



COUNCIL - in brief -

Travel the world in a day

Experience authentic food, music, dance, costumes, markets and crafts from around the world at Global Grooves. The free community event will take place at Queens Park on Sunday, October 26 at a new time this year from 12 noon to 8pm. Bring the entire family and wander through the 'Global Village' as you learn more about Mackay's cultural diversity. The action-packed event will end with a bang with a spectacular display of fireworks at 8pm. Don't miss a beat at this year's Global Grooves.

Apply now for Xmas event \$\$

With Christmas only a few months away, council is again encouraging communities to enact their own local celebration this year and is offering cash assistance of up to \$750 to assist with activating your event plans. Written applications for cash assistance should be sent to council no later than Friday, October 3. Please address your letter to Mark Fawcett, PO Box 41, Mackay QLD 4740.

Watch your feet in the heat!

Council's parks crew have been busy installing signs at 117 playgrounds across the Mackay region, reminding parents and carers to take care on play equipment. During periods of extreme heat, surfaces of paths, furniture and some play equipment and soft fall areas can become quite hot and can burn children's skin. It's important young children are supervised at all times when using play equipment.

Extravaganza of orchids!

Spring has arrived just in time for the annual Orchid Extravaganza which will be held this weekend (Sept 20-21) at the Orchid House, Queens Park. Come along and check out more than 1000 stunning orchid displays and enjoy a barbecue lunch and free workshops.

New paths improve Seaforth access

Everyone loves a trip to the beach and it's important that residents of any age and ability can get outdoors and enjoy our beautiful backyard in the Mackay region.

Accessibility at Seaforth Beach has been drastically improved since the constructions of concrete footpaths in recent months.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said council was committed to ensuring community facilities were accessible for all residents.

The footpath which runs adjacent to the Seaforth swimming enclosure connects the car park, toilet block and picnic shelter areas ensuring that older residents and people using wheelchairs and walking aids are able to access and enjoy the beach.

"Quality pathways are one of the key components to ensuring community connectedness." Cr Comerford said.

"The new footpath will have an enormous benefit for the

entire community."

A new concrete footpath will be built at the Stann Camm Park in Midge Point in the coming weeks, improving access for residents by connecting the bus stop and toilet blocks.

And if you've noticed some bright yellow paving markers appearing on footpaths around the region and wondered what they were, they're called PaveGuides and they've been specifically designed to provide guidance to the vision impaired.



Access to Seaforth has been improved thanks to new concrete footpaths.

>> Council's roads and maintenance crews maintain over 220km of shared footpaths and bikeways across the region.

WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H₂O

Spreading a layer of mulch around plants retains moisture, saving water, time and money!

Water proofing our region's roads

The perfect Spring weather provides the ideal platform for our crews to tackle much of the maintenance work on the road network.

Graders have been busy getting the unsealed roads in good condition for the wet season. Much of the focus has been on the cane haulage areas.

Roadside slashing has been another key part of the work, including the rural roads at Ball Bay, Cape Hillsborough Road, Pleystowe, Oakenden and Munburra area.

Road patching and pothole repairs have been undertaken region-wide including the Seaforth, Mackay, Kuttabul and St Helen's areas.

In preparation for the looming wet season, drainage maintenance has also been a focus. Work has started on about 25 open drains across the region, including Harbey Street, Scott Street, Settlers Rise and in the Eton area.

For up to date information on roadworks across the region, visit mackay.qld.gov.au/roads.



Marian's Edward Lloyd Park is edging close to completion.

Almost playtime at Edward Lloyd Park

New playground equipment has been installed and footpaths have been laid, meaning the \$825,000 makeover for Marian's Edward Lloyd Park is almost complete and ready for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Located next to Melba House, Cr Morgan said the park was situated in an ideal location to welcome visitors to Marian and for people to stretch their legs and have a break from driving.

Co-funded by Mackay Regional Council and the Federal Government's Regional Development Fund, the park has undergone an exciting transformation over the past few months and now boasts modern play equipment and a solid roof shelter.

"There's parkland to explore, beautiful views, picnic shelters, barbecues, drinking fountains and plenty of car parks."

"It will be a great spot for the community to meet and to enjoy special moments like birthdays and bike riding or even just read a book."

Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said the new-look park would be a great asset for the Marian community.

The final stages of landscaping are now taking place with the park set to open to the public later this month.

>> For a full list of council parks visit mackay.qld.gov.au

Tackling the issue of marine debris

More than 2.37 tonnes of pollutants (about 13,000 individual pieces of rubbish) were saved from entering our waterways last year through council's stormwater network of Gross Pollutant Traps.

Council is helping to reduce the amount of land-based debris that enters our region's waterways through the installation of Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT) and other stormwater quality improvement devices.

profit organisation Eco Barge Clean Seas Inc, the content of the traps have been analysed each time they are emptied in order to gain a better understanding of the type of pollutants that are entering our waterways.

number of household and commercial waste items including 18 tomato sauce and soy packets, 58 building/material items, 85 items of plastic food packaging and 30 plastic bags.

