Long and Saxophonist Alex Fletcher together with a group of amazing Gold Coast musicians)

There will be **Carnaval Samba Dancers, Samba Drummers, Fire Performers, The New Orleans Drums n' Horns** led by Mal Woods. We believe local artist Louis Bull will be making a guest appearance somewhere in the line-up. The Carnival will conclude with a huge **Fireworks Display at 8pm** sponsored by CT Freight. Come along for a day and a night of fun to lift our spirits. **Let's celebrate our three resilient communities!**



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WHY CHOOSE ME FOR MAYOR OF THE SCENIC RIM ON MARCH 16TH?

Many of you asked me to run for Mayor because you believe in my vision for a united Scenic Rim, trust my business and leadership skills, and you believe I have the right personal behaviour to lead a successful Council.

I strongly believe Scenic Rim has great opportunities for development. By leveraging the strengths of each of the six divisions, we can grow. We have diverse interests, from agriculture, tourism, health, to sport and recreation – and the Council should plan to make the most of these for our growth.

Drawing on 35 years of experience as a career fund manager, stockbroker, and farmer, I bring the financial, governance, and general management skills essential for leading Council and the elected Councillors in their duties. Recognising the increased financial pressure on residents, reviewing the budgeting process, funds allocation, and local tendering processes will be a top priority if elected.

Your clear message is a desire for a Council that works together as a productive team for the entire region, respecting individual Councillors and valuing their input. To achieve this, I commit to actively listening to advice, taking responsibility for the team's work, and communicating openly and frequently without engaging in legal disputes.

I intend to restore authority to the elected councillor, provide transparency and accountability, stop the waste and rate gouging, remove the toxic culture and introduce budget and structural reform as part of the *Strategic Vision for The Scenic Rim Regional Council*.

Together, we'll create a vision for the future of Scenic Rim that emphasises beneficial relationships between our towns. We'll work collaboratively to identify common, financially responsible goals and outline the necessary steps to achieve our vision for a prosperous region.

Tom Sharp



one small place on earth

RINGTAIL POSSUM DREY

Pseudocheirus perigrinus balcony, Eagle Heights.



I believe this is the sole mammalian construction in the copious animal builder content of my images, which is otherwise supplied by birds or insects. Unlike the larger brushtail possums, ringtail possums build dreys or shelters, scattered around their territory, in which they rest during the day. Some are substantial structures made entirely of small branches and twigs. A pair of ringtails built this shelter on my balcony, which I filmed in 2008, using fronds from the tree which immediately adjoins it. Within a few days they were gone. This nocturnal species prefers dense forest in eastern coastal Australia, south eastern South Australia and Tasmania.

Peter Kuttner



Vote **1**

TOM SHARP FOR MAYOR

Integrity in leadership

I'm committed to six key outcomes for the region:

- * stop rate gouging;
- * stopping the toxic culture;
- * creating transparency;
- * delivering value-for-money services and infrastructure;
- * reducing council debt;
- * sustaining the natural environment and conserving our natural resources.

I'm committed to reviewing:

- * the Local Government Disaster Management Plan;
- * council meetings and confidential briefings;
- * confidentiality decisions; the topic, the reason for imposing secrecy, the time limit for keeping it secret
- * need and spending on consultants;
- * our media policy to ensure we have good and productive relations with our media partners;
- * agriculture, tourism, business support, sport & rec all needing more comprehensive/inclusive policies.

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



Division 1 Councillor

Scenic Rim Regional Council



Alick Kilsby is a father of two and has resided on Tamborine Mountain for 30 years.

He runs businesses on the mountain and is currently the President of the Tamborine Mountain Junior Rugby League Club having played a major role in restoring the club to its current active status.

During the Christmas/New Year Storms of 2023/2024, Alick was heavily involved in assisting the community through the organisation and distribution of sandbags as well as helping to facilitate the community BBQ at the Showgrounds.

Alick's love of nature coupled with his background in Environmental Science has allowed him to understand the importance of protecting our natural areas.



Your voice for Business



Your voice for Community



**Your voice for
Tamborine Mountain**

"Your concerns are my concerns. I love this mountain and know that it can thrive. Let me work with you so we can deliver the best outcomes for business, the community and our local environment."

Authorised by A Kilsby, 84-86 Lahey Road, Tamborine Mountain 4272 (candidate)



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COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN UNVEILS ITS NEW LOGO

This year sees exciting changes for Tamborine Mountain Community Kindergarten (TMCK) with the launch of our new logo, inspired by local landscapes and the natural environment.



Designed by one of our talented kindergarten parents, Tal Boland, in collaboration with our executive committee and teaching team, TMCK hopes that the redesigned look will appeal to the local community and truly reflect our unique setting and kindergarten program - *Inspiring creativity and embracing nature.*

"The logo features the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, which is native to the mountain, the beautiful views from Hang Glider Lookout, and the Finger Lime tree. In the Yugambah language, Tamborine translates to "wild lime"." Tal Boyland (Parent)



Last year, children planted several Birdwing Butterfly vines in the garden, kindly donated by Judith Roland, Tamborine Mountain Landcare President. Judith will be continuing visits to our kindergarten this year, excited to take on the role of 'Gardener in Residence'.

TMCK has welcomed the news that kindy will be FREE for eligible-aged children from 2024, with limited positions still available. Please contact Caroline – Business Manager at Staff@tmckindy.org.au or phone **07 5545 2445** for more information.

Upcoming FREE Playgroup Dates for Term 1, 2024:
9-11am at TMCK. All welcome.

