



Last week we each used

**178L a day**

as at 27 February 2023

## More time to have your say on Caldera Rim Walk

**In response to requests from the community to National Parks and Wildlife, the exhibition of the Caldera Rim Walk Draft Master Plan has been extended until 6 March 2023.**

The consultation provides an important opportunity for the community and other stakeholders to have a say about the proposed new walk in Wollumbin National Park.

The extension will allow individuals and groups more opportunity to consider the proposal and finalise and make a submission or make changes to submissions already lodged.

You can view the draft master plan and provide comments at [environment.nsw.gov.au/caldera](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/caldera).

Anyone is invited to submit their comments in writing by 5 pm on 6 March 2023 in the following ways:

- Complete the online survey at [environment.nsw.gov.au/caldera](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/caldera)
- Mail to NPWS Tweed-Byron Area, 135 Murwillumbah St, Murwillumbah, NSW, 2484
- Email to [npws.wollumbin@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.wollumbin@environment.nsw.gov.au)

For enquires or more information email [npws.wollumbin@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:npws.wollumbin@environment.nsw.gov.au)

## New sports field lighting

**Funding for 16 new energy efficient LED lights at the rugby league and touch football grounds at Les Burger Field at Bogangar/Cabarita was announced last week.**

The \$217,555 project is funded through the Female Friendly community sport facilities and lighting upgrades program 2022/23 and will involve the removal of existing lighting, installation of the new LED lights, and an automated lighting control system.

The project is expected will take approximately 12 months to complete, with construction to begin towards the end of the year.

By upgrading the lighting, it will allow the club to provide higher level training and playing opportunities for its members, with a focus on growing women's and girls' teams.

The facility will be constructed to modern, national and international standards and will be available year-round for the whole community to use.

Thanks to this funding, Council can continue its ongoing program to install and upgrade sports field lighting to LED as part of its Sports Field Strategy. Find out more about Council's recreation and outdoor facilities at [tweed.nsw.gov.au/recreation-outdoors](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/recreation-outdoors)

## Dish up some kindness

**Kindness is like coffee.**

It awakens your spirit and improves your day.

The Starting Block Café at Murwillumbah is encouraging the community to help them to support those in need and brighten someone's day by donating towards their Pay it Forward program.

The Pay it Forward scheme is a way for the community to show kindness to those people who are doing it tough by providing free drinks or food.

It's as simple as chipping in a bit extra when you buy your coffee or lunch. Anyone who might need a meal or a drink can visit the café in a time of need.

Find out more at [trac.tweed.nsw.gov.au/starting-block-cafe](http://trac.tweed.nsw.gov.au/starting-block-cafe)

The Starting Block Café is located at the Tweed Regional Aquatic Centre complex at Murwillumbah.



Drone shot of the spectacular Livvi's Place at Goorimahbah Place of Stories, which is located on the northern bank of Jack Evans Boat Harbour at Tweed Heads.

## Kids' playground at Tweed Heads is a hit!

**Described by some as the 'best playground ever', Livvi's Place at Goorimahbah Place of Stories was given the official tick of approval last week with the opening of the popular inclusive playground.**

Located on the northern side of Jack Evans Boat Harbour, Stage 1 of the \$980,000 precinct upgrade including the play space was completed in late December.

Designed in collaboration with the Touched by Olivia Foundation, local landscape architect Dan Plummer, Council's Aboriginal Advisory and Equal Access and Advisory Committees and the community, the playground places inclusion at the heart of its design, allowing children of all abilities, ages and cultures to enjoy the play space.

It also celebrates the cultural heritage of the local Bundjalung people, with Indigenous artwork and storytelling central to the theme of the play space. The Aboriginal calendar celebrates 6 seasons, with the seasonal stories integrated into the play space design through art and story to provide cultural and historical understanding, with the artwork by Christine Slabb and storytelling by Kyle Slabb.

The innovative play space design was funded by Variety – the Children's Charity NSW/ACT and the construction of Stage 1 is proudly funded by NSW Government in collaboration with Tweed Shire Council.

