



Trio saves \$\$\$ by carpooling

Over the past 10 months, Rebecca Nemitz has saved about \$800 on fuel. By taking it in turns to drive to work every day, Rebecca and her carpooling workmate, Amanda Twaddell, have pocketed an estimated \$20 each a week.

Ms Nemitz agreed carpooling was certainly "the way to go".

"On the trip there and back we get a chance to have a bit of a gossip and a catch up; we work in different areas of the company (at SGS Australia, Paget) so we don't often have time to talk on the job," she said.

In the spirit of Mackay

Regional Council's Paget Carpool Week from May 27 to 31, the duo officially registered their participation and also invited co-worker Bev Hanson along for the ride.

"I live in Andergrove, Amanda's at Lambert's Beach and Bev at South Mackay, so we'll just pick up Bev on the way each day and together we'll all save more on fuel,"

Ms Nemitz said.

All Paget businesses who register to take part in the challenge go in the draw to win a prize.

A total of \$1500 in fuel vouchers and gift Wish cards are up for grabs, and the winning business will receive an outside Hot FM radio broadcast at their premises on Friday, May 31.



Bev Hanson, Rebecca Nemitz and Amanda Twaddell from SGS Paget have signed up to council's carpooling challenge.

With almost \$30 million in road work activity currently under way in Paget, council's carpooling week initiative is designed to decrease traffic congestion in the area, enhance road safety and reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also helping individuals to save money on fuel and reduce wear and tear on their vehicles.

To register your business in Paget's Carpool Week visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/carpool.

Additionally, anyone in the region keen to join a regular carpool should register their interest at mackayregioncarpool.org

>> For further details on Paget's Carpool week visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/carpool.



Check out our future plans for the region

There's no need to wonder what your future neighbourhood will look like.

Council has just released its Draft Mackay Region Planning Scheme; a 20 year plan to manage land use and development in our region.

The draft planning scheme is available to view on

council's website and you also have the opportunity to provide your feedback to council online and in person by 5pm, Friday, July 19.

If you live in the Pioneer Valley, Sarina and Calen areas you still have the chance to attend a community information session to find out what is being proposed in your area.

>> To access council's draft plan and info sessions visit mackay.qld.gov.au/planningscheme.

Road works in full swing

Driving along; I'm sure you've noticed plenty of road works going on in and around the city.

As the end of the 2012-2013 financial year looms, council is busy capping off its commitment to restoring our road network.

Projects underway throughout the region are made up of NDRRA works and capital-funded projects; including:

"Council is committed to keeping the public informed of all ongoing road works along the way and we greatly appreciate your patience."

\$26 million Connors Road upgrade: On target for completion in December

\$7.8 million Paradise Street Rehabilitation: Due to be completed by December

\$4.5 million Balnagowan-Mandurana Road, Farleigh, restoration: Due in July.

>> For further details visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/roadworks.

Gooseponds need your helping hand

A popular recreational hub and important waterway through Mackay, the Gooseponds play a vital role in our city.

A Community Day will be held at the Gooseponds on Saturday, June 15 from 9am to 12noon to improve the Gooseponds and protect our Great Barrier Reef.

Join council, Glenella State School, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Pioneer Catchment and Landcare Group to take part in some revegetation activities.

They will be planting Riparian species around the fishway near Malcomson Street, North Mackay.

Council is a partner of the Reef Guardian program.

>> For more details call Katie Finch on 4951 3454.



Turtle watchers Ken and Fay Griffin are happy with their new buggy.

Community grants to the rescue

Next time you're at Blacks Beach, keep an eye out for the Tutlewatch buggy.

