

# My BUSINESS

YOUR GUIDE TO DOING BUSINESS ON THE COAST

## No frills Budget puts Coast on the outer

### Chamber 'disappointed' in lack of direct funds heading our way

By OWEN JACQUES

THE Federal Budget has been described as restrained, as lacking bells and whistles and some even channelled ALP stalwart Paul Keating and called it "the budget we had to have".

For the Sunshine Coast, a lack of direct funding from the Budget has been met with disappointment by our industry groups.

As the Budget looks to steady the national economy, the Coast continues to lose out.

Maroochy Chamber of Commerce president Myles McNamara said there was "nothing fancy" in the Budget, despite our area being the stomping grounds of both Treasurer Wayne Swan and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

"The Sunshine Coast has missed out on infrastructure funding and the extension of the Sunshine Coast airport," he said.

"The funding of the East-West runway would create so much business here it's astounding."

There was nothing in the Budget for our SMEs, he said, and smaller tax agents would face some challenges with the government introducing a "tick and flick" electronic tax return system that would give an instant refund of \$500.

In years to come, that will leap to \$1000.

"There's two sides to this," Mr McNamara said.

"I can understand the simplification of use for tax returns, and it will streamline that process.

"It is a good initiative. But for small businesses that are tax agents, they'll struggle with this."

A representative from QTAX, which operates tax agent booths at shopping centres on the Coast said they were not concerned with the new legislation, because \$500 would largely be considered a meagre tax return.

He said because so many people expected a larger return than \$500 or even \$1000, the role of the smaller tax agents would not be jeopardised.

**"I can understand the simplification of use for tax returns, and it will streamline that process... But for small businesses that are tax agents, they'll struggle with this."**

— Myles McNamara

Few employers were expected to benefit significantly from this Budget but new apprentices may find it easier to gain first-year roles thanks to incentives now being paid to employers.

Those who are in a long list of trades will receive a total of \$3350 if they take on, and keep, a first year apprentice for nine months.

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**WELL SKILLED:** Award-winning floor tiler Eli Henebery welcomed the move to employ more apprentices but was cautious about the work available. He is pictured with Robert Dunbar, from Acclaim. PHOTO: NICHOLAS FALCONER/191115



### FIVE MINUTES

with Barbara Van der Meulen

WITH an extensive background working with homeless women, children and families affected by domestic violence, after 12 months Barbara Van der Meulen has settled into her new role as coordinator of the Integrated Family and Youth Service, Young Parents Support Program.

**To me, business is...** using my initiative and creativity to positively connect with young parents and their children.

**My first job was...** working in a fish and chip shop in South Brisbane for \$12 a week.

**My biggest failure was...** apart from losing my engagement ring on my wedding day, I have always picked myself up to face the next challenge. **My biggest success was...** having four beautiful children who have turned out to be decent human beings.

**The greatest risk I ever took was...** moving to the Coast as I knew nobody here. **The best advice I ever got was...** to live in the present moment as that is all I have!

**When times are good...** I am very grateful and soak it up.

**When times are bad...** I give myself a good talking to, ring my friends for support and look for the best.

**The thing not many people know about me is...** I am a big kid at heart and love trying out new things.

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