



## COUNCIL - in brief -

### Works begin on \$8.1million water plant

Marian and Mirani are one step closer to receiving a more reliable water supply with construction works on the new \$8.1million Marian Water Treatment Plant now under way. The first stage of the project was completed in February with the construction of a new raw water intake system and pipeline on the bank of the Pioneer River. Construction of the treatment plant is expected to be completed by March 2015.

### Festival tix now on sale!

The 2014 Mackay Festival of Arts is set in the theme of Destiny and the oracles agree, it will be the best one yet. Full of arts, culture, music, food and dance, tickets are on sale now. For a full program of events or to book tickets, visit [mackaytix.com.au](http://mackaytix.com.au) or call into the MECC Box Office.

### Save money and safeguard your pet

Registering your pet could literally save its life. From now until July 31 council is offering early bird pet registration discounts. All registered pets will be issued a tag, which you should attach to your animal's collar to enable council to identify and return your furry friend should it stray. To register your pet with council visit our website, call 1300 622 529 or pay in person at any of council's client service centres.

### Water readings flow on benefits

Council has installed 28,000 automatic meter reading devices to properties throughout the region. The device has the ability to detect any unusual water use patterns indicating a potential leak at your property. At present, meters are detecting around 400 leaks per month; reducing water waste, providing a cost-effective way to read meters and saving residents thousands of dollars.

## Put your waste in the right place

With good intentions recognised, residents are being reminded to dispose of their waste correctly and responsibly after an increase in the amount of rubbish piling up around the region's charity bins.

"It can cause a real burden for charities who have to pay to have items removed.

"Any reusable household items should be taken directly to the charity offices or council's resource recovery facility, Incredible Ltd, at Paget."

A six-week recycling bin inspection program is also under way in an effort to clean up residential recycling bins.

Cr Bonaventura said the

bins were inspected by an authorised officer when placed on the kerb for collection.

"If a bin is found to have major contamination it will be identified with a sticker and removed from collection on that day - once the contaminants have been removed, the bin can be presented for the next recycling collection service.

"Most people try to do the right thing when it comes to recycling but there's still a lot more we can do to reduce contamination rates."



Items being left on the ground near charity bins are creating an extra burden on local charities.

>> For more information on what items can be recycled at council's Material Recovery Facility in Paget visit [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au).

### WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H<sub>2</sub>O

We're more likely to notice leaks indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor taps, sprinklers and hoses for leaks as well. Undertake a water meter test to be sure!

## Local family snags ultimate Valley prize!



Mayor Deirdre Comerford and Macka the Platypus from Mackay Tourism pick out the winning entry from the Pioneer Valley Passport competition.

### Free Cycle Safety courses

As we connect up Mackay's bicycle network, more people are getting on their bikes and we want to make sure they do it safely.

The two-hour classes will teach basic skills on off-road paths and small, local streets to help attendees gain confidence to ride safely.

Over the school holidays (between July 4-10), council's Active Towns program is hosting Cycle Safety classes for kids and adults.

The holiday program will run at PCYC Mackay and also visit Calen, Bloomsbury, Marian, Mirani and Sarina.

>> For more details on program registration, dates and times visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/activetowns](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/activetowns).

## School holiday fun!

> **Plant a Seed**  
Wednesday, July 2, Thursday, July 3 & Friday, July 4  
10am - 12 noon at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.  
Learn more about seeds, decorate a recycled pot and more! Cost is just \$5 and bookings are essential.

> **The Wizard of Oz Show**  
Friday, July 4, at 3.30pm at MECC.  
Dress as your favourite Wizard of Oz character and get ready to follow a yellow brick road full of fun and adventure.

> **Shake A Leg**  
6pm Friday, July 11, and 2pm Saturday, July 12, at MECC.  
A unique picture book that has been converted to stage.

>> Book your tickets at [mackaytix.com.au](http://mackaytix.com.au) or visit [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au) for more holiday ideas.