**Friday 1st March
Friday 15th March**

*Picture: Tal Boyland - TMCK Parent with children Eden and Gabriel
Below: planting vines*



VOTE

1

AMANDA HAY FOR DIV 1: COUNCILLOR



- **There for the community during the recent weather disasters**
- Advocating for integrity and transparency at Council – after all, it is your rates that keep Council afloat and pay all Council wages
- Working knowledge of the *Scenic Rim Planning Scheme 2020* – essential for all Councillors for an informed vote on development applications
- Looking forward to being part of a functional Council – which values democratic principles – rather than an autocracy.

- Tamborine Mountain is first and foremost a *residential* area, however the quality of life being experienced by residential ratepayers is being eroded as infrastructure fails to keep abreast of increasing visitor numbers. Ratepayers pay for the expensive pump-outs of toilet facilities utilised by visitors.
- Please consider the *Short Stay Letting and Home Hosted Accommodation Local Law* currently in force at Noosa Council. It is simply not sustainable to have ever-increasing unregulated accommodation on Tamborine Mountain while there is concurrently a constant stream of cabin, cottage, second dwelling and granny flat applications – where Council has no idea of the actual number of rooms currently available but the catch-cry is that the Mountain “needs” more tourist accommodation. How can need be assessed if there are no records of what is already available? There needs to be a full audit.
- *Home Hosted Accommodation* relates to properties where the person in charge of the premises *resides* at the premises whilst the paying guest uses the premises e.g. rents out a room. Unfortunately, the proliferation of dwellings on the Mountain currently used permanently as Short Stay Letting has impacted the number of long-term rentals available, which in turn affects the ability of businesses to attract staff who want to rent locally. If an approval is required for a roadside stall or a dog, surely an approval is required for accommodation. *Short Stay Letting and Home Hosted Accommodation Local Law – Noosa Shire Council (QR code at right)*
- There needs to be a Council policy which provides protection for residential ratepayers from the detrimental impact on amenity caused by over-visitation and unregulated Short Stay Accommodation which is springing up right across the Mountain and in all zones. A recent example is a house booked by 3 people which was used as a party house with 40+ people in attendance all night; multiple calls to 000 for assistance were not attended to until the morning. Residents have had enough. The current Planning Scheme provides no protections and some simple, minor changes are required to tighten loopholes.
- Kind words from Hon Scott Buchholz MP: “*I wanted to reach out and thank you for the amazing work you got through during the recent weather events in particular the way you lead your community in their times of need. I have all confidence in your commitment to the community, your work ethic, your representation will hold you in good stead at the upcoming Local Government elections. You were a pleasure to work with in difficult conditions.*” I am a swinging voter and not a rusted-on Liberal voter, so these words were appreciated.



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SCENIC RIM REGIONAL COUNCIL DIVISION 1 ELECTION

Authorised by Amanda Hay, 13-15 Chalmette Drive, Tamborine Mountain

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McCONNELL COMMITTED TO LEADING A UNIFIED COUNCIL



*Cr Jeff McConnell addresses the
Tamborine Mountain Meet the Candidates Night.*

Scenic Rim Mayoral candidate, Jeff McConnell, said he was committed to leading a unified council that calls on the strengths, knowledge and skills of its elected members, and putting an end to the toxic work culture within its administration.

“Our council is in trouble. I know that. You know that. It’s no secret,” he says.

“I’ve worked hard to represent the best interests of our Scenic Rim community, as have my fellow divisional councillors, but I strongly believe that council as a whole can do a lot better.”

“Much has been said in our communities about the relationship between the position of mayor and that of divisional councillors.

“I passionately believe this relationship is one in which we should work together positively, not only as a mutually respectful team but where our councillors are neither inhibited, nor obstructed, from speaking out for their own divisional communities on issues which specifically relate to them.

“If I am elected, we will see an end to the debilitating conga line of complaints to the Office of the Independent Assessor.”

Cr McConnell said there was a strong case to say council officers had been let down by management.

“Many are dispirited and unhappy and there is a high staff turnover,” he said.

“As Mayor, I will direct the CEO to commence an immediate restructure of the council administration.

“Only a restructured administration can address the disturbing staff issues that have for so long plagued the council.

“My aim as Mayor is to lead a more united, trusting and effective council team,” he said.

JEFF

VOTE **1**
FOR MAYOR

McCONNELL

- ➔ Better leadership
- ➔ Better management
- ➔ Better listening
- ➔ Better responses
- ➔ Better communication
- ➔ Better transparency



TIME FOR A BETTER STYLE OF LEADERSHIP

**TO MAKE IT BETTER IN THE SCENIC RIM,
GIVE JEFF YOUR VOTE THIS ELECTION**

Authorised by J. McConnell, 1986 Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road, Tamborine 4270.



clark+granger

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN

By Jez Clark

Principal - Clark+Granger

With thousands of plant varieties to choose from, picking the right plants for your garden can be a daunting task. Each plant has its own unique characteristics and preferences when it comes to growing conditions. Therefore, it's essential to research your plant choices before making a purchase to avoid wrong selections and plant failure.

One crucial factor to consider is the size of your garden space or garden border. Research the mature size of the plant you are considering, as plants can often exceed expectations. For instance, I've seen salvias the size of a grown man, so it's important to plan accordingly.

Another vital consideration is your soil type. Soils can vary in pH, with neutral soils having a pH value of 7.0, anything below that being acidic, and anything above being alkaline. Many plants will only grow well in certain soil types. For example, acidic soils, which are common in mountainous areas, suit acid-loving plants such as camellias, rhododendrons, and azaleas. However, Mediterranean plants may struggle in these conditions. If you're committed to growing lavenders or rosemary, you can alter the pH of your soil by adding lime.

