

Repairs progressing on our islands

The Dunk Island camp ground has made some progress but it's expected to still be some weeks before completion.

Restripping the deck on Dunk Island jetty has begun and work is well under way. Understandably there is a reasonably large exclusion zone around the work site and the Mission Beach Dunk Island Water Taxi is currently dropping off close to the resort.

Approximately a month ago the old resort owners had Architects on the spit but we don't imagine any work will be done in this area until the jetty is completed which is believed to be several months away.

Approximately 50% of visitors to Dunk Island are utilizing the tracks and it's believed to be quite a relief (excuse the pun) to have the toilets finally working and available for day trippers.

The Bedarra Island Bungalows are progressing well and its thought they are on track to open in April 2013.

The jetty on Bedarra will not be replaced but a pontoon may be an option.

Holiday house rentals on Bedarra have been very popular in the past few months, certainly returning better figures than the previous year.



The Kennedy Track on track!!!

Hand built by the community this historic track favoured by locals and visitors alike was sadly severely damaged by TC Yasi. The great news is that it will soon be repaired and ready for trekkers again.

The start of the track will include a wide boardwalk to allow for wheel chair access and is certain to be a magnet for couples wishing to share their nuptials in a perfect location aptly named Lover's Beach.

Due for completion before June 2013 it will be fantastic to have one of our star attractions back again for the up and coming season.



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MISSION BEACH
BUSINESS & TOURISM

Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday 18 December
Time: 7:30am - 9am (includes light breakfast)
Where: C4 Theatre Port Promenade, Mission Beach
RSVP: Friday 14 December
P: 4068 7099 or E: manager@missionbeachtourism.com

MB Film Festival Flashback

The Mission Beach Film Festival held at MARC's at the beginning of November showed solid numbers returning for the Festival's third year.

More than 700 people enjoyed the open air theatre held under an authentic Moroccan tent.

Next year's Festival will be held from the 1st to the 3rd of November. Potential Management Committee members are encouraged to join the enthusiastic team next February when the AGM is held.

Whether you attended the Festival or not we would love your feedback. All you need to do is answer a few questions on the survey link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KDT969Z-MBFF-Community-Post-Survey>



There are lots of gorgeous photos such as the one above shot by festival photographer Tracey Woodfield which can be viewed on the Mission Beach Film Festival Facebook page.

QLD Tourism Awards

This prestigious event will be held in Brisbane on the 23rd of November with two Mission Beach Tourism members nominated for tourism awards.

We would like to congratulate **Paronella Park and Babinda Kayak Hire** for being in the mix and wish you all the very best of luck on the evening.



November eclipse

There weren't too many good vantage points to view the solar eclipse in Mission Beach however South Mission seemed to be the spot. Thankfully local **Photographer Ron Darlington** shot these dramatic images for us to share the moment.

Even though most of us didn't get a glimpse of the eclipse many of our businesses however are feeling the benefits of its visit.

Its believed more than 50,000 visitors descended on the Tropical North with a good percentage visiting our area.

Paronella Park's Mark Evans has reported an estimated increase of 30% making this the most substantial November ever. He said many of the visitors were European travellers looking for adventure and something authentic and different.

Many of the accommodation houses in Mission Beach are also reporting excellent forward bookings for November. This will also make it the best November for many of our operators. It means the long and financially dry spell between November and Christmas

will be shortened for many by about two weeks. Great news indeed!!

Interest in Mission Beach has not been limited to holiday makers and day trippers. **Dick Williams from Ray White Real Estate** said they have been extremely busy over the last few months with a significant increase in the volume of sales. The strong enquiry level over several months doesn't show any sign of abating which is also great news.

The Palmer River Festival with its 10,000 participants finishes this weekend which could also see a welcome influx of travellers to our region from this Monday.

The Visitor Centre numbers for October have enjoyed an increase of 14% and November sales have substantially increased.

With the added news of 16 million to be injected into Marine infrastructure, it seems there is light at the end of what has been a very long tunnel.

