

### ARC on track

WITH the major swimming and athletics facilities now almost complete, work on Mackay's exciting new sporting precinct has turned to lighting, parking, signage, landscaping and pathways. Council is still targeting an opening date in late February (2019) and, while some wet weather has slowed progress, remains on track to meet this target. This facility will be an amazing asset to our community. You can follow its progress at [mackay.qld.gov.au/marc](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/marc)

### Grants closing

A TOTAL of \$86,000 is available for round two of council's Community Grants. Grants can be up to \$10,000 to support events, projects or initiatives, and \$1000 for the purchase of small equipment. The aim of the grant program is to provide assistance to local community groups and organisations that make positive contributions to the quality of life in our region. Applications close on February 1. For more information and application forms, head to [mackay.smartgrants.com.au](http://mackay.smartgrants.com.au)

### Nominate now

NOMINATIONS are open for the Sarina Women's Week Awards. These awards give residents a chance to recognise and acknowledge women who usually fly under the radar. Nominations close Friday, February 22. All nominees will be invited as guests to attend the Sarina Women's Week Dinner and Awards Night at the Bob Wood Cultural Hall on Friday, March 8. For more information, call the Sarina Neighbourhood Centre on 4961 9283 or head to [mackay.qld.gov.au/womensweek](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/womensweek)

### Matsuura visit

The 2019 Youth Ambassador applications are now open for students in years 10, 11 and 12 (in 2019) to visit Japan and stay in Matsuura. Council provides a \$1000 scholarship to be used towards the cost of travel for each student. Applications should be finalised and submitted to [mackaysistercities@mackay.qld.gov.au](mailto:mackaysistercities@mackay.qld.gov.au) no later than midnight, Sunday, February 15, 2019. For more information, head to [mackay.qld.gov.au/sistercity](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/sistercity)

# Pack your beach gear for this Australia Day

**Inaugural Sladie's Day at the Beach at Lamberts Beach one of the latest to join list of council-supported events**

WHEN the proactive Slade Point Neighbourhood Watch Community Group started planning an Australia Day event, Lamberts Beach was the logical choice for a venue.

"We like to connect with the community and we like to give the community some free activities," said Chris Laval, an organiser of the inaugural Sladie's Australia Day.

"The beach is a huge part of Australia Day," he said.

"We'll be having beach volleyball in Ram Chandra Park, as well as a sausage sizzle and music."

Anyone is welcome to attend the Sladie's Australia Day at the Beach event.

The activities are close to the spectacular Lamberts Lookout. The Seabreeze Hotel at the other end of the esplanade also has Australia Day-themed activities.

Sladie's Australia Day at the Beach is one of 10 council-supported free events being held across the Mackay region on Saturday.

Organisers were successful



*There was plenty of Australia Day colour at Sarina Beach last year. A host of beach parties will be held throughout the region for Australia Day this Saturday, including a new one at Lamberts Beach.*

in receiving grants from council to assist with their events.

Many of the council-supported events are being held in beaches or parks throughout the region.

Eimeo Surf Lifesaving Club's A Family Day at the Beach event, held for the first time last year, returns.

A new Fishing and Games at the Beach Event, hosted by Lifeline Mackay, will be held at Binnington Esplanade at Town Beach from 10am to 2pm.

Mackay Surf Lifesaving Club's Aussie Day at Harbour Beach and Sarina Surf Lifesaving Club's Australia Day @ Sarina Beach events also return this year.

The popular Habana "Beach" Party is also back after becoming a regular fixture on the Mackay region's Australia Day calendar in recent years.

The Sladie's Australia Day at the Beach is the latest in a list of events the Slade Point Neighbourhood Watch Community Group has staged. Others have ranged from a Musical Moonlight

Soiree to a Uke & Drums By the Beach event.

The success of the events and the experience gained could lead to a "whale festival" being organised in the future.

"We'd like that to be an annual event and something quite spectacular," Mr Laval said.

"That event would celebrate whale watching season and would also bring awareness and education about conservation and the environment."



**Celebrate Australia Day this Saturday at one of these 10 council-supported events**

- > **A Family Day at the Beach**  
Host: Eimeo Surf Lifesaving Club  
9am to 2pm, Eimeo Esplanade
- > **Australia Day @ Sarina Beach**  
Host: Sarina Surf Lifesaving Club  
2pm to 6pm, Sarina Beach esplanade
- > **Aussie Family BBQ in the Park**  
Host: Mackay & District Australia South Sea Islander Association  
11am to 3pm, Quota Park, Binnington Esplanade
- > **Aussie Day at Harbour Beach**  
Host: Mackay Surf Lifesaving Club  
11am to 6pm, Harbour Beach
- > **Australia Day Scouts Open Day**  
Host: Banksia Scout Group  
10am to 1pm, Jaycee Park, Andergrove
- > **Fishing and Games at the Beach**  
Host: Lifeline Mackay  
10am to 2pm, Town Beach, Binnington Esplanade
- > **Habana 'Beach' Party**  
Host: Habana and Districts Progress Association  
3pm to 7pm, Habana Community Precinct
- > **Pancakes and Play in the Park**  
Host: Shed Happens G'day Mate Inc - Mackay  
10am to 3pm, on grass area near Sugar Bowl Mackay, Scriha Street, North Mackay
- > **Pioneer Valley Awards Day**  
Host: Pioneer Valley Tourism & Development Association  
9am to 1pm, Pioneer Valley Show Hall, Finch Hatton
- > **Sladie's Australia Day at the Beach**  
Host: Slade Point Neighbourhood Watch  
9am to 3pm, Lamberts Beach

More details [mackay.qld.gov.au/ausdayevents](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/ausdayevents)

## Sign on at sports expo

PLAYERS from Mackay's National Premier League (NPL) football (soccer team) Magpies Crusaders United will have plenty to chat with fans about at a popular sports expo next month.

