

MACHANATIONS

www.machansbeach.net/machanations

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Contact – Pippy 4055 0907

Due to Cyclone Yasi the February issue of Machanations was blown away, this was the first time Machanations has missed an issue in 17 years. To streamline things we have decided to make this issue the February / March combined issue.

HEART FELT THANKS

Daiji, Wendy & Rod at the Machans Beach General Store deserve a special mention for their concern and thoughtfulness during the recent cyclone crisis.

Not only have they invested heavily in the infrastructure and therefore future of Machans Beach, they have shown that they are mindful of what an important social function the "servo" serves.

Maintaining the shop in full operation during a period without power was a great service to the community allowing access to fresh milk, petrol, and the essential supplies of ice, along with the general goods that the shop usually provides.

It was the little extras, however, that spoke volumes of their community spirit. Constantly updated information about the expected return of services was posted on the shop windows. The BBQ available for anyone to cook on if they had no access to gas cooking services was a nice touch but even more crucial to many was the provision of a power board at the front of the store for free charging of mobile phones, laptops or mp3 players. In our increasingly connected world, this connectivity with the outside world was what people really missed.

If community spirit means anything, we should all support our local store in the months and years to come as they have supported us

Barry

Cairns Airport - Land Use Plan

The Draft Land Use Plan December 2010 for the Cairns Airport which is available at the Airport Administration Centre or online at www.cairnsairport.com.au/Corporate/Land-Use-Plan.aspx mentions a large shopping complex and acquisition of more land to accommodate the second runway.

A large area of Mangrove Wetland would need to be cleared to make this possible. The Mangroves are a vital nursery which helps support the Natural Environment, Recreational Fishing Industry, Commercial Fishing Industry and our Tourism Industry. Reducing the floodplain of the Barron River by yet more bund walls has implications for low lying residential areas in the vicinity. The second runway would cut across Cinderella Street putting planes right over the top of Machans Beach.

If the Cairns Airport needs to expand to meet future demands I suggest that Mangrove Wetland is not the place to do it.

Rob

February Community Association Meeting

The closing date for submissions opposing the Cairns Airport Land Usage Plan has passed and the Community Association, along with some private individuals, will have lodged in time.

These submissions are primarily to oppose the building of a parallel runway on the seaward side of the current airstrip, as any second runway will direct air traffic immediately overhead Machans Beach.

The other issues involve the bulldozing of a significant area of mangroves which currently are a buffer for cyclone and storm surge activity.

The Community Association will organise a "single focus" meeting at the hall, at this stage planned for 14th April, with representatives from State Government, local government, Cairns Airport Pty Ltd, and residents. You are encouraged to come to that meeting as a show of support, to air any pertinent concerns or views, or to simply be better informed.

Carol

Mayor Val

I would like to commend all the people of Machans Beach on their responses to Cyclone Yasi. This was the biggest cyclone known to have hit Australia and it's clear that people took the warnings seriously and made arrangements to ensure their safety.

Commiserations to Jess on having her waterfront premises flooded and brickbats to the sightseers who drove too fast along the esplanade swamping more water into her rented home and those of neighbours when the drain blocked up with sand.

I've had feedback from people concerned about not being able to take their pets to any of the evacuation centres and it's clear that we need to identify a centre that is animal friendly. Whilst we need to recognise that some people don't want to share an evacuation centre with animals, we know that responding to disaster events is stressful for people and it's made worse if they have to worry about beloved pets at the same time.

We all felt very lucky and relieved the morning after Yasi and our hearts go out to our southern neighbours who have a long, long clean up and rebuild of their homes and lives ahead of them.

Val

DATE CLAIMERS

Community Association	7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 10 th March	(John 4055 0653)
Neighbourhood Watch	7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 10 th March	(John 4055 0653)
Friends of Dungarra / Redden Island.....	Contact Rob 0432 287 032	
SES.....	7.30pm at HQ, Keith Edwick Park, Every Wednesday (Duty Officer 4055 9277)	
Machans School Permaculture Garden..	Contact the School to be involved. 4055 9410	
Sports Club - Drinks & Live Music.....	6.00 – 10.00pm, 2 nd Friday of the month	
Sports Club - Music Sessions & BBQ	3.00 - 10.00pm – 1 st Saturday of the month	(Dan 4055 0069)
School P & C.....	At the school, for date and time see School newsletter	(Dave 4055 0365)

MACHANS BEACH STATE SCHOOL

PERMACULTURE GARDEN

Last year the Cairns Permaculture Garden group did a fantastic job setting up the Machans Beach State School Community Permaculture Garden. I am sure you would agree, for those who supported this program, that it is beautiful indeed. Since then the garden has been handed over to the school and is now incorporated into our learning program.

