



COUNCIL - in brief -

Inspections will continue

Council contractors, Interflow, will use CCTV to inspect public sewers and maintenance chambers in the North Mackay and Andergrove areas from April 24 onwards. For more information on the inspection program, visit mackay.qld.gov.au.

Lagoon now a free WiFi hub

Forget the office and classroom, residents and visitors to our region are now able to connect to free WiFi while cooling down at the Bluewater Lagoon. Council has joined forces with local business, Mackay Computer Solutions, to provide the city an exciting new public WiFi zone. To connect to the service, users simply need to search their wireless networks, select Redfox WiFi, and read and accept the terms and conditions. While connected to the WiFi, a local advert will pop up after every five minutes of use, which can be easily dismissed by the user.

Awards open

Have you renovated your home recently conserving its heritage or promoted our local history? If so, you could be rewarded for your efforts. As part of Mackay's annual Heritage Fair (Sunday, May 25) celebrations, council is handing out four heritage awards and up to \$6000 in prize money. Entries close May 8, visit mackay.qld.gov.au.

Shop to win!

Head to the revitalised Evans Avenue shopping precinct to take advantage of the latest Stop, Shop and Win promotion! Tourism and Economic Development portfolio councillor Greg Martin said the area offered plenty of diversity and was a thriving hub boasting health and wellbeing, retail and beauty businesses, dining and entertainment opportunities and professional services. Stop and shop in any participating Evans Avenue business for the chance to win an ultimate prize pack worth more than \$5000 worth of prizes and vouchers up for grabs. Visit now until April 12 to be in the draw.

Striving to reduce electricity a priority

Lowering operational costs, reducing energy consumption and making long-term savings are goals Mackay Regional Council takes seriously.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said council had – and would continue to – take steps to reduce resource use and greenhouse gas emissions to minimise environmental impacts and save money.

"With electricity costs projected to rise from 13 to 15 per cent annually in the short term, it is imperative to pursue in-house energy-efficiency programs," she said.

>> Visit mackay.qld.gov.au or call 1300 MACKAY (622 529) for more details.

Remarkable achievements made by council already include saving 124,000kWh of electricity by installing solar panels at Paget depot.

The Bluewater Lagoon is the next project under review for solar power.

Changing electricity tariffs in 2013 also saves council a staggering \$300,000 a year.

Switching council's light-fleet over to four-cylinder vehicles saved \$10,000 on the purchase price of each car, and additional monetary and environmental savings are made using ethanol-blend fuels.

In fact, 99 per cent of council's fleet consists of economic four-cylinder vehicles (SES troop carriers are six-cylinder vehicles).

To further save on fuel, all light-fleet vehicles will soon carry GPS devices to enable officers to be dispatched to jobs close to their location, resulting in fewer kilometres travelled, less fuel used and quicker response times.

"As future upgrades are undertaken over the next few years, council will continue to look at applying more sustainable and cost-effective energy strategies," Cr Comerford said.



Peter Shuttlewood and Brittney Manttan inspect one of council's four-cylinder light-fleet vehicles.

Some initiatives implemented to reduce council's environmental impacts include:

-  Hogans Pocket Landfill flares gas collected in the capped cell. Methane gas flaring reduces the impacts that the landfill-generated gas has on climate change by converting it to less potent gas.
-  Solar-powered lights were recently installed at council's Gordon Street administration building, at surrounding car parks and at the Mirani Caravan Park.
-  Rainwater harvesting and the installation of energy and water-efficient fittings, such as motion and daylight sensors for lighting, have been installed at Paget depot.
-  Recycling facilities are available in all office buildings.

Park project swings into action

"Jointly funded by council and the Federal Government, this project will be an important community asset for our Marian community." – Cr Theresa Morgan

By the end of August, Marian's Edward Lloyd Park will be transformed into a vibrant, colourful, modern play area for children of all ages and abilities to enjoy.

With construction scheduled to begin in May, the revamped facility will soon feature some unique attractions including a climbing net and unique rubberised play slope built into a concrete wall.

Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said facilities would be provided for a broad

range of users.

"There'll be picnic shelters, a drinking fountain, barbecues, pathways and plenty of car parking – all of which will enhance functionality and venue accessibility," she said.

The playground will be covered by a solid shade structure and adjacent landscaping will enhance the area.

Cr Morgan said council was grateful to the Federal Government for co-funding

this significant community project (through the Regional Development Australia Fund).

"Our council is deeply committed to providing quality play areas across the region," she said.

This was directly reflected in the 2013-14 Budget which allocated more than \$460,000 to local park development."

When complete, Edward Lloyd Park will be one of 117 playgrounds maintained by council across the region.



Kahtia Gooch and Natan Gooch have fun at one of Mackay Regional Council's playgrounds.

