

Jobs on offer

APPLICATIONS are currently open for council's 2018 Apprentice and Traineeship intake. A total of 18 traineeships and apprenticeships are available, with positions ranging from Certificate III in Business to apprentice mechanic. New roles not previously offered by council include a Certificate III in Tourism and a Certificate II in Civil Construction, based at Sarina, Calen and Mirani. The positions aren't just open to school-leavers, with changes to this year's program including a focus on workplace diversity and flexibility. More details at mackay.qld.gov.au/careers

Heroes wanted

PAY it forward and let people who inspire you know you appreciate them. Nominations are now open for the 2018 Mackay Regional Council Australia Day Awards. The awards pay tribute to individuals and groups who have made significant contributions to their community or who have achieved exceptional results in sporting or cultural endeavours. All nominees will be recognised at an Australia Day Eve awards night. To nominate, visit mackay.qld.gov.au/australiaday

Food cuts fines

THE Food for Fines initiative, now in its 20th year, will waive any overdue library fines in exchange for food which will be donated to local charities in the Mackay region. The initiative has raised more than \$80,000 worth of food for local charities. From Monday, November 13 until Saturday, December 9, residents will once again be able to give their overdue fines the flick in exchange for items usually found in a Christmas hamper. Food items can be brought into library branches and must be in-date and at least of equal value to the overdue fines being waived.

New playground is jewel in the crown

Queens Park project caps off \$11.49m delivered in 2017 through State Government-funded Works For Queensland

MACKAY has a new "king of the kids" when it comes to playgrounds.

This snazzy new playground at Queens Park, to open December 2, is the biggest and best in the region.

It was built at a cost of \$783,000 as part of the \$11.49 million in State Government-funded Works For Queensland (W4Q) projects delivered by council in 2017.

Economic Development and Planning Committee chair Cr

Amanda Camm said it was fitting that the Queens Park playground capped off such a big year of projects.

"Council delivered the Works For Queensland projects on top of its normal capital works program," she said.

"It has been an extremely busy year and the outcomes in terms of new community infrastructure have been excellent.

"The new Queens Park playground is tipped to become the most popular

in the region. It is centrally located and sure to be a big hit, especially for kids' birthday parties."

The playground features a custom sky tower, elevated on top of its normal capital works program," she said.

It also includes two smaller towers for younger children.

Cr Camm said construction of the playground finished recently and an open day would be held on December 2, a Saturday, to mark its official opening for the public.



Deputy Mayor Cr Amanda Camm checks out the new Queens Park playground with (from left) her son Braithan Vickers and his friend Eric Crust.

She said it would be an informal official opening suitable for a playground, with a free barbecue provided.

"It will be the first opportunity for residents to bring their children along and try out the

new playground," Cr Camm said.

Mayor Greg Williamson will officially open the new playground at 9am.

"The community will be able

to enjoy a barbecue breakfast and try out the new play equipment," Cr Camm said.

"There will also be face-painting and fairy floss on the day."

Region's parks given makeovers

SOME parks throughout our region have been given facelifts through the Works For Queensland program.

They've ranged from \$80,000 to replace rubber softwall at Caneland Park to major upgrades of parks at Mansfield Drive, Beaconsfield, North Street Park at Eungella, and Vic Bridger Park at Calen.

The Mansfield Drive Park upgrade has been popular with children since being completed in September. The \$320,000 project included installation of a new shaded playground, paths and landscaping, a picnic shelter and multi-sports court.

Chairs of council's Community Engagement and Corporate Services committees, Cr Fran Mann and Cr Ayril Paton, checked out the park project soon after it

was completed and joined in an impromptu game of half-court basketball with youngsters.

"The multi-sports court is the first of its kind in the region," Cr Mann said.

"It is designed for games of basketball, soccer, hockey, practising tennis and can also be used for handball," she said.

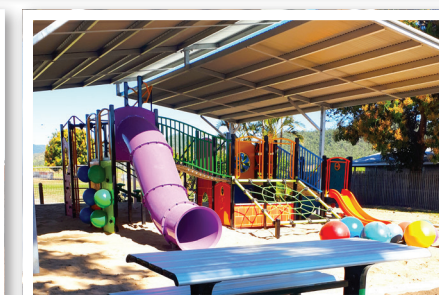
The Vic Bridger Park upgrade in McIntyre Street, Calen, was a \$150,000 project, which included a new playground and shade structure.

The North Street Park upgrade at Eungella, a \$360,000 project, is nearing completion.

It includes car parking, a retaining wall and upper viewing areas, pathways, a picnic shelter and works around Goodes Lookout.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Cr Fran Mann and Cr Ayril Paton shoot some hoops at Mansfield Drive Park; Vic Bridger Park at Calen; and a new retaining wall at North Street Park at Eungella.



