

# MACHANATIONS

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

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**Contact – 4037 0102**

## A short history of Cane Toads

I lived in a shack in the bush. Toads hopped around inside at night. For a while I enjoyed their company. They are an incredible animal and very friendly. Then I decided there were too many. I noticed they consumed many native animals. They ate any animal that would fit in their mouth. After a few years of persistent culling I rarely saw a toad. Then one evening one turned up and feeling compassionate I thought “one toad” I’ll pretend I didn’t notice it-warty old thing

Another guest, a big hairy barking spider used to scuttle through the shack. Beautiful thing that could make a bark the same tone as a little motorcycle horn which could be heard five metres away. It haired its way around the shack until the toad came zooming on for a kill. I was quickly reminded why I had decided there was no room in my little zone for toads. I did three quick forward rolls a somersault, took the toad by the back legs and goodbye toad. Welcome hairy spider. I also had night lizards, rocket frogs, catydid and many other natives to appreciate without toad’s ruthless feeding. In the big picture, for me, eradicating toads is a good idea. I do kill them humanely.

Don’t mistake the burrowing frog (Cyclorama New Hollandae) for a cane toad or the green frog sitting on the road at night time. Remember the green frog sits flat, toad more upright.

*Rob*

## Order of Machans Beach 2010

**Dylan Lee OMB**

**Nikki Davis OMB**

Award winners this year were Dylan Lee OMB, former student of the Machans Beach School for his leadership qualities and his willingness to be involved in a variety of school activities.

The other award was presented to local mum Nikki Davis OMB, for her services to the Machans Community as a school P&C stalwart, catering for thousands of our guests at our annual Moon over Machans celebrations and always being prepared to roll up her sleeves with a smile on her face.

Presentations were made by Mayor Val Schier, Deputy Mayor Margaret Cochrane and Member for Barron River, Steve Wettenhall and we thank them all for their ongoing support.

Unbeknown to the author, I was also nominated for an OMB and awarded one in my absence. I appreciate and thank the community for their nomination, however, being the initiator of these awards and a judge, I am ineligible to accept the award as to do so would devalue the OMBs and the fine efforts of all the recipients over the last five years. It would be like the Sports Club having a beauty contest and Dan Vowels winning first prize. The cheek of the man.

*Mark*

## SPORTS CLUB NEWS

The Sports Club was not open on the first Saturday of May due to the Cairns Blues Festival. Our next night out is Friday the 21st of May with live music and happy hour from 6 - 7.30pm = \$1 off normal drink prices. We have been having a good turnout lately and have been seeing many new faces where locals of old and new get a chance to meet and socialise with their kids and have a great night for all.

We look forward to seeing you at the club.

*Dan*

## Airport Environment Consultative Committee

Did you know there was an airport environment consultative committee? There is and it meets 4 times a year and talks about noisy planes and a few other things.

Machans has a presence along with Holloways, Yorkeys, Trinity and North Cairns. Air Services Australia have a say, they are an Australian government owned corporation, not public service, and look after control towers and fire services etc. Cairns Airport Pty Ltd, who own the land and buildings etc also have a say.

There is a rumour the renovations of the airport may come to an end around October.

There is a lot of jargon to confound amateurs like me, they talk of airside and landside and RNP which is Required Navigation Performance. Sounds like rocket surgery (RS) to me.

If you are troubled by noise you can phone **1800 802 584** (freecall) or **1300 302 240** (local call). It’s better for you to phone, if I ring I might get labelled as a crank caller.

I attended the March meeting and hope to understand a bit more at the next meeting.

*Dave*

## Machans Beach Community Association - Annual General Meeting Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm, Community Hall, Tucker Street.

### DATE CLAIMERS

|  |   |                          |
|--|---|--------------------------|
| Community Association .....              | 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May | (AI 0409 658 177)        |
| Neighbourhood Watch .....                | 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> May | (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) |
| Machans Organic Community Garden....     | 4.00 – 6.00, Saturdays & Wednesdays, west side of School    |                          |
| Sports Club - Drinks & Live Music.....   | 6.00 – 10.00pm, Friday 21st May, see sign at roundabout     |                          |
| Sports Club - Music Sessions & BBQ ..... | 3.00 - 10.00pm – First Saturday of the month                | (Dan 4055 0069)          |
| Magnets Morning Tea.....                 | In recess   | (Fred & Pat 4055 9129)   |
| School P & C.....                        | At the school, for date and time see School newsletter      | (Dave 4055 0365)         |

# April Community Association Meeting Summary

**Wildlife Reflectors** One of the reflectors we have been discussing was demonstrated, and with the lights off and only a torch to simulate headlights the “starring” effect was still quite visible. These reflectors are a Canadian invention initially used to reduce elk strikes, but have been scientifically trialled in Victoria and NSW and shown to reduce animal strikes by a staggering 90-92%. They are used currently to great effect on Magnetic Island. The cost to deploy them along the 1Km Machans access road will be more than originally thought as they will be too heavy for the existing guideposts and also need to be placed at no more than 10m intervals. Council will be contacted to discuss how much they are prepared to contribute to this as a pilot project. Approaches will also be made to the Cairns Post and a selection of Insurance companies to garner support for the idea.

