



## Be enchanted by outing in twilight

### City Centre set to transform Beyond Your Imagination for popular family street party

EXPLORE fairy-lit streets, twilight markets and outdoor fun for all ages at the Twilight City — Beyond Your Imagination street party.

With an outdoor screening of The Penguins of Madagascar and a Twilight Teen Zone, Festival, Events and The Arts portfolio councillor Chris Bonanno said free entertainment would greet all ages at the popular Mackay City Centre event, being held this year on August 29 from 4pm.

way along Wood and Victoria streets.

Tourism and Economic Development portfolio councillor Greg Martin said the event was held for the first time last year as Twilight City — Imagine More.

He said it was a great opportunity for residents to support traders and explore the revitalised City Centre.

"Revitalisation works are about 75 per cent complete

"Make a night of it with friends and explore our very own Eat Street featuring local restaurants, cafes and vendors," Cr Bonanno said.

"Enjoy twilight trading hours while the kids create a masterpiece in the craft zone," he said.

Party-goers will be entertained with bands Funky Film Xpress and Enormous Horns rocking the roundabout stage, while roving performers make their



Harry Kaur, of Indian Brothers Restaurant, and penguin visitors get ready for the Twilight City — Beyond Your Imagination street party in the City Centre.

and the transformation is exciting," Cr Martin said.

"With more functional space, our City Centre can be used for a vibrant mix of uses from

shopping and entertainment to relaxing and physical activity," he said.

The Revitalisation Project is scheduled for completion

at the end of October. Twilight City would not be possible without the generous support of local businesses, including Melco Engineering.

>> The Mackay City Centre Revitalisation Project is jointly funded by the Australian Government and Mackay Regional Council on a 50-50 funding basis

## Road resurfacing kicks into gear

THE annual road resurfacing program has kicked into gear, with \$5 million to be spent on improving surfaces this financial year.

The annual program involves a range of preventative maintenance type works aimed at resealing the road's surface, said Roads and Drainage portfolio councillor Kevin Casey.

"This work protects the road pavement by minimising the ingress of water, hence increasing the life of council's road assets," Cr Casey said.

"An analogy is the regular repainting of your house to protect the timber and extend its life."

Cr Casey said there were 165 streets and roads being resurfaced across the region as part of the current program.

Areas covered include Mackay, Sarina, Walkerston, Armstrong Beach and Eton, as well as various rural roads.

"The resurfacing work got under way recently, so residents and motorists

may have seen the crews," Cr Casey said.

"The resurfacing works will be completed mainly between September and November to avoid the impacts of the wet season.

"A range of different surface treatments are being used to provide the best value for money across the road network.

"Council will use specialist and local bitumen contractors to deliver the works."



Busuttin Drive, Eimeo, gets a makeover as part of council's annual road resurfacing program.

>> To view interactive maps showing what road works, upgrades and maintenance programs are happening visit [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au)

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

Only water your lawn if it really needs it. If you water your lawn regularly, two hours a day, three days a week, you could be adding an extra \$500 to your water bill.

## Mayor meets and greets for budget

WITH more than 50,000 rates notices hitting mailboxes in recent days, council is ensuring residents can have any questions answered.

A budget page, including frequently asked questions and answers, has been established on council's website.

Mayor Cr Deirdre Comerford has also been visiting shopping centres in the region to explain face-to-face with residents why the budget is the right fit for our community.

"We're proud of the new budget which featured a zero per cent movement in the average residential rate," she said. "We've also frozen fees, charges and levies at the same level as last financial year."

Cr Comerford said this was achieved as part of council's determination over three years to identify cost efficiencies to reduce operating costs, which reduces pressure on rates.

"It followed an increase of just 2.9 per cent last financial



Discussing the budget with Mayor Deirdre Comerford at Mt Pleasant Shopping Centre are (from left) Adessa Bianca Daba and Darryl Bibay.

year, which was the lowest since amalgamation."

Cr Comerford said council overall was collecting the same amount of rates revenue it did last financial year.

But she said individual ratepayers would be affected differently.

Cr Comerford said 67 per

cent of rates would decrease or remain the same.

She said 33% would increase, but the majority of these would be less than \$25 half-yearly.

"Anyone who wants their rates notice explained can see me at one of my shopping centre information sessions, or contact our rates section."

>> Schedule of mayor's shopping centre visits can be found at [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au)

### Jobs on offer

A YEAR ago Rebecca Barrett was studying horticulture online through TAFE when a friend told her about traineeships available at council. She applied successfully during the annual intake and has this year been gaining valuable on-the-job training and study as a horticulture trainee. Mrs Barrett is reflecting on the opportunity the traineeship has given her as council begins advertising for its 2016 trainees and apprentices intake. A total of 25 new positions are on offer, including 22 traineeships and three apprenticeships. For more information visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/careers](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/careers)

