

Family festival highlights our beautiful river

Enjoy the warmer weather and help raise much needed funds for charity at the Qantaslink River 2 Reef Festival - Saturday, October 6 at Bluewater Quay, River Street.



Last year local charities pocketed over \$60,000 in funds thanks to the River 2 Reef Festival, however the Mayor has challenged the community to raise the bar even higher for 2012.

Mayor of Mackay Regional Council Deirdre Comerford said as a region we have big hearts and when put to the test are very generous to worthwhile causes and charities.

"Often we see locals digging into their pockets and donating what they can to others who are less fortunate or battling for their lives," Cr Comerford said.

A large portion of the funds raised on the day are through popular drawcard and entertaining events including the

Childhood Cancer Support's Pelican Push and Raft Race, the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Seafood Grill and Thiess' River 2 Reef Charity Ride.

"As well as raising money for charity, the day boasts things we North Queenslanders love such as seafood, sand, water activities and plenty of good times," she said.

"With the New Year just around the corner, this last part of the year is a great time for the region as a wide range of community events and activities get underway in the lead up to the festive season."

This year's festival will occur on Saturday, October 6 and will run from 10am to 6.30pm.

The program of events for the day also includes live music, markets, creative kids workshops, a costume parade and Caneland Central's fireworks display.

Cr Comerford mentioned that the River 2 Reef and full program of events will be officially launched tomorrow at the Bluewater Quay.

The 2012 River 2 Reef Festival is proudly presented by Qantaslink, City Centre Businesses and Mackay Regional Council.

>> To stay informed on local events, follow us at facebook.com/mackayregionalcouncil.

Out and about in the region...



Caption: Local mums Stacey and Jane with Caden, Costa, Owen, Ethan and Caleb (L-R).

A picnic blanket, some snacks and a local park or playground is all you need for a fun and affordable outing with the family.

Local mothers Stacey Murray and Jane Healy love catching up while they watch their kids play at John Breen Park, North Mackay.

The ladies who met through taking their children to the same Kindergarten said lunch or dinner in the park can't be beaten.

Marian resident, Stacey Murray mentioned that her family often head to the Harbour Beach after picking up some seafood snacks.

"It's a great area to hold birthday parties and to let the kids run around and burn some energy," Mrs Murray joked.

Both ladies highlight their favourite council facility as the free family-friendly Bluewater Lagoon.

For those who are yet to visit the Bluewater Lagoon, it boasts three tiers of lagoons and provides a safe all-round stinger-free swimming environment.

>> For more details on local playground and parks, as well as the Bluewater Lagoon, visit council's website.

Did you know?
To use any of council's beautiful parks, reserves and foreshores in the region for weddings and social events, you must formally book. Call us to find out how, 1300 622 529.



Example: A sporting team photo.

Don't let the kids get bored

With school holidays just around the corner it's time to book the kids in for some of council's fantastic activities.

From swimming lessons to bird watching, our facilities are certain to have something on offer to make sure your children don't get bored.

Artspace Mackay
Bird watching at the gallery

Aquatic Facilities
Holiday Intensive Learn 2 Swim Sessions and Mission Inflatable

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens
Spring into the Garden activities like Bocce

Greenmount Homestead
Step back in time and tour the homestead to learn about our region's history

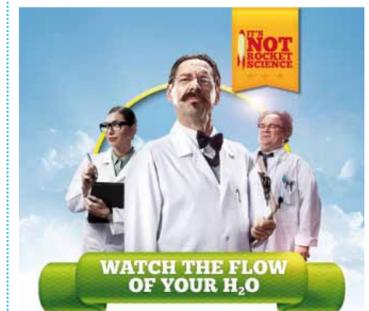
Libraries - Gaming activities, movie night and mystery mayhem

MECC - Dorothy the Dinosaur's Beach Party and Swan Lake



Sarina Sugar Shed
Tour Australia's only working miniature sugar processing mill and distillery.

>> For dates, times and costs, visit council's website or phone 1300 MACKAY to book.



Match our brightest minds

Our brightest minds have put saving water under the microscope and come up with a simple test to measure your H₂O IQ. See if you can match them at mackay.qld.gov.au.

WANTED: Contributions for Capsule

Sporting team photographs, school newsletters, magazines and newspaper articles are just some of the ideas of what you can contribute to our Time Capsule.

As part of Mackay's 150th birthday celebrations, council purchased the Capsule in an effort to capture 2012 and present times.

Community members are being asked to

Council notice board:

New watering times

A easy to remember approach has been adopted for watering hours. Residents are not to water between 10am to 4pm (hottest part of the day). Alternate watering days for odd and even numbers and the levels of restrictions remain in place.

