



Help us make the Mackay region age-friendly

By 2013, almost 18 per cent of the Mackay region's population will be aged 65 years and older.

Our community's population is changing and council is seeking your help to work towards an age-friendly region.

Mayor of Mackay Regional Council Deirdre Comerford said council was committed to building a strong, vibrant community with a culture of inclusion.

"An age-friendly community benefits everyone in the region, not only elderly people," Cr Comerford said.

As Mackay's population changes, the way council's facilities and services are used will also change over time.

Cr Comerford said policies, services and structures must enable people to age actively, live in security, enjoy good health and participate fully in society.

There are a number of ways council is seeking feedback and input into developing an age-friendly

community for the future including a community forum and online discussion.

Residents are invited to attend the free forum on Tuesday, October 23 at Magpies Sporting Club from 9.30am to 4pm. The forum aims to help identify ways on how we can prepare.

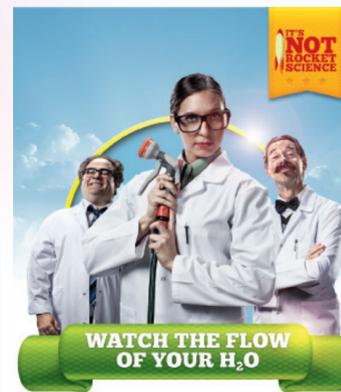
To register your interest in attending, contact council on 1300 622 529.

Alternatively, you can have your say by participating in our online discussion via our community engagement website.

>> Connecting Mackay is council's dedicated community engagement website, check it out online at: www.connectingmackay.com.au



Ruth Sargent, Eunice Donovan and Helen Stanton form part of council's Healthy Aging Reference Group who are working towards developing an age-friendly community.



Celebrate the value of water

This month during October 21 to 27 signifies National Water Week. Coordinated by the Australian Water Association, National Water Week aims to improve community understanding of water issues in Australia.

Water and Sewerage portfolio councillor Frank Gilbert said with population growth, the demand for water is only going to increase placing pressure on our infrastructure and supplies.

"Water must be used wisely if there is to be enough to meet the needs of future generations. We can all do our bit to reduce the amount of water we use day-to-day, little changes can make a big difference," he said.

Make a plan to start with small adjustments to your use around the home, especially outdoors and in the garden. Keep an eye out for our brightest minds' series of outdoor water tips to help you to reduce your consumption.

>> Take the H₂O IQ quiz on our website to see if you can match our brightest minds.

Did you know? Mackay Regional Council has dogs and cats you can adopt. Visit mackay.qld.gov.au/poundpets to see animals that need loving homes.

Get in early and register for sporting expo

Promote your sporting club and increase memberships for the 2013 sporting year by registering in next year's Sports Expo and Sign-on Day.

To be held on February 10, 2013, the event is expected to attract thousands of community members of all ages.

Sport, Recreation and Facilities portfolio councillor Paul Steindl said this event

Free festival highlights our rich culture

An explosion of music, food and dance will take over Queens Park this month as part of this year's Global Grooves Festival.

The day is guaranteed to provide residents and visitors with the opportunity to experience a range of different cultural traditions, customs and food that they might not ordinarily come across.



Global Grooves Festival 10am to 8pm Sunday October 28 - Queens Park Goldsmith Street Entry is free to the festival

Mayor of Mackay Regional Council Deirdre Comerford said Global Grooves is a celebration of the cultural diversity that our region possesses.

"This festival is one of my personal favourites as it reminds us to appreciate all those who call Mackay home and how they enrich our lives and community," Cr Comerford said.

"Multiculturalism is close to my heart and I know that our migrant community is continually expanding each day and grows stronger with our ever-growing and bustling region."

A number of fantastic new performances that will be showcased at the festival include the African fusion band, Jo Tee and Afrodisia, the Brisbane Babas band and all the way from Vanuatu, the West Ambae Cultural Dance Group.

The night will conclude with a Traditional Lantern Parade and fireworks as part of the Indian Cultural Celebration of Diwali.

>> This year's festival will help celebrate Mackay's 150th birthday, view council's website for more details.

"Sporting clubs realise the potential this day provides in order to promote their group to the region and ultimately increase participation."

>> The event will be held at the MECC. To register your sporting club, visit council's website.

Council notice board:

Make a splash at swimming pools
We have a number of aquatic programs running at our swim centres from Learn 2 Swim, Adult Swim for Fitness and squad training. Improve your skills and get active. To find out costs and times, call 4957 5767.

Active... in the City
This free exercise program has recently launched additional activities for residents including Zumba, Street (SUP) Stand Up Paddle board, Aqua Aerobics and Multi Fit. To view the calendar of dates and times visit council's website.

Children's Week Celebrations 9.30 - 11.30am, October 26 John Breen Park, North Mackay
Come along to this free community event. There will be free show bags, mini golf, jumping castles, magic show and much more. For more info call 4957 7222.

Workers wanted
Council is currently looking to fill a number of full-time positions including at Strategic Planner, Leading Hand, Meter Reader and Labourer. **Apply online at council's website** - for more details phone 1300 MACKAY.

