



COUNCIL - in brief -

Renovate right

WHETHER you want to renovate your kitchen or bathroom or install a new hot water system it is easy, with no lengthy approvals. But all plumbing and drainage work performed in existing homes needs to be completed by a licensed plumber and drainer, with a Form 4 – Notifiable Work Form submitted to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC). The QBCC or council may audit the work to ensure it is of high standard. Visit qbcc.qld.gov.au or council's website for more details.

A day for pets

COUNCIL will hold its annual Pet Registration Day this Saturday. The event will be held on the council lawn in Gordon Street from 9am to noon. SeaFM will be broadcasting live and the RSPCA's classroom on wheels will also attend. There will be doggie and cat treats and giveaways and pet owners will be able to microchip their dog for a discounted price of \$45. Remember, register your pet before July 31 and save almost 50 per cent - **Your pet, your responsibility.**

Bins inspected

DON'T treat your recycling bin like a second rubbish bin. Council officers in high-vis vests will be inspecting recycling bins over the next six weeks. Bins found with major contamination will have a sticker placed on them to inform the owner of the incorrect item or items in the bin. The bin will not be collected until the problem has been rectified. Officers inspected nearly 3000 recycling bins last year and found 12 per cent had major contamination. Repeat offending items included food and nappies, green waste and recyclables in plastic bags.

Seniors helped

SENIORS are encouraged to attend an expo which will showcase products and services that can enhance their lives. The Seniors Expo is held in Mackay every two years. More than 60 exhibitors have registered for this year's event at the Mackay Senior Citizens Centre in Macalister Street on Friday, August 21, from 9am to 2pm.

Interest building in new stimulus plan

Not-for-profit sporting and community groups can apply for grants of between \$75,000 and \$250,000

COUNCIL'S new Better Community Building Fund is generating plenty of interest.

Announced as part of the new budget, not-for-profit sporting and community groups are able to apply for grants of \$75,000 to \$250,000 to assist with infrastructure projects.

Expressions of interest opened at the start of this month and close August 31.

"We've had plenty of enquiries and have already

received a handful of formal expressions of interest," said Sport, Recreation and Facilities portfolio councillor Paul Steindl.

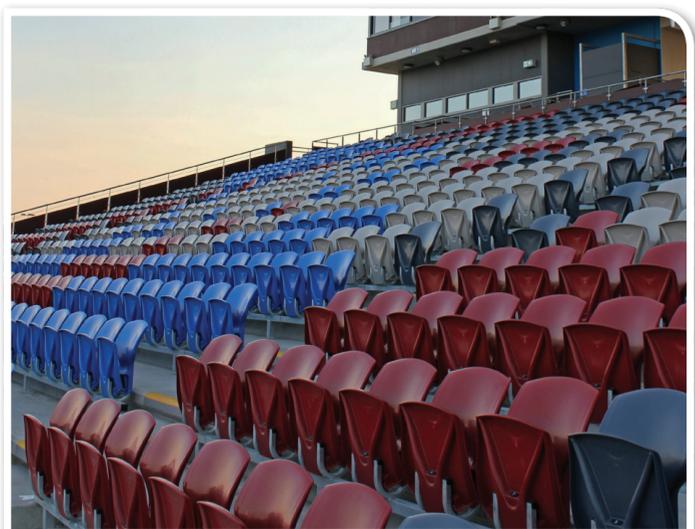
"The fund is really aimed at shovel-ready projects groups may have that just need some extra funding to get under way," Cr Steindl said.

"Successful applicants must have some funds of their own to contribute and local contractors are to be used during construction."

Cr Steindl said the Better Community Building Fund would have a two-fold benefit.

"In the short-term this is an investment to stimulate our local economy and give a hand to our construction industry," Cr Steindl said.

"The other benefit is that approved infrastructure projects will provide better facilities for our community to use, which will in turn help attract events, bringing more revenue to our region."



Major seating projects at Mackay region sports grounds could be eligible for funding under council's new Better Community Building Fund scheme.

Cr Steindl said applicants more detailed submission. interested groups were chosen during the expression of interest process would be required to submit a He said although expressions of interest closed August 31, as quickly as possible.

>> Groups can apply online at mackay.qld.gov.au. For more information contact Robert Ryan, Senior Coordinator Community Programs, on 1300 MACKAY (622 529)

Water-saving guide is simply 'plantastic'

WANT to take the guess work out of gardening?

How would you like to save time and money?

If you answered yes, log on to council's online Plantastic Water Saving Guide at mackay.qld.gov.au/plantastic.