Work on Stage 2 of the park is now underway. For more information and to provide feedback on Stage 1 of the play space, visit [yoursaytweed.com.au/goorimahbah](http://yoursaytweed.com.au/goorimahbah) or [tweed.nsw.gov.au/latest-news](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/latest-news)

## Fingal Foreshore Park revitalises local area

**The much-loved new inclusive playground at Fingal Foreshore Park, which pays homage to the deep cultural heritage of the area, was officially opened last week.**

Located on the foreshore, near Fingal Rovers Surf Life Saving Club, the park has already proved a popular attraction for families keen to enjoy the spectacular natural scenery of Fingal Head since its completion late last year.

The playground includes nature play features such as timber hopping logs, balance beams, a timber climbing net and water pump. It incorporates areas for quiet, creative, active and stimulating play allowing children to learn while using their imagination.

Other features of the play space include new play equipment for children aged 2 to 12 years such as swings and slides, an accessible carousel, a yarning circle, additional trees, and accessible picnic facilities.

This new inclusive play space has been made possible through the NSW Government's Everyone Can Play grant program. For this project in Fingal Head, Council received a \$107,000 grant from the NSW Government with Council contributing an additional \$220,000.

Find out more about the Fingal Foreshore Park project and its history at [yoursaytweed.com.au/fingal-foreshore-park](http://yoursaytweed.com.au/fingal-foreshore-park)



Students from Fingal Head Public School were on hand to test out the playground at the official opening of the Fingal Foreshore Park last week.

## Speed limit changes on several Tweed roads

**Transport for NSW has authorised a reduction of speed zones along Duranbah Road, Tumbulgum Road, Tomewin Road, Bilambil Road (2 locations) and Eviron Road.**

Tweed Shire Council works closely with Transport for NSW to ensure speed zones meet the current needs and movement of our road network.

There are several important factors considered when reviewing speed zones and on top of the list is 'safety'. Speed zones are set to minimise harm and support liveability, amenity and successful places.

Although there is a cost associated with increased travel time when a lower speed limit is set, the effect on the overall travel time for an individual vehicle is usually minimal and the potential for reduction in crashes can outweigh the penalty of additional travel time.

From Monday 6 March, Council will start implementing the speed reductions along the following roads:

- **Duranbah Road** from Cudgen Road to the end of Duranbah Road – 80 km/h to 60 km/h
- **Tumbulgum Road** from Cane Road to Murwillumbah – 100 km/h to 80 km/h
- **Tomewin Road** from 90 metres west of Dulguigan Road to the existing 60 km/h zone – 80 km/h to 60 km/h
- **Bilambil Road** from 340 metres north of Terranora Road to Bilambil village – 80 km/h to 60 km/h
- **Bilambil Road** from the change point at Bilambil Heights to the change point at Bilambil Village – 80 km/h to 60 km/h
- **Eviron Road** from Clothiers Creek Road to 4.7 km east of the

intersection – 80 km/h to 60 km/h.

Signage will be in place at the approach of these locations to advise of the upcoming speed limit changes.

Please slow down as crews work their way through changing speed zones.

To learn more about how Council supports our community to stay safe on Tweed roads visit [tweed.nsw.gov.au/roads](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/roads)

To have your say about speed limits visit [saferroadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursay.aspx](http://saferroadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursay.aspx). You can use this page to comment on speed limits and speed limit signs in NSW.



# Dung beetles in the Tweed!

A spotlight will be shone on dung beetles at an upcoming workshop aimed at local farmers in the Tweed to learn about the benefits of these vital insects.

The free workshop aims to educate producers about the advantages of dung beetles, the species that are found in the Tweed, and how best to manage them.

Dung beetles, including both native and introduced species, play a critical role in livestock systems by recycling nutrients, reducing habitat for parasites, minimising runoff of nutrients into waterways and improving soil productivity.

The workshop will be held at Stokers Siding - Dunbible Memorial Hall on Thursday 16 March and is being delivered as part of a larger project to build drought resilient dairy and beef farms in the Tweed.

Bookings are essential and can be made online at [tweed.nsw.gov.au/agriculture](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/agriculture)

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.



