

From a planned whale-watching lookout upgrade to parks projects, our community members are engaging

Putting forward views on project

Teen ensures ball is in his court

WHEN long-time Lamberts Beach resident Nev Edwards heard council was doing public consultation on plans to upgrade the local lookout he was keen to become involved.

The 79-year-old has lived just down the road from Lamberts Beach Lookout for more than 30 years.

The lookout has become a popular vantage point for whale-watching. Council is planning an upgrade, co-funded by the State Government, so sought community input into the plans.

Mr Edwards and others, including his friend Cec Dinsdale, 72, who is also a long-time resident, attended a Community Feedback morning in August.

With some skills in commercial drawing from his trade as a fitter and turner and an interest in art, Mr Edwards also drew up some plans for what he envisaged for the lookout upgrade.

"I've had a good hearing," Mr Edwards said. "When I took the plan into the lady (a member of council's Community Engagement team), it was wonderful the

way I was treated," he said.

The plan he submitted for consideration includes a new, elevated pedestrian area south of the existing car park. He suggests it be bitumened, fenced and chaired, possibly with a hollow cement table over an existing surveyors' datum, with picture guides to surrounding islands and points of interest.

Mr Edwards said this area could also include a shade structure.

Consultants are currently considering all feedback



Long-time residents Nev Edwards (right) and Cec Dinsdale got involved with community consultation for a planned upgrade of Lamberts Beach Lookout.

received during the community consultation process and looking at options for the upgrade.

Mr Edwards, a former commodore of Mackay Yacht Club who still sails, said the

lookout was a special spot.

"Every time I come past Slade Point I look at the lookout and think that is one observation point doing the town justice. It's playing a big part in exposure for the region."

Mr Edwards said there was plenty of excitement when whales were spotted from the lookout.

There were whales frolicking close inshore near the beach last week.

CONSULTATION on the redevelopment of Royal Sands Park in Bucasia has proven to be one of council's most successful community engagement campaigns to date.

This was in large part due to the involvement of local teenager Daniel McLean.

Council consulted community members at the Northern Beaches to see if they had any thoughts on the upgrade of the popular Bucasia Park.

Daniel, a Year 8 Northern Beaches State High School student, approached council with the idea for a basketball half-court.

"I've been playing basketball

since I was 11 and I've been refereeing for a year," Daniel said.

"A number of my teammates live in the area, but we have to travel into town if we want to have a game.

"Having a basketball court closer to home will give us more opportunity to practise.

"I've even been thinking about organising three-on-three tournaments for the neighbourhood after Christmas."

Council gave residents the opportunity to vote on whether they would prefer to have a climbing net or a half-court basketball court



Bucasia student Daniel McLean.

installed as part of the park revitalisation.

During the community consultation process, Daniel prepared a petition and went door-to-door around the neighbourhood.

He collected almost 50 signatures.

Daniel also encouraged others to participate in the consultation and attended the entire on-site consultation session.

Economic Development and Planning Committee member Cr Fran Fordham said more than 150 people voted.

"In the last year we have been engaging more frequently with the community in relation to park upgrades," Cr Fordham said.

"This was definitely one of the most successful campaigns we've run," she said.

"The large majority of people surveyed were in favour of the basketball court, with 66 per cent of the vote."

Work on the Royal Sands Park upgrade project is expected to commence early next month, weather permitting.

>> Mackay Regional Council has a dedicated community engagement website called Connecting Mackay, which can be found online at connectingmackay.com.au

>> More information on parks facilities in our region can be found online at council's website at mackay.qld.gov.au/parks

Fluoride forum

THE "for" and "against" cases have been presented at a community forum on fluoride. The forum was held at the MECC last week and livestreamed on our website ahead of a decision by councillors on whether fluoridation of the public water supply should continue. A video of the forum can be viewed at mackay.qld.gov.au/fluoride. ReachTel was also engaged to conduct a random phone poll of 1000 residents on behalf of council. An online survey at connectingmackay.com.au closed yesterday.

Bursary opens

THE 2017 Hands On Bursary is now open for applicants. Funded by The Artspace Mackay Foundation and supported by council, the \$1000 Hands On Bursary is an annual initiative. To be eligible for the bursary, you must be a local resident either currently studying, or having applied to study, a recognised arts tertiary course in 2017. The bursary is open to artists aged 17 to 25, including current Year 12 students who gain acceptance into a recognised tertiary arts course in 2017. For more information, contact Melissa Broadhurst on 4951 2299 or email artspacefoundation@mackay.qld.gov.au

Check bin days

THERE will be some changes to waste and recyclables collection services across the Mackay region, beginning Monday, October 24. The changes will provide the region with a more efficient waste collection service. Residents and businesses affected will be notified in writing. Information stickers will also be placed on wheelie bin lids one week before the changes come into effect. More information online at mackay.qld.gov.au/bins

Flood strategy

COUNCIL has a better understanding of the region's flood and stormwater issues following the development of a draft Flood and Stormwater Strategy. It was developed in collaboration with local consultants AECOM, with input from stakeholders. Residents can read and have their say on the draft Flood and Stormwater Strategy at connectingmackay.com.au



Riders contest a criterium around Mackay City Centre streets during a practice run recently. Photo: Ben Dolphin Photography

Gear up for 'crit' excitement

THE practice run was a success and now it is time for the main event early next month.

