

Be one of the first to try out Ice City at the MECC

> Double Family Passes up for grabs!



Experience a once in a lifetime opportunity and what it's like to be a penguin skating on ice at Mackay's first ever ice skating rink, Ice City at the MECC.

Glide in air conditioned comfort to great music at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre from December 26 to January 23.

There will also be funky ice fun at Ice Disco Nights scheduled for Friday, December 30 and Friday, January 20 and cute penguin aides to help you glide along the ice.

Manager of the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre Mark Fawcett said to celebrate Mackay's first ever ice skating rink the MECC is giving six lucky readers the chance to win family passes to Ice City.

"There are six family passes up for grabs by entering the Council Connect Christmas Competition. The passes are for two adults and two children and include ice skating rink entry and skate hire."

To enter, simply email council@mackay.qld.gov.au with the subject line 'Council Connect Christmas Competition' and include your name, phone number, street and email address for your chance to be placed in the draw. Winners will be drawn and notified on Friday, December 23.

>> For more information on Ice City visit www.mackayecc.com.au or phone 4961 9777.

Council closures over Christmas



Please be aware of the following closures of council facilities over the Holiday period:

Customer service centres

> Closed from midday December 23 and re-opening on January 3

MECC > Closed from midday December 23 and December 25

Library Services

> All libraries closed from midday December 23 and re-opening on January 3

Artspace Mackay > Closed from midday December 23 and re-opening on January 3

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Administration and the Tropical Shade Garden and The Fernery

> Closed from midday December 23 and re-opening on January 3

Lagoons Café & Gallery > Closed December 24 to 27 and January 1 to 3

Memorial, Pioneer, Mirani and Sarina pools

> Closed December 25, 26 and January 1

Blewater Lagoon

> Open every day (9am to 5.45pm)

Sarina Sugar Shed

> Closed from midday December 23 and re-opening on January 3

Seaforth wading pool

> Closed December 25

>> For more information or for further assistance, phone 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Water restrictions eased

Due to water storage levels being at capacity water restrictions in the Sarina area have been eased.

Water conservation measures in Sarina have been reduced from Level 2 to Level 1 water restrictions.

Water and Wastewater portfolio councillor Deirdre Comerford said the reduction is largely due to the recent completion of infrastructure upgrades and increased confidence in water storage levels.

"The past few years have seen a much higher than average rainfall filling water storages to capacity."

Cr Comerford said the easing of restrictions will allow residents more flexibility with outdoor water use.

"Level 1 water restrictions mean that watering time has doubled, from 4 hours to 8 hours, 3 days a week."

Residents are still however urged to be mindful of their water use and keep within the restriction levels to ensure the additional demand can be managed by the system.

>> For a full list of the water conservation measures in your area contact council on 1300MACKAY (622 529) or visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au.

Australia Day awards and celebrations...



Mayor Col Meng with 2011 Sarina award winners

Mackay is full of unsung heroes, the neighbour who is always willing to lend a hand and the student who is always representing our region. To pay tribute to our unsung heroes nominate them today for a 2012 Australia Day Award.

Mayor Col Meng said so far the response has been disappointing, considering the exceptional work and tireless efforts of many in our community.

"With so many local achievers within our community who regularly inspire and encourage us with their dedication and outstanding contributions we should be overwhelmed with nomination forms," Cr Meng said.

"The nomination process is extremely simple and I hope to see many more candidates put forward in the coming weeks."

The two major award categories are Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year with Community Awards, Sportsperson of the Year, Young Sportsperson of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Community Event of the Year and Cultural Award handed out in Mackay, Sarina and the Pioneer Valley.

Cr Meng said to be crowned an Australia Day Award recipient really is a special achievement.

Nominations close on January 9 and

residents can nominate people via completing a nomination form online at council's website or by completing a hardcopy nomination form which are available from any of council's three Customer Service Centres.

The winning recipients for each area will be presented their awards at the Mackay Regional Council and P. Comino and Sons Australia Day celebrations in Sarina, Finch Hatton and Mackay.

