

## Do yourself a favour & have a lovely day!

A relaxing half day paddle down a beautiful crystal clear mountain stream is one of the best ways to start a day out in Tropical North Queensland. Whether you're a local looking for a day escape or a Tourist seeking a real TNQ experience this is one not to miss. Mission Beach Business and Tourism's newest Bronze Sponsor **Babinda Kayak Hire** has been sending people up the creek for years, thankfully with paddles and comfortable kayaks. Garry Davison aka 'Wild Garry' hire's his kayaks for a half or full day and bookings are essential. The half day tour takes about 4 hours where you'll be taken downstream by the gentle current through the valley along crystal clear waters. The Mission Beach Visitor Centre staff recently did a fam of this gorgeous product and was delighted to watch the creek come alive with life. Some of us stopped along the way on a

### Mission Beach Visitor Centre staff enjoy the gentle waters of Babinda Creek



secluded beach for a swim and a snack as we moseyed on down to our pickup point. It was thrilling, incredibly lovely and suitable for a broad age group. Our group ranged in age from 20 to 70 years (sorry for giving that away Ted). Garry has thought of everything you'll need for a comfortable trip including waterproof containers for your phones or camera's.

Check out Babinda Kayak's website for more details on this must do  
[www.babindakayakhire.com.au](http://www.babindakayakhire.com.au)

## All Nanc & Fozzy

Locals Steven Foster (Fozzy) and Nancy Lowe are the proud new owners of the **Mission Beach Dunk Island Water Taxi** since 24<sup>th</sup> August. Fozzy knows the maritime ropes well having worked in the industry most of his life and more recently has spent the last 2 ½ years working for the Water Taxi's previous owners Nathan and Vanessa.

Fozzy created the **Three Island Tour** and is very excited to have the opportunity to further develop the product. Both he and Nancy are passionate locals and really want to achieve something for the beach.

The Mission Beach Dunk Island Water Taxi is now operating 7 days a week and has introduced a Backpacker BBQ pack. Available on Saturday's, for the small fee of \$40.00 everything a backpacker needs for a fabulous BBQ lunch is provided (including the BBQ).

**AND...**this entrepreneurial pair also started Mission Beach Bike Hire recently making holiday bicycle requirements simple and affordable. Just contact them & they'll deliver straight to your doorstep.

[www.missionbeachbikehire.com.au](http://www.missionbeachbikehire.com.au)

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## Visitor Centre News

In October this year the Mission Beach Visitor Information Centre will receive the illustrious Tourism Tropical North Queensland 'Hall of Fame' Award. Having won the visitor Services Award three years in a row qualifies MBVIC for the first time in its history.

While the fruit tasting is going extremely well it's great to add a twist to surprise visitors and locals. One of MBVIC's wonderful volunteers Dave Ryan is a Shearer by trade and very kindly offered to shear a couple of sheep on the front lawn at the centre. He gave a great talk on the subject and told us lots of sheep jokes; fortunately there weren't too many Kiwis in the audience. A couple of brave visitors volunteered to 'have a go' and the sheep seemed to take it all in their stride.



### MOU between MBBT & C4

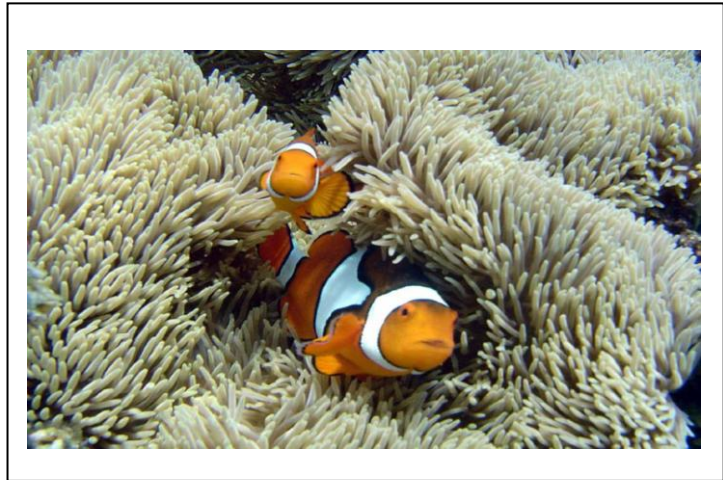
Mission Beach Business and Tourism are currently working towards a draft Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations regarding sharing a mutual desire to work together to promote eco-tourism in the Mission Beach area, in particular environmental interpretive material. Thank you to MBBT Member Lee & Co for their assistance in this important matter.

*'Coming together is the beginning.*

*Keeping together is progress.*

*Working together is success.*

## Turning the Tide Project



### Background

Post tropical cyclone Yasi saw Mission Beach Tourism the recipient of a donation from the American oil company Apache Energy to help in the reconstruction of the Mission Beach tourist industry. There were some provisos however; the money was not to be spent on marketing but rather lasting assets.

Mission Beach Tourism has recently been successful using the donation to acquire a further \$100,000 from the federal government's Department of Resources Energy and Tourism through their Tourism Quality Projects Funding,[T-QUAL] grant program that is designed to develop strategic planning.

Mission Beach Tourism on receipt of the original Apache Energy donation determined that it was prudent to use the funds to leverage further capital so as to realise the maximum benefit. The project identified was the establishment of a quality interpretation centre in Mission Beach that told the story of the creation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

It was felt that as Mission Beach has a strong conservation ethos and that it was in fact in Mission Beach that the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was initially conceptualised, that a leading edge interpretive centre telling the

story using new technologies such as augmented reality was an appropriate project to pursue for the community.

The "Turning the Tide" project which was the basis of the T-QUAL grant application also recognises the diverse facets of Mission Beach and its community and the uniqueness of other industries such as horticulture which currently partners with tourism via the information centre to present an increasingly successful fruit tasting experience for visitors.

Mission Beach Tourism Visitor Information Centre and C4, the peak conservation organisation in Mission Beach also with an information centre, are close neighbours and cooperatively share common space. The two organisations are currently discussing the benefits of using this funding to present the appropriate conservation message. It is felt that the story of the creation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park would be an iconic experience with a strong conservation message that recognises the conservation movement's initiative in working towards the creation of the park that now benefits all.