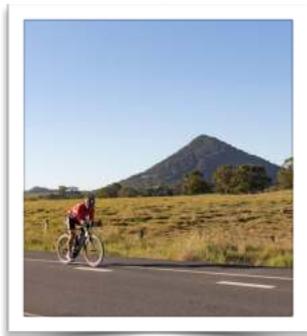


HUT GOSSIP



Quarterly publication of Parkyn Hut Explore Centre



Ultraman Australia

7-9 May 2022

Where: from Noosa Heads SLSC Beach

Email: info@ultramanoz.com.au



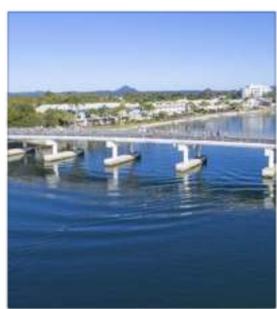
Sounds on Noosa Foreshore

Noosa Busking Competition

When: Sat 21 May 2022

Where: Noosa River Foreshore

Website: <https://www.noosabusking.com>



Runaway Noosa Marathon 2022

When: Saturday 28 May

Where: Noosa Heads

Website:

www.runawaynoosamarathon.com.au

President's Bit

It certainly has been a very eventful start to 2022 with Covid and the floods literally lapping at our door. Nice to see Parkyns Hut high and dry though and starting to welcome a few more international visitors!

On a sad note, recently I have attended a couple of funerals of our Parkyns Hut family ...

Liz McDonald who was a 20-year volunteer at the Hut. It was so nice to be able to recognise her contribution at our birthday party last year and also we were able to present her with a 20-year service certificate from QICA at one of our Hut gatherings last year.

And of course, *June Colley*, who formed this organisation and did so much to contribute to its foundations and growth over the years.

We will miss them both and be ever grateful for the huge contributions they made to Parkyn's Hut over the years.

On a more positive note, it's great to see things getting back to normal-ish with different events now going ahead. I recently attended Tourism Noosa's networking night in conjunction with the Festival of Surfing .

Then, together with Kerry last week, attended the Tourism Noosa networking breakfast where they had some very informative speakers - all positive that Noosa will remain a Preferred Destination with tourists for many

reasons, including its wonderful natural attributes and that it is a safe destination to which to travel.

One of the big problems for people in hospitality seems to be that they are unable to get enough staff and are looking at ways to solve the problem. I didn't realise we relied so heavily on overseas travellers to fill these jobs !!!

A couple of weeks ago, Elvie and I had a fantastic experience when we were invited to have afternoon tea with our Governor General David Hurley and his wife. We gathered at the library together with some other community groups and Local Government representatives.

We were delighted to have a lovely chat with him, telling him all about Parkyn's Hut and what we do for visitors and for our community. He said that he had noticed the Hut when he went to the Council Chambers to have a meeting and wondered what we did there ... I just happened to have a couple of our Parkyn Hut greeting cards in my bag, so I pulled those out and presented them to him - which he liked.

When I opened my bag to get the cards out, he noticed my Rabbitohs hat. Well, after that we spent the next 10 minutes or so talking about our footy team. We chatted like old mates and are on a first name basis now! He insisted I put my hat on for a photo! He wanted his aide to send it to the CEO of South Sydney who is David's (G.G) mate.

It was a very memorable afternoon and Elvie and I enjoyed ourselves immensely.

... Cheers Gail
(President)



Noosa EV Expo and Street Fest 2022

When: Sun 19 June, 2022

Where: Sunshine Beach Rd,
Noosa Junc't'n

Time: 10am - 2pm

Price: Free Community Event

Website: <https://>

www.noosaeveexpo.com.au

(from 1.7.2022 Qld Govt will offer a \$3,000 EV subsidy for vehicles up to \$58,000)

Did you know?

by Bruce Cuttle

Tewantin Hotel History

Mr Robert Alex Richardson applied in January 1875 for a "Country Publican's Licence for the sale of fermented and spirituous liquors in the house and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in Tewantin, and which I intend to keep as a public-house under the style and title of the Tewantin Hotel".¹ The licence was granted in the annual licensing meeting held in Gympie on 20th April 1875. Present were the Police Magistrate, and Messrs Lord, McGhie, Joseph and Hickson (J.P's).² Mr Richardson stated that the house was his property and it contained 2 sitting, and 4 bedrooms exclusive of those required for his own use. This appears to be the first licence granted for the business name of Tewantin Hotel. Mr Richardson's hotel was situated in Sidoni Street, opposite where the old police station was built.

