

Lifeguards buoyed by title wins

Gold Coast City has some of the leading lifeguards in Australia - and it's official.

Rob Dorrrough, a full-time lifeguard at Surfers Paradise Beach, was named Lifeguard of the Year at the Australian Professional Ocean Lifeguard Association's recent conference in Sydney.

And in a further tribute to the professionalism and dedication of Council's Lifeguard Service, education officer Sean Swain received the award for Outstanding Community Service.

The Gold Coast has experienced some of the worst ever surfing conditions this summer.

However, Chief Lifeguard, Warren Young, has attributed much of the safe season on Surfers Paradise Beach to the leadership and dedication of Mr Dorrrough, who has been a part of Council's team of lifeguards for more than 17 years.

The awards also provide an opportunity to recognise the work of all the men and women of Council's Lifeguard Service who work hard year-round to make the Gold Coast's beautiful beaches safe for locals and visitors.



Left: Robert Dorrrough - Lifeguard of the Year (consistent dedication and innovation) On the right: Sean Swain - Outstanding Community Service (an individual or community organisation for outstanding contribution/s to beach water safety)

New signals get the green light

Driving will be simpler and safer in many of the Gold Coast's busier suburbs, with Council spending more than \$2.5 million installing new traffic signals.

The busy intersection at Helensvale Road and Siganto Drive is just one of many targeted by Council as part of its 2006-07 Road Network Improvement Program.

Many of the new traffic lights will be installed on roads in the Gold Coast's rapidly growing northern corridor during May.

These include: Foxwell Road and Coomera Station and Foxwell and Cunningham Roads, Coomera; Helensvale Road and Monterey Keys Drive, Helensvale; Heslop and Millaroo Drives and Millaroo and Town Centre Drives, Helensvale; Government Road and Imperial Street, Labrador; and Allied Drive and Napper Road, Arundel.

Ground breaking dam design a safe solution



Safety fears over plans to raise the level of the Hinze Dam have no foundation, with recent media speculation opening the floodgates to wild rumours that there are "fractures" in the dam wall.

Despite recent reports, there are no "fractures" within the wall of the Hinze Dam, and there is no threat to people living downstream along the Nerang Valley.

The facts behind the furphies are straightforward.

An extensive geotechnical drilling program, carried out to assist in the design of the Hinze Dam Stage 3 project, has identified a complex geological issue for part of the current dam embankment and its right abutment.

While this is an issue that was

first documented and addressed in Stage 2 of the dam, current geotechnical research has provided an enhanced understanding of this particular issue.

A naturally-occurring feature of some rock in the right abutment is that water may seep through it when the dam is raised by the planned 15 metres.

The proposed solution is to construct a cut-off wall within the rock to control any seepage.

While construction of the cut-off wall will be a first for an Australian-built dam, this solution has been used successfully in other dams overseas.

The State Dam Safety Regulator has been fully involved in the entire investigative process and is satisfied with the design solution.

Council's record a top 20 hit

While many organisations are only just realising the value of mature workers, Gold Coast City Council is being applauded nationally for its record as a trailblazer in age management strategies.

Council's Gold Coast Water directorate has made the Adage Top 20 list, which profiles companies with a pioneering approach to recruiting and providing flexible work and training opportunities for experienced and mature workers as well as knowledge transfer and retirement programs.

In an era when many employees change jobs and occupations regularly, it is notable that almost 60 per cent of Gold

Coast Water staff have more than 10 years' tenure, and that almost 50 per cent are aged over 45.

It is a sure sign that Council is working to retain productive, valuable people and provide a fulfilling work environment for experienced, mature and hard workers.

Council is proud of its staff throughout the organisation who work consistently to ensure city residents receive the best possible service.

Organisations listed in the Adage Top 20 will be recommended to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations for inclusion in its Employer Age Champions program.

Rowing course fast-tracked

An exciting venue for rowing and other non-motorised water sports is being fast-tracked for Coomera following a recent Council decision.

Construction works to raise the level of the Hinze Dam and increase the city's water storage mean that from September the dam can no longer be used for regattas over the three-year construction period, so Council is pulling out all stops to have the Coomera Lake Parklands and Watersports Course up and running as soon as possible.

The project was allocated \$530,000

in the 2007-08 Budget and Council is requesting its Special Budget Committee to bring forward an additional \$500,000 from the 2008-09 year for the completion of stage one works.

The last regatta to be held on the Hinze Dam will be the Australian University Games on 17 September, with construction on the Coomera Lake course to begin soon after.

Council has used funds from the Open Space Preservation Levy to purchase a further 24 hectares of riverside parklands at this site, giving this destination park a total area of about 80 hectares.

Newest play park a bonus for pooches

Some of Gold Coast city's open spaces have been going to the dogs - and it's making a lot of people and their pets very happy.

Council knows that, like their owners, our four-legged friends also have recreation needs, with dog agility parks allowing residents and their pets to get 'active and healthy' by working out together.

The newest play park for pooches has opened at the Betty Diamond Sports Complex at Tugun, and is a bonus for local residents and dog lovers city-wide.

Designed by some of Australia's top dog agility trainers, the new park, adjacent to the desalination plant in Boyd Street, is a reward from the GCD Alliance for the patience shown by everyone during the early construction work on the plant.

The initial works saw the reconfiguration of the sports complex, which meant the soccer and rugby fields, as well as the off-leash area for dogs, had to be closed temporarily.

Since completion of the works, the community has gained new playing fields as well as the new 30-square-metre park with specialised equipment where dog owners can put their pets through their paces.

Gold Coast City Council maintains 10 dog agility parks city-wide, located at: Musgrave Avenue and Nick Pavlis Park, Labrador; Robina Parkway; Robina Common; Pizzey Park, Miami; Eddie Kornhauser Reserve, Elanora; River Hills Road, Eagleby; Hinterland Park, Mudgearaba; Abbott Park, Parkwood; and Kamholtz Park, Nerang.

Major milestone has everyone 'pumped'

Work on the Gold Coast's largest high-tech pumping station, part of a \$200 million wastewater improvement program, has reached its first milestone.

The sinking of three massive concrete rings, to form part of a 25-metre deep storage well capable of holding more than a million litres of wastewater, has marked the beginning of a new stage in the construction of the pumping station at Robina, one of the city's major growth areas.

To keep pace with that growth and the needs of the community, Council has taken positive steps to upgrade the area's wastewater system to service the needs of residents at Clear Island Waters, Mermaid Waters, Merrimac (east), Mudgearaba, Reedy Creek,

Robina and Varsity Lakes.

The upgraded network will manage greater volumes of wastewater and ensure a reliable supply to treatment plants for processing.

Unmatched on the Gold Coast by its size and sophistication, the new pumping station will extend 25 metres underground and will be 14 metres in diameter.

It will eventually replace 23 existing stations, pumping wastewater to the Merrimac Treatment Plant for processing.

The pumping station, known as SP68 at the corner of Bermuda and Markeri Streets, Robina, is being delivered by the Beenleigh Merrimac Pimpama Alliance, a private and public sector partnership involving

Gold Coast Water and companies Tenex Alliance and GHD.

Once completed in early 2009, the only above-ground infrastructure will be an architect-designed, single-storey building which will house operational, maintenance and odour

management equipment.

The project will provide another bonus for local residents, with the site to be re-landscaped and returned to the community as Council parkland when the construction is completed.

