Get excited this AUSTRALIA DAY!

It has been 100 years since our town was almost wiped off the map.

Tрагически, 30 lives were lost when the 1918 cyclone ripped through our region on January 21, 1918.

One family alone, the Welsh, lost six members.

The huge storm flattened much of the region and inundated large parts of the town, with waves up to three metres high rolling down Sydney Street.

A total of 141 millimetres of rain fell in just three days.

To commemorate the centenary of this natural disaster, council is presenting an exhibition at the Jubilee Community Centre in the Civic Precinct from Saturday, January 19, until Friday, February 16.

The exhibition is a joint initiative of the four regional municipalities and Mackay Regional Libraries.

Mayor Greg Williamson is encouraging all residents to stop in and see the free exhibition.

The exhibition includes a series of life-sized figureheads featuring interviews with survivors, hundreds of photos and many stories from families who witnessed the cyclone's devastation.

“This is an exhibition that has come about through various council departments working together to come up with something unique,” Cr Williamson said.

“The two-part exhibition includes a section titled ‘In the path of the storm,’ which looks at the distant impact of the event, and a foyer into a theatre space and second section, titled ‘After the Storm,’ which looks at the historical impact of the event and display some commemorative items in the MECC over Australia Day weekend,” Cr Williamson said.

“Exhibitors at the expo will also be encouraged to decorate their booths to celebrate the theme,” Cr Casey said.

“We will have again 100 Apostolic and non-Apostolic clubs and organisations under one roof,” he said.

“So, it is an ideal event for coming along and sign-up for a sport or find out information about registering and making use of options available in Mackay.”

The 2018 Expo and Sport Showdown Series will be held at the MECC on Saturday, February 11.

It is free for both exhibitors and the public to attend.

Expo in league of own

LOCAL rugby league legend Renae Runn, who co-ordinated Australia’s Jamboree to World Cup glory last year, will be a special guest at next month’s Sports Expo and Sport Showdown.

She’s a perfect ambassador as the theme for this year’s expo is “Women in Sport”.

Sports Expo and Sport Showdown committee chair Cr Kevin Casey said the expo would celebrate the achievements of women in sport in a bid to inspire more people, both males and females, to get active and take up a sport.

“Exhibitors at the expo will be encouraged to decorate their booths to celebrate the theme,” Cr Casey said.

“Woolworths will again support the expo and will provide free food to both exhibitors and the public to attend.

Supporting the expo is SuperCharged, a new Mackay born and bred company that supplies free water to sporting and recreation clubs.

As well as complimentary tickets and pre-cooked meals, SuperCharged will also be providing refreshments to visitors and participants.

The expo will be free and open to the public.

Long-time supporter of the expo Deighton Bay Coal Terminal returns as the major sponsor of the expo.

Rio Tinto, Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association and StarFM and 4MK are also returning as sponsors, bringing a huge range of activities for visitors to experience.

A mascot race is again sure to be a crowning success.

Optus has also added another exhibitor to the pavilion, with support from Rio Tinto and Deb’s Group.

The carnival will also feature demonstrations of sports.

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