



Cane farmers tap into recycled water

Treated sewage from the Mackay South Water Recycling Facility is proving a valuable irrigation source during dry spells and helping growers produce bumper crops

CANE farmers in the area south of Mackay are using council's recycled water during dry months and reaping benefits in the form of bumper crops.

Tony Bugeja is one of the growers using recycled water to irrigate their sugar cane and rotation crops.

He said they had been producing a better crop since accessing recycled water during dry spells.

"When there is insufficient

rainfall during critical periods of crop growth we are able to use our recycled water allocation to keep the crop growing well," Mr Bugeja said.

"We have increased our annual yield by up to 20 per cent through the use of council's recycled water, resulting in a greater return to us and the local economy," he said.

The Mackay South Water Recycling Facility treats sewage collected from an

estimated population of about 68,000.

The facility provides 31 cane growers, which equates to about 3200 hectares of sugar cane, with quality recycled water for irrigation purposes.

Water and Sewerage portfolio councillor Frank Gilbert said the use of recycled water had increased 12 per cent since 2013.

"8000 megalitres is available each year for irrigation



Grower Tony Bugeja uses recycled water for irrigation during dry spells and believes it is helping produce better crops in the South Mackay area.

purposes and growers appear to be using more water as they get used to the system," Cr Gilbert said.

"Each farmer has access to

2.5 megalitres per hectare and can access the water via a number of storage dams built on nearby properties."

Cr Gilbert said the Sarina

and Pioneer Valley golf courses were also taking advantage of council's recycled water to help keep their fairways green all year round.

>> For further information on the Mackay South Water Recycling Facility project visit council's website mackay.qld.gov.au

Women mark special date

MACKAY women are marking a special day on their calendars - International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8.

Community and Client Services portfolio councillor Alison Jones said council was proud to host three events to showcase the contribution of women in our region as part of International Women's Day.

"International Women's Day is a time to reflect on the progress we have made

towards gender equality and to celebrate the achievements women have made in society," she said.

The three council events being held around the region include:

- Make it Happen Expo - Friday, March 6, from 9am to 2pm at Bob Wood Cultural Hall, Sarina.

- All about Women live simulcast from Sydney Opera House and Zonta



Attending a Women's Day luncheon last year are (from left) Liz Atkins, Jane-Rose Watkin, Tenille Da Rin Perette and Debbie Robinson. Photo: Daily Mercury.

lunch - Sunday, March 8. Simulcast only, 10am to 11.20am, is \$10. Simulcast plus Zonta Lunch, 10am to 2pm, is \$60. The simulcast features some of Australia's

most renowned women, including Germaine Greer discussing what it means to be a feminist.

- International Women's Day

morning tea - Tuesday, March 10, from 10.30am to noon at the Mackay City Library. Author Kathleen O'Dea will be guest speaker at the morning tea.

>> The slogan for this year's International Women's Day is "Make It Happen". For more details go to qld.gov.au/community/women

WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H₂O

After showers, washing machines are the second-largest consumers of indoor water. To save water, adjust your water level to suit the size of your load.

Families swing by to check out park

MEETING up with friends in Marian is a walk in the park.

The \$825,000 Edward Lloyd Park revitalisation project will be officially opened tomorrow.

"Edward Lloyd Park will be a place the whole family can enjoy, with plenty of shady areas for parents to relax while their children play," said Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan.

"Some of the new features residents can enjoy include a new playground, shade structures, picnic tables, barbecues, drinking fountains and new pathways and landscaping," she said.

Plenty of young families have already swung by to check out the new-look park.



Checking out new playground facilities at Edward Lloyd Park at Marian are (front) Indianna Paton, Kye Daniel-Pel and (back) Kayden Matei.

Cr Morgan said the revamped park was a huge asset for the Pioneer Valley.

"Council is confident the project will assist in promoting healthy lifestyle choices and community wellbeing among Pioneer Valley residents."

The park is named in honour of the late Edward Lloyd, who was shire clerk at Mirani from 1921 to 1954.

Federal Member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, will do the unveiling honours at tomorrow's official opening.

