



## COUNCIL - in brief -

### Festive feast

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner and there will be festivities aplenty across the region. Festivals, Events and The Arts portfolio councillor Chris Bonanno is advising residents to make some notes on their event calendars. "Council will host the 4MK Carols at the Quay on Saturday, December 5," he said. "The Bluewater Quay will become a Christmas wonderland with carols and free family fun, and there's talk of a special guest from the North Pole. Our Botanic Gardens' Christmas in the Gardens is also on again this year and will be held Saturday, December 13."

### Water use rises

THE average residential water consumption is up six per cent from the April to September 2015 billing period. A few properties even recorded increases of 50 per cent and more. To keep a close eye on your water use sign up to council's free myh2o website — [myh2o.qld.gov.au](http://myh2o.qld.gov.au). You can set targets to save and receive email and SMS alerts to warn you of high consumption and water leaks within days of them occurring. Water notice payments are due on December 11 and December 18 for pensioners.

### Picture perfect

MACKAY Regional Council has expanded its social media presence by joining Instagram. Our new Instagram page is called Mackay Regional Council. Our Instagram handle is @mackaycouncil. Be sure to follow us on Instagram or our other social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter.

### Sarina Santa

SARINA is celebrating the festive season with a Christmas Celebration for the community on Saturday, December 5. The celebration will be held at Anzac Park and Cultural Hall Precinct. Those who attend will be able to explore a replica of the City of Bethlehem, constructed and presented by the Combined Churches of Sarina. The event will feature singing of Christmas Carols, lighting of the Mackay Regional Council Christmas tree, Santa photos and a sausage sizzle.

## Cane Fire lights up City Centre revamp

It will be a party atmosphere in our new-look CBD at an official opening on Friday, November 27, to celebrate the completion of a revitalisation project

THE unveiling of centrepiece public art Cane Fire will be one of the highlights of the City Centre Revitalisation Project's official opening.

Cane Fire, on the Victoria and Wood streets roundabout, will be lit-up at the opening celebrations on Friday, November 27.

Festival, Events and the Arts portfolio councillor Chris Bonanno said artist Glen Manning, of Niche Arts, would also conduct an artist talk at Cane Fire

from 7.45pm to 8.15pm.

"This sculpture celebrates the importance of Mackay's rich sugar history, mining industry and cultural heritage," Cr Bonanno said.

"It is enhanced through LED lighting and will really come to life at night," he said.

"Visitors can use wireless and mobile technology to compose their own work of art with light and mist."

Cr Bonanno said artist talks

would also be held at the other pieces of public arts throughout the evening.

"There will be a real party atmosphere in the City Centre on the night," he said.

"The celebrations will take place in Victoria and Wood streets.

"There will be free kids' activities, roving entertainment and street performers and fireworks."

Tourism and Economic



The City Centre looks a picture following completion of a revitalisation project. BELOW: The Cane Fire public art will light up the official opening.

Development portfolio councillor Greg Martin said there would be dining and opening night specials in the City Centre that evening.

"There is also \$5000 in City Centre cash to be won," Cr Martin said.

"Entrants have to be there on the night to win."

The opening celebrations will be held from 6pm to 9pm, with the official proceedings, to be staged near the Cane Fire public art, beginning at 6.30pm.



>> The City Centre Revitalisation Project was funded by the Australian Government and council on a 50-50 basis. More details online at [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au)



Residents at a community consultation meeting for Ron Anderson Park.

## Chance to buy a bus

A WHITE Bedford bus and 50 cars will go under the hammer at council's next abandoned vehicle auction.

Car-linking tragic and Waste, Health and Regulatory portfolio councillor, Laurence Bonaventura, said the auction on Tuesday, December 1, at 9am was a great place to pick up a bargain.

"If you want a farm car or a project car to fix up and make roadworthy, or just want to buy one for parts to keep another one going, the auction is the place to be," he said.

"This is definitely an 'as is where is' auction and nearly all of the cars don't have keys.

"It will be conducted on Hume Street, Mackay (opposite Streeter Ave) with a public viewing of the vehicles prior to auction commencing at 8.30am."

>> For more details visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/vehicles](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/vehicles)



Economic Development Manager Debra Howe, distiller Phillip Taylor and Sarina Sugar Shed coordinator Glenys Mansfield toast the awards.

## Success is sweet

VOLUNTEERS are critical to the success of Sarina Sugar Shed which is toasting golden accolades at the 2015 Queensland Tourism Awards.

The council tourist facility, Australia's only miniature sugar mill and distillery, won two gold awards and one bronze.

The gold awards were for Excellence in Food Tourism and for Tourism, Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries. The bronze award was for Outstanding Contribution by a Volunteer or Volunteer Group.

>> For details on tours visit [sarinasugarshed.com.au](http://sarinasugarshed.com.au)

The Sugar Shed's team includes 25 volunteers, two full-time staff and five tour guides.