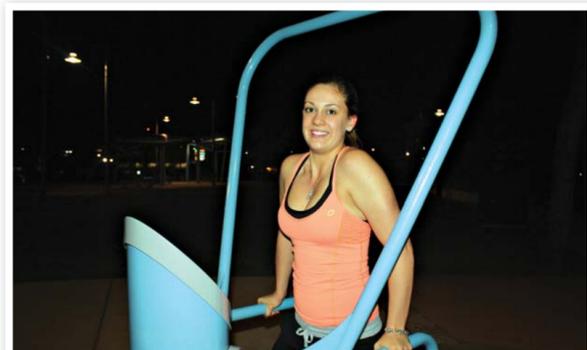
The Mackay and District Turtlewatch Association, received funding through council's community grant program, in the Natural Environment category to purchase a 4WD buggy to share with council to help protect our marine turtles.

Mackay and District Turtlewatch Association Treasurer Fay Griffin said

the buggy allowed her and husband Ken to continue to monitor turtles during the turtle-nesting season.

"We monitor turtles nests and help ensure hatchlings make it safely to the water. I encourage any community group that needs funding to apply for a community grant."

>> Application forms are available at council's customer service centres.



Mackay resident Bree Black does her exercises at night at Caneland Park.

Be first to secure your tickets

Tickets to the Mackay Region Festival of Arts shows sell out fast and this year will be no exception.

The 2013 program from July 6 to 21 has been launched and is jam packed with great food and entertainment on offer.

Centred around the theme "My Island Home" to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Australian South Sea Islanders you will have the chance to see Australia's finest songwriter Neil Murray live on stage at the free opening night concert.

You can also laugh along with the Old Fella and see Fiona O'Loughlin. If you purchase your tickets before 5pm, Friday, June 28 you also get a \$5 per ticket discount on most of the shows on offer.

>> For tickets go to - festivalmackay.org.au or call the MECC on 4961 9777.



Brian Osborn welcomes visitors to Greenmount homestead.

Homestead in great shape for the fair

With a fresh layer of paint inside and out the Greenmount Homestead is ready for this Sunday's Heritage Fair.

Museum Coordinator Brian Osborn encourages everyone to check out the new and improved homestead at this year's Fair.

"The homestead looks like something out of a magazine," Mr Osborn said.

"The walls and ceilings have been repainted in historically

correct colours and all the photos and prints have been rewired and are in good working condition."

The Heritage Fair is on Sunday, May 26 from 9am to 4pm at the Greenmount Homestead, 5kms past Walkerston. Entry to the fair is free with plenty on offer- heritage demonstrations, rides for the kids and more.

>> For further details visit council's website mackay.qld.gov.au.

Watch the flow of your H2O

Regularly check your taps, hoses and pipes for leaks. A leak that goes undetected will result in water and your money going down the drain. Visit council's website - www.mackay.qld.gov.au for more water saving tips.

Stunning story emerges in our Botanic Gardens

Spreading the conservation message of the Botanic Gardens, Maya Harrison, Kate Brunner and Carolyn Atkinson have created a special children's book for the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens 10th birthday.

The Bungee Jumping Caterpillars book, filled with beautiful illustrations, educates children about the North Queensland Day Moth caterpillars and introduces

people to 'threatened in the wild' plants and precious wildlife.

The book will be launched at the Botanic Gardens on Friday, May 24 at 6pm. To reserve your spot call 4952 7300. The book can be purchased from the Gardens Shop for \$15 with all proceeds going to the venue.

As part of the celebrations there's a birthday party for 10

year olds on Sunday, June 9 with lots of special activities. To register visit the Botanic Gardens website.

The Bungee Jumping Caterpillars book was made possible by a Regional Arts Development Fund grant.

>> For further details on the gardens celebrations visit mackay.qld.gov.au/gardens.

Libraries offer more than just books

Council's libraries have a lot more to offer than books. Library members also have access to a range of popular DVDs, magazines, newspapers, music and classes such as Baby Bounce, Storytime and Discover IT. Visit your local library or go to www.mackay.qld.gov.au libraries to become a member.

Welcome our newest Queenslanders

As part of Queensland Week Celebrations council will be holding a Baby Welcome Ceremony to welcome our newest arrivals. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 2, at council's Civic Precinct lawn, Gordon Street from 9am. You'll receive a certificate and access to important info. To register visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/baby by Friday, May 24.