

04 NEWS

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22.12.17

22-29
Shower or two

TOMORROW 22-29
Morning Shower or Two

SUNDAY 22-31
Sunny

MONDAY 22-32
Showers, possible storm

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ROCK AND A GREAT PLACE

If you want to chill out after the Christmas festivities, take a trip to Currumbin Rock Pools.

53

FACES & PLACES

The beautiful people of SASC Management let their hair down at their big Hampton's inspired Christmas party.

LOTTO

Powerball, Draw 1127, 21/12/17
Winning numbers:
33, 27, 7, 10, 15, 32
Powerball 9

Div 1: Jackpot!
Div 2: \$60,742.00
Div 3: \$6,354.55
Div 4: \$184.30
Div 5: \$62.35
Div 6: \$39.35
Div 7: \$26.30
Div 8: \$13.75

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Tower project war on cards

Gold Coast Bridge Club to fight Grocon

KATHLEEN SKENE
BUSINESS EDITOR

ONE of the Gold Coast's oldest community groups is in the fight of its life against contentious construction giant Grocon, which is planning a 30-storey tower next to its clubhouse.

The unlicensed builder of the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village has designed a 168-apartment building in Old Burleigh Rd at Surfers Paradise, across the road from the mammoth Jewel development and right next door to the Gold Coast Bridge Club.

Bridge players say their games would be ruined by the noise and a lack of parking would cruel the 400-strong membership base, which currently uses part of the development site for overflow parking.

Grocon submitted a development application in August for the site, which is owned by Telstra and currently houses an exchange, and in October created a new company for it called Grocon (Burleigh Rd) Developer Pty Ltd.

The tower will effectively

be constructed above the exchange under a deal which Telstra yesterday declined to discuss.

Bridge club president Philip Roberts said construction and other noise would destroy their beloved game.

"It's a game of significant concentration; you've got to follow cards of every suit and remember what's been played," he said.

"Noise would be a nightmare; our members would have to play somewhere else, such is their passion for the game.

"The impact would be huge, because of the height of the building, noise of construction and loss of parking facilities that we enjoy at the moment.

"Only about five of our members currently travel by tram. They feel more secure driving."

Its members are preparing for a landmark event in February, when the 2018 Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championships comes to the Gold Coast.

Mr Roberts said the club meant far more to its members than a simple hobby.



Gold Coast Bridge Club's president Philip Roberts and secretary Julie Wicks are leading a

“WHY WOULDN'T TELSTRA, WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD CORPORATE CITIZENS, COME AND DISCUSS IT WITH US?”

PHILIP ROBERTS

"It's a life support club for our members; it's a significant source of social interaction and friendship," he said.

"Thirty to 40 per cent of our members on any day stay after play and enjoy

some cheese and bikkies and catch up on news.

"There's an unbelievable network that the club has allowed our members to develop ... It really is a family and it's growing."

The club, which formed almost 53 years ago, also fears it will lose income it receives for hosting a mobile phone tower on its site.

The rateable value of the bridge club's battle-axe shaped block, which it has owned for more than half a century, is listed at \$37 million.

The Grocon tower is set

to feature 168 units across 24 levels and was designed by ARM Architecture, designer of the Gold Coast Cultural Precinct at Bivandale.

Planning documents show Telstra signed over power of attorney for the site to Grocon in August.

Mr Roberts said Telstra had not consulted the club about the plan to develop the site.

"Why wouldn't Telstra, who are supposed to be good corporate citizens, come and discuss it with us?" he said. "Most of

'No choice' but to go to committee on build

LONGTIME Coolangatta residents are furious a controversial residential development is set to be approved just days before Christmas.

The Dixon Street townhouse project has received 13 objections but will not go before the council's planning committee.

Instead it will be considered by a "special del-

egation committee" made up of Mayor Tom Tate, Deputy Mayor Denna Gates, planning boss Cr Cameron Caldwell and chief executive Dale Dickson.

Locals, including Brad Kilduff, say their objections should be given greater hearing.

"It is too big for the site it is proposed for and would

dominate the area," he said. Mr Kilduff said the project did not comply with the City Plan.

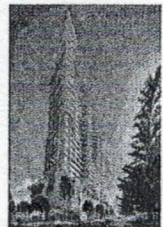
However, the area councillor says the city had no choice but to make an 11th hour decision before Christmas.

Cr Gail O'Neill said the assessment period for the project would expire on Friday, and without a council

meeting until late January, a lack of decision would be considered an automatic refusal and open the council up to a legal battle in the Planning and Environment Court.

"I asked for it to go to committee and wanted it done that way but we are out of time," she said.

"I have my locals' views known."



