

## MAFS groom spotted at local footy game wants out of spotlight

HESHOT to national celebrity status with his drama-filled TV turn in *Married At First Sight*, but plasterer Mick Gould is grateful to be back home among friends.

The 31-year-old hobby farmer from Mothar Mountain was spotted (pictured right) enjoying a few beers and watching the Gympie Cats with mates

at Ray Warren Oval on Saturday afternoon after returning to the region "about halfway through December" last year.

Mick said he was happy to be out of the spotlight – and his tumultuous "marriage" to Jessica Power – but had kept a low profile since his return.

"Absolutely, I've been trying to, it's

not going so well at the moment," he said with a laugh.

"I went to bloody... Centro (Gympie) the other day and sure enough by the time I'd got home someone had written on the *Married At First Sight* fan page 'saw Mick at centre by himself'. F-----g heaven forbid a bloke goes shopping by himself."

Mick received strong public support after Jessica got flirty with other MAFS "husbands" Nic Jovanovic and Dan Webb, and later took her affair with Dan a step further by kissing him at one of the show's dinner parties.

"Everyone can see she's only just there for the fame and that's it," he said.



# Hold on, where's ours?

## Soccer club chasing a fair deal

SCOTT SAWYER

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ONE of the region's major sporting clubs is bursting at the seams and has called on government support to match that of other sports, to help secure its future.

The Sunshine Coast Wanderers, the semi-professional club aligned with the Buderim Wanderers, has launched a petition seeking support from all tiers of government to secure a new venue and lease from 2020 and beyond.

At present, the Wanderers' facilities at Ballinger Road are under pressure, with about 1000 people a week training and playing on the fields.

Wanderers president Ian Marks said it was frustrating to see other sports enjoy significant investment, including Aussie Rules and rugby league, when football had such a high participation rate.

He said per capita government spend on football compared to other sports trailed well behind and after seeing recent upgrades to the Maroochydore rugby league fields and Fishermans Road Aussie Rules complex, they'd decided to push for help.

"You start to ask 'well, hang on, where's our bit?'," Mr Marks said.

"Is that fair and equitable? No, it's not."

A petition launched by Glenn Duncan on change.org this week had already gathered nearly 500 signatures and was expected to pick up plenty more. He laid out the case for



FAIR PLAY: Sunshine Coast Wanderers are calling for a fair share of government funds. Pictured are captains Jayah Brown and Nick Arden.

Photos: Patrick Woods

more support.

Mr Marks said football's governing bodies had to do more to help, but it was up to governments to increase spending on football too, starting with council.

"All we're asking is for a fair share," he said.

He said he'd had to fight "tooth and nail" to secure a \$180,000 lighting upgrade at their current Ballinger Road home ground.

Mr Marks said they feared wear and tear on the current fields would end up making them near impossible to play on, as they struggled to cater for the sheer number of players.

He said ideally they would love to secure a new facility in the Palmview estate, where



Sunshine Coast Wanderers captains Jayah Brown, right, and Nick Arden support team sponsors Sunshine Mitre 10.

there were new sporting fields earmarked to be developed.

Mr Marks said the estate would be a central location for the regional representative side, and if they could have lit fields and infrastructure of a

high enough quality, they could base themselves there.

At the very least he hoped the club could train and play junior games on the new fields, to ease some pressure on the current facility.

**"IS THAT FAIR AND EQUITABLE? NO, IT'S NOT."**

IAN MARKS

"It would be perfect (for the Sunshine Coast Wanderers) to have their own home," Mr Marks said.

Division 6 councillor Christian Dickson said he was extremely supportive of the club and believed they would have a case if they were to put forward an expression of interest in the sporting fields destined for Palmview.

"I'm certainly open to the discussion," Cr Dickson said.

"If I can support them in any way, as I always have, I'm more than happy to do that."

## Briefs

### Teen almost drowns

A TEENAGER was hospitalised after nearly drowning in Caloundra at 11.13am yesterday. A Queensland Ambulance Service spokesperson said a woman in her late teens was pulled from the water at Bulcock Beach. Life savers were required to give her oxygen after she was rescued. She was in a stable condition when paramedics arrived to transport her to Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

### Highway bedlam

THE Bruce Highway was at a standstill after a crash near Burpengary yesterday morning. Motorists heading south towards Brisbane were caught in massive delays all the way back to the Glass House Mountains. The worst patch extended from Burpengary to Elimbah. The Queensland Ambulance Service reported paramedics attended the single-vehicle crash with a trailer rollover at 10.44am. A patient in a stable condition was transported to Redcliffe Hospital with no serious injuries.

### Dino tourism

A DELEGATION of outback Queensland tourism operators will fly to North America on a mission as part of a strategy to promote the region's dinosaur-related tourism experiences. Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said the group would study world-leading attractions and promote Queensland's pre-historic tourism experiences in the US. "Paleo-tourism has the potential to generate millions of dollars for outback Queensland in years to come," Ms palaszczuk said. "Tourism supports 3700 outback jobs and pumps \$355 million into the local economy."

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