



COUNCIL - in brief -

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Go online for ANZAC Day service details

Next week on April 25, ANZAC Day commemoration ceremonies will be held to acknowledge and remember the service of our veterans and all Australians who have served and died in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. Visit our website for the full listing of over 17 locations which are holding services in the region.

Help keep our beaches beautiful

Council together with Reef Catchments regularly hold coastcare activities at the beaches in the Mackay region. You are encouraged to come along and help with dune planting, weeding, watering and rubbish collection. The next activities are planned for May 11 at Bucasia and Shoal Point. Visit our website for all the details.

Let your furry friend off at one our parks

Council has a number of off leash dog parks in the region which are located at Camilleri Street Park in Eimeo, Bucasia Beach, Town Beach and Campwin Beach. Owners are reminded that their dog must be under effective control while in the area as well as be registered with council, and most importantly always scoop the poop.

Join the fitness craze today



From yoga on Sarina's golden beach front to aqua classes at Mirani and Cape Hillsborough, Healthy Rural Communities Mackay (HRCM) is providing residents in our rural areas with convenient, fun and low cost fitness options.

An initiative of Mackay Regional Council, HRCM is an Australian Government funded program which has spread like wild-fire across the Mackay region.

From tai chi and yoga to aqua lite and gentle exercise, HRCM is helping hundreds of residents improve their fitness, with over 300 people taking part in the gold coin classes each week.

Community Development portfolio councillor Alison Jones said the program

encourages residents in rural areas to live a healthier lifestyle.

"Don't let the grass grow under your feet - this is the message being promoted through the Healthy Communities program," she said.

"It's never too late to get out of the house, be active and try something new."

Cr Jones said we see men and women from 20 to 70 years of age trying different

classes, forming friendships and having a great time."

New activities are being added to the timetable each month with fitness classes starting soon in Calen and a Health and Fitness Muster planned for Midge Point in May.

Classes are run by local identities with a passion and keen interest for making a difference in their community. HRCM is providing opportunities for residents



Mary Barbour, Joanne Galea and Desma Maguire love making a splash at Aqua Lite.

to become qualified teachers of Tai Chi at a workshop this Friday (April 19).

With classes in Finch Hatton, Walkerston, Louisa Creek, Seaforth, North Eton, Gargett, Eungella, Habana and soon in Calen, fitness has never been more accessible and affordable for residents in our rural communities.

Cr Jones said don't let the grass grow under your feet, try a class and enjoy the benefits of a healthier lifestyle.

To view the timetable of activities visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/hrcm. For further information contact Christine or Jodie on 4961 9668 or email hc@mackay.qld.gov.au.

You're invited to the Health and Fitness Muster 'Come and Try Day'

Wednesday, May 15 from 10am to 2pm at the Community Hall in Midge Point.

The session is free so why not see what it's all about for yourself.

Did you know?

When recycling items such as aluminium cans, paper, cardboard and glass bottles in your yellow-lidded bin place them in loosely, not inside plastic bags. Remember: Don't bag recycling!

Heritage Fair just around the corner

Greenmount Homestead will be in pristine condition in time for next month's Heritage Fair on Sunday, May 26.

The Homestead is currently being polished and painted in preparation for the Fair and as a result remains closed to visitors until the restoration project is finished.

>> For more details on Greenmount Homestead's Heritage Fair, visit www.mackay.qld.gov.

Time to volunteer

Volunteering is a rewarding activity that allows you to give back to your community whilst making new friends and learning new skills. Council has a number of facilities and areas that are in need of volunteers to lend a helping hand.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said volunteering is what defines a community.

"People willing to give their

>> To register, call Carrie Jones on 1300 622 529.

Staff pitch in to help the homeless

Hundreds of Mackay Regional Council staff swapped their uniforms for a day of casual wear in support of raising funds for the homeless.

Staff raised \$880 and used the funds to purchase swags for the recent Mackay Homeless Expo held at St Pauls Uniting Church Hall.

The Expo provided those doing it tough or living on the street with a chance to

time and their skill set to meet the various needs of the community," she said.

"If we all did a little volunteering no-one would be left with a lot to do."

To find out more about volunteering register for our free seminar on May 17. The session runs for an hour from 1.30pm at council's administration building, Gordon Street.



Andrea Satireyo hands over the new swags.

get health checks, collect clothes and toiletries, enjoy a barbecue lunch, get a hair cut and collect swags and blankets.

