



COUNCIL
- in brief -

Nursery upgrade sows seeds for the future

On-site rain water harvesting, solar powered energy systems and increased production spaces are among \$100,000 worth of improvements at council's Natural Environment Centre.

Funded by ratepayers through the Natural Environment Levy, the Mackay Natural Environment Centre (MNEC) located in North Macaky is home base for council teams and community groups to undertake projects which help to protect and restore our region's natural environment.

Improved efficiency and increased capacity were two of the major goals behind the recent upgrade, Parks and Environment

portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said. "We estimate that over 30,000 plants can be produced onsite at the nursery each year thanks to work zone, water and energy improvements."

Three on-site rainwater tanks, an upgraded irrigation system and sub-soil drainage has been installed allowing water to be harvested, used and recycled.

"These locally grown plants will be used for revegetation projects, land for wildlife



Cr Theresa Morgan joins council's Richard Brown and Gerard Carlyon to inspect the recently upgraded Mackay Natural Environment Centre.

initiatives and as free giveaways for residents at events like National Tree Day." Cr Morgan said.

"Our newly appointed Nursery

Supervisor will be running workshops in the future on plant propagation and using native plants in your garden."

Pioneer Catchment and

Landcare Group holds volunteer working bees every week and council will be holding more sessions for volunteers in the future.

>> For more information on volunteer activities with Mackay Regional Council visit mackay.qld.gov.au.

Council offers endless possibilities

A typical day for Alice Wood can range from weed control to revegetation activities.

The hardworking 18 year old is over halfway through her Conservation and Land Management Traineeship with Mackay Regional Council.

"I'm passionate about the environment and enjoy working outdoors - commencing my traineeship with council has been a great opportunity," Miss Wood said.

"I love the diversity of my job and my supervisor and crew are all very supportive."

Twenty three places are on offer across a variety of fields including business, production and events, library information services, land conservation, civil construction, arboriculture, diesel fitting, warehousing operations and mechanics.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said council offered a wealth of opportunities within a challenging and supportive environment.

"When you work at council you are effectively serving our community which in itself is an extremely rewarding experience," she said.

Almost 60 per cent of council trainees and apprentices secure permanent employment with council following completion. If you're keen to learn the tricks of your proposed trade from experienced industry professionals within a community-orientated, supportive organisation - then a council apprenticeship or traineeship is for you!



Conservation and Land Management Trainee Alice Wood enjoys working with council.

>> For further information on council's 2015 apprentice and trainee intake visit mackay.qld.gov.au/careers or call 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Don't be a drip, heed these tips!

REDUCE WASTE:
Avoid using single-use plastic shopping bags. Keep reusable bags in your car so you will always have them on hand.

SAVE WATER:
When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load-size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.

Save the date

- **Hearing Awareness Week Aug 24-31**
Official launch is on Tuesday, Aug 26 10am-2pm at Mackay Children and Family Centre, Andergrove.
- **Queensland Cultural Diversity Week Photo Competition:** Entries close Aug 28, visit council's website for more information.
- **Ooralea Community Day & CQUniversity Fair:** Saturday, Sept 6 from 8am-12noon at CQUniversity.
- **Northern Beaches Community Day:** Sunday, Sept 7 11am-2pm at Seaview Park.
- **Orchid Extravaganza:** Over 1000 orchids on display at the Orchid House, Queens Park Sept 20-21.

Council eAccounts coming soon

Your next water notice (issued in November 2014) could arrive direct to your email inbox with the introduction of council's new eAccount service.

Registration for the service is now available via council's website.

Finance and Technology portfolio councillor Ross Walker said council was committed to decreasing environmental impacts.

"Council aims to operate sustainably each and every day and we're always looking at new or better ways to operate our services," he said.

"By distributing rates and water notices electronically we can also reduce our printing and postage costs."

Those registered for the eAccount service can receive their rates and water notices via email or directly via their online banking account, using BPAY View.

If you would like to receive your future council accounts electronically, please register on council's website.



The new staircase at Town Beach was made out of 385kg of recycled materials.

Recycling paves new path to beach

A new staircase to Mackay's very own kiteboarding paradise has opened at Town Beach.

