



## For the love of books Let's celebrate 2012 National Year of Reading

Residents are being urged to discover or rediscover the joy of reading this year in celebration of National Year of Reading.



National Year of Reading 2012

Australian libraries and library associations including Mackay Regional Council's Library Services are behind a campaign to link together all the great things that are already happening around books, reading and literacy, and give them an extra boost with inspirational programs and events.

National Year of Reading is about people learning to read and keen readers finding new sources of inspiration.

The Adult Literacy and Life Skills Survey 2006 states that there are 46 per cent of Australians who don't have the literacy skills to meet the most basic demands of everyday life and work.

Reading isn't just about picking up a book; it can be

flicking through a newspaper or magazine, reading a text message or understanding the instructions of a recipe.

This year why not try something new and rekindle your love of literacy, reading and writing.

If it's been a long time since you picked up a book or visited your local library, why not take the time to pop in, take part in an activity or program and borrow a great read.

**Council's libraries host a wide-range of activities, programs and events day-in-day-out including:**

> **Storytime** – an hour long program of stories, songs and craft activities for children aged 2 to 5 years and their parents.

> **Baby Bounce** – a lap sit program designed for parents and infants under 18 months of age. The 30 minute program includes songs and rhymes.

> **Discover IT classes** – computer training available at Mackay City, Gordon White, Sarina, Walkerston and Mirani libraries.

> **Finally its Friday** – activity afternoons/evenings for teens and young adults.

> **Your Tutor** – a free online tutoring service to help with students after school for real time assistance with their homework and study.

>> **To keep up-to-date on all the activities planned for National Year of Reading, sign up for the libraries eNewsletter ([mackay.qld.gov.au/enewsletters](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/enewsletters)).**

## Stop dengue NOW...



**Tip** out any water that's pooled in things like pot plant bases, **store** anything that can hold water **undercover** and **throw** out any rubbish lying around your yard.



Council has launched a photography competition titled, 'Snap That!'.

**Snap That!** hopes to capture and record our region's changes over the past 150 years using a historical photograph that captures people, a place, or a story.

Budding photographers simply select a photograph from the past, either from a personal album or via Picture Queensland's online collection ([pictureqld.slq.gov.au](http://pictureqld.slq.gov.au)). Then take their own photo with their twist/interpretation on their chosen image.

The competition is open to all ages and abilities with each category having an over 18 and under 18 age group available for entry.

With over \$2500 worth of prize money up for grabs council has no doubt many photographers (amateur and professional) will be out and about snapping photographs across the region.

Entries close on April 20, 2012.

>> **For more details on how to get involved, visit council's website or your local library branch.**

## Shine on region's sport

Thousands tested their skill, met their sporting heroes and opened new doors at the highly successful 2012 Sports Expo and Sign on Day last weekend.

Over 90 different sports and recreational clubs packed into the MECC to showcase the variety of sports on offer in our region.

The event is made possible thanks to Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, Sporting Wheelies and Disabled, Mackay Regional Council, the Active After School Care program and Queensland Government.

Local Government Ambassador and league legend Shane Webcke was the man of the moment. He was joined by hockey stars Stephen Lambert and Nikki Hudson.

Mayor Col Meng said the four hour event aims to encourage participation and to get families active.

"We are a proud sporting region and it is important to provide a platform to foster and develop our potential stars and encourage physical activity," he said.



## Att: Uni students \$5000 Academic Bursaries available

Four Academic Bursaries valued at \$5000 each are currently on offer for university students who are studying within the areas of Engineering, Information Technology, Accounting, Planning or Environmental Health.

Mayor Col Meng said these bursaries have been introduced in an effort to encourage and assist the academic progress of students from the Mackay region.

"Students must be in the second last year of their degree to be eligible," he said.

"Those successful in attaining the substantial monetary assistance will be offered a period of vacation work with council over their university summer holiday period, as well as other possible paid vacation periods."

Applications can be submitted a number of ways, either online at council's website ([www.mackay.qld.gov.au/academicbursary](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/academicbursary)), mailing to PO Box 41, Mackay, Qld, 4740 or by emailing [bronwyn.forster@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:bronwyn.forster@mackay.qld.gov.au). Submissions close on February 24 at 4.30pm.

