

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS



Former prime minister Kevin Rudd tells why the Sunshine Coast will always be home, and the place he retreats to recover from life's challenges.
FULL REPORT BELOW

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Anglican Church of Noosa Christmas Bazaar will be held at St Mary's Church, William St, Tewantin, tomorrow, 8am to 1pm. All things Christmas for sale.

FIRST AID SKILLS

A two-day workshop in suicide first aid will be held by United Synergies and the StandBy Response Service on December 9 and 10. Phone 5442 4277.



UP NEXT: X Factor star Andrew Lawson vows to go after his dream.



PAGE 5: Coast's bid for Surf Lifesaving Championships.



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Former PM Rudd finds haven from capital pressures

JOURNAL EXCLUSIVE
By CAROLYN TUCKER

WHEN former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd needed a quiet place to reflect and recover after being forced out of the nation's top job in June, he retreated to the Sunshine Coast.

"It is home," Mr Rudd told *The Journal* this week. "I think it's the best part of Australia."

"There's no place I can walk around the Sunshine Coast without being flooded with memories of the past and those memories are invariably good memories: an afternoon walk along Sunshine Beach, trudging through the Noosa National Park..."

"Home is deeply important when you're going through some challenges in life, so that's why I came back and I'll continue to come back."

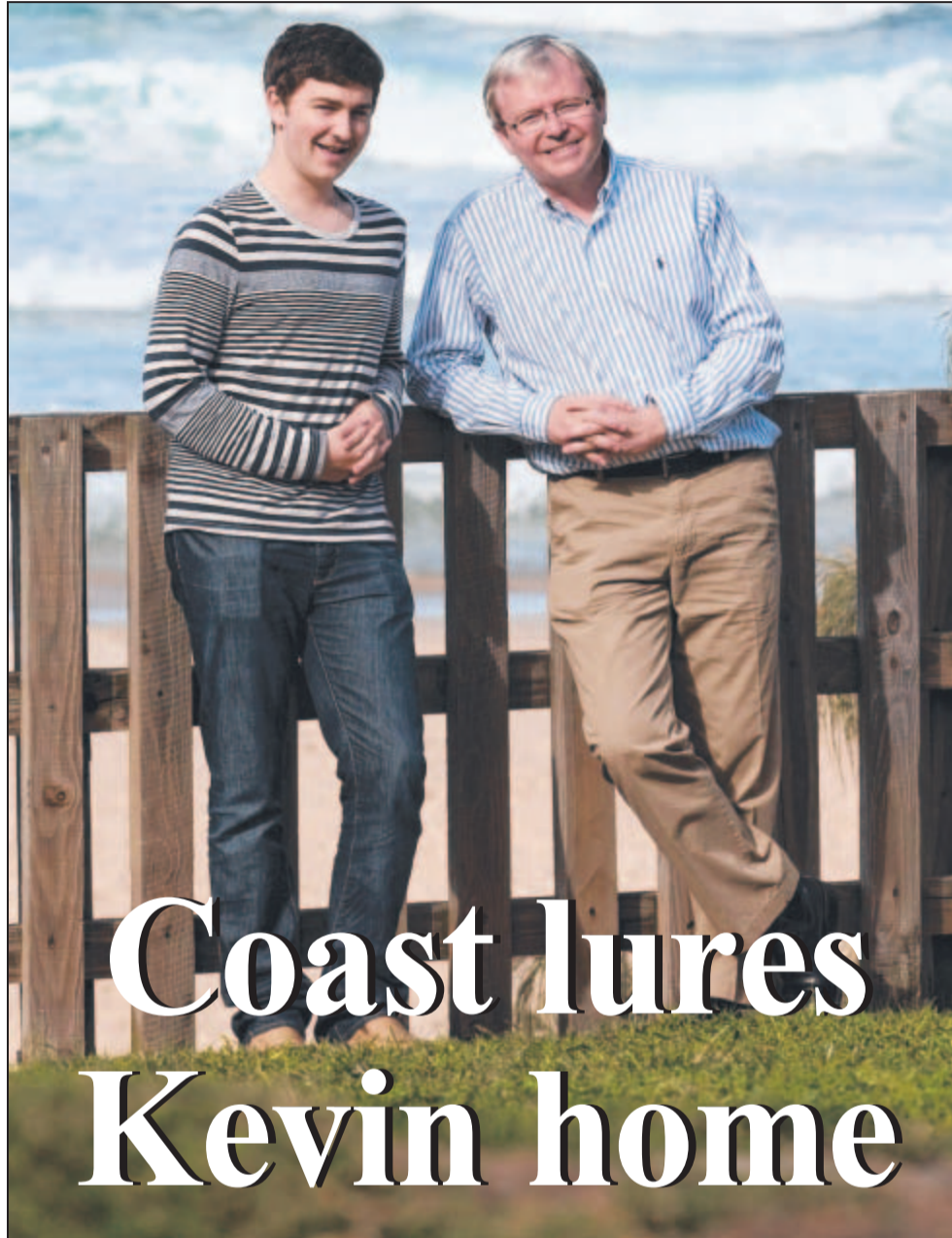
It may have been a watershed year for the region's famous son in 2010, but his new role as Foreign Affairs Minister allows little time for dwelling on the past and what might have been.

