



Nominations are now open for Mackay Regional Council's 2012 Australia Day Awards and worthy candidates are being sought.

Mayor Col Meng said 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 nominations forms.

"However, in previous years that has not always been the case, although many of us know of a deserving nominee we always think someone else will nominate them," he said.

Nominate now for respected Australia Day Awards

Council is asking residents not to let community members go unnoticed for their achievements and contributions and to nominate them for special Australia Day Awards.



"Don't let your friends and families hard work go unnoticed, fill in the form and send it in so we can recognise and celebrate outstanding contributions at our special Australia Day ceremonies across the region,"

"Whether they're young or old, or if it's a community group or event, they should be acknowledged for helping to make our region the great place it is."

The two major award categories are Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. Community awards will also be presented in Mackay, Sarina and Pioneer Valley in the following categories:

Sportsperson of the Year, Young Sportsperson of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Community Event of the Year and Cultural Award.

To nominate online visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au or alternatively collect a hardcopy nomination form from any of council's three customer service centres.

>> Nominations close Jan 9, 2012 and for assistance in regards to completing a nomination form, simply contact council.



Get your groove on and enjoy local multicultural festival delights

Share the stories, taste the food and enjoy the music of 20 different cultures at this year's Global Grooves Festival, Sunday, October 30 at Queens Park.

From 10am to 8pm, groove to King Marong, a top African band from Melbourne, visit the vast array of market stalls selling everything from ethnic art to eskies and try some of the best homemade multicultural food in Mackay.

The Fijian community will be serving a free Lovo feast cooked the traditional way with the use of a fire pit with river stones and the Filipino community will be constructing the Nayong Pilipino village store where they will be selling Filipino delicacies and performing dance and song.

From 7pm be captivated with the Diwali Festival of Light and fireworks display.

The 2011 Global Grooves Festival is a Mackay Regional Council event, supported by Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and Qantaslink.

>> For more details on Global Grooves log onto council's website, mackay.qld.gov.au.

Kids get creative for National Water Week

Fitzgerald's year 2B class have risen to the top, taking out first prize in the National Water Week poster competition. The competition is run annually to celebrate and create awareness of National Water Week, held from 16 to 22 October, in the local community.

Wastewater portfolio councillor Deirdre Comerford said this year's theme 'Healthy Catchments, Healthy Communities' aims to raise awareness of the importance of taking care of our catchments.

RESULTS: Fitzgerald won \$1000 in waterwise products for their school. Dundula's Year 2/3 class came second winning \$500 and Coningsby's Year 5/6/7 class came third with \$250.

NEWS FLASH!

Increased water pressure for Marian residents

Low water pressure will be a thing of the past thanks to the \$2.5 million upgrade to the Marian water network.

Water and Waste Services Director Jason Devitt said residents could see the difference in water pressure over the coming weeks.

"Crews are in the process of commissioning the upgrade works, once complete residents will be able to feel the full effects of the upgrade," he said.

"Residents may also experience some water interruptions during and after the commissioning. We may need to shut off the water supply for a short period in order to commission the new booster pumps."

Additional works on the reticulation system may be required after commissioning which may result in further interruptions.

>> Water Services are achieving major milestones winning a coveted award for the newly transformed Nebo Road Water Treatment Plant - to read the full story, visit council's website.

Scoot, push or walk for Children's Week event

> Friday, October 28

Get active, catch up with friends and celebrate Children's Week on Friday, October 28 at Caneland Park (near the Bluewater Lagoon).

The Mackay Child Friendly Community Action Group in conjunction with Mackay Regional Council is hosting the 2011 Children's Week morning of celebrations from 9am.

Mayor Col Meng said Children's Week, which marks the 40th anniversary of celebrations this year, highlights the importance and the right of children to enjoy childhood.

"Every child has the right to be loved, cared-for, protected and nurtured. Unfortunately this is not always the case and therefore it's important that we gather as a community on days such as this to continue to promote child safety awareness," he said.

"Next week when we assemble to take a short walk and scoot down the Bluewater Trail we will also be recognising Day for Daniel."

Now in its sixth year, the Day for Daniel, continues to grow on a national scale. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation was established in 2005 by Denise and Bruce Morcombe following the tragic abduction and murder of their 13-year old son Daniel in December 2003.

