



News

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

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**THIS TIME, IT REALLY
DOES MATTER
- HAVE YOUR SAY**



*March 16
2024*

Despite the decent remuneration and the significant authority, prestige, and influence that come with the roles, there's a noticeable decline in individuals vying for positions in this year's local government elections in Queensland. Statistics from the Electoral Commission of Queensland indicate a 10% reduction in candidate numbers since 2020, leading to a 33% increase in the number of mayors and council members who will assume their roles unopposed on March 16. With 61 positions being secured without competition, it raises the question: Is this indicative of a disinterest in local governance or contentment with the current leadership?

Paul Williams, a political scientist from Griffith University, offers insights into the "candidate scarcity." Dr. Williams suggests that the prevailing economic challenges and the escalating cost of living have led voters to focus more on personal financial stability, overshadowing other concerns. "People are prioritising their immediate needs, like affording groceries and housing expenses, over community involvement," he explains. "This shift has diminished their capacity to engage with broader community-enhancing initiatives."

Sentiment in the Scenic Rim, although sympathetic to the challenges and disruptions posed by a handful of recent natural disasters, is that the current Council structure and operation is toxic beyond repair, and it really is time for a clean sweep and fresh start.



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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Property of the week

SALE 🛏️ 3 🚿 2 🚗 5 ✂️ 2,023m²

36-38 Yuulong Road, Tamborine Mtn \$1,300,000

Desired location- Reno opportunity awaits

- First time on the market in 22 years, this has been a treasured home
- Structurally sound, but needs to be returned to its former glory
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AGENTS:

Linda Hogan
0414 300 558



Property of the week

SALE 🛏️ 4 🚿 1 🚗 8 ✂️ 2.5 acres

64-72 Wynne Road, Jimboomba \$969,000 Guide

Perfect for acreage beginners

- Freshly renovated home with large covered entertainment area
- 3 paddocks, 2-bay shed, horse stable, dry food storage and dam
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0429 001 013



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24 Coleman Sq, Tamborine Mountain

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0414 300 558



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SOLD 🛏️ 5 🚿 3 🚗 2 ✂️ 2,671m²

1-3 White Road, Tamborine Mountain

- Picturesque meandering gardens
- Separate 1 bedroom granny flat
- Bore, solar, double carport, heat pump hot water, art/hobby studio nestled in the garden of exotic plants, shrubs and trees

\$1,200,000 guide

AGENTS:

Diane Pihl
0424 653 316



RENTAL TESTIMONIAL

Landlord - Beattie Road, Mundoolun

Sarah - you have the patience of a saint and we really really appreciate all the work you have done. Thank you. You deserve a bottle of champas!!!

Cheers Kylie

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Property Manager:

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BREACH OF CODE: RULING ON MAYOR CHRISTENSEN RAISES MORE VOTER CONCERNS ON ELECTION EVE

Mayor Greg Christensen of Scenic Rim Regional Council was found to have breached the Councillor Code of Conduct by using his personal email for official council business. In a council meeting marked by extensive debate, a majority of councillors resolved that Christensen should pay \$5,000 of the \$25,143 investigative costs and publicly acknowledge his violation in the upcoming March council session.

Additionally, Christensen is to bear his legal costs, with a warning that any future infractions will be classified as misconduct. The breach traces back to an email Christensen sent to then Minister Steven Miles, seeking to overturn a council decision about his conduct, using his personal email, which prompted a complaint from the Local Government Department's Director General to the OIA, as Christensen revealed during a council inquiry.

Cr Jeff McConnell recused himself from the discussion to avoid a conflict of interest, as did Christensen, given his direct involvement. Before exiting, Christensen faced council queries, admitting his judgment error and attributing it to stress and a supposedly defamatory campaign against him.

Post their departure, the council examined the investigation report, which confirmed Christensen's admission of the breach, citing emotional distress and pledging to prevent future lapses. The council, with Cr Marshall Chalk presiding over the debate, affirmed the breach and dismissed Cr Michael Enright's motion to absolve Christensen.

Cr Virginia West highlighted the code's directive against personal email use for council matters, supported by advice from the State Government Advisor. Despite Enright's motion to waive penalties, the council determined Christensen must make a public admission and debated his financial contribution towards the investigative costs, ultimately deciding on \$5,000 after amendments to Cr West's initial motion. Christensen is also tasked with his legal fee repayment, adhering to the council's policy on legal expense coverage in defence against OIA complaints, dependent on the complaint's verdict.



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PAPER WASP NEST

Ropalidia plebiana, cactus, Eagle Heights.



The beautifully made nest is located on a cereus cactus over three metres high, by the side of the road. The species is unique, being the only temperate wasp in the otherwise tropical genus. It is mainly found in New South Wales, where aggregations of nests are known to occur, and in The Australian Capital Territory. It is also found in tropical Queensland as well as hereabouts. An egg can be seen in the bottom left cell. The wasps make their nests by mixing saliva with weathered wood. This is one of three species of paper wasp I have filmed.

Peter Kuttner

McCONNELL REACTION TO ALLEGED SMEAR CAMPAIGN

Scenic Rim Mayoral candidate, Cr Jeff McConnell, said he was disgusted by an anonymous smear campaign suggesting he did not support tourism or Destination Scenic Rim.

Destination Scenic Rim (DSR) is a collection of local businesses, including farmers, winemakers, chefs, B and B owners and sustainable tourism.

“I have been contacted by several DSR members over the last few days advising me that they are aware of rumours circulating in the Scenic Rim that I do not support tourism or the DSR,” he said at the weekend.

“This is a total and utterly dishonest fabrication which could not be further from the truth.

“These rumours are clearly designed to affect voting in the Scenic Rim Council elections.”

Cr McConnell said that as the Portfolio Councillor for Tourism and Regional Events he had actually been heavily involved in promoting both tourism and DSR.

