

B L I B L I

BULLETIN

ISSUE 41 | WINTER 2021



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Bli Bli

"Our River Community"

The Bli Bli Public Hall & Community Association Inc is the parent organisation of Bli Bli's own local Magazine, distributed FREE to Bli Bli and the surrounding district.
PO Box 1, Bli Bli 4560

ADVERTISING
ads@bilibli.qld.au

Editorial contributions welcome
editor@bilibli.qld.au

Bli Bli Public Hall & Community Association Inc Meetings
7.30 - 9.00pm

Third Tuesday each month
Bli Bli Public Hall

All Residents are welcome.
secretary@bilibli.qld.au

Hall Bookings & Old Church
Bookings: 0427 635 558

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BrandGrowth - 0431 771 059

Front cover image -
Karen Simpson's Photography

A MESSAGE FROM THE BLI BLI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

What a wonderful time of the year Winter is in Bli Bli, the days are shorter but as it dries out and the skies are clear, the stars are abundant and the evenings are cooler. We are lucky to be living in this part of the world, where we are free to enjoy the local environment which has so much to offer from the river to the parks. Make sure you take some time to get out and about and visit some of the parks, take a walk and check out the new boardwalk which follows an old train line down to the river, or take a trip on the river.

Winter also means that it is strawberry season and our very own local strawberry farm, McMartins is back open selling strawberries, ice creams, jams, coffee and other goodies. So make sure you take the family out to the farm, pick your own strawberries and treat the kids to a yummy ice cream.

At the May meeting of the Community Association Cr Maria Suarez provided a detailed update as to the progress of the review to the amendment to the town plan. Basically the review is still being progressed and we won't receive any feedback until later in the year.

Both the Old Hall and Old Church are at capacity use now with very little space available other than Saturday afternoons and evenings. Both buildings offer a great opportunity for small groups to offer a variety of activities to our local community. At the back of the Bulletin is a whats on page that provides further information as to the groups that meet with contact details. Next edition we will highlight some of these groups with stories and photos of their activities.

Many not for profit groups are experiencing a similar problem to that which the Community Association faces and that is that it is difficult to fill some of the key roles in not for profit groups. The secretary and treasurer role seems to be a challenge for many groups to be able to find anyone to fill those roles. The concern is that with the lack of support that many not for profit groups won't be able to continue. So a solution needs to be found quickly before many of the groups disappear altogether.

Next edition for Spring closes for submissions to the editor and advertising on Monday 16 August 2021

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AN UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL STATE MEMBER, DAN PURDIE MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

Recently, we celebrated the role of an extraordinary group of people in our community – volunteers. I took the opportunity to showcase just a few of them throughout the week, including the many different roles they play in our schools. A shout-out to the terrific team at the Busy Bee Café at Bli Bli State School, where I dropped in and helped out for a few hours. The Bli Bli community is lucky to be supported by so many volunteers in so many fields, from our local service and community clubs, to schools, aged care and the environment, to the many different sports clubs, who all rely on volunteers to exist. A huge thank you to you all.

GOOD SAMARITAN COLLEGE

It was a great honour to be part of the official blessing and opening of Stage 2 at Good Samaritan College. It seems like only yesterday I was at the College when the first sod was turned, which now boasts 625 students, and nearly 70 staff. The new buildings include primary and secondary classrooms, specialty labs, and a library. Congratulations to the entire college community on this impressive milestone.

FREE JP SERVICE

Need an important document certified, or your signature witnessed? Don't forget my office now offers a free JP service on the first and third Wednesday of every month, from 1pm-4pm. Appointments are essential, so contact the office on 5406 7900 or email ninderry@parliament.qld.gov.au to book.

GRANT FUNDING

The latest round of the Gambling Community Benefits Fund is now open, with applications closing 30 June, 2021. Don't miss out on this popular funding program, which has seen close to \$1million shared between local clubs and groups in the Ninderry electorate since in the past three years.

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING

Last month, the State Government tabled legislation to establish voluntary assisted dying. I strongly believe this is a matter beyond politics, and I have always said I would seek the views of my community before making a decision. Shortly, I will be sending residents a short survey on this important issue, and I encourage you to take this opportunity to share your views. You can find a copy of the draft legislation on my website, at www.danpurdie.com.au.

Hard copies of the survey will also be available at my office.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Dan Purdie MP
 Member for Ninderry



SOLAR POWERED FOOTBALL FOR A SELF SUFFICIENT FUTURE

We all agree the best place to live is in the Sunshine Coast with its natural beauty and the 300+ days a year of sun. So what better way to utilise the greatest natural resource we have then through solar power. As you are all aware the cost of electricity can be a huge drag on anyone's finances and seems to increase every year, here at BBUFC it's no different with the cost being a large proportion of our expenses.

But not anymore, BBUFC have gone green!! Well not literally we will still be the proud wearers of the Queensland maroon, but the canteen, clubhouse and floodlights will have a tinge of green to them now we have installed a 10kw solar inverter with accompanying panels. These were all installed by our good friends at Solar Air Energy who were extremely accommodating with their service by giving us the option of tilt brackets ensuring we could be as efficient as possible.

Such an important endeavour would never have been possible without the proud sponsorship of Sunshine Coast Council's grant program so a big thank you goes out to them for supporting our ambition of going green.