A free workshop for farmers in the Tweed aims to educate about the benefits of dung beetles and how best to manage these important species.



## Have your say

Add your voice to decision making in the Tweed

### Notice of proposed repeal of CP 21 – Terranora Village Estate Open Space and Community Facilities

A review of Council's Contribution Plan CP 21 – Terranora Village Estate Open Space and Community Facilities is now completed.

Council proposes to repeal CP 21 in accordance with Section 215(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.

The Works Schedule, consisting of 4 projects, is considered complete except for one project that is no longer possible as the hall has been demolished.

A new community facility is proposed for Terranora in the shirewide CP 15 - Developer Contributions for Community Facilities.

#### Have your say

Council is giving 14 days' notice of its intention to repeal CP 21 – Terranora Village Estate Open Space and Community Facilities from the date of this notice being published.

**Enquiries:** Paul Morgan, Senior Planning and Infrastructure Engineer  
**Phone:** 02 6670 2400

**Email:** [tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au)

**Online:** [yoursaytweed.com.au/CP21repeal](http://yoursaytweed.com.au/CP21repeal)

**Council confidentiality policy:** On request, any submission including identifying particulars will be made public. Council will give consideration to the 'Public Interest' and requests for confidentiality however, the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* may require confidential submissions to be released to an applicant.

Help us make decisions with you  
Register at [yoursaytweed.com.au](http://yoursaytweed.com.au)

## Resident and Ratepayer Association meetings

Chinderah Districts Residents Association meet Tuesday 7 March 2023, 7 pm (AEST) at Uniting Church Hall, 24 Kingscliff Street, opposite nursing home Kingscliff.

## Current vacancies

View current vacancies at [tweed.nsw.gov.au/job-vacancies](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/job-vacancies)

Subscribe to receive Job Vacancy Alerts via email at

[tweed.nsw.gov.au/subscribe](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/subscribe)

**WATER WEEK 8** Check when your water meter is read at [tweed.nsw.gov.au/meter-reading](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/meter-reading)

## Planning Committee Meeting agenda – Thursday 2 March 2023

The Planning Committee Meeting agenda for Thursday 2 March 2023 is available on Council's website [tweed.nsw.gov.au/councillors-meetings](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/councillors-meetings). The meeting will be held at the Council Chambers, Murwillumbah Civic & Cultural Centre, Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah commencing at 3:30 pm.

### Agenda

#### Reports for consideration

##### Planning and Regulation

- 8.1** Development Application DA20/1044 for shop top housing comprising one commercial premises (use as food and drink premises) and three one-bedroom units and one four-bedroom unit at Lot 17 DP1145386 and Road 2238, No. 65 Cylinders Drive, Kingscliff at Lot 17 DP1145386 and Road 2238, No. 65 Cylinders Drive, Kingscliff

- 8.2** Development Application DA21/0637.01 for an amendment to Development Consent DA21/0637 for a residential flat building comprising of 47 units (NRPP) at Lot 59 DP 1264557 No. 5 Grand Parade, Casuarina
- 8.3** Request to prepare a Planning Proposal for the Kingscliff Locality Plan & Tweed DCP Section B 26 Implementation
- 8.4** Planning proposal to prohibit caravan parks in RU2 Rural Landscape zone

## Council Meeting agenda – Thursday 2 March 2023

The Council Meeting Agenda for Thursday 2 March 2023 is available on Council's website [tweed.nsw.gov.au/councillors-meetings](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/councillors-meetings). The meeting will be held at the Council Chambers, Murwillumbah Civic & Cultural Centre, Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah commencing at the conclusion of the Planning Committee meeting.

### Agenda

#### Reports for consideration

##### Confirmation of minutes

- 3.1** Adoption of Recommendations from Planning Committee meeting held Thursday 2 March 2023

#### Confidential items for consideration

##### Planning and Regulation

- 21.1** Development Application DA21/0582 for a subdivision of 2 lots in 4 lots, construction of 4 dual occupancies and strata subdivision at Lot 5 DP 23576 No. 7 Elanora Avenue, Pottsville; Lot 6 DP 23576 No. 9 Elanora Avenue, Pottsville

The agenda for these meetings, which may also include any late or supplementary reports, will be updated prior to the date of the meetings and is available on Council's website. It should be noted that confidential items are considered in closed session, which excludes media and public. Also, the minutes of these meetings will be available as soon as practical following the meetings and are unconfirmed until they are formally adopted at the next Council meeting.