“I have worked hard supporting businesses that have been struggling under council red tape and helping with the resolution of these issues. I have constantly promoted the expansion of sustainable and responsible tourism within the Scenic Rim and have assisted new businesses in getting started.

“With respect to DSR, I was a champion for the one LTO-DSR and worked hard assisting with combining the three LTOs in 2020-2021.

Cr McConnell said that at a recent meeting with DSR members he had affirmed that if elected Mayor he would seek to change the funding of DSR to performance-based, with an increase in funding as more members were admitted.

“I would like to see a better funded DSR that takes on a larger operational role in tourism and marketing,” he said.



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

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A TEST CASE WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE

The outcome affects all Tamborine Mountain residents and all SRRC ratepayers.

Councillors recently unanimously refused a development application at 36 Young Street for 10 'nature-based' tourism cabins that would have resulted in a total of ~1000m² built form in ~ 0.5ha of a 4.36 ha site, within reduced setbacks to 11 rural residential properties. 5 of 6 buildings would have been partially or entirely within Council's highest risk landslide hazard zone.

Council's reasons for refusal:

- Do not approve proposals that could jeopardise the safety of people and property and create legacy issues for Council by allowing tourism development in or near high-risk zones.
- Preserve the amenity and privacy of residential areas while encouraging development on safe sites that do not impact neighbouring homes.
- Setbacks must be maintained for tourism development adjacent to residential areas.

The Developer has appealed. Considering the issues involved, a loss in the Planning and Environment Court would set disastrous precedents and pave the way to costly legacy issues for Council/ratepayers.

Council is the primary respondent in the Appeal. However, given the important principles in this case, residents who objected to the proposal will also represent our Community in court. This will cost an estimated \$150,000.

Please help defend issues that potentially affect us all by donating:

ACCOUNT NAME: Tamborine Mountain Preservation Association
BSB: 484 799 ACCOUNT #: 353196798 REFERENCE: YOUNG STREET

NEVER A BETTER TIME FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

In the wake of recent devastating weather events, including heavy rain and flooding across southern Queensland, the Scenic Rim, the conversation around climate change and its effects has never been more urgent. These devastating occurrences, while shocking, are poised to become more frequent and severe, highlighting an urgent need for adaptation and resilience in our communities and infrastructure.

For the residents and business owners in these areas, the reality of climate change has hit close to home. Prolonged power outages, a direct consequence of such extreme weather events, have laid bare the vulnerabilities inherent in our current energy system. Homes are left without essentials, businesses face significant income losses, and the rural and semi-rural communities feel the impact more acutely, given their often-limited access to quick fixes or alternatives.



Image from Unsplash

In this context, the value of reliable and sustainable energy solutions has never been clearer. Méridien Energy, a leading innovator in renewable energy solutions in Queensland, offers a way forward. By harnessing Australia's abundant solar potential, Méridien Energy is helping homeowners and businesses take back control of their energy costs and significantly mitigate the inconveniences and losses associated with power outages.

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In an era where extreme weather events threaten our way of life, the security and benefits of a quality solar system with battery backup cannot be overstated. Méridien Energy offers a pathway to resilience in the face of climate change and a strategy for long-term savings and sustainability. Now, more than ever, is the time to act, secure your energy future, and contribute to a larger, collective effort against the environmental challenges of our time.

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SOME NOTES ON THE SCENIC RIM ELECTIONS, MARCH 2024

In the Scenic Rim council elections, we stand on the threshold of many paths. Some lead to more of the toxic and destructive policies of the last four administrations, the past two sinking to even greater depths.

Much damage has been done to Tamborine Mountain's environmental and semi-rural character in which most of its 8,000 plus residents have invested and which the approximately one and a half million visitors arrive each year to happily share.

Regarding mayoral candidates, **Mayor Christensen's** "one size fits all" view of the shire is the source of the continual sub-standard recommendations from Council's town planners, not stirred enough to wake up that there is a Local Government Act wherein residents are also key players. The amount unnecessarily spent on Appeal cases beggars belief.

Poor performance under Mayor Christensen's watch has been routinely reported in the Tamborine Mountain Progress's newsletters which are viewable on its website, www.tamborinemountainprogressassociation.com

That the source of regular clashes between

Council and Tamborine Mountain residents is the town planning department has been lost on **Jeff McConnell**. Several residents have reported that when suggesting there is a problem with this department, Cr. McConnell has defended it. Whilst he promises to listen better, the many problems residents have cannot be resolved if the town planning department is saying the opposite.

Unless this is rectified, a "unified" Council cannot be achieved when a Division One Councillor's stance on behalf of mountain residents and supported by very strong planning grounds is regularly opposed by Council and the other Councillors. A recent unanimous Councillor vote supporting residents on the eve of an election doesn't rectify this.

Jeff voted to pursue costs against the Tamborine Mountain Progress Association and thus close the 108-year-old association on which Tamborine Mountain residents relied to front the many issues they have with Council.

TMPA supported Council for fifty three weeks before its about turn to support a development application which could never be built according to the proposed plans, and which Council in its original refusal

correctly stated it could never be conditioned. The effect on unfortunate neighbours has been devastating, not to mention the quiet area and the precedent for Tamborine Mountain itself. (The slippery slide towards a dog's breakfast.)

Other plans Jeff proposes are admirable. He is roughly on the right track but has some way to go.

However, adopting military-style leadership principles due to his years in the military suggests an autocratic style not in accord with the principles of Local Government.

With his very strong background in the finance sector, **Tom Sharp** is our hope to tighten Council's spending and to stem the excessive leakage of ratepayer monies on e.g. outside consultants, unnecessary legal fees and exorbitant costs for services supplied.

Many Council problems urgently need to be resolved – lack of transparency, the toxic culture plus rate gouging are some issues Tom will be addressing whilst keeping an eye on sustaining the natural environment and conserving our natural resources.

Tom proposes to restore authority to the elected Councillors, returning local government to how it should work. Except for Division One representatives, Councillors in Scenic Rim currently function as extensions of Council bureaucracy.