However its not just the council that is ready to help us here at BBUFC, we are also pleased to proudly announce our sponsors...



This project has been proudly supported by Sunshine Coast Council's grants program



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What this means for all at BBUFC is we can now spend even more of our income on playing equipment, grounds maintenance and clubhouse facilities to ensure your experience at BBUFC is as enjoyable as possible. So look out for the new smarter, sharper playing kit being supplied soon, proudly advertising these sponsors until 2024!

Once again a big THANK YOU to those local businesses for their support.

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MORE LAND DEDICATED TO RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION WITHIN BLUE HEART

SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL HAS SECURED THREE ADDITIONAL LAND PARCELS WITHIN OUR REGION'S STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSET, BLUE HEART SUNSHINE COAST.

The land, located on River Road, Maroochy River adds more than 38 hectares to the quantum of land in the Blue Heart that is already in public ownership.

Importantly, these three lots will expand council's existing Coolum Creek Environment Reserve to more than 433 hectares – which is the equivalent of approximately 860 football fields.

The expansion of council's reserve builds on the Blue Heart partner landholdings, including the surrounding Unitywater owned Yandina Creek Wetland and State Government's Coolum Creek Conservation Park.

Sunshine Coast Council Mayor Mark Jamieson said Blue Heart Sunshine Coast was one of the most significant, long term environmental assets for our region and council's continuing approach to maintaining this area for its intended purposes would be an enduring legacy for current and future generations.

"When I launched Blue Heart Sunshine Coast with the former Minister for Environment and Unitywater on 24 July 2019, I made the point that this is yet another real action by our council and its partners to improve the sustainability of our region for generations to come – as well as providing opportunities for our community in the face of a changing climate," Mayor Jamieson said.

"The Blue Heart is an area of more than 5,000 hectares within the Maroochy River Catchment and everyone who has ever lived here – from the peoples of the Kabi Kabi First Nation to the landowners today – know that this area has significant environmental and natural flood plain characteristics.

"It's an area where responsible land and water management will showcase – and deliver – exemplary environmental, social and economic outcomes.

"Extending our landholdings within the Blue Heart, as we have done by acquiring these three properties, enables our council to create new habitat through land restoration and to plan for recreational access for the whole Sunshine Coast community.

"These new properties will consolidate and expand the surrounding public lands and provide a connected habitat corridor for our native plants and animals to thrive – including strengthening our state and nationally recognised Maroochy-Noosa Wallum biodiversity corridor.

"This places us well on the path to achieving our environmental objectives for this project.

"This area may also provide opportunities to investigate and deliver water quality improvements and nutrient reduction to improve catchment, waterway and beach health as well as improving our ability to protect the Maroochy floodplain, and its intended role and function as a flood preservation area," Mayor Jamieson said.

Division 9 and Environment and Liveability Portfolio Councillor Maria Suarez said these additional purchases within the Blue Heart

area would be a great asset to the environment and liveability of our region.

"These lands build on the important work done already through Blue Heart Sunshine Coast, and will contribute to delivering the environmental, social and economic co-benefits the project seeks to achieve, in line with the intent of council's Environment and Liveability Strategy," Cr Suarez said

"This acquisition also further demonstrates council's commitment to proactively respond to climate change and build our community's resilience as more people choose to live in our region.

"In time, this latest acquisition will provide opportunities to restore estuarine wetland habitat, conduct further research into water quality and develop recreation opportunities such as walking trails our community can access and enjoy.

"Council looks forward to continuing our work with our Blue Heart partners – Unitywater and the Department of Environment and Science – to activate the public lands within the Blue Heart and deliver on the project's objectives."

The three properties have been acquired using the proceeds of the Environment Levy, which is contributed by all ratepayers of the Sunshine Coast.

Visit the website to find out more:
www.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au/blueheart



SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL MAYOR MARK JAMIESON SAID BLUE HEART SUNSHINE COAST WAS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT, LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS FOR OUR REGION AND COUNCIL'S CONTINUING APPROACH TO MAINTAINING THIS AREA FOR ITS INTENDED PURPOSES WOULD BE AN ENDURING LEGACY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS.

* Terms and conditions apply

MAROOCHY RIVER GOLF CLUB

The first thing you notice about Maroochy River Golf Club is the spectacular view to Mount Coolum. Undulating fairways and breathtaking water features sit proudly below one of the most spectacular natural wonders of the Sunshine Coast.

Since opening in June 2015, Maroochy River Golf Club has really blossomed into a world class destination, with an impressive average of 75,000 rounds per year.

The Graham Marsh-designed layout will challenge all level of players and leave you wanting to come back for more. When Marsh designed and built Maroochy River he promised a gutsy (risk-and-reward) course, and he certainly delivered.

The course is rated #54 in Australia's Top 100 Public Access Courses, and is named in Australia's Top 100 Golf Courses debuting at #76.

At Maroochy River there is one superb hole after another, featuring stunning drives and greens protected by bunkers, plenty of water and a family of black swans if you are lucky enough to see them.

Profoundly different to any other course in Queensland, the links-style layout winds its way through strategic waterways and wetlands. It has matured beautifully and is described by members and visitors alike as an "awesome experience".