Dreams can come true with funding

A local resident who prefers to be known by his stage name, Tom Gardiner, has a dream to produce great theatre productions in Mackay but needed a little help to develop his skill set.

After becoming one of six successful applicants to share in \$26,000 worth of funding as part of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) he will now travel to Cairns to attend the Enter Stage Wright program.

This program helps writers and regional theatre makers develop the skills necessary to excel in their field. Tom received \$960 in funding, which will cover his flights and accommodation in Cairns so that he can attend the three day program.

Applications for round 4 close on Wednesday, May 22 at 4.30pm. Visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/grants to apply.



One of council's new Gross Pollutant Traps.

Aiming for greener, cleaner waterways

Contaminants lurking in our waterways are being put through the wringer.

In a project funded by council's Natural Environment Levy, three Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT's) have recently been installed in urban stormwater drains located on Boundary Road and Farrellys Road.

In addition to reducing the amount of pollutants entering the Coral Sea and reaching the Barrier Reef, the traps

come with an added benefit of capturing pollutant data.

This data will allow Mackay Regional Council to target the point source of the pollution and develop ways to prevent these contaminants from entering our waterways.

The first report on the findings of these traps is currently being compiled. Keep up to date on the results by visiting council's website, www.mackay.qld.gov.au.



Aki Doolan and her daughter Mina Doolan create origami.

Learn about our sister city through art...

We may not have a public holiday or see colourful Carp fish flying outside buildings but families can still celebrate Japan's Children's Day at a special art workshop.

Origami, calligraphy and colouring traditional Carp fish are some of the activities you can enjoy at the free Children's Day workshop on Sunday, May 5 at Artspace Mackay.

Arranged by members of the Mackay-Matsuura committee along with community members of Sister Cities Mackay, the activities expose children to the culture of our Japanese sister city, Matsuura.

Mackay-Matsuura Committee member Aki Doolan said the fifth day of the fifth month was set aside to celebrate children's personalities and their happiness.

"The sky is transformed into a sea of colour as carp fish flags fly high."

Community Development portfolio councillor Alison Jones said children would create their very own carp flag and have their name translated into Japanese calligraphy.

No bookings are required - just drop in anytime from 10am to 1pm.



Read magazines at the click of a mouse...

Kaaren Sephton is excited to start reading her favourite magazines free of charge thanks to the libraries' Zinio collection.

Magazine fans will be excited to hear that they can save a substantial amount of money by becoming a library member.

Mackay Regional Council Libraries have recently introduced a new service called Zinio, which can be used by library members to download all their favourite magazines online free of charge.

Zinio provides access to over 100 magazine titles including

a number of best-selling food, lifestyle, sport and computing publications, among others.

These magazines can be read on a variety of devices such as PC, Mac, iPhone, iPad, Android, Kindle Fire and Blackberry Playbook.

Kaaren Sephton of Mirani is thrilled with this new addition to the libraries' services.

"I read magazines quite often, some of my favourites are

Poets & Writers Magazine, Outdoor Photographer and Better Homes and Gardens," she said.

"I think this is an excellent new addition to the library services and not having to pay for magazines that I can read whenever and wherever I like is a great benefit."

To take advantage of this service visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries and click on the Zinio link.

Kids, it's time to get creative!

We are on the hunt for our most talented film makers in the Mackay region.

The popular LitVids competition is where school students enter a book trailer - a short film that is aimed to get people interested in reading a book rather than watching a movie.

The competition is for 12 to 19 year olds who have an interest in film and television and/or animation and who would like to go in the running to score some great prizes.

Download a registration form at www.mackay.qld.gov.au/litvids and find out all you need to know on the competition.

It's free to enter and entries close on June 24 - make a start on your entry today.

>> Free LitVids workshops are planned for May 15 and 18. Register now.

Share a ride with mates to work



Shamrock Civil employees Waldo Oosthuizen, Dan McHugh, Francis Kiely and Glenn Jones enjoy carpooling to work.

Carpooling will save you money, reduce wear and tear on your car and gas emissions on the environment plus minimise the volume of traffic on the roads - all great reasons to give it a go.

Mackay Regional Council even has a website to make it easier for you to find like-minded people carpooling to and from work.

Simply log on to www.mackayregioncarpool.org to take the hassle out of finding

someone - this website will do it all for you.

All you need to do is register, select your journey, find a possible carpooling match and start carpooling.

Shamrock Civil employee Frances Kiely said going to work together is great as we can discuss what we are going to be doing at work on that day.

"If everyone carpoled we could all spend less time in our cars going to and from work."