Regarding Councillor candidates, **Amanda Hay** (Division One) has done an outstanding job for the past year, despite really strong pressure. She has stuck to her principles and delivered service to residents beyond the call of duty.

Her energy level is astounding, and her Councillor job has been strengthened by her long experience dealing with Council matters, issues affecting the whole shire and her detailed knowledge of the planning schemes through court appearances on behalf of residents and helping others with submissions.

And she supports a Council which values democratic principles rather than an autocracy.

Kerri Cryer (for Division 2) has long owned and published the community focused paper, The Tamborine Bulletin and is well acquainted with her mainly Tamborine Village community.

As her electorate would include the southern part of Tamborine Mountain, Kerri has been interested in the planning scheme, basically how it works and some explanation as to why the residents there so frequently clash with Council. I have been supplying her with some basic information with simplified explanations of how such a complicated instrument works (or doesn't work).

As for the Greens candidates in both Divisions One and Two, it should be noted that whilst the Greens are powerful in Federal and State government politics, as a political party they have no input into Local Government. Council works on an entirely different level and on different matters. Neither candidate has had any presence in the main local environmental organisations.

Jeanette Lockey
President,
Tamborine Mt. Preservation Ass'n.

PROBUS TALK OUTLINES RICH LOCAL DIVERSITY



Our guest speaker for February was Peter Kuttner, a long-time resident of the Mountain.

He is passionate about the amazing diversity of life on our Island in the sky.

He has for many years been filming creatures on his daily walks around his neighbourhood, especially the smaller varieties, such as moths, butterflies, bugs etc.

For those that are not aware he has a regular feature in this publication, "One small place on Earth" ... well worth checking out.

His videos and photos were very professional and a joy to watch and we appreciate the time and effort Peter puts into the production of his talk.

His presentation helped us to be more aware of the natural beauty of our environment and how fragile it is.

Thanks, Peter.

Hi guys, if you are looking for some mental stimulation and fellowship, you are invited to attend one of our monthly gatherings at the Vonda Youngman Community Centre.

We meet every third Wednesday of each month from 10-12.

For further information, contact Bob Hepple our membership secretary on 0411 776 888.

Barry Chick



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THE LONG ROAD SPORTS CENTRE AND REGIONAL SPORT – WHERE DO YOU STAND?

The Tamborine Mountain Sports Association (TMSA) Board first presented the Scenic Rim Regional Council (SRRC) with a masterplan of the Long Road Sports Centre back in December 2017, as a road map for a seven-stage infrastructure development of the site in the lead up to the 2032 Olympic Games.

The SRRC Sports strategy 2010-2020 is to be shortly superseded by the 2024 – 2034 SRRC Sports Strategy. As it currently stands, objectives of the 2010 - 2020 strategy on Tamborine Mountain are yet to be realised - there is still no single sports clubroom or facility for any of the field playing sports clubs on the Mountain and the current sporting fields and infrastructure don't adequately support the amount of clubs and users we have.

Despite its own best efforts, the TMSA has been waiting for over 5 years for council to complete the updated sports and infrastructure strategy for the Scenic Rim region. This is an important document because it clearly defines the strategic intention of council leading up to the 2032 Olympic Games. To access the large State and Federal grants on offer in this period, it is important that the aims of our community and the council strategy are aligned, so that the TMSA can be successful in any grant submission.

A final draft of this 2024 sports strategy document was presented and endorsed by council last November 2023, but will not be released until next month in April 2024 (5 months after it was approved) and after the election, for "community consultation".

Over the years a variety of outside consultants have presented multiple drafts of sporting and infrastructure strategies to the council, but to date the TMSA and the Tamborine Mountain sporting community remain unclear of the intentions of council or the details of this current strategy, despite contributing a multitude of documents and submissions to assist.

The Long Road Sports Centre is run entirely by volunteers and receive no ongoing financial or other form of support from the council whatsoever. This is a highly unusual situation for a local government area. While it varies from area to area, typically, councils own the land on which sporting clubs are located. The Council normally leases the land to the club or association, while also contributing ongoing funds for maintenance and infrastructure development as part of a budget process. The TMSA has been successful in acquiring money through competitive grants for improvements of the site, but the ongoing maintenance, upgrades and repairs to the facility are not possible to fund through grants in most cases. These costs are made up from volunteer contributions, member fees, hire fees and event proceeds. As use of the site increases and

the facility continues to age, this is not sustainable.

Ahead of the upcoming election this weekend, to avoid further delays and to ensure transparency and accountability, the TMSA has invited incoming councillor and mayoral candidates to support the Tamborine Mountain and regional sporting and recreational community.

We want to know where they stand on this important issue, and for their position to be on the public record.

To that end, the TMSA Board presented all the Mayoral and Division 1 candidates with the following questions, and we thank those who have found the time to respond. Below is a summary of those responses.



For the full transcript of details, including the initial TMSA letter and candidate responses, budget submission and TMSA Master plan, use the QR Code at right.

1. Will you continue to support the proposed masterplan that is currently endorsed by council, in its full form?
2. Do you support an ongoing financial commitment for the TMSA to maintain and manage the Long Road Sports Centre precinct on behalf of the Council for the Tamborine Mountain and broader community? (The TMSA have requested a minimum contribution of \$250,000 per year to go towards maintenance, management, and capital reserves.)
3. Do you support the TMSA and the Long Road Sports Centre to be included in any ongoing strategic planning meetings that the Council or its officers may have regarding the lead up to and including the 2023 Brisbane Olympics?
4. Do you support a closer working relationship with the Council to assist with "in kind" donation of Council human resources for the identification and preparation of State and Federal grant applications in partnership with TMSA?
5. What is your wider commitment to the Long Road Sports Centre, the TMSA and sport in general on Tamborine Mountain?

