



Babinda News

Proudly printed by the Babinda Taskforce

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Email: babindanews@bigpond.com

June 2010



“The Presidents Notes “

Debra Quabba

Hello everyone,

Firstly I would like to congratulate the Babinda Harvest Festival Committee on yet another wonderful

Harvest Festival. For those who did not attend it was a wonderful day you certainly missed a spectacular event. The sun shone, the Boulder Burst was fantastic, all of the entertainment was great, and most of all our young ladies, the princesses were a brilliant shining example of the future of our community.

Congratulations to all of you....

Our Regional Arts and Development funded Music Program came to an end last month with a performance by those who took advantage of tuition from Peter Bishop a Gordonvale based world class musician who agreed to undertake a 16 week music program here in Babinda. 16 weeks is not a long time to develop musicians to performance level but it is a testament to Peter's talent and musicianship skills that he presented a fabulous performance to those who attended. The results were so good in fact that Peter is now visiting Babinda on a weekly basis and is taking lessons in brass, piano, voice coaching and choir. If you would like more information don't hesitate to call Peter or Meg on

With the end of the Financial Year fast approaching we are very busy here at the office, but don't forget we are a Ticketlink booking agency and a Queensland Rail Booking agency so if you require tickets please call and see us. Everyone who uses our services assists us in keeping the doors open, and we can continue our non funded services to the community.

The Sugar Cane season is about to start so take care around Cane Trains....

Take care,

Rainfall for the Month of May

Bellenden Ker - Top Station - 372mm

Year to Date - 6159mm

Bellenden Ker - Bottom Station - 187.2mm

Year to Date - 3699.4mm

Babinda Rainfall - 248.0 mm

Year to Date: - 3426.4 mm

Disclaimer:

All articles in this magazine are printed in good faith for the community and do not necessarily represent the views of the Babinda District

Community Association Inc (aka Babinda Taskforce). The Taskforce accepts no responsibility for these articles.

Errors and Omissions:

While every care is taken in the publication of advertisements and articles, Babinda News cannot be held responsible for omissions or



Police News

The past couple of weeks has certainly been a busy one for us here at the station. The Harvest Festival once again was a fantastic event and it was great to see the rain stayed away. My two boys had a great time at the parade (apart from being petrified of the walking mailbox), and it was evident that a lot of work went into the floats.

On a policing perspective Operation Sundance was run in conjunction with the Sundance music Festival at Bramston Beach on the 22nd and 23rd of May 2010. As a result two male persons were charged with possession of 52 LSD tabs along with a quantity of ecstasy and cannabis after their vehicle was searched. A further person was charged with driving unlicensed, unregistered and uninsured. For those who are not aware 52 LSD tabs is a substantial amount of the hallucinogenic drug and with a Street value of about \$2500 this was a good find.

There has also recently been a number of counterfeit \$50 notes being presented in the District. Most recently 2 x counterfeit notes were presented to the Miriwinni service station on the 29/05/2010 and were not noted till the following day. The quality of the notes is good however is quickly identifiable when more closely examined. If you are in any doubt examine the clear window with the southern cross along with the watermark. The stars in the clear window are slightly raised on the counterfeit ones and the feel of the note is slightly different from the real ones. It appears as though the criminals are targeting small businesses and they are obviously working the local area so please be vigilant.

Last weekend a note was presented at KFC Innisfail and due to good work by staff the note was detected as counterfeit and a vehicle rego was obtained. As a result Babinda police intercepted the vehicle some time later on the Bruce Highway and located the female passenger in possession of some of the counterfeit notes. This matter is now being handled by the Cairns CIB. Until next Month stay safe

Gerard BRADY

BABINDA S E S NEWS

We had a couple of minor activations this month, to support the Ambos and Furies on rescue missions. The first was a snakebite case along the Goldfield Track over the mountain pass between Mts Bartle Frere and Bellenden Ker. Fortunately, the Paramedics decided the victim required air evacuation. The chopper reached him before we did. saving us all a long and difficult carry.

The following Sunday we were called to an incident at the Golden Hole on the Russell River. A fall on slippery rocks had caused a young man to dislocate his shoulder. The ambos had him strapped securely and he had the fortitude to walk himself out, with the assistance of many helping hands. Again, this saved us all a very difficult stretcher carry. On the same afternoon there was a drowning at Josephine Falls but fortunately we were not required.