They will have played their first home game of 2019 at Sologinkin Oval the night before.

The popular Sports Expo and Sign-on Day returns to the MECC on Sunday, February 10, from 9am to 1pm.

Mackay's state league teams, such as the Crusaders, rugby league's Mackay Cutters, basketball's Meteors and Meteorettes, and netball's Northern Rays, will be special guests at the expo.

Sports Expo and Sign-on Day Committee chair Cr Kevin Casey said final preparations for this year's event were being finalised.

He said it was again shaping up as another big day.

"Our Sports Expo and Sign-on Day is always a popular event on Mackay's sporting calendar.

"It allows local clubs and groups to showcase their sports and recreation activities for free and to help them attract new players or members.

"We'll again have more than 100 stallholders at the expo.

"Having them all under one roof makes it convenient

for the public to attend to find out more information about sports and recreation options.

Long-time supporter of this council-run event, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, returns again as major sponsor.

"DBCT has helped us stage this event for many years and we appreciate their ongoing support," Cr Casey said.

Optus is also back as a sponsor and will bring its massive "dartboard", which was a popular addition to last year's expo.

The five-metre-high inflatable dartboard is a great target to kick and shoot balls at.

"We'll also again have an



*Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal's mascot Hector is always a hit at the annual Sports Expo and Sign-on Day at the MECC.*

active zone, which is this year supported by Hail Creek Open Cut Glencore, where there will be demonstrations during the day," Cr Casey said.

"There will be plenty of other activities, including the

annual mascot race, as well as giveaways," he said.

Radio station Star FM 101.9 will again be broadcasting live from the expo throughout the morning. 4MK's Dave Perkins returns as emcee for the event.

>> More details about the 2019 Sports Expo and Sign-on Day, to be held at the MECC on February 10, online at [mackay.qld.gov.au/sportsexpo](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/sportsexpo)

## Olympic champion joins party



MACKAY will have a golden ambassador helping the region celebrate Australia Day.

Olympic champion road cyclist Sara Carrigan (OAM), above, will visit Mackay as our Australia Day Ambassador.

She won a gold medal in the 130km road race at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games and was also a 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games medallist.

Following retirement from professional sport in 2008, after the Beijing Olympics, she founded Sara Carrigan Cycling, catering to all levels of ability. She's one of Australia's most dedicated and passionate advocates of the sport.

Sara will be a special guest at Mackay Regional Council's Australia Day Eve Awards Dinner at the MECC this Friday. She will speak about what Australia Day means to her.

She will also be a guest at a Citizenship Ceremony at the MECC on Australia Day, where more than 60 new citizens will be welcomed, and she will then attend a council-supported community event with Mayor Greg Williamson.

Each year the Australia Day Ambassador Program sends more than 300 high-achieving and proud Australians to towns and cities across the nation to inspire and unite communities and to drive participation in Australia Day events.

## Mackay marches to footy beat

IT will be an epic weekend of footy in Mackay in the first week of March.

Two massive games of NRL and AFL within a day of each other have created a buzz.

Ticket sales are strong for the NQ Cowboys and Melbourne Storm pre-season trial, to be played at BB Print Stadium Mackay on March 2, which is a Saturday night.

A day later, the Gold Coast Suns will take on the Melbourne Bulldogs in a JLT Community Series match

at Harrup Park on Sunday, March 3.

An announcement on tickets for that game is expected in the near future.

Cr Ayrl Paton said there had been plenty of interest in both games since news broke about the blockbuster weekend of footy planned for Mackay.

He said council had helped secure both high-profile games through its successful Invest Mackay Events Attraction Program economic

development initiative.

"Most fans at both games will be going for the Queensland teams. However, it will also be great to have two high-profile Melbourne teams in town for the weekend.

"We're expecting some die-hard fans will travel from Melbourne to support their teams.

"Both games will also generate plenty of national media exposure which will help showcase our wonderful region."

>> Tickets for NQ Cowboys and Melbourne Storm trial at [mackaytickets.com.au](http://mackaytickets.com.au)

# Tireless volunteers receiving accolades

TIRELESS volunteers who helped during the bushfire crisis in our region are among nominations for this year's Mackay Regional Council Australia Day Awards.

Almost 140 nominations were received for the 2019 awards, with judging complete and winners set to be announced at an Australia Day Eve awards dinner.

The annual awards pay tribute to individuals and groups

who have made significant contributions to their local community or achieved exceptional results in sporting or cultural endeavours.

Mayor Greg Williamson said all nominees and nominators had been invited to attend a special gala awards night at the MECC this Friday, January 25, to be attended by more than 400.

"We are looking forward to paying tribute to our nominees

and announcing the winners of these prestigious awards, including Mackay's Citizen of the Year," he said.

"We have some extremely talented, hard-working and generous people in our community and it is important we recognise them for the work they do in our community.

"As expected, council received several nominations for courageous volunteers who assisted with the recent



*Mayor Greg Williamson (centre) and Australia Day award-winners last year.*

bushfires, as well as many other deserving individuals who have helped make our region a better place over the last year."

The winners of the awards in eight categories will be announced on council's Facebook page and website on Friday night.

There will also be a special feature recognising our 2019 Australia Day Award winners in the Daily Mercury on Saturday.