Soils on the mountain can vary greatly depending on your location. You may have beautiful deep, dark, reddish-brown granite soil that is perfect for gardening, or you may have rocky soils that require significant effort to plant in. Clay soils can also pose challenges, as they can clump together and hold water, which could be detrimental to certain plants.

Aspect, or the direction your garden faces, is another important consideration. Is your garden south-facing and in deep shade, or west-facing and scorching hot? Certain plants prefer specific aspects; for example, hydrangeas prefer an east-facing border but would struggle in the scorching heat of the late afternoon sun.



Wind exposure is also a crucial factor to consider. Some areas on the mountain are very exposed to strong winds, which can scorch many plants, especially ornamental Japanese maples. These plants require a sheltered spot to thrive.



Aside from natural considerations, you should also be honest about your level of gardening expertise. Novice gardeners should stick to low-maintenance plants that require little to no attention. It's important to adjust your expectations and choose plants that are suitable for your skill level.

One piece of advice is to find the right plants and plant them in numbers. Planting in groups of at least three, depending on the ultimate size of the plant, can have a significant impact. Limiting your plant palette to three, five, or seven species can also be effective. For larger gardens, planting in bigger groups of 20+ can create a clean and relaxing impact on the beholder.

In conclusion always do your research and try to avoid those impulse buys. Go to the nursery with plants in mind and a plan in hand. Happy gardening.

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

KERRI CRYER – “WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY”

Hi everyone, I'm Kerri Cryer, your candidate for Division 2. I have lived in Tamborine for over 28 years with my family. Raising two children with my husband Paul, a girl and a boy who are now adults, we have spent the greater part of our lives socially and with schooling in the local area – all of us are very fondly attached to this wonderful community.

You may know me from the monthly Tamborine Bulletin newspaper – created by myself to acknowledge and highlight people, groups, and businesses of the area, and so is greatly focused on local community. Or you may know me from local community groups such as the Tamborine & Districts Citizens Association, the Tamborine Memorial Hall Management Association, the Tamborine Cenotaph Committee, and the Tamborine Car Show – where I play key roles as part of my ongoing and keen interest in local community.

In short, I have done lots of community work – now I would like to work for the wider community.

Over the years as a businessperson, I have dabbled in ownership of not one but two fish and chip shops (and I'd like to ask Pauline Hanson to “Please Explain”: why would anyone want to do that – twice over?!)..

But having said that, I'm not afraid of hard work, and have completed a Business Degree, earning nine Highest Achievement Awards along the way and walking away with a Distinction – while running not one but two newspapers!

I like to think I am a perfectionist in my work, so like to research everything before I put it out there. I prefer to talk to everyone involved because I am passionate about fairness. I'm here to listen to people and believe everyone should be able to have a fair go and do things which improve their lifestyles, as long as it is not to the detriment of someone else.

As such, if I am elected, I intend to foster a community where the lines of communications are open, taking the time to talk with people, to help work towards resolutions which allow fairness. To me, fairness, honesty, and integrity are key.

I look forward to supporting our community and increasing my capacity to work for our wider community with your vote for Division 2 on 16th March. Thank you for your time.



Photo by Lion Shirlene Pott of the Tamborine Village Lions.

Advertisement

Kerri CRYER

Over 28 Years in Our Community
Key Roles In Local Groups
Owner of Local Community
Newspaper ‘Tamborine Bulletin’
Working To Connect & Give
A Voice To Our Community
“I Listen, I Hear, and I Respond”

IT'S AS EASY AS ...

Approachable for All

Balanced for Business

Caring for Community



VOTE 1 Division 2

Authorised by K Cryer, 312 Tamborine Mountain Road, Tamborine for Kerri Cryer (Candidate)



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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to announce to the community that there are two Greens candidates running in the next council election. Steven Everson, with a Masters in Business Administration, is running for Division 1. He has had vast experience in his own business, together with small and international business, as well as local government.

I am running in Division 2. I am a nurse, midwife and small business owner. I have had a long history of advocating for environmental causes and supporting and promoting good quality maternity care.

Both of us are particularly driven to future-proof our community. Developing sustainable business and infrastructure that recognises the climate emergency. Some of our goals will be to gain water security for Tamborine Mountain, support funding of the Long Road Sports Plan, fight the thermal incinerator proposal for Bromelton, connect communities through accessibility, arts and culture.

**Nicole Thompson
Spokesperson for the Scenic Rim Greens**

CANDIDATES MUST BE ALLOWED TO BE EFFECTIVE

The election of Councillors on 16 March gives an opportunity for the Scenic Rim. We can start climbing out of the Council dysfunction of such concern to so many residents.

I applaud the commitment of Mayoral candidate Tom Sharp to a review of the management strategies. This is particularly so with regard to those strategies causing problems for Councillors in representing residents' interests. It is no coincidence that, during its last two terms, the Scenic Rim Regional Council has failed to implement the Principles of Local Government. These are clearly set out in the *Local Government Act* and are legal requirements, not just lofty aspirations.

A major item on Tom Sharp's list for review is 'Transparency'. This happens to be the first word in the first Principle. Unfortunately, in our Council, every possible bit seems to have been painted over.

Another is the suffocating confidentiality policy which seems to specify damaging penalties for Councillors if they make meaningful comment about anything.

Combine this secrecy with restrictions on debate in open Council and the ability of Councillors to adequately represent the interests of residents is improperly prejudiced.

To me, the Scenic Rim has many of the characteristics of a big business, with the Councillors as the Board of Directors, the Mayor as the Chairman and the residents the shareholders, but involved to a greater than normal degree. It seems Tom Sharp would be a good fit.

