

# MACHANATIONS

[www.machansbeach.net/machanations](http://www.machansbeach.net/machanations)

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## Small business on the Beach

One of the joys of living in our small community of Machans Beach is that we have facilities like the School and Post Office which are absent in many larger suburbs.

However, our Post Office Agency has a large question mark hanging over it at the moment. The licence for the Agency is up for sale - as it has been on several past occasions – the difference this time is that the physical buildings are not included in the sale. Therefore it is quite possible that that the Licence could be purchased and taken to another location, eg, Holloways Beach, which has more than double the population of Machans Beach, but as yet no Post Office. The closure of the Agency would mean the loss of a range of services including the Post Office boxes.

And there is also uncertainty about the future of our Servo. If we lose this service we would have to drive to

Stratford to buy even the basics like bread and milk and papers. Although small service stations might charge more for fuel and other items, think how much more we'd be spending on fuel if we have to take the car every time we need to buy the morning basics.

We as consumers have to respect decisions made by small business operators as they juggle commercial and personal considerations but if we all made greater efforts to support small business then viability would be greater and we have their ongoing service. These small businesses are part of what makes Machans the special place it is, so let's all do what we can to keep them going.

So please, support our local businesses as much as you can. It's the old story – Use it or Lose it. *Deryck*

## Post Office News

This could be the penultimate PO news written by me. The PO licence has been put on the market and we now await a buyer. We have decided to sell as we have been here for eight years now (time flies when you are having fun) and want to move onto bigger and better opportunities. At the time of writing some interest has been shown in buying the PO, but we will just have to wait and see who comes up with the dollars.

Meanwhile, I have some adorable soft animals for little people (and big people too) that I have just restocked. Including a stick horse whose hoofs you can hear as you ride along.

Don't forget the community library at the PO, I will always take good quality second hand books for the library. *Russell*

## OMBies

The second annual Order of Machans Beach awards will be presented at the Sport and Recreation Club on Saturday 5th April. We will be accepting nominations until the 25th March. If you can think of someone who makes a positive contribution in any small way to Machans Beach please drop us a line.

## The Hour of Love

What can we do when all the lights go out? March 29th at 8pm is Earth Hour. Created in Sydney last year to take a stand against the imminent threat of global warming, Earth Hour means turning off to send a powerful message for a need for action. Machans Beach can join numerous cities around the world that have taken Sydney's lead. Indeed, this is a great opportunity to get up close and personal with the one you love. Or maybe the right time to invite that person of interest around for an early dinner. Turn off and turn on at the same time. Use a little energy whilst saving a little energy. It may be a perfect world after all.

**Earth Hour is 8pm on the 29th March. You can make a difference.**

### DATE CLAIMERS

Community Association.....	7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	(Russell 4055 9402)
Neighbourhood Watch.....	7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	(Russell 4055 9402)
Friends of Redden Island – FoRI.....	Regular weeding and maintenance days TBA	(James 4037 0102)
SES.....	7.00pm at HQ, Keith Edwick Park, Every Wednesday	(John 0417 365 323)
MAGS.....	Looking for a Coordinator	
Machans Organic Community Garden.....	4.00 – 6.00, Saturdays & Wednesdays, west side of School	(Geoff 4055 9995)
Sports Club - Drinks & Live Music.....	6.00 – 10.00pm at the Sports Club, every Friday (Happy hour 6.00 – 7.00pm)	
Sports Club - Music Sessions & BBQ.....	1.30 First Saturday of the month.	(Dan 4055 0069)
Magnets Morning Tea.....	10am in the Community Hall, 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month	(Fred 4055 9129)
School P & C.....	At the school, for date and time see School newsletter	(Dave 4055 0365)

**For Hall Bookings contact Deryck - 4055 9397 – [deryck@machansbeach.net](mailto:deryck@machansbeach.net)**



# Machans Beach State Emergency Service

**TRAINING:** In addition to local training – currently Casualty Handling with equipment and improvisation, many members are attending Regional run courses. During February, a number of members attended an Emergency Operations Course and many attended the Disaster Management Arrangement Course. By the end of February, we will have members who have completed the Risk Assessment Course.