Using information collated by local botanists, this free service provided by council takes the guesswork out of gardening.

"The guide allows you to select your plant style, whether it be native, tropical or architectural, soil type and watering requirements," said Water and Sewerage portfolio councillor Frank Gilbert.

"It will then generate a specific plant list to suit your needs," Cr Gilbert said.

"You can print the list and take it to your local nursery," he said.

"All plants have been specifically chosen to survive our local climate and the guide tells you how much water is needed to keep these plants alive.

"Creating your very own water-saving garden will naturally help keep your water costs down."

Remember, water restrictions apply. Visit mackay.qld.gov.au/waterrestrictions for more details.



Councillor Frank Gilbert checks out some of the water-saving plants in his garden.

>> To easily monitor the flow of your H2O register online at myh2o.qld.gov.au

WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H₂O

If your tap is leaking, replace the washer. Dripping taps can waste 30-200 litres of water per day.

Unsealed network making the grade

COUNCIL is constantly reviewing its maintenance grading techniques for unsealed roads in order to achieve the best value outcomes with the available funding.

"We are currently incorporating fine grain gravels into existing coarser gravels that have unravelled due to having insufficient clay lines," said Roads and Drainage portfolio councillor Kevin Casey.

"The method provides a more stable surface and extends the time interval between maintenance gradings," Cr Casey said.

"We have 16 working gravel pits in the region with a focus on producing quality gravels as close as practical to the job site," he said.

"Maintenance gravel is produced by a combination of blasting, crushing and screening to create gravels of optimum quality, rather than just using materials excavated from the pit."

Council manages its unsealed road network using a maintenance management system (MMS). It was



Council uses a maintenance management system for unsealed roads throughout the region.

>> If you wish to report an unsealed road issue call 1300 MACKAY (622 529)

Community grants up for grabs

LOCAL community groups are being encouraged to apply for council's last round of community grants for the year before submissions close on Friday, August 7.

Organisations can apply for up to \$5000 through the community grant program or up to \$1000 in the small equipment category.

Projects eligible for funding include anything from community events to natural environment projects and the development of sport and recreational initiatives.

Applications for the community grant program must be submitted by local not-for-profit community groups and only projects that make a positive contribution to the community will be considered.

>> For more details and to apply visit mackay.qld.gov.au/grants



Character and Heritage Advisory Committee chair Cr David Perkins tries out a donated bench.

Gifted bench seats take pride of place

MACKAY was recently gifted two replica railway benches by Queensland Rail as part of its 150-year commemorations – and they are "red hot".

The vibrantly coloured benches were presented to Mackay and Sarina as a tribute to our region's relationship with the railway.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford officially received the bench seats from Member for Mackay Julieanne Gilbert at the 2015 Greenmount Heritage Fair.

"The seats are now in their

Historic building shines

THE finishing touches are being put on an exciting restoration of the heritage-listed former Pioneer Shire Council building.

The Wood Street building, built in 1935, was officially opened in March, 1936.

As part of the project, the building's entrance has been restored in keeping with architect Harold Brown's

original plans so it looks like it did when it first opened.

To help celebrate, council will hold an official re-opening for invited guests and the public on Sunday, August 2, in the adjacent Wood Street Park.

The project was funded by the Australian Government and council as part of the City Centre Revitalisation Project.

Twilight City
BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION

Save the date!

> TWILIGHT CITY BEYOND YOUR IMAGINATION STREET PARTY
MACKAY CITY CENTRE, AUGUST 29, 4PM TO 10PM

Following the success of last year's inaugural Twilight City Imagine More Street Party, the popular event is back. Be enchanted as you explore the streets of Twilight City, full of whimsy and wonder for all ages.

The free family event will stretch your imagination and take you on a delightful journey through the fairy-lit streets of Mackay's City Centre.

>> Visit mackay.qld.gov.au for more events



One of the new beach access stairways at Shoal Point. It is one of 10 installed by council in the region in the last 15 months.

Stairs make life a beach

GETTING down to the beach has never been easier thanks to the installation of several new beach accesses around the region.

Most recently, five new stairways have been erected at Sarina Beach and one at Shoal Point.

This puts the total number

installed at 10 in the last 15 months as part of a \$250,000 project to improve beach access around the region.

Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said the new accesses at the region's beaches were made using recycled plastic and a composite fibre product.

"Not only do the accesses provide a safer passage to our beaches, they are also longer lasting and require less maintenance than timber structures," Cr Morgan said.

"The accesses were installed to replace damaged and outdated infrastructure and to formalise and improve beach access points," she said.