Cr Christensen's autocratic management style seems not to accord with the Principles of Local Government. It has much to answer for. Particularly on Tamborine Mountain, there has been some disregard of well-founded local priorities. Despite its high population density, the locality has preserved the semi-rural ambience so valued by residents and visitors. Destroy this by permitting tourism intrusion into areas not permitted in the Planning Scheme and that ambience is irretrievably lost.

No doubt Cr Christensen believed his approach was best but it has not worked. The State Government appointed an Adviser but it was too little, too late.

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Jon KRAUSE MP
Member for **Scenic Rim**

Fighting for our fair share

07 5515 1100  JonKrauseMP

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

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

The third Mayoral candidate, Jeff McConnell leaves me in an uncertain state of mind. I live on the plateau but at the south end which puts me in Division 2. Jeff McConnell, as my Councillor, has done a generally good job. Also, I agree with most of what he is saying during his mayoral campaign. However, he has introduced a real problem. He has repeatedly stated that, as Mayor, he would adopt military leadership principles based on his 23-year experience in the military. Unfortunately, for me this presents the possibility of a further period of autocratic management. That might not accord with how Local Government is supposed to work.

Phil Giffard

MARCH 2024 COUNCIL ELECTIONS

I was a little disappointed that the Tamborine Mountain Chamber of Commerce sponsored “Meet the Candidates” night at the high school auditorium on Tuesday 13th February was focused mainly on business and tourism and how the candidates would enhance and protect them. Nothing about shire liveability or development as it affects the environment and ambience of the ratepaying public or the sometime adverse effects tourism has on certain local communities, to mention just a few other relevant topics.

I did ask the Mayor, Cr Christensen, why he elected to bankrupt the 108-year-old Tamborine Mountain Progress Assn (TMPA) by the pursuit of court costs. I should have held on to the microphone to respond to his waffling answer about the Planning and Environment court granting costs to council. My response would have been that the pursuit of costs was not obligatory, and that council, in line with a long-held convention that adversaries in that court paid their own expenses, had the discretion to drop the matter.

The TMPA has always been a not-for-profit community betterment organisation with all surplus funds donated to local bodies such as the rural fire brigade etc. I believe that Mayor Christensen, having attended some of TMPAs meetings, was aware of that body’s probable financial position, and the pursuit of costs incurred in the court during the Eagles Retreat Place appeal was a deliberate ploy to bankrupt the organisation and thus rid council of an association that consistently took it to task over its lack of adherence to the gazetted shire planning scheme. It is relevant to note that council originally opposed that development and was on the same side as TMPA. Inexplicably council then took a 180 degree turn in the matter, leaving TMPA holding the bag as the lone supporter of the severely affected nearby residents.

It is germane that I now pose the same question to mayoral candidate, Division 2 councillor Jeff McConnell: “Jeff, your constituency includes numerous ratepayers from the southern section of Tamborine Mountain. Please explain why you voted to pursue court costs against the TMPA, a stratagem guaranteed to bankrupt that organisation.”

continued page 18

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.

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CALLING ALL ARTISTS - TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN ARTS TRAIL 2024: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Calling all local artists, musicians, performers, creative collectives, business owners, venues, and local attractions! The dates for the 2024 Tamborine Mountain Arts Trail (TMARTS-2024) have just been unveiled, set to take place from Saturday May 4th to Sunday May 12th 2024. Now is the time to secure your spot by registering for participation.

The Arts Trail offers the public a chance to discover beautiful Tamborine Mountain as it transforms into a vibrant canvas for the Arts Trail! Step into the heart of creativity exploring the hidden sanctuaries of artists' studios, pop-up exhibitions, installations and outdoor sculpture exhibits.

The Art Trail celebrates a myriad of arts forms from painting, ceramics, jewellery and sculpture to live music and poetry; and provides a rare opportunity to meet and mix with artists in their studios and partake in artist-led masterclasses and artist talks.

Organised for the second consecutive year by the Tamborine Mountain Arts Collective (TMAC), the Arts Trail has been warmly embraced by the artistic community and many artists have already registered for the event's second year.

Eagle Heights artist, Bronwyn Davies, is delighted to take part again, stating, "I am excited to be participating in the Arts Trail again and am planning to open my studio, participate in a group exhibition, and host a workshop."

TMAC president Jane McGeough emphasised the significance of the

Arts Trail as a direct channel for artists to connect and communicate with those interested in their art, saying, "The Arts Trail provides a wonderful opportunity for artists to engage with new audiences, inspire visitors and share the meanings behind their work".

The Arts Trail serves as a vital platform for artists and creatives to exhibit their talents, foster community connections, and champion arts and culture across the Scenic Rim region.

Felicity Smith, a distinguished Boonah artist, expressed her anticipation for the 2024 event, saying, "I'm looking forward to being part of the 2024 event that promises to be an exciting and impactful experience, bringing our wider community together."

Scheduled to run from May 4th to May 12th, spanning Labour Day and Mother's Day weekends, the Arts Trail will feature an assortment of workshops and events throughout the week, providing ample opportunities for engagement and participation.

Whether you're an artist, a venue, a volunteer, or a potential sponsor, now is the time to get involved and make your mark on this vibrant cultural event. For more information or to register for participation, please visit TMAC's website at tamborinemountain.art.



