



Drains come up a treat with tree trim

Stormwater drainage maintenance was one of the top priorities of residents in a Community Attitudes Survey and crews are achieving some good results

IT'S not the easiest job on the block, but crews are achieving excellent results with council's stormwater drain maintenance program.

"An intensive program of tree trimming to optimise drain capacity is in progress in the open drainage system in the East and South Mackay areas.

Cr Casey said the Rae Street drain (pictured) was a good example of some of the results the tree trimming efforts were having.

Roads and Drainage portfolio councillor Kevin Casey said maintenance of stormwater drains was one of the top five priorities for residents in the recent Community Attitudes Survey.

"The crews have worked in extremely difficult ground conditions.

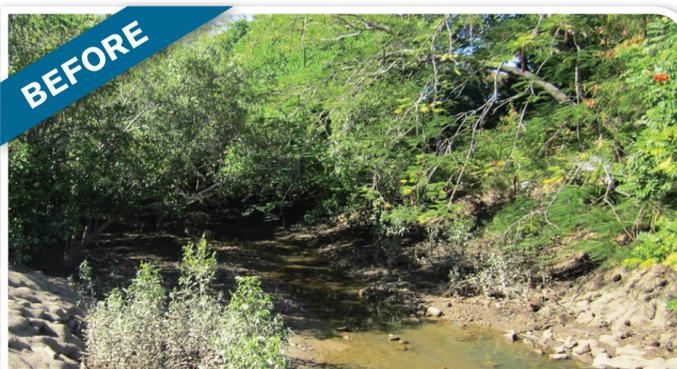
He said council also desilted drains with the use of excavators and removed vegetation regrowth as part of its annual drains maintenance program.

He said it was also a priority for council just prior to and after wet seasons.

"They've had to schedule works around tides to remove and mulch vegetation to improve flow paths in an environmentally-sensitive manner."

"Drain mowing has also progressed, with drains in East Mackay being completed recently."

>> If you wish to report drainage issues please contact 1300 MACKAY (622 529)



Rachel Mortimer (right), of Active Towns, and Emily Thomas ready for the Bubble Run at the new Gooseponds Path next month.

Get set for bubbly fun on run

THERE will be plenty of bubbles to celebrate achievements of the three-year Active Towns program.

start, with 3km and 5km track options. There will be free kids activities and "bubbly" entertainment for the whole family until noon.

Running from July 2012 to June this year, the program was jointly funded by the State Government and Mackay Regional Council.

They won't be of the champagne variety though.

Mackay Mayor Deirdre Comerford said the fun run had been organised to celebrate what the three-year Active Towns program had achieved for the region.

"In that time, Active Towns has been responsible for 7.4km of new pathways, two secure bike sheds in the City Centre, free school holiday bike education classes and more," Cr Comerford said.

The fun run will be held along the new Gooseponds path on Sunday, July 5.

"We were fortunate to have been chosen by the State Government as one of three councils to participate in Active Towns," she said.

Entry is \$5 per head, with children under 10 free. Proceeds will be donated to the Heart Foundation.

>> For more information, or to register, go online at mackay.qld.gov.au/bubblerun

Register your pet

RESIDENTS should have now received their pet registration renewals in the mail.

Health and Regulatory Services portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura said pet registration was the responsibility of every pet owner.

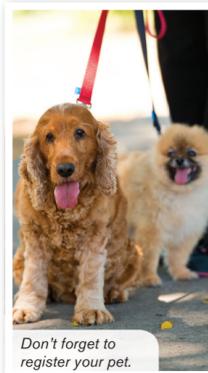
He said if you renewed your pet's registration by July 31 you would be entitled to a 50 per cent early bird discount.

"Every year more than 1200 animals are lost or abandoned in the Mackay region."

Pet registration and micro-chipping is the best way of ensuring missing pets are reunited with their owners.

"All registered pets are issued with a Mackay Regional Council registration tag, which can be attached to their collar so the owner can be identified and contacted," Cr Bonaventura said.

>> Register your pet before July 31 to take advantage of the early bird discount. Visit mackay.qld.gov.au



Don't forget to register your pet.

Sadly, not all animals that end up in the pound have a loving owner to go home to.

"If you are looking for a pet for your family, consider adopting from the pound," Cr Bonaventura said.

"Not only will you be gaining a lifetime friend but you will also be saving a life."

Remember — Your Pet Your Responsibility

Our pride on show

#MACKAYPride is the theme of council's display at Mackay Show next week and, as such, a host of facilities and community services will be showcased.

From gardening, worm farming, recycling and water-saving tips to library services, MECC shows and botanic gardens activities — there's so much to learn and explore at the P2 pavilion.