**MACKAY ASSISTANCE:** Although many may know that 12 SES members from the Far Northern Region travelled to Mackay to assist in the Mackay flood aftermath, did you know that one was from our Group. The call for assistance was for members trained in Emergency Operations Centre and Chainsaw. This member completed the Emergency Operations Centre Course on Sunday, caught the plane to Mackay on Monday, helped in Mackay – Airlie Beach area during the week and returned on Friday, then attended the Disaster Management Arrangement Course on Saturday. He has been busy – well done and I'm sure the assistance in Mackay was appreciated. I am

informed that they were well fed and accommodation was OK - (4 star! I hear).

**NEW - TAX BREAK for SES Volunteers:** Employers whose workers are deployed as volunteers will be exempt from paying pay-roll tax for the hours they spend away from their jobs in the field.

**AIR SEARCH OBSERVERS:** Most regular members have now completed this Course. The Course provides participants with the skills and knowledge to – Work effectively and safely within an aviation environment; and Conduct air search observation duties during an air search operation.

**YOU CAN DO THIS:** Want to be an Air Search Observer, get a Tax Break for helping the Community, gain new skills, be challenged, make new friends, have fun and help the community at the same time! Ring the Duty Officer on 4055 9277 for information about becoming an SES volunteer.

*Machans Beach SES  
Caring for the Community*

## Message from Councillor Margaret Cochrane

Hello to the Residents of Machans. This will be the last edition of Machanations before the election on March 15th. May I take this opportunity to thank you for the honour of being able to work with you all during the last eight years. I have enjoyed being part of the Machans Community and have grown to love the diversity of the community.

The works on the esplanade are now complete and the "pink" road looks fabulous and I have had some calls from happy residents, it is always good when we get a good result. Last month I flagged the idea of the esplanade

becoming a one way road with the road going through past the SES building. This is only an idea of one of the officers, it is certainly not imminent and there will be community consultation undertaken to see if this is an idea which the community will accept. I have already had contact from residents who are not in favour of this idea and these objections are noted. Everyone will get the opportunity to have their say on this one before anything happens, and it really is a long way off, I have other priorities for projects which need to be funded at Machans before this project takes place.

There is soon to be some work done on the rock wall, an audit was done at the end of the year and the work will be undertaken during March when the tides will be suitable.

I watched Redden Creek break through on the high tide very early in the morning, what a fascinating process. The creek is now well flushed and the fish no doubt will be a plenty.

If you require assistance from Council the Call Centre is available 24/7, ring 4044 3044, if I can be of assistance phone 0419 706 372

*See you at the meeting, Margaret*

## Message from Steve Wettenhall MP – Member for Barron River

Voting is compulsory for the March 15 Cairns Regional Council and I urge everyone to find out as much as they can about the candidates. I will of course respect the peoples' choice and I look forward to working constructively with the new divisional 8 councillor, the new mayor and the new Council.

I will keep you informed on this important next stage of Local Government reform this year when the State Government undertakes a complete review of the Local Government Act. An exposure draft will be released for public comment.

### PARLIAMENT TO SIT IN CAIRNS

The Cairns Convention Centre will become the Queensland Parliament between October 28 and 30 this year. This will be a great opportunity for locals of all ages to see the parliament at work, meet Government Ministers and other Members of Parliament.

**Q150 CELEBRATIONS** In 2009, Queenslanders will celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> birthday! Funding between \$2,000 and

\$10,000 is up for grabs to encourage all Queensland communities to undertake activities and projects that celebrate and commemorate in a way that reflects the unique culture, heritage and aspirations of their own community. Applications close on April 13, 2008. Visit [www.q150.qld.gov.au](http://www.q150.qld.gov.au) or phone (07) 3238 3323

### SUSTAINABLE HOME OPENS

Anyone who is thinking about building a new home or renovating should visit the latest Queensland Government Smart and Sustainable display home. Located at 15 Davidson St, Redlynch Valley Estate, the home is open on Saturdays and Sundays 12-5pm or by appointment on Ph: 1800 11 44 77 until the end of June 2008. For further information - see my speech about the sustainable home at

