

Graffiti crusade

MORE than 1000 local young people will take part in a new education program targeting graffiti.

As part of the 2014 Safer Queensland Community Grants initiative - supported by Suncorp Insurance and the Queensland Police Service - Noosa Shire Council received over \$5,000 for its graffiti education program, being delivered at local secondary and primary schools.

Mayor Noel Playford said in a press release the initiative, which is part-funded by council, is now underway.

"Graffiti costs the community greatly. This program has been designed to discourage young people from engaging in graffiti crime, by making them aware

of the repercussions and the impact it has on the community," Cr Playford said.

The initiative is among several the council is undertaking to help reduce graffiti incidents across the shire.

Young offenders are also now being made to clean up graffiti under an agreement with Sunshine Coast Youth Justice Service.

The education program has the support of local authorities including police, youth services and utility providers.

It includes a 45-minute presentation, letter to parents, handbooks for teachers, and stickers, comics and other materials.

Its message is: 'Respect it. Don't wreck it'.

An experienced youth presenter and actor delivers the presentations, which send a clear message that illegal graffiti is about choices and consequences.

Warner Youth Education will implement the program. Warner's graffiti education program has seen successful results and positive feedback from students and teachers at schools across Australia. For more information visit: www.warneryoutheducation.com.au or <http://www.warneryoutheducation.com.au>. Noosa Council was among more than 35 successful applicants to share in more than \$200,000 worth for funding for community-led projects.

INBRIEF

Butter Factory under discussion

NOOSA residents are invited to an update meeting on the progress of the Cooroy Butter Factory.

The meeting will take place at 10 Maple Street (the Cooroy Butter Factory) on Tuesday, 25 November, from 5.30pm.

The meeting following previous community consultations to determine the best way forward for the popular Butter Factory an iconic local building.

Ammunition found

WATER Police have recovered 12 boxes of live ammunition found near the Eenie Creek Bridge at Noosaville on Friday, 14 November.

The ammunition was described as being for army use and was both found in stored metal boxes or cardboard storage boxes.

Police handed the ammo over to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, who would carry out the destruction of the items.

Bright future at Peregian Beach

By JOLENE OGLE

THE amalgamation of Peregian Beach SLSC into Noosa Heads SLSC was a Queensland-first, and it looks to be working a treat since patrols started six weeks ago.

According to Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ), the volunteer patrols of the Peregian Beach have been "seamless" with no reduction to the patrols, thanks to the help of Noosa Heads SLSC.

SLSQ Sunshine Coast regional manager Aaron Purchase said the decision to join the two clubs, while a difficult one for Peregian Lifesavers to make, has ensured the long-term future of surf patrols and member development at Peregian Beach.

Noosa Heads SLSC president Greg Cowie said the main focus for the club was to support the local community and provide a safe place to swim.

Mr Cowie said it had been a long process working through the legal and financial procedures of joining the clubs, but minus a few "hiccups" everything was working well.

"Generally, surf lifesaving is a great big family," he said.

"We saw the need to firstly make sure the beaches were patrolled, and then for a long-term future for the Peregian facility."

Peregian Beach SLSC former president Brett Leckie said the decision to close the Peregian Beach SLSC earlier



Working together: Peregian Beach SLSC former president Brett Leckie with Noosa Heads SLSC president Greg Cowie.

this year was a "hard pill to swallow".

"The local community have been confused and not really knowing what's actually happening with the closure of the (bistro)," he said.

"The closing of the club upstairs was a financial matter due to trading conditions.

"Those trading conditions made it really difficult for us to continue.

"We had to make the decision to wind the club up. It was very difficult for our members and a hard pill to swallow, but one we had to make.

"For the betterment of life saving, that was a decision we had to make."

Mr Leckie says he is now

a member of the Noosa Heads SLSC board as the director of the Peregian Beach operations, where he will be responsible for the operations at Peregian Beach.

"My role is to facilitate what happens here at Peregian," he said.

"Being a past Peregian member, it gives me a good standing to advise Noosa people on what happens here at Peregian, what the local community are looking for."

Mr Leckie and Mr Cowie said it was hard to predict the future of the Peregian Beach SLSC bistro and upstairs area, but both were positive the future looked bright for both clubs.

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