The devoted volunteers contribute a whopping 116 hours a week to the facility's operation, which equates to in-kind wages of almost \$240,000 a year.

Coordinator Glenys Mansfield said only 22 gold awards were offered statewide and Sarina Sugar Shed won two of them.

"To say we are excited is an understatement," she said.

## Share your #MackayPride and win

COUNCIL'S award-winning #MackayPride campaign has now entered a new phase in which residents are being encouraged to share their pride for a chance to win.

Fresh from winning the major award at the Queensland Multi-Media Awards in Cairns, for Best Advertising Campaign across all media, the #MackayPride competition has been launched.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said the new competition encouraged local residents

to share an image or message online about their #MackayPride moment.

"Sharing our pride is an important part of celebrating our community and capturing the spirit of our region," Cr Comerford said.

Supported by helloworld Mackay and Mt Pleasant and Oaks Hotels and Resorts, by showing what you are proud of puts you in the draw to win flights for four people from any east coast capital city and five nights' accommodation at Oaks Rivermarque.

Cr Comerford said locals needed to be vocal advocates of the region's assets.

"We have a lot to be proud about and this new initiative provides the platform to showcase all that we have to offer," she said.

The #MackayPride campaign began about 12 months ago with a three-minute video.

It has grown, with initiatives ranging from stunning images on waste trucks to our QBL sides playing in #MackayPride shorts.



#MackayPride

Corporate Communication team (back from left) Shane Green, Jade McAuley, Alanna Brake, Mark Sleeman, Lee Brake, (front) Ken Furdek, Lyneale Thrupp and Kerry McNeill.

To enter, visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/mackaypride](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/mackaypride) and share your #mackaypride image or message before December 4.

## WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H<sub>2</sub>O

Watering plants in the heat of the day is unproductive. So for the sake of your garden and our water supplies don't water between 10am and 4pm! Remember to watch the flow of your H<sub>2</sub>O. Sign up to [myh2o.qld.gov.au](http://myh2o.qld.gov.au) today.

## Nominate unsung heroes for award

NOMINATIONS are now open for council's Australia Day Awards.

Residents are being encouraged to nominate locals who have been achieving great things in the community.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said there were plenty of deserving individuals.

"There are people in our community who give of their time and skills to help others," she said.

"These dedicated volunteers embody what it means to be truly Australian.

"They are passionate and have pride in everything they do and they consistently put others ahead of themselves.

"The awards recognise them for a job well done and encourages them to keep doing more in the community."

There are eight award categories in total, including Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Arts and Culture, Community Group,



Mayor Deirdre Comerford with Mackay's 2015 Citizen of the Year Dr Peter Bastable.

Environmental Achievement, Community Volunteer and Senior and Young Sports Award.

Cr Comerford said a nomination could take as little as five to 10 minutes and was as simple as completing a form on council's website or picking up a hard-copy from one of our client service areas.

"Don't let this opportunity to acknowledge and pay tribute to someone in our community go by," she said.

Meanwhile, applications have closed for funding grants to assist with community Australia Day events.

They are being assessed with successful applicants to be announced next month.

## Recycling child's play

ENJOYING a free community open day at our new state-of-the-art Materials Recovery Facility at Paget are (from left) Remy Graham, Audrey Taylor and Imogen Graham. The new \$2.6 million facility features regional Australia's first optical sorter and a glass crushing machine.

>> Since the new plant began operating in June there has been a 60 per cent reduction in recyclable material going to landfill

>> More than 2000 tonnes of glass can be diverted from landfill each year

>> The optical sorter recognises 250 items per minute.

More recycling tips at [mackay.qld.gov.au/recyclerright](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/recyclerright)

>> For more information and to nominate visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/australiaday](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/australiaday)

## Residents have a say

COUNCIL is committed to improving the look and feel of the region and public feedback is essential in creating spaces the community can be proud to call their own.

Residents were recently consulted on improvements to Ron Anderson Park and Fairmeadow Drive Park. This feedback will be used to further develop these areas.

Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said suggestions

were now being sought on the appearance of Broadsound Road at Oralea and Mackay-Bucasia Road at Mount Pleasant.

"Views along these roads can leave lasting impressions for commuters and visitors to the region," she said.

"We want residents to share their ideas on how we can improve the presentation of these roadways through the use of various landscaping upgrades.

"I encourage locals to attend a community feedback morning or have their say online via the Connecting Mackay website."

The community feedback mornings will be held on the following dates:

>> Mackay-Bucasia Road – November 21 from 10am to 11.30am at Macquarie Street Park

>> Broadsound Road – November 22 from 10am to 11.30am at Muller Park

>> Visit the [connectingmackay.com.au](http://connectingmackay.com.au) website and have your say on public spaces