[www.parliament.qld.gov.au/hansard](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/hansard) (members speeches) and follow the link to Redlynch on the sustainable homes website at [www.sustainable-homes.org.au](http://www.sustainable-homes.org.au) Steve 4038 2800

## Sports Club News

Once again we have had a successful music day being our first for the year. A special thanks to the Cairns Muso's Club for their donated time, talent and equipment. Unfortunately the day was once again tarnished by our regular complainer to Police and the council who seemed to be hell bent on shutting us down. We have consistently requested direct discussion with this person which has been ignored (they have my number).

On a brighter note, next month we will be hosting the "Ombies" with a great new local act "Mekonium" punching out

the tunes. Friday nights are still proving popular with a live soloist and we encourage new members and guests to come along and enjoy some quality entertainment and a BBQ.

Finally, the under 18s indoor cricket team (sponsored by the club) is proving very popular with 14 young Pontings on the books so far looking for their first win.

Machans Beach Sports Club is a non-profit group raising funds for the youth and community of Machans Beach. Any enquiries, please contact Dan on 0427 666 661

[www.machansbeachsports.com](http://www.machansbeachsports.com)

# Council Elections 2008

*Your Chance to have your say on the future of Machans Beach and Cairns*

## Cairns Regional Council Mayoral Candidates

### **Kevin Byrne – Cairns Unity** (Incumbent)

Kevin Byrne approaches this, his fifth term as Mayor with a great deal of pride in his achievements and that of his Unity led Council. Since 2000 when Kevin Byrne returned as Mayor the City has been transformed. The municipal management has undergone dramatic change. Debt has been dramatically slashed from \$128 Million (\$2560 per rate assessment) to \$55 Million (\$860 per rate assessment) allowing record capital works programmes across the city. Cairns has never looked better as we pursue our "City in a Garden" project of street beautification, suburban street enhancement programs dealing with aged curb and channelling, improved sporting facilities across the entire city, the redevelopment of the botanical gardens and the list goes on endlessly. In the near future we will be commencing the construction of the Regional Performing Arts Complex to meet modern performance requirements.

The Council will remain committed to every aspect of community growth and development (particularly in Machans Beach) and looks forward to the positive challenge of merging the Douglas Shire with the Cairns City to create the new Cairns Regional Council.



As Mayor I will continue with positive and dynamic leadership of this great city and will be a strong advocate to State and Federal governments for better health, schools and roads as well as campaigning for a new and better resourced hospital.

Although all of my decisions would not have pleased everyone they were made in good faith with the city's interest paramount. I am about managing growth, creating prosperity and enhancing our lifestyle to create Australia's most liveable city and region. I have a proud record of achievement and look forward to your support on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

*Kevin*

### **Selwyn Johnston - Independent**

The 2008 Local Government election is without doubt the most important council election for decades as a result of the State Government's decision to compulsory force the amalgamation of Queensland's 157 Councils into just 73, without public consultation or referendum of the Queensland people. This substantial change will be critical to the lifestyle and well-being of the residents of not only Cairns but also former Douglas Shire residents who have now been incorporated into the new Cairns Regional Council and, that change must be managed carefully, with sensitivity and professionalism. I am committed to...

- Open, transparent and 'community inclusive' Council Meetings
- Review of Rates, Levies and other integrated Council charges for 'Services'
- Preservation of the new Cairns Regional Council areas' unique Environment and Heritage in all 'development'

- Ensure Health, Education, Energy and Roads infrastructure are funded to a nationally accepted level within Cairns Regional Council precinct.

I stand prepared to give equal weight to all community sectors, including small to large business interests, of this new and vastly increased Local Government area so that our region can move forward as a co-operative, inclusive and positive entity for the betterment of the entire region.

I offer myself as an Independent representative for Mayor who has absolutely no obligations to anyone except the residents and ratepayers of the Cairns Regional Council and I can guarantee that situation will remain a characteristic of a new administration under my stewardship.

