

MACHANATIONS

www.machansbeach.net/machanations

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Contact – 4037 0102

Dungarra

Redden Island

The flood waters and giant tides carved a few metres off the bank on the southern side of the island.

If not for the building rubble placed there many years ago the erosion would have been more significant.

Most of the water that flooded the island was brackish rather than salt, as the river was in flood.

Some saltwater did partly fill one lagoon which has about 100mm of brackish water floating on top of a body of saltwater.

The lagoon on the wild side of the island however is very salty.

The adventurous mullet mentioned in my last article spent three days in the lagoon and bailed out just before they became land locked.

One of the lagoons does however have a school of about twenty mullet that came in on the last big king tide and will have to wait a few weeks for the next big tide for a lift out (or they could feed the Jabiru).

The kangaroo berry bush has its flowers and the delicious orange coloured apricot flavoured fruit will be ripe in a month or so, and the season lasts for a few months. The locals in Maningrida (NT) told me the kangaroo berries have a laxative effect when eaten. I've eaten up to fifty fruit at a time however without experiencing the effect, so eating a few is certainly not to be feared.

Waa! Wish Machinations articles weren't limited to two hundred and fifty words.

Rob

Catch the Bike Bus

Supporters of the Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation's Cardiac Challenge have begun a bike bus for riders from the northern beaches into town as far as the Hospital. Riders from Machans are welcome to jump 'on board' at the Machans Beach roundabout.

The bike bus gives a bit of support for riders who would like to commute by bike but are concerned about the traffic. By riding as a group, it helps to make bike riders more visible to drivers, and encourages drivers to give more consideration to cyclists than they might do otherwise.

For safety the bike bus rides in single file along the highway, then turns left into Moffatt St (just south of the Airport turn-off), right into Lake St and then left again to the Esplanade. There's a bit more opportunity for social chat on the Esplanade path or if you have time, you can join your fellow riders for a coffee before work.

The bike bus travels at about 20 to 25 kph. It currently runs on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. You can join the bus at Machans roundabout – it goes past each day at 7.26am (but get there early in case they are ahead of schedule).

New riders are welcome. It's a great way to build up confidence and experience in riding on the road – and to enjoy a bit of company while you go!

Dympna

The OMBies Order of Machans Beach

Still time to get a nomination in for the OMBies. The awards will be presented at the Sports Club on Saturday the 10th April. Nominations close on the previous Saturday, the 3rd April. It's the little gestures that can make all the difference living in a community like Machans.

Nominations to machanations@machansbeach.net or Russ at the PO or by ringing Mark on 0438 760 861

Community Association

Next Meeting – March 11 at 7:30pm Discussion items

Esplanade Rock Wall - No work has been done on the wall in the last 10 years, and repeated requests for a structural engineer's report have been to no avail. In the recent king tide event part of the roadway was almost lost and, with cyclone Olga on the doorstep, several breaches of the wall were possible. The steps to beach access are undermined, but work is continuing on the steps opposite 203 O'Shea Esp. This work was absurdly commenced prior to the king tide then left in an unfinished condition which would have severely compromised the integrity of that section of rock wall. Considering the diversion to Yorkeys Knob and Holloways Beach of the funds previously allocated to Machans Beach, any remedial work appears not to even be on Council's agenda.

Dengue Prevention Project - Members of Qld Health and the Tropical Health Unit are trialling this project in Machans Beach. This is a community-based approach focused on behavioural change. Some of the ideas to date are to have a clean-up period with skips being placed strategically around the beach to take unwanted rubbish, vouchers given out to dump tyres and signage in visible areas when an outbreak occurs.

All residents and/or owners are eligible to be members and are encouraged to come and put forward any views or simply hear other opinions.

