

A quarterly feature, providing details of our operational and community activities.



Mark My Word

It's so nice to see the blue sky again and the resultant smiley faces. The weather does play a part in real estate sales these days and it all comes down to sentiment or confidence. When there's a possible cyclone or flooding, understandably buyers go into a holding pattern.

The Royal Commission findings are out and there are a lot of good outcomes; there also seems to be a lot of positive outcomes for the banks, at a mortgage broker's expense, it would seem. In September last year, we decided to partner with the Loan Market (now one of Australia's largest and most respected brands), to offer home buyers assistance with navigating the complicated road of loans. This has been a positive move for our business, with plenty of fantastic client feedback endorsing the new direction. Lanie Marks, who was previously Ray White Whitsunday's Business Development Manager, took on the role as Mortgage Broker with Loan Market, and has been doing a great job in assisting local buyers with securing competitive loans.

We've been busy in the community over the last couple of months, with funding allocated to the Airlie Beach Running Festival and the Jet Ski Trek, via our Community Support Program. We're always looking for new community partnerships, so if you're a local club or non-profit organisation in search of funding, visit our 'Community' page on our website for further details.

Our Holiday Rentals department has been super busy, with a huge demand for vacation homes in the area. Our Holiday Letting Agent, Annie, is always looking for more middle to high end properties to slot guests into, so if you have a suitable property, please contact our office on 4948 8500. For further details, visit whitsundayvacations.com.au.

Till next time, enjoy the beautiful sun!

Mark Beale

Principal, Ray White Whitsunday

Meet Zoe Skinner



My husband, Paul, and I left Melbourne for the beautiful Whitsundays 19 years ago. After owning my own businesses, I decided on a change in my career, so I switched to the real estate industry, with Ray White Whitsunday, almost 9 years ago.

I love living in the Whitsundays - the small town feel; short commutes; easy access to everything and, importantly, the safe environment for children.

As Office Manager, I ensure the office runs smoothly in regards to staffing, IT, HR, and event organising. I'm also able to help out in other departments when needed.

The most enjoyable part of my role is the versatility. I also enjoy the organisational side - being structured (well I attempt to be, at least). No two days are the same!

Outside of work, I enjoy Pilates, running and family time. We've just built a new house, so there's always lots of house and garden stuff.



Cody's Carnival organisers and members of Cody's family at the December event

Support for Cody overwhelming

More than \$25,000 has now been raised for young Jubilee Pocket boy, Cody Gibbs, thanks to the generosity and support of several local businesses and the community.

Cody, 12, was diagnosed with a rare brain cancer in October last year and is still undergoing treatment at Brisbane's Lady Cilento Hospital.

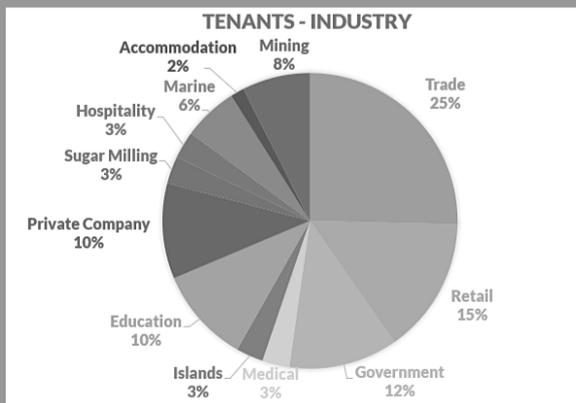
Together with various other local businesses and individuals, we have been able to raise much needed funds for Cody and his family - through last year's fundraising carnival (held in December last year) and subsequent donations of various items and money. Cody's mother, Donna, works in our Rentals department, so it seemed only fitting that the Ray White Whitsunday team be a part of the community's fundraising efforts.

Special thanks must go to Maz McDougall, Alita De Brincat and our very own Zoe Skinner and Belinda Beale, for their tremendous job in organising Cody's Carnival and driving the fundraising to date. If you would like to show your support of Cody and his family, please contact our office on 4948 8500.

Rental market reflects interesting demographics

The Rentals team has seen a significant hike in applications over recent months, with 115 applications received in January alone. This is over 40% higher than the monthly average.

To gain a better understanding of the market, we recently conducted some research to identify where tenants were coming from and what industry they worked in. Approximately 70% of tenants were local; 4% were from Mackay, and 26% were from other Queensland areas, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia. See below for areas of work for tenants.



Riordonvale State School in the early 50's

Our region's History

Riordonvale's original school was first opened in 1938; however, with a declining attendance, the school was closed in 1941.

Yet, over a decade later, due to a growing community and demand for the schools reopening, a new school house was built on land donated by Mrs Jean Scott, with the school reopened in 1954. This was made possible with the strong support by Mr D Riordan MLA and parents. Timber was cut and carted from Lades farm to Stockwell's sawmill for the new building. The school was aptly named 'Riordonvale' in Mr Riordan's honour.

Students would make their way to school over loose dirt walking tracks and on bikes and horses. When raining, Mr Horne would ferry the students across the swollen creek on his tractor and trailer.

Rounders, cricket, soccer and football were the most popular sports for students in those days. Homework consisted of writing composition, drawing maps, learning history, spelling and tables.

In 1955, the Mt Marlow School building was moved to Riordonvale and repositioned near the old school building. To raise funds the school committee staged dances and concerts in Cannon Valley Hall for the end of year breakup.

Unfortunately, with a drop in attendance, the school closed permanently in February 1963.

We would like to thank Proserpine Historical Museum for assisting with this article. If you would like to share some history about our region, please contact us on 4948 8500.

What our clients are saying...

“Very friendly and professional team. Kept up constant communication and really went above and beyond to get the desired result.”
Jen



Did you know?

Our Ray White Whitsunday marquee is available (free of charge), to all local non-profit groups and organisations, for use at community events. Call us on 4948 8500 to find out more!

Your feedback and contribution...

If you'd like further information on our operational and community activities, or would like to provide us feedback on this Community Update, please contact us on 4948 8500 or visit our website.



To find out more about selling, buying or renting with us, visit raywhitewhatsunday.com.au