

# Jocelyn Watts



WATTS THAT? 'It's what the people said they wanted'

Maryborough has an awful habit of shooting itself in the foot.

The city has a rich heritage, a river outlook and climate to die for. An air of optimism hovers over the city now, suggesting it has the potential to become another Sunshine Coast hinterland or Sydney Rocks area with historical buildings, boutique shops, art galleries, restaurants and entertainment.

We already have a limited number of these features but for some reason, Maryborough just hasn't been able to get a leg up into the same tourism arena as the southern regions.

Recent announcements

however offer hope. In the wind are Maryborough Sugar's \$500 million marina, hotel and retirement home complex, Ron Blyth's riverside apartments and \$30 million marina and the re-development of Gatakers Lane.

While history is one of the city's greatest assets, I just hope history doesn't repeat itself and these plans don't go down the gurgler in similar fashion to the many other ventures I've seen fall by the wayside in the 16 years since I "blew in".

Bigger developments including Station Square, the Brologa Theatre and fast food outlets have materialised but most of the specialist shops

that have opened have fizzled. Maryborough-ites seem to have a history of saying they want this or that but when they get it, the novelty doesn't last, patronage falls and the venture flops.

I was on a Saturday night out with friends in the CBD recently and we could have let fire with a machine gun and hit no one. We also noticed only a handful of people had been taking advantage of the top-class music and cocktails in a recently renovated bar.

"It was good when it first opened," the owner said when questioned. "It was what the people said they wanted."

How typical.

Not long after Maryborough

Sugar announced its \$500 million complex for Granville, doubters could be heard saying it would never happen. Interestingly, they were the same people who basically said "we told you so" as the specialist shops closed, yet they failed to support them while open.

Many talented artisans live in Maryborough. Artists, musicians, photographers, woodworkers, potters, sewers and more can be found in almost every street. Tapping into their talents as the developers' projects take shape is all that's needed to create a Montville-style atmosphere.

Let's just hope the locals support them.

You can WIN



**\$3000 NECKLACE:** The Fraser Coast Chronicle in conjunction with Haight's Jewellers is giving away a hand-crafted necklace. Collect three coupons from the Chronicle and place in the entry barrel at the Hervey Bay Seafood Festival before 2.30pm on August 17.



**WHALE WATCHING:** To win a whale watch pass collect three coupons from the Chronicle and post to the Chronicle before August 1 or put them in the barrel at the Hervey Bay Whale Festival on August 2.

**HONG KONG TRIP:** The Chronicle is giving you the chance to win return flights for two people to Hong Kong to the value of \$11,000. Simply complete an entry form from the Chronicle and drop it into the barrel at the Seafood Festival on August 17 before 2.30pm.



**AUSTRALIA ZOO:** Win one of six family passes to Australia Zoo worth \$155 each. Collect three coupons appearing in the Chronicle from Monday, place them in an envelope with your details and post to the Chronicle or place in the barrel at the Whale of a Time Family Fun Day, Seaford Oval, August 9, before 5pm.



## WHAT DO YOU RECKON?

What would you do if you won \$50 million?



"Faint, probably. I would spend it as quick as I could, probably on travel. I've always wanted to go to England." - Col Devenish



"I don't know. I would give up work and have to go on a trip somewhere, I suppose. I'm not sure where though." - Pat Benson



"Give some to the family and go on a trip but seeing as I don't buy lotto it is all just a dream." - Pat Powell



"Get a new boat, buy the kids a house, give some to charity and help my friends." - Peter Turnley



"Spend it on buying a big house and a car. I would also go on a holiday around the world." - Joshua Llewellyn



"I would share it with my family and also repay some of the people who have done lovely things for me." - Mary Andreas

## PICTURES FROM THE PAST



Maryborough Colts representative team, 1950. Back, l to r: Don Bailey, A. Champion, K. Petersen, J. Cousins, B. Puller, A. Reid. Front, l to r: M. Whittaker, D. Ammenhauser, unknown, N. Ridgley, M. Gallagher. Photo supplied by Des Ammenhauser, Maryborough.

Readers are invited to share interesting pictures from the past for publication in the Chronicle. Send them with relevant details to our offices in Bay Drive, Central Avenue Plaza, Pialba, or Bazaar Street, Maryborough.

## 100 years ago in The Chronicle

July 22, 1908

A spurious two shilling piece was dropped into the collection plate at the Baptist Church on Sunday last but so clever an imitation was it of the genuine coin that the discovery of its real character was not made until after it

had been banked with other cash. It is only reasonable to assume that the worshipper who dropped the fraudulent piece of pewter into the plate honestly believed he was making a more than usually liberal offering and that the church officials did not knowingly attempt to palm it off on the bank.

Published and unpublished photos taken by Chronicle photographers are for sale at our Maryborough and Hervey Bay offices.

www.frasercoastchronicle.com.au

## THE WAY I SEE IT



Name: Clarence Wilkins  
Occupation: Massage therapist  
Age: 31  
With free rein and five minutes I would: Feel powerful but be very worried

The animal that I am: Italian Stallion  
I best cook: Weetbix  
I should have been named: Monkey Magic

When I wake up I: Dance around to Wiggles music  
I never leave home without: Clothes on

I'm fascinated by movie/TV: Tour de France

I barrack for: All cyclists  
Plastic surgery is for: Hollywood and rich women

My hidden talent is: Still hidden; I have to find it

The Fraser Coast most needs: More vacant high rise buildings

You know I'm a Taurus because: I don't eat meat

I wouldn't like to be seen with: Robert Mugabe

**aj Velde BUILDERS** (NSA 1037297)  
New Executive Display Home  
Open Friday thru Sunday - 10am - 2pm  
196 Gilston Road, Huntingdale Park  
www.ajvelde.com.au - (07) 4125 5738

Have you checked out the Brand New Display Home?

**Whale Watch Competition COUPON**  
Collect 3 for a chance to WIN. Entries Close 3pm 2.8.08  
Queensland Events, Celebrate the Sea, Chronicle

**Australia Zoo Family Pass Competition COUPON**  
Collect 3 for your chance to WIN

**COUPON**  
Collect 3 for your chance to win a necklace & earrings to the value of \$3,000.  
Celebrate the sea  
All entries must be put into the entry barrel at the Seafood Festival before 2.30pm, 17.8.08.