DATE CLAIMERS

Community Association	7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 11 th March	(AI 0409 658 177)
Neighbourhood Watch.....	7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 11 th March	(AI 0409 658 177)
Friends of Redden Island – FoRI.....	Contact Rob 0432 287 032	
SES	7.00pm at HQ, Keith Edwick Park, Every Wednesday	(Duty Officer 4055 9277)
MAGS.....	Coordinator wanted	
Machans Organic Community Garden....	4.00 – 6.00, Saturdays & Wednesdays, west side of School	
Sports Club - Drinks & Live Music.....	6.00 – 10.00pm, Friday TBA see sign at roundabout	
Sports Club - Music Sessions & BBQ	3.00 - 10.00pm – First Saturday of the month	(Dan 4055 0069)
Magnets Morning Tea	10am in the Community Hall, 1 st 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 – deryckt@hotmail.com

Machans Beach State Emergency Service

Good Luck We have recently had to say good-bye to three of our keen members. They have left this area for various reasons with some vowing to return and even an invitation for our Unit to visit and stay up the 'Cape'. We wish you well in your endeavours and look forward to seeing your friendly faces in the future. We would also like to welcome our newest six (6) new attending the next CMIT (Community Member Initial Training) Course in early March.



Discount Insurance Apart from gaining skills and helping the public in times of duress there are other benefits. NRMA Insurance is offering all active volunteers a discount on their insurance – it all helps.

SES Masquerade Ball The Ball will take place at Rydges Tradewinds on the 17th April 2010. There is a full buffet dinner included at the Ball, and a full bar is available including a live band playing the whole night. There will also be prizes

throughout the night. As this is a Masquerade Ball – you **must** wear a mask.

Requests For Assistance (RFA Online) SES is progressively moving to computer based 'Requests for Assistance' (RFA's). This will indicate what the jobs are, resources used and if more are required and where all the 'action' is. An 'instant picture' can be obtained of jobs completed and to be completed. This will be captured when you ring 132500 requesting assistance and the jobs are completed by SES personnel. This system is 'real time' with regular data synchronising (updating) with the State-based server.

Support your local community SES Be challenged, gain practical skills, First Aid training and self confidence, make new friends, have fun and help the community at the same time! For general enquiries, ring 4044 9277.

132 500

Flood Storm Emergency

Cairns Council representative Margaret Cochrane

Hello to the residents of Machans Beach,

The work on O'Shea Esplanade seemed to take an age, but with weather changes and other unexpected problems this should now be finished. As I mentioned in the last Machanations, I have been discussing with the engineers a major audit of the rock wall with a view to serious funding to restore the wall, I will bring this matter up through the budget process.

Thankfully we did not receive the rains which were predicted over the weekend of the 20/21st. There was some concern that Council had opened Redden Creek bank without reason, but if we had received the rainfall predicted it would have been a good decision. I have no doubt that whatever actions are taken at times everyone sees a reason why it should not be done. I guess the opening will be closed in a short space of time. In relation to costs, this action is minimal in relation to emergency works

which have to be undertaken. I understand the cover over the playground at school park has been erected, I made the funds available from my Divisional works funds for this project, this has been a while in the making, but will be a great addition to the playground for the children to play in a sun safe place.

If you require the services of Council at any time, please place your request on the Customer Request Management system on our website, www.cairns@qld.gov.au, go to Contact us and log you request. This way you can receive a file number for your request and track the progress, or ring 4044 3044, 24/7, for your issues to be addressed. If you wish to contact me my mobile 0419 706 372 and leave a message if I am busy with a meeting or workshop and cannot answer you immediately.

See you at the Community Association meeting, Take care, Margaret

Rain, Tides, Waves and River data

I am concerned that council is needlessly wasting money at Machans Beach on the basis of poor information, incorrect assumptions and/or council incompetence causing major projects requiring substantial funding, like the repair and stabilization of the rock wall, to be delayed.

Over the past month, council has twice sent an excavator to dig out the mouth of Redden Creek in the mistaken belief that this would enable the river to force the sand out of that area. This was done to try to prevent flooding along Christensen Street during the king tides in early February and again a couple of weeks later on the basis of a statement from BOM that we were to expect extraordinary rainfall over the following couple of days. While council is to be commended for attempting to be pro-active in the face of possible flooding, these efforts have been futile and a waste of money as at no stage did a flood condition exist within the Barron River system which is the only way the sand plug will be removed from that area.