Free guided walk @ Botanic Gardens

Friday from 9.30 to 11am
Take an informative stroll through the Gardens viewing a vast array of foliage, flowers and seeds. Afterwards why not stick around and have lunch at the Lagoons Cafe.

Global Grooves 10am - 8pm Sunday, October 28 Queens Park, Goldsmith Street

Celebrate our local multicultural community at this one day festival promoting arts, music and culture. Entry is free and it's a family-friendly event.

Christmas Grants!

Council is offering one-off grants of up to \$750 for community groups. The funding is to help create some festive magic and end Mackay's 150th year of celebrations in style. Apply by September 28 - contact council.

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

Plumbing laws set to change

From November 1, a new category of plumbing and drainage work known as 'notifiable work' will come into effect.

The new category recognises the skill and training of Queensland plumbers and drainers and will increase the type of work these professions can perform without the need to obtain a plumbing permit or arrange inspections by council.

To ensure that plumbers and drainers, industry representatives, local governments and consumers are aware of how the changes will affect them, the Plumbing Industry Council is holding a series of training seminars across the state. The session for our council area will occur on October 3 at the Central Queensland TAFE College, Sydney Street from 4pm.

Notifiable work fast facts:

- > It will apply to the majority of work performed in existing homes such as bathroom and kitchen renovations.
- > More work will be permitted in the category of 'minor work' which will not require local government approval or notification to the Plumbing Industry Council.

>> To register for the free session, email roadshows@publicworks.qld.gov.au with your name and October 3, Mackay event at CQ TAFE College.



Sandfly Creek a no-go zone

Significant numbers of migratory shorebirds set up camp in the Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve each year from October 1 to April 30.

To minimise disturbance to shorebirds, residents are advised to use an alternative walking/cycling path to access Iluka Park and Town Beach over the next seven months.

Dogs are prohibited in the reserve during this time as they can frighten and disturb the birds from resting and feeding for their annual migration.

The Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve makes part of the Bluewater Trail which is a shared pedestrian and bicycle pathway around the city directly linking local recreational facilities.

>> For more details on an alternative route, visit council's website mackay.qld.gov.au.



It's free, easy and can save lives

Recently during a coroner's inquest into the death of a Pioneer Valley man on a property outside Marian, a Queensland Coroner commended Mackay Regional Council for what he described as a "sensible and possibly life saving approach to rural numbering."

Since being implemented almost two years ago, thousands of people have taken advantage of the rural numbering system.

Rural addressing is a distance based numbering system that allocates a unique address to rural properties. Council provides free star pickets with a reflective rural number that accurately identifies entry to a property.

To arrange one for your property, simply contact council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

By ensuring you have a rural address it can benefit you by helping Emergency Services identify the location, assist with your mail and other service deliveries.

NOTE: Lot numbers are no longer accepted by council or government agencies as official addresses.

>> If you live in a rural area, ensure your property can be easily identified.



Ceremony set to welcome babies

If you have recently become a new parent to a beautiful bundle of joy, we want to know.

Mackay Regional Council has just launched a new initiative, Baby Welcoming Ceremonies.

The first one for the region will be held next month on Sunday, October 14 at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.

Registrations close this Friday (Sep 21).

The ceremony at the Gardens will include hands-on activities and other important information for parents.

Families who have registered to take part are encouraged to bring a picnic and blanket to enjoy a morning celebrating our region's newest additions.

>> To take part in this special ceremony, register online at mackay.qld.gov.au/baby.

Northside road works underway

From today a number of urban streets in Eimeo and Blacks Beach will start a \$620,000 resurfacing works program.

Roads and Infrastructure portfolio councillor Kevin Casey said these works will help to prolong the lifespan of over 30 urban roads.

"There will be disruptions to traffic during this time and motorists are asked for their cooperation and patience," Cr Casey said.

The streets which will receive attention, include the following:

- Camilleri Street
- Dolphin Heads Road
- Armitage Drive
- Slater Avenue

To assist with getting these works underway and completed as soon as possible, residents are asked to obey all displayed sign posting and undertake alternate routes where possible.

All residents in the affected areas have been notified, and work is expected to be completed within two weeks (weather depending).

>> Alternatively, to stay up-to-date with road works in the region, via mackay.qld.gov.au/roads.



Prepare, act and survive

You don't have to live in the bush to be threatened by bush fire, just close enough to be affected by burning material, embers and smoke.

With the fire season now upon us in the Mackay region, land owners both rural and urban are being asked to prepare themselves.

Things you can do to get prepared include cleaning up around your property and developing a bush fire plan.

To learn more on how to do that and for more information, visit Queensland Rural Fire Service's website ruralfire.qld.gov.au. Now is the time to do the preparation, not when a fire is upon your doorstep.

>> Residents are also encouraged to have a council Emergency Action Guide easily accessible at all times, hard copies can be collected at any of our Customer Service Centres.