>> To view all the upcoming events and activities, check the 'What's On Calendar' via council's website.

Lesley lends a hand for 10 years

Mackay Regional Council is appreciative of every volunteer that dedicates their valuable time to helping our facilities operate and services exist for our community.

Artspace Mackay volunteer Lesley Kane has been donating her time to the art gallery for almost a decade. Mrs Kane said she loves volunteering at Artspace because it provides her with the opportunity to look at artwork more closely than the general public.



Local resident Lesley Kane loves volunteering at Artspace Mackay.

"I volunteer two afternoons a month and on special occasions when needed," she said.

Her favourite art exhibition to date was GW Bot's, showcased in May this year.

>> To find out how you can make a difference in your community just like Lesley, visit our website.

70s music icon coming to MECC

Next month the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) will welcome Australian music icon, John Paul Young. His visit to Mackay on Sunday, November 4 is part of his 40th Anniversary Tour.

Festival, Events and the Arts portfolio councillor Chris Bonanno said John Paul Young is undoubtedly one of the most popular Australian artists of the 70s.

"A large portion of us would definitely know at least one of his songs with the amount of worldwide hits he has sung during his stellar career," Cr Bonanno said.

Popular hits include Love is in the Air, Yesterday's Hero, I Hate the Music and Standing in the Rain.

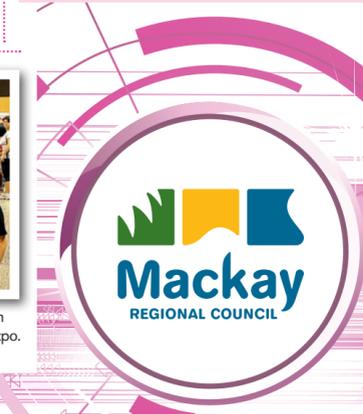
John Paul Young has sold over 4 million records and was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 2009.

Cr Bonanno said those attending the night can expect him to perform all his greatest hits over the last four decades.

>> Book your tickets now for the 7.30pm Sunday, November 4 show by visiting the box office in Alfred Street or ph: 4961 9777 Tickets start from \$55/pp.



Keira James and Donna Reed from Angels Softball team spoke with Vicky, Dakota and Charli Hill at this year's expo.



Mayor Deirdre Comerford welcoming Nikhil Pulapa to the region with his parents Lakshman and Bhargavi.

Bundles of joy welcomed...

Over 40 babies were welcomed to the Mackay region on the weekend at a special ceremony conducted at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

Mayor of Mackay Regional Council Deirdre Comerford said the welcoming ceremony which will be conducted three times a year is not to replace baptisms, naming ceremonies, or any other cultural or traditional events.

"It is about welcoming our new additions to the Mackay community and recognising the role the community has towards raising our future generations."

>> The keep an eye out for the next welcoming ceremony, sign up for the Council Connect eNewsletter via our website.

Major projects being delivered

A number of roads across the region are currently being rehabilitated, upgraded or maintained.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Casey said council is committed to improving and maintaining its road network.

With more than 4000 kilometres of road, footpaths, cycle way, kerbs and channelling to maintain, council crews are frequently out and about.

A key project that is only days away from being completed is Hill End Road between Glenella Road and Davey Street.

Cr Casey said residents and businesses in the area have been praised and thanked for their patience while these works were carried out.

"With that one done and dusted, we are also making great progress on Mangrove Road in the City Centre," he said.

"This job is on target for its original forecasted date which is end of November. We will continue with a combination of day and night work to progress the project in advance of Christmas shopping and the wet season that is approaching."

>> For more information on road works and major projects in the region, visit council's website or call 1300 MACKAY.



Doreen MacKenzie always thinks twice before turning on the air conditioners in her home.

Be smart when cooling down

Mackay Regional Council is encouraging residents to remember the environment as Summer quickly approaches.

Parks and Environment councillor Theresa Morgan said as the weather starts to heat up, we automatically want to keep cool.

"We are asking that you think about the environment first before you rush to turn on the air conditioners," she said.

"Air conditioners are great to have on during those unbearable steamy days, however just remember to set them no lower than 25 degrees as its the most energy-efficient temperature setting for summer."

For more tips and tricks on how to save the environment, visit the ecoMackay website, www.ecomackay.com.au.

>> While online check out the myfootprint calculator to create a personal action plan to save power, water and money.

November 1st marks the start of Storm Season

Living in the Mackay region during summer is beautiful, but it comes with responsibilities. Over the past years, our community has felt the brunt of floods, cyclones and unseasonal rain and council is urging residents to ensure they are adequately prepared for the upcoming summer storm season.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Casey said a few hours spent putting aside supplies and securing your home could mean the difference between life and death.

"Council's Emergency Action Guide available online and at our Customer Service Centres provides valuable information on how to best prepare for the storm season."



>> Council is holding its annual Cyclone Saturday next month at Caneland Central on November 10, for details call 1300 MACKAY.