Komune at Coolangatta

GCE01201PA - V1

DON'T MISS TOMORROW'S Gold Coast Bulletin

WHO'S WHO IN THE ZOO
PUTTING NEW LIFE INTO ATTRACTION

COAST HOME OF MIRACLES
FOREIGN PARENTS CHASE OUR GOLD

MOTORS STILL RUNNING
PAUL GOVER & ALL THINGS CARS

Q1 HOMES director bankrupt

KATHLEEN SKENE
kathleen.skene@news.com.au

THE man behind Gold Coast builder Queensland One Homes is bankrupt and his wife will be forced to sell their assets to repay creditors of the collapsed company.

Creditors of Queensland One, which went into liquidation in July owing almost \$6 million, have been given details of a strictly confidential deed which will mean a significant sum repaid to the company by Paul and Amber Callender.

Mr Callender is sole director of the failed company, now controlled by liquidator Michael Caspaney, while his wife operates related firm Empire Constructions Pty Ltd, a company which the liquidator claimed may have engaged in illegal phoenix activities.

Public minutes of the creditors meeting held on Tuesday reveal Mr Callender has signed a deed of settlement, which also binds other companies she directs, including Empire Constructions.

Settlements to companies in liquidation can be used by controlling liquidators to pursue more funds on behalf of creditors.

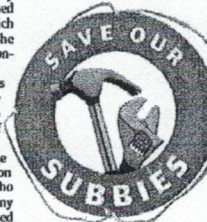
A supreme court judge froze assets worth \$7.1 million owned by the couple, who were quizzed over company records that were destroyed when computers were left in the back of a ute and damaged by water.

Between them the Callenders own seven properties and investigations are continuing into what other assets they own.

One of Ms Callender's com-



Paul Travis Callender and Amber Patricia Callender. Picture: FACEBOOK



panies. odyssey Heights Pty Ltd, owns three properties previously owned by Mr Callender. Odyssey Heights was created three weeks after the collapse of Queensland One Homes.

The Queensland One collapse left more than 100 creditors, including the Australian Taxation Office and small businesses, and debts of almost \$6 million in its wake, and a trail of customers with defective homes.

Mr Caspaney told the court in an affidavit he believed Queensland One Homes had been operating insolvent as early as March 31, 2016.

The State Government gave an election eve pledge to fund public examinations of Queensland One Homes and Cullen Group, which collapsed in 2016. The examinations will give liquidators powers to subpoena company directors and bring them to court.



Fight against Grocon's plan for a highrise tower (below) next to their club. Picture: RICHARD COSSLING

Telstra's land was given to them by the government so it's our land too."

Gold Coast City Council received 49 submissions objecting to the proposal during the public notification that ended on Tuesday. Area councillor Gary Baildon could not be contacted yesterday.

Grocon is unlicensed to build in Queensland after losing more than \$20 million on the Parklands athletes village project.

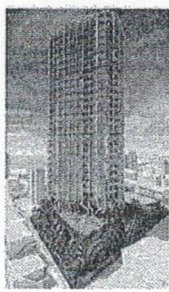
It is due to pay more overdue debts today to subcontractors on the village, who

have been out of pocket since October, after settling some of them last week.

In a statement to the Bulletin, Grocon CEO Craig Mitchell did not address the concerns raised by club members.

"The community had the opportunity to have its say on the development proposal through the statutory public notification process," he said.

"Should the development application be approved, Grocon will make a commercial decision on when construction will begin and who the builder will be."



Coolangatta residents hope tourists will join in protest

SOUTHERN Gold Coasters want tourists to join them as they launch a major rally and protest from their balconies over a tower development.

The body corporate at Coolangatta's Lindor Apartments, opposite the beach at Greenmount, has appealed against a decision by the Gold Coast City Council to approve the 27-storey Komune devel-

opment on a neighbouring property. Residents are building a fighting fund and their Save Greenmount Beach Facebook page has attracted 1600 "likes" as they prepare for a planning court case in March.

Lindor Apartments body corporate chairman Don Gordon said he hoped tourists and not just residents would fight to retain the coastal village at-

mosphere in the border community.

"Shortly we will be draping a large 5m long banner on our beachfront balcony to advertise the Save Greenmount Beach rally to be held on the beach on February 10," Mr Gordon said. "We have a Facebook page with over 1600 followers and are encouraging people from the other 17 Gold

Coast communities who have banded together to fight back against overdevelopment to join us at the rally.

"When you see the beauty of Coolangatta and Greenmount (around us), we are just hoping to garner support from everyone."

The Hotel Komune Group, after an initial protest, reduced the 29-storey height on the

project and successfully argued that the building would not create a shadow on the beach.

It said it would provide much needed quality accommodation. But residents fear the approval will create another Broadbeach as developers ignore a 10-level height limit, leading to traffic gridlock in the small streets around Point Danger.

The council received more than 80 objections but in May approved the 100-room and 94-apartment tower because it would establish the area as a major tourism centre.

The Bulletin understands protesting residents were told their appeal had a 50-50 chance of success. "It's cost us here at Lindor around \$160,000," Mr Gordon said.