**The Community Hall** The hall was vandalised Thursday afternoon 8<sup>th</sup> April. It appears to have been an opportunistic entry by children and resulted in detergent and other cleaning products being tipped over the floor, and the contents of the first aid box being removed. It could have been a lot worse. The back door may have been left open and this was the likely point of access.

**Note from the acting Secretary** Our hall is apparently one of only 2 wooden-floored halls in the Cairns area, and should be a focus of pride for our community. It holds the vibes of previous Machans families and was used extensively for all kinds of social and family celebrations of milestones when houses were small and families large. It has been a shelter in times of flood and cyclone, and was built by the hands of many willing workers. The photos and articles on the walls are beyond price. Please take this opportunity to discuss this with your children/grandchildren etc. and perhaps help them have some pride in their heritage too.

**Next Community Association Meeting and AGM – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May at 7:30pm** This is an invitation for you to come to the hall in Tucker Street for the AGM and ordinary meeting. Not everyone wants to take up a position on the committee but the committee needs the input of as many Machanites as possible to give the best representation for our Community. Your views are important and this is the forum to put forward any concerns, or ideas for improvement and the like, that you have been talking about.

*See you there!*

## DENGUE PREVENTION PROJECT

At a meeting of volunteers it was decided to delay the Machans Beach clean-up until early November when there would be more focus on preparation for the wet season and the need to be vigilant about dengue fever. In the meantime:

### 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DENGUE FEVER

1. Only the female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito bites people and they are “day-time biters”.
2. They bite us to get a meal of blood so they can make their eggs.
3. They prefer human blood – which is why they like to live with us in our homes and work places.
4. They are ‘container-breeders’ and prefer to lay their eggs on the sides of containers that hold water (palm fronds, buckets, striking vases, potted plant bases, tyres, blocked gutters). They don’t live or breed in swamps, puddles or creeks.
5. The Dengue virus is not naturally occurring in the mosquito. To get the dengue virus, the mosquito must first bite (take a meal of blood) from someone who is sick with dengue fever.
6. It then takes 8-10 days before the mosquito can pass the dengue virus on to people.
7. So, only the older female mozzies spread dengue (older than 10-12 days).
8. There are 4 types of dengue fever (DEN 1, 2, 3 & 4). If you get infected with one you become immune to that type for life.
9. BUT if you get infected with another type, you are at greater risk, statistically, of developing Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever which can be fatal.
10. There is currently no vaccine or cure for dengue fever. 40% of the world’s population is at risk from dengue, and more than 40,000 people die as a result of dengue fever every year.

## Machans Beach State Emergency Service

**Thanks to Steve Wettenhall MP** Steve offered and donated a bottle of wine to be used as a prize at the recently held SES Masquerade Ball. It was well received and appreciated.

**Training** We have just completed two (2) SEM (School of Emergency Management) courses – Conduct Briefings and Debriefings (new course) and General Rescue. Conduct Briefings and Debriefings is a prior requirement for many career paths in the SES. All members who were able, took advantage of the new Briefing and Debriefing Course with many who missed out on the previous General Rescue Course attended the one just held. Some members have also nominated to attend a variety of courses on offer, being held on a weekend at Holloways Beach. They are all the prior requirement courses to Storm Damage Operation and Working Safely at Height. Also in early May, 4

members will attend an Air Observers Course, 1 attend a CMIT (community member initial training) weekend and others have nominated

to upgrade to the full Apply First Aid Course. May looks to be a very busy month. Many members are taking advantage of skill Courses on offer to supplement local, normal skills training.

**FN Region Competition** A member has competed as part of a Cairns team in this competition. Another member helped out with cadets and casualties.

**Mareeba Search** 5 members attended this vehicle search of the many tracks in the Mareeba area for a missing elderly person. An additional vehicle was borrowed from Cairns and one member assisted another Unit in the search. A great midweek turnout from our Unit.

**CPR Updates** Many members had their CPR updated recently, some straight after the Mareeba search. It is great members are wanting to stay current.

**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 4055 9277.

**132 500 – Flood Storm Emergency**



### PO News

There are big changes afoot at the post office. Thanks to Telstra, the mural on the front of the phone box has been covered up by their signage. So part of the mural for the post office has gone.

The other big change is that the handy crafts we kept for so long are now being replaced with mobile phones and computer products as well as office needs. And there is still a fine selection of gifts available, as always, for your delectation.

*Russell*

## Grey Goose down

I am writing to farewell my dear sister and friend, Grey Goose Thelma, who passed away on Friday 23 April 2010 after a long illness.

Thelma and I were hatched in Speewah in August 1992 and at the age of about one month old we travelled to Machans Beach to live. At first there were five of us little goslings but sadly we lost a few of our siblings in the early years (some long term Machans Beach residents might remember our sister F111, named after her distinctive wings).