The Mackay City Centre Criterium will be contested on Sunday, October 9.

A criterium, or crit, is a cycling race of laps around a closed circuit, with the length of each lap ranging from 1km to 2km.

The Mackay City Criterium

involves a circuit along Wood, River, Nelson and Victoria streets.

Economic Development and Planning Committee chair Cr Amanda Camm said criterium racing provided a mix of speed, corners and excitement.

She said the Criterium event was expected to attract riders from Rockhampton, Townsville and the Whitsundays.

"There is more than \$3000 in prize money up for grab. There are three grades plus a junior category.

"There were road closures in place for the recent practice run and they'll be in place again for the main event.

Racing will start from 8am, with presentations at 10am. Cyclists will be able to register at Mackay Cycles from 6.30am, or pre-register.

Targeting exporting success

COUNCIL is helping Mackay region businesses be export ready.

The 2016 Mackay Export Ready Program is under way, with three of the 10 workshops delivered.

Council is coordinating the program in partnership with Trade and Investment Queensland and the Resource Industry Network.

The Export Council of Australia has been engaged to deliver the Export Ready Program in the Mackay region.

The 10 weeks of training would normally cost \$1250.

But with council subsidising the program the reduced price for participants is \$250 plus GST.

>> More on the Export Ready program at mackay.qld.gov.au



Don't blow it with pool fencing safety

DROWNING is the leading cause of death in children under five.

Community Engagement Committee chair Cr Kevin Casey said State legislation introduced last year meant that most inflatable pools and spas now required fencing.

"Any pool or spa that can be filled to a depth of 300mm of water or more must be fenced," he said.

"Children can drown in just a small amount of liquid. It only

takes a second for a child to wander off without their parent realising.

"Compliant pool barriers can help save lives by preventing young children from accessing swimming pools. Penalties may apply if your inflatable pool is found to have a non-compliant barrier."

With summer on the way, the lifeguard-patrolled Bluewater Lagoon has now reopened and is the perfect place to cool down with the family over the warmer months.

>> Fore more details go online at qbcc.qld.gov.au

WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H₂O

Only use your washing machine when you have a full load, even if the machine has adjustable water levels. Did you know that washing only full loads of clothes can average out to a saving of 10 litres of water for every load?

TV chefs to visit Farmers' Market

Celebrity chefs of reality TV fame, former Mackay miners Alex and Gareth (right), will be special guests at the Farmers' Market today. They will do cooking demonstrations with local produce at 2.30pm, 3.30pm and 4.30pm.



WHAT > GREATER WHITSUNDAY FARMERS' MARKET, CITY CENTRE, WOOD ST PARK
WHEN > MARKET IS ON TODAY AND EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 2PM TO 6PM

Global Grooves a foodies' paradise

EACH and every food vendor will be creating mouth-watering cultural cuisine from around the world at this year's Global Grooves festival.

Held Saturday, October 29, this free, one-day, open-air event is a celebration of the cultural diversity of the Mackay region.

Community Engagement Committee chair Cr Kevin Casey said this year's event would transform Queens Park into a foodies' paradise with more tasty options than ever before.

"There will be something to suit everyone's palate – from sushi to Indian street food, Italian biscuits to Thai salads, and even a Cook Islands hungi and a Fijian lovo."

Global Grooves is a feast for all the senses, not just the taste buds.

>> Stay up-to-date with the latest festival news on the Mackay Festival Facebook



Happy from Eastern Port Restaurant serves up tasty treats at last year's Global Grooves.

Kicking off at the new time of 2pm to escape the midday heat, festivities will be launched with an opening parade featuring representatives from our region's various community groups wearing the traditional costumes of their cultures.

From there, festival-goers will be treated to the sounds and dances of the world, with entertainment running continuously on the main

stage until 8.30pm, when the festival will finish with a bang thanks to a fireworks display.

The kids haven't been forgotten and will be kept busy thanks to a free Small World Workshop running from 2pm to 6pm.

During the workshop, youngsters can create a miniature world out of boxes, coloured paper, pens and their imagination.