Please be aware that meetings are livestreamed, and video recordings will be available on Council's website following the meeting. A person's image and/or voice may be broadcast. Attendance at the meeting is to be taken as consent by a person to their image and/or voice being webcast.

## Development application determinations

Notification of development application determinations for the purposes of Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (as amended).

### Application details

#### Approved

**DA22/0190** - Partially out of ground swimming pool, deck and retaining wall  
Lot 15 DP 223194, No. 47 Laura Street, **Banora Point**

**DA22/0488** - Alterations and additions to existing dwelling including carport forward of the building line, 1.5 m high front fence and the use of an existing retaining wall  
Lot 515 DP 785912, No. 24 St Andrews Way, **Banora Point**

**DA22/0699** - Semi above ground pool, associated decking and 1.8m boundary fence  
Lot 15 DP 242802, No. 19 Hibiscus Parade, **Banora Point**

**DA22/0779** - Alterations and additions to existing dwelling including deck and carport  
Lot 103 DP 716444, No. 10 Jarrah Place, **Banora Point**

**DA22/0790** - Carport forward of the building line  
Lot 1 SP 60670, Unit 1/No. 16 Riversdale Boulevard, **Banora Point**

**DA22/0239** - In-ground swimming pool  
Lot 37 DP 31041, No. 50 Simpson Drive, **Bilambil Heights**

**DA22/0618** - Carport within the front building line and roofed deck  
Lot 317 DP 31041, No. 33 Lakeview Terrace, **Bilambil Heights**

**DA22/0750** - Alterations and additions to existing dwelling  
Lot 456 DP 221546, No. 18 Mimosas Avenue, **Bogangar**

**DA22/0754** - Use of deck and pergola  
Lot 15 DP 1052380, No. 15 Reef Water Circuit, **Bogangar**

**DA21/0838** - Dual occupancy (detached), demolition and 2 swimming pools  
Lot 55 DP 1158855, No. 10 Rosewood Avenue, **Bogangar**

**DA22/0208** - Front fence 1.5 and 1.8 m high and gatehouse  
Lot 140 DP 1031933, No. 411 Casuarina Way, **Casuarina**

**DA22/0588** - Two storey dwelling with attached garage and inground swimming pool  
Lot 78DP 1264557, No. 37 Black Wattle Circuit, **Casuarina**

**DA22/0732** - Deck and patio roof  
Lot 4 DP 772154, No. 402 Fernvale Road, **Fernvale**

**DA22/0817** - Inground swimming pool  
Lot 4 DP 772154, No. 402 Fernvale Road, **Fernvale**

**DA22/0651** - Alterations and additions to existing dwelling  
Lot 613 DP 755740, No. 24 Fingal Road, **Fingal Head**

**DA22/0497** - Alterations and additions to existing dwelling  
Lot 37 DP 704246, No. 2 Peate Court, **Kingscliff**

**DA22/0587** - Dwelling with attached garage and retaining walls  
Lot 116DP 1284746, No. 90 Castle Field Drive, **Murwillumbah**

**DA22/0749** - Three sheds and associated earthworks  
Lot 2 DP 828452, No. 20 Hideaway Lane, **Murwillumbah**

**DA22/0803** - In-ground swimming pool  
Lot 2 DP 868655, No. 31 Eva Crescent, **Piggabeen**

**DA22/0687** - In-ground swimming pool within the front building line and 1.8 m high front fence  
Lot 1120 DP 1115395, No. 42 Lennox Circuit, **Pottsville**

**DA22/0859** - House raising including new front stairs and rear ramp  
Lot 1 DP 513145, No. 87 Tweed Valley Way, **South Murwillumbah**