Three GPT's in the form of Trash Racks are located in the Ooralea and Paget area and are designed to capture stormwater pollution from plastic bags to tiny items such as cigarettes.

Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said 10 kilograms of waste was collected from the litter nets last month (August 2014).

"Many of these items could have been recycled and easily avoided ending up in our waterways."

Cr Morgan said the prevention of land-based litter becoming marine debris was of upmost importance to council.

In partnership with the non-

"In their report, Eco Barge Clean Seas identified a

council.

>> Visit council's website for recycling tips such as give bottles and jars a quick rinse before placing them in the recycling bin - mackay.qld.gov.au.



A snapshot of some of the household and commercial waste items that have been captured by council's litter nets.

"Approximately 80 per cent of marine debris comes from land-based sources - we all have a responsibility to help reduce this statistic as the debris has a devastating

impact on our coastlines and ultimately on the Great Barrier Reef."

Top five items found in litter nets in the Mackay region

are foam, plastic food packaging, plastic bags, foils and cigarettes.

Students prepare for Japan



Cr Alison Jones joins a group of students and their two chaperons ahead of their upcoming trip to Matsuura, Japan.

Nine students from our local secondary schools are about to embark on a trip of a lifetime and experience Japanese culture first-hand with the help of a \$1000 council funded scholarship.

true cultural experience. "We have a very wonderful group of students heading over this year and all of them study Japanese at school."

The group has been busy preparing for the trip and have even been practising a group dance to Tina Turner's Nut Bush City Limits with a fun Australian twist.

The touring party will be

home-hosted in Matsuura and will enjoy two nights in Kyoto, including a sight-seeing tour, and three nights in Tokyo, including a sight-seeing tour, and a one-day Tokyo Disney pass.

The Mackay-Matsuura Sister City relationship, which formed in 1989, celebrates 25 years this year.

Safety-first applications score grants

Community safety was the key to success in the first round of community grant funding for the 2014/15 financial year.

Seven of the 13 successful applications will fund workplace healthy and safety improvements in the region such as the Slade Point Rugby Club who will use their \$5000 grant towards fencing repairs.

The Valley Theatrical Players will spend their \$5000 grant on improving safety for patrons by replacing unsafe windows.

Community and Client Services portfolio councillor Alison Jones said safety was always a key focus for council.

"We'll be focusing on the Workplace Health and Safety category in the next round of community grants which close in February 2015," Cr Jones said. Applications for round two of grants are now open.



Bernadette Howlett congratulated by new President Darren Flemming and the Mayor.

Artspace Foundation makes a difference

From supporting young artists with the \$1000 Rick Wood Hands On Bursary to presenting major cultural events at our regional gallery, the Artspace Mackay Foundation plays a vital role in raising funds for developing art and cultural experiences in our community.

Earlier this month the Mayor and councillors acknowledged and thanked outgoing Artspace Foundation President Bernadette Howlett for her tireless efforts

supporting Artspace Mackay for over eight years.

"Mrs Howlett was instrumental in securing major sponsorship for Artspace Mackay," Mayor Deirdre Comerford said.

Applications are now being invited for the Foundation's \$1000 Hand On Bursary which will aid a young local artist looking to pursue a career in the arts. Applications can be sent to: Artspace Mackay Foundation, PO Box 41, Mackay QLD 4740.

>> Did you know Artspace Mackay has a Facebook page?

Spring Holiday Report Card

1. Learn to be a confident bicycle rider at free workshops thanks to council's Active Towns program:

- > Wed, Sept 24 at Marian State School from 9am
- > Thurs, Sept 25 at Victoria Park State School from 9am
- > Fri, Sept 26 at Sarina State High School from 9am
- > Mon, Sept 29 at Victoria Park State School from 9am
- > Tues, Sept 30 at Calen State School from 9am

2. Libraries spring craft activities (ages 5-12):

- > Tues, Sept 23 from 10am at Walkerston & Mirani
- > Tues, Sept 23 from 2pm at Mirani Library
- > Wed, Sept 24 from 10am at Gordon White Library
- > Thurs, Sept 25 from 10am at Mackay City Library
- > Fri, Sept 26 from 10am at Sarina Library

3. Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens presents 'Take a Walk on the Wild Side' holiday activity:

- > Tues, Sept 23 sessions at 10am and 2pm
- > Wed, Sept 24 sessions at 10am and 2pm
- Cost \$5, bookings essential.

4. MECC presents Circus Oz:

- > Sat, Sept 27 at 7.30pm
- > Sun, Sept 28 at 1.30pm and 7.30pm

4. Artspace Mackay's string art spring workshops:

- > Wed, Oct 1 sessions at 10am and 1pm
- > Thurs, Oct 2 sessions at 10am and 1pm



>> For more holiday ideas visit mackay.qld.gov.au