Mayoral Candidates' Responses:

Jeff McConnell:

1. Yes, council has already moved this.
2. I will be waiting for Council strategy on Sports to give where we will go with funding and how this will look.
3. Of course, this has always been the case as we have discussed often. TMSA committee may not always get a seat at the table but definitely included.
4. Marshall and I have discussed this, and it may be an initiative to fund a grants writer specifically for Community and sporting groups.
5. This needs to be part of our wider SR Sporting Strategy that looks at different Tiers as we have discussed.

Tom Sharp:

1. Yes. Community assets being managed by community need support, not control. It needs good management practice and restoring authority to the elected councillor.
2. The model of expecting community groups to maintain council assets with limited resources is broken. Funding sources need to be dynamic and include multiple revenue streams. Community should have control and



Ian MacAllan
LAWYER
5545 4303



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TMSA - LONG ROAD, TAMBORINE MOUNTAIN

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direction, with government support. It is disgraceful that council voted on a draft strategy in November 2023 but won't release it prior to the election. This is zero transparency and accountability. Funds to support this initiative will come from a reduction of top-heavy administration in council.

- I fully support strategic planning. Council needs to listen to community and the specific needs of community across the region and develop sustainable strategies alongside these organisations.
- Yes. Council needs to review its own capabilities when it comes to delivery outcomes. If community organisations can provide more cost-effective outcomes, then funding should be delivered directly to them to avoid duplication of expenses and competing for grant money.
- The Long Road Centre is a multi-functional facility providing sports and recreation, leisure, disaster recovery, tourism, and sustainable projects for the community. Council needs to start listening, learning, supporting, and working with the community.

Greg Christensen –
No response was received.

Division One Candidates

Alick Kilsby:

- In principle, yes. It's been well planned and diligently prepared. Overall, the masterplan provides net positive outcomes for the Tamborine Mountain community.

- Yes. If elected, I'm keen to understand how Tamborine Mountain fits into the draft strategy. I'm concerned that costs to run the facility are passed onto members, preventing people from participating in sport.
- Yes. I support the use of Long Road in the leadup to the Olympics and it makes sense for the TMSA to be involved in planning.
- Yes. It's remarkable that the Long Road Sports Centre can function as well as it does for events, users, and community groups with such a small group of volunteers.
- With background in local sport and having grown up here, I'm committed to helping the TMSA improve and develop the Long Road site to provide increased sporting opportunities for our youth and to benefit our whole community.

Steven Emerson – No response was received.

(The Greens support the Long Road Sports plan)

Amanda Hay – No response was received.





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Dr Sanne Kreijkamp-Kaspers
Dr Henri Coombs
Dr Cobie Powell
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Dr Marije Dalebout
Dr Deanne Hummelstad
Dr Margaret Emmett
Dr Nick Martin
Dr Alexander Matus
Dr William Tsai



Accredited by



Letters to the Editor

ELECTION TIME. WHAT MATTERS...

We now have the chance to elect a new council team to manage our local interests for the next four years.

It will only happen if you vote and understand how and who you are voting for. A donkey vote is when people just number the squares from the top down.

If you do this you will get the Greens and most of the same councillors back in.

Local government is made up of independent, local candidates, not political parties.

In Qld (ECQ) local council elections are different to State elections. You have optional preferential voting. OPV you have the choice to vote for one, some or all the candidates on the ballot paper.

You only need to number one square against the name of your preferred council candidate. If there are 3 candidates you can put 2 in the box of your second preference. This is preferential voting. If no candidate gets more than 50% primary vote, they will then count preferences until a clear winner is chosen.

Based on Scenic Rim Regional Council's past performance, the popular opinion is to put new people in council, apart from Amanda Hay who hasn't yet served a full term.

We could have a new council dominated by women.

I advise you to look at the following qualities;

1. Educational qualifications,
2. Business experience,
3. Commitment to their local community.

It's not a popularity contest and it's not for someone who just needs a job.

- It is for someone who understands the serious business of managing a multimillion-dollar corporation.
- Someone who can understand planning schemes Development Applications and local council laws.
- Someone who understands and has been involved with the issues in their local community.

You will also need to vote for a Mayor on the second ballot paper.

The Mayor is the most important person in council and should be up to the task.

It is no use having highly qualified councillors if the Mayor is not equal to the task.

Be prepared for propaganda being spread on the eve of the election.

Good luck to us all.

Julie Wilkinson

A SPECIAL CANDIDATE IS NEEDED

Scenic Rim Division 1 covers most of the Tamborine Mountain plateau and upper escarpment. The Councillor is critically important in sustaining the semi-rural ambience. The locality depends on this for its attractiveness to residents and tourists. Without that, it could become just a rather inconvenient Gold Coast suburb on top of a hill.

This Council is dysfunctional. We have six Divisional Councillors. At the very least, there will be three new ones after the election. Plus, it is time for a new Mayor. Add to that, the CEO's Administrative Arm needs to be restructured. New Councillors and a new Mayor will be short of experience. With our multiple problems, the State Government should appoint a live-in

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Jon KRAUSE MP
Member for **Scenic Rim**

Fighting for our fair share

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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.

Advisor from Day 1, but I can't see that happening. To adequately do their job, Councillors need working knowledge of the *Local Government Act*, the Planning Scheme and the State legislation that can be crippling. Without those, Councillors can be steamrolled. In her short term since the by-election, Amanda Hay has been a breath of fresh air, demonstrating her skills in this regard under difficult circumstances.

Then something often not understood: elected Councillors are legally required to take into account the interests of all Shire residents, not giving undue weight to their supporters or to their Division. There are even formal aspects as in the Council's allocation of portfolios to each Councillor. For example, Amanda's is Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces. For those matters, she is responsible for being a knowledge-resource regarding the whole Shire for all Councillors.

