

# MACHANATIONS

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

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## THINGS ALIVE IN THE GARDEN

I had an Adventure the other day with a big White-tailed rat who went fishing in a half-empty fish - and-tadpole tub and couldn't get out. By the time I'd fished him out in a net he was bruised sad and shivering so I took him to my friend Chris and hence to a Wildlife carer - he has Australian Citizenship after all ... same evening another unidentified critter had to be rescued, so Tub Is Empty..... beware slippery tubs holding small amounts of water - it's not only Dengue Mosquitoes that may get in..

Bad luck for the fish but I think Ratty had eaten them all! Just looked up the book; my guest was probably Yellow Bellied Water Rat despite a splendidly white tail. He wouldn't let me see his underparts

....an untimely Striped Marsh Frog is calling, watched by a perplexed junior Whitelip.

It's been an uneven season for the frog breeders of David Street, starting splendidly with a big batch of tree frog eggs right at the start of the rains, a huge hatching, much discussion as to their identification as they looked like L. Caeruleas then developed White lips.... But poor survival of our Striped Marsh Frog taddies and few ground-frogs even sighted. The Dwarf Tree frogs who were promiscuous and prolific last year were slow to start breeding towards the end of the Wet then all the froglets, in many colours and patterns, arrived in a rush, but once metamorphed have not stayed around ... but a few late tadpoles are still metamorphing in tiny numbers up till now ... and to me they look smaller than last year's brood. Through the summer we have inevitably fed a varied population of snakes and water-rats and skinks of course who dine on the fruit-flies' food ... or the fish food.... or the water snails ..or the tadpoles... Keeping your gardens moist and pesticide free [and encouraging a few fruit-flies - they don't eat much!] will give the new generation the best chance of surviving through to the next breeding season. *Una*

*Speaking of things in the wonder of nature....While attempting to find my way out of a far corner of Redden Island I almost stepped on a slithery long snake...It was cold and it was wet! Be vigilant. The new shimmering fence going up around Redden island reserve will certainly keep the Bully boy in and not wandering along the beach front...although I suspect he roams along the Barron River for his escapades.*

## OUR ENVIRONMENT



GET

INVOLVED



### THE BARRON DELTA PROJECT

As part of the Barron Delta Community Engagement Project we are pleased to announce two great informative and productive events coming soon to take place in your suburb. Mark these dates in your diary and come along to support our environment and be involved with your great community.

#### MACHANS BEACH UPCOMING EVENTS

**WHEN: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June -8 am**  
**WHAT : Tree Planting**  
**WHERE: Keith Edwick Park / Marshall St**

**WHEN: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July -8 am**  
**WHAT: Bush Tucker Walk with Irukandji  
 Elder George Skeene  
 and Weed ID with Botanist Bob Jago.**  
**WHERE: End of Cinderella St / car park  
 next to toilet block**

**We will end with morning tea under the trees.**

I hope to see you all there. If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

*Sylvia Conway Project Coordinator*  
*sylviac@terrain.org.au 0407 166 234*

### DATE CLAIMERS

Community Association .....	7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	(John 4055 0653)
Neighbourhood Watch .....	7.30pm in the Community Hall, Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	(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 <sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month	
Sports Club - Music Sessions & BBQ .....	3.00 - 10.00.pm – 1 <sup>st</sup> 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 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting was held this month. Office-bearers for the coming year remain the same: John Adams – President; Barry Fitzsimmons – Vice Pres; Bob Birkbeck – Treasurer; Carol Hall – Secretary. All were re-elected unopposed. Membership fees are now due and will cost you the grand sum of \$5.00 for the next year. (AGM to AGM).

The Association has been successful with 2 Gaming Fund grants this year – one from the Premier's special fund for the installation of solar power to the community hall; and the most recent for the upgrade of the hall itself. This will include:

- Restumping,
- Sanding and repolishing of the timber floors,
- Replacing the front steps
- Installing shade awnings to the front window
- Repairing guttering
- Upgrading the service ramp.

The solar panels should be installed by July, and work will commence on the hall upgrade as soon as practical.