Jane McGeough, Cassie Ashton-Thomas and Renee Martin – The Artpost



Ian MacAllan
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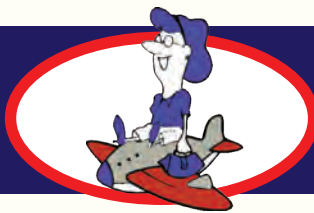
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Morocco – the word conjures up so many exotic images. Whether you think of the food, the colour, the architecture, the history or the culture you won't be disappointed. In October '23 I travelled around this fascinating country with Abercrombie & Kent (A&K). With my two adult children we visited all the highlights of Marrakesh, Fes, and Rabat. We also explored the Atlantic coastline and the delightful beachside towns, Oualidia and Asilah along with Tangiers where you overlook the straights of Gibraltar to Spain. Chefchaouen, the famed blue city was pretty but jam packed with tourists. The High Atlas Mountains were fabulous – wilderness areas and walks between the villages. Wander the narrow laneways in the Medina shopping for treasures in the souk. Feast on tagines and wonderful fresh produce and don't forget to try the surprisingly good local wine! The best guides and drivers always want to work for the best companies and you certainly feel that with A&K. It was the unexpected extras that took us by surprise.

I always warn clients planning their first Africa trip that it is addictive. Having had part of my early childhood in West Africa and having returned to East and Southern Africa I can honestly say if an African safari isn't on your bucket list, put it there now! These wonderful, varied countries are an amazing place to travel to. Parts of South Africa are reminiscent of Australia, but the true magic of Africa is going on safari. A&K own and operate some of the most wonderful

lodges the continent has to offer. The rhythm of being on safari is delightful. Every morning you are up and out before dawn in a small 4WD vehicle on the look out for lions, cheetah, elephants and other wildlife that are active



early morning and at dusk. Return to your luxury lodge for breakfast before having a leisurely day reading, swimming or perhaps taking

a guided walk through the wilderness. As dusk approaches you are out again in search of a leopard up a tree, or warthogs running off through the undergrowth. Stop in a picturesque location for sundowners before returning to camp for a relaxed dinner often around the fire.

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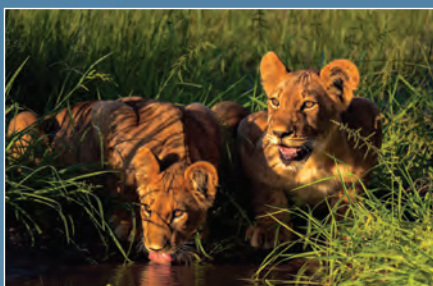
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Letters to the Editor — cont'd from p11

It is relevant to state here that the desperate attempt to emasculate the Progress Association and thereby reduce scrutiny of council procedures and shortcomings has failed miserably. The old TMPA is no more, but there is now, up and running, a new TMPA, the officially registered Tamborine Mountain Preservation Association, which is ready and able to continue critical scrutiny of council and its top-heavy bureaucracy. *Carpe diem.*

Roland Lindenmayer

MUST BE AN ELECTION COMING UP!

We are being swamped with election material in our letter boxes prior to the upcoming council elections on 16 March.

Except for Division 1 Cr. Amanda Hay, who has decided to save the trees and go paperless this election, standing on her past performance and integrity. That's original!

We have the Mayor and Deputy Mayor spreading the love, far and wide, campaigning for re-election while enjoying the benefits of council salary, car and expenses, on the public purse.

The independents have to take time off work and fund their own campaigns, like the other Mayoral candidate, Tom Sharp.

The council meetings have become part of the campaign it seems, with Council now voting to reject a Development Application at Young St that the community has been fighting against for the past 2.5 years. Love the timing, weeks before an election.

What happens when the Developer goes to court over this? Will Council roll over, as the previous council did with Eagles Retreat Cl.? Depends on who we put in council.

Remember when Mayor Greg Christensen and Cr Jeff McConnell, now both tearing each other apart at the podium, were voting together? It's all on record.

- Overturning the heritage listing of the Beaudesert Saleyards. \$250 000?
- Claiming legal costs against the TMPA knowing they would be unable to pay and be forced to close, after 108 years of defending the environment?
- Suing Cr Hay for legal costs after backing Council in a court action they withdrew from that is so similar to the Young St DA, that they are rejecting now?
- Unrelenting attacks on poor Derek Swanborough, leaving him no option but to resign?
- Allowing Eagles Retreat Cl development to proceed, after strong local opposition?
- The famous Alpine Tce footpath, with guard rails appropriate for the Alps?
- The ever-increasing rates, and neglect of services?

Judge these candidates on their performance over the past four years. Do they deserve another go?

Then there are The Greens, who miraculously emerge before each election and the Mountain comes alive with off-Mountain Greens supporters.

If those Greens candidates are serious about local issues, why don't they stand as independents, alongside the other independent candidates?

Instead, they align themselves with a Federal Political machine to unfairly influence voters, who don't understand that party politics does not have a seat in local council.

We need change in Council and we need the candidates who are the best qualified. It's not a popularity contest.

Give the new candidates a go. They could hardly do worse.

Julie Wilkinson

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Tamborine Mountain U3A is a well-established, not for profit organisation and for last 15 years we have been getting bigger every year. It is managed by a small committee of volunteer members with the aim of continued learning and academic stimulation, as well as physical wellbeing.

We offer several short courses, ongoing courses/ classes, lunch/dinner events and presentations with varied topics to broaden the mind and increase fitness levels.

One of the classes we run, which is very close to my heart, is Line Dancing and we are known as the *Tamborine Mountain Bootscooters*.



If you enjoy music and love dancing, but do not have a partner (or he or she may not like dancing), this is your golden opportunity to join in one or two hours of good fun.

Our dancing classes have been running for five years now and we plan to continue for many more years to come. With enthusiasm and passion for dancing, our dancers continue to enjoy this fun-filled activity as well as reap the benefits of exercise along the way.