This all adds to a mind-boggling workload if a Councillor takes their responsibilities seriously. Some onlookers seem to think that being a Councillor simply involves turning up to sit at an occasional meeting or attend an event. I have been a Councillor, and I can assure you this is not the case. Then, I was busy enough but, observing now, I realise it has become much more demanding, with commitments extending over most daylight hours and many evening hours, on and off the Mountain. It is certainly a not a part-time responsibility.

Division 1 is very fortunate to have the unusual candidate needed to fit such a challenging local template.

Phil Giffard

BADLY LET DOWN BY COUNCIL

We have had a 15-year battle with the Scenic Rim Council (since 2009) due to them turning a blind eye to the pigsty at 1 Manika Court, Tamborine Mountain. Council has dismissed and disregarded critical correspondence, meetings and notices over the years. We believe they think they are above the law. Council has not rectified any of the serious issues at 1 Manika Court, Tamborine Mountain, our adjoining property.

Page 5 in edition 1/2/24 of the *Scenic News* saw Mayor Greg Christensen offering financial assistance/ support. Council have not given us a second thought to our serious plight and are very aware of it.

We wrote to the CEO, Mr. David Keenan this month asking for his help, we have had no reply despite the extenuating circumstances with the Natural Disaster.

The latest is, they want to auction our property on 22 March 2024... this is serious.

Our Division 2 representative, Mr. Jeff McConnell (who is also running for Mayor on 16/3/2024) did not contact us after the July 2023 Council meeting decision to sell our property or offer any support or help to try and resolve this dreadful and dire situation. The first conversation we had with Jeff was on 7th March 2024 and that was instigated by us.

We have had nothing but huge financial and emotional pressure since 2009, which has impacted on our health, all due to Council's lack of action and response, our property has been very devalued, and all the Council issues have not been resolved.

Linda & Leigh Thompson

Scott BUCHHOLZ MP
Federal Member for **Wright**

Working for Wright

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TRAVELLING PLACES *with Gina*

This month we are delighted to have **Backroads Touring Company** and **Viking Cruises** visiting the mountain to tell you all about the way they see the world. Join us on **27th March at 5.30** to hear all about these wonderful companies.

Australian owned **Backroads Touring Company** specialises in small group journeys in Europe, with a maximum 18 travellers and local experts to guide you along the way. Many clients have discovered this way to travel and really enjoy it booking again and again on these slower paced, local discoveries. Accommodation is in smaller boutique hotels and experiences include interacting with locals and enjoying local restaurants.

Regional explorations include discovering the villages and wilderness of England's Cornwall and Devon, the Shakespearean heartland of the Cotswolds, the highlands of Scotland or the rolling emerald countryside of Ireland. Head to the Continent and explore the villages of France, Portugal, Spain and Italy or the coastline of Croatia.

Viking Cruises established in 1997 has seen amazing growth with a fleet of over 80 river ships, soon to be 12 ocean cruise ships and 2 expedition vessels, it would seem that once again the Viking are taking over the world. The ships are lovely, reflecting their Scandinavian heritage you will find sleek design, comfortable cabins and delightful spaces on board to enjoy. All meals are included and wine and beer with lunch and dinner. Viking also include a shore excursion in each port. Whether you are curious to explore the polar regions, the great continents of the world by ocean ship or the mighty rivers of the globe, Viking probably has a voyage for you.

Sienna inspected one of the Ocean ships last week, Renee sailed the Greek islands not so long ago and I was lucky to sail through the Mediterranean last year. We are happy to



share our firsthand knowledge with you ...

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Who: Viking Cruises & Backroads Touring

When :Wednesday 27th March at 5.30pm

Where: Travelling Places, 24 Main Street, Tamborine Mountain

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*Conditions apply. Prices are per person, in Australian dollars, based on double occupancy, subject to availability, includes all advertised discounts, and correct at time of printing. A partially refundable deposit is required at the time of booking. For selected 2025/2026 River voyages in Europe, included flights are in Economy Class on Viking's choice of airline and fare class from selected major gateway cities in Australia and New Zealand. A \$500pp surcharge applies for peak season flights to Europe. High season is defined as flight departures from Australia/New Zealand from 1 June - 15 September & 10 - 31 December. Rhine Getaway based on 15 March 2025 departure. Grand European Tour based on 16 November 2025 departure. Lyon & Provence based on 12 November 2025 departure. These offers are valid on new bookings made between 26 December 2023 and 28 March 2024 unless sold out prior. For full terms and conditions visit viking.com.

