Croc research is fascinating

RESEARCH on the movement of saltwater crocodiles has uncovered some amazing distances travelled in rivers and seas by this primeval species. They have been tracked with sonar transmitters over distances of almost 500 kilometres over a few weeks.

Their inbuilt intuition of tidal movements is uncanny, as they plan their journey to use the tidal movements in estuaries, rivers and oceans, slipping into these natural currents on the clock and landing to rest out the period for the turn of the tide to reach their destination. This form of travel has assisted the species over millions of years to perpetuate its existence across 10,000 kilometres of the Pacific and Indian oceans and further afield.

In Keppel Bay the same travelling arrangements apply to our local crocodiles that regularly travel back and forth from the estuaries of the Fitzroy River, Coorooman Creek, Water Park Creek and more northern habitats. It is quite common to sight crocodiles cruising past the beaches of Kemp and Lammermoor and in Corio Bay. This is an interesting study by the University of Queensland.

FULL marks for the State Government’s commitment of $2 million to demolish the old Yeppoon Hospital and to restore the site for recreation development. This now offers a golden opportunity for the all three levels of government to fund a development that will serve the communities of the Capricorn Coast, Central Queensland, the state, interstate and overseas visitors for their recreational enjoyment and economic benefits that will arise from such a project.

UNFORTUNATELY, another government funding problem has reared its head over the extensive allocation of federal funding for new school buildings that has delivered money to schools that are listed for closing by the Queensland Government. The Federal Building the Education Revolution program will continue regardless, even though some of the schools are being considered for closing, of which 13 are listed including Goovigan and Gogando.

THE bad news on the mining front is the tumbling share market that is seriously affecting investors and retirees’ superannuation income. The super tax has become a super loser to the mining industry. The whole mining scene is in stress, only slightly inspired by Kevin Rudd’s compromise with taxing the emerging coal seam gas resource industry. The Queensland Government should be acknowledged for its budget offerings of better electricity rebates for pensioners, adding 203 police to the state force, and bumping up health funding.