

Time capsule at Heritage Fair

Celebrate 150 years at the place where it all began with Greenmount Homestead's Heritage Fair this Sunday, May 27 from 9am to 4pm.



ABC Tropical North

Mackay is celebrating its sesquicentenary and as part of that, the anniversary commemorates the establishment of Captain John Mackay's camp at Greenmount in January 1862.

Mayor of Mackay Regional Council, Councillor Deirdre Comerford said this year the fair has something really unique and special on offer that I think will really capture our community's imagination, a time capsule.

"Council has gone to great lengths of organising the capsule and is now looking to hear from community members to see what they think should be collected in order to commemorate 2012 and

our 150 years celebrations," Cr Comerford said.

"There will be a special station dedicated at the Fair for the capsule where it will be available for viewing as well as have feedback forms available so that residents can lodge their suggestions on what the capsule should contain," she said.

From there it will then be filled and buried in Greenmount at the end of the year; and it has been scheduled to be reopened in 50 years to celebrate our 200 year milestone in 2062.

You can expect a great day out with something on offer for everyone from Australia's Living History show, working sheep dog demonstrations, animal

farm, vintage machinery and cars, Photobooth, amusements and entertainment plus much more.

Heritage Fair Coordinator Brian Osborn said it doesn't matter if you've never been or have been coming out for the last few years – 2012's event is something you won't want to miss.

To get to Greenmount Homestead, turn right at the City Gates, drive through Walkerston and follow the signs to the Homestead.

>> The Heritage Fair is proudly supported by ABC Tropical North and the Building Rural Communities fund through Blueprint for the Bush.



Million dollar project starts to take shape

Soon we will all be able to enjoy great outdoor entertainment, concerts, musicals and plays in the beautiful surrounds of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. The first phase of \$1.1 million Meadowlands amphitheatre development at the Botanic Gardens is planned for completion in late July this year.

Mayor of Mackay Regional Council, Councillor Deirdre Comerford said to date the stage platform has been constructed as well as the pillars holding the dramatic curved roof and the concrete retaining walls of the lower seating terraces.

"It's exciting to see this major project start to take shape and we can expect ongoing progress over the next month," she said.

The million dollar project is part of the 2012 Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Master Plan, a 10 year, phase by phase development plan that was produced in consultation with gardens staff, community representatives and specialist horticultural groups to meet today's community and environmental needs.

The 'Meadowlands Sector' will ultimately include water features, pathways, interpretative features, an entertainment precinct, car parking and connectivity to the entire gardens for everyone to enjoy.

The amphitheatre is centrally located in the Gardens and will cater for approximately 5000 people.

To register your interest to use the facility to hold an event, contact the Botanic Gardens on 4952 7300 or email botanic@mackay.qld.gov.au.

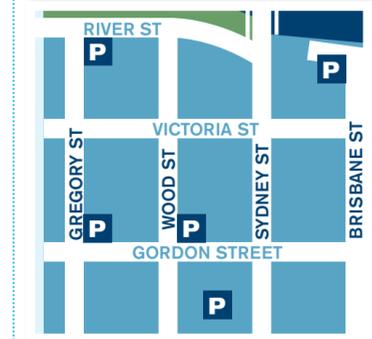
>> A copy of the Master Plan 2012 is available to view and download from council's website.

Plenty of parking spots in Mackay City Centre

Avoid the parking shuffle and utilise any of council's five off-street car parks. Costs range from 70cents an hour to \$5 all day parking.

The off-street car park fees are only in operation from Monday to Friday (8am to 6pm) and weekend parking is FREE.

The ticket machines at all areas accept credit card and all coins except 5 cent pieces.



Please note minimum credit card charge accepted is \$2 and refunds and/or change is not available. Alternatively, motorists can also purchase prepaid parking permits via council's website which range from 1, 3, 6 and 12 months.

>> To purchase a parking permit or for further details head to www.mackay.qld.gov.au.

