

## Act of kindness will help clear your naughty overdue fees >

Wipe your overdue library fees and help those less fortunate in the local 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 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 fines.

"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 twelve 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](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries).



## State to collect new waste levy

Builders, construction and commercial businesses face a new State Government charge from December 1, aimed at increasing recycling rates.

Council is required to collect the new waste levy on any commercial waste that goes to landfill. The charge will be \$35 per tonne for any construction or industrial waste. Waste services portfolio councillor Greg Thomsen said council was bound to collect the funds and remit it to the State Government.

"Council has no choice but to collect it, but the message to all business is the more you recycle the less disposal costs you face," he said.

Cr Thomsen said residential customers and any material recycled was exempt from the charge. Queensland is the largest generator of waste in Australia, producing enough to fill Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane 16 times every year.

Cr Thomsen encouraged commercial businesses to have a "rethink" about how they dispose of waste and consider recycling initiatives.

>> Learn more about waste and recycling services on our website.



## 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. To spread the festive spirit region-wide, council has organised lighting of the Christmas tree celebrations at the following locations:

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

> 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 venue in Lagoon Street from 5.30pm.

>> For more information visit our website, remember all of these events are family friendly and alcohol free.

## Download your summer reading

Whether it's fiction, business advice, biographies, lifestyle writing or stories for adults and children, you're sure to find the perfect title in council's library catalogue with over 900 Bolinda eAudiobook titles available for download.

Library members can browse, borrow and download some of their favourite titles from the comfort of their own home using the new online library solution Bolinda digital. Simply log on to [mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries) and visit the library catalogue link for the extensive list of bestselling eAudiobooks from Bolinda digital.

>> Download a Bolinda eAudiobook title now until Dec 16 for the chance to win a summer reading pack.

**Save the date**  
Saturday, December 31  
**New Years Eve Party @ council precinct between MECC and Artspace > 6pm to midnight**  
**Live bands, kids amusements and great food!**



## 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 the city's 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 was important all community and charity events were 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 [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au).



## Be prepared this Storm Season Do you know what a storm surge is?

Along with high winds and flooding rains, cyclones can 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 the council website.

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



## Make a splash on Saturday

Dive in, splash around, have a good time and raise money while doing it - the Big Splash Swim-a-thon is on again at the Pioneer Swim Centre THIS WEEKEND - Saturday, November 26 from 12noon.

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

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

"There will be a sausage sizzle and to finish the day off, the Mission Inflatable obstacle course will be in operation for those who have some energy left."

There are a variety of challenge categories available for nomination including businesses, community, media, emergency



**Did you know?**  
That you have until January 9 to nominate our great Aussies for 2012 Australia Day Awards. Nominate online via council's website.

## Tell Santa to get saucy this Christmas...



Did you know Sarina Sugar Shed has delicious Christmas hampers available? They are perfect for filling an empty stocking!

Choose from liqueurs, gourmet sauces and homemade treats such as rumballs, Christmas cakes, shortbreads and much more! Beautifully hand-packed in stylish boxes, gift hampers range from \$44 to \$200 and can be delivered throughout the region.

Visit the Sarina Sugar Shed Gift Shop - Field of dreams Parkland, Railway Square,

Sarina or check out the full Christmas catalogue on their website. For information and orders, phone 4943 2801 or visit [www.sarinasugarshed.com.au](http://www.sarinasugarshed.com.au).

>> Congratulations to the Sarina Sugar Shed who was announced as a finalist in the Queensland Tourism Awards in the Tour and/or Transport Operators category. This is the second time in five years that the Shed has been named a finalist.

## Friends of the library celebrate 30 years of volunteering...

This month the Friends of the Library celebrated 30 years of operation at a morning tea celebration where Dr Alan Bundy, President of Friends of Libraries Australia also recognised the group as one of the oldest established 'friends groups' in Australia.

Throughout the three decades of service the friends have made many major contributions. The group continuously provide countless hours of work to re-shelve books, conduct book sales and raise thousands of dollars over the years to purchase new equipment, resources and support for events that would otherwise not be affordable.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our community and without community members volunteering to lend a hand, many things that are offered to and enjoyed by residents would not ordinarily be possible.

>> The Friends are looking to add more volunteers to their group both young and old, simply contact the libraries on 1300 MACKAY (622 529).



## Respected arts bursary up for grabs

Young artists are being encouraged to apply for 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.