Made from 380kg of recycled plastics (the equivalent of 95,000 plastic bags), Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said the stairs were one of three pedestrian access points being installed along Binnington Esplanade.

"The stairs will improve access for the community and minimise disturbance to coastal vegetation," Cr Morgan said.

Manager of Adrenaline Rush

Mackay Melissa Millen said it was now safer and easier for people to visit Town Beach for recreational activities.

"Town Beach happens to be one of the most prime locations for kiteboarding in Australia."

Thanks to the ratepayer funded Natural Environment Levy, council will commit almost \$800,000 towards on-ground coastal projects in the 2014/15 year. With additional funding from Reef Catchments, this will see 27 projects undertaken across a range of coastal sites for the long term sustainability of coastal environments.

Thank you for recycling

In the last 12 months 104,000 tonnes of waste went into council's landfill site at Hogans Pocket, which is a 10 per cent drop on the previous year. While recycling efforts are improving in the community, there is still much we can do to ensure recyclable materials do not end up in landfill.

Cheers Eungella volunteers

The 12 month long study into the biodiversity of Eungella National Park is wrapping up with a final report being presented to council next week. Scientists from Griffith University will present some of the fascinating findings at an open information session at the MECC on August 20. Bookings are essential, contact 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Great green reads at your local library!

From Carbon Warrior Kits to sustainability books, council libraries have a wide variety of resources available free to residents. Knowledge is power, so call into your local library and be inspired by eco-friendly activities for the kids, gardening and building ideas and discover the latest information on alternative energy sources.

Get your hands dirty on Sept 14

Are you tired of seeing rubbish washed into our rivers and oceans? If you are, please join us for the Great Northern Clean Up and help clear away accumulated rubbish before the wet season hits. Register at cleanupastraliaday.org.au or call 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Trailer a hit for young and old

Since the launch of council's waste trailer in late 2012, the educational vehicle has traveled from Bloomsbury to Marian teaching countless numbers of children and adults about waste management. Council delivered its waste education program to over 90 groups last year.

Please report illegal dumpers



Maraju-Yakapari Road is an illegal dumping hotspot.

Dumped fridges, white goods and general waste left at creeks, nature reserves and roadsides are not a pretty sight and sadly this behaviour has a huge impact on our precious environment.

With Keep Australia Beautiful Week being celebrated across the country from August 25-31, council is reminding residents to think before they dump unwanted goods and to report illegal dumpers.

Waste, Health and Regulatory Services portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura said council did not tolerate illegal dumping.

"Rubbishing our region not only costs council and the community, but also the environment," he said.

Council and ratepayers spend in the vicinity of \$200,000 a year removing illegally dumped rubbish and litter.

Illegal dumping can be prosecuted under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 and can attract an infringement notice of \$1821 or over \$100,000 if taken to court.

Council does not tolerate illegal dumping, if you happen to spot anyone littering or illegally dumping rubbish please report it to council by calling 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Vouchers aim for clean, green Mackay

Residential rates notices have hit mailboxes across the region and include three dump vouchers, valid for that six month rates period.

Vouchers can be used to dispose of green waste or domestic waste that can't be recycled.

Separating your recyclables before going on a 'dump run' is a great habit to get into - and helps us to keep a clean, green Mackay.

Vouchers will come in handy when planning a yard clean-up or a cupboard de-clutter at home, so keep them somewhere safe as there is no replacement for lost vouchers.

For all the conditions, read the fact sheet enclosed with your rates notice or visit mackay.qld.gov.au/dumpvouchers.



Council's drumMUSTER program has seen a 60 per cent increase in the number recycled.

Region scores record drum return rate

A move by council to provide a better chemical drum disposal service through the drumMUSTER program has resulted in the region recording its best ever drum return rate.

The drumMUSTER program provides agricultural and veterinary chemical users with a recycling pathway for empty chemical drums.

Mackay region collection sites are established at various

council waste facilities. However, until the last financial year collection of the drums was by appointment only.

Waste, Health and Regulatory portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura said in the last five years an average of 9495 drums were returned annually.

"In 2013/14 that figure jumped to over 15,462 drums - a fantastic result for the region," he said.

>> To find out more about the drumMUSTER program go to drummuster.com.au.