You can be assured that I will be a servant of the people and represent the expressed majority will of the people of the Cairns Regional Council precinct.

*Selwyn*



### **Val Schier – Cairns 1<sup>st</sup>**

Dear Machanites

I haven't seen much of my home towners over the past couple of months as I try to talk with voters from Bloomfield to Bramston.

It's been a non-stop round of doorknocking, deciding on the key messages, meeting with the Cairns 1st candidates, writing media releases, designing ads, answering phone and email queries from voters, having morning tea with people in residential facilities, debating KB, etc., etc. And trying to get enough sleep!

People tell me that it's time for a change; it's time that we started to plan for the future - for sporting facilities, climate change, disaster management, energy efficiency, better drop-offs at schools, bicycle lanes.

It's time also that we started recognising and rewarding good tropical design, looking after our heritage, protecting and

enhancing the environment, getting some money into the suburbs and not just to the big city projects. Striking the right balance between development and preserving the character and tropical feel of our region.

**March 15th is a critical election and you have a clear choice.** Either vote for four more years of Kevin Byrne and his Unity team. Or head us in a different direction with me and my Cairns 1st candidates. In the new Division 8 which includes Machans Beach, Paul Matthews is asking for your vote too.

Check us out on [www.cairns1st.org.au](http://www.cairns1st.org.au) or email [val@cairns1st.org.au](mailto:val@cairns1st.org.au), [paul@cairns1st.org.au](mailto:paul@cairns1st.org.au) or ring us: Val on 0407 100 886; Paul on 0412 872 574

Help us to bring fresh faces and new, strong leadership into the new Cairns Regional Council.

*Val*



# Division 8 Candidates

## Margaret Cochrane – Independent (Incumbent)

March 15<sup>th</sup> heralds in a new era in Local Government for Cairns. The election takes in the existing Douglas Shire Council bringing the total population of the Cairns Regional Council to approximately 145,000.

Divisional boundaries have also changed and the current Division 10 will grow to include East Kamerunga, Freshwater, and Upper Edge Hill and will be known as Division 8.

What will this mean for Machans Beach? You, as the resident should not be affected. I am standing for you and Division 8 as an Independent Candidate this time. Being an independent I can work and make decisions for you and not have to comply with team and party politics.

Machans still has plenty of work to be done. My priority will be focused on Cinderella Street for this next budget, along with kerb and channel in Christensen Street.

There are several other areas which need attention and I will continue to work to achieve those projects.

I will continue to support the community in all their activities and take up issues and problems as requested. I will continue to attend community meetings on a regular basis as I believe this is the only way to act as a conduit for the community to Council.

If re-elected, I will continue to be your representative in a hands on *full time* capacity during the next term of Council.

*I thank you for the opportunity to have worked for your community in the past and look forward, with your support on March 15<sup>th</sup>, to continue to be your representative on Council.*

Margaret



## Paul Matthews – Cairns 1<sup>st</sup>

I moved to Cairns and settled here in 1980, because of its beautiful setting and relaxed lifestyle.

My kids were born here, grew up and did their schooling here. I want my kids (now adults) and their kids to appreciate what we have here and to preserve a lifestyle that we can't take for granted.

The rate, level and type of development that has occurred in Cairns over the last decade is alarming. The destruction of old Queenslanders to be replaced by soulless unit developments is a travesty. The heritage and character of this city needs to be acknowledged and protected.

Climate Change is a real threat. It poses us with many issues which must be addressed, like our eroding beaches. A recent Federal Government report named Cairns as one of the most vulnerable centres on the eastern seaboard; the bandaid responses

of this council don't work. We need an integrated, all levels of government approach.

Water conservation through better utilization of recycled water from the Clean Seas Strategy and promotion of installation of rainwater tanks is a must.

I am a Vet. Humane animal management is critical if we are to consider ourselves a truly compassionate community; desexing of all dogs and cats not registered for breeding and registration and microchipping of all dogs and cats is essential if we are to reach this goal.

On March 15 we have a choice: more of the same lame, tame tired policies of the current council...or the vision, vitality and determination of Val Schier and the Cairns 1st Alliance.