**Next meeting is Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30pm** in the hall.

We invite you to attend (and bring your \$5 along so you get a full year for your dollars!) Carol

## Machans Beach Dengue Clean-Up 2010

Many of you would have participated in the Machans Beach Dengue Clean-up at the end of October last year. The aim of this event was to increase awareness of how to prevent dengue fever and to mobilise the community into action. An overview of the outcomes was given at the Community Association Meeting in December. For those who were not present at this meeting, here is a summary:

- This event was organised by a subgroup of the Machans Beach Community Association in conjunction with the Cairns Public Health Unit
- Fourteen skips were placed around Machans Beach over 2 days
- 6374 items were thrown into skips
- The majority of these items were palm fronds - which can breed dengue mosquitoes
- The rest of the items were primarily green waste and other household items - which tend to become breeding sites if left outside

- Approx 197 tyres removed from Machans Beach - tyres are a prolific breeding site
- Backyard inspections (102) showed a decrease in potential breeding sites – 172 containers gone, 40 tyres compared to pre-event inspection

Subsequent meetings with the council have opened up discussions around a more sustainable way for the community to get rid of green waste particularly leading up to the wet season every year. The council already has a free green waste removal service they provide once a year – but is this enough? It is ultimately up to the community to all do their bit to clean up their own backyards and not spread dengue fever in their neighbourhood.

Email [tammy.allen@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:tammy.allen@health.qld.gov.au) if you would like to read the full report.

Tammy

## Machans Beach State Emergency Service

**Search for Declan continues.** Members have spent another weekend participating in a land search of scrub and mangroves around Machans Beach – with assistance from Mossman, Buchans Point, Kuranda, Holloways Beach, Cairns and Edmonton. Members from the Mareeba Stock Squad with their horses also participated. There are many posters around – please get involved and notify Police if you are able to help in any way. Declan is somewhere.



**Member Rewards.** The Great Northern Brewing Co has donated beer to the SES to distribute to members who have participated in the recovery efforts. Locally, many members were surprised to be offered a box of beer for their efforts.

**Training.** There has been a change in training prior requirements for many Courses. They have been drastically reduced making it much quicker and easier for members to attend specialist or functional area courses.

**132 500 – Flood Storm Emergency**

### PO NEWS

There is a rumour around that a herd of elephants will arrive at the Post Office shortly, so....if elephants are your thing come have a look. I have a wide range of incense available which includes mozzie and sand fly repellents, these smell soooo much better than mozzie coils and work just as well.

This is perfect T-shirt weather so why not wear your Machans t-shirt, these come in a wide range of sizes up to xxl, all the xxxl and over are now sold, but can be reordered if required.

If there are products for your office that you are constantly running into town for, why not try the Post Office first. If I don't have it in stock I can arrange to carry it for you. I have access to just about anything to do with the office, so why not come in and browse the dogologue for gear that you need.

Russell

**Vacancy.** We have vacancies for Land Search members. Are you are interested in bush walking or even camping out as part of the Tracking Team? – yes there is a Land Search Course and a Tracking Course. If the outdoors is for you, contact the number below.

**Did Confucius really say that?** There are three kinds of people. Those who *make* things happen; those who *watch* things happen and those who *wonder* what happened. Ask yourself - *Which kind are you?* (Are you happy with the answer?) Make things happen - become a member of the SES.

**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.

### Temporary Radar



Image of the temporary radar currently situated at Cecil Park in Sydney and to be constructed at the Northern end of the Radar Field in Machans Beach.

# Steve and Vicky's wedding

19 March 2011 WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT???

Congratulations to long time locals and friends Vicki and Steve who tied the knot on the 19/03/2011. The bride looked stunning in her white (YES THATS RIGHT EVERYONE WHITE) dress and the groom ohh so stylish decked out in Ralph Lauren. Due to bad weather the wedding took place in a very romantic little cottage and not on the beach as planned but it was a perfect day. After they see this article they will probably never speak to me again as my mother hates having her photo taken so I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the love and happiness they deserve.