>> The Mansfield Drive, Vic Bridger and North Street park projects, funded by the State Government's W4Q, supported 16 Mackay jobs



The Tommy Webster Community Hall at Walkerston is one of many in the district to be given a spruce-up with painting and flooring works.

Funding delivers for our region

WORKS For Queensland (W4Q), a State Government-funded initiative, delivered projects worth \$200 million throughout the state for 2016-17.

Mackay Regional Council was awarded \$11.49 million in funding in the inaugural round of the program.

Like all local governments in Queensland, council then had to submit a list of proposed job-creating projects to spend the funding on for sign-off by the State Government.

The success of the program prompted the Queensland Government to provide another \$200 million for the W4Q program in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Mackay Regional Council was awarded \$10.95 million in that new round of funding for the next two years. Some examples of approved funding are in the factbox (right).

W4Q 2017-19

Major projects planned for the next two years as part of \$10.9 million in approved Works For Queensland funding projects in Mackay:

> **\$1.7 million: Upgrade to Casey Avenue near BB Print Stadium Mackay and associated footpaths/street parking.**

> **Another \$610,000 will be spent on reconstruction of the Casey Avenue/Bridge Road roundabout to align with the Casey Avenue roadwork project.**

> **Nearly \$1 million: Shared pathways construction at Bucasia Esplanade**

> **\$500,000: Upgrade existing Rotary Lookout at North Mackay**

> **\$500,000: Rebuild existing cliff staircase accessed from Blacks Beach Park**

> **More than \$400,000: Footpath constructions from Blacks Beach Road to Belbin Street; Belbin Street to Carroll Street; and Carroll Street to the existing northern end footpath**

> **\$248,000: Footpath construction in Hoey Street, Sarina**

> **\$1.2 million: Culvert upgrade to reduce flooding at Camilleri's Road Causeway, Devereaux Creek**

> **\$1.6 million: Gravel resheeting of rural roads**



New bus stops have been built in our region.

Bus stops bloom

ABOUT \$1 million worth of new bus stops have been delivered throughout our region thanks to the State Government's Works For Queensland initiative.

The new bus stops were included in council's list of approved projects for the 2016-17 funding and were erected at various locations throughout the region.

Infrastructure and Services Committee chair Cr Karen May said the Works For Queensland (W4Q) funding had provided a boost for infrastructure projects.

"We also spent about \$2.3

million on sealed road resurfacing for about 45km of roads and just over \$1 million on gravel replenishment and resheeting of about 40km of unsealed roads," Cr May said.

"Other projects ranged from open drain concrete lining works at Milton and Harney streets to traffic calming works, including footpath works, in McHugh Street at Eimeo," she said.

"We also spent about \$200,000 on timber bridge upgrades throughout our region. Another \$160,000 was spent on boat ramp facilities near the River Street boat ramp."



One of the meeting rooms in the new Jubilee Community Centre.

Community hub created

WORKS For Queensland funding has helped with finishing touches on the new Jubilee Community Centre in the Civic Precinct.

The former Mackay City Library has been transformed into new office space for staff, which is a cost-saving as council previously leased office space.

The former library space has also been returned to the community, with four

new public meeting rooms available for use, both during and after office hours.

The revamp was a million-dollar project, including \$195,000 in Works For Queensland (W4Q) funding.

That funding helped ensure the centre is extremely energy efficient, upgrading the entire building to adjustable LED lighting.

The funding also helped with

painting and compliance works for the fire alarm system.

The four public meeting rooms are known as the Carmel Daveson meeting rooms, recognising her long-time service to the community.

The meeting rooms, which cater for up to 20 people, feature modern layouts and are equipped with audio visual and sound systems.

>> The new community meeting rooms can be booked at mackay.qld.gov.au

Project list full of variety

COUNCIL has received positive feedback from the State Government regarding the range of projects undertaken with Works For Queensland funding.

Mayor Greg Williamson said the variety of projects were also undertaken throughout the large Mackay Regional Council footprint.

"Some of the large parks projects, including the

Platypus Beach restoration near Mirani, are the most visible to residents," Cr Williamson said.

"However, parks projects only made up 20 per cent of the Works For Queensland program," he said.

"We undertook a wide range of other work that will benefit the community and residents."

For example, pool upgrades

were undertaken at Bluewater Lagoon, Pioneer Pool in North Mackay and Mirani Pool.

Community halls were also upgraded, including painting and flooring works in areas, such as Seaforth, Bucasia, Bakers Creek, Andergrove, Walkerston, Mirani, Slade Point and Sarina.

Air-conditioning works were also undertaken at Mirani and Gordon White libraries.

>> More details on projects can be found online at mackay.qld.gov.au/w4q