"We have many repeat visitors who just love the place," said general manager Charlie McGill.

The course has held 8 State titles and 2 National titles including the 2019 Australian Mens Senior Amateur Championships. The Schweppes PGA Legends Pro-Am will be a featured 2-day event on the calendar for 2021.

For those golfers who enjoy warming up before a round, Maroochy River has excellent practice facilities. Just like the golf course, it has that wow factor. There are annual passes for the driving range which cost \$149.00. This gives you heaps of discounts including 30% off range ball prices, discounted golf lessons, facilities golf card for Pro Shop discounts and many other benefits.

After your game, head to the Cane Cutters Bar & Bistro. The modern clubhouse, which has magnificent views north to Mt Coolum, will delight any visitor especially at sunset, sipping on a cocktail, or enjoying great food at a great price, all in a Covid safe environment.

MINI GOLF

A fun addition to the club is a Mini Golf Course, which is open 7 days from 9am until late. It has been described as one of the best in Australia and has proven to be very popular. This is a great way to let the family have some fun too, the kids will love it. The facility is fully licenced and floodlit for all day play.

If you are thinking of having a party, (and they are currently catering for every type of party – children's & adult birthdays, special occasions, work parties, fundraising, corporate events), the Cane Cutters Catering crew can offer all sorts of food options for your mini golf event.

Families, as well as people of all ages, love coming out in the fresh air, having some drinks on the bean bags, staying for a pizza or snack. The mini golf course is open from 9.00am every day until late. Game costs are just \$15 for adults, children \$10. A family of 4 is only \$40.00 7 days a week, and their 9" pizza specials are only \$10 on Thursday nights from 4pm.

We invite locals to come and enjoy the facilities at Maroochy River Golf Club. You won't be disappointed. Let's play!

MORE INFORMATION:

Maroochy River Golf Club
374 David Low Way, Bli Bli, Sunshine Coast, Queensland
Phone: (07) 5373 1000 Pro shop: (07) 5457 0900
www.maroochyrivergolf.com.au



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MISSION STATEMENT

Bli Bli State School inspires children to confidently contribute to our dynamic world through strong foundations of commitment, creativity, character and community.



Bli Bli Business Community Digs Deep to Support School Hall Extension and Refurbishment

The \$1.5 million Bli Bli State School hall extension and refurbishment program is one step closer to completion thanks to the generous support of the school's P&C as well as long term members of the local business community.

School principal Gerard Quinn said back in 2015 a combined school and P & C project list was established following consultation throughout the school community and by 2017 a full extension and refurbishment of the hall had risen to the top of the list.

Today as the finishing touches of the hall nears completion, Mr Quinn looks back fondly on the project which can now accommodate over 1000 people and host a range of indoor and outdoor events for the school as well as the broader community.

"We were fortunate to receive a Government Grant for \$515,000 and that has been matched by the school's hard working P&C along with local business identities including Roz and Michael White from Whites Super IGA and Bli Bli Village, Ed and Natasha Hackenberg from Ray White Bli Bli as well as the developers of Parklakes 1 and 2 Peter Shadforth and Robert Flipp.

"The Bli Bli Community Association, chaired by Chris Baker, have also been with us all the way and it's that level of support which has helped us to fund a state of the art performance stage and audio visual, dual directional performance mode suitable for inside the hall audience and out the rear stage to an open air amphitheatre," Mr Quinn said.

While the school hall is fully functional, future funding is currently underway to finesse aspects of the facility by undertaking a sound dampening upgrade, the purchase of bulk collapsible chair trolley for under stage as well as AV equipment for music and general learning spaces.

Mr Quinn said that Bli Bli State School had prospered significantly thanks to the ongoing support of the White, Hackenberg, Flipp and

Shadforth families who have all had a long-term association with the Bli Bli area.

"We've seen Bli Bli progress at a rapid rate over the past decade and these families have been at the forefront of this change. There is no doubt that the community will continue to grow so it's pleasing that these local businesses see fit to invest in the local school not just financially but with their time, knowledge and expertise.

"Our student numbers continue to increase year on year and we expect to continue to grow well past our 800 students in the next few years. The school hall is an important facility for our school as it hosts sporting events, cultural events, graduations and assemblies as well as concerts and a school musical every second year. This year's musical 'Shine Your Own Way' has been written by the students of Bli Bli State School and will be performed by over 150 students on 9th and 10th of September.

"The hall plays an important role in bringing our students, teachers and staff together while also opening up the school to the broader community which helps us to future proof the school for generations to come," Gerard said.

To contribute to the Bli Bli School hall redevelopment contact Kyla Bonney (Acting Principal) at Bli Bli State School or email admin@bli bliss.eq.edu.au.



Kyla Bonney,
Principal (Acting)



Rehearsals have started for our school musical, written by and starring our Bli Bli kids!



At Bli Bli State School, our P&C Committee run two businesses - the Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) and the Busy Bee Cafe.

The profits from these businesses are directed back into our school by the P&C towards projects that benefit our students.

The P&C is run by volunteers - mums and dads and aunts and uncles who want the best for their children and so give of their own time to ensure this happens.

We recently celebrated National Volunteer Week as well as National P&C Day.