*Nadine*



## Barron Delta Community Engagement

The Machans Beach Group has five projects on the go. A big one that has many concerned is the Cairns Airport's planned expansion which would impact on 85 hectares of Mangrove Wetlands and increase the risk of flooding to Machans Beach due to the construction of bund walls. The perceived need for a shopping centre (hardly core airport business) creates the need to remove endangered coastal habitat. The other four projects are more like fun.

- Asking for help from the Barron Delta Community Engagement Project to help identify land tenure and boundaries so that we can revegetate some cleared land that is part of the Barr Creek catchment.
- Get a botanist to help us identify some of the trees on Redden Island so that we can provide some signage to add to the designated walking tracks.
- Tree planting for council land which is actually a creek line that joins into Tea Tree Park.
- We are seeking council approval to create a wildlife corridor that will connect a natural lagoon at the northern end of the radar field to the mangrove forest of Barr Creek.

We need to do some more work to convince Council that the last two points are worthy projects.

We look forward to working on the last four projects when the formalities are sorted.

*Machans Beach Mob by Rob Williams*

**See the front page for dates and times of upcoming events**

## Cr Margaret Cochrane

The months are flying by and the cooler weather and glorious days as with us.

Congratulations on the Community Association Committee who we re-elected at the AGM at the last meeting. This committee has done a grand job under the baton of John with Barry, Carol and Bob by his side. Council is trying to do catch up now that the weather has cleared and enabling the crews to get the reseal and bitumen programme completed without rain, it was pleasing to see Machans Street get a reseal, it sure is a nice entry into the beach. The Rock wall is my priority for the rest of this year, could you ensure you contact me if there are any "unusual holes" appearing in the wall or behind it, these need to be attend to immediately so would appreciate calls on this.

Remember if you require assistance form Council ring the call centre, 4044 3044, 24/7 and get your issue, urgent or not, logged for action. If you wish to speak to me, my office number is 4044 3080 or mobile 0419 706 372, always leave a message as I have numerous meetings these days and not always at the end of the phone.

*Enjoy the weather, see you at the MBCA meeting, Margaret*

## Steve Wettenhall MP

**COASTAL PROCESSES FORUM** Thanks to all those Machanites who came to the coastal processes forum I convened at the Holloways Beach Environmental Education Centre. We heard from Queensland's foremost experts on coastal planning and beach protection. We discussed beach erosion and replenishment, cyclone and storm inundation, sea levels and the role of mangroves. Did you know: the main reason Machans Beach has been starved of sand is because the Barron River changed its course after a major flood in the 1950's. Stay tuned to my website for further information

**BARRON RIVER QUEENSLAND DAY AWARDS** This year I will be again be holding the Barron River Queensland day awards In Yorkeys to honour constituents who have served our community through volunteering. Recipients are nominated by their peers and need not be from an organisation, it could be a helpful neighbour or friend. Please visit my website to download the form [www.stevewettenhall.com.au](http://www.stevewettenhall.com.au).

*Steve*

## Machans Beach State School

**SHOWCASE AWARD** On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, I attended the Regional Showcase Awards Presentation at Cairns West State School. We have entered Showcase for the past four years and have always received an honourable mention but never been the winner. This year, I am proud to say, WE WON the "Excellence in middle Phase of Learning". The submission was based on our Sustainability practices and messages which we encourage everyone to do every day. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of June our submission will go to Brisbane for the State awards, with the winners announced on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July.

### SOME DATES COMING UP WICH YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

3<sup>rd</sup> June -The whole school will celebrate Queensland Day. Qld Day is actually Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> but with other commitments in the following week we decided to acknowledge how great it is to be a Queenslander on the Friday.

7<sup>th</sup> of June we will have the official opening ceremony of our school's new building. Interested community members are invited to attend. The proceedings will commence at 9am.

*Till next month, Jane Termaat, Principal.*

### Hall Activities

#### June 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 Meeting

Thursday 9th 7.30pm

Carol 0428 326 813

### Hall Bookings

Bob: 4037 0240



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

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**Steve Wettenhall MP, State Member for Barron River**