On easy activations such as this we get a chance to put our training and equipment to practical use, and it is always a pleasure to get out into our beautiful rainforest country and appreciate the piece of Paradise in which we are fortunate enough to live.

Harvest Festival this year saw a strong team on duty manning the road blocks and traffic control for the Festival Procession, and then doing gate duty at the showground entrance. The \$ 2 entry fee mostly goes to our SES supporters' Group and this is our major fundraiser for the year. It was a pleasure to say Hullo to so many happy festival goers, and our Team Members particularly asked me to say Thank You to the numerous people who added a donation to the entry fee – it is really appreciated. This money will be used in the current upgrade of our Rescue Trailer with all new equipment and extras on top of the minimum requirements supplied by Emergency Services so that we are able to make a first class response to calls. Appropriate training is continuing.

From Don Lawie



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Cairns Regional Council Notes

By Paul Gregory

Hi From Cairns Regional Council

Budget time again, and the usual round of deliberations on what can be provided back in services with monies collected via rates and grants is almost complete. Council has worked very hard to keep any rate rises to a minimum, and still be able to provide the things associated with local government to benefit our residents. Again, costs have gone up, and it is always a difficult decision to reach the fine line where a balance is achieved. There is a greater level of scrutiny on Councils now as we strive to reach the sustainability goals expected of us by the State Government and it is imperative that we can build the financial platform that will see this Council survive in years to come. More on the budget later.

Alice River bridge construction is underway at last, and I urge all drivers to care a little extra care in the vicinity of the roadwork's. It will be great to have the structure commissioned and the worry of the old bridge removed.

It was unfortunate that I was not able to be a part of the Harvest Festival festivities this year, the first time I have missed being here for the event. I was out of town on Friday and Saturday morning, but the flip side to missing the festival was the fact that we now have two extra grandchildren, a boy in Sydney and a girl in Edmonton. These two add to our existing grandson Joshua, and we can't wait to get to Sydney to see the new grandson there.

There will be a large works program this year under the disaster relief funding pot, and road and drainage works will be occurring in the district during the coming dry season. Many roads were damaged by the wet season this year, and with the support of the two other levels of government, the damage will be remediate in the next few months, so be a little patient if you are affected.....the crews will get to your street as soon as possible.

Until next time,



One of the best things about libraries today is they hold a lot more than just books! DVDs for instance, are just one of the popular additions making up the modern library, and Babinda Library, as part of the Cairns Libraries network, offers thousands of DVDs, all available for loan at no cost to the borrower.

DVDs held in the Cairns Libraries collection cater to all ages and a wide variety of interests; there are kids cartoons, popular TV series, Hollywood blockbusters, foreign films, interesting documentaries and more.

To see what's available search the catalogue online at www.cairnslibrary.com.au and reserve titles using your Cairns Libraries membership card. Alternatively, you can visit Babinda Library and ask one of our friendly staff for assistance. We also welcome purchase suggestions so if there is something you think the library should offer but doesn't - just ask!

BIG NEWS & SIGH OF RELIEF

**There will be NO Daylight Saving in QLD!!!
Our Premier Anna Bligh has just decreed so!**

WALKING THE KOKODA TRACK.....

As I contemplate the 96 kilometers' I have just walked across the Owen Stanley Ranges in Papua New Guinea, I find I am relieved to be home and quietly pleased of my efforts on the Kokoda Track.

I met the majority of my fellow trekkers at Cairns Airport as we boarded the flight to Port Moresby. On arrival, we transferred to a small bus and bumped our way to Owers Corner where we met our local porters and completed the final preparations before walking. From appearances, we all looked well prepared. We all had modern boots, hi-tech walking poles and had the best personal gear available for such an expedition. By contrast, our porters had little if any personal equipment and most were barefoot or wore only thongs. With lots of laughing and humor, they quickly assessed each one of us as we lined up and they then allocated themselves to us. My carefully packed backpack was totally re-organized by my porter as we prepared to depart. Just before we stepped into the jungle, I noticed an Australian lady standing at the gateway. In conversation with her I learned she was waiting there for her group to arrive. She had been medically evacuated by helicopter from the track a few day previously.....I didn't realise at the time how prophetic that meeting would be for our particular group.