Whether it was his intention all along, we're uncertain, but in July of the same year, only a couple of months after the licence was granted, Mr Sidney Shepherd applied for a transfer of the licence from Richardson to himself.³ Mr Shepherd rented the premises from Mr Richardson. Sidney Shepherd improved the premises and then declared that his premises offered "all the comforts and conveniences of a first class hotel second to none in the district". He also intimated that Tewantin was a "health restoring district" and set himself up offering a well grassed and watered paddock, as well as his services as a commissioning and forwarding agent for goods arriving by ship.

To compliment Shepherd's claim of a first class hotel, a reporter for *The Telegraph* wrote after being put up by the hotel: "where we were made far more comfortable than we had expected"⁵ ... always good to have friends in the press!

Next to hold the licence was the well known gentleman Thomas Bull, who applied for a transfer into his name in June 1876. Bull claimed the house as being owned by him.⁶

Thomas Bull held the licence for just on three years and then transferred it to William Jackson in December 1879.⁷ Mr Jackson was formerly the steward of the *Culgoa*.⁸

Quite a gap exists in the history of licensees until an obituary notice in January 1895 was found for Mr John Myles, formerly Cobb and Co.'s manager and proprietor of Tewantin Hotel.⁹

According to Colin Monks the hotel was closed down due to the lack of supplies¹⁰ but this gave Daniel Martin the opportunity to open a two storey premises, which was owned by William Martin, on Doonella Street, under the name of Tewantin Hotel, in late 1901 under a provisional license.¹¹ Daniel had previously held the license for the Cooran Railway Hotel and the United States Hotel in Gympie. The license was granted in January 1902.¹² The hotel was extended a number of times and continued operating until it was destroyed by fire in 1940. It was not replaced. The story of Martins

1. Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett advertiser Thurs 28 January 1875 P5
2. Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Wed 21 April 1875 P3
3. Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Sat 24 July 1875 P2
4. Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Wed 4 August 1875 P2
5. The telegraph Sat 5 Feb 1876 P5 A Trip To Noosa
6. Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Wed 28 June 1876 P2
7. Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Wed 26 Nov 1879 P2
8. Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Sat 13 Dec 1879 P3
9. The Week Fri 4 Jan 1895 P6 Obituary
10. The way it was the way it is now, Colin Monks reprint 2001
11. Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Sat 14 Sept 1901 P2
12. Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Sat 4 Jan 1902 P3



Calendar of Major Events Noosa 2022

JULY

24 Jul
Pomona King of the Mountain
21 - 31 July
Noosa Alive
30-31 Jul
Noosa Enduro

AUGUST

14 August
Noosa Classic
21 August
Cooroy Mountain Run
28 August - 3 September
Noosa Jazz Party

SEPTEMBER

9 - 11 September
Noosa Car Classica

OCTOBER

1 - 3 October
Great Noosa Trail Walk
1-9 October
Noosa Open Studios

26 - 30 October
Noosa Triathlon Multi Sport Festival

DECEMBER

25 December
Christmas
31 December
New Year Festivities

Tewantin Explore Centre Parkyns Hut

CHATTY CHATTY BANG BANG

A morning meander of Tewantin's CBD, making a connection with local businesses, chatting to locals and learning what's new and changed in Tewantin. After exploring Tewantin CBD, it was morning tea plus a meet and greet with the new Noosa RSL General Manager, Michael Sue See. (Chatty Chatty Bang Bang CCBB - written and organised by Carol Williams) ... *Tania Murray*

A pleasant morning meander was had by the volunteers who perambulated down Tewantin CBD where they could meet and greet business owners and staff, noting any alterations and changes within the streetscape, admiring murals, mosaics, and getting the low-down on a new lease at the old ANZ premises ... shhh, you had to be there! Hopefully see changes in the next few months.

Then joining up at the RSL for fresh baked scones, jam and cream and some social time.

Michael Sue See, RSL General Manager, chatted about the RSL getting back to operational mode in March after Covid restrictions easing and highlighted how Covid had impacted the club and the local clientele. Now back open for business, in the bars, bistro and entertainment.