As it is a gentle exercise, you will be able to keep going for a long time. The more you dance, the fitter you become. Dancing is a mild, yet effective, exercise, however your heart rate will be in fat burning mode (who does not want to get rid of those extra kilos!). Your cheeks will glow and you will feel completely rejuvenated. You will lubricate and move those stiff knees and hips, strengthening your muscles and giving them endurance, and they will love you for it.

Dancing improves your balance, co-ordination, and mobility, and you will feel the endorphins ramping up your happiness factor. Most of all, though, you are not at home alone and isolated, as you will be with a bunch of like-minded people of similar age who are all having a good time. After dancing, we usually go for a coffee where you will get a chance to get to know your new friends.

Why wait, give it a go.

We offer the first lesson free of charge, to see if it is for you. Simply go to our website and click on **Program**. (www.u3atamborinemountain.com/program)

Join us and be part of U3A where you can browse for many other courses, classes and social events.

Our Bootscooters classes are as follows:

- Tuesdays at Vonda Youngman Community Centre, 1-3 pm
Cost - one hr \$3, two hrs \$5.
- Fridays at Zamia Theatre 10:45 am- 12 45 pm
Cost - one hr \$3, two hrs \$5.

At the Zamia we offer free coffee/tea and biscuits, if you decide to have a little break.

We look forward to you joining us... I am looking forward to your call.

If you have any questions ring me on 0448 230 500 or email me at vmccathie@gmail.com

**Vesna McCathie
Tutor**

VISIT MAGICAL WORLDS IN LATEST SHOWING AT UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

A new exhibition of Catherine Macauley's sculpture and paintings opens on Saturday 2 March at Under the Greenwood Tree Bookshop & Contemporary Art Gallery. Alice in Wonderland, mermaids, court jesters, jugglers and medieval maidens are just some of the subjects for her exhibition.

Catherine's artwork transports us to past eras and magical worlds – from the early Renaissance to mythology and fairy tales. Her unique sculptures and paintings feature women from past eras, characters from classic books, and create imagery that seems vaguely familiar and often surprisingly comforting.



Hand built in clay and mixed media, her figures are brought to life through their rich colouration, textures and Catherine's unique handmade glazes. These signature glazes, developed over many years of study in glaze technology, and much trial and error, elevate the works to another level.

Drawing, particularly the human figure, has always been a precursor to Catherine's sculptures and now provides a natural progression to her painting, adding another dimension to this exhibition.

Catherine has exhibited extensively over the past 20 years, been the recipient of numerous awards and held several exhibitions in Regional Galleries, including her "Alice

EXHIBITION



UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE

Catherine Reason Macauley

Sculptures & Paintings

Catherine's artwork transports us to past eras and magical worlds - from the early Renaissance to fairy tales. Their rich colouration, whimsical character and theatrical qualities are sure to enchant.



Please join Catherine for drinks at the exhibition on

Saturday March 2nd at 3pm

Exhibition continues until March 28th 2024 - Catalogue available upon request.

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Exhibition" at Gatakers Artspace Fraser Coast Regional Council Community Gallery in 2020.

Meet Catherine at her exhibition on Saturday 2nd March from 3pm. The exhibition continues until March 28th at Under the Greenwood Tree.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION SET TO FLOURISH AT THE KNOLL

The Bard himself once coined "knoll" as a verb, signifying to bring people together for an event. Aply, a knoll is also a small hill, upon which The Knoll Studio is perched, at the edge of Tamborine National Park. This setting symbolises the journey of Ryan and Belle towards the inauguration of The Knoll Studio in 2023. Together, they share a vision and a passion for creating a space that fosters creativity and nurtures individuals through the Arts.



Ryan is a multifaceted artist: a musician, photographer, videographer, and a multi-award-winning songwriter with accolades in both adult and children's music. More than his artistic talents, Ryan is a man with a heart of gold, a clear vision, and a profound sense of purpose.

His journey began in Sydney's Vaucluse as a fourth-generation plumber. A moment of introspection — contemplating the purpose of his hands, yearning for music—propelled him towards a life-altering decision. He relocated to the Gold Coast, laying down

roots and starting a family. His life took a serendipitous turn when he conducted a workshop for Three Worlds at the Currumbin Special School. This opportunity enabled him to connect deeply with young people, establishing a rapport through music.

This marked the beginning of his work in the unique ability sector—a term Ryan prefers over "disability". His career evolved from FSG to CPL to NDIS, supporting young and sometimes challenging individuals on their journeys. Through music programs and therapy, Ryan forged connections, fostering growth and understanding.

His ultimate goal was to create his own space—a place where individuals could flourish through artistic expression. The Knoll Studio embodies this dream, providing a sanctuary where people find purpose and community connection through photography, videography, music, and art. These programs, offered during school terms for small groups, leverage the arts to deepen human connections, tell stories, and enrich the community. Ryan views the Arts as a means to unlock purpose, foster social growth, and make meaningful contributions to community and society.

The impact of Ryan and The Knoll Studio has been profound. Many 'Mountain Mates' have testified to their positive experiences, expressing their love for the space and its activities. Parents, too, have voiced their appreciation for Ryan and his team's efforts in enabling their adult children to express themselves and find a sense of purpose.

To get involved with The Knoll Studio projects, contact Ryan at create@theknollstudio.com or call 0425 788 188.

LINDA GALBRAITH



HOW IS YOUR VAGUS NERVE?

