



Council drives Evans Ave project forward

Check us out – stop and shop! That's one of the key messages Evans Avenue businesses are keen to promote in their new radio campaign.

Tourism and Economic Development portfolio councillor Greg Martin said this advertising initiative was the brainchild of the North Mackay Place Makers group – made up of council representatives and Evans Avenue traders.

"With \$2 million worth of work happening in Evans Avenue, one of our top priorities is to minimise disruption to motorists, traders and their customers," he said.

"We've received fantastic support from traders; more

than 20 people turned out to each of our meetings to table their ideas and we've received some really positive feedback to work with.

"As a group we're considering branding or naming the precinct, delivering more joint marketing campaigns and looking at the possibility of staging events and markets in the area."

Businesses are also contemplating introducing employee rewards programs to boost spending in the area and a website is being created to encourage locals

in particular to rediscover this vibrant, diverse trading centre.

Cr Martin said council was committed to working closely with all local businesses to support their growth and future expansion.

"Creating more jobs and strengthening the social, economic and environmental outcomes for our community is a key objective we'll continue to drive forward," he said.

When complete the new look Evans Avenue precinct



Tourism and Economic Development portfolio Cr Greg Martin (right) and Carpet One's Russell Allen invite one and all to stop and shop in Evans Avenue.

will feature 32 two-hour parking spaces (including two disabled spots), three bus stops and a loading zone to enhance traffic flow and turnover. The revamp also involves stormwater system and water reticulation improvements, road and pavement rehabilitation and median island works. The entire project is expected to be wrapped up by late January.

>> For updates on all council-related road works visit mackay.qld.gov.au/roads.

>> For Evans Avenue updates go to mackay.qld.gov.au/evansavenue.

Donna Kellion and Nicole Hunt get ready for Food for Fines at Mackay Regional Council Libraries.



Satisfy your sweet tooth

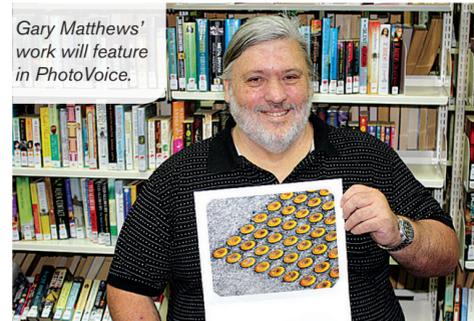
Spoil someone special with a sweet treat from Sarina Sugar Shed this festive season.

All hampers are made to order and hand packed in stylish boxes.

Choose from their delicious range including their signature Sugar Shed Rum, liqueurs and gourmet sauces as well as homemade treats such as rum balls, Christmas cakes and shortbreads.

To order your hamper simply visit the Sarina Sugar Shed Gift Shop located in the Field of Dreams Parkland, Railway Square, Sarina, phone 4943 2801 or email info@sarinasugarshed.com.au.

>> For more info visit sarinasugarshed.com.au.



Gary Matthews' work will feature in PhotoVoice.

Art reflects daily access struggle

Accessing facilities and services is a daily challenge for Gary Matthews who has been confined to a wheelchair since he was 40.

To highlight the positives, reflect the challenges and express their views on disability access within our region, Gary together with 10 participants have contributed to the PhotoVoice project, which will culminate in a public photography exhibition at Mackay City Library from December 3-7. All works

in this display are by locals with a range of disabilities. "Nothing stays with you more than an image; I hope these photos encourage a greater understanding of access issues, leading to increased accessibility for everyone," Mr Matthews said.

This project is made possible thanks to Deaf Services Queensland, Mackay Regional Council, the Regional Social Development Centre (RSDC) and the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF).

>> To RSVP to the official opening at 10am on Dec 3 at Mackay City Library call Andrea on 4961 9536.

Planning three days ahead is key

Are you prepared for the unexpected? Mackay Regional Council is urging one and all to have their emergency kits at the ready in preparation for storm season.

Emergency Portfolio councillor and Mayor Deirdre Comerford advised residents to pack their emergency kit in a similar fashion to how they'd prepare for a camping trip.

"Ensuring you have enough

food, water, toiletries, medical supplies, cash, etc, for at least three days is vital," she said.

