



Crews work hard to combat breeding sites

It's been a busy wet season for Mackay Regional Council's vector control crews in the battle to reduce mosquito numbers across the region.

In a little over two months, 283 potential breeding sites have been inspected with our crews treating 174 sites covering an area of 6480 hectares.

Health, Sport and Recreation portfolio councillor Paul Steindl said with the recent rainfall over the past few days, it's important that residents remember their home could be a breeding ground for dengue mosquitoes.

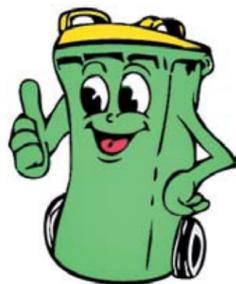
"Dengue is a disease that is transmitted by certain types of mosquitoes which are commonly found around the home in tropical areas," he said.

"Dengue mosquitoes breed in containers that hold water including buckets, old tyres, bases of pot plants, boats, fallen palm fronds, blocked roof guttering and bird baths to name a few."

To protect yourself against dengue ensure you empty out all containers holding water, clear out roof guttering, secure water tank screens, use insect repellent, screen doors and windows or use mosquito nets.

>> For more information on pest management and mosquitoes, visit our website.

Recycling Right



Fact: Plastic bags cannot be recycled at the Material Recovery Facility; therefore you cannot place these in your yellow-lidded recycling bin.

Tip: All major supermarkets supply collection bins specifically for plastic bag recycling. However, the best option is to utilise reusable shopping bags and reduce plastic bag usage completely.

>> To learn more about what you can and cannot recycle, check our website under services and water and waste.

Have your say at the City Centre planning workshop



Get involved in the future direction of the Mackay City Centre at next week's Enquiry by Design (EbD) workshop to be held on Wednesday, March 23 and Friday, March 25 at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre.

At the first open session on Wednesday (5pm to 6.30pm) community members can provide input on ideas for the future of the City Centre, and on Friday (5pm to 6pm) hear how these comments have been considered.

If you are interested in attending one or both of these sessions, please register your interest with council no later than Tuesday, March 22 by contacting Strategic Planning on 1300 MACKAY or by email on strategic.planning@mackay.qld.gov.au.

>> To view the Mackay City Centre Local Area Plan Background Report, visit our website under community consultation and current consultations.

Councillors are coming to you



Mackay Regional Council is sending councillors to both Sarina and Mirani customer service centres each month to conduct fortnightly visits from 9am to 12noon.

The visits initiated last year are part of council's commitment to reach the whole region. Councillors will be directly accessible to discuss general matters, however if you have a specific issue, a prearranged appointment is encouraged to allow councillors research time.

Sarina's visits will occur the first Monday of the month with Mirani's visits on the third Monday of the month

Upcoming visits include:

Monday, March 21 > Mirani Customer Service Centre – Cr Diane Hatfield

Monday, April 4 > Sarina Customer Service Centre – Cr David Perkins

Monday, April 18 > Mirani Customer Service Centre – Cr Deirdre Comerford

Get a direct link to your councillor.

>> For further dates and locations of Sarina and Mirani councillor visits, log onto our website.

Sugar Shed features nationally...



Australia's only working miniature sugar-processing mill and distillery has been receiving a lot of media attention lately with a feature last week on Channel 7's breakfast show, Sunrise, and two upcoming segments on ABC television and the Queensland Weekender.

The Shed located in the Field of Dreams Parkland, Railway Square, Sarina is an attraction that will impress locals and visitors alike.

If you haven't taken the friends and family already, we suggest you check it out this weekend. Patrons can take a tour and taste some delicious samples of homemade products including sauces, fudges and much more. Tours run four times a day from Monday to Saturday.

>> To book a tour or for further details phone 4943 2801 or visit www.sarinasugarshed.com.au

Take part in Zine workshops at Artspace



Artspace Mackay is presenting one-day workshops Zines: A beginners guide with zine creator Jeremy Staples on Saturday, March 26 and Sunday, March 27.

