

Labour of love turning heads at 2018 HookUp

Local artist returns with marine debris sculpture

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TURNING trash into treasure is what local artist Christine Holden does best.

But she also cares deeply about our waterways and is making sure other people do too.

After turning heads at last year's Boyne Tannum Hook-Up with her barramundi sculpture made from recyclable marine materials, Christine is back with a bang with her latest creation, The Fisherman.

She specialises in ethical art, transforming what most would label as rubbish.

"Last year to introduce everybody to what we're all about we built the 4.5m barra, who has become quite well known in the area and he's back again this year as a display," she said.

"He was so well received the (Gladstone) Healthy Harbour Partnership sponsored me again this year to present another public art project."

While last year's barramundi sculpture was predominantly made with fishing net and fishing line, the 2018 sculpture centred on plastics.

"The fishing nets and lines are out there, but it's not the same as the plastics being collected," Christine said.

"I wanted to draw more attention to (plastics)."

Materials for the fisherman sculpture were mainly sourced from cigarette lighters, but also other household plastic items.

"The plastics have mainly come from Chillii Beach in Arnhem Land," Christine said.

"There's a wonderful man, Ian Anderson, who joined forces with Tangaroa Blue and they're an organisation who organise beach clean-ups all over Australia.

"Chillii Beach is one of the main catchment areas where rubbish gets washed up.

"Ian combined a trip up there with a family holiday and promised to bring me in some rubbish, which he delivered.

"He brought back about four bags full; one was rope and the rest was mainly lighters and toothbrushes."

Christine used a total of six bags of plastic rubbish, estimated at 15kg each.

The sculpture took seven days to complete with Christine spending several hours each day on the project.



SENDING A MESSAGE: Gladstone artist Christine Holden with her fisherman sculpture at the 2018 Boyne Tannum HookUp. Photo: Mike Richards GLA040518HOOK

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Briefs

Union campaign

THE Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland has accused the Australian Council of Trade Unions of hurting small business by touting its Change the Rules campaign.

The campaign features a six-point plan including stronger negotiation tools for employees, bringing back double time penalty rates on Sundays and raising the minimum wage. But the Chamber accused the ACTU of reintroducing a "1970s style industrial relations" which would hurt mum and dad businesses.

Planned burns

THE first of planned burns at Agnes Water to reduce fuel load ahead of the next fire season will be done at 186 Springs Rd between the desalination plant intake and Springs Beach track on May 8. Chinaman's Beach Rd and Springs Beach tracks will be closed for at least two days because of the burn.

There will be another planned burn at Workman's Beach behind the council's regional translating building on May 9. Parts of the Discovery Trail will be closed for a few days and the Workman's Beach Campground will be closed for the duration of the burn.

Park closed

NORTH Burnett Regional Council says that the Kroombit Tops National Park will be closed to public access from 5pm on Sunday, May 27, to 5pm on Friday, June 1, due to a feral animal control program being carried out. Members of the public are advised not to enter the park during the closure and to make alternative travel or camping arrangements.

A council spokesman apologised for any inconvenience caused. To stay informed of closures or for further information, people can check the Department of Environment and Science website for QPWS park alerts at or call 13 74 68.

Public holiday

MONDAY is a public holiday in Queensland. The annual holiday celebrates the eight-hour working day, a victory for workers in the mid-late 19th century. Queensland and Northern Territory celebrates this day in May, other states celebrate in March and October.



BUSY: Jenni McGuire and Rebecca Long. Photo: Mike Richards

HookUp entries exceed expectations

ENTRIES in this year's Boyne Tannum HookUp have surpassed the magical 3000 mark.

HookUp event coordinator Rebecca Long confirmed 3052 people entered the competition - 2319 were senior entries and 733 juniors.

"We are over the moon, ecstatic and very excited we've gone significantly over," she said.

"Our goal was to get one (entry) over and we've done more

than that.

"We're up on senior and junior entries. We would've been happy with what we got last year and with everything that's going on - work and money in town - we didn't expect to do as well as we have."

Ms Long said final-day entries had come through at a steady pace prior to yesterday's 3pm deadline.

"We had people come through all day and right up

until two minutes before and then we called it," she said.

"We always do roughly 41 per cent in the last week and we expect that because we're a town of shift workers and FIFOs, so everyone waits for their roster.

"Big numbers come through in the last week but we've tracked more than last year."

HookUp president Jennifer McGuire was equally ecstatic at the final number of entries.

"We've gone way past what we forecast," she said.

"Due to the economic downturn we didn't think we'd do better than last year so it's on-wards and upwards now.

"We can build this in any economic climate and we've got a really good product to sell here - Australia's biggest fishing competition.

"The universe has looked after us." **Matt Harris**

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