

# Why I do what I do – Tara Santarossa, welder

I'VE always liked doing hands-on things, all the tomboy things. I love any outdoorsy kind of work – I could never work in an office or something like that.

My interest in making things started at school (Mossman State High). When the time came to choose electives, I picked manufacturing woodwork and metal work. I just knew it would be something I would enjoy. We learned to make small things like tool boxes and bbq plates using competent weld joints. We learned the difference between pretty welds and structural. I won the Manufacturing Subject Award two years running.

When I left school I went to work on a cattle property out at Richmond. I had fun chasing cows while getting my Certificate in Beef and Agriculture. The work also involved a fair bit of welding, so I kept those skills up too.

When I moved back to the Mossman area to be with my boyfriend I had to find other work. I was doing seasonal work at the mills and when that dried up I went door-knocking for jobs. It was pretty quiet. I ended up asking Rick Quaid at Wonga Beach Welding if he had any work. Rick said he had heard that I had a good work ethic and offered me three weeks at the business. When the three weeks were up, Rick tried really hard to convince me to stay on and

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start an apprenticeship. He said he was impressed with my welding skills and that I had the potential to become really good.

I was a bit scared about the money side, but Jacinta from Apprenticeship Support Australia explained how it would work, how to get a loan for tools and also offered to help with anything else I needed to get me through. Mum and Dad said go for it!

Depending how good I get the apprenticeship will take three to four years. Wonga Beach Welding do a little bit of everything, which makes the work really interesting, but we specialise in sheds and houses – high-end jobs requiring structural steel. I've worked on boat trailers, camping trailers, roofs and walls.

My favourite project has been building a dog cage to go in the back of a ute. The end result was really nice. When I see it driving around I feel really good – I can say “I made that.”



Tara Santarossa: “I can say I made that”

Picture: MOYA STEVENS

## It's Naidoc Week and the shire is ready

THE Douglas Shire community will come together next week to celebrate NAIDOC Week from July 10-15 with a cultural smorgasbord of events.

NAIDOC Week activities celebrating the theme of “Songlines: The living narrative of our nation” kick off with a church service at the Mossman Gorge Community Church from 6pm on Sunday 10 July.

The official NAIDOC Week flag-raising ceremony will be held at Council's Mossman Administration Building next Monday 11 July from 10am followed by a morning tea.

Other NAIDOC Week activities in the Douglas Shire include:

- Healing Expression Art Show (10am-3pm from Monday 11 July to Friday), CWA Hall, Front St, Mossman. The Official Opening will be held from 5pm on Monday 11 July.

- Foxton Mural Plaque unveiling by Mayor Julia Leu (1pm on Monday 11 July) – commemorating the mural collaboration involving local indigenous artists.

- Goobidi HACC Elders Lunch (Tuesday 12 July) – Mt Kooyong Nursing Home.

- Mossman Gorge Family Fun Day (from 10.30am on Tuesday 12 July) – includes the Baby Show, cooking competition and more, at Mossman Gorge Community.

- Rainforest Markets (10am-4pm on Wednesday 13 July) at the Gorge Centre.

- Elders Lunch (11am-noon on Thursday 14 July) – held at Mossman State High School.

- Yalanji Resting Place Visit (from 1pm on Thursday 14 July) – visits to the Gorge and Daintree cemeteries departing from Mossman Court House.

- Mossman Community Street March (9.30am-10am on Friday 15 July) – meet at Council's Mossman Building car park in Front St.

- NAIDOC Family Fun Day (10am-2.30pm on Friday 15 July), at Bubba Kinkari (George Davis) Park, Mossman.

## Violinist will visit

BRISBANE-BASED violinist Attila Sautov will perform a solo recital of Bach and Paganini works in St David's Church, Mossman, on Saturday, July 16.

This performance is part of an extensive tour of more than 40 venues in NSW and regional Queensland, from

Goulburn to Cooktown and Mount Isa.

In a brief interlude, he will also perform duets with fellow violinist, Anna Moores.

The recital starts at 4 pm. Tickets are available at [www.attillasautov.com](http://www.attillasautov.com) or by phoning 0417 619 915.

## Revegetation plan for Mirage foreshore

MORE than 2000 native plants will be established on the Four Mile Beach dunal foreshore over coming weeks.

The joint initiative between Council and the Sheraton Mirage Resort will remove coconut debris including fronds, nuts and seedlings, with the revegetation to provide screening of the resort from the beach as it establishes.

No mature coconuts or na-

tive species will be removed as part of the revegetation project.

Mayor Julia Leu said the project was an initiative of the 2015-16 Coconut Action Plan.

“This location is part of an extremely delicate dunal environment that is expected to thrive with the introduction of more than 2000 native foreshore plants,” Mayor Leu said.

“Coconut palms are an

iconic species in the Douglas Shire and all mature plantings will be preserved but by removing the coconut debris it gives the new native vegetation an opportunity to establish itself in an environment it was intended for.

“Council appreciates the contribution of the Sheraton Mirage in this project which will revitalise an important stretch of our foreshore.”

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[marinolawyers.com.au](http://marinolawyers.com.au)

[lawyers@marinolawyers.com.au](mailto:lawyers@marinolawyers.com.au)

19 Macrossan Street, Port Douglas

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**Sharryn Howes**

**Federal Labor Candidate for Leichhardt**

Thank you to all our supporters in Leichhardt and especially all the hard working folks in the Douglas area. It was a privilege to meet so many of you during the campaign.

**I wish you all the best during the uncertain times ahead.**  
– Sharryn Howes

**Mail:** PO Box 5621, Cairns QLD 4870 • **Phone:** 0476 976 411

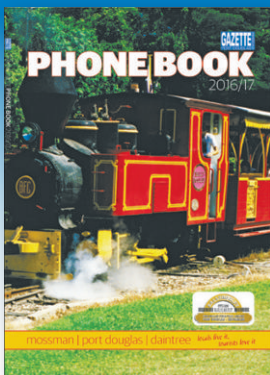
**Email:** [Sharryn.howes@australianlabor.com.au](mailto:Sharryn.howes@australianlabor.com.au)

Authorised by G. Wright, Australian Labor, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton ACT 2600

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