Cr Meng said ideally it would be great to see local businesses and their staff members get involved in the walk as well on Friday (Oct 28) from 9.15am to 9.45am.



"Staff will be able to enjoy a brisk walk out in the sunshine for about 30 minutes, it will be a nice break from their desks and busy schedules. Walkers will start from behind the Bluewater Lagoon down to the Forgan Bridge and back."

Community members taking part in the morning event are asked to bring a hat, a water bottle and some sunscreen along. Also everyone who gets involved in the walk will be able to enjoy a free morning tea, the chance to win some great prizes and families staying for the whole event can enjoy a range of activities such as an obstacle course, balloon man and face painting.

>> For more information on next week's event, contact council's Locality Development Officer Kathleen Gooch on 4961 9517.

Act quick for \$1000 travel scholarship

Scholarships are currently available for students interested in immersing themselves in Japanese culture by travelling to Matsuura, Japan in 2012.

The \$1000 scholarships are open to year 10, 11 or 12 students to be used towards the cost of travel on the two week student exchange.

For the chance to experience another culture and even live with a Japanese family simply submit a 500 word essay on why you would like to visit Matsuura, and



email to kathryn.smith@mackay.qld.gov.au
Note: To be eligible students must currently be studying or have a strong interest in Japanese and be willing to provide a report to council detailing their experiences upon their return.

>> Nominations close Monday (Oct 24), for more details contact Kathryn Smith or Meghan Noy on 1300 MACKAY.

Lucky resident scores a \$500 shopping spree

One lucky resident has taken out the recent Council Connect competition picking up a neat \$500.

Hundreds of residents went into the draw to win the shopping voucher to be spent at a Mackay City Centre business who had taken part in Mackay City Centre's website initiative City Deals.

Tourism and Economic Development portfolio councillor David Perkins said the response to the competition was pleasing and the number of visits the popular online hub is receiving is ever-growing.

"Congratulations to the lucky winner,



Lesleigh Stewart of North Mackay (pictured above) who will treat herself and her husband to dinner for their 30th wedding anniversary as well as purchase a new windscreen," Cr Perkins said.

>> To see what everyone is talking about and to view the range of City Deals you can benefit and save from, log onto mackaycitycentre.com.au.

Free online local directory features groups and services

Mackay Regional Council has an online community directory available on their website which lists clubs, associations and non-profit organisations throughout the region.

From sporting groups to emergency services the list contains hundreds of listings to assist community members.

To list or update your non-profit organisation or community group details, log onto www.mackay.qld.gov.au/community/community_directory and select either create a listing or update a listing.

Requirements for listings are they must be a community group or non-profit organisation, must have a physical address or post office box located within the council's Local Government Area and have a local phone number.

>> For more information on the Community Directory contact council's Community Development department on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

November 1st marks the start of Storm Season...

Living in the Mackay region during summer is beautiful, but it comes with responsibilities. Over the last two years, our region has felt the brunt of floods, cyclones and unseasonal rain and council is urging residents to ensure they are adequately prepared for the upcoming summer storm season.

Deputy Mayor Darryl Camilleri said a few hours spent putting aside supplies and securing your home could mean the difference between life and death.

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



>> Council's Emergency Action Guides are available from Customer Service Centres or downloadable via the website.

Did you know?

Mackay Regional Council's Parks and Environment staff cleaned 1,426 barbecues and over 3,000 toilets during August.

Tell us what you think about your local library...

Library members are being invited to have their say as part of the State Library of Queensland's latest research initiative.

Community Services and Facilities portfolio councillor Karen May said whether it's good or bad, we want to hear it.

"Let us know your thoughts about your local library and the services it provides."

The quick 10 minute online survey is available at your local library or via council's website (www.mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries). Mackay is one of seven local government areas to be selected to take part in the survey.

>> Comment is due by Nov 9, and for more details contact council's Library Services.



Library makes a temporary pit stop



Customers of the Mobile Library are advised that the service is currently not operating until November 8.

This temporary closure from Oct 18, is to allow maintenance work to be carried out to the library on wheels.

During this time, items may be returned to any library branch belonging to Mackay Regional Council.

>> For a full list of council's library locations and opening hours, log onto council's website > www.mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries.