



Photographer Barbora Tomikova documents the regeneration of the Peregian Beach landscape following last year's fires.

AN EYE ON THE FIRE

It's been a year since the destructive Peregian bushfires consumed hectares of bushland.

While for many residents the terrifying images of the inferno remain, the signs of a year's regeneration are unmistakeable.

Sunshine Beach based photographer Barbora Tomikova has captured the transformation of the Peregian Beach landscape in a fascinating series of images, which will be showcased at a first-year anniversary community event on September 12 at Peregian Community House.

"I was amazed at the speed of regeneration," the 34-year-old native from Slovakia said.

"Within a few days of the fires, the vegetation started to spring to life.

"We understand the damage fire can cause and the fear it carries, but this project has allowed me to witness how resilient nature in Australia is and how some native plants thrive off fires during their natural cycle," Ms Tomikova said.

The images from the ongoing project are a result of about 50 photographic shoots over 12 months.

She's also integrated a number of personal stories from the likes of Pam Murphy, who lost her house in the September inferno.

The exhibition titled *State of Emergency* was funded through the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), a partnership between the Queensland Government and Noosa Council to support the development of local arts and culture.

BACK IN BUSINESS

Leisure Centre, Aquatic Centre and other community facilities up and running as COVID-19 restrictions ease

It's currently business as usual for most Council facilities and services, following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Noosa Aquatic Centre is open from 5:30am-7:30pm on weekdays, with slightly earlier closing time of 2pm on weekends.

"Pre-booking is no longer required to access the NAC, but all visitors must provide names and contact information on entry," Community

Facilities Manager Ash Saward said.

NAC classes and swimming lessons are back, plus the gym is open. Creche and cafe facilities are open at the NAC and Noosa Leisure Centre.

"We have COVID-safe plans in place for all of our facilities and social distancing provisions apply."

Noosa Regional Gallery is open from 10am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday, and 10am to 3pm Saturday.

Did you know?

88,256
Enquiries/calls were handled
by Council in 2019-2020

350,000
Items were borrowed from
Noosa's three libraries

10,724kms
Covered by our street
sweepers in 12 months

COUNCIL HAS COVID COVERED



Kerri Contini (front), Ian Florence (left), and Sunil Kushor (right), are on Council's COVID-19 Taskforce.

Meet Council's COVID-19 Taskforce. Kerri Contini, Sunil Kushor and Ian Florence are among the Council staff helping to keep Noosa COVID-safe.

The highly skilled Taskforce is coordinating Council's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic to help limit the potential spread of COVID-19 locally.

"We have staff on the taskforce who've worked at the highest levels of public health and pandemic management as well as disaster management, so Noosa is in good hands," Chair, and Council's Community Services Director, Ms Contini said.

Ian Florence spent eight years in Cairns as Queensland Health's Team Leader for Environmental Health – often focused on reducing the community spread of dengue, cholera and flu.

Council's Environment Health Coordinator, Sunil Kushor, worked as Health Protection Manager for the Ministry of Health in Auckland, New Zealand. He has been involved in, and coordinated, many communicable disease responses including for SARS, MERS-CoV, Ebola Virus and measles.

The Taskforce members and other staff have been visiting businesses and facilities across the

LOCAL SENIORS AGE WELL WITH EXERCISE

Over-60s are bending and stretching to better health

In the wake of Queensland Seniors Week, a great over-60s council-lead initiative called Ageing Well is taking over the shire, one leg raise at a time.

The program consists of regular gentle exercise classes for seniors, in various locations around the



shire. The uptake has been overwhelming, with new classes being added to support the demand.

Eighty-five-year-old Sunrise Beach local Joan Law said the classes have done wonders for her, with the five dollar entry fee and the social aspect being a drawcard.

She now practises her exercise moves in the kitchen of her own home on the days she's not at class.

"Well I do everything that's asked of me except for the balance so sometimes I sit down and do the classes from the chair. I tell you I can't walk straight for love nor money, I have five walking sticks but I can walk a bit on my own.

"The exercise classes are fun and we laugh at ourselves when we do it wrong. And it's nice to have a cup of tea and a biscuit with everyone after, it's very social, too."

Visit our website for class times or call 5329 6500.

IN BRIEF

Councillor chats

Grab a coffee and catch up with a councillor this Friday 28 August at three locations around the shire.

There's no need to book, simply turn up for a chat between 10am-11.30am.

- Black Ant Café – Kin Kin
- Forest Noosa Café – Noosaville
- Raw Energy – Peregian Beach

Libraries open

Cooroy and Noosaville libraries are currently open 9am-5.30pm Monday to Friday. On Saturdays, Cooroy is open 9am-1pm, and Noosaville library is open 9am-3pm for those wanting a weekend read.

shire to provide advice and guidance.

Education is an important focus, as is responding to community anxiety.

Ms Contini urged residents to follow Queensland Health for trusted information rather than social media commentary.

"We have a very good working relationship with Queensland Health, Queensland Police Service and the other agencies, so collectively if a case was to occur locally, Noosa residents can rest assured we're well prepared."

GUIDE COUNCIL'S FUTURE BUDGET

We're about to seek community feedback to help shape the current budget funding priorities and future budget consultation.

With the continued uncertainty of COVID-19, Council's 2020-2021 budget was framed around revenue assumptions from Council's facilities and holiday parks.

With the second quarter budget review due in November, Council is keen to get feedback on a number of options.

Director of Corporate Services Michael Shave said residents will have three weeks to provide their thoughts via an online survey.

"The questionnaire will be available on Your Say Noosa from September 7, with questions centred around where additional funds should be spent or where we need to make cuts, should budget revenue forecasts not be met."