We've been working with the vagus nerve over the last couple of weeks in yoga class. And the vagus nerve will

feature hugely on our Yoga Retreat coming up in March. It is the primary nerve pathway from the brain to the gut and from the gut to the brain. Touching every organ in the body, the vagus nerve is your superhighway to understand and to listen to, what is going on in your body. On yoga retreat we will use the yoga poses to stimulate and nourish the vagus nerve before we dive into the bigger aspect of the retreat – the meditations.

The art of listening to the sensations that arise from within your body is called interoception. In meditation and mindfulness, you are encouraged to sense how your body is feeling as you observe your own thoughts: when that thought arises why does my gut feel queasy? Why does that thought make my heart start to race? It takes a little practice to sift through the layers of thoughts and feelings but learning to pay attention and focussing on your sense of interoception is a game changer. Once you own those feelings that arise in your body, there is nothing to hide and you are no longer hostage to the emotional baggage and physical drama that comes with unresolved, buried emotions and memories.

Interoception includes all the signals from your internal organs, including your cardiovascular system, your lungs, your gut, your bladder, and your kidneys via a network of pathways within your body. The two key components of these pathways are the vagus nerve and your fascia. Fascia, once only thought to be a structural substance, is now seen as an organ of communication itself, separate from the nervous system.

An easy test to gauge your sense of interoception is to sit and try to sense the beating of your heart. Can you, without taking your pulse, feel each movement and count its rhythm? Or do you struggle to detect anything at all? This simple test is just one way to assess your interoception awareness.

Poor interoception is a common factor in many mental illnesses. People with depression, often score lower on the interoceptive heartbeat test. For these people, the reduced ability to feel their bodily signals may lie behind their sense of lethargy and emotional numbness. People with anxiety, in contrast, are attentive to their interoceptive signals but they often don't read them accurately. They may misinterpret a small change in heart rate as being much bigger than it really is, which can lead them to "catastrophise" their feelings and amplify their sense of panic. People experiencing distressed interoception may feel uncomfortable, confused, or overwhelmed by physical sensations. Your sense of interoception can improve with practice. Yoga, breathwork and mindfulness can help you grow this awareness.

Margot Wagner
Yoga Under the Bodhi Tree

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

Relationships



EVOLVING RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are never stagnant- they are ever changing in response to changes within and outside of ourselves. Consider the relationship between a parent and child. It begins with total dependence on the parent who is the infant's whole world. Inevitably, a slow growing distance ensues when the child asserts their independence. You may have experienced learning to negotiate an adult-to-adult relationship with your child. Eventually you'll notice the dynamic has turned. Your son is chastising you about your limits while he relieves you of the heavy object you're carrying. Your daughter who once begged you to make her a Minnie Mouse birthday cake is now organising your birthday parties. You no longer feel like the parent in the relationship.

Friendships are also dynamic. We have seasons where friendships are particularly strong. We enjoy shared circumstances: living in the same neighbourhood, colleagues in the same organisation, school parents, members of a club. Then the season ends and though we might make an effort to keep in touch, the friendship becomes a lesser priority as new people enter our life.

How do our partner relationships change? They start with the 'can't-get-enough-of-you' stage. A cocktail of adrenalin, dopamine and serotonin causes us to feel besotted with each other. The intensity eventually fades from passionate to companionate love. From a heightened sense of positive emotion toward our partner, our perspective transitions to something more realistic. The relationship grows in commitment, intimacy and teamwork.

If you're with someone long-term, it's natural to grow and change as a couple. When someone mentions that their partner has changed it often comes from a place of resentment. We spend a lot of time focusing on the negative aspects of change because we like familiarity. It's safe and predictable. Remember that change isn't always detrimental or a threat to the relationship.

Some relationship changes can be difficult, particularly those involving loss. When one partner loses capacity through illness or ageing, the relationship dynamic shifts. An adjustment in expectations is required as the couple navigate their way through uncharted territory. If this is your situation hold on to and treasure that which you still have. Keep sharing routines that have been an important part of your life together.

If you are caring for a partner it's vital to keep in mind there are two people in the relationship, and your needs are equally important. The shift of focus to your mate can make this easy to forget, but you won't be happy if your needs aren't met. Know and express your needs to your partner. It gives them opportunity to show care for you or give you the space you need to have your needs met too.

It might seem scary to think that things won't always be the same, but as long as you are both willing to embrace life's ups and downs as a team, there's no reason to fear. See change as an opportunity to grow something in you. Why not try something new today?

Linda Gray
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0401 517 243

PHYSIOTALK



with Jess Stinson

SLEEP... EASY..?

I am lucky enough to have always had a good night's sleep. It's never been one of those things I have been frustrated with achieving. As physios we often talk to people about the benefits of 'proper' sleep. I've actually always loved talking about sleep to the people I am treating. You see, sleep in itself is a form of therapy and slight tweaks in our routines can make a world of difference in managing stress, pain and injury. It's not until now, when a solid and consistent 8 hours or so of rest has been taken away (courtesy of Finn and Harriet, our 7-month-old twins) have I experienced the consequences of interrupting deep, restorative sleep.

The therapeutic benefits of sleep come in when we have a well functioning, and listened to body clock. Here's how it works:

Sleep is modulated by very particular fluctuations in hormones, cortisol and melatonin. These hormones have a paradoxical relationship with each other and will be influenced throughout the day by sunlight exposure, mealtimes, temperature and stress. All of these factors combine with each other to give us our 'circadian rhythm' or 24/7 body clock. This clock tells us when we should wake up, keeps us alert and active throughout the day and, when we listen to it, alerts us when to wind down and go to bed. Seriously, the human body is incredible.