To our P&C we say thank you. We appreciate all that you do towards projects that benefit our students such as laptops in classrooms, classroom renovations and playgrounds.



Always needed, forever appreciated!

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Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they just have the heart.



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Parents wishing to enrol at Bli Bli State School will need to demonstrate that the student's principal place of residence is within the schools catchment area, or submit an Expression of Interest to enrol. This form can be found on our website.

Please check out our website for details on applying for enrolment at Bli Bli State School. www.blibliss.eq.edu.au



JOIN A PRINCIPAL'S TOUR

EXPERIENCE WHAT Bli Bli STATE SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER YOUR CHILDREN ON A TOUR OF OUR GREAT SCHOOL.

If you are considering enrolling at Bli Bli State School, we encourage you to visit the school for one of our regular Principal's Tours. After your campus tour you are welcome to stay and chat with our staff. All tours commence from the Administration Building of the school.

Book your spot today by contacting the school on 5458 2111.

UPCOMING PRINCIPAL TOURS

Friday, 16 July at 9.15am
 Friday, 13 August at 9.15am
 Wednesday, 25 August at 6pm



WARMING UP IN WINTER

WINTER IS UPON US NOW, AND WE ARE NO DOUBT IN FOR A CHILLY ONE THIS YEAR!

With the colder weather due to really set in over the next month or two, there are a few things that we should keep in mind, as our physical habits and activities can either set us up for success, or put us on a cold and slippery path.

Warming up in the cold weather tends to take longer than when the sun is naturally keeping us warm. As a result, we are also more prone to pushing our bodies too far, too soon. Muscle strains and ligament sprains are more likely to occur without a proper warmup. Taking an extra couple of minutes to get your body moving, will protect against these types of injuries.

Our bodies are less likely to register when we are dehydrated, as we do not feel as inclined to drink water as we would otherwise

be in warmer weather. Making a conscious effort to drink at least some water throughout the day, regardless of how we may feel at the time, will keep us well hydrated and ready to take on the day.

Those of us with previous joint injuries, as well as those of us with arthritis, are far more likely to feel the presence of pain and stiffness in cold weather. Getting up first thing in the morning and moving around can be quite the challenge in winter. The best solution for this is to make sure your joints and muscles are moving well, with a combination of good quality treatment, as well as appropriate active care, be it gentle stretching and mobility, or with stability and strength training.

Winter can be a difficult time of year to navigate, when it comes to keeping our bodies healthy. With the right treatment and advice, however, making it through to Spring will be a breeze.

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THE RISING HEARTWORM THREAT

You may have seen the recent news story on the increasing number of Heartworm cases in South East Queensland. Northern Queensland has been dealing with high levels of infected pets for many years. Unfortunately, infected pets coming into the area can unknowingly be a source of infection. Wildlife can also spread heartworm so it pays to be on the lookout for the early signs.

No owner ever expects their dog to catch deadly heartworm, and the early signs of the disease can easily go unnoticed. In dogs, look for the following:

- Mild persistent cough
- Limited energy or Constant fatigue
- Low appetite
- Weight loss
- and in some cases, abdominal swelling

Cats can also become infected. The most typical early symptoms for cats are:

- Coughing
- Raspy Breathing
- Vomiting

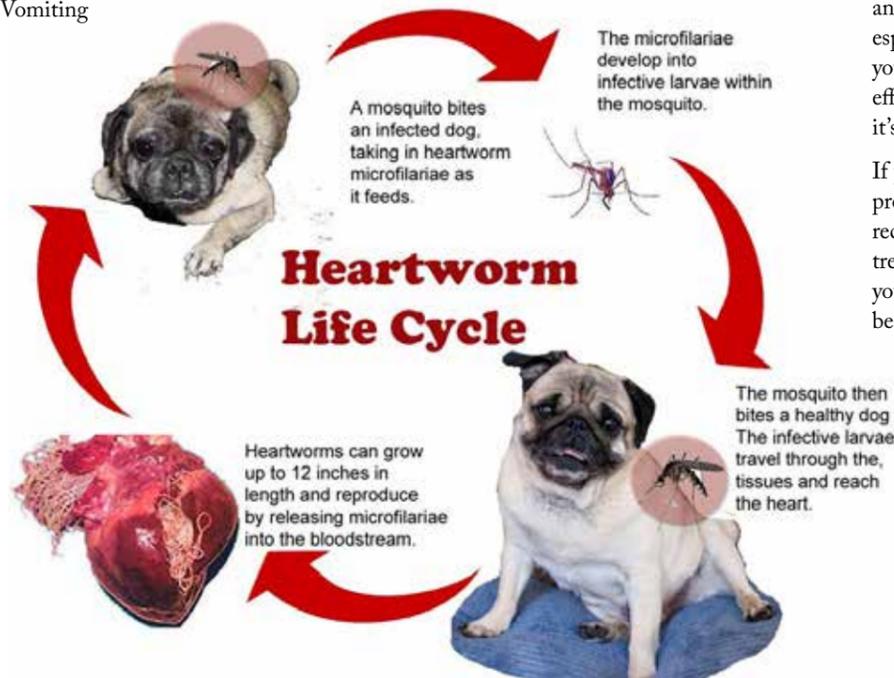
Heartworm is transmitted by mosquitoes. After biting an infected animal, the tiny worms (Microfilaria) develop in the mosquito and are subsequently transferred to other animals. When bitten, tiny heartworm larvae are injected into the bloodstream, where they undergo several more stages of development and make their way to the heart and lungs. These adult worms can reach sexual maturity in as little as three months and will continue to reproduce for several years. They cause irreversible damage to the heart and lungs, and treatment is expensive and not always successful.