Day 1 was a nice easy warm up. A decent into the valley, a couple of river crossings, a gently climb and a warm cooked meal that night as we camped beside a fast flowing creek. Day 2 by contrast was the beginning of the very difficult terrain we would encounter for the remainder of the trek. With almost vertical climbs, wet mud underfoot and rain pelting down on us, the conversation stopped and we were all forced to concentrate on our foot placement and staying upright. At the close of day 2, we were exhausted and one member of our group was ill with severe dehydration and cramps. With the fog rolling in, he was forced to stay-put for the night and an emergency helicopter evacuation was organized for first thing the next morning. Of surprise to us all was the fact that this trek member seemed to be the best prepared and the fittest of us all – if he couldn't go on, how were the rest of us going to fare?

The days all rolled into a blur, each day we walked, climbed and slid for kilometers on end. At the end of each day we would camp by a river or stream and the rain would roll in. We ate dehydrated food and tried to dry our clothes by the fire at night. In the dawn of each day we would be eager to get on the track and exercise our sore muscles and joints from the previous days walk. On day 4, we lost another member to a medical emergency. I put my head down and focused my efforts – I didn't want to be evacuated out.

The country we walked through is spectacular. As tough as the walking was I made sure I took time to look about me and enjoy the scenery. We passed through villages each day and the children would run out and greet us as we walked. We all gave away items to the children and they crowded around with anticipation. I gave away Bendigo Bank balloons to the younger children, and donated school text books and pencils to the village school of Narou. I had also carried two Barbie dolls with me for the trek and I gave these away to two little girls dressed in rags as the trek progressed. They were very excited and hugged the dolls close.

From a historical perspective, it is impossible not to be made aware of the conflict that occurred in the track. We continually passed bunkers and foxholes dug into the earth that years earlier housed both the Japanese and Australian forces. The differences are distinct - the Australian soldiers dug rectangular pits, whilst the Japanese soldiers dug round pits and it is easy to see the close proximity in which the two forces fought. At Eora Creek we walked through a Japanese ambush site (still with munitions in place) that claimed the lives of many Australians during the conflict. It is impossible not to be moved when the evidence of war is still clearly in view.

Continued next page.....

.....An adventure I will never forget

With our food supplies waning, our muscles aching and our daily endurance being tested, we limped our way through the jungle to Isurava and home of the Australian built Isurava/Kokoda Memorial officially opened in 2002. This popular location had housed over 600 trekkers only a month previously for Anzac Day. On our visit we were the only group there and we enjoyed the quiet and sanctity of the site as we looked across the monument and down the valley to Kokoda with our objective in site and only one more day away.

As the sun rose on our last trek day, we held our own stark and simple service at the Memorial to the fallen. We laid flowers, spoke the Ode and I read a poem I had written the night before for the occasion.

As we walked into the village of Kokoda we all enjoyed the feeling of success and accomplishment. Quite frankly, the trek is hard. The days are long and the terrain and country is challenging. You need to be fit and focussed to make it through.

Our last night we spent in a secure compound opposite the Kokoda Hospital. This beautiful facility built by Rotary Australia is almost devoid of equipment and medications. There are no sheets on the beds and the nursing staff are forced to do almost the impossible with little if any medications etc. We donated all our medications, bandages, antibiotics, creams, bandaids – everything we had carried with us to the hospital knowing they would be put to good use.

Our light aircraft lifted off the next day, and as we climbed steeply we were able to see where we had walked in places and just how hard the country was. I have a greater appreciation now of the conflict that took place on the track and just how much tenacious determination the soldiers from both sides must have had to live with each day just to stay alive.

An adventure I will never forget.

Kylie Luce

Isurava Memorial Poem

Walk this track trekker

Let your poles take the strain

Put on your rain coat

To stay out of the rain

Fill your bellies with food on your 10 minute rests

Sports drinks and gels to bring out your best

Talk about family, your footy, your dreams

To your sore muscles and joints,

Rub in liniments and creams

Joke of your depravity-

How long since a beer?

And think of the meal

When you get out of here

But remember the fallen

On the track where you walk

Silently watching

For they cannot talk

They see you from foxholes,

Scared, sick and in pain

Covered in mud

They stay out in the rain

Consider their families, their friends and their dreams,

They didn't have liniments, ointments or creams.

Maybe, just a cigarette and a light from a mate

Before the next firestorm

Decided their fate

So walk this track Trekker

And consider their gain

Is the life that you live, out of the rain.

And in silence be awed,

By the feats of their time

As your poles take the strain

Of one more hill, one last time

Kylie Luce 2010

AMBULANCE NEWS

Hi All.