January 26,
SARINA CULTURAL HALL
12.30 - 2.30pm

Storm Season is here – be prepared!

Emergency kit is an essential

The official storm season has started in Mackay and in the event of a cyclone, storm surge or flood an emergency kit will help keep you and your family safe.

Your kit should contain items such as:

- > Battery-operated radio (with spare batteries)
- > Torch (with spare batteries)
- > Fresh water
- > Sturdy gloves
- > First Aid Kit
- > Medications
- > Toiletry and sanitary supplies
- > Non-perishable food and can opener
- > Baby formula
- > Important documents and cash
- > Emergency phone numbers
- > Sleeping bags
- > Clothes
- > Fully charged mobile phone

Make sure your Emergency Kit is kept in a waterproof storage container and the stock is not out of date.

Council's Emergency Action Guide provides valuable information on how to best prepare for the storm season.

>> Copies are available at council's Customer Service Centres and on our website.



Did you know?

By subscribing to council's Facebook page you will receive updates on what's happening in the region, special events and disaster management info. Sign up to council's Facebook page today: www.facebook.com/mackayregionalcouncil.

New Years Eve Celebrations

Welcome 2012 at council's family-friendly party

Saturday, December 31
6pm to midnight
at the MECC Precinct Lawn between Artspace and MECC, Gordon St

The Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre Precinct Lawns will be a hive of activity this New Years Eve!

Get your family and friends together, bring along a blanket and join in the celebrations.

Mayor Col Meng said there will be plenty of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy.

"Kids will have a ball singing and dancing along to popular Brisbane children's performers, the Fabulous Lemon Drops," he said.

"Adults will also be able to sit back, dance and enjoy the sounds of visiting group Creedence Clearwater Recycled."



"There is definitely not a shortage of entertainment with a number of local bands also performing including the Fat Cigars and Kristalex, kids activities, face painting, train rides and great food."

Also on the night party-goers will be treated to two sets of fireworks at 9pm and midnight to cater for the young and old.

Admission to Mackay Regional Council's 2011 New Years Eve celebration is free. Please remember this is a family-friendly event and alcohol is prohibited.

>> For more information on the night of celebrations, log onto council's website or phone 1300 MACKAY.

Road update:



Council has completed 75 per cent of its flood damage repair works on the unsealed road network. This represents 750 kms of unsealed roads.

School Holiday Guide >

Keep the kids entertained these school holidays at council facilities. There is plenty to see and do right across the region:

> Christmas Party time at Sarina Library

> Mission Inflatable at the Pioneer and Memorial Swim Centres

> Drawing in Nature at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

> Movie Night for Teens at Gordon White Library

> Kids Art Trails at Artspace Mackay

> Learn 2 Swim Intensive Sessions at the Pioneer Pool

>> For more info visit council's website or call 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529).

Not to be missed - the 2012 Sports Expo

Following the success of the first ever Sports Expo and Sign-on Day in Mackay, council in partnership with Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal promise a bigger and better event for 2012.

The Sports Expo to be held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre on Sunday, February 12 from 10am to 2pm will provide residents with the chance to come and learn about all the various sport and recreation opportunities that are available in the Mackay region.

Health, Sport and Recreation portfolio councillor Paul Steindl said there is sure to be something for the whole family with over 90 sport clubs from 58 different sporting activities available on the day.

"The clubs involved will have information available on training times and locations, uniforms and equipment and hands on demonstrations of what they do with the opportunity to have a go," he said.



The 2012 Sports Expo and Sign on Day is proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, the Australian Sports Commission – Active After School Communities, Sporting Wheelies, Department of Communities, Sport and Recreation under the Queensland Government – all of whom are supportive of making the Mackay region a healthier place through regular physical activity.

>> For more information contact council's Sport and Recreation coordinator Gemma O'Neil on 1300MACKAY or email sport@mackay.qld.gov.au