**DA22/0192** - Above-ground swimming pool with retaining walls and paved entertainment area  
Lot 237 DP 851495, No. 37 Horseshoe Road, **Terranora**

**DA22/0623** - Patio  
Lot 56 DP 792238, No. 29-31 Market Parade, **Terranora**

**DA23/0027** - Alterations and additions to an existing dwelling including carport forward of the building line  
Lot 10 DP 814951, No. 3 Valleyview Place, **Terranora**

**DA22/0157** - Two lot strata subdivision  
Lot 7DP 1264394, No. 87 Henry Lawson Drive, **Terranora**

**DA22/0392** - Alterations and additions including carport, retaining walls and in-ground swimming pool  
Lot 19 Section 5DP 8568, No. 49 Charles Street, **Tweed Heads**

**DA22/0486** - Use of alterations and additions including double garage and patio  
Lot 149 DP 246854, No. 18 Norman Street, **Tweed Heads**

**DA22/0645** - Two storey dwelling and attached garage  
Lot 112 DP 246488, No. 9 Compass Way, **Tweed Heads**

**DA22/0822** - Alterations and additions to existing dwelling  
Lot 2 DP 552616, No. 3 Pearl Street, **Tweed Heads**

**DA22/0024** - Pontoon  
Lot 142 DP 246854, Lot 167 DP 246854, No. 17 Norman Street, **Tweed Heads**

**DA22/0087** - Secondary dwelling  
Lot 5 Section 10DP 28266, No. 9 Hillcrest Avenue, **Tweed Heads South**

**DA22/0406** - Alterations and additions to existing dwelling including carport within the front building line, 1.8 m high front fence and roofed deck  
Lot 123 DP 701433, No. 41 Tringa Street, **Tweed Heads West**

**DA22/0728** - Alterations & additions including boatshed, carport, inground swimming pool and spa and undercroft storage to canal  
Lot 58 DP 264646, No. 12 Tattler Court, **Tweed Heads West**

#### Refused

**DA21/0404** - 23 lot subdivision (over two stages)  
Lot 7 DP 853589, No. 67 Scenic Drive, **Bilambil Heights**

The above development determinations are available for public inspection free of charge at the Planning and Regulation Division, Murwillumbah Civic Centre, during ordinary office hours or viewed on Council's DA Tracking site located at [datracker.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://datracker.tweed.nsw.gov.au)

02 6670 2400 or 1300 292 872

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**TWEED**  
SHIRE COUNCIL



## Where we're up to in flood recovery

**The flood waters of February and March 2022 may have receded but the impact of the deluge continues to be seen and felt around the Tweed.**

These have been the biggest floods in the Tweed's recorded history and the destruction and damage to infrastructure, services, businesses and individuals has caused widespread angst and distress and the financial cost amounts to many millions of dollars.

Getting the Tweed up and running again has been a focus for Council and many organisations involved in recovery efforts.

Restoration works commenced in March and while much has been achieved in the past 12 months, works will continue through this year and into 2024.

The challenge for Council has been not just to restore infrastructure but where feasible, incorporate greater resilience.

The total damage bill from the floods of February and March for Council has been estimated at more than \$120 million.

A large portion of that has been damage to the road network, including 10 significant land slips which have caused major disruptions to the community.

To date, more than 3780 road damages have been identified. This is more than double the amount following the 2017 ex-Cyclone Debbie floods and does not include minor repairs such as potholes. Council has already repaired more than 36,400 potholes. The estimated road damage bill exceeds \$100 million.

This is 4 times the road damage value caused by Cyclone Debbie in 2017 and more than twice the number of damaged items.

As at 31 January 2023, Council has spent more than \$46.5 million on flood restoration works.

Another major challenge for the Tweed post-floods was the enormous clean up. The cost of the waste collection and disposal was \$4.3 million.

- This involved clearing 26,000 tonnes of flood waste including household goods (which was about double the volume of waste which the Tweed community would normally throw out in their red lid bins)
- Among this waste was 1440 tonnes of asbestos.
- An estimated 75,000 tonnes of mud debris were also collected and removed (including setting up a temporary waste processing facility with approvals from the Environmental Protection Authority).

