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Redcliffe & Bayside Herald

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Great barrier relief

TEENAGE eco-warrior Saraya D'Ath comes face-to-face with creatures she is working to protect, off Cairns. The Scarborough adventurer is raising money to rehabilitate turtles injured or displaced following Cyclone Yasi. [Page 05]



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SUPPORT CENTRE



The new \$1.2 million parenting centres will provide help to young parents.

FULL REPORT BELOW

POOL TO OPEN

The Deception Bay Aquatic Centre pool will open on September 19 in time for the summer swimming season. Councils Lifestyle and Amenity spokesman Cr David Dwyer said the pools had undergone winter maintenance.



UP NEXT: Farewell to Redcliffe Supt Pat Ryan.



PAGE 13: Submit a photo of your pet for a chance to win.



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Purpose-built centre a boost for young parents

THE new \$1.2 million BoysTown parenting centre built at Deception Bay will mean more support for young mums like Malissa Sugars and her son Leo.

Malissa, 19, said she appreciated having somewhere to go that offered assistance and monitored nine-month-old Leo's development.

BoysTown regional manager Usha Sherwell said the purpose-built parenting centre offered a range of programs for mothers and fathers up to 25 years of age with pre-school aged children.

"The centre is responding to the particular needs of individuals and parents come with a range of strengths and capabilities so we build from there," Ms Sherwell said.

"They might participate in structured programs like groups meetings or more informal programs like budgeting or cooking for their family."

Previously, BoysTown had run the young parents program from a smaller facility and Ms Sherwell said the new centre enabled them to increase their support and specifically target the needs of local families.

Phone 3888 0758



SUPPORTING HAND: Redcliffe mother Malissa Sugars, with son Leo, will benefit from the new Boystown parenting centre.



GOOD JOB: Justin Charlish.

Dolphins leap to top

IT'S official, the Dolphins Health Precinct is one of the best in the state.

The \$12 million centre was named the Queensland winner of Fitness Business of the Year, under 2000 members, at the annual Health and Fitness Industry Awards. Dolphins Health Precinct consultant Kerry Sharp said it was well-deserved recognition for the world class facility.

"The precinct is in its prime and one of the best I've come across because it caters for all age groups and caters well," Ms Sharp said.

"It was transformed from an aquatic centre into the club's dream all-inclusive health facility."

The centre has two pools, gymnasium, group fitness classes, creche, cafe and professional services.

Fitness Australia CEO Lauretta Stace said the awards recognised those at the top of their profession.

Teen aids starving turtles

REHABILITATION PROJECT: YOUNG EXPLORER TURNS FOCUS ON MARINE REPTILE'S PLIGHT FOLLOWING BORNEO REEF CLEAN-UP MISSION

KAY PICTON
pictonk@qst.newsltd.com.au

SCARBOROUGH teenager and world-traveller Saraya D'Ath has found an environmental issue to campaign for a little closer to home.

The 16-year-old eco warrior is raising money to help expand a turtle rehabilitation centre in Cairns.

Saraya first began her adventures when she was selected for a Young Explorers Program (YEP) expedition to Russia last year.

She then travelled to Borneo to help clean up the reefs and beaches, before heading to New Zealand to raise awareness of the program.

Since returning home, Saraya has been working

with YEP photographer Christian Miller to expand the turtle project and integrate it into YEP's itinerary.

Saraya said natural disasters such as Cyclone Yasi had damaged many turtle habitats in Queensland, resulting in increased beachings and starvation.

"There has been a 500 per cent increase in strandings

along the east coast," she said. "The turtle rehab centre that was formed in 2000 is now getting over 50 calls per week."

The owners of Fitzroy Island donated a piece of land, already equipped with tanks and pipes, to the cause.

Saraya said she and Mr Miller planned to use it as an extension of the original

centre and run it along with 20 volunteers.

"I'm just trying to get to Cairns as much as possible and selling T-shirts here in the meantime to raise money," she said. "We're waiting on some government permits and then it will be a YEP project."

Email saraya@optusnet.com.au

NEWS PACK

LIGHT THE NIGHT
Leukaemia Foundation's Light the Night walk for blood cancer patients is on October 5. To join the lantern parade at South Bank visit www.lightthenight.org.au. Register before October 4 to receive a free lantern.

FACEBOOK HELP
The Rotary Club of Redcliffe City is hosting full-day workshops to help businesses understand Facebook. The first is on September 24. Cost is \$169 per person. Visit rotaryfacebookworkshop.eventbrite.com

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