Should anyone be interested, the river heights from 20 locations within the Barron River Catchment and hourly rainfall totals from the same number of locations can be found at www.bom.gov.au/hydro/flood/qld/rain_river.shtml

The attempt to dig out the mouth during the king tides betrays a lack of understanding of the river which would be laughable if it were not so wasteful.

This second digging of the Reddens Creek mouth has occurred after what can only be described as a debacle on the waterfront. The wilful destruction of a section of rock wall by council officers days before king tides were expected, then left exposed to enable the ocean to scour out the esplanade back to and underneath the road beggars belief. This is still being repaired, obviously at great expense.

If you are concerned with this recent activity and would like answers, come along to the next community association meeting on the second Thursday of the coming month where Margaret Cochrane will be in attendance and the rock wall and recent council activity will be on the agenda.

Barry

Machans Beach Community Dengue Prevention

Next Meeting

When: **Thursday 11th March at 7.30 pm**

What: Plan the dengue fever prevention initiatives determined by the community at the last meeting.

Where: Community Hall - Tucker Street

Please contact Leah Stevenson on 07 4019 6427 or Leah_Stevenson@health.qld.gov.au

Let's work towards a dengue free 2010.

DEFEND AGAINST DENGUE



Make sure your rainwater tank is properly screened and regularly check around the home for stagnant water in:

- * Buckets and old tyres without rims
- * Tarpaulins and black plastic
- * Pot plant bases and vases
- * Boats and tin cans and plastic containers
- * Roof guttering
- * Birdbaths
- * Containers with plant cuttings
- * Drain sumps
- * Fallen palm fronds
- * Coconut shells

Thank you for doing your bit to prevent dengue

Magnettes Morning Tea

For the past 15 years or so our group of Machans Senior Citizens have been meeting in the hall on the first Saturday morning of the month.

We start around 10am and have a cup of tea or coffee and some delicious homemade goodies and discuss matters of interest, be it local or whatever. After an hour or so we might turn our attention to activities such as scrabble or card games and occupy our minds in friendly competition. It all adds to up to a pleasant little diversion from our sometimes mundane lives.

There is no charge and we are very grateful to the Machans Beach Sports Club who very kindly sponsor us. At present we are in recess with the aim of attracting some local seniors who would be interested in joining our friendly group.

If you and your friends are interested in a pleasant Saturday morning out, please contact Pat Eiszele on 4055 9129. Transport can easily be arranged. We would love to see more of the seniors in our community come along, all seniors welcome.

Pat & Fred

Sports Club

Sports Club is open twice a month - being the first Saturday of every month and the Friday 2 weeks after.

We have a live band on the Saturday and a soloist on the Friday.

The last Saturday gig was great with the final performance of the touring band "Back of da Van" as everybody had a great time and enjoyed some quality live music.

Our last Friday night was also a good night with "Snowy" playing the tunes, kids having fun in the playground, Basketball and tennis. We had our usual BBQ and great game of darts by the parents and adults.

Coming up we have a top band "Saltwater Crk" on Saturday 6th March and on Friday 19th March, we have "Kim" singing all her stuff from country rock to pop.

OMBIES NEWS- The Annual "Order of Machans Beach" awards are to be held on Saturday 10th April at 5pm. It has been moved back one week due to the first Saturday of April being Easter.

Entertainment will be by a new band "Lamington Park" to which many will recognise some faces in the band.

Look for the signs on the school roundabout for reminders when the club is open.

Finally, it is great to see some new faces around the club and it would great to see many more, so pack up the kids and head down for a BBQ and entertainment and meet your fellow Machanites.

Machans Beach Sports & Rec Group Inc is a non profit organisation raising money for the youth and community of Machans Beach. For further info, please contact Dan and Sheree on 4055 0069

WILDLIFE RESCUE

Cathie Archer regrets she will not be available to care for orphaned or injured wildlife til October.