Compared to the damage caused by Cyclone Debbie in 2017, the 2022 floods caused more than 3 times the volume of soil and rock removed.

The floods of 2022 affected such a wide area of South East Queensland and the Northern Rivers, demand for resources has created a scarcity of engineering and contracting resources in the already overheated building and construction market.

However over the past 12 months, there has been significant progress made, thanks the efforts of Council's Flood Restoration team.

To follow what Council has been doing and also find out what support our amazing community organisations are still providing visit [tweed.nsw.gov.au/flood-recovery-update](http://tweed.nsw.gov.au/flood-recovery-update)



**Cudgen Rural Fire Brigade members used their vehicle to evacuate people from the super service station at Chinderah during the floods of 2022.**

## Cudgen Rural Fire Brigade played important role

**The floods of February 2022 saw the Cudgen Rural Fire Brigade transform from a fire service to a rescue service, playing a crucial role in evacuating people from areas around Chinderah.**

Twelve months ago, Cudgen Rural Fire Brigade Captain Troy Middlebrook and his team were heavily involved before, during and after the devastating floods.

Leading up to Monday 28 February, Mr Middlebrook said his members were assisting filling sandbags and distributing them to various locations around the area.

"It was the Sunday just before the major flood and we were helping the SES where we could," Mr Middleton said.

"During the day the rain started to get heavier and we knew if it kept up, roads would be cut. Chinderah was starting to flood and people were gathering at the BP super service station.

"We pivoted quickly from sandbagging to shuttling people from the service station to the evacuation centres in Kingscliff and Banora Point, using our vehicles because we could still get through the waters.

"We were working with the VRA and managed to get about 160 people out from the service station which also included multiple medical emergency patients from the local area to safety.

"This process went through the night until the service station was cut off completely around 3.30 am due to the height of the flood waters.

"We advised about 20 people to drive up onto the M1 overpass if water started to get into the service station as one of our trucks had succumbed to the flood water and we had to recover it onto the overpass as well.

"Around 9 am we managed to shuttle the remaining people on the overpass to safety."

As the waters receded, the Cudgen Rural Fire Brigade continued to assist the community through the massive clean-up phase, clearing away the mud and sludge.

"It was a huge effort by our team, exhausting but rewarding, knowing that we were able to help so many in our community," Mr Middleton said.

"It was also challenging but not the first time we've had to transition from our usual role as a fire service to being involved in rescuing people from flood waters."

The efforts of the Cudgen Rural Fire Service were recognized with the organisation presented with a Tweed Shire Australia Day Award for the 2022 Volunteer of the Year Group.

To find out more about the Cudgen Rural Fire brigade, visit [www.facebook.com/cudgenbrigade](http://www.facebook.com/cudgenbrigade)



**Tomewin Road was one of the many roads damaged in the flood 12 months ago and later repaired.**

## Touching ceremony to mark first anniversary of flood

**A heartwarming service was held on Tuesday to mark one year since the unprecedented 2022 flood.**

Flowers were cast into the Tweed River in a symbolic gesture of hope and healing.

The ceremony was a small step in the journey towards recovery, with additional activities held across the Tweed to mark the

anniversary, including community events hosted by the Chinderah Donations Hub, Hub 2484 and Business Kingscliff.

The Australia Red Cross is hosting a week-long DROPS initiative in the Murwillumbah Civic Centre Auditorium, with members of the community invited to drop in and share their feelings and thoughts on a paper 'drop' to collectively create an art installation.



**Residents reflected while marking one year on from the 2022 flood by casting flowers into the river, as a sign of hope.**



**Flowers were cast into the Tweed River at Skinner Lowes Wharf in a symbolic gesture of hope.**



**Members of the Australian Red Cross and Tweed Byron Police joined the community at the ceremony.**

# Work progresses quickly at Murwillumbah Community Centre

The flood refurbishment of the Murwillumbah Community Centre is due for completion on 19 May 2023 but with the progress being made by contractors, this date is likely to be brought forward.

