



## Webcke says expo in league of its own

Broncos legend returns for council's popular Sports Expo and Sign-on Day attended by 20,000 residents since the event was first held at the MECC in 2011

RUGBY league legend Shane Webcke will return to Mackay early next month to attend his third Sports Expo and Sign-on Day within four years.

Being held at the MECC on Sunday, February 8, from 9am, Webcke said he was looking forward to coming back to Mackay and encouraging families to get active.

"It's a fantastic event for families. I haven't seen

anything quite like it in Queensland," Webcke said.

The Sports Expo has grown into one of the largest free showcases of sport and recreational clubs in Queensland, attracting more than 8000 people and 100 different sporting bodies and activities each year.

"It's a great opportunity to see what sports are available under the one roof," Webcke said. "Encouraging our kids to take up sport isn't

just about their health and fitness - it's about building self esteem, confidence and social skills."

Sport, Recreation and Facilities portfolio councillor Paul Steindl said the expo played an important role in connecting families to the recreational opportunities available in the region.

"The Mackay region boasts a strong sporting history with many dedicated and professional sporting clubs.



Magpies juniors enjoyed meeting rugby league icon Shane Webcke at the 2014 Sports Expo and Sign-on Day.

"We expect close to 75 per cent of attendees at the Sports Expo to sign up for a sport on the day."

Cr Steindl said sporting stars

from the Mackay Cutters, Meteors and Meteorettes and Whitsunday Sharks would also be at the event.

The Sports Expo is on from

9am to 1pm on February 8, thanks to event partners Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, Sports Power, Rio Tinto and Active Towns.

>> Cheerleading, softball, triathlon, tennis, cricket, dance, BMX and swimming - these are just some of the activities on show at the Sports Expo and Sign-on Day.

## Milestone year for City Centre

WORKS above and below the surface are beginning to redefine Mackay's City Centre.

Project Manager Jim Carless said 2015 would be a milestone year for the region, with the completion of the City Centre Revitalisation Project due by the end of October.

"The work done to date has seen contemporary urban stone pavers installed, replacing the previous slippery and deteriorating footpaths," Mr Carless said.

"Feedback from the community about the look of the new footpaths has been pleasing," he said.

Beneath the surface, council has taken the opportunity to do a major upgrade to the underground drainage, stormwater and all of the underground services - none of which can be seen by the public but totals around \$2.5 million of the project.

Mr Carless said street lighting, new garden beds and street furniture would soon be in place and would

change the look of the streetscape.

Council believes this project, when completed, along with new activities, will attract new investment to our city.

Whether it be a new business opening up, a tourism product to attract visitors or events such as the Twilight City Street Party, the city is redefining itself.

The City Centre Revitalisation Project is co-funded by the Australian Government and Mackay Regional Council.



Mia Charchalis (left) and Jess Morton from Nutrition Station enjoy their break on Victoria Street.

>> Subscribe to the City Centre Revitalisation Project eNewsletter for regular updates, visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/citycentreproject](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/citycentreproject).



Students check out a waste facility.

## Learning is never a waste

COUNCIL offers free water and waste education programs packed with information and handy tips for community groups and schools.

Groups which take advantage of the program can:

- learn our local water story (the water cycle)
- obtain water conservation tips for the home and school
- find out ways to reduce, reuse and recycle waste
- learn how to compost and create a worm farm

- discover how our water and waste is treated.

The program can be presented in classrooms, at the group's headquarters, or onsite at one of council's water or waste facilities. Council also has a waste education trailer available with loads of recycling and composting information.

"My class found the water education program very informative and it complemented our water unit. I will be recommending this program to other teachers," said Koumala State School teacher Melissa McKewen.

>> For information or bookings call 4961 9075.

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

Try to keep your showers to four minutes or less. Every minute you are in the shower you are using nine litres of water.

## New walk for Anzacs

A NEW Anzac Walk being built in the heritage-listed Jubilee Park is paving the way for a fitting commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

Stage one of the Jubilee Park Anzac Centenary Project is nearly complete, with the finishing touches to be done in time for the milestone Anzac Day on April 25.

