

TREE REMEDIATION

PUBLIC safety will be improved in Cooktown with tree remediation starting this month following an independent arborist's inspection of park trees.

The work will be carried out by FNQ contractor Mossman Port Douglas Treeloppers and will start on August 12.

A rotted milky pine will be removed from Endeavour Park and another seven, including two coconut palms, will be removed from Anzac and Keable parks. Remediation works will include removing dead wood, pruning and removal of dangerous branches.

Two high risk trees will also be removed from Cooktown's Botanic Gardens, and pruning of other trees will be undertaken throughout the gardens, Nature's PowerHouse and Queen's Oval area.

Quick thinking saved shark victim

By AARON SMITH
Torres News editor

THURSDAY Island ambo Sean Molloy said the young American backpacker mauled by a shark last week was lucky to be alive, but was stoic despite her gruesome injuries.

The 21 year old had been working on one of commercial fisher Kailis's cray fishing boats and had only been in the country for less than two weeks at the time of the incident.

She was snorkeling at dusk

on Sunday, July 28, just off Magra Islet near the mouth of the Lockhart River, when she was attacked by what is believed to have been a tiger shark.

A rescue helicopter and Mr Molloy were tasked to attend the incident, being the closest available medical assistance.

Mr Molloy said it took a bit over an hour to reach the vessel and airlift the woman out.

"She was in a really bad way, but considering her injuries, she was the most stoic of all of

them, chatting with us in the chopper on the way back to Lockhart River community."

Another crew member, suffering from shock, was also airlifted and taken back to Thursday Island.

With serious lacerations from the knee down on the right leg, Mr Molloy said it was the fast actions of the crew on the boat that saved the woman's life, when they quickly got a tourniquet on her leg and called for assistance before she bled out.

"She managed to punch the shark, but it just kept coming for her," Mr Molloy said.

Initially planning to return the patient to Thursday Island Hospital, they decided to fly her straight to Cairns Base Hospital.

"The Royal Flying Doctor Service met us on the runway at Lockhart River and they got her down to Cairns in about 45 minutes, which would have been quicker than coming back to Thursday Island," Mr Molloy said.




TAX RETURNS
PREPARED BY
REGISTERED TAX AGENT
IN COOKTOWN

Tuesday 6th August until
Thursday 15th August

116 Charlotte St, Cooktown
OPEN Tuesday Wednesday and
Thursday – 9am to 4.30pm

Contact
Chris 0427 937 885 or
Pauline 0407 671 441



Standing – Anne and Joe Braumberger, Eida and Graeme Munsell, George Stevenson, Jody Andrews, Vikki Watkins, Ivan Bunn, Denis Fuller, Suzy and Ray Greenwood, Guy Davies, Graeme Andrews, Pete Hannah, Margy and John Pettigrove, Annie Hannah, Ray and Linda Marr. Kneeling – Peter Thomson and Lyn Stevenson.



Cooktown main street and Botanic Gardens TREE WORKS

Contractors will be undertaking works on trees in Endeavour and Anzac parks on Charlotte Street, and Keable Park on Racecourse Road, as well as the Cooktown Botanic Gardens. The works will start on August 12 and are expected to be finished within a week.

Please be aware of workmen and changed conditions in those areas during this time, and obey all signage. Thank you for your cooperation while we improve the safety of your parks.

For more information, contact Council's Parks and Gardens team on 4069 5444.



Remote clinic given much-needed boost

By MELANIE FENTON

LAURA'S Primary Health Care Centre is to buy a portable oxygen unit to replace a 35-year-old machine housed in a heavy metal cage.

It will arrive within a month and comes as a nice surprise thanks to an \$1800 donation from the Pandanus Park veteran community last week.

"It will be nice to lift out of a soft bag. Paramedics have laughed at the old metal cage and said they did training with it 35 years ago. They've had several models since," said clinical nurse consultant Guy Davies.

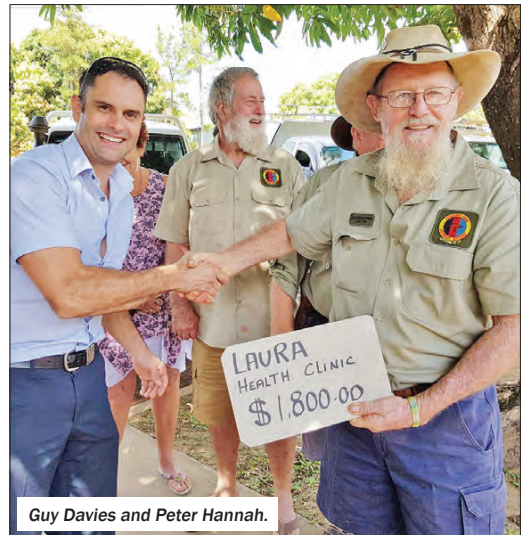
"We are a little place and we get hand-me-downs because it's hard to justify the cost of some things."

Pandanus Park funds a community project each year in the area.

Veterans and their families raise money through camp activities including a car rally and auction.

President Peter Hannah said: "It's good to provide the little extras. Their old oxygen machine weighs a tonne but they can pick up the new one in one hand and go."

Veterans donated a spinal board carrier for Laura's Remote Area



Guy Davies and Peter Hannah.

Nurse retrieval service previously.

"We are a nursing workforce with extra training," Mr Davies said.

"Two of us cover from Lakeland through Lakefield National Park and all the outstations up the left hand side to Musgrave.

"It can take up to seven hours of driving.

"The old machine works perfectly but this will be more

user friendly with adjustments specifically for us."

Mr Hannah took 25 campers in to Laura with him for the presentation last week, spending an estimated \$2000-\$3000 in one day on supplies, fuel, beer, gas and counter meals.

Pandanus Park War Veterans Retreat will mark the anniversary of the battle of Long Tan on August 18.