Council representatives, members of the Marian Community Working Group, Pioneer Valley Tourism and family and friends of the late Edward Lloyd are just some of those who will attend the ceremony tomorrow afternoon.

>> The \$825,000 Edward Lloyd Park Revitalisation project was an initiative of Mackay Regional Council and the Australian Government

Chinese New Year in the city

ASIAN cuisine stalls, Chinese lion dancers, a fire show, Thai dancers and interactive Tai Chi sessions - the City Centre will be celebrating the Chinese New Year in style this Saturday, February 21, from 4pm to 8pm at the Victoria Street Markets. Bring the family along and enjoy free entertainment, including a jumping castle and Kevin the Magical Balloon Man.

Call goes out to show talent

YOUNG performers aged 12 to 18 are being encouraged to register for the Mackay's Got Talent auditions. They will take place this Saturday, February 21, and Sunday, February 22, from noon to 4pm at Studio 53, 53 Gregory Street, Mackay. Mackay's Got Talent will be held on Sunday, April 19. For more information and to register contact 4961 9436.

Your say on the Koumala reserve

COUNCIL is seeking feedback from the community on how to best protect and enjoy Landings Road Reserve near Rocky Dam Creek at Koumala. The reserve near the boat ramp is both a popular fishing spot and the site of endangered woodland vegetation along the creek. Council understands that many people use the reserve for recreation and would like this to continue, as well as working with the community to ensure the unique riparian vegetation is better protected for the future. If you'd like to take the survey please visit ConnectingMackay.com.au, or call 4961 9975.

Clear the way for drainage

RESIDENTS with drainage easements are being reminded it is their responsibility to keep them clear. "With the wet season upon us, it is a timely reminder of the need to keep drains clear so water can flow freely," said Roads and Drainage portfolio councillor Kevin Casey. "Property owners who have dedicated drainage and stormwater easements within the boundaries of their land must ensure they are clear."



Builders have embraced methods to minimise sediment run-off.

Dump for free with vouchers

MACKAY residents are being reminded to use their dump vouchers.

The latest round of dump vouchers went out with half-yearly rates notices late last week.

Waste, Health and Regulatory Services portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura said they could be used to dispose of household or green waste at any council transfer station until September 30.

"We're also reminding residents that dump vouchers that went out with rates notices late last year can also be used up until March 30," Cr Bonaventura said.

Residential properties receive three vouchers per rates notice. Landlords are asked to pass them on to tenants.

>> For more details visit mackay.qld.gov.au



Kucom Theatre "bushrangers" (from left) Elaine Power, Bill Wall, Craig Bradford, Petar Grulovic and Jessica Grulovic helped raise funds when they "held" up a steam locomotive.

Booty handed over

FAKE bushrangers and an eChristmas card initiative have boosted the coffers of two Mackay charity organisations.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford has presented \$1146.65 each to Mackay Community Foundation and Macrossan & Amiet Charitable Foundation.

The donations included proceeds of council's eChristmas card initiative, as well as a booty rounded up by fake bushrangers when an historic steam locomotive visited Mackay.

"For the last three years, we have encouraged staff to

send out a specially produced eChristmas card, rather than posting cards," said Cr Comerford. "The savings from that raised \$1500, so we decided to provide \$750 each to the Mackay Community and Macrossan & Amiet Foundations.

"Both organisations also shared \$793.30 thanks to the efforts of 'bushrangers'."

Mackay Regional Council helped host the BB 18 1/4 steam locomotive recently as part of a statewide tour to celebrate 150 years of Queensland Rail and five "bushrangers" from Kucom Theatre "held up" passengers.

Midge Point foreshore planted

THE first batch of plants recently left the upgraded Mackay Natural Environment Centre bound for Midge Point.

Council, in collaboration with Whitsunday Landcare, provided more than 450 plants to the Midge Point Progress Association to help combat erosion and reinstate native vegetation lost in extreme weather events.

Mike Leyland, of the Midge Point Progress Association, said residents turned out in



Sue McCormack is manager of the Natural Environment Centre in Swayne Street that provides plants for community projects.

>> For full details visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au