Pick up a passport at the entrance and have it stamped at five of council's stalls to go in the draw to win a \$500 voucher from The Good Guys. You'll also be eligible to receive a discount at selected MECC shows.

Collect a free tap timer when you sign up to the myh2o water-monitoring website and take home a free seedling or native plant from council's parks officers.

>> The Mackay Show is on from Tuesday to Thursday next week

Illegal dumping: Not in my backyard

IT'S happening and it's ugly — illegal dumping is a huge cost to everyone.

From dumped fridges and white goods near creeks and nature reserves to old bed frames, used tyres and petrol containers along roadsides, council is calling on residents to take pride in Mackay and report illegal dumping.

"Illegal dumping has a significant impact on the environment and comes with a huge price tag to the community," said Parks and Environment portfolio

councillor Theresa Morgan.

"We're surrounded by natural beauty and we're calling on residents to help council take action on illegal dumping," she said.

Waste, Health and Regulatory Services portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura said illegal dumping would not be tolerated and heavy penalties would apply.

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

litter," Cr Bonaventura said.

"It's disappointing to see rubbish dumped on our beautiful region — there are better options," he said.

"Let's have pride in Mackay and say no to illegal dumping in our backyard."

Council provides dump vouchers in all rates notices which can be used to dispose of green or domestic waste.

Residents can locate their nearest tip on council's website.



Household waste illegally dumped under an overpass off Pioneer Street in North Mackay.

>> If you witness someone dumping waste illegally contact council on 1300 MACKAY (622 529) or via mackay.qld.gov.au

WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H₂O

Would you like to know if your property has a water leak or if you're using too much water? Sign-up to myh2o.qld.gov.au to receive email and SMS alerts. It's free to use.

Hats off to winners of Heritage Awards

AN inter-war Queenslander in West Mackay and a tourist precinct at Sarina were among the top award winners at the 2015 Heritage Awards.

David and Dianne Watt and Urban Trend Constructions won the New or Refurbished Heritage Home gold award for the house in Hinton Street, built in 1931.

"The outcome is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when care is taken to retain the heritage character of a home while also providing a tasteful, modern touch," the judges said.

The Sarina Tourist Art and Craft Centre at the Field of Dreams won the New or Refurbished Heritage Place gold award. It boasts three restored historic buildings, including the old Sarina Court House, the old Sarina Jail Cells and the old Mount Pelion School House.

The awards were presented at the recent Greenmount Homestead Heritage Fair.

They are usually every two years but were held again this year to help celebrate the Greenmount Homestead and Anzac Gallipoli landing centenaries.



Looking the part at the 2015 Heritage Awards are (from right) Cr David Perkins, John Cant, who accepted an award for his and John Blackwell's Heritage Walking Tour, Mayor Deirdre Comerford and Dave Peters, of sponsor SeaFM.

"We were a little down on nomination numbers due to it not being a normal Heritage Awards year, but the quality of nominations was outstanding," said committee chairman Cr David Perkins.

Other awards included:
>> Champion Individual gold award, John Cant and John Blackwell, for the Heritage Walking Tour.

>> Champion Organisation silver award, Mackay Musical Comedy Players; highly

commended Australian South Sea Islander Heritage Organisation Mackay; highly commended, Step Back in Time, Gathering Eungella's Past

>> Champion School gold award, Mackay North State High for its Lest We Forget Project

>> Heritage Media gold award, Seven Local News' Carissa Morgan and Simon Nichols for Rewind: The Leap; silver award, Mackay and District Italian Association.

Event for bubs

MAYOR Deirdre Comerford will officially welcome 70 new Mackay bubs this Sunday. A Baby Welcoming Ceremony will be held at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens from 10am. The families of babies registered for the event will be presented with special baby welcoming certificates by Cr Comerford. Registrations are also now open for the next Baby Welcoming Ceremony, to be held on September 13. Go to mackay.qld.gov.au/baby to register for the September ceremony or for more details.

Desex your pet

COUNCIL is joining forces with the RSPCA to stop the cycle of unwanted pets. It is supporting Operation Wanted, encouraging pet owners to: "Do your bit. Desex Your Pet." When animals are not desexed, litters are unplanned and unwanted. Kittens and puppies end up on the street, in shelters, at the pound, or worse. You can stop this cycle and make every animal feel wanted. Go to operationwanted.com.au

Historic time

THE date has been set for the official re-opening of the heritage-listed former Pioneer Shire Council building in Wood Street. The building, which is currently being restored as part of the City Centre revitalisation, will be officially opened by Mayor Deirdre Comerford on Sunday, August 2.