In an exclusive interview with *The Journal*, Mr Rudd said he was very much focused on the job at hand and dismissed his personal disappointments as minor in the wider scheme of things.

"Whatever we may run into in our careers, it all pales into insignificance compared with much deeper life challenges that so many people around Australia and around the world have every day," he said.

"Hearing news that a loved one has cancer, hearing news that a child has been killed in an accident, hearing news that someone that you know, whose family depends on it, has lost their job, these are far more fundamental challenges in life than personal political interests that I might have."

These days, he spends much of his time in Can-



Coast lures Kevin home

HOLIDAY HEAVEN: Kevin Rudd with son Nicholas at Sunrise Beach, (top right) with Sunshine Coast Mayor Bob Abbot and (right) the house Mr Rudd rents at Sunrise Beach.

berra, where his son is attending secondary school, and overseas, representing the nation at various events, meetings and conferences.

While being Foreign Affairs Minister involves frequent travel around the world it is clear his heart remains on the Coast.

His memories of the region as a child in Eumundi and

a teenager in Nambour are vivid and varied.

He remains intensely interested in the region's future and is aware of the pressures and challenges associated with population growth.

He said he understood amalgamation had been difficult for the Sunshine Coast but believed it had also brought some benefits.

"I'm a big supporter and always have been a big supporter of Bob Abbot, the mayor, because I think he has a deep passion for getting the balance right for the wider Sunshine Coast community," Mr Rudd said.

"I know for a fact that circumstances around Noosa and Sunshine Beach are different from those



around Maroochydore and Mooloolaba, are different from those around Caloundra, but given that the common challenge for the entire region is planning and transport infrastructure for the long-term, integrated region-wide planning of the type Bob Abbot (is doing) is the right way to go."

It may have been a bumpy ride over the past 12 months but Mr Rudd seems determined to put it behind him and end 2010 in style.

He had accepted an invitation to the Woodford Folk Festival next month, although he was giving little away about his involvement.

"I'll rock along to Woodford, I'll bring out my flares and dust them off, get them dry-cleaned - and then Therese will destroy them," he laughed. "Back in the days of Maleny I think I went once or twice and they've been inviting me to go for years, so I'll be doing the odd thing or two."

While he's in the region he might also stay for a break, but on the question of whether the Rudd family will be spotted on the Coast over summer, Mr Rudd defers to a higher authority.

"The secret of 29 years of marriage is, on the question of holidays, allow one's spouse to decide where you're going," he said. "But if you want to know where home is in the Rudd family's heart, it is very much the Sunshine Coast."

Braeden cleans up at awards

NOOSA builder Braeden Constructions won two Australian building awards last Friday, including the prestigious national Residential Master Builder of the Year.

The company, led by Mick and Sally Devlin, also won the Master Builders 2010 national award for House of the Year over \$2 million, for a pavilion-style house on Cooroy Mountain.

Announced at the Master Builders 2010 National Excellence in Building and Construction Awards, it is the first time a Sunshine Coast builder has been named National Residential Master Builder of the Year.

"It's a credit to all the tradesmen and professionals who worked on the home, the majority coming from the Coast," Mr Devlin said.

Master Builders chief executive Wilhelm Harnisch said the house was testament to the company's hard work and dedication.

NEWS PACK

BIG PLATE
NOOSA U3A will host a talk on plate tectonics by oceanographer Dr Kinsey in the auditorium, U3A House, cnr Moorindil St and Poinciana Ave, Tewantin, on November 29, at 9.30am.

POMONA MARKETS
POMONA Country Markets are held in Stan Topper Park on the second and fourth Saturday each month. New co-ordinator Duncan Matthews can be contacted on 5485 1493. Proceeds from the markets support the historic Majestic Theatre in Pomona.

WORLD'S SMALLEST HEARING AIDS

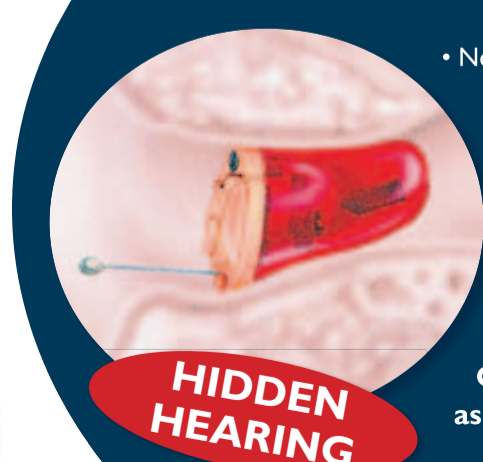
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