

ACT OF KINDNESS



A cash boost from Maroochy RSL will mean all the difference to children like young Hayden Paulsen and his dad Brett. **FULL REPORT BELOW**

COAST RALLY BOOST

COAST tourism and local businesses will receive a major boost thanks to Australia's only annual international motor rally. Tickets are on sale for the May event at www.rallyqueensland.com.au



UP NEXT: Coast businesses are bracing for increased water charges.



PAGE 5: Nambour rally calls to save the Originals.



ONLINE: www.questnews.com.au

Lifeline for families

Parklakes centre sets opening deadline

MATT JOHNSTON
johnstonmat@qst.newstld.com.au

THE Sunshine Coast Therapy Centre at Nambour has welcomed a \$43,000 gift from the Maroochy RSL, which will be used for further development of the vital centre for children with disabilities.

The Maroochy RSL has now donated \$185,000 to the centre since 1995 with the current donation collected by the bingo ladies.

Brett Paulsen, whose son Hayden, 6, attends the centre, said the donation would go a long way as the centre was facing increased demand for use of its facilities.

"The centre does more than just therapy - it's a family and it provides access to counsellors and social workers," Brett said.

"They help with the paperwork with equipment ... everything."

Brett said that for his family, the centre was particularly helpful as it did not assess a child based on the extent of their disability, but on their ability to meet the centre's criteria.

"A lot of other organisations have a criteria that you have to be officially diagnosed to meet," he said. "However, Hayden is undiagnosed."

"But this centre doesn't have that. You just have to meet their criteria, which is not disability specific."

"Because he didn't have a very good prognosis, a lot of the places we went to initially when he was a year old, acted as though it wasn't worth their time offering us help."

Director Frank Martin said the ongoing assistance from Maroochy RSL would allow the centre to build another storage shed and an outdoor



FATHER AND SON: Brett Paulsen with his son Hayden, 6.

Picture: STUART QUINN

MATT JOHNSTON
johnstonmat@qst.newstld.com.au

THE new shopping precinct at Parklakes will be open in time for Christmas.

Pending Council approval, the project managers hope to have the shops completed by November and tenants in before Christmas.

The centre - near the recently opened Perren Park off Parklakes Drive - will include nine small retailers and a small supermarket.

The commercial precinct also includes a 14 unit townhouse development, a child care facility and an already operational children's playground.

Parklakes spokesperson Rob Midgley said the centre would include a number of small retailers, such as a mini supermarket, restaurant and bottle shop.

"We have just finished the bulk earthworks and installing major civil infrastructure on site," Mr Midgley said.

"And as soon as we receive our Operational Works approval and building approval from Council, construction will begin."

"We're also happy to say that we have secured a child care centre for our family-friendly community."

"We have had many local residents tell us how excited they are about the new centre and shopping precinct."

There are still some vacancies available within the Parklakes shopping complex.

Parklakes is a residential community set on 80 hectares and surrounded by natural forest, cane lands and open parklands.

HE SAID IT



BRETT PAULSEN

The centre does more than just therapy

said. "This will help us develop the centre further."

"We aim to provide an adventure-style playground which will help the kids with their fine motor skills and gross motor skills."

"There will be a lot of climbing and swinging also smaller equipment they can manipulate with their hands and feet."

The centre assists 80 local families between the Nambour Centre and the outreach centre at Gympie.

Got a good news story to tell? Email editor@maroochyjournal.com.au

A day to celebrate

THE Maroochy Journal has thrown its support behind the upcoming Neighbour Day.

The event on Sunday, March 27, is Australia's annual celebration of community, bringing together the people next door, across the street or on the next farm.

Tell us about your good neighbour or the caring

NEIGHBOUR DAY



March 27, 2011

organisation that has made all the difference to you. Please email your stories to us at: editor@maroochyjournal.com.au



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