A busy month here at the ambulance with all sorts of jobs. We have had a heap of work so far this year at the Golden Hole, Boulders and Josephine Falls. Sadly fatalities, fractures, snake bites and rescues in the past month. Every few weeks we seem to have an incident at one of the popular swimming holes. Look after yourself there, a portion of the injuries come from what you could loosely call locals - people from Innisfail, Babinda, Cairns areas who should have a fair idea of the conditions. There are plenty of signs warning tourists but as you know when you are on holidays you can develop a lax attitude or get caught out without warning. I was on days off and Peter on holidays when the ambulance, police and several members of the SES spent many hours up in the rainforest behind the boulders.

Babinda is a lucky place to have so many dedicated SES personnel, auxiliary fire fighters a full time ambulance and hospital. You will find a police and ambulance presence at most towns the size or larger than Babinda but quite often there is no permanent SES or auxiliary fire brigade. The SES put in a lot of their own time without payment and the auxiliary fire fighters although they get some small remuneration are called upon to do some nasty jobs which are quite often not pleasant. Some of the caravans are driving at 80 kms on the highway at the moment and I like you can get very frustrated stuck behind them for what seems like an hour. Please be safe when overtaking them - if you think you have half a chance of getting around them remember that you also have half a chance of not getting around them and may find yourself in an accident. Locos, harvesters and everyone else will be on the roads shortly adding to the mix. I will be on a couple of weeks holidays next month camping so Peter will be writing in the newsletter. I hope you are able to enjoy this nice time of year as well.

Until next time,

Keep Safe

Justin Cairns

OIC Babinda Ambulance

Some for the Ladies

How do you get a man to stop biting his nails?

Answer: Make him wear shoes.

How do you keep your husband from reading your email?

Answer: Rename the mail folder 'Instruction Manual'.

What should you give a man who has everything?

Answer: A woman to show him how to work it!



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BABINDA TASKFORCE NEWSLETTER

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Member for Mulgrave

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Gordonvale Qld 4865

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Gordonvale Qld 4865

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mulgrave@parliament.qld.gov.au

Record \$1.61 billion Budget for disability and community care services

A sneak peek at the 2010-11 Budget reveals that the Queensland Government will deliver a record \$1.61 billion for disability and community care services.

This year's State Budget includes:

- \$1.054 billion for Disability Services
- \$528.7 million for Home and Community Care (HACC)
- \$28.6 million for Community Mental Health Services

The budget for disability services will deliver an extra \$72.5 million in funding over the next four years, including an extra \$12.5 million in 2010-11. The extra \$12.5 million in 2010-11 will provide an extra:

- \$4.4 million to support young people with a disability leaving school;
- \$3.2 million to support people with spinal cord injuries;
- \$2.9 million for early intervention and support services for the families of children with a disability;
- \$1 million for the Community Living Initiative, to help people with a disability to live independently in the community;
- \$1 million to create new autism early intervention centres in Bundaberg and Mackay.

This budget is about giving children a better start in life, helping young and adult Queenslanders to retain their independence and supporting families and carers.

The State Government has also released the draft 10 Year Plan for Supporting Queenslanders with a Disability for public feedback to build on the work already underway. The 10 year plan proposes 10 priorities and strategies to improve access to transport, education, health care, housing, employment, social, arts, sports and recreational pursuits.

The draft plan will now be released for consultation and I encourage all sectors of the community to provide feedback. There will be forums held throughout the state in order to give Queenslanders an opportunity to have their say.

To view the consultation paper, enter your submission, or to find out about community consultations, visit the Disability and Community Care Services website at www.disability.qld.gov.au.

3 June 2010

Contact:
Mulgrave Electorate Office
4056 3175

'Working For You'

Babinda Community Bank® Branch

Babinda Community Bank® Branch

Enhancing the community

Babinda **Community Bank**® Branch would like to congratulate the committee who ran the Babinda Harvest Festival. It required a lot of hard work to make it such a wonderful success.

The entries for the photographic competition run by our **Community Bank**® branch for this festival were outstanding-we congratulate you all. Entries can be viewed at the Bank and twelve will be chosen for our fundraising calendar for 2011.

The winners were: Robynn Butler 1st place \$100

Natalie Satchwill 2nd place \$50

Danielle Simcock 3rd place \$25

Robynn Butler, Bryan Walker and Brett Smith Highly Commended \$10

We would like to congratulate Harvest Queen, Sandra Jago, Miss Personality, Carolynnia Togia Tunavasa and Miss Charity, Maria Dobson. Each winner received \$100 from the Babinda **Community Bank**® Branch.

