

Briefs

Tannum Sands School shuts after water emergency

TANNUM Sands State Primary School students were told to take the day off yesterday when they turned up for class. The school had no choice but to close after a water pipe burst. Queensland Police arrived at the school on Waratah Cres about 7am to the sight of gushing water. While some students were cheering for an early weekend others had to stay at school once they arrived due to parents working. Gladstone Regional Council said water service crews remained on site for several hours, working to resolve the problem.

Two more Australians become endangered

TWO small marsupial species, made famous for their suicidal mating habits, have been officially placed on Australia's endangered list. The Australian Government has listed the black-tailed dusky antechinus and silver-headed antechinus as endangered. The two species were first discovered on mountain summits by QUT's Dr Andrew Baker in 2013, in Southeast Queensland. "They have likely retreated there as the climate has warmed," Dr Baker said. The antechinus are at risk from habitat loss and strangely, at risk from themselves too. Each year when the species mate, the males fight for sex - and then drop dead.



GOOD CATCH: Rob Paxevanos and his daughter Hailey enjoyed their time filming an episode of Fishing Australia in Gladstone.

Photo: Contributed

Celebrity fisherman hooked while fishing in Gladstone

CELEBRITY fisherman Rob Paxevanos said the fishing around Gladstone had to be one of Queensland's best kept secrets. "Tourism is a sleeping giant in Gladstone, it's a great base for everything you have in this region," he said. The host of the long running television show *Fishing Australia* spent

a week in the area filming the HookUp and fishing trips with local tour guide, Johnny Mitchell. The highlight of his trip was when his daughter Hailey caught a large mackerel. "Hailey will never forget reeling in a 1.3m mackerel, which was as big as her, her previous biggest fish was a 99cm flathead," he said.

The crew visited the Narrows, Yellow Patch and offshore reefs. "I really enjoyed the HookUp but fishing with Johnny was amazing," he said. "Seriously, 10 out of 10, best fishing trip ever." Rob added that Gladstone's unique location was another drawcard for southern fishermen.

"People from Brisbane can travel here in half a day, they don't need to spend thousands in flights to get a taste of northern exposure," he said. "We only scratched the surface so I'll be back with the whole family and our dog." The *Fishing Australia* episode highlighting the Gladstone region and the HookUp will air in six weeks.

Aluminium breakthrough

Boyne Smelter's carbon footprint could be dramatically reduced within 10 years

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RIO TINTO and Alcoa have jointly announced the most significant innovation in the aluminium industry for more than a century. As a result, Boyne Smelter's carbon footprint could be dramatically reduced within the next 10 years. The new technology has the ability to replace all direct

greenhouse gas emissions from traditional smelting and can be retro-fitted to existing smelters. The technology, set for commercialisation in 2024, was developed in Canada. A new joint venture company between Alcoa, Rio Tinto and Apple will be based in Montreal. The company, called Elysis, will advance larger-scale development and commerciali-

sation of the new process. A research facility in Quebec will develop and license the technology so it can be used to retrofit existing smelters and build new facilities. The breakthrough technology has been used at a factory since 2009 in the US where it has produced 635 tonnes of aluminium using the new process. Traditional smelting uses

electrolysis via highly charged carbon anode rods to separate the base elements of alumina, oxygen and aluminium. As well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions, carbon dioxide and other by-products, new anodes will increase productivity and reduce operating costs. A Rio Tinto spokesman said the new anodes would allow electrolysis to take place without participating in the chem-

ical reaction, instead of being consumed. "As a result, we separate alumina into its two elements, aluminium and pure oxygen," he said. The new process replaces the carbon in the anodes to make inert anodes, which will last 30 times longer than traditional components. The discovery of inert anodes has been a long-term goal for the aluminium industry.

In Canada, the technology could eliminate the equivalent of 6.5 million metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions, if fully implemented at existing smelters. That represents an amount equivalent to taking almost 1.8 million light duty vehicles off the road. Boyne Smelter general manager Joe Rea is on leave and was not available for comment yesterday.

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