The edible delights that the garden produces are also incorporated into our healthy eating and nutrition program, with the students very excited about tasting the things they have grown.

It is therefore very disappointing to find that the bananas and pumpkins they have been monitoring are being picked

by others as are many of the other vegetables and fruits. The garden is not a free market to anyone who may want to access it. We believe that this is not fair to the teachers, students and the programs we are using as well as the registered volunteers who have spent many hours in it.

As the school is now managing the garden, we are requesting that community members who are interested in helping us to contact the office for permission to enter the school grounds and for a copy of our guidelines – ph 40559410 -. We do not wish to discourage interested families from helping out but we do have clear guidelines which we ask everyone to respect. Thank you for supporting the students and staff of the school. *Jane*

Welcome back to School

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday and made the most of the break. A special welcome also to all our new families, returning families and friends who have chosen our great little school for their child/children. At present we have 110 focused and hardworking students and 5 full time, dedicated and motivated teachers.

Our prep students have had a very good start to year and are already demonstrating how ready they are for learning in a slightly more formalised setting. Well done to the parents who have prepared them so well for school.

We have an exciting year planned ahead and we are looking forward to achieving the goals we have set for your children, the curriculum and the school. I look forward to your continued support throughout the year and hope we can work together to ensure Machans Beach State School continues to do the best for all our students. *Jane*

Barr's Creek

There has been recent discussion about the fate of Barr's Creek and whether the mouth should be opened up by council or left to "natural" processes. Our intervention in the flows of the Barron River and encroachment of Barr's Creek surrounds have changed the nature and operation of the creek substantially over a short time. Barr's creek used to be big enough and deep enough to offer refuge to trawlers during bad weather in the 50's and 60's before the full impact of Tinaroo Dam and its effects on water flow became apparent.

The dynamics of the system, including substantial silting, has reduced the water capacity of the creek to the point where, on occasions, the flow from the mouth can be overwhelmed by sand movements during rough weather. Barr's Creek's headwaters are surrounded by cane farming and the northern side now receives substantial stormwater

inflows from Holloway's Beach, severely compromising its "natural" status. When good rains arrive, the nutrient levels in the creek can quickly increase leading to algal bloom which has, and will again, kill off everything in that system larger than a guppy if the mouth is closed at the time of the inflows.

Both sides of the mouth are now also rocked in so the assertion that the system is natural and should be subject to natural processes is laudable but misguided. The system is necessarily a managed system and the health of the creek through the quality of its water needs the mouth to be kept open. The suggestion that we should remove the rock wall from the beachfront and let the beach be subject to "natural" processes is not one that would receive much credence or support. Why should our attitude be any different to the environment of Barr's Creek? *Barry*

Another Quiet Contributor

A few weekends ago I was helping celebrate the birthday of a good friend when I walked a Machans resident that I hadn't seen or spoken with for some time. In fact, I thought he'd fled the community never to be seen again. In discussion with my old acquaintance I discovered that he was actually in the process of moving from the community after losing his beloved wife to cancer last year and feeling quite different about the life he was now living.

Alan Andrewartha has been a resident of Machans beach for the past 21 years. During this time he operated his home based music recording studio "sound barrier audio" in Saw St with his wife and best mate Marilyn. Most people know Alan as a well established musician and recording engineer/producer.

Others are also aware that both Alan and Marilyn were quiet contributors to the wellbeing and cohesiveness that Machans Beach residents have come to enjoy over the years. This was particularly evident in the mid to late 1990's with their timely and professional support of the Machans activities group (mags). It would be a mistake if the memories of goodwill and generosity shown by these fellow Machanites were to leave the community with Alan when he drives out into his new life in a week or so. On behalf of everybody who has benefited from your kindness and warm spirit, thank you, your actions have contributed to the level of safety and vibrancy that we all enjoy but sometimes take for granted in this great little village.