Volunteers had an informative and productive time and now ready for those tough questions about Tewantin from visitors and locals.

Where is the Vape shop?

... *Carol Williams*



Friday, 25th March, 2022 : Tewantin Revisited



by Kerry Surtees

Gail and I attended Tourism Noosa Networking breakfast at the Surf Club on Thursday, 17 March 2022.

Speakers were ...

Clinton Hearn from Flight Centre

Clinton spoke about Flight Centre's campaign for Noosa, how they have tackled domestic travel in the past 2 years and kept promotions running during border closures, their thoughts for future domestic travel, and the outlook for NZ and international travel.

**Gareth Williamson, General Manager Aviation Business Development
Sunshine Coast Airport**

Gareth spoke about the new partnership with Bonza Airlines that will see Australia's only independent low-cost carrier call the Sunshine Coast 'Bonza's backyard', with 12 new routes to/from the Sunshine Coast Airport - and what this means for tourism in our region.

**David Comiskey, The Comiskey Group
'The Doonan'**

David is one of the family members and Directors of The Comiskey Group which created the award-winning Eatons Hill Hotel and Sandstone Point Hotel. He gave an overview of their new family-friendly greenfield pub and cellar door, 'The Doonan'.

This is funny and quite true ... We are probably the last generation that will remember what a clothesline was... Great memories for some of us! It's the poem at the end that's the best!

Remembering Mom's Clothesline

There is one thing that's left out. We had a long wooden pole (clothes pole) that was used to push the clotheslines up so that longer items (sheets/pants/etc.) didn't brush the ground and get dirty. I can hear my mother now ...

THE BASIC RULES FOR CLOTHESLINES:

If you don't even know what clotheslines are, better skip this

1. You had to hang the socks by the toes, NOT the top.
2. You hung pants by the cuffs, NOT the waistbands.
3. You had to WASH the clothesline(s) before hanging any clothes - walk the entire length of each line with a damp cloth around the lines.
4. You had to hang the clothes in a certain order, and always hang "whites" with "whites," and hang them first.
5. You NEVER hung a shirt by the shoulders - always by the tail! What would the neighbours think?
6. Wash day on a Monday! NEVER hang clothes on the weekend, or on Sunday, for Heaven's sake!
7. Hang the sheets and towels on the OUTSIDE lines so you could hide your "unmentionables" in the middle (perverts & busybodies, y'know!)
8. It didn't matter if it was sub-zero weather...clothes would "freeze-dry." I remember my Grandfather's union suits standing by themselves frozen.
9. ALWAYS gather the clothes pins when taking down dry clothes!
Pins left on the lines were "tacky"!
10. If you were efficient, you would line the clothes up so that each item did not need two clothes pins, but shared one of the clothes pins with the next washed item.
11. Clothes off of the line before dinner time, neatly folded in the clothes basket, and ready to be ironed. (IRONED? Well, that's a whole OTHER subject!)

and now a POEM....

A clothesline was a news forecast,
To neighbours passing by,
There were no secrets you could keep,
When clothes were hung to dry.
It also was a friendly link,
For neighbours always knew
If company had stopped on by,
To spend a night or two.
For then you'd see the "fancy sheets",
And towels upon the line;
You'd see the "company table cloths",
With intricate designs.
The line announced a baby's birth,
From folks who lived inside,
As brand new infant clothes were hung,
So carefully with pride!
The ages of the children could,
So readily be known
By watching how the sizes changed,
You'd know how much they'd grown!
It also told when illness struck,
As extra sheets were hung;
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe too,
Haphazardly were strung.
It also said, "On vacation now",
When lines hung limp and bare.
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged,
With not an inch to spare!
New folks in town were scorned upon,
If wash was dingy and gray,
As neighbours carefully raised their brows,
And looked the other way.
But clotheslines now are of the past,
For dryers make work much less.
Now what goes on inside a home,
Is anybody's guess!
I really miss that way of life,
It was a friendly sign
When neighbours knew each other best ...
By what hung on the line!