PREVENTION

Monthly preventatives are generally 100% effective but must be given correctly and on time – they're successful in killing heartworm in the early stages, however, they will not kill worms that have reached the later life stages; These will continue to grow to adulthood and reproduce. It is easy to miss or delay giving a monthly preventative dose, and 40% of dogs reported with heartworm disease were on monthly protection.

An annual injection is the most convenient and effective method of protection, especially if you have trouble remembering your dogs' monthly treatment - It is effective against heartworm through all of it's life stages, including the adult worms.

If your pet hasn't been on continuous protection, testing for heartworm is recommended before starting any treatment. Talk to our Veterinary staff if you have any questions about what is the best option for your pet.



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A WORD FROM CR MARIA SUAREZ DIVISION 9 - SUNSHINE COAST COUNCIL

It's been a year since I began my role as your Division 9 Councillor. I have learnt so much, it's been interesting learning about the vast and varied work of council. Some of my previous misconceptions have been dismissed, others have been confirmed. I've enjoyed working with the other Sunshine Coast councillors, who are a positive and respectful group open to working collaboratively on issues.

Achievements I'm proud of include improving the transparency of council meetings with live streaming and providing a mechanism for confidential reports to eventually be made public; championing sustainable development which balances economic and environmental benefits; continuing to protect and enhance environmental areas such as the Blue Heart and inter-urban break; and endorsing a new community engagement framework so our community can continue to inform council decisions.

For the next three years I hope to further understand the waste issues across the region so we can continue to consider community requests for kerbside collection or waste vouchers. Along with division one and five councillors, I'm advocating for more funding to seal gravel roads and will continue to look at resolving traffic safety and pedestrian safety issues, with road upgrades and new pathways. I'm still awaiting the report for the proposed planning scheme amendment for Bli Bli and am meeting with the developers about the lake systems in Parklakes.

Please head to my Facebook page @MariaSuarezDivision9 to hear my full overview of my first year as a Sunshine Coast councillor.

If you haven't already seen, the Muller Park Dog Exercise Area in Bli Bli is complete. The dog off-leash area, installed at the northern end of the park, includes seating, rubbish bin, water tap and shade trees. Good news for young families at Parklakes with a baby change table soon to be installed in the amenities block.

The Bli Bli boardwalk has also been completed recently. The 215m boardwalk is accessible from Whistler Street, Bli Bli via the existing footpath between Whistler Street and the Bli Bli Village shops on David Low Way.

Set along the old cane rail track in the stunning Maroochy River wetlands, the elevated boardwalk links to culturally significant land leased by the Descendants of the Australian South Sea Islanders Inc (DASSI), whose ancestors came to area more than 150-years-ago.

Council worked closely with DASSI to bring this project to life. The design and location pay tribute to the region's South Sea Islander heritage, and I would like to thank Steve Robinson for his work in this space. The boardwalk will provide an opportunity to learn more about the great contributions this community has made to the Sunshine Coast and for people to experience the precious wetlands.

Council is considering options for a sustainable and efficient public transport system and wants to know your thoughts about what's being considered, from road upgrades, a quality bus corridor, rapid bus services to trackless trams, light rail and more. I encourage participation from the Bli Bli community, who are located outside of the southern coastal corridor.

Learn more at haveyoursay.sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au before June 22 or come along and chat to the Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Project team in person on Tuesday 1 June, from 10am to 12noon at the Coolool Library.

On the second Wednesday of each month I'll be out and about in the community to talk to you –please keep an eye on my Facebook page for dates and locations..

If you have issues or suggestions to discuss, please contact me on 5475 9810 or maria.suarez@sunshinecoast.qld.gov.au.

Cheers,
 Cr. Maria Suarez
 Division 9 – Sunshine Coast Council

ACHIEVEMENTS I'M PROUD OF INCLUDE IMPROVING THE TRANSPARENCY OF COUNCIL MEETINGS WITH LIVE STREAMING AND PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS TO EVENTUALLY BE MADE PUBLIC; CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WHICH BALANCES ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS; CONTINUING TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS SUCH AS THE BLUE HEART AND INTER-URBAN BREAK; AND ENDORSING A NEW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK SO OUR COMMUNITY CAN CONTINUE TO INFORM COUNCIL DECISIONS.



NEW BOARDWALK HONOURS HISTORY AND SPECTACULAR NATURAL SURROUNDS

Bask in nature's beauty while exploring Bli Bli's significant Australian South Sea Islander history, with Sunshine Coast Council's \$475,000 Bli Bli boardwalk now open.

Set along the old cane rail track in the stunning Maroochy River wetlands, the elevated boardwalk links to culturally significant land leased by the Descendants of the Australian South Sea Islanders Inc (DASSI).

DASSI President Michael Fewquandie said Australian South Sea Islanders came to the area more than 150-years-ago.