In those early years there were other geese in Machans Beach - some were staying up the street with Mrs Fitz and we often visited them. Thelma and I also often enjoyed the Sunday lunch session at Little Italy and the restaurant patrons seemed to like our company too. However the bus drivers were less impressed by our tendency to take a little rest in the middle of the road, as it meant they had to steer the bus around us. Consequently the street became off limits

to us, except when wet season rains flooded Marshall St. Then we did venture into the street for a swim in the flood waters.

Thelma and I have enjoyed many hours of happy browsing together, seeking out worms and grubs, enjoying our outdoor shower-bath swimming pool. Our human family have been good to us, though strangely reluctant to share the sofa and TV. There have been periods of tension and complaints about cleaning up goose poohs when we have ventured inside to check out the chook bucket but hey - why should chooks get all the goodies? Thelma and I always felt that we more than paid for our keep by our constant work as guard geese.

Each year in winter, Thelma would build a nest hidden in the undergrowth, lay a clutch of eggs and patiently sit on them, waiting for little goslings to hatch. Sadly that never eventuated - it may have been because we were both female but nothing would deter Thelma from her hopes in that direction. Even Thelma had to take a rest from constant sitting and sometimes

when she did that, she would return to find her nest was gone and her eggs had disappeared. That was sad (and sometimes smelly) but it did mean that she could resume her normal life until the next nest building season came around.

In the past few years, Thelma suffered badly from arthritis and she was not able to roam the yard for tasty titbits as before. Despite a special feeding regime - tomatoes with steroids were her favourite - she faded away and finally died on Friday April 23.

Goodbye, dear sis, I will miss your company. I am sure that you are honking happily in goosey heaven (probably something very similar to Machans Beach). I would like to pass on my thanks, and thanks from my human family, for all the sympathy and kind words we have received since Thelma left us. Thanks also for your kind tolerance of the honking conversations of us two sisters, Thelma and Louise, over the years.

Louise

## School News

The P&C have decided that they would like to run a Fete as their major fund raising event this year. A sub committee has been formed and will be meeting for the first time on the 7th May. The sub committee will plan the types of stalls, events, activities, demonstrations and other activities which may be held at the fete. If you have a special skill, some great ideas or are just interested in finding out more, please join Mel, Diana, Ginger, Sheree and Michelle at this special meeting. The first meeting will be held at school in the training room. Alternate locations for meetings will be negotiated as time goes on. Attendance does not mean you are obligated to take part. Why not just pop in to find out a little more? The more the merrier. If you are unable to attend but wish to take part in the organisation etc, please do not hesitate to call the school and I will pass on your contact details to the sub committee who will be happy to consider other arrangements. All community members are more than welcome to participate, put forth ideas and suggestions.

Machans Beach State School has once again won the Flat Battery recycling program. Thank you to all of you who feed out purple bin and ensure that we keep looking after the environment. Thank you to Battery World for supporting the school and the environment.

*cheers Jane Termaat Principal,*

## Councillor Margaret Cochrane

Life in Council world is really quite brisk this month with the Mayor away. I have enjoyed the challenge. Councillors have been involved in Budget workshops with several more to be held yet. Then first sessions are information gathering so as informed decisions can be made when all scenarios are presented. The budget seems to get more difficult each year with further responsibilities being put on Councils from the upper levels of Government.

In the end someone has to pay and it is you and I who have to pick up the tab for the loss of funding from the other levels of Government, with the local economy the way it is, the levels of unemployment and underemployment, and the ability for some of the residents to pay, it presents Council with a real challenge to strike an affordable budget for the community to face.

The payment of Rates can be made in several ways. The traditional way of lump sum by the due date is only one form of payment. Residents can pre-pay their Rates by either direct debit

arrangements or even regular payments over the counter as your budget allows. If residents are experiencing difficulty Council has a process to assist, if you are in this category please give me a ring and I will give further information on this process. Payment of Rates after the due date by instalments can attract the interest penalty, so it is always better to prepay your Rates if you find the lump sum method difficult to achieve.

Just a reminder that if you require attention to a matter or issue, always contact the Call Centre 24/7, 4044 3044 and have your request logged, or place your request on the website [www.cairns@qld.gov.au](http://www.cairns@qld.gov.au) and go to "Contact us".

If you need to speak to me, my office number is 4044 2080, or my mobile 0419 706 372, please leave a message as I have several meetings and workshops these days and am not always at the end of the phone.

Hope to see you at the Community Association meeting,

*Kind regards, Margaret*

### 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  
Thomas 0438 555 928

#### Cairns War Games

Saturdays 9am - 4pm  
Conor 0429 820 971

#### Martial Arts

Tuesdays 6.30 - 7.30pm  
Thursdays 5.30 - 6.30pm  
Jamie 0450 102 894

#### Beach Song Circle

Tuesday 7.30 - 9pm  
Pamela 0466 631 392

#### Ball Room Dancing

Fridays 7 - 9pm  
Chris 0415 956 923

#### Yoga

Tuesdays 5.15 to 6.30pm  
Fridays 5.30 - 6.30pm  
Martha 4055 9538

#### Community Association

2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in every month 7.30pm  
Carol 0428 326 813

#### Hall Bookings

Deryck 4055 9397

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

Machanations is an independent newsletter for the community of Machans Beach and is published every month except January.

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