Celebrate the Queensland Spirit

Bring a blanket and help celebrate Queensland Day.

Wednesday, June 6 5pm – 8pm

Bluewater Quay, River Street

- > Free community BBQ
- > Commemorative M150 DVD
- > Face painting and balloon magic for the kids
- > Entertainment
- > Mackay's 10 unsung heroes unveiled
- > Citizenship ceremony



Did you know?

If you have an issue that concerns our community or region you can discuss that issue with a councillor. Councillors contact details are available on council's website www.mackay.qld.gov.au/about_council/councillors.

Exhibition seeks Natural Disaster items

Photos, artefacts, letters and poems are just some of the items that Mackay Regional Council wants residents to donate for an upcoming exhibition.

All contributed items will be used in an exhibition that focuses on the region and the natural disasters we have been faced with as a community.

Disasters that are really lacking representation are the 2008 floods and 2010 Cyclone Ului.

If you have any items lying around your home, please bring them in to council so that we can showcase our history. All items will be returned and photos scanned.

Residents who are keen to contribute simply need to visit council's Mackay Customer Service Centre on Gordon Street by May 31. The Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

The exhibition will be held at council's Library Facilities across the region from September to December.

>> For more information contact council's Community Resilience Project Officer Mandy Lavarack on 4961 9671.



Welcome to Mackay Picnic

Are you new to the region and looking to make some new friends and connections? If so, then you should attend the Welcome to Mackay picnic at the Botanic Gardens on Sunday, June 3 from 10am to 12noon.

The picnic hosted by Mackay Regional Council aims to address social isolation and loneliness amongst our migrant communities and help new residents make friends and connections to ensure the long term retention of people and families in our region.

Everyone is invited to attend and are encouraged to bring a dish of traditional food to share from your culture/country of origin. There will be games for kids and activities for adults to join in, and the Gardens is located on Lagoon Street, West Mackay.

>> For more info call Community Development on 1300 MACKAY.

Mackay 150 1862-2012 A snapshot of our history...



As Mackay is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, Mackay Regional Council is promoting a monthly image from our Library Service's Heritage Collection at the Mackay City Library.

Image for May (pictured left) students and teachers at the front of the school at Nindaroo ca. 1907.

Students and teachers gathered at the front of the Nindaroo School. A number of the students are standing on the verandah watching teachers and fellow students play a game of croquet, whilst other classmates have opted to watch the match from horseback.

>> To view the Heritage Collection visit the Mackay City Library, for opening hours phone 4961 9387.

Rebuilding our Roads > work continues...

Upgrades and reconstruction works are underway in the following locations:

- > Paradise Street, South Mackay (Bridge Road to Longair Street)
- > Hill End Road, Glenella (Davey Street and Glenella Road intersections)
- > Farleigh/ Habana Road, Farleigh (Bruce Highway to Trevaskis Road)

Your patience and cooperation is appreciated during these essential works.

Council regularly updates road work schedules, project information and before and after photos on our website to keep motorists informed and well aware.

>> To view the information or for further assistance or visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/roads.



Find out what's good for your pet



With more than 16,000 cats and dogs registered in the Mackay region, The RSPCA EMU (Educational Mobile Unit) will be stopping at John Breen Park in North Mackay on Saturday, June 2 to answer all your questions on animal care.

The RSPCA classroom on wheels is equipped with the latest in computer and audiovisual technology and displays and demonstrates the level of care needed for pets and animals.

The free family day at John Breen Park from 9am to 12noon is tailored to residents of all ages and is filled with lots of fun and interactive activities.

In conjunction with the RSPCA visit, Andergrove Veterinary Clinic will be offering microchipping for your dog at a low price of \$45 and there will be a range of yummy treats and the latest pet products available as well as a BBQ Breakfast with all donations going to the RSPCA.

>> Phone 1300 MACKAY (622 529) for more information.