

Act of kindness will help clear your naughty overdue fees >

Wipe your overdue library fees and help those less fortunate in our community this Christmas.

If you've been naughty this year council is giving you the chance to be nice and donate non-perishable food items instead of paying your overdue fines.

Community Services and Facilities portfolio councillor Karen May said the Food for Fines program provides Mackay Regional Council library members with overdue items the opportunity to donate non-perishable items instead of paying the fine.

"The donated food will be given to local charity St.Vincent de Paul who distribute the goods to people in need in the lead up to Christmas," Cr May said.

Library members simply donate non-perishable food to the same value of their fine at any of Mackay Regional Council's library branches.

"Food items must be non-perishable, new and within the use-by date and be at least of equal value to the over due fines being waived," she said.

Council's Library Services have over 65,000 members with more than 675,000 items borrowed this year to date.

Cr May said to continue to provide our community with an excellent library service we need the overdue items returned and currently there are a number of

books, CDs, DVDs and magazines that have not been returned for over 12 months.

"In 2010, \$3800 worth of fines were waived over all six library branches and to date we currently have over 6000 overdue items waiting to be returned. I hope those residents really make the most of this opportunity to clear their slate and donate."

>>The program runs until Thursday, December 15 - for more information log onto mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries



State Government introduces new waste levy

Waste management is about to change in Queensland with the State Government introducing a \$35 per tonne waste levy from December 1.

Commercial, industrial, construction and demolition businesses will have to pay the new levy, which council is required to collect.

Waste services portfolio councillor Greg Thomsen said residential customers and waste that is recycled will be exempt from the new charge.

"This is a Queensland Government charge that has been brought in with the aim to reduce waste to landfill."

"Council has no choice but to collect the levy on behalf of the State."

>> For further info visit the State Government's website www.derm.qld.gov.au.



\$1000 arts bursary up for grabs

Young artists have the chance to secure a \$1000 arts bursary funded by The Artspace Mackay Foundation and supported by Mackay Regional Council, the Hands on Bursary.

The bursary is open to local residents aged 17 to 25 including current Year 12 students who gain acceptance into a recognised tertiary arts course in 2012.



Hands on Bursary was created in recognition of the late Rick Wood who was well known in the community for his service to and enthusiasm for the arts.

>> For assistance with applying, contact the Artspace Mackay Foundation on 4957 2299. Don't leave it to the last minute, applications close January 20.

Tis' the season to be jolly...

One and all are invited to celebrate Christmas with Mackay Regional Council at a variety of Community Christmas Tree celebrations and Carols in the Gardens.

At each event there will be plenty of food and drink stalls for carollers, an exciting line-up of local and visiting performers, an appearance by Santa Claus and the magical lighting of the Christmas tree.

Council's Christmas tree celebrations are at the following locations:

> Calen - Saturday, December 3 on McIntyre Street from 5.30pm

Rebuilding our Roads

Council is busy 'Rebuilding our Road' network prior to the wet season.

Roads to be repaired/upgraded in the Sarina area include:

> Petersen St, reconstruction works between Place Avenue and Sarina Coast Road

> Tennis Court Road, grading repairs

> Armstrong Beach Road, road reconstruction and rehabilitation of the pavement

>> Regular updates detailing work schedules and projects are available on our website - www.mackay.qld.gov.au



> Walkerston - Saturday, December 3 at Anzac Park from 6.30pm

> Sarina - Wednesday, December 7 on Broad Street from 5.30pm

> Mackay - Saturday, December 10 at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre from 5.30pm

The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Christmas in the Gardens will be held on Saturday, December 17, at the Gardens from 5.30pm.

>> These events are family friendly and alcohol free



Save on travel expenses

If you would like to save money on travel expenses and reduce your greenhouse gas emissions then visit council's free online carpooling website, www.mackayregioncarpool.org.

By registering your details on the website you will be linked with other commuters travelling in the same direction.

Parks and Natural Environment portfolio councillor Ross Walker said there are so many benefits to carpooling.

"By being a carpooler you save money on travel costs, reduce your greenhouse gas emission and also help to reduce traffic congestion around the city."



For further information visit the carpooling website. There is a long list of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) to ensure you are fully equipped with all the information you need to know.

This sustainability initiative is supported by Mackay Regional Council and Ergon Energy.

>> To get started simply visit www.mackayregioncarpool.org and register your details.

Be prepared this storm season

Do you know what a storm surge is?



Along with high winds and flooding rains, cyclones produce storm surges, a raised dome of water. Unlike a tidal wave or tsunami, which comes crashing onto shores as one wall of water, a storm surge reaches the coastline like a rapidly rising tide.

A storm surge can reach from one to 12 metres above the normal sea level, affecting a coastal length of up to 100 kilometres. All cyclones may produce a storm surge, but not all surges are dangerous.

Mayor Col Meng said it's important to know what colour area your home is in.

"If an evacuation is ordered, the colour will be broadcast over the radio," Cr Meng said.

Storm surge maps are available in council's Emergency Action Guide or on council's website.

>> Pick up your free copy of council's Emergency Action Guide at any of council's Customer Service Centres.



Tell the region about your event

2012 is the year of celebration and we want to know about your events. Council's Event Calendar is your one-stop shop to find out information about specific sesquicentennial celebrations.

Mayor Col Meng said the online calendar is easily accessible and very user friendly.

"Go online, put in the details and submit your event, it's that easy," he said.

Council has a number of events planned during 2012, but it is important that all community and charity events are listed on the council Mackay 150 calendar.

"It really is an opportunity for our region to celebrate our stories, our people and our places," Cr Meng said.

>> To lodge an event visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au

Did you know?

Sarina is the second largest urban centre within the Mackay Regional Council area, serving 12,215 people. Visit council's economic development webpage to find out the latest housing and population statistics.

Sarina business email network

Stay up-to-date with the latest business news and receive feedback via council's Sarina Focus e-business network.

The electronic network offers anyone involved, or with an interest in business, access to a range of web based information, links, email updates and to share in networking opportunities offered through face-to-face forum style events,

Join in and have a splashing good time

Dive in, splash around and have a good time at the Big Splash Swim-a-thon at the Pioneer Swim Centre on Saturday, November 26 from 11 am.

Health, Sport and Recreation portfolio councillor Paul Steindl said from as little as a gold coin donation residents can become involved in this fantastic event to help raise funds for the Royal Life Saving Society and Mackay Life Stream.

"Whether you're an avid sports star or think being pushed along in an inflatable boat is more your style, we encourage everyone of all abilities to have a go and have some fun," he said.

"There is a sausage sizzle, a reef trip for 2 up for grabs and the Mission Inflatable obstacle course will be in operation at the end of the day."

There are a variety of challenge categories available for nomination including sponsored lap swims, kickboard races, relay, ball and novelty races.



Nomination forms are available from any of council's Aquatic Facilities and council's website.

>> This event is brought to you by Mackay Regional Council, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, Theiss, Sandvik and SeaFM.

Nominate a local hero today

Mackay is full of unsung heroes, the friend who volunteers helping the elderly, the student who is always fundraising for a good cause and the family member who loves community sport.

To pay tribute to our local heroes nominate them today for a 2012 Australia Day Award.

Nominations close January 9, 2012.



>> Nomination forms are available on council's website and council's Customer Service Centres and libraries.

