



For more information phone: 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529)  
or visit [www.mackay.qld.gov.au](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au)

150<sup>th</sup>  
1862-2012

## Watch out for escapees

**With dry conditions everywhere - cows are desperately trying to get to greener pasture.**

Mackay farmer and grazier Robert Denman owns 280 head of cattle and said the dry conditions are forcing cows to go wandering.

"Cows are searching for sources of nutrients."

"If they see grass on the other side of the fence, they are breaking through old and unstable fences to get to the grass."

Mr Denman said he checks on his cattle every day.

"My cows are my livelihood. I can't afford to have my cattle wandering the road and being hit by cars."

Waste, Health and Regulatory Services portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura encourages graziers to check on their cattle daily.



Cr Laurence Bonaventura and Robert Denman check out his fence to make sure his cattle can't escape

"With warmer conditions we need to be more vigilant and check that cattle are remaining inside the fenced area."

Cr Bonaventura said drivers also need to slow down and drive carefully when they see cattle on the road.

"The sound of approaching vehicles and horns can frighten cattle and cause serious accidents."

If you happen to come across cattle on a road please slow down and report it to Mackay Police immediately.

Owners who allow their stock to wander on public land can be fined \$220. Council enforces Local Laws to protect the lives of animals and humans.

>> For further information call council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

## Keep the kids safe this Summer

**When Summer hits all you want to do is cool down and go for a swim.**

Unfortunately most of us don't have an in-ground swimming pool, so we usually opt for an inflatable pool in the backyard.

When you look at the size of most inflatable pools you wouldn't think they could be harmful - but they are.

Last Summer in Mackay there were four immersion incidents and one death in swimming pools and 14 blow up pools had to be emptied and removed.

Mother of two Kelley Porter from Glenella said she didn't know that inflatable pools are required to meet swimming pool safety standards.

"No one has ever told me that you need to install a fence around your inflatable pool."



Mum Kelley Porter and sons Angus and Henry understand they need a fence around their inflatable pool

"Having heard the latest stats on pool drownings and near drownings, I can understand why."

Under the Queensland Building Act every swimming pool or spa capable of holding water to a depth of 300mm or more is required to have a fence around it. If you're caught without a fence around your inflatable pool you can be fined \$770.

Sport, Recreation and Facilities portfolio councillor Paul Steindl said if you don't have a pool, you should take advantage of council's pools.

"We have four swimming pools and the Bluewater Lagoon that are fenced and manned by lifeguards."

>> For the full list of council's swimming pools visit [www.mackay.qld.gov.au/pools](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/pools) or call 1300 MACKAY (622 529).



## Council in brief

### Reward your mates

Don't let your mates go unnoticed - nominate them today for an Australia Day Award. Nominations close January 7, 2013 and there are a variety of awards up for grabs including a new Environmental Award and a South Sea Islander Award. Visit council's website for details.

### Council Connect Winner

Charles Ditton from Mackay will be enjoying himself this Christmas. Charles is the lucky winner of the Council Connect Christmas Giveaway. Charles won a \$500 Wish Gift plus a double pass to the MECC Theatre Season for visiting council's website and entering the special codeword Christmas. Merry Christmas Charles.

### Christmas Closures

Council's Customer Service Centres in Mackay, Mirani and Sarina will be closed from 12 noon Friday, December 21 and re-open on Wednesday, January 2. If you have a council enquiry over the Christmas holidays - waste collection or you want to report a stray dog please call 1300 622 529 to be assisted by our after hours service.

### Bin collections over Christmas

No need for stinky bins over Christmas. Your wheelie bins and recycling bins will be collected as per normal over the Christmas Holiday period. If your bin is due for collection on Tuesday - Christmas Day it will be collected. Just make sure your bin is out before 6am to ensure its picked up.

## Free New Years Eve fun

Looking to bring in the New Year with a bang but don't want to put a strain on your hip pocket? Don't worry we have the event for you.

Council is putting on a free family NYE party at the Civic Precinct in Mackay. From 6pm to 9pm there will be spectacular children's entertainment on offer, workshops for the kids and mouth watering treats.

Afterwards head down to the Bluewater Quay and enjoy the free concert, The Queen of Rock Suzi Quatro - Tribute Band and at Midnight watch the sky come alive with our spectacular New Years Eve fireworks display.



Queen Bee will be wowing crowds at council's family New Years Eve party

>> For further information visit [www.festivalmackay.org.au](http://www.festivalmackay.org.au)

## Did you know?

**That you need to protect yourself and your family against mosquitoes and Dengue Fever during the wet season. When outdoors use insect repellent and dispose of all water holding containers.**