### Art not a waste

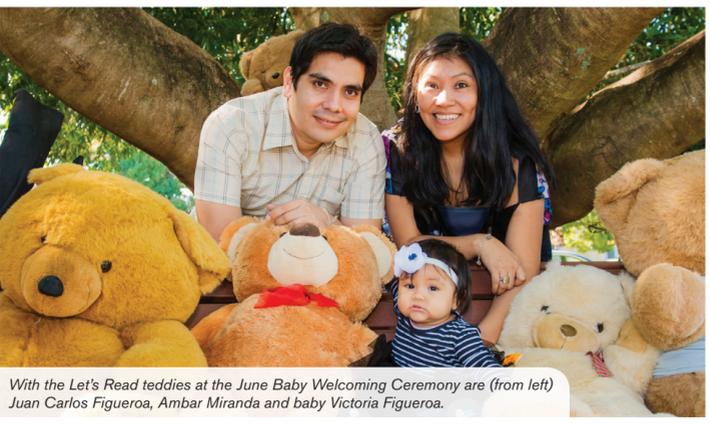
HAMPDEN school student Sam Vanderpoel's depiction of a worm farm will soon grace the side of council's Waste Education Trailer. The proud Year 2 student is one of three first-place winners in council's 2015 Waste Services Art Competition. The competition required students to draw a picture with the theme "Worms are awesome". Mackay State High School won the secondary school category. Pioneer Community Kindy took out the kindergarten section.

### Seniors party

CELEBRATE Seniors Week at the Seniors Expo on Friday, August 21, from 9am to 2pm at the Mackay Senior Citizens Hall. More than 70 exhibitors will attend the event to showcase products and services that can enhance the lives of seniors. Come along and go into the draw to win a holiday for two to the Gold Coast thanks to Newhaven Funerals. For more information visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/seniorsweek](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/seniorsweek)

### Get out, active

WOMEN are invited to Get Out, Get Active. Activities, including yoga, group fitness, Pilates and more, are being held in Calen, Ooralea, Northern Beaches, Pioneer Valley and Sarina. Visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/getactive](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/getactive) for a timetable and to find out more details. Get Out, Get Active is an initiative of the Queensland Government and Mackay Regional Council.



With the Let's Read teddies at the June Baby Welcoming Ceremony are (from left) Juan Carlos Figueroa, Ambar Miranda and baby Victoria Figueroa.

## Interest is building in new fund

COUNCIL has received more than 40 enquiries about its Better Community Building Fund.

About 15 formal applications have been received since the funding round opened last month.

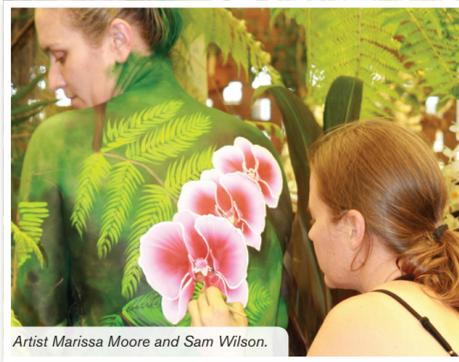
Announced as a centerpiece of council's 2015-16 budget, the \$3 million fund provides grants of between \$75,000 and \$250,000 for not-for-profit community and sporting groups to assist them with infrastructure projects.

The economic stimulus measure is aimed at shovel-ready projects.

Successful applicants also need to be able to contribute some of their own funds and commit to using local contractors.

Simply visit council's website or call council on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

>> For more details on how to apply, visit [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au)



Artist Marissa Moore and Sam Wilson.

## Grants improved

COUNCIL in partnership with the Queensland Government will launch the new Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) grant program later this month.

RADF Deputy Chair, Cr Theresa Morgan, said some changes had been made to the program.

"New grant categories have been included and the application process is changing," Cr Morgan said.

"We hope the changes will

make it easier for residents to apply for funding for one-off, short-term arts, cultural and heritage projects," she said.

Residents are encouraged to attend the launch of the new RADF program on Monday, August 24, at 11am in Mackay City Library's foyer to learn more.

A light lunch will be provided at the launch.

Please RSVP to 4961 9554 by Friday, August 21, for catering purposes.

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



Ready for the Great Northern Clean Up are (from left) Madeleine Searle, Nicky Paterson and Nicholas Searle.

## Save the date

GREAT NORTHERN CLEAN-UP: SEPTEMBER 13

LET'S get dirty and keep our region beautiful by participating in this year's Great Northern Clean Up. Individuals, local groups, schools and businesses are encouraged to register sites now for the event. Waste, Health and Regulatory Services portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura said the clean-up was a great opportunity for residents to come together and show pride in Mackay. "We have so many beautiful, natural assets in our region," he said. "I have always found a great community spirit at these events and there is no better feeling than to look back at the end and see the difference you have made to the area."

>> Site registrations close Friday, August 28. Contact Fiona Paterson on 1300 MACKAY or register online at [cleanupaustrialiaday.org.au](http://cleanupaustrialiaday.org.au)

## Spring welcome for bubs

MORE than 400 babies have taken part in council's Baby Welcoming Ceremonies since Mayor Deirdre Comerford first introduced the event in September 2012.

The final baby welcoming ceremony for 2015 will take place on Sunday, September 13, at the beautiful Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

"The ceremonies are an enjoyable outing for families

and we encourage any resident who has welcomed a baby in the last 15 months to take part," Cr Comerford said.

A number of community organisations, including health and child care professionals, attend the event, providing support and advice for parents.

Families also receive a complimentary gift pack and

book from Mackay Regional Council Libraries and Let's Read Mackay.

Families are welcome to bring a picnic or enjoy a fresh meal and coffee from the Lagoons Café and Gallery.

Registration for the Baby Welcoming is easy.

Simply visit council's website or call council on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

>> To register your bundle of joy for the ceremony visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/baby](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/baby)