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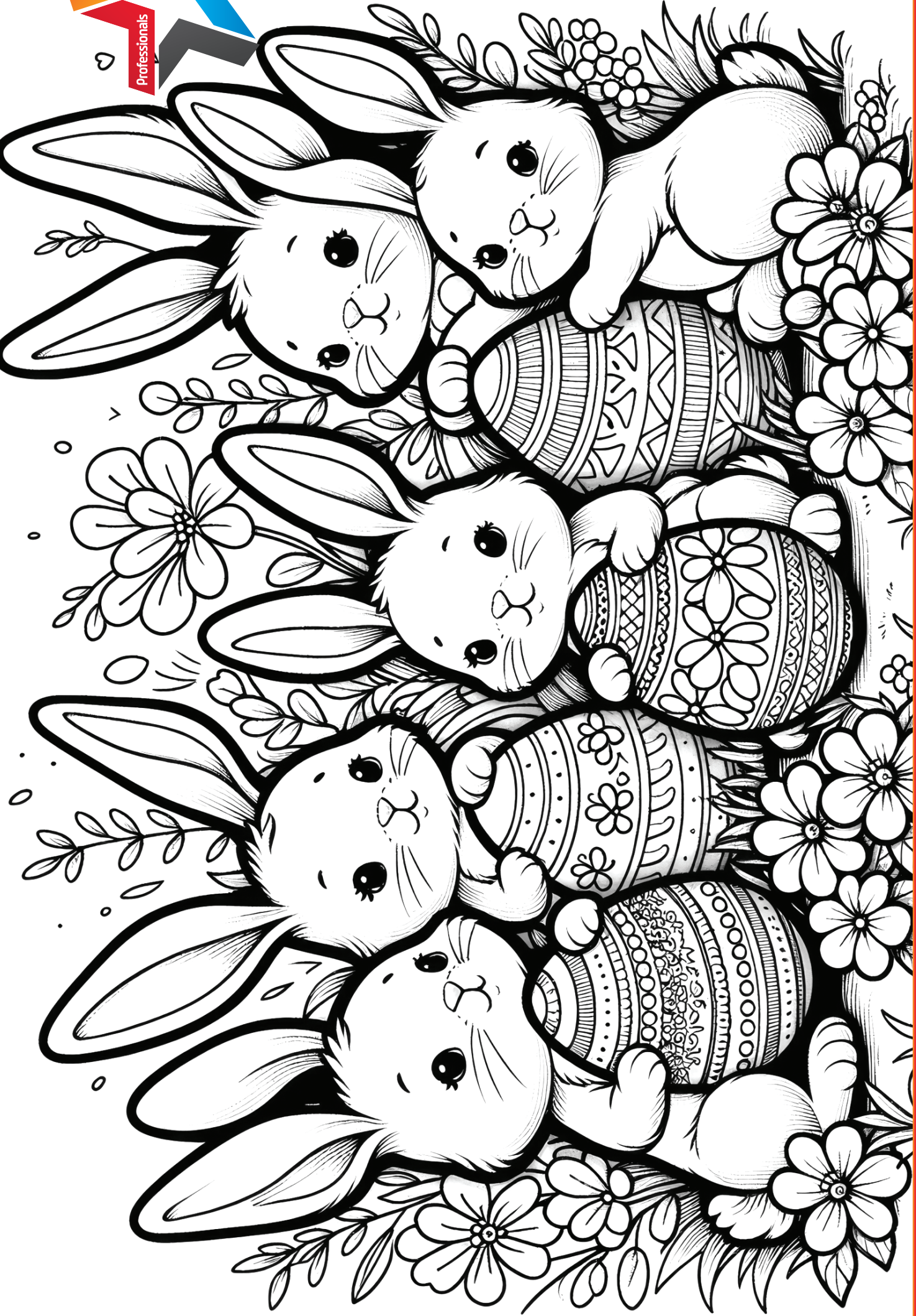
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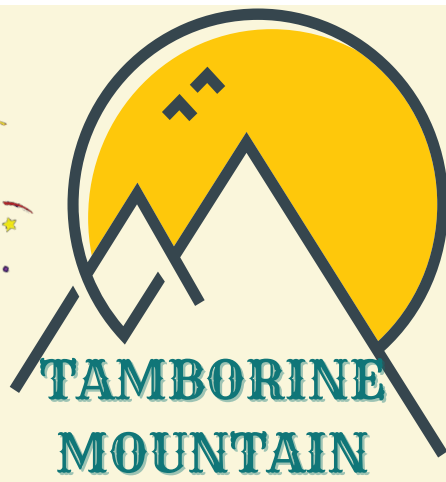
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Tamborine Mountain Show Schedule

On Stage

- 10.00am** Dark Rich Fruit Cake Competition
- 10.30am** Junior Pet Competition
- 11.30am** Tamborine's Got Talent
- 12.30pm** All 4 Dance - Dancers
- 1.00pm** Opening Ceremony - Lucky Prize Giveaways
- 2.00pm** Costume Competition
- 2.30pm** Eating Competition
- 3.00pm** All 4 Dance - Dancerson Stage
- 3.15pm** Scouts & Goatsmilk Band
- 4.00pm** Muchacho's Fiesta Festiva Band
- 4.30pm** Carnaval Entertainment
- 5.00pm** Muchacho's Fiesta Festiva Band
- 5.30pm** Carnaval Entertainment
- 6.00pm** Muchacho's Fiesta Festiva Band
- 6.30pm** Carnaval Entertainment
- 7.00pm** Muchacho's Fiesta Festiva Band
- 7.30pm** Carnaval Entertainment
- 8.00pm** Fireworks - Sponsored by CT Freight

CARNAVAL



On Arena

- Dog Display Entertainment
- Friesan Horses - Dance Display
- Scouts - FREE Kids Activities



On Grounds

- Amusement Rides
- Animal Farm
- Pony Rides
- Reptile Shows
- CardiGras Show & Shine
- Market Stalls
- Face Painter
- Food Vans

CARNAVAL

RECOVERY SHOW

16th March

Gates Open

10am



FireWorks
8pm



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Pony Rides



Dark Fruit Cake Comp



Rock Climbing



Carnaval Samba Dancers



Fire Twirlers

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TMO PRESENTS MUSIC FROM THE STAGE AND SCREEN

2024 is going to be a special year for the Tamborine Mountain Orchestra as we celebrate our 50th anniversary. Our first concert of the year is on Sunday 24th March, and features a broad range of music from the stage and screen. From the operatic overture of Rossini's *Thieving Magpie* to the more modern soundtrack from *The Game of Thrones* and some big band music, *In The Mood*.

The concert is at the Tamborine Mountain State High School Auditorium @ 2.30 pm, and we'd like to thank the school and Mrs Brose for the use of this wonderful facility for both our rehearsals and concerts. Tickets to this concert are only \$12, and free for children under 17. Get yours @ www.ticketbo.com.au/tmo.

The orchestra would like to warmly thank the Scenic Rim Regional Council for their generous support, and our sponsors : The Grand Chameleon wedding venue and cafe and Scenic Property Partners (formerly Harcourts) for their support this concert. Thanks also to the wonderful Tamborine Mountain community, who for fifty years have supported both the membership and audience for our orchestra.

Sean Donnelly



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Having just been through the process of selling our own home and downsizing to a more manageable property, (in Capo Di Monte) I fully understand the process that my generation has to go through at some stage in their lives.