A zine (like magazine without the 'maga') is an independent publication that can be made by just about anyone. Zines are often inexpensive to make, can be easily reproduced, containing images and text in a variety of formats, from computer-printed text to comics to handwriting.

The workshop is aimed at the region's youth and explains the purpose of a zine, teaches how to create them, reproduce them as well as great ways to get them noticed.

Artspace Mackay has the largest regional collection of artists books in Australia. Every two years the gallery presents the Libris Awards: Australia's Premier National Artists Book Prize. The awards welcomed a new category in 2010, the inaugural Zine Prize. Through this, Artspace hopes to encourage the growth of creative zine production within our community and strengthen an exciting facet of artists books in our collection.

The workshop, Zines: A beginners guide, will be complemented by an innovative exhibition of street art direct from Sydney's celebrated May Lane. MAYS: The May Lane street art project is currently on show in the McAleese Gallery until May 1, 2011.

>> Bookings are essential for the workshops, for more information or to confirm your spot contact Artspace Mackay on 4961 9722.

Project Snapshot >>>>>>>>

Mango Avenue, Eimeo

Start date - January 2011

Expected completion - April 2011 (weather permitting)

Cost - \$605,000

Scope of project - Widening of Mango Avenue including new footpaths as well as an upgraded storm water drainage system.

Sunday in the park...

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Lagoon Street

> Sunday, March 20 from 2pm to 4pm on the Tropical Sun Lawn, adjacent to the main entrance

Enjoy the beautiful surrounds of the Botanic Gardens with friends and families. Bring along a chair/blanket and a picnic or purchase some delicious treats from the Lagoons Cafe which is open until 4pm.

Sunday in the park is the perfect way to relax and enjoy the end of the weekend. Each month residents will get a taste of a diverse range of local musicians.



>> For more information contact the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens on 4952 7300 or email botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au.

Get on board rural committee

Residents from Calen to Midge Point and north of Sarina (including Rosella, Alligator Creek and Chelona) are being asked to put up their hand in order to have their areas heard on issues of concern for the regions agricultural industries, organisations and rural community groups.

The committee has worked on a number of projects and initiatives including the need to improve the rural addressing system, recreation and sporting facilities in rural areas and emergency management and response after disaster events such as Cyclone Ului. The committee positions are unpaid and last for a two year term with meetings being held every two months.

>> For those wanting to join, phone council today to register your interest.



Structures must meet council standards

The Mackay Regional Council area is located in a cyclonic region designated as Wind Region C under the provisions of the Building Regulation 2006. This means all structures are required to have a building approval – no matter the size.

This includes such structures as farm sheds (irrespective of the location of the building on the property), re-roofing of dwellings,



minor building work such as patios, garden sheds, carports and any other work associated with a building that may cause structural changes to occur. Swimming pools and spas are also required to have a building approval – including spas that may contain a lockable lid.

All building work is required to be inspected at various stages by the Private Certifier depending on the work being carried out.

Early ratepayer winners drawn...

Congratulations to three Mackay Regional Council ratepayers who have each won a wish gift card to the value of \$500 from council's Early Rates Payment Initiative Prize Draw.

- > Ronee Brown, Cannonvale
- > Trevor MacKenzie, Mount Jukes
- > Alan Petersen, Seaforth

>> For approved pensioners only, the half year rates ending 30 June are due by Friday, June 24, 2011.

It is essential that owners ensure that a final building inspection has been carried out on completion of all building work and that the necessary final inspection certificates have been issued.

It's important to note that plumbing work requires approval, be it a new dwelling, changes to existing plumbing or additional fixtures being added to a residence or building. As with building work, inspections are required at certain stages and a final inspection carried out and certificate issued.

>> For further information or assistance in building compliance, inspections and approvals, contact council on 1300 MACKAY.



>> For more information on road works and traffic disruptions, visit our website.