"With the Bureau of Meteorology predicting four cyclones to form in the Coral Sea, now is the time to get ready. Make sure you clean up your backyard, secure any loose items, discuss your emergency evacuation and pet emergency plans with your family and prepare an emergency kit."

And after attending council's Cyclone Saturday event, locals Robin and Raewyn Gordon are well prepared.

The couple was among hundreds of people who attended the information day earlier this month at Caneland Central.

If you missed Cyclone Saturday you can pick up an Emergency Action Guide at any of council's client services centres or visit council's website for details.

>> Download council's Emergency Action Guide at mackay.qld.gov.au/emergency and visit getready.qld.gov.au to receive weekly tips.



Council's Emergency Management Coordinator Anthony Lee helps Robin and Raewyn Gordon get ready for storm season.



Figtree Bridge on Mt Charlton Road, Calen, is ready to be sealed. This project is one of four current bridge rehabilitation projects undertaken by council.

Bridge works wrap up

Four 50-year-old Calen bridges will benefit from rehabilitation works to the collective tune of more than \$150,000 along Mt Charlton Road.

Roads and Drainage portfolio councillor Kevin Casey said these projects were a reflection of council's \$500,000 commitment

to bridge rehabilitations throughout the Mackay region.

Work on Green Bridge is now finished, however, rehabilitation is still ongoing at the following Calen locations:

- > Omega Bridge
- > Pigtree Bridge
- > Figtree Bridge.

These projects, which involve the replacement of deteriorated timber sections, will ensure the structural capacity of each bridge is maintained. Stage 1 is currently in full swing and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the month. Further work on the remaining three bridges will begin in the New Year.

Kids, council collaborate

Each and every one of us is a member of Team Recycling Mackay and it's up to us to reduce, reuse and recycle our waste.

This is the award-winning message now featured on council's waste education trailer, designed by Victoria Park State School student Emma Manzmenn.

"Recycling is important and I really wanted to capture everyone's attention," Emma said.

"My artwork is bright and colourful and reminds people that we need to work together, recycle our cans and reduce and reuse our waste to protect our environment."

Principal of Victoria Park State School Laurie



Cr Laurence Bonaventura and Victoria Park school principal Laurie Shepherd congratulate student Emma Manzmenn on having her recycling message featured on council's waste education trailer.

Shepherd said council's waste education trailer was a great asset. "Sometimes we can't get to council's Material Recovery Facility,

however, the trailer can be parked in our grounds and students can still learn about recycling and sustainable practices," he said.

>> To book a waste education trailer visit call 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Save the date

> Jessica Mauboy To the End of the Earth tour: 7.30pm on Nov 27 at MECC

> BMA Kidspace Christmas Special: 10am to 2pm on Dec 3 at Artspace Mackay (art, singing, dancing)

> Belinda Carlisle The Heaven on Earth tour: 8pm on Dec 4 at MECC

> Carols in the City: 6.45pm on Dec 7 at MECC

> Christmas in the Gardens: 5.30pm to 8.30pm on Dec 14 at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

> Ice City II: Dec 26 to Jan 19 at MECC

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

WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H₂O

If you have automatic timers, install a rain sensor that automatically turns the water off when it rains.

COUNCIL - in brief -

Residents tap into timers

Thousands of people can now watch the flow of their H2O more effectively after taking advantage of council's October tap timer giveaway. The outdoor timers will help residents cut water use by automatically turning off sprinklers at a pre-set time, reducing the amount being left on for too long or forgotten about. Keep an eye out for council's next timer giveaway in the New Year.

Inspections under way

Council is on a mission this month to inspect public sewers and maintenance chambers in West Mackay and public sewers, maintenance chambers and private house drains in Ooralea. These inspections are part of council's ongoing maintenance program and to identify areas where stormwater run-off is entering the sewerage system. Residents will be notified in writing at least 48 hours prior to any work commencing on or affecting their property. For further details visit mackay.qld.gov.au.

Water bills now delivered

Water notices have begun to flow into mail boxes and figures show that consumption from April to September is higher than the same period as last year. With high consumption continuing over the past month, residents are being warned to expect an additional increase on their next bill due for issue in May. For tips to reduce your household's consumption, visit mackay.qld.gov.au.

Mobile library out of action

The Mobile Library will be off the road from December 3 until January 25 for maintenance and refurbishment works. Loan periods for relevant clients will be extended to prevent overdue fees.