June Colley 1936-2022



Background to the Motion to bestow Honorary Life Membership upon June Colley awarded at TH&HS 15th Birthday celebrations : June Colley has been involved with the Tewanin Heritage & Historical Society since the inaugural meeting which saw its creation in 1999. This was followed by a search to find suitable premises, resulting in the establishment of Parkyn's Hut a couple of years later in 2001. TH & HS was in danger of winding up at one point when raffle tickets and BBQs were needed to keep things afloat but Historian, George Pearce, advised that June's tireless efforts in this early period saw funding secured through Council via Tourism Noosa. This information was circulated to the Executive Committee members for approval so that June could be awarded this honour during our 15th birthday celebration.

Remembering June ... by Gail McBurney

My connection with June started on 26 May 1997 when I attended a public meeting at the CWA Hall in Tewanin to gauge support for starting up a local history/heritage group.

June called the meeting and her ideas involved business people and Tewanin residents working together to give Tewanin its rightful identity and encourage pride in the community and history of the area.

The meeting was very well attended and the organisation was formed.

June became our very first President. She was a force to be reckoned with and very passionate about the newly formed organisation, so the perfect person for the job.

To encourage locals to become excited and embrace Tewanin's history, June and the committee decided to

put on a Foundation Day celebration with history displays, Cobb & Co coach rides, morning tea for Pioneer families, etc. Three of these events were held and were very successful.

June was also extremely involved in getting Parkyn's Hut moved to the Town Square to become the home of Tewanin Heritage and Historical Society where we could display old photos and memorabilia and share the history of our beautiful town with visitors and locals.

This we are still proudly doing today 20 years on!

Over the years, June played a massive role in the organisation in so many different ways and I'm sure her Council connections might have helped us a little bit as well.

She would organise events, grants and played many other important roles in the every day running of the Hut including a few terms as President.

During this time, June and I worked closely on lots of different projects together and she obviously saw some potential when she encouraged me to become President of TH & HS after she had stepped down.

She was a great mentor.

During this time, I came to know June quite well and found out that under that strong facade June had a heart of gold and was always there to listen and try to help the community and its people.

June's legacy will live on in this community in so many different ways - especially in Parkyn's Hut where her name is in emblazoned on our Honorary Life Members board as a reminder of her fantastic contributions to our organisation and the community.

June continued to volunteer and be involved in Parkyn Hut activities until she moved to Murgon and was chuffed to be asked to be our Patron when she could no longer be physically involved in the organisation.

What an inspirational woman June Colley was!

Official opening for Parkyn's Hut in Tewanin

THE refurbished Tewanin Heritage and Information Centre, next to the Royal Mail Hotel, will be officially opened as Parkyn's Hut by member for Fairfax Alex Somlyay on June 13.

"Alex Somlyay gave a great deal of assistance in getting \$20,000 to renovate the hut from Centenary of Federation funds," said Division Two councillor June Colley.

"It will be a pleasure to have him officially open the hut, to let him know his efforts are appreciated in Noosa.

"After the opening, Mayor Bob Abbot will present the key to Terry Nolan, president of the Tewanin Heritage and Historical Society Inc.

"Following that, Mr Nolan will present what is believed to be an original cash register built of timber from the Royal Mail to the manager of the Royal Mail, Mitch Cirwen.

"The cash register will be positioned in a display cabinet in the Royal Mail, which itself is an historic hotel.

"The Royal Mail is fast becoming an icon of heritage significance because of its long history in Tewanin. It is a survivor from the amazing number of hotel fires that occurred in Tewanin in the early days, and is about the third or fourth Royal Mail to be built on the same site, as far as we can make out - there's a bit of conjecture about that.

"Since the Tewanin Heritage and Tourist Information Centre opened its doors on good Friday, well over 1100 tourists have asked for information, and the majority of these requests have been for day trips from Tewanin out into the hinterland, to camping areas, general requests for bed and breakfast and "Where can we go for a nice drive through the bush?" People appear to be interested in scenery, lookouts, and something different from the beach.

"There are now about 27 volunteers who operate the centre, seven days a week from about 9am to 5pm. Residents of Tewanin also pop in for a chat and have a look at the centre, which is proving a very popular meeting place.

Volunteers Beverley Menkens (right) and Sonia Heini with Cr June Colley (centre)

"Tourists who called in came from all round Australia and overseas as well as Queensland. Tewanin has been known as the link between the coast and the hinterland. Since the advent of the hut, that link has certainly become stronger.