Good luck mate. Peter

MACHANS BEACH STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

CYCLONE YASI - Severe Tropical Cyclone Yasi was a Category 5 cyclone. It crossed between Mission Beach and Tully in the late hours of Wednesday night and continued early into Thursday morning. The core of this cyclone was estimated to have a maximum wind gust of 285km/h. TC Yasi caused significant structural damage to the beachside community of Cardwell, with the storm surge associated with the Cyclone causing severe damage to infrastructure including the Bruce Highway, cutting access at Cardwell. TC Yasi also caused extensive damage to Tully, Mission Beach, Kurrimine Beach and other localities between Cairns and Townsville.

The New Year has certainly started with a bang. Locally, over 500 sandbags were issued and filled by anxious residents, even some from Yorkeys Knob and Cairns. Two additional loads of sand were requested to satisfy the demand and an additional 1,000 sandbags were ordered. If you have inadvertently taken the shovel left at the sand pile for community use, it would be appreciated if it could be returned. We also erected two 'Water over Road' signs – one has been souvenired. It would also be appreciated if the sign could be returned to the SES; otherwise a Police report will be filed. These items of equipment are provided to assist the community and for safety – the interfering with these items may jeopardise the community at a critical time. A crane was ordered and used to assist with the removal of two large trees fallen on two residences. Machans Beach fared quite well - we are very lucky. The return of sandbags is welcome so that they may be recycled.

Cyclone Yasi - Tully Assistance - 5 members travelled to Tully to assist in the recovery operations. It makes you appreciate what you have when you see the destruction in



other areas. Our tasks included tarping, chain sawing, and assisting elderly with clean ups. One person also assisted at Kurrimine Beach.

Floods – Southern Regions - The major floods down south, especially around Rockhampton and Emerald, drew heavily on the resources of SES. Two members from our Unit gave up five days of their time to assist in Emerald.

Team Building - Machans Beach members together with Cairns Members participated in a battle of Skermish or Paintball to finish 2010 and let off some steam.

Operation Rudolph - Members again participated in this now annual charity drive for worthwhile organisations. Thank you to those who got in the spirit and donated to these causes.

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

Thank You SES Machans Beach for being there for the Community during cyclone Yasi and at many other times. Being able to source sandbags locally and at no charge is a huge bonus for Machans Beach. I'm sure many residents noticed you around the streets during the cyclone clean up as well. You are there when we need you the most.

Thank You.

Lights! Camera! Action?

There was movement under the tree of knowledge and word was passed around that they were filming a TV ad in Machans Beach the next day. Details were hazy - \$200 for just turning up? \$700 if you jag a speaking part?! It sounded like they wanted "extras", or as I prefer, background performing artists and I have experience!

In the "Thin Red Line", in full battle dress, under blazing sun, I had to carry a marine to safety. It was only 50 metres but he was a good 100kg plus. On about the 7th "take" I brought up lunch. Not the idea, the food. Just to add some polish to the performance, it was right in front of the portable "Gazebo" used by the director and his "stars".

War is bloody but the real carnage went on in the editing room. Some "extras", working for 6 months, were not even glimpsed on film. I felt the Mossman Council could have erected THE BIG SCISSORS to those who fell.

Years ago I played the role of a dead convict, lying for 11 hours next to a

Lake in a Sydney winter, spears protruding and continually being smeared with fish to attract flies to my rotting corpse. I remembered my drama teacher's words....."you have to live the part". All I needed was rigor mortis.

Talent call was 4.30 at the airport lights. The next day coming into Machans I noticed people and vehicles near the lights. It was 4.15 so I raced home, put some clothes in a bag, and even packed a razor in case they didn't like the mongrel look - for \$200 I'd have 5 shaves! Coming up to the school the incoming Sunbus told me I was later than I thought, unless ... the bus was on time?! What the heck, we're on Machans time, what's 40 minutes? Val Kilmer kept an entire cast and crew waiting for 2 days!

Pretty soon it would be Lights! Camera! Action! I could see myself, feet apart, standing firm, pointing to the sky "Look it's an aeroplane!"

On the last stretch I noticed a discarded thong, laying face down in the gutter, - then another one further

along, and then yet another one. This one had iconic Aussie animals on it, the end of the road for this tourists thong, "flip - flop", More flop than flip. Maybe these people suffer from MONOSOCKITIS..... You know, if you have 10 socks and cannot find a pair then chances are you suffer from THE BIG M.

A thought; what happens to the remaining thong? I haven't seen many walking about with just one on. Do they keep it as a spare? But that's silly, "Won't be a sec, forgot my spare thong, in case I have a blow out". Perhaps this is the Bermuda triangle for thongs?