If you find any injured or orphaned critters, please ring Wildlife Rescue on 40534467 or take them into the centre at the corner of Cominos Place and Hoare St. in Manunda. Of course any injured wild animals or birds that need veterinary attention will be seen by any vet surgeries free of charge and they will arrange carers for them once assessed. Airport Vet. is the closest 40533977.

Many thanks for your care and I will see you in October. *Cathie*

Don't Dazzle Me Too

I hope a few commuters have been driving a bit slower at night time after reading the article "Don't dazzle me!" in last year's Machanations, in which a voluntary slower speed was suggested on the access road. At this time of the year there are a lot more creatures out and about; green frogs, snakes (mostly not venomous) and about a million insect species as well as the usual mammal wanderers. Enjoy the drive; see more, save more and hey! It only takes an extra fifteen seconds to do the trip from the school to the roundabout on the highway.

Rob

Post Office

Well, with February behind us it is time to concentrate on the wonderful months ahead. By the time you read this we will be into March and planning for the family visits during the winter. I will have a new stock of Machans t-shirts in, ready to go as well as other reminders for the family to take back home. Don't forget that it is cheaper to send excess baggage home through aussie post than it is to pay at the airport (around \$20 per kilo excess at the departure gate) against 5kg for about \$19 through me.

I have stocked a range of mobile phones starting at \$50 (range will increase with time) and computer sticks starting at 4gb.

The library is holding up ok but could do with a fresh range of books. So if you have some novels hanging around in good condition please consider donating to our library.

Bye for now Russell

School News

The year is going very well for us at Machans Beach State School. Our enrolments, at present, are up from 80 this time last year to 106 with two more students set to start in March. The school is currently in the process of applying for an additional teacher and we are hoping to confirm whether we have been successful soon.

The National School Pride project (NSP) has almost been completed. Unfortunately we have had some damage done to new paint work in the school which will have to be fixed. The damage appears to occur during the weekends, which is very disappointing. We work very hard to build "Respect" as a value in our students - not just for others, but for property as well.

I am therefore seeking support from the community around this matter. If you do see anyone behaving inappropriately in the schools grounds please contact the Smithfield police or School Watch on 13 17 88.

Your support in these matters is greatly appreciated.

Cheers Jane Termaat/Principal

Earth Hour

Saturday 27th March at 8:30PM

During Earth Hour, people throughout Australia and around the world will turn off their lights for one hour to send a powerful message that we need action on climate change www.earthhour.org.au

Hall Activities

Kung Fu

Wednesdays 7pm to 8pm
Richard 0409 104 753

Tai Chi

Wednesday 6pm to 7pm
Richard 0409 104 753

Thursdays 10am to 11.15am

Kathryn 4055 0929

Kick Boxing

Mondays 6.30 - 7.30pm
Thursdays 6.30 - 7.30pm

Machans Young Guns
Thomas 0438 555 928

Cairns War Games

Saturdays 9am - 4pm
Owen 0400 970 997

Magnettes

10am 1st Sat of month
Pat/Fred 4055 9129

Ball Room Dancing

Fridays 7pm - 9pm
Chris 0415 956 923

Yoga

Tuesdays 5.15pm to 6.30pm

Fridays 5.30pm - 6.30pm
Martha 4055 9538

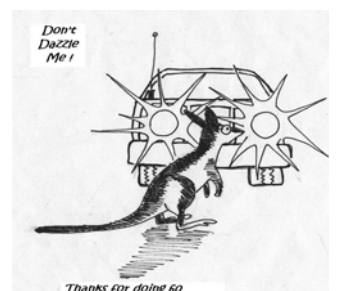
Community Association

2nd Thursday in every month

Carol 0428 326 813

Hall Bookings

Deryck 4055 9397
deryckt @ hotmail.com




Apologies to Jim Turnour and Steve Wettenhall who provided contributions, but due to space could not be included.

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