"I think we have tapped into a different market - the visitors who come there are not all interested in the beach. They want to see the Coloured Sands, do trips up river, and use walking tracks.

"The next stage of the Heritage and Discovery Tour will be more detailed walking tracks listed in a brochure, in response to requests for walks. Planning for a brochure is in the pipeline now.

"We are discovering from analysis of the inquiries that Boreen Point is a very popular spot, and the requests are also growing for Pomona, Johns Landing and Mill Point. The Botanical Gardens are also becoming more popular.

"All these requests really justify the need to diversify in the tourism industry. Tourism Noosa in the future should be looking at taking over the expansion of the Heritage and Discovery Trails as soon as the new Tourism Collaborative Board is up and operating."





Elizabeth McDonald



In my twenty years of Parkyn's Hut attendance, I remember there were no uniforms to wear, just name tags, not so many visitors either compared to today. I used to attend on a Sunday afternoon and then Wednesday mornings, but the thing that was most important was the people who worked with you, many wonderful volunteers and the interesting famils that were organised back then ... trips to Fraser Island, Australia Zoo, Whale Watching at Hervey Bay and many others. I also found two primary school friends from Hobart at the Hut!! It was a great time for us all.

... Liz McDonald (18/9/2020)

Elizabeth (Liz) McDonald

Our dear friend of the Hut for many years. Liz and I shared a common bond of being born in Tasmania. Liz left before me, in the early 60's to spread her wings in Sydney - where she worked in the admin dept. for CSR Sugar.

Liz married a sub-mariner who was subsequently posted for training to Glasgow and then on to Portsmouth.

Returning to Sydney - they purchased a small acreage in Penrith - approx. 1 hour from Sydney city.

As life changes, Liz eventually decided to move on, and purchased the house next door to Mike McDonald. Romance blossomed quickly.

Mike liked to sun bake in his back yard, and their first meeting was when Liz popped her head over the fence to see Mike stretched out on the sun lounge.

Liz and Mike decided to sell both homes in Penrith, and in 1994 purchased a block of land in The Blue Mountains where they built a home together, and lived happily until it was time to make the big move to Queensland - where they already had many friends.

They purchased 10 acres in idyllic Traveston, and enjoyed life 'on the farm' until it was time to down-size to a beautiful home in Tewantin.

Liz was a demonstrator for many years in local supermarkets - I remember chatting to her many times, while trying a new dip, or pasta sauce, etc.

It was easy to engage with Liz - she had the gift of being a great communicator. I think I bought nearly everything she suggested!

Liz also joined Parkyn Hut - where she loved working as a volunteer for 20 years.

I also remember how I used to often meet Liz down in Heritage Park in Noosa Parklands. We would sit and watch all the dogs running and playing, having so much fun, until they were worn out. Mike tells me when they met in Penrith he had 3 dachshunds - Liz really loved them and, although they often spoke of getting another dog, they didn't get around to it - so Liz would walk to the park regularly and get her 'doggie fix.'

Liz had one overall big passion in her life - being part of the congregation at Anglican Church of Noosa at Tewantin, where she remained a member.

She very obviously made many friends here - as was evident in the weeks leading up to her passing, with parishioners bringing cooking, flowers and just a gentle conversation of support to both Liz and Mike.

It is lovely to know that these friends are still supporting Mike.

Liz, to me, was a lovely quiet lady - who enjoyed a chat and having fun. She was always willing to lend a hand without being asked ... and had a smile that would light up a room when she entered! Like many, I'll miss her.

... Jill Morley

Smiles at the Hut

Welcome Back !!

Thanks everyone for your dedication to the roster. Great to see the smiles again!

*Welcome back to the Hut ...
Stephen, Gail & Marion in March.
Freda, Rita & Barb and new Vollie, Kay, in April.*

The deluge of rain and localised flooding in February closed the Hut for 5 days. The severe weather event affected many of us in different ways.

... Tania Murray



Did you know?

by Bruce Cuttle

Finney Freezing Apparatus

Tewantin's first freezing plant was inaugurated in December 1912 by Mr Arthur E. Finney. Arthur, who, along with his sons, already operated a fishing and motorboat business (*Waterwitch* - later owned by Martins), celebrated the occasion by assembling about 20 guests at Tait's Royal Mail hotel, where they were invited to drink a glass of champagne.