## Significant investment paves better roads

A staggering \$680 million has been invested into restoring our region's roads over the past six years, from Sarina to Midge Point to the top reaches of the Eungella Range.

From the major transformation of Connors Road in Paget to restoration of rural connections such as Midge Point Road, council crews and contractors have carried out extensive works in all corners of the region over the past six years.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said good road networks drove economic activity and helped improve connectivity for residents, as well as enhancing safety for drivers.

"Our council crews and contractors have improved almost 2000 kilometres of

roads - that's equivalent to the drive to Sydney."

An anticipated \$270 million of flood damage funding through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) combined with council funds has significantly restored and in some cases significantly enhanced roads.

Apart from completing significant NDRRA work, council has also delivered \$205 million worth of capital road and drainage projects since 2008.

Cr Comerford said the significant investment had generated jobs, grown the economy and enhanced the driving experience across the whole area.

"It was a window of opportunity which allowed us to meet the community's expectations of better roads across the region."

With NDRRA funds ending on June 30, council will return to usual annual roads expenditure with a focus on prioritising essential works taking into account road safety, usage and condition.



Nebia Conningsby Road - before



Nebia Conningsby Road - after



Connors Road - during



Connors Road - after

>> For information on short term and major roadworks across the Mackay region visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/roads](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/roads).

## Sarina Sugar Shed, a GOLDEN experience!



Enjoy a golden tour of the award-winning Sarina Sugar Shed and see first-hand how sugar is grown, milled and distilled.

### Council facilities bring home top honours!

- KISS Monster Tour GOLD 'Festival and Events'
- Sarina Sugar Shed GOLD 'Tourist Attraction'
- Excellence in Food Tourism GOLD
- Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens SILVER 'Tourist Attraction'

"Simply gold" is how Sarina's Glenys Mansfield has always described the Sarina Sugar Shed and her words were reaffirmed at the recent Qantaslink Mackay Isaac Regional Tourism Awards when the facility took home gold for 'Tourist Attraction' and 'Excellence in Food Tourism'.

Coordinator of the multi-award-winning facility for eight years, Mrs Mansfield also took home the honour of 'Outstanding Contribution by an Individual to the Mackay-Isaac Tourism Industry'.

Tourism and Economic Development portfolio

councillor Greg Martin said the awards recognised the hard work of dedicated staff and more than 25 volunteers.

With the school holidays just around the corner, Cr Martin encouraged locals to experience the golden tour for themselves and "taste the action".

>> For tours and opening times visit [sarinasugarshed.com.au](http://sarinasugarshed.com.au).

## Eungella lights up

The Eungella Range is now a much safer road to drive at night, thanks to council's Rural Affairs Advisory Committee and the Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR).

During May, TMR commenced installation of 280 omnidirectional pavement reflectors which will light up the 2km stretch along Eungella Range.

Chair of the Rural Affairs Advisory Committee and Community Development portfolio councillor Alison Jones said it was a great outcome for the Eungella community.

Cr Jones acknowledged the committee members for their proactive approach and persistence towards seeing the project through.

"It's wonderful to have passionate people on our committee, giving rural communities a strong voice."



Skaters will soon be able to practise their tricks in the shade at Mirani's George Johnson Skate Park.

## Cooling Skate Parks

The George Johnson Skate Park at Mirani is set to cover up with a new shade structure to be installed.

The \$63,000 project comes as council completes an audit of its seven skate parks, which has shown them to be in good condition with no serious issues identified.

"While improvements are always possible, this audit has clearly shown that our park areas are clean, accessible and in reasonable condition," Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said.

Cr Morgan said the installation of shade cover at Mirani was the result of a petition from the community and she was pleased council could deliver on the request.

"This will be the fourth skate park to be shaded and we will include the remaining areas in our future 20 year Capital Work plan."

"Sun safety and protection are key priorities of council - skin can burn in as little as 15 minutes in our tropical climate, so it's pivotal that residents have facilities that protect their skin."

>> For more details visit [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au).