Overnight we go through cycles of REM and non-REM sleep. It is understood that REM sleep calms the nervous system, improves memory and the ability to understand and manage emotions while during non-REM sleep the brain releases hormones responsible for

growth and development, tissue healing, assisting immune system response and increasing energy reserves. Basically two systems - one which rests the nervous system, and one which rests the body. Fantastic stuff! But, here's the catch - to fully receive the benefits of both sleep cycles we really need to be getting a good 8 hours of relatively uninterrupted sleep.

If we miss our last 2 hours of sleep and sleep 6, we miss the majority of our REM sleep - our emotional first aid. Long term this is related to anxiety and depression but even short term it can leave us feeling raw and our emotions frayed. You may think back to how edgy you have felt after a bad night's sleep. If we miss out on our non-REM sleep we miss out on its physical benefits, there is an increase in inflammatory markers, a decrease in tissue healing and new growth and that all-encompassing feeling of sluggishness and fatigue.

Even with relatively good sleeping babies it's no wonder that after 7 months of some interruption, Hayden and I are both struggling with stiff, sore backs and shoulders and the feeling of 'hitting the wall' at 3pm.

But there's good news! If you're chasing that elusive 8-hour night's sleep, slight tweaks with the major problem causes - light, coffee, alcohol, alarms and temperature can make a huge difference. Your physio will be able to tell you about each in more detail. If you have babies the bad news is they (and their still developing circadian rhythms) are the major cause and you might need to wait it out. In the meantime, I will have a chat to Finn and Harriet about cutting down on their coffee consumption.



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These dogs are powerful weapons against wildlife crime by way of their superior senses of smell and hearing, they are agile and can track long distances. They are often deployed by helicopter or vehicle and operate in various huge parks like Kruger in South Africa.



Lions, elephants, leopards, rhinos and buffalo are some of the most expensive animals targeted in poaching for body parts, much used in Chinese medicine or as trophies. There are thousands of black bears, wildebeest, impale and fowl also killed for sport. These “hunters” primary motivation is to obtain animal parts, or the whole animal for display, they are cruel people and most use unsporting methods like baiting or hounding. Animals are often shot in canned hunts (where the animal cannot escape) in large, fenced areas. It is most commonly used in Africa for trophy hunting of lions. Unfortunately, the provinces of south Africa have more authority over wildlife than the national government.

Some Chinese pharmaceutical companies display products that include leopard or pangolin parts on their websites. It is very disappointing to see many major banks and financial institutions endorsing this animal exploitation. Especially when science has many times denied any benefits in consuming these animal parts, it is purely a cultural myth.

In America there are wildlife killing competitions; they delight in killing the ancestors of our dogs; the person who kills the most wolves and coyotes does it for their twisted ego, a title and prize. However, wolves are almost extinct in some areas. Whereas in Texas, canned hunts are offered that include kangaroos, and they charge thousands of dollars for the privilege.

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True or False

TRIVIA QUIZ: HISTORICAL CURIOSITIES



1. What ancient civilization is credited with inventing the wheel?
2. Which famous world leader was found to have a bullet lodged in his body posthumously, discovered during his exhumation in 2001?
3. What was the original purpose of the Great Wall of China?
4. Who is known for proposing the heliocentric theory in the 16th century?
5. What was the name of the first programmable computer, designed by Charles Babbage?
6. Which U.S. president served the shortest term in office?
7. What was the primary reason for the construction of the pyramids of Egypt?
8. In which century did the Black Death occur, devastating Europe's population?
9. Who was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and in what field?
10. What ancient structure is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and still exists today?
11. During which war was the famous Christmas Truce, where opposing sides ceased fire and celebrated together, observed?
12. What was the original name of New York City before it was changed in 1664?
13. Who was the first emperor of China?
14. What significant event marked the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance?
15. Which famous inventor is credited with the creation of the light bulb?
16. What catastrophic event is believed to have led to the extinction of the dinosaurs?

ANSWERS: PAGE 24

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TRIVIA Answers FROM PAGE 23

1. The Sumerians.
2. Napoleon Bonaparte.
3. To protect against invasions and raids from various nomadic groups from the north.
4. Nicolaus Copernicus.
5. The Analytical Engine.
6. William Henry Harrison.
7. To serve as tombs for pharaohs and their consorts during the Old and Middle Kingdom periods.
8. The 14th century (specifically, it peaked between 1347 and 1351).
9. Marie Curie, in Physics and later in Chemistry. (*pictured page 23*)

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10. The Great Pyramid of Giza.
11. World War I (1914).
12. New Amsterdam.
13. Qin Shi Huang.
14. The fall of Constantinople in 1453.
15. Thomas Edison (although he improved upon previous designs rather than inventing the first light bulb).
16. The asteroid impact theory suggests a massive asteroid collision with Earth caused the dinosaurs' extinction.

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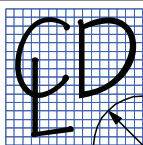
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OUR STAFF BOOK CHOICE: *Emergency Exit Only* by Michelle Upton



Amelia Harris has played it safe all her life - but when a minor accident lands her in hospital, she dramatically quits the tedious office job she's been working at for a decade.

When her mother, Toni, asks her what she wants to do, Amelia is at a loss. Out of sheer desperation, she tries her hand at the dream jobs she's always fantasised about. Soon Amelia's shadowing a thrilling cast of characters and professions - as a journalist, a florist, a wedding planner, a zookeeper, and more.

Life couldn't be more exciting, especially when she meets the man of her dreams. But when Toni drops a truth bomb about their family, Amelia's whole world tilts on its axis. Meanwhile, each new job starts taking on a life of its own. Has she created a monster? As she's about to find out, where there's smoke, there's fire, and sometimes you just have to save yourself.

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