



## **OLYMPIC ROWER VICTORY GOLDEN MOMENT FOR TWEED COAST**

**RELEASED: August 2008**

The New Tweed Coast community was in celebration mode at the weekend, following the stellar gold medal performance of Olympic rowers Drew Ginn and Duncan Free.

The duo lived and trained on the Tweed in the final weeks before Beijing, backed by a \$3000 sponsorship from Salt Village developer Tom Ray and subsidised accommodation at the Drift Apartments from Domain Resorts and Residences.

Mr Ray says locals are ecstatic about the duo's win.

"There were heaps of people down at the Saltbar Beachbar and Bistro watching the coverage to cheer them across the line, and there has been plenty of talk about the victory since," Mr Ray said.

"Duncan and Drew have been welcomed as part of the Salt Village and Casuarina Beach communities – they have come here to train on several occasions and we hope they will continue to visit us following their Olympic campaign," he said.

Mr Free, of Robina, said the support made a huge difference to their preparation for the strongly contested coxless pairs event.

"The sponsorship money from Salt Village went a long way towards sending us to Germany to compete in recent the world championships, which we went on to win, so it was a great confidence builder for the Olympics," Mr Free said.

"Our accommodation package from Domain Resorts meant that we didn't have to travel far to training and were able to have our families with us during those last few weeks, which were quite challenging and mentally tough.

"We are grateful to have the support of the New Tweed Coast community and are glad we were able to bring back the gold from Beijing."

Mr Ray says he would not be surprised to see more Olympic talent emerge from the New Tweed Coast region, which is renowned for its high performance training facilities.

"The New Tweed Coast has an array of world-class facilities for both recreational and elite sports performance," he said.

"Casuarina Beach is home to the headquarters of Surfing Australia, and also has a quality gymnasium, pool and recreational centre that are perfect for cross-training and general performance enhancement.

"Salt Village and Casuarina Beach together boast more than 7 kilometres of beachfront pathways for cycling and running, and the beach and creek are only a few hundred metres apart so athletes can train in different conditions depending on their needs."

**ENDS**