"They worked as slaves in the sugar industry to get that up and running. They were involved in many different aspects of farming, including dairy and cotton," Mr Fewquandie said.

"They were housed near the boardwalk, on the land DASSI now leases, along with many First Nations peoples who they generally got on with quite well."

Mr Fewquandie said many people were unaware of the Sunshine Coast's South Sea Islander history and hoped the new boardwalk and future projects would increase awareness.

"We are seeking acknowledgement that we are a culture of our own, a separate identity here in Australia.

"We are part of the multiculturalism of this country and this project will help people become more educated."

Mr Fewquandie thanked former Sunshine Coast Council Division 9 Councillor Steve Robinson for supporting the project.

He said DASSI now hoped to work with council to create educational signage along the boardwalk.

Sunshine Coast Council Division 9 Councillor Maria Suarez said she was proud the design and location paid tribute to the region's South Sea Islander heritage.

"Since the late 1800s Australian South Sea Islanders have had a strong physical and spiritual connection to this land," Cr Suarez said.

"Council has worked closely with DASSI to bring this project to life and I would like to thank Steve Robinson for his work in this space.

"The boardwalk will provide an opportunity to learn more about the great contributions this community has made to the Sunshine Coast and for people to experience the precious wetlands."

Cr Suarez said the project contributed to the region's aspiration of being Australia's most sustainable region – healthy, smart and creative.

The boardwalk is accessible from Whistler Street, Bli Bli via the existing footpath between Whistler Street and the Bli Bli Village shops on David Low Way.

BLI BLI BOARDWALK FAST FACTS

- The Bli Bli Boardwalk is approximately 215 metres long.
- It was built in full compliance with all required environmental protections and relevant State Government approvals.
- The boardwalk was constructed out of fibre reinforced polymer, a composite material that will not rust or rot.
- The mesh decking is designed to allow 40 per cent of natural light to penetrate, allowing marine plants to continue to grow around and under the walkway.
- The opportunity for a public boardwalk in this location was identified by Sunshine Coast Council in close consultation with DASSI.
- The ecological and heritage aspects of the site created a unique setting to provide access and educational opportunities.



DASSI President Michael Fewquandie, Steve Robinson and Cr Maria Suarez.

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15 GREBE CRESCENT, BLI BLI



36 GREBE CRESCENT, BLI BLI



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PRINCIPAL'S TOUR Tuesday 20 July 9:15am

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Bli Bli & District Rural Fire Brigade

On 27 March, eighty-nine Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers from across the Sunshine Coast were rewarded for their years of service at a medal ceremony at the North Arm State School Hall. The 89 members had a combined 1400 years of service.

Multiple medals were presented on the day by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Deputy Commissioner Mike Wassing. These include Diligent and Ethical Service Medal (DESM), QFES Medal, QFES and National Medal.

Upon those who received medals, 11 were members of our local rural fire brigade, Bli Bli & District. These members include Nigel Kemp, Kevin Guyer, Maxwell Perren, Kenneth Perren, Barry McMenomy,

Laurelle Kemp, Lyndal Erbacher, Leonie Vaughan, Heath Maltman, Barry Walsh & Warren Stockley (posthumous nomination).

At a recent training, Tom Foster from Jets Fitness Bli Bli presented us with a donation raised through their fitness centre in appreciation of the community work we do.

The brigade is always busy preparing and training for the upcoming fire season. If you live in Bli Bli and are interested in volunteering and committing your time to become a Rural Firefighter please express your interest via email; blidistrictruralfirebrigade@hotmail.com



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THE EDGEWATER VILLAGE SPRING FAIR IS BACK



Location: 171 David Low Way, Bli Bli

Date: 11th September | 7.00am – 12.30pm

On Saturday 11th September at 7.00am our Village will be transformed into a fabulous market place with many stall holders displaying their wares – homemade produce, craft, trash and treasure, books, knick knacks, plants, clothing to name just a few.

There will be a raffle, BBQ serving breakfast burgers and hot dogs, and a very tasty morning tea.

Our wonderful Bli Bli School Choirs will be here together with the Edgewater Singers to entertain us, they are always a feature of the mornings activities.

Market stall holders, if you would like to be a part of the day, bookings are now being taken for stall sites. Cost is \$20. If you are interested, please phone Marilyn on 0407 886 581.



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EMAIL ADDRESS: bliblitenis@gmail.com

WEB: www.tennis.com.au/blibli

WHERE: McMartins Park, 44 Lefoes Rd Bli Bli

WHEN: Tuesday and Thursday mornings mixed senior matches, courts available for hire and for groups to play

The upgrade of the tennis courts is well under way with the laying of the new synthetic grass. For those who have played on the courts, the old grass had certainly reached the end of its life. The new grass surface is a wonderful addition to the tennis complex and will be much easier to look after than the old grass surface. Make sure if you are not already a member that you join the tennis club to be able to use the facility.



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JOHN BURRELL - FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN AT BLI BLI

AS YEAR 1870 WAS DRAWING TO A CLOSE, THERE WAS GREAT EXCITEMENT AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF BLI BLI FARM. THEY WERE EXPECTING THEIR NUMBERS SOON TO BE INCREASED BY TWO NEW BABIES.