The "cold storage chamber and freezing apparatus" were installed by the Brisbane firm of Waugh and Josephson.

"All present eulogised Mr Finney for his plucky effort to keep Tewantin abreast of the times, and there is little doubt that his public spiritedness will meet its due reward".¹

The installing firm declared: ".....for the chilling and storing of fish throughout the year. Hitherto fish has been chilled at the wrong end of its journey and until the fish is put into the chill room immediately it is taken from the water and still alive we shall always have the unsatisfactory class of fish that is retailed during the summer months."²

Prior to this, fish had been carried overnight to Gympie either in the raw state, or smoked.

Well done to Arthur Finney for his contribution to the ongoing health of Gympie residents, and to his plucky effort to keep Tewantin abreast of the times.

1. Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette Thurs 12 Dec 1912 P2 Tewantin

2. Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser Fri 3 Jan 1913 P3 Waugh and Josephson

A Regal Visit

His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) and his wife, Mrs Hurley, checked in at Noosa recently.

It was a chance to meet with some residents and community groups recovering from the devastating floods.

They thanked our emergency services heroes for their efforts and toured some of the impacted areas.





HOLIDAYS

2 to 18 April 2022
Go car free this Easter



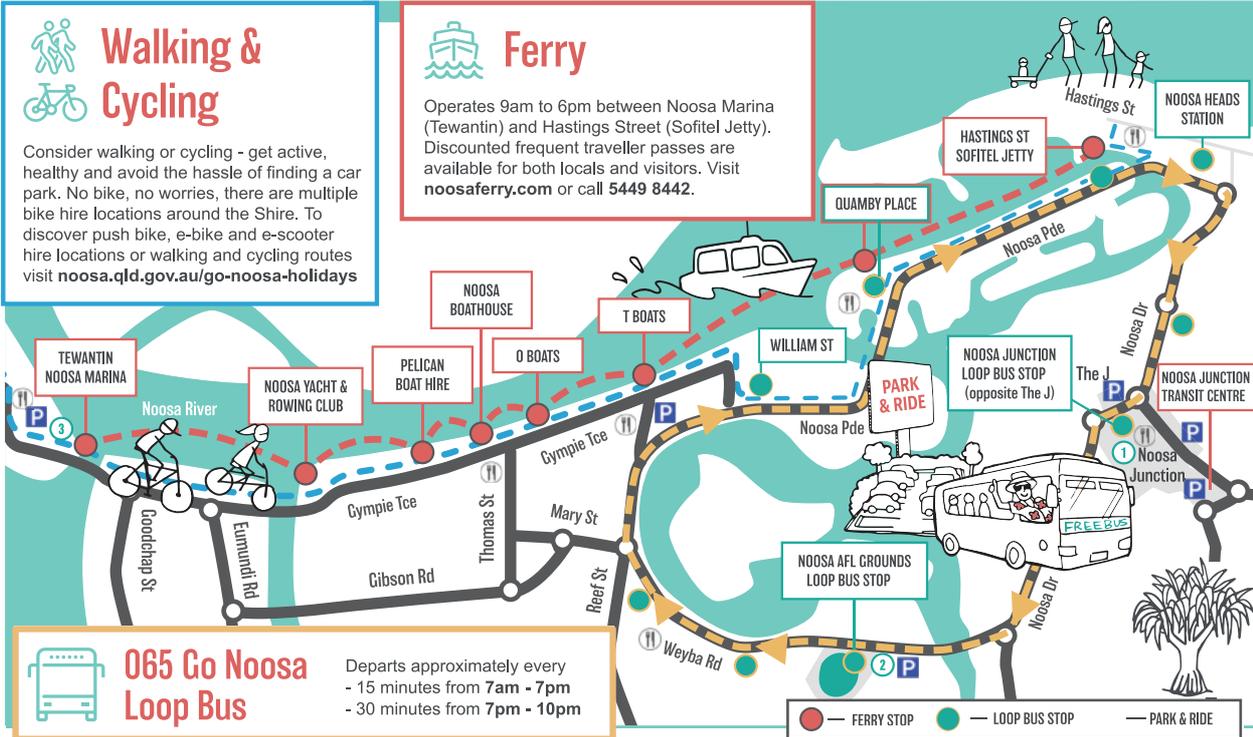
Walking & Cycling

Consider walking or cycling - get active, healthy and avoid the hassle of finding a car park. No bike, no worries, there are multiple bike hire locations around the Shire. To discover push bike, e-bike and e-scooter hire locations or walking and cycling routes visit noosa.qld.gov.au/go-noosa-holidays



Ferry

Operates 9am to 6pm between Noosa Marina (Tewantin) and Hastings Street (Sofitel Jetty). Discounted frequent traveller passes are available for both locals and visitors. Visit noosaferry.com or call 5449 8442.