If you've arrived at this point in your journey and would like some friendly professional advice or guidance, I am well qualified to help you. The only cost to you is a cup of coffee, or a glass of red wine, depending on the time of day! 😊



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CULTIVATING YOUR INNER LIGHT

Cultivating our inner light is a huge focus of my yoga classes and indeed, in my own world. And cultivating your inner light is not as esoteric and pretentious as it sounds.

On a strictly physical level all living things on this planet emit light, even if our naked eyes can't detect this light. These light particles are called biophotons. German researcher and physicist, Dr. Fritz Popp, proved that all biological systems transmit light and information and that these subatomic light particles emanate from every living system, including from the cells and DNA of our bodies. And since photons are the smallest unit of electromagnetic energy, it's not surprising that we can feel them as well as see them (with the help of technology). This is why you can feel good vibes from certain people and places and bad vibes from others. The biophoton light emissions of healthy people follow a set biological rhythm for day and night and by week and month, as though they are connected to the biorhythms of the earth. It's pretty yogic, living a lifestyle following the rhythms of nature. Conversely, Popp proved that the light emissions from cancer patients had no such rhythms and appeared scrambled, which suggests their cells were no longer communicating properly.

German researchers at the University of Kassel proved that the chest (heart centre) of an average person emits 20 biophotons per second. Yet if a person meditates on their heart centre and sends love and light to others, one's heart emits an amazing 100,000 photons per second. That's 5,000x more than the average human being. Studies have shown that when these biophotons are infused with loving and healing intent, their frequency and vibration increase to the point where they can literally change matter, heal disease, and transform negative events. And that's what we call cultivating your inner light.

So apart from a good Classical yoga class which is a balance of movement, breathwork, meditation and self-responsibility, how can we cultivate our inner light every day? Try starting your day with gratitude, and affirm the light within you: your kindness, humour, truth, and wisdom and how these qualities enhance not just your life but the lives of those around you. Practice mindfulness in even the most mundane of tasks. This quiets your mind and brings you home to the present moment, which is all you have. See how the dark lessons in your life have been powerful teachers. Resolve to learn from them and not repeat them. And if your light has dimmed in recent times, so easy in this hysterical media- brainwashed world, reach out to other light-bearers. Whether you create or follow the light doesn't matter. What matters is that you keep the connection alive with consistent intention and a pure heart.

Margot Wagner
Yoga Under the Bodhi Tree

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

Relationships



WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?

Research found that humans are born with only two fears: fear of loud noises and fear of falling. Other fears are learnt over time. We all need a healthy dose of fear to protect us from dangerous situations. However, some fears come in unhealthy doses which restrict a person's life. Fears of a particular object or situation have names such as: *acrophobia* (fear of heights); *enochlophobia* (fear of crowds); *glossophobia* (fear of public speaking); *ophidiophobia* (fear of snakes). Here's one we might all have a measure of since Christmas Day- *lilapsophobia*, fear of tornadoes. These fears typically germinate from a traumatic event.

I watched a video of one woman's journey to conquer her fear of birds. She had been attacked by birds as a young child. Her fear became problematic as a parent when she abandoned her three-year-old daughter on the beach because seagulls had gotten too close. She decided to engage in exposure therapy which began with a feather two metres from where she sat. Her fear was palpable- she cried, sweated profusely, and shook as she looked at the feather.

You may not relate to this poor woman's experience, but chances are you have deep held fears lurking inside that influence your behaviour and response to others. This is because none of us get through life unscathed. Some of life's tougher experiences leave us licking our wounds and implant in us a dose of fear that impacts future interactions and how we form relationships.

Fear of rejection is a big issue in relationships. It prevents us from taking the initiative in starting a relationship or taking steps to repair a rift. We become emotionally overprotective of ourselves because the sting of rejection is unbearable. Fear of rejection may also cause a person to prematurely give up on a relationship since doing this on their own terms seems a safer option than being rejected by their mate.

Fear of inadequacy also interferes with relationships. If we are fed a diet of shame in our early years, we may harbour feelings of never being good enough. This can result in keeping others at a distance. It can also lead to settling for a toxic relationship because you don't feel you deserve any better. Sometimes it drives people to constantly try to prove their worth in a quest to silence the inner monologue "you don't measure up".

Fear of uncertainty, fear of judgement, fear of closeness, fear of change... most fears come to light in the context of relationships. If you notice an unhealthy pattern in your relationships, begin by taking responsibility for your own feelings and behaviours. Pay attention to what triggers you into feeling or behaving the way you do. This process will help you to uncover fears that are operating under the surface. Fear is a bully that takes control. The more you avoid it, the more powerful it becomes. Diminish fear's power by taking a risk and doing life differently. The results will be worth it.

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

PHYSIOTALK



with Rebecca Bell

LYMPHOEDEMA AWARENESS MONTH

March is Lymphoedema Awareness Month. I have spoken previously about the Lymphatic system and how important it is in our body, despite it being probably the most unknown system. It sits alongside our circulatory system and depending on how much we exercise, how much water we drink and how well we are, it may be a little sluggish from time to time. However, when there is a breakdown in the system the result can be pretty devastating.

What is Lymphoedema? To break the word down – “Lymph” and “oedema” is probably the simplest thing to do. Oedema just means swelling. So, Lymphoedema means swelling due to an issue with the Lymphatic system.

There are two main types of Lymphoedema – Primary and Secondary. Primary Lymphoedema generally appears for no apparent reason at birth, during puberty or at around the age of 30. This is usually due to a genetic or inherent issue in our system. Whereas Secondary Lymphoedema occurs as a result of damage to our lymphatic system at some point in our lives.

Every tissue in our body is made up of cells, the smallest unit of our body that can live on its own. For cells to survive they need blood which delivers the nutrients and oxygen we need. Once blood is delivered to our tissues via arteries or capillaries, the lymphatic system works hard to maintain just the right environment for us, filtering the blood 3 times per day. The majority of our blood is taken back to our heart by veins, but the level of fluid in the tissues is monitored by our

lymphatic vessels. When there is an issue with the lymphatic system as a whole, then the fluid builds up and cannot escape without a helping hand.