Council Flood Coordinator Charlotte Neilson said works are progressing well with contractors ahead of schedule with internal wall sheeting planned this week.

The flood resilience measures for the centre include raising services above flood levels, epoxy flooring, stainless steel joinery and aluminium doors throughout the centre.

Ms Neilson said the flood project team is working closely with the centre manager to ensure the centre is flood hardy so that minimal restoration work is required after any future floods.

She said this was part of Council's strategic plan to provide the community with reliable essential infrastructure while dealing with the challenge of climate change.

Murwillumbah Community Centre Chairperson Barry Longland said it was a great relief to see the work on the Centre progressing so well.

"In the year since the event, we have worked collaboratively with the Council, our insurers and the general community to address the difficult task of rebuilding," Mr Longland said.

"The rebuilding specifications have placed a high priority on 'future proofing' the centre against another event of this kind and I thank the Council for including the ideas of our staff in those specifications.

"The devastating flood event of early 2022 had a profound impact on the capacity of staff and volunteers at the MCC to continue our service provision to the most vulnerable members of the community at a time when those services were needed most.

"We lost the use of the main Hub as well as our homelessness services through Nullum House and the Food Hub.

"But now the Food Hub is nearly ready to reopen, Nullum House is up and running and it is encouraging to see the work in the Main HUB progressing quickly.

Follow Council's Flood recovery works at [tweed.nsw.gov.au/flood-recovery-update](https://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/flood-recovery-update)



Contractors working on the internal walls of the Murwillumbah Community Centre.

## Help is at hand at community centre

It has been 12 months since the biggest floods in the Tweed's recorded history struck and for many in our community, the memories of that harrowing time are just as traumatic now as the actual event.

The floods caused so much destruction and impacted on so many people, marking the event this month will be dealt with in so many different ways.

The Murwillumbah Community Centre (MCC) recognises this and is running the Murwillumbah Flood Recovery Support Program, funded by Primary Health Networks through Healthy North Coast.

This program provides holistic support for individuals, families and groups affected by the floods.

The program also provides opportunities for community groups and volunteers to gain support skills.

MCC Program Coordinator/Community Services Coordinator Eva Sanz Orio said the end of the month would be a traumatic time for a large section of the community still struggling to get back on their feet after the floods.

"Flood Recovery Program is aimed at helping people deal with their own personal struggles – be it housing, financial or emotional," Ms Sanz Orio said.

"The floods may have been in 2022 but for so many, it has been a long and exhausting 12 months and they feel like there is still so far to go."

She said there were a range of activities offered within the program run out of Nullum House in Nullum Street, Murwillumbah.

"There is individual and family support, community training and group activities – each tailored to serve specific needs," she said.

"The most important thing is to know you are not alone and we welcome anyone who is in need of help."

Recovery Support Worker Evelyn To said that housing was a major issue of concern along with financial assistance.

"The uncertainty which people are facing in regard to their housing situation, coupled with the fact they may have exhausted any funding support they have had is causing a lot of distress," Ms To said.

"We have found that there is also a high level of emotional exhaustion as well, particularly among parents, who have had to remain strong for their children through the whole ordeal."

Indigenous Recovery Support Worker Jamie Penny's role is focused on engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people dealing with the impacts of the floods.

"No matter who you are or where you are from, we are here to help – from assisting people navigate confusing applications for support to

simply being someone to talk to," Mr Penny said.

One of the group activities offered at Nullum House is an art therapy-based program run by art therapist Duke Albada.

Called Gaining Higher Ground, the 10-week program focuses on post-flood individual recovery, working through past experiences and looking to the future.

Ms Albada said the program wasn't about how artistic people are, it's about dealing with trauma and emotions stored up over time through images and symbols.

"By unlocking internal concerns through art, it opens doors to being able to connect with others verbally or in a written way," Ms Albada said.

"This program helps people deal with changes in their personal life and in their surrounding environments which may have been brought on by major events like natural disasters.

"Everyone is welcome, it is non-judgemental and whatever you create, you can do with it what you feel – keep it, leave it or dispose of it – it is part of the healing process."