Paul



## Denis Keeffe – Cairns Unity

I am the Cairns Unity Team candidate for Division 8 in the upcoming Cairns Regional Council elections. I am committed to protecting the wonderful lifestyle that you and I share here in Cairns.

Like you, I am proud and passionate about Cairns and North Queensland and I believe that I have the skills, experience and vision to better serve you and your family and your community.

I have a proven record of achievement in North Queensland. My most recent roles in the social and economic development of the Cairns region include leading the revitalisation of the internationally renowned Festival Cairns and establishing the Cairns Taipans as a successful national sporting brand. Many of the wonderful people of Cairns benefited from experiencing the Festival and the Taipans.

I have also recently brought together people from our local

community's sports and business sectors to launch the Northern Pride Rugby League Football Club. My role as CEO of the Northern Pride is an honorary one but I have taken it on with pleasure because of my love of the game of Rugby League and the enormous satisfaction I receive from seeing kids from North Queensland getting the opportunity to become homegrown champions in the national and international sporting arenas and making us all proud of our region.

I live at Yorkeys Knob with my wonderful partner, Charmaine and have two grown children, a son Matthew and a daughter Kristina, and three beautiful little grandchildren, Jackson, Emma and Daniella.

**I will serve you and your community to the very best of my ability with honesty, diligence and dignity.**

Denis



***For more information on the Cairns Regional Council Elections visit CairnsBlog [www.cairnsblog.net](http://www.cairnsblog.net)***

**DISCIPLINE – THIS IS ABOUT TEACHING & LEARNING** The word discipline actually means 'to teach' and not necessarily to punish. The true goal is to teach children the rules of behaviour so that they can use them. Children learn self-discipline by growing up in a loving family, with fair and predictable rules and expectations. Punishment may even interfere with their development of self-discipline. Physical punishment does not help children learn proper behaviour. It doesn't give them the opportunity to learn how to solve their own problems. Instead, it **can make them fearful, insecure and resentful**. Some parents may hit their child because they are trying to relieve their own tension or stress in a situation. Children learn from your example and hitting teaches them to get what they want by hitting. If you have concerns about your child's behaviour seek professional help. For more tips on guiding your child's behaviour, visit the website below and see 'Practical Advice' about discipline.  
[http://www.abc.net.au/parenting/articles/school\\_age\\_behaviour.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/parenting/articles/school_age_behaviour.htm)

*From the School Newsletter*

# Message from Jim Turnour MP – Federal Member for Leichhardt

The Rudd Government put forward positive plans for the future in the election campaign last year and a priority over the last few months has been following up with Ministers on these commitments. We are determined to deliver on all of our promises.

The opening of the new parliament occurred in February and the occasion was marked by the formal apology to the Stolen Generations, a significant moment in Australian history. I felt honoured to be present in Parliament House as the Prime

Minister offered the apology. There is plenty of work to be done to improve the lives of indigenous Australians but this has been an important first step for our government.

Health continues to be one of the most important issues for the residents of Leichhardt. I was pleased to announce just a few weeks ago that MRI services in the Cairns region are set to expand. Cairns Base Hospital will soon be licensed to provide Medicare-eligible Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) services. The

Federal Government has committed to funding the purchase a new MRI machine and I'm looking forward to Cairns Base being able to provide this service. It will mean that fewer people will have to be transferred to Townsville.

My office is now well established so I want to take this opportunity to let you know where you can find me. My friendly office staff & I are based at 140 Mulgrave Road (in the AAMI Building) and can be contacted by phoning 4051 2220.

Jim

## Machans Beach Community Association Meeting 14th Feb

**Keith Edwick Park** Council Depot does not have any suitable plants – so we may need donations to purchase some. Cathy Archer will work out plant list and costs.

Also toilet block is due for a repaint. Discussion of a new mural. The building will be painted white first, then Tanks artists will co-ordinate children to repaint.

**Sand** Barry reported that the northern end steps are dangerous as the sand has been scoured. He asked Margaret what the long term plan was from Council re: sand.