In 1868 William Peter Clark selected 400 acres on the north side of the junction between Petrie Creek and the Maroochy River. This had been part of a large cattle run formerly leased by Westaway Clark soon occupied one of the huts there and James Burrell and his family the other. James was a widower accompanied by children William (Bill), Edith, Charles and Helen.

The first task for James was to build a fine house for Clark's wife Agnes. She arrived with her Irish maid Mary Walsh. Around September 1869, Clark brought the Ross family to occupy the vacant hut.

The widower James Burrell and single girl Mary Walsh travelled by coastal steamer to Brisbane to marry. On their return, Mary moved into the Burrell hut. Fourteen-year-old Bill left with his swag on his back for Gympie. It would be another ten years before he met up with any of his family again.

By the end of 1870, the population on Bli Bli farm comprised two Clarks - William Peter and Agnes; five Burrells: James and Mary, Edith, Charles and Helen; three Rosses: Clarence, Emma, and baby Anna Maria; and three-year-old Johnny Wells from Emma's first marriage.

The New Year saw the birth on 4th January 1871 of John Burrell, first child of James and Mary. So with the name of Bli Bli farm later being used for the surrounding district, John could lay claim to being the first white child born at Bli Bli. Not to be outdone, Emma Ross gave birth the following month to a daughter, to

whom she gave the first names Agnes Clark in tribute to her employer's wife, who was to remain childless throughout her life.

In 1872 the Burrells left Bli Bli temporarily. Robert Fleming wished to build a new house for George Browne who was to manage Fleming's property, part of the Yandina Cattle Run. James Burrell built a new house for Browne under Clark's Direction. (This new house, added to over the years, is now known as Yandina Station, a well-known wedding venue on the Sunshine Coast.)

The Ross family left Bli Bli in 1873, headed for the Cooroy district. James and Mary had two more children. They were Thomas, born 9 December 1972 and Mary Agnes, born in July 1874 at Bli Bli Farm.

Clark had plans to build his own ship to travel between the Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. He commenced building the ship at Bli Bli with James Burrell working full-time on its construction, under Clark's direction. The ship was to be called *The Agnes*, named after Clark's wife. Once the ship was built, Clark needed to take to Brisbane to have the engines inserted.

All went well and soon the ship was ready to return to Bli Bli. Then disaster struck! In July 1875 James Burrell fell or was pushed(?) overboard, and he drowned in the Brisbane River near The Botanic Gardens. There was a coronial inquest with a ruling of accidental death, but some doubt remains about the circumstances of his death. There were crewmen aboard who had been drinking, and at least one had refused to accompany William Peter Clark and his brother John Clark on a rowboat in search of James after a call, "Man overboard!"

John was a few months shy of five when his dad died. How Mary managed for the next year is not known. In desperation, she placed all three children in St Vincent's Orphanage at Nudgee.

Mary was working at Low's at Maroochie (later Yandina), and she was devastated when middle child Thomas died at the orphanage six months later. The cause of death and duration of the illness stated it to be "marasmas, six months". A dictionary describes marasmas as "infantile atrophy, a condition of severe and chronic malnutrition."

A few weeks after Tom's death Mary, with the consent of Mrs Low, was able to withdraw the youngest, Mary Agnes from the orphanage. Poor John was left there. In 1879 when plans were afoot for a provisional school at Maroochie, one of the prospective pupils was John Burrell aged 8, "at school at Nudgee". However, John was to stay at the orphanage until he was 10 years old, when in August 1881 he joined his mother in Gympie.

Mary married Herbert Porter and had a daughter Susan. Mary's bad luck continued, with Herbert dying two weeks after Susan's birth. In 1883 Mary married for the third time, this time to Joseph Wismere and John at last had a father figure in his life. How long John was in Gympie is not known but he was there as a witness at the wedding of Mary Agnes to Joseph Kenny in 1896.

In 1899 John Burrell married Mary Ann Howard, daughter of Thomas and Catherine Howard of Nambour. Two streets in Nambour are said to have been named after the family, Howard Street and Ann Street. Mary Ann Howard was the second white girl to be born in the district, born 14th September 1878. The Carrolls, Matthew and Ellen, Nambour's first settlers, had a daughter Catherine or Katherine, in 1875, but she died the next year. So Mary Ann Howard was the first white girl in Nambour to reach adulthood. With John the first white child born at Bli Bli, few couples could claim earlier Sunshine Coast origins.

Soon after their marriage John and Mary Ann Burrell owned and operated a café in Nambour. Their first child, Aileen (Eileen) was born 1899. Thomas James was born in 1902 and when he was three and Eileen six, the family moved to Monkland where they tried mining for gold at Gympie. They must have had success, as in 1908 John was listed in the electoral rolls as a farmer back in their home territory, the Nambour district.

In 1912 he had his own bullock team. A second son was born in 1913, but died the same year. A second daughter, Mary was born in 1914. John worked as a teamster in Nambour obviously performing essential duties while the Great War raged overseas. John was a bullocky for about ten years, a hard life.