Our Branch was also successful in winning the Best Business Float. Thankyou to Sally, Bronya, Kylie and Taleesa for their hard work in preparing the float and providing the imaginative decoration of our Bank as a Monopoly game - how do they think of these things?

We were so pleased to sponsor Kylie, our CSO, who has now returned from her successful trek of the Kokoda trail. Our congratulations go to Kylie on this very difficult achievement. The local children excitedly received the small gifts Kylie gave them from our branch.

Babinda **Community Bank**® Branch celebrated our 4th birthday on Tuesday 8 June. Customers enjoyed cupcakes which were also delivered to all businesses.

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Russell Landcare &
Catchment Group

Russell Landcare and Catchment Group

Upcoming Events:

Saturday 10 July 3pm: Bushwalk at Golden Hole; everyone welcome!

Details of our upcoming bushwalk will be emailed to members; if you would like to be notified about this and all our future activities please send an email to russell.landcare@gmail.com to join our 'non-members' mailing list. We will meet at the grass field at Golden Hole (turn up the road to Josephine Falls and keep going to the end) and go from there. The walk takes about 45 minutes (each way) and has a few places where you'll get wet feet. After the walk we hope to have a BBQ so come along and enjoy our beautiful local environment – the tourists shouldn't have all the fun!

Harvest Festival 2010

We had a small stall this year, including a display in conjunction with Terrain NRM about Carbon (see the information on Terrain's website here: <http://bit.ly/TerraincarbonFAQ>). Dave and I gave away many local native plants so hopefully everyone has had some fun gardening. We would sincerely like to thank everyone involved in organizing and running the Festival, knowing the enormous amount of effort that goes into such huge events. The Festival gives our local groups a platform to share information with each other and the community. Great to see more people signing up to Landcare on the day too, the more the merrier!

Carl Mellick Park Planting (Natural Resource Awareness Grant)

We had a very pleasant afternoon planting on May 16th at Carl Mellick Park as part of riparian repair on Babinda Creek. We had so many volunteers, in addition to our usual fabulous regulars and some newcomers, we were very pleased to welcome lots of Babinda State School students, many of them members of the school's Energy Committee, as well as their teachers, and other students from Miriwinni State School. Thanks kids, great to have you along! The planting was therefore done at lightning speed allowing us ample time afterwards to relax with refreshments and bid a sad farewell to Melanie, our coordinator from Terrain for the last 2 years. Many thanks to the lovely lady who came out and gave us some freshly picked mandarins for our trouble.

The Natural Resource Awareness Grant was supported by the Queensland Government represented by the Department of Environment and Resource Management.

Join in - the new online Message Board for Russell Landcare and Catchment Group.

A Message Board is just like a community noticeboard; you visit the website <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/RLCGmembers/>, and read the messages from other members, the Terrain NRM Coordinator or the RLCG Management Committee. You can post anything you like (messages about upcoming events, discussions about the weather!). The Board does not generate any spam (rubbish emails) and is totally free (Yahoo just put their ads on the webpage).

Visit the site, have a look around, and sign up (free – you can deregister anytime you like). Hope to see you on the Board! If you have any questions, please email russell.landcare@gmail.com and I can assist you.

Just go to: <http://au.groups.yahoo.com/group/RLCGmembers/>.

MANY THANKS

Hi my name is Maria Dobson, I was a entrant in the Harvest Festival and won Miss Charity. I couldn't of done it without the communities support and their kind donations. Thank you to the people that helped me through out this process. I would also like to thank Natalie Beattie for being a great sponsor and for lending a hand. A big thank you goes out to our Princess Co-ordinator, Natalie Satchwill for organising this great experience and for lovely moral support. The winner of my Mother's Day Raffle went to Josephine Schmidt, congratulations .Thanks everyone for this great experience! Maria Dobson

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New Heritage listing for Babinda

The 2nd World War Babinda air raid shelter in Anzac Park, Munro Street has now been listed on the Queensland Heritage Roster.

It is currently being used as Public Toilets. It is a reminder as to how close we came to serious involvement in the 2nd World War.

Of the 57 public air raid shelters built between Mackay and Cairns during 1942, Babinda's is the most intact and therefore worthy of listing in the Heritage Register.

Free "Cairns Sun"

newspaper

The FREE "Cairns Sun" newspaper is now available every Thursday at the Babinda Information Centre.

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