The project is being funded by Mackay Regional Council and the State Government's Anzac Centenary community grants program, which has provided \$80,000.

The new, decorative Anzac Walk will link the World War II memorial and the heritage-listed rotunda.

The completed walk will incorporate themed, brass plaques mounted on low plinths around the inner and outer paths, allowing users to interpret and commemorate the Anzac legacy.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said council's civil projects team had recently stopped work on stage one but would return early this year. "Outstanding work includes the treatment around the periphery of the rotunda, which is planned for March," Cr Comerford said.



RSL Mackay sub-branch president Dennis Paidley (right) and vice-president and historian Col Benson check out progress on the new Anzac Walk.

This will involve the installation of an irrigation system and placement of the topsoil and plantings, which will be done by March to have the plantings established for Anzac Day. Bronze memorial plaques will also be cast and installed at that time.

Cr Comerford said Jubilee Park was recognised for its grandeur and its memorials

that paid tribute to those who had served their country.

She said the park upgrade would continue beyond this year's Anzac Day. "The upgrade will improve the amenity, heritage values and usability of this important inner-city park for future Anzac Day and memorial celebration events," Cr Comerford said.

>> For more information on the Queensland Government's Anzac Centenary Project visit [www.qld.gov.au/anzac100](http://www.qld.gov.au/anzac100)



## Put your hands up for RADF

NEED some cash to help bring an arts, cultural or heritage project to life?

THE third round of Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grants for 2014/15 closes on Wednesday, February 18, at 4.30pm.

RADF Committee deputy chair Cr Theresa Morgan is encouraging residents with an idea for an arts, cultural or heritage project to apply.

"The funding provides financial assistance to those who have an idea for a project but cannot fund it entirely themselves," she said.

"The application process is straight-forward and our Arts Development Officers are on-hand to assist residents if they have any problems."

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

## Awards jazzed up

EIGHT years ago Charlotte Emily sang the national anthem at Mackay's Australia Day ceremony as a 14 year-old schoolgirl.

This month the Whitsunday Anglican School alumni, now based in Brisbane, will return to Mackay to play at a special awards ceremony at the MECC on Australia Day Eve, Sunday, January 25.

She is excited to be able to pay tribute to those who have given so much to the local community.

"I'm really looking forward to returning to our wonderful Mackay to celebrate being Australian and giving the nominees the recognition they deserve," Charlotte said.

"So many beautiful people have selflessly volunteered their time to help others and make our region a better place. I'm both happy and grateful to be a part of recognising them for their wonderful achievements."

>> Free Australia Day events in briefs on this page. Visit [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au) for more details.



Charlotte Emily.

Charlotte Emily's jazz duo will perform, as will another home-grown talent Will Anderson.

All those nominated for an award have been invited to the function where they will be thanked for the contribution they have made to the community and winners will be announced.

Tickets for the public are available for \$20 through [mackayecc.com.au](http://mackayecc.com.au) but are limited.

Charlotte Emily will also perform at a Mackay Citizenship ceremony on Australia Day.



Temporary Event Permits are needed for public events held in Mackay.

## How to stage top events

MACKAY loves events.

Council's environmental health officers approved 62 Temporary Event Approvals in 2014, or an average of just over one a week.

The unofficial event season ran from May to October, said Waste, Health and Regulatory portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura.

"During this time the likes of Relay for Life, Festival of Arts, River Sessions, Beach Horse

Racing, Rock Pop Mime and Global Grooves take place," Cr Bonaventura said.

"Other non-profit events are also held and new events have become an annual tradition, such as Australia Day celebrations, Chinese New Year, Waitangi Day and Pink Ribbon Day."

Cr Bonaventura said approvals were issued subject to conditions to ensure the health and wellbeing of event goers.

He said they included sufficient numbers of toilets, emergency vehicle access and provision of shade, as well as ensuring there was minimal impact on the surrounding neighbourhood.

"It is not only the Event Approval that needs to be issued for each event. There is also processing of applications for Temporary Food Permits, compulsory food hygiene training that food stall holders may need to attend and event inspections."