A new venture began with 23 year old son Thomas James. Both John and Thomas were proprietors of the Queen's Hotel in Gin Gin in 1925. Mary Ann performed the domestic duties. Next move three years later was to the Commercial Hotel in Redbank and this time Mary Ann was licensee! The two men were the barmen. That lasted a couple of years before the three moved to Booval where Thomas got work as a labourer, but John had no job. It was in the 1930s, the Depression years when many men were forced to go on the road as swagmen, looking for work. John and Mary Ann then moved to Indooroopilly, still no job. By 1937 they had moved to Howard Street, Nambour but John was 66 and old enough for retirement in those days. They were living at Maroochy in 1943 when their son Cpl Thomas Burrell was reported Missing in Action. Sadly, John Burrell died before word came that Thomas was alive, a Prisoner of War in Stalag 12 in Germany. Thomas's service record reveals that he was Mentioned in Despatches. John, known as Jack, was 72 when he died.

Café owner, gold miner, farmer, teamster, hotel proprietor, barman, the first white baby born at Bli Bli could well be described as a "Jack of all trades!"

THE NEW YEAR SAW THE BIRTH ON 4H JANUARY 1871 OF JOHN BURRELL, FIRST CHILD OF JAMES AND MARY. SO WITH THE NAME OF BLI BLI FARM LATER BEING USED FOR THE SURROUNDING DISTRICT, JOHN COULD LAY CLAIM TO BEING THE FIRST WHITE CHILD BORN AT BLI BLI.



Queen's Hotel, Gin Gin in 1895, thirty years before the Burrell family's time.

Courtesy State Library of Queensland

BLI BLI ON MAROOCHY HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Organisation No. IA 18938

Here Today ...to Collect, Preserve and Promote Local History




The School Residence was built in 1920 and is the oldest public building in Bli Bli.

Meet us at the "Former Bli Bli School Residence" 94 Willis Road, Bli Bli 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Monday February to December from 9.30am to 12.30pm
Other times are by appointment with President Ailsa Watson
0408 544 845 / 5448 4848

All Historical Society members, guests, researchers and the public are also welcome to join us on the 1st Monday of each month in the old Church Hall located at 89 Willis Road, Bli Bli from 9.30 a.m. Refreshments provided.



BLI BLI UNITING CHURCH

Pastor Russell Morgan:
Telephone: 5448 9293, Mobile – 0413 960 979

Church Services Sundays: 9am – 10am

Communion is the first Sunday of the month.

"Cafe Lilac" – Ladies Coffee Morning is on the first **Tuesday** morning of the month at 10am. Different venues each month.

"Craft Group" – is on the third **Tuesday** of the month at 9.30am, at the church. Cost is \$2 and bring your own craft.

For more details contact Jackie Morgan on 0402 670 646

Email: blibliuca2019@gmail.com

Office Hours at Bli Bli Church

Monday – 9am to 11am

Fridays – 9am to 11am

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WHAT IS ON IN THE OLD HALL AND THE OLD CHURCH?

The Public Hall and the Old Church is the focus of many exciting and varied activities. For any enquiries or bookings call 0427 635 558 or email your enquiry to bookings@blibli.qld.au

PUBLIC HALL

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7.00am							
8.00am							
9.00am							
10.00am							
11.00am							
12.00pm							
1.00pm							
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3.00pm							
4.00pm							
5.00pm							
6.00pm							
7.00pm							
8.00pm							
9.00pm							
10.00pm							
11.00pm							

Bli Bli Yoga
Petra 0409 532 940

MBK Dance Studios
Hayley 0408 988 119

Dance Fever
Sandra 0432 980 432

Global Harmonies
Jo 0403 841 856

MBK Dance Studios
Hayley 0408 988 119

Bli Bli Quilters & Craft Group
Dawne 0400 366 616

U3A Relaxation Class
Wayne 0409 669 131

MBK Dance Studios
Hayley 0408 988 119

Sundance Line Dancers
Heather 0407 174 591

Kelly Karate
Simon 0408 064 439

Maroochy River Country Music Club
Lynda 0409 588 939

MBK Dance Studios
Hayley 0408 988 119

Showtime Boxing
Sally 0428 290 775

GKR Karate
Andrew 0407 695 005

The Yogi Recovery
4th Saturday of Month
Jo 0401 269 444

Maroochy River Country Music Club
2nd Sunday
Lynda 0409 588 939

Common Law Assembly
Fortnightly Sunday
Lee 0411 811 174

OLD CHURCH

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
7.00am							
8.00am							
9.00am							
10.00am							
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9.00pm							
10.00pm							
11.00pm							

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Sherrelle 0438 097 747

Coastal Life Success (Meditation)
Maree 0419 929 771

Coastal Life Success (Teen Relaxation)
Maree 0419 929 771

Trudi Yoga
Trudi 0421 369 262

Bli Bli Community Association
3rd Tuesday
7.30pm - 9.30pm
Daniel 0427 635 558

Church of United Spiritualism
Rosemary 0409 457 352

Sherrelle Dolphin (Yoga)
Sherrelle 0438 097 747

Caleb Fitzgerald Didgeeridoo Yoga
Fortnightly
5.30pm - 7.30pm
Caleb 0422 805 580

Trudi Yoga
Fortnightly
5.30pm - 7.30pm
Trudi 0421 369 262

Coastal Life Success (Meditation)
Maree 0419 929 771

Yogi Recovery
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Sherrelle Dolphin (Yoga)
Sherrelle 0438 097 747

All information is correct at the time of printing

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