This whole process can be happening right under your nose without you even knowing, until you notice some swelling in your hand, foot, tummy etc. Initially there may just be a change in sensation – like a tightness, heaviness, pain or tension; or you may notice a watch, rings or your shoes feeling tighter. The earlier you act to reduce this swelling the better. When swelling gets stuck in a tissue and sits there for a little while, it can become fibrotic – or develop sticky fibres – that can make it a permanent fixture. The most common time we may develop Lymphoedema is following treatment for cancer or after sustaining a traumatic injury. At these times the lymph vessels or filtering system can be damaged and not work as efficiently. Sometimes Lymphoedema can be reversible. However, unfortunately, many times it will be something that will need to be managed for life.

One of the most difficult parts of Lymphoedema I have witnessed in my clients, is that it represents an ongoing reminder of the event that brought it about initially. Or, there is a sheer frustration or disappointment that this is something they cannot get rid of no matter how hard they try to ignore it. This is so difficult to watch. I am thankful that there are things we can offer to identify and manage Lymphoedema, and although I cannot take away the problem entirely, to help people live a life that is still very much full.



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One ancestor of the kelpie is the Scottish collie, imported into Australia in the late 1800's to help farmers manage their enormous sheep flocks in difficult weather and terrain. In Celtic "kelpie" is a dangerous shape-shifting water creature.

The original Australian dog was a female especially bred and her name was Kelpie, her puppies were impressive shepherders, so the line of those dogs came to be called "kelpies." The actual mix of breeding was secretive until Bill Robertson undertook a lot of research backed with DNA testing in 2015. Ten years ago, the testing was expensive, but he was determined. The final analysis was that apart from the Scottish sheep dog, there was between three to four percent dingo markers in the kelpie strain, and it was not just any dingo but from Fraser Island and mainland Australia.

The breed is not recognised in America by the American Kennel Club, where they are rarely kept as



Living DOGS

WITH



a pet. Yet, a few thousand Australian kelpies can be found working on ranches and farms in north America.

How does a single dog get so many sheep to move efficiently in the same direction? Researchers fitted a GPS tracking device to a trained kelpie guiding 46 sheep in a 5-hectare field. They then built a computer model of what prompted the dog to move, crouch or drop. The dog binds the sheep together by weaving around behind and from side to side. Once this is achieved, it drives the group forward. If there are any gaps between the sheep, the dog attempts to bring them together. It is a balance between being coercive but not threatening and moving forward. If a sheep doesn't trust a dog, it will face it, stomp the feet and maybe head-butt it, especially if there are young lambs.

The average lifespan of the kelpie is 10-15 years. They are a relatively healthy breed, however more are being recorded as having problems with their hips, elbows, heart and eyes. Hip and elbow x-ray is not mandatory for this breed but responsible and knowledgeable breeders are x-raying their breeding dogs. CA is a brain disease this breed can have, it is carried by a recessive gene, which means the parent may not have the disease, but a carrier, and two carriers must not be bred, a DNA test is available. Heart murmur, eye disease and skin allergy can also be a problem.

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LIFE IS A CIRCUS



1. What year did the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus merge to form "The Greatest Show on Earth"?
2. Which movie, released in 2017, is a musical inspired by the life of P.T. Barnum?
3. What is the term for a circus performer who performs acrobatic feats high above the ground?
4. In circus terminology, what is a "funambulist" better known as?
5. Which famous circus was founded in 1978 in Baie-Saint-Paul, Quebec, Canada?
6. What is the name of the circus act that involves spinning multiple plates on poles?
7. In what city is the Circus Maximus, an ancient Roman chariot racing stadium and mass entertainment venue, located?
8. What is the name of the 1952 film that won the Academy Award for Best Picture and is set in the circus?
9. Who is known as the "father of modern clowning"?
10. What type of circus does not use animals in its acts?
11. In what year did the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus perform its last show?
12. What is the name of the circus performer who performs tricks and acrobatics on a tightrope?
13. Which circus is known for its elaborate costumes, detailed makeup, and absence of performing animals?
14. What is the term used for the main tent where a traditional circus performance is held?
15. Who was the famous escape artist and magician who performed with the circus before achieving fame in his own right?
16. What is the name of the traditional circus music piece often associated with clowns and chaotic acts?

ANSWERS: PAGE 28

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TRIVIA Answers FROM PAGE 27

- 1919
- The Greatest Showman
- Aerialist
- Tightrope walker
- Cirque du Soleil
- Plate spinning
- Rome
- The Greatest Show on Earth
- Joseph Grimaldi
- Contemporary circus or New Circus
- 2017
- Tightrope walker
- Cirque du Soleil
- Big top

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15. Harry Houdini
16. "Entrance of the Gladiators" or "Thunder and Blazes"



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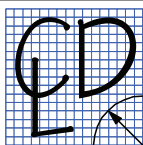
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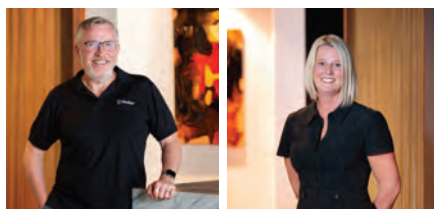
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Bonnie Hancock

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OUR STAFF BOOK CHOICE: *In Belinda's Kitchen* by BELINDA JEFFERY



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In this collection of her favourite recipes, you'll find everything from simple, family-friendly dishes to easy midweek dinners, sensational cakes and irresistible meals for special occasions.

First published 20 years ago, these are the essential dishes Belinda makes time and again - recipes that tell stories of family and friendship and hold a special place in her heart. Belinda has revisited and polished every recipe to reflect the way she cooks now and added a handful of new ones.

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