>> **Note: Students don't have to be studying in Mackay to be eligible. For details, call council on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).**

## Did you know?

Mackay has been selected as one of three cities to be part of the State Government's Active Towns Program. The government is providing up to \$1 million in funding a year, to be matched by council to boost the development of shared cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.



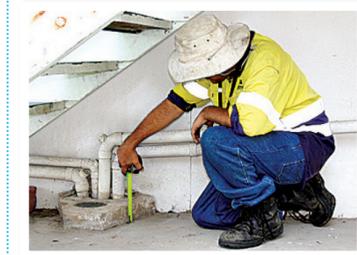
## Help combat sewerage overflows

Residents are being encouraged to check their property to ensure their overflow relief gullies (ORGs) are clear and installed correctly.

As we are currently in the midst of the wet season it's vital that people know what an ORG is and where it is located.

If the sewerage system gets blocked or overloaded, it is designed to overflow from the ORG outside, rather than from another point inside your home such as the toilet or shower.

ORGs are generally located at the back of your house behind your bathroom and toilet.



Follow this ORG check list to ensure your home stays clear of a sewerage overflow:

> Your ORG should at all times be installed 100mm above ground level to ensure stormwater does not flow in.

> Ensure the ORG is not covered by bricks, pot plants or gardens - if so, clear and tidy the area immediately.

> Check that your stormwater runoff from roofs, paved areas and yards are not connected or directed to your ORG - this is illegal and greatly impacts on the sewerage system.

## Easy ways to become more sustainable...

Challenge yourself to take up a new sustainable action today! Find out just how easy it is to work towards creating a sustainable future for ourselves, our children and our children's children.

> **When buying new appliances**, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.

> Did you know that a **Plasma TV** uses around \$100 a year more electricity than a traditional TV? So turn it off when you're not using it.

> **Get involved in recycling!** 95 per cent energy is saved by making a can from recycled aluminium rather than from the raw material bauxite.



> **Save Water!** Watering either in the early morning or evening is best as it avoids water loss due to evaporation from the sun and transpiration by plants.

> If you have to use the car, those regular trips to work, the market or school can be done with others, **carpool** and you'll have more fun, use less petrol and save money.

>> **For more ideas on how to make smarter actions towards caring for our environment, visit [ecomackay.com.au](http://ecomackay.com.au).**

## The Searchers are coming to town!



This month will see The Searchers 50th Anniversary Concert Tour visit the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre.

**Wednesday, February 22 from 7.30pm**

**Tickets: \$55 Adult, \$49 Concession, \$45 Subscriber and \$45 Friend & U18**

The Searchers had a massive impact on the record charts starting with the 1963 hit 'Sweets For My Sweet', as well as hits such as 'Needles and Pins', 'Don't Throw Your Love Away' and 'Someday We're Gonna Love Again'. This Australian Tour

and two hour stage show is sure to have audiences on their feet celebrating 50 glorious years of musical history.

>> **Pre show dining is available for this show. Book your tickets today as not to miss out, log onto [mackayecc.com.au](http://mackayecc.com.au) or phone 4961 9777.**

## Mackay 150 1862-2012 A snapshot of our history...

As Mackay is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, Mackay Regional Council is promoting a monthly image from our Library Service's Heritage Collection at the Mackay City Library.

**Image for February (pictured right) Technical College, Alfred Street, Mackay, ca.1912.**

The Mackay Technical College was built in 1911 and opened in 1912. It combined both a Technical College and the first State High School in Mackay. The brick section withstood the fury of the 1918 cyclone and was used as a maternity home accommodating the birth of six babies, the sewing work-tables doubling as delivery beds. This building was refurbished in 1987 and was Heritage listed in November 2000.

>> **To view the Heritage Collection visit the Mackay City Library, for opening hours phone 4961 9387.**



## Arts funding up for grabs!

Council is calling all artists and art organisations to apply for funding from the 2011-12 Regional Arts Development Fund.

**CLOSING DATES ARE:**  
**Round 3 - February 22 at 4.30pm**  
**Round 4 - May 23 at 4.30pm**

The Regional Arts Development Fund is a joint Queensland Government and Mackay Regional Council partnership to support local arts and culture. Applications are now being sought for the third and fourth round.

>> **For assistance in completing an application or for more details, contact council's Arts Development Officers on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).**

