



COUNCIL - in brief -

Xmas cheer region wide

Council will provide one-off grants to regional communities keen to organise their own Christmas event. Applications close on Friday, October 4 (visit mackay.qld.gov.au to apply). Additionally, the festive spirit will be felt across the City Centre with tree installation, street banners and Carols in the City at the MECC on Saturday, December 7.

Don't beach your thoughts

Council is calling on one and all to offer your thoughts on the future management of Mackay's Town and Far beaches. A draft plan for these areas is now available on council's website (mackay.qld.gov.au) until 4pm on Friday, November 1. Beach plans identify the natural assets, issues and on-ground activities needed at each beach to protect our coast into the future.

Comment now on 5-year plan

Jump online and offer your thoughts on the way our region's waste is managed: it's all part of the draft Waste Management Strategic Plan. The plan presents council's vision for the region's management of solid waste over the next five years. Have your say at mackay.qld.gov.au/wastestrategy.

Tinker with technology

Drawdio, Makey Makey and a 3D printer – these are some of the weird and wonderful activities 9-16 year olds can get their hands into and minds into at their local library. Our very own library will be the first in the state to trial the MakerSpaces Mackay program courtesy of a State Government grant. To be launched at Gordon White Library on Thursday, September 26 from 9am-1pm and Friday, September 27 from 3pm-6pm, the program will be rolled out across all regional libraries over the year.

Saturation works are in full swing

\$10 million flood packages awarded to local contractors

Almost 200 flood-damaged urban roads in the Mackay Regional Council area will be restored by June next year.

Starting in October, contractor Downer EDI will undertake \$6.5 million worth of rehabilitation work on urban roads affected by the 2012 flood event.

Major urban works will occur on: Penn, Napier, MacKenzie, Hume and Hastings streets.

Cr Casey said council was committed to maintaining the flow of information between council, contractors and the community.

In addition, contractor BMD Urban will carry out the remainder of the flood-restoration program; taking on a \$3.85 million contract to restore about 80 rural roads this financial year (also starting in October).

Significant rural road rehabilitation will take place on the following roads: Glenella-Richmond, Grasree Beach, McEwens Beach, Dawlish, Lawrie and Turners Paddock.

These flood packages are funded by the National Disaster Relief Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) program.

"With significant works such as this occurring across the region simultaneously over a period of time, council is committed to working closely with residents and business owners in affected areas well ahead of the commencement of these projects," Cr Casey said.

On top of these saturation rehabilitation works, council will spend \$35.6 million on new roads and drainage projects and \$14.8 on existing road maintenance throughout the region this financial year.

"Additionally our unsealed



Roads and Drainage portfolio councillor Kevin Casey and Downer EDI project manager Adon Dinsmore discuss upcoming rehabilitation works on Hume Street.

road maintenance remains a \$4.5 million priority," Cr Casey said.

"All of this means there will be a lot of road work activity on

our region's roads; therefore, I urge pedestrians, cyclists and motorists approaching affected areas to be alert, take care and adhere to all signage and barricading.

"Council is grateful for the patience and understanding displayed by everyone during the necessary ongoing rehabilitation of our region's vital road network."

>> Stay up to date on all ongoing road works across the Mackay region at mackay.qld.gov.au/roads.



Cr Laurence Bonaventura, left, demonstrates council's construction recycling project.

Smashing initiative

More than two tonnes of recycled glass have been crushed for reuse in a footpath upgrade at council's Civic Precinct.

Waste, Health and Regulatory Services portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura said this was the second time the material has been used successfully as drainage aggregate in a construction project.

recyclables locally; currently, our recycled glass has to be transported to facilities in South East Queensland for processing," he said.

"Not only is this costly, but it also adversely impacts upon our environment. Having the ability to produce and use a product locally is a far better option."

If the trial proves feasible, it's hoped the existing Material Recovery Facility will expand to allow for glass crushing onsite next year.

"The success of these trials is a positive step in finding alternative uses for our

WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H₂O

Large amounts of water evaporate from a pool; having a pool cover significantly reduces this.

Remember to read your water meter regularly to detect a leak.

Save the date

> **Global Grooves: October 27 at Queens Park from 9am to 8pm.** Enjoy a variety of cultural food stalls, workshops, classes, village areas and entertainment; entry is free.

> **Botanica VIII: Until November 23 at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Lagoons Gallery, Wed-Sun, 9am to 4pm.** An exhibition by Mackay Botanical Art Interest Group showcasing colourful, curious and captivating flora from our local region.