Free Buses

Noosa Council in partnership with Translink, are providing FREE public transport on the following bus routes:

- 626** Tewantin to Sunrise Beach via Noosa Heads
- 627** Tewantin to Sunshine Beach via Noosa Heads
- 628** Noosa Parklands to Noosa Junction via Noosa Civic
- 065** Temporary Go Noosa loop
- 629** Tewantin to Noosa Junction via Noosa Civic
- 632** Noosa to Cooran via Cooroy and Pomona
- 064** Temporary route 064 Peregrin Beach to Noosa Heads

*Routes 620, 622, 630 and 631 travel outside of the Noosa Shire Council area and are not included in the free service.



If you are travelling on routes 626, 627, 628, 629 or 632, scan the QR code to use the Translink journey planner, download the **MyTranslink** app or call **13 12 30** to plan your journey.



Translink services will operate to a Sunday timetable on most public holidays. Temporary route 064 will run to its hourly timetable and the 065 will operate as per the timetable overleaf.

For route information on temporary services 064 & 065 visit noosa.qld.gov.au/go-noosa-holidays or call 5329 6500.



Park & Ride/Walk

Park anywhere along the free bus routes and hop on a free bus (normal car parking restrictions apply) or jump on the ferry.



BE COVID SAFE



Scan the QR code for more information



Please support our Sponsors

Thank you for your support

Noosa Queen Noosa Marina, 2 Parkyn Court, Tewantin	Noosa RSL 1 Memorial Ave, Tewantin
Bloom Hearing Specialists The Atrium, Shop 1, 91 Poinciana Ave, Tewantin	Hang Loosa Noosa Property Poinciana Ave, Tewantin
Noosa Yacht & Rowing Club Gympie Terrace, Noosaville	Pier 11 Restaurant Noosa Marina, 2 Parkyn Court, Tewantin
Royal Mail Hotel 120 Poinciana Ave, Tewantin	The White House Noosa Marina, 2 Parkyn Court, Tewantin
Noosa Harbour Fish Market Noosa Marina, 2 Parkyn Court, Noosaville	Zabe Espresso Bar Poinciana Ave, Tewantin

Grief is Like Carrying a Stone in Your Pocket

“The best way I can describe grief as the years go by is to say it’s similar to carrying a stone in your pocket. When you walk, the stone brushes against your skin. You feel it. You always feel it. But depending on the way you stand or the way your body moves, the smooth edges might barely graze your body.

Sometimes you lean the wrong way or you turn too quickly and a sharp edge pokes you. Your eyes water and you rub your wound but you have to keep going because not everyone knows about your stone, or if they do, they don’t realise it can still bring this much pain.

There are days you are simply happy now, smiling comes easy and you laugh without thinking. You slap your leg during that laughter and you feel your stone and aren’t sure whether you should be laughing still. The stone still hurts.

Once in a while you can’t take your hand off that stone. You run it over your fingers and roll it in your palm and are so preoccupied by its weight, you forget things like your car keys and home address.

You try to leave it alone but you just can’t. You want to take a nap but it’s been so many years since you’ve called in “sad” you’re not sure anyone would understand anymore or if they ever did.

But most days you can take your hand in and out of your pocket, feel your stone and even smile at its unwavering presence. You’ve accepted this stone as your own, crossing your hands over it saying, “mine” as children do.

You rest more peacefully than you once did, you’ve learned to move forward the best you can. Some days you want to show the world what a beautiful memory you’re holding.

But most days you twirl it through your fingers, smile and look to the sky. You squeeze your hands together and hope you are living in a way that honours the missing piece you carry, until your arms are full again.”

... written by Jessica Watson
Four Plus An Angel

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