>> To view the full list of Mackay region parks and all the facilities available at each venue, go to mackay.qld.gov.au/parks.

Workshops to help migrants gain skills

Council has partnered with Ideal Placements to deliver a series of workshops designed to help migrant job seekers prepare for employment opportunities.

A series of five information sessions will be delivered. If you were born overseas

and migrated to Australia, you are welcome to join this program.

Sessions run every Wednesday during April and May and you must be able to commit to all five sessions to be eligible to attend. Limited spaces are still available.

>> To register, call Community Development Officer Mia Sammut-Landt on 1300 MACKAY.



Cr Alison Jones and Charlie Symons, of Seaforth, catch up for a chat before a Rural Affairs Advisory Committee meeting.

Community input is key

Seaforth resident Charlie Symons is one of 11 community members who meets every two months to voice issues and ideas from his own backyard with Mackay Regional Council as a member of the Rural Affairs Advisory Committee (RAAC).

"The meetings allow us to talk directly with council and are a great chance to bring our ideas to the table," he said.

From repairing footpaths and roads, assisting post-cyclone clean-up efforts and initiating rural addressing to identify

properties, the committee has a long list of achievements. Chair of the committee and Community Development portfolio councillor Alison Jones said the group helped to ensure concerns of agricultural industries and rural community groups were heard.

"The group, which consists of farmers and industry and business representatives, provides council with on-the-ground advice, enabling council to bring rural issues to light," she said.

Some committee members, including Mr Symons, also volunteer time for their local progress association.

Cr Jones said more than 20 progress associations existed in the Mackay region, from Habana to The Leap and Sarina, which helped to promote and develop a sense of community.

"If you're passionate about your community, joining your local progress association is a great way to give back and ensure a positive future for your neighbourhood."

>> For more information on progress associations in the Mackay region visit the Community Directory on council's website at mackay.qld.gov.au.



Roads improved by country mile

Repairing and restoring rural roads is a priority for council, as reflected in the following ongoing and completed projects.

- In progress**
- > \$5.5 million Kuttatubal Mt Jukes Rd rehabilitation
 - > \$5.4 million Stockroute Rd
 - > \$4 million Midge Point Rd rehabilitation
 - > \$507,000 Owens Creek Loop Rd, Mirani – widening and strengthening bridge approach
- Completed**
- > \$3.4 million Sugarshed Rd restoration
 - > Drainage installed near Seaforth Caravan Park
 - > New walkway on Poinciana Avenue
 - > 23 sealed car park spaces at Augusta St, Mirani
 - > Melba House car park (eight parks and four bus/motorhome parking)

>> For more details, visit mackay.qld.gov.au/roads.

Bag a prize for your pooch



Elizabeth Khalu and Tilly, Leanne Strappazon and Missy, and Tess Brickhill chat about responsible pet ownership with Cr Laurence Bonaventura.

Pop on down to the Campwin Beach Field Day with your pooch this Saturday between 7am and 9am for a chance to nab your pet a free squishy toy.

The southern end of Campwin Beach (between the hours of 5-8am and 5-8pm) is one of our region's dog off-leash zones and to celebrate, council officers are hosting the Field Day to gain feedback on this off-leash area and to

provide advice on responsible pet ownership. Health and Regulatory Services portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura said regularly exercising your dog helped to relieve boredom and barking.

"Off-leash areas allow dogs to behave naturally and socialise, which often results in better behaviour at home, including reduced barking and wandering," he said.

>> For a list of all off-leash dog zones, visit council's webpage mackay.qld.gov.au/offleash.



February winner Shona Brand caught her partner Carl Barnes and their son Ethan on camera near the Pioneer River.

March Pioneer Valley Passport winner Roslyne Tebbatt snapped this pic at Finch Hatton.

Simply take a pic to win

Have you been snapped out and about in the Pioneer Valley?

If so, make sure to post your photo on council's Facebook page and go in the draw to win a host of prizes! It's that easy.

And don't forget to "Like" council's Facebook page to keep up to date with competition news.

To go in the draw for the June major prize – a \$2500 Valley getaway including \$1000 worth of fuel – pick up a copy of the Pioneer Valley Passport from participating Valley businesses or at any of council's client service centres and start exploring.

This initiative is proudly supported by Sea FM and Seven Local News.

April's prize pack winner will take home:

- > a \$100 fuel voucher (courtesy of Sea FM)
- > one night accommodation in a Cedar Lodge (room for two adults and two children) at Broken River Mountain Resort, Eungella
- > breakfast for two to the value of \$40 at Pinnacle's Coffee Devine
- > main meals for two people at Pinnacle Hotel.

>> For competition terms and conditions visit mackay.qld.gov.au/passport.