> **Insight: Hermannsburg Potters Collection of the Moreton Bay Regional Council until October 20 at Artspace Mackay.** Contains vibrantly coloured and original ceramic artworks by female indigenous artists. These pots offer a quirky insight into life in the Central Desert of Australia.

>> Visit mackay.qld.gov.au for more events.



Andergrove mum Kellie and daughter Madyson Draheim, 11, look forward to cooling off – yet still using water wisely – this spring.

We can all do our bit to save water this spring

As the rain dries up and the weather gets warmer, it's more important now than ever to watch the flow of our H₂O.

Our water network is built to cope with spikes in demand due to everyday activities, but it's not built to cope with demand caused by excessive outdoor water use during summer. In fact, over the past few months water use has increased by an average of

37 million litres per week!

This kind of excessive demand can cause our region's treatment plants to reach pumping capacity, resulting in potentially serious problems for our community.

If we keep using water this way, millions of dollars will need to be invested in new, larger water infrastructure, with the costs passed directly on to the community.

The simpler solution; watch the flow of your H₂O, reduce demand and delay the need to upgrade.

Think twice this summer ... it's not rocket science!

POOL OWNER'S ENERGY-SAVING TIP: To save energy and money ask your electrician if you are on the right tariff.

>> Water bills will be issued in November for consumption from April to September. For more details visit mackay.qld.gov.au.

REVAMPED!



The old Grendon Park.



The new park now boasts picnic tables, playground equipment and barbecue facilities.

Working together reaps rewards

With an ever-tight budget council is firmly committed to achieving more with less, however, "by working together with local business, we can certainly achieve more and our alliance with BMA is one such example," Mayor Deirdre Comerford said.

BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA) Hay Point Expansion Stage Three Project (HPX3) recently

helped council deliver two community projects – a \$2.5 million upgrade to Grendon Park and Half Tide Foreshore Development and 230 additional sealed and lit car park sites at Leisure Court.

Cr Comerford said corporate partnerships allowed these projects to be fast tracked.

"Grendon Park needed an upgrade; now it's a place

residents can sit back, enjoy a picnic and let the kids play for hours. Council would not have been in a position to deliver these upgrades until our budget allowed it," she said.

Council thanked BMA for giving back to our community.

>> For info on working with council go to mackay.qld.gov.au.

Have a splashing good time down by the river

That's what the Bluewater Ecofest is all about!

A combination of the former River 2 Reef festivities and ecoMackay Expo, the new festival promotes the great lifestyle and sustainable-living opportunities our community has to offer.

Festival, Events and The Arts portfolio councillor Chris Bonanno encouraged

residents to check out the Ergon Energy Ecofest Marquee.

"There'll be some fantastic giveaways; pick up a water timer and gain composting and gardening tips from ABC Gardening Australia's Jerry Coleby-Williams," he said.

The butterfly enclosure is a must-see and our Mobile Library will be on site."

On the river there'll be plenty of action with the Pelican Push, Raft Race, Duck Derby and wake boarding demonstrations.



Free entry!



Phoebe Patching, 12, at Pioneer Valley Museum.

Fossil livens up museum visit

Five million years ago, this fossil (above) was the jaw of a five-metre crocodile with conical teeth and a broad snout – perfect for ambushing its prey in shallow waters.

With a head that looked like it'd been run over by a steamroller, this robust predator was every bit as dangerous as it looked ...

While this reads like a campfire urban legend, the tale is completely fact, not fiction. Dating back to the early-Pliocene to late-

Pleistocene period, this fossil is actually famous – it's the most complete of its kind in the world!

Found in the Nebo area by Jack Williams, the Pioneer Valley Museum acquired this fossil, along with its entire collection featuring war memorabilia, natural history, geology and aboriginal artefacts in 1986.

This extinct croc species is called a *Pallimnarchus Gracilis* which lived in the central areas of Australia and

in the Gulf of Carpentaria; it's believed it became extinct one million years ago.

Other drawcards on show at the museum include furniture from the original Mirani Court House, the sugar workers strike flag and photos and stories depicting the settlement of Australian South Sea Islanders in the Pioneer Valley.

>> The museum is open Tues to Thurs, 9.30am to 2.30pm, phone 4961 9229.



The Raft Race will be a Bluewater Ecofest highlight.

>> Check out the full program at www.festivalmackay.org.au.