Ms Albada said individuals or groups could take part in one session or the remainder of the Gaining Higher Ground program which will run every Tuesday at Nullum House from 1 pm to 4pm until April.

For more information about programs being offered by the MCC at Nullum House contact 02 6672 3003 or visit [www.mcccentre.org.au](https://www.mcccentre.org.au)



MCC Flood Recovery Support worker Evelyn To, Indigenous Recovery Support worker Jamie Penny, Art Therapist Duke Albada and Community Services Coordinator Eva Sanz Orio discuss the support programs available on offer at Nullum House.

## Tumbulgum business rebuilds for the future

No one looks forward to the harrowing and heartbreaking task of cleaning up after a flood.

For many residents and businesses in flood-prone areas of the Tweed, it is a task that happens far too often in recent years.

After watching the flood waters recede, leaving a path of destruction in their community, the co-owners of the Belle Riverhouse at Tumbulgum assessed the damage and made a decision - rebuild for the future and plan for future floods.

The holiday house had several metres of water flow through it. In the aftermath the owners had to consider what measures should be taken in making the historic house more flood resilient.

One of the co-owners, Anna Broomfield, speaking on behalf of her business partners said they were very fortunate that the second floor of the Riverhouse was just that little bit higher and the water was lapping just below the floor boards.

"The downstairs was a total mess but we love this house and love Tumbulgum," she said

"However floods are a fact of life here and you have to be willing to accept that.

"If you have a business in Tumbulgum, factoring in floods has to be part of your business plan.

"This is a very resilient community but we appreciate how repeated floods in a relatively short space of time can take its toll on people."

Factoring in resilience has been crucial to restoration work at the Belle Riverhouse.

Tile floors have been replaced by epoxy covering, laundry benches are all now stainless steel with provision to lift appliances to higher levels where possible and downstairs walls have been brought back to basics – painted block walls with no cavities.

Even an internal timber wall, which is now a feature of the downstairs entertaining area, has been coated with a water-resistant sealant.

"We have designed the downstairs rooms in such a way that they can be quickly and easily cleaned in the event of a future flood," Mrs Broomfield said.

The Riverhouse is holiday accommodation and the owners developed a plan for evacuating guests from the house when the water reached certain levels.

"In the 2022 flood, we sadly asked guests to pack up and leave a day early or risk being caught in the flood waters at Tumbulgum," she said.

"They followed our request and returned home but loved staying at the house so much, they came back when the flood waters receded and helped us clean up as well as booked another holiday at the Belle once we were back on our feet.

"This act of kindness and love for the Belle inspired us to continue to build back and not give up as it reminded us the what the Belle really means to us and others."

Having taken measures to make the Belle Riverhouse more flood resilient, the doors are open to guests looking to enjoy the beauty of Tumbulgum and a placid Tweed River.

The Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation provides information on Flood Resilient Design Framework. Visit [nsw.gov.au/northern-rivers-reconstruction-corporation/resilient-homes-fund/resilient-homes-program](https://www.nsw.gov.au/northern-rivers-reconstruction-corporation/resilient-homes-fund/resilient-homes-program)



Stainless steel benches and having laundry equipment positioned to be raised case of future floods are part of the resilience measures taken at the Belle Riverhouse at Tumbulgum.

## Business Kingscliff breakfast reflects on floods

Emergency services, community groups, businesses and politicians came together yesterday morning at the Salt Bar for the Business Kingscliff free community breakfast to remember the 2022 floods.

The event, sponsored by the Salt Bar, provided an opportunity to 'Remember, Reflect and Look Forward' and attracted a capacity crowd who heard stories from flood victims, rescuers, emergency services, church groups and army personnel.

Murwillumbah musician Ollie Twohill performed his original song, Washed Away, which was inspired from experiences of those impacts by the deluge.



A large audience attended the Business Kingscliff 2022 flood reflections breakfast at Salt.



Cubby Bakehouse's Ursula Watts recounts her flood experience at the Business Kingscliff flood reflections breakfast at Salt.



Tweed artist Ollie Twohill performs his song at the Business Kingscliff 2022 flood reflection breakfast at Salt.