Coming around the bend to catch up with the film crewthey had vanished. No worries, probably down at the other end of the Barron fence. I was hopeful, I had a gut feeling that this short muddy track would earn me \$700.

I really hate it when gut feelings don't produce. Maybe they were all wearing thongs? Frustrating. I just wanted a chance, I could have been a contender!

Geoff

December COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS

We had a great attendance at the December meeting – 20 members and 4 visitors. Thank you all for the effort. A précis of each of the presentations by our guest speakers follows:

Tammy Allen, Qld Health, Cairns Public Health Unit - Tammy delivered feedback on the recent project to clean up yards of dengue breeding sites prior to the wet season. Stats were discussed on costings, what went into the skips, community feedback, and results. A meeting with Council is planned to decide on sustainable ways to continue some form of breeding site eradication.

Sylvia Conway, Project Manager, Barron Delta Community Engagement Plan - Sylvia had an excellent vegetation map of the Barron River catchment area from 2007 available for viewing (a copy of which we have been promised!). The project will engage 6 local land care and community groups in the restoration of the Barron Delta. Two members from the Community Association volunteered to be on the Steering Committee which will meet approx 3 times/year with the first meeting loosely planned for mid-February.

- Rob Williams will represent Friends Of Redden Island
- Cathy Archer will represent the Machans Beach Community Association.

Sue Lockwood, Corporate Planner, Cairns Regional Council - Sue explained the legislative requirements for local councils regarding Community Plans, the duration, and what the scope entails. She encouraged members to participate in the on-line forum set up on the Council website to register their thoughts and aspirations for their communities into the next 20 years and beyond. Sue also stressed the importance of registering thoughts on what we DO NOT want in addition to what we do want. What's your vision for the next 20 years? Go to: <http://yoursay.cairns.qld.gov.au>

If you don't have electronic access yourself, any of the Council Libraries have computer facilities and library staff are conversant with this forum. You can also pick up a postage-paid postcard from Russell at the Post Office if you would prefer to write your response and send in.

**Next Community Association meeting
Thursday 10th March at 7:30pm**

Our Councillor Margaret Cochrane

Hello to you all at Machans Beach! What a beginning of a year we have had, thankfully we were spared the full brunt of Yasi and our thoughts and prayers go out to those south of our city who have had their lives completely thrown into upheaval, oh how that could have been us, were you prepared?

I was through the Beach soon after the blow to look at the damage and mess and in particular to look at the rock wall. At the Infrastructure Services Council meeting last Wednesday I moved that Council undertake an assessment of the damage to the beaches and in particular I have mentioned Machans Beach Rock Wall. I have also introduced the condition of the wall at our first Budget workshop to flag that the wall is in desperate need of repair and reconstruction. More news on this as time progresses.

Everyone needs to be very aware of the Dengue possibility with the rain around and residual water in containers around the house, please be Dengue wise and tip out the water to discourage them from breeding in Machans Beach.

Just a reminder that if you need the services of Council please ring the Call Centre 4044 3044, 24/7., I will be involved with meetings and workshops over the next few weeks so if you require immediate attention please ring the call centre, if I can be of assistance to you my office number is 4044 3080, or mobile 0419 706 372,

See you at the Community Association meeting, Margaret

Our State MP Steve Wettenhall

Cyclone Yasi - I would like to commend all Machans Beach residents for the way they prepared for Cyclone Yasi and particularly for their co-operation with evacuation advices. I have inspected the cyclone affected areas including where the storm surge hit hard. The force of storm surge is plain to see. In those places, those that failed to evacuate have lived to tell the tale but regret not leaving as advised. I have documented my experience of Yasi in a diary available on my website www.stevewettenhall.com.au

Insurance - This wet season has been particularly severe and with two months of cyclone season and wet weather to come, now is the time to check your insurance is up to date and that you understand what is covered by your policy. This is particularly important for people who live in areas subject to inundation from storm surge or flood, although storm or rain damage is covered in almost all home and

contents insurance policies, some policies specifically **exclude** floods. Also, the definition of flood varies considerably from insurer to insurer.

Dengue High rainfall this season with more to come creates the ideal conditions for dengue mosquitoes to breed. Please remember to take precautions such as wearing insect repellent and reduce breeding sites that hold freshwater.

