

Residents from our Sister City arrive in Mackay

A group of 16 citizens from Matsuura, Japan will enjoy an action-packed tour of our region this week as part of our Sister City Program.



The last Matsuura citizens group to visit Mackay in 2010.

The group arrived yesterday and will spend four days exploring our regions spectacular natural attractions including Eungella and Cape Hillsborough as well as a tour of local facilities such as the Marina, Botanic Gardens and Greenmount Homestead.

Matsuura Sister City Advisory Committee Deputy Chair, councillor David Perkins said that council is excited about the arrival of the group and invites the community to meet the visitors by taking part in some of the events showcasing our vibrant region, including the G&S Engineering Wine and Food Day at Queens Park on Saturday.

"We also look forward to welcoming a student group from Matsuura in August, while fifteen lucky students from our region will immerse themselves in Japanese culture when they visit Matsuura in September," he said.

"The trips provide citizens from both Mackay and Matsuura with a firsthand experience of one another's cultural backgrounds".

Mackay residents are also invited to enjoy a night with our Japanese visitors at a community farewell dinner being held at the Shamrock Hotel on Friday.

Bookings are required for the farewell dinner on Friday night and reservations can be made by contacting council on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

The sister-city relationship with Matsuura first started in 1989 with an aim to strengthen economic ties as both cities share a common bond through the coal industry, however the relationship has diversified culturally which in turn has seen many wonderful long-lasting friendships form between the visitors.



>> For further information on the sister city relationship, visit council's website.

Council focused on reducing our carbon footprint



Hogan's Pocket Landfill site

In a bid to reduce our carbon emissions and the impact of the carbon tax on our region, council is implementing gas flaring at our Hogan's Pocket Landfill site.

Works will begin on the project next month and it's expected to destroy around 18,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂-e) in its first year of operation.

Mayor of Mackay Regional Council, Councillor Deirdre Comerford said by being proactive we are saving money for our community.

"By implementing gas flaring we will be reducing our carbon footprint and the amount of tax we are required to pay under the Federal Government's Clean Energy Plan," Cr Comerford said.

"Instead of paying about \$75 million we will be paying about \$36 million over the 50 year life of the Hogan's Pocket Landfill."

Mayor Comerford said we are also looking at other environmental initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint.

"Council is currently assessing the viability of gas flaring at Bayersville and the economic viability of electricity generation at Hogan's Pocket," she said.

"We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and providing a more sustainable region for our community."

>> For further information on gas flaring, visit council's website or call 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Get the latest news on council decisions and events, sign up to our Council Connect eNewsletter via www.mackay.qld.gov.au/enews

Council notice board:

Welcome Picnic at the Botanic Gardens

If you are new to the Mackay region, you're invited to attend the local community welcome picnic to be held at the Botanic Gardens, Lagoon Street. Held Sunday, July 29 from 10am to 12pm, residents are asked to bring a plate of food along.

Deadline for Grant funding

Residents are reminded that applications for the first round of the Grants Program for the financial year close on Friday, August 3 at 4.30pm. For more information or assistance on the Grants Program phone Community Development on 1300 MACKAY.

Photographic display at Library

To celebrate Mackay's sesquicentennial, an online photograph competition called Snap That! was held. All entries submitted are currently on display at the Mackay City Library until the end of the month. Come along and check out the amazing snaps!

Memorial Swim Centre Hours extended

Opening hours for the Memorial Pool have been extended. Now you can enjoy the heated pool for longer! Monday to Friday 6am to 7pm and Saturday to Sunday 8am to 5pm. The Swim Centre is located on Milton Steet, Mackay.

>> To view all the upcoming events and activities, check the 'What's On Calendar' via council's website.

2012 FESTIVAL OF ARTS CLOSE TO WRAPPING UP...

Only days remain to enjoy the 2012 Festival of Arts as the jam-packed program wraps up this Sunday, July 22. A few big events remain including:

- > In The Bin Short Film Festival (Free entry) Thursday, 7pm at Eimeo State School and Friday, 7pm at Bluewater Quay
- > G&S Engineering Wine & Food Day (Free entry) Saturday, 11am to 6pm at Queens Park
- > Festival Supper Club (Tickets start from \$25) Saturday, 7pm at the MECC

>> For full details of the remaining events or to secure tickets for the Supper Club, log onto www.festivalmackay.org.au



Help look after our beaches

Get involved at your local beach by lending a helping hand at one of the upcoming coastal community activities on July 28.

Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said these coastal activities are held regularly each month.

"Each month, the community can attend activities across a range of coastal sites and help with tasks such as dune planting, weeding, watering and rubbish collection," she said.

"There are two activities remaining for the month of July and both coincide on Saturday, July 28."

> Bucasia Beach from 9am to 11am - meet at the access track to the swimming enclosure.

> Eimeo Beach from 2pm to 4pm - meet at the end of Graham Crescent.

Have some fun and help make a difference at your local beach. Those attending are asked to please bring a hat and wear protective clothing and suitable shoes (no thongs). The Coasts and Communities project is an initiative of council and Reef Catchments.

>> To view a calendar of activities, visit council's website or phone 4968 4215.

ecomackay Expo



Sustainable living for a better future.

10am - 2pm

Sunday, August 12

Mackay Regional Council lawn
Gordon Street, Mackay

- > FREE family-friendly event with sustainability tips on how to save money, water and energy
- > Over \$3000 worth of prizes up for grabs visit www.ecomackay.com.au

Major Sponsors:



roads and drainage work, \$36 million on sewerage-related projects and about \$2.4 million will be spent on new parks and playgrounds to meet the needs of our growing region.

Key roads and infrastructure projects include:

- \$11.1 Million - Rosewood Drive, Northern Beaches
- \$3 Million - Shakespeare Street between Porter to Grant streets
- \$2 Million - Archibald/Paradise Street roundabout duplication
- \$1.4 Million - Henman/Paradise Street intersection upgrade
- \$800,000 - Murray Creek causeway
- \$705,000 - Bannister Street upgrade

>> For a further snapshot on the 2012-2013 Budget, log onto council's website.

2012-2013 Budget highlights

Over the next 12 months council will be busy building critical infrastructure across our region.

As part of council's 2012-2013 Budget, \$122 million has been allocated to capital projects, including \$44 million on new

Be quick to save!

It's time to register your dog and cat. Register before July 31 and receive an early bird discount. **Instead of paying \$54 for a de-sexed dog you will pay \$27.** De-sexed cats are still free to register for another 12 months.

Rural communities the focus for new program

Don't let the grass grow under your feet, take the first step to a more healthy lifestyle by attending an upcoming event:

Healthy Rural Communities launch, Thursday, August 9 from 10am at Mirani Community Hall

From group exercise to nutritional cooking classes, a great range of fun and healthy

activities will be starting soon in Midge Point, Bloomsbury, Seaforth, Marian, Calen, Eungella and Sarina.

The launch on August 9 is your chance to have a say in what activities interest you and to become part of a healthy rural community.

>> For more details or to register your attendance for the launch, phone Christine on 4961 0668.

