**Noosa Picnic Races a $40,000 winner**  
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With a net profit of about $40,000, Noosa’s Picnic Races have been an outstanding fundraiser for key community projects, and plans are in hand for a repeat performance at next year’s May Day long weekend. At a presentation of the balcony of the Noosa Heads Surf Club, where the Picnic races project was launched, cheques for $15,000 each were presented this week to Cr Brian Lindfield whose Sunshine Coast Recreational and Equestrian Park is a uniquely Noosa project for people with disabilities, and to Linley Midgley, towards a Noosa Youth Entertainment Centre. Janet Mitchell, the incoming president of the Zonta Club of Noosa said “The balance will be used for Zonta projects including the Noosa District Family and Youth Support Service in Cooroy, and a Women in Science Bursary, which is an ongoing Zonta Club of Noosa Bursary that goes to a female environmental science student at the University of the Sunshine Coast. This year Zonta has a major focus on developing a refuge for people experiencing domestic violence” she said. The event was an outstanding feat by the Picnic Races and Ball committee of 12, all women, 11 of whom were members of Zonta. “About 290 people attended the Friday evening Zonta Ball, and more than 4,000 people attended the Picnic Races on the Saturday” said Ms Mitchell. “Fundraising events at the ball included a Calcutta and a charity auction – the auction alone raised about $13,000, so it was certainly a major contributor. Everything for the auction was donated by the Noosa business community and individuals. Isabella’s designed a special ball prize – a glorious tortoiseshell pearl and gold necklace. A highlight of the auction was a Gordon Richards painting donated by Discovery’s Vicky Lau that went for close to $5,000 “Another highlight of the auction was a week at Netanya – a private individual donated his own unit – as well as a donated week at the Emerald in Hastings Street. “We sent out thank you notes to more than 100 different Noosa sponsors and people who donated good, items for the ball, the auction, sponsorship of the races, and people like Heat FM, who gave us about $11,000 worth of advertising for free. “We received a great deal of help from our various partners and Brian Linkfield himself, who worked like a Trojan. “On the actual day of the races, most of the 33 members and their partners, families, and friends were selling sweepstakes tickets, working on the gates, traffic control and other tasks. “A volunteer group of girls for the Sunshine Beach High School did a sterling job as ground support crew, acting as runners, and keeping an eye on the tidiness of the grounds.”

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| **Images:** | | |
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