Margaret said there was no plan for sand replenishment.

Barry said the problem was lack of flow from the river and the situation is not being taken seriously.

Margaret said the Council will investigate sand replenishment.

**Rock Wall** Margaret said the next project is to stabilize the rock wall. Work is planned for the end of March. Plan is to remove builder's rubble and some other minor works.

Deb asked for a proper engineering study to be commissioned and look at long term solutions not band aid, quick fix. Helen thought it was also a good idea, even though expensive. Margaret to follow up on investing in a further engineering study.

**Cinderella St** Cinderella St upgrade design yet to be finalised. Options include bitumen, concrete grassed pavers, grass. Deb suggested again an avenue of trees and planters, similar to northern end of Marshall St, in consultation with residents.

Next meeting: Thursday 13th March. 7:30.  
All Welcome.

## Farewell Machans

After ten glorious years living in the beautiful Machans Beach village I love so much, it is time to say farewell to life in paradise. I'm off to do some volunteer work in East Timor for the next 18 months and just wanted to say goodbye to all you good people that help make Machans magic happen. Not sure if I'll be back to stay, but will be back for visits at least for sure. After all doesn't everybody! Please take care of my darling Sebastian when you see him roaming around and give him as much love as you like, but please don't feed him, he's too

bloody big already! I truly feel we are among the few privileged to live in such a special community like Machans, a place where big hearts roam and people know their neighbours, care about their children, their animals and darling elders who sadly we have lost so many of in the past couple of years. I still miss seeing Bert speeding along the esplanade and chatting in Italian with our darling Alby. All the best to those of you I know and sorry I didn't get to know more of you. *Peace and all good things.*

For sale 1987 Nissan Pintara s/wagon - new tyres, Deevah  
rego May, RWC - \$1,450 - Deryck 4055 9397

## Letters

### Commercialism verses public supported transport

Term 1 of the school year has the 2:47pm or No 7 Machans bus from the city permanently diverted through the Botanic Gardens thanks to Sunbus. The Botanical Gardens & potential tourists, seems an attractive commercial opportunity. All this at the expense of child safety.

The new bus loop completely bi-passes the school bus shelter at North Cairns and adds on extra time to the run. This affects commuters in particular primary school children & working mums in North Cairns. I believe such decisions have been made without researching the effects on school children.

Kids who finish school at Mother of Good Council for example now need to wait on the side of Collins Ave in an area not designed or properly prepared as a designated bus stop. The government and its representatives need to consider their duty of care when empowering a regional bus service to dictate where children as young as 8 years old should stand and wait for a school bus.

I urge those concerned to contact their local member Steve Wettenhall and voice their opinions as this so called public bus service is seriously amiss. Heaven help anyone involved in such a decision if a child was injured or met with any of our local predators, whilst waiting in an unsupervised location.

One has to wonder what is next for the Machans Bus Service.....

I have voiced my concerns to local media, but feel it has fallen completely on deaf ears. I have discussed these issues with Steve Wettenhall local MP, but perhaps through the lack of numbers or anticipation, support and closure in this matter is still pending. I would urge anyone who understands my concerns or is directly affected by the poor bus service and the new (returning to the old) route that takes in the Botanic Gardens to contact our local member & urge him to right this matter.

L Berg

## WANTED

House to rent in Machans Beach. Please call Micha 0429 992295  
Jann 4037 0737

## Machans Beach Hall Activities

### Belly Dancing

Classes start again March  
Bobbin 0427 719 565

### Can Can Dancing

Wednesdays 12 – 2pm  
Jilly 0412 036 771

### Kung Fu

Wednesdays - 7pm  
Richard 0409 104 753

### Tai Chi

Wednesdays - 6pm  
Richard 0409 104 753

### Wu Tao

Thursdays  
10–11am & 5.30–6.30pm  
Poss 4055 0151

Hall Bookings

Contact: Deryck 4055 9397  
deryck@machansbeach.net

**Painter and Decorator**



**Harry Collins**

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Brian

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**Cairns Youth Mentoring Scheme**

*Encouraging and Supporting Young  
People in our Community*



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