

Island Enjoys Bumper Holiday Season H/310

Magnetic Island Bowls Club Inc.



Above: Winning teams of the Sealink Magnetic Magic Bowls Weekend with Sealink NQ General Manager Paul Victoria (Article & more pics centre spread). Photo Dabbie Denison.

Denise Secomb

Baby Kikki emerged from her mother's pouch at the weekend in time to thrill the visitors to Breakfast with the Koalas at Bungalow Bay, in Horseshoe Bay. She is just six months old (see photo page 3).

Chief ranger at Bungalow, Tony Gordon, said Kikki's mother, Christina, was doing well. The Breakfast with the Koalas had been fully booked for the September school holidays, with Bungalow flat out with lots of families visiting to see the animals.

Col Foley, of the Hop on Hop Off Bus service, who is also a co-chair of Tourism Operators and Businesses of Magnetic Island, said there had been a lot of weddings on the island, with five on Saturday alone. He told Magnetic Community News: "The markets at Horseshoe Bay were well attended on Saturday. The island leisurewear shops appear to have been busy and the hotels were busy."

Jason Slingsby, general manager of Fantasea Cruising Magnetic, said the Jubilee was put on for extra barge services on Friday to get people to the island and on Monday to help them return to Townsville, as the long weekend in the school

- 8 OCT 2014

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HOW THE LOCALS LIKE IT

OPPOSITE THE
NELLY BAY TERMINAL

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
6AM - 8.30PM

PHONE 4758 1177

SPECIALS AVAILABLE FROM
WEDNESDAY 8TH OCT
TILL COB TUESDAY 14TH OCT

Asparagus
\$1.89 ea

Red Capsicums
\$2.99 kg

Brunnings Potting Mix 22lt
\$1.99 ea

Lamb Shanks
\$10.99 kg

Middle Bacon Rashers
\$8.99 kg

Peters Ice-Cream 2lt
\$3.99 ea

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holidays had proven popular.

Indeed, he said a number of locals had spoken to him, observing the September school holidays had always been busy but that the island appeared to be returning to its glory days of eight years ago with so many people around and trading so good.

Jason commented that having the Jubilee on had helped on Friday, in particular, as three cars had broken down on the regular barge, delaying journeys by an hour, with one of those vehicles having to be lifted off the barge using a forklift.

Sealink's general manager, Paul Victory, was on the island at the weekend, reporting trading was very busy across the island and on the ferries:

"We've had a good run of consistently good weather and great events among the Magnetic Island Bay Dayz Festival," he said. "But we haven't needed to put on extra services. September is up on last year's figures with October continuing that trend."

Magnetic Island is the busiest it's been since a crisis in consumer confidence across the globe in 2010, according to Rita Dickinson, of Grand Mercure Apartments at One Bright Point in Nelly Bay.

"We've been booked solid for three months," Grand Mercure's Rita Dickinson told MCN. "It appears the island has been its busiest since pre-GFC."

Surf Life Saving Queensland Townsville Lifeguard spokesperson, Russell Blanchard, told MCN the beaches patrolled by life savers at Alma Bay and Horseshoe Bay had averaged 600 to 700 people a day, with the parks also very busy. He felt it was a positive move for tourism to have a long weekend in October instead of May.

"We've been busier than the mid-year break," he said. "The barge has been packed. There's been a lot of traffic trying to find car parks at the beach. We haven't started dragging for stingers yet. There are no incidents to report." Of a dilemma facing life savers, who have had their hut removed until beach erosion is repaired at Horseshoe Bay, Russell said lifesavers had worked out of their vehicle at the beach.

"We are putting in a storage facility in the next few weeks (at Horseshoe Bay)" he said.

All island businesses spoken to by MCN reported the busiest September holidays in years, with Café Sirocco Magnetic Island's Tina Kemp saying she needed one third more stock than usual for the holidays to cope with demand.

Rob Koenen, of Arcadia Newsagency, noticed a lot of people around. Trading had resulted in one of the best holiday periods for quite a while.

Fine artist Peter Lawson reported his Geoffrey Bay gallery was busy, with his new gallery in Townsville's Flinders Street, near the Great Northern Hotel, going even better than the island one.

Lucy Hartge, of Horseshoe Bay Ranch, reported it was the busiest September holidays in a couple of years. Horses were fully booked for three weeks. She had sadly had to turn people away. The winter season had been great, too, and an improvement on previous years, she said.

Brian Mills, manager at Amaroo on Mandalay, said there had been a pick up in trading. He answered a question islanders are keen to see resolved, about the re-opening of the restaurant, saying plans are afoot to re-open the popular dining venue early in the New Year.

Adam Hinks, of Aquascene, was among those pleased with the beautiful weather for the school holidays, commenting everyone goes better if the weather's good. He was taking a Sunday off to attend a Surf Life Saving carnival with his family on The Strand in Townsville, organised by the Arcadian Surf Life Saving Club, when spoken to by MCN.

A number of business people managed a day off in the holidays, which means for many businesses there is extra employment available, including for the island's youth employment market.

Melissa Cornish, a partner in Cafe Nourish at Horseshoe Bay together with Louise Hillyear, said every day had been up on last year's trading for the holidays, so there had been lots of work for local youth in the school

holidays.

"It's been a great holiday crowd," she said. "It's felt like special family time for everyone."

Andrew Melrose, who is partners together with Andrew Efflick, in Jetski Hire Magnetic Island, commented it had been really busy in the last two weeks with bookings still constant going forward into October.

Cameron Lambie, manager of Fish'n 'n' Fuel'n, said lots of people had bought or hired gear to go fishing. Numbers were up on recent holidays. The snorkel trails had proved popular.

Massage therapist, Denise Tonic, who has re-located her business to across the road from the clinic in Sooning Street, has been flat out. Many people had come in for pampering. Trade had been excellent.

Also in Nelly Bay, Ocean Jewels' Denise Dexter reported some really good days in the school holidays.

Karen Riley, of Road Runner Scooter Hire, had a busier second week of the holidays but was pleased with how busy the holidays had been. Tropicana's Joanne Chambers reported the first week was busier but trading had been constant.

Best of Magnetic's Pam Young said there had been a lot of repeat business, with many happy families sad to leave but planning to return again next year.

There were no supply problems these holidays for the island's supermarkets, with Foodworks reporting stronger trading than last year and IGA manager, Raymond Kaddatz, saying staff had been flat out keeping the shelves stocked.

"We'd love it to be this busy all year round," said Michelle Palum, of Le Paradis, in Nelly Bay, echoing a sentiment expressed by many people around the island.

Finally, Steve Rowland, of Magnetic Island Sea Kayaks, made the observation that it appeared the September school holidays had outstripped the June school holidays because the V8s in Townsville mid year were "killing Magnetic Island business".

Department of Transport and Main Roads

Nelly Bay Beach Sand Replenishment 2014

The Department of Transport & Main Roads (TMR) will be carrying out the Nelly Bay Beach sand replenishment works during the very low tide period in October 2014.

Excavation of the sand from the breakwater bridge sandtrap will commence on 13 October and truck movements will occur along the beach to approximately 24 October depositing sand along the identified erosion areas on Nelly Bay Beach.

Please contact TMR on 07 44218785 with any further enquiries.



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Queensland
Government