Machans Beach School It is good to see enrolments are steady at Machans Beach State School. Best wishes to new and continuing students in 2011. I caught up with the school community at the recent New Year breakfast and inspected the new resource centre just as the new furniture was arriving. Machans School is looking great!

I look forward to catching up with Machanites throughout 2011.

Steve

MACHANS BEACH SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Volunteers will be conducting a survey of residents in Machans Beach. The aim of the survey is to find out to what extent Machans residents have made use of certain technologies such as solar energy, rainwater tanks, compost bins, backyard food production, and grey water irrigation.

The survey will also ask residents on your views on the Sunbus services to Machans. Sunbus is currently reviewing their operations and there is a potential to have more services to Machans Beach if there is a demand for it.

The survey will take place over the next two months.

For any inquiries regarding the survey, please contact Geoff Holland on 0414 062 091 or email GeoffHolland007@gmail.com

Geoff Holland

THE BIG O *Reflections on good times*

Made it to fifty so had a party. Local Machans do. DJ Pirate Whale made the music and while dancing my legs off I looked at the mob and thought "Wow", what a nice group of people. Diesel the dog who lived a few doors down heard the music (sure it wasn't the smell of the food) and settled down near the fire in the middle of the lawn.

It was a long time since I'd been up all night. I could have made an effort to stay up all night on many occasions to show I could do it, but staying up all night was something that happens for better or for worse, not something you make happen.

It was good to see Diesel because I had a dog for thirteen years but she died and I still miss her, so Diesel filled a gap. My dog had only died nineteen years earlier so the memory was still fresh. As most of the party goes shuffled off for an early kip, (all about my age poor things) the night was left to a few clingers who finally left as the Sun lightened the sky and only Diesel and I were left by the fire which had itself snoozed off.

I looked at Diesel and said "Well thanks a lot for coming along mate, but I'm done, I'm hittin' the sack" Diesel got up sniffed in my direction and walked home. Thanks Diesel. A perfect sunrise.

Rob.

Moon over Machans is looking for a new coordinator for 2011.

The event held around September has usually consisted of an afternoon market and an evening celebration of music and dance. We're looking for people/persons with ideas, enthusiasm, ability to organise and a great sense of fun. Interested people should attend the Community Association meeting on Thursday 10th of March to express their interest and share ideas.

Background info can be sought by calling previous coordinator, Mark, on 0438 760 861

Real Food Network in Machans

The Real Food Network is supplying Cairns homes with standard boxes of fresh local fruit and vegies - organic wherever possible.

The Real Food Network operates out of Redlynch State School.

Boxes cost \$40 per week.

We are aiming to try them out. They are said to be good value - direct from the growers.

They require a minimum of 10 boxes to drop off at a node - e.g. Machans Beach. We are thinking of ordering once every two weeks. We can increase to once a week if we are happy.

If you would like to be one of the 10 subscribers give Geoff a call on 0414 062 091 or email GeoffHolland007@gmail.com

WANTED

5kva Generator
Caravan
Rent or Buy
Contact Mark 0438 760 861

Congratulations to Mayor Val, and to the entire Machans Beach Community on an intelligent approach to impending disaster including evacuation plans. I have noticed enormous support at the Beach. Daiji & Wendy especially. The bloke with the chain saw assisting, cooked food being delivered. Everyone checking in on each other. Now we can breathe a sigh of relief for our special Community.

Baby Eden

*A new baby arrived on 6/12/10
to the Orwell family of
Christensen St.*



*Eugene, Monica, Benjamin, Daniel
and now Eden*

Hall Activities March 2011

Kung Fu Junior

Wednesdays 5pm to 6pm
Richard 0409 104 753

Kung Fu Adult

Wednesdays 7pm to 8pm
Richard 0409 104 753

Tai Chi

Wednesday 6 - 7pm
Richard 0409 104 753
Thursday 10 - 11.15 am
Kathryn 4055 0929

Cairns War Games

Saturdays 9am - 4pm
Connor 0429 820 971

Ball Room Dancing

Fridays 7pm - 9pm
Chris 0415 956 923

Can Can Dancing

Fridays 11am - 1pm
Bobin 0427719565

Yoga

Tuesdays 5.15 to 6.30pm
Martha 4055 9538

Community Association

2nd Thursday in every
month 7.30pm
Carol 0428 326 813

Hall Bookings

Bob: 4037 0240



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