

Food safety the key priority

A local business in Walkerston is taking food safety seriously and has improved its star rating through council's Eat Safe Mackay food safety inspection scheme from three stars to five

IN THE space of nine months, Social, Fresh and Local café has improved its Eat Safe Mackay star rating.

The small café located in Walkerston Shopping Centre serves some of the best coffee in the region and boasts an extensive range of homemade cakes, slices, sandwiches, wraps, salads and pastries, among other things.

Social, Fresh and Local business partner Belinda Potts said she had been an advocate for food safety from a young age.

"I've worked in the hospitality industry since I was 14, so I'm familiar with good food handling and safety practices," she said.

"It's always been my dream to own my restaurant, so when we got the opportunity to purchase this café late last year, I jumped at the chance.

"I'm passionate about food safety and committed to taking all the correct measures to providing hygienically-prepared, safe and delicious food for my customers."



Belinda Potts puts food safety at the top of the menu

Ms Potts said it was a great feeling receiving her five-star Eat Safe rating last month.

"We were always a clean café, but we had to implement a few extra measures, such as regularly recording fridge temperatures to ensure food is stored correctly and labelling containers with

use-by dates, to achieve our five-star rating," she said.

"The rating shows the community that we are committed to food safety, so they can have peace of mind when dining at our café.

"I would encourage all businesses to sign up to the

Eat Safe program as it not only ensures that you are meeting your responsibilities by providing safe food for your customers, but it is also great advertising and recognition for your business."

Eat Safe Mackay is a regulatory food safety inspection scheme run by council.

Businesses that receive a three, four or five-star rating are following good food safety practices and are a great choice.

Learn more about the Eat Safe Mackay program, including a list of restaurants and their scores at mackay.qld.gov.au/eatsafe



Studies will help understand flooding in the region's catchments

Studies will improve our preparedness

EARLIER this year we asked the community for valuable feedback on the flooding they experienced during Tropical Cyclone Debbie in Sandy Creek, Rocky Dam Creek and Funnel Creek catchment areas.

The information provided included rainfall data, photos, videos and flood flow direction and depth, all of which was helpful in calibrating the models used in the flood studies.

These draft flood studies will assist in improving our understanding of catchment flooding and help assess the risk of flooding and actions to improve planning, emergency management and disaster preparedness in the catchments.

Residents can hear the results of the draft flood studies at three

upcoming public information sessions:

> Sandy Creek Flood Study Information Session:

Saturday, November 30, 11am to 1pm at North Eton CWA Hall

> Funnel Creek Flood Study Information Session:

Sunday, December 1, 11am to 1pm at CWA Hall, Sarina Range

> Rocky Dam Creek Flood Study Information Stall:

Saturday, December 7, 4pm to 6pm at the Koumala Christmas Fair.

These studies were delivered through the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments under the jointly funded 2017-2018 Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP).

[View the reports online at connectingmackay.com.au](http://connectingmackay.com.au)

> Time to nominate

NOMINATIONS are open for one of our region's greatest honours – the Australia Day Awards. This year's Citizen of the Year Meecham Philpott was deeply honoured to receive the award.

"There were so many wonderful people in the room, who work so hard for the community, and for my name to come up – I was very surprised," Mr Philpott said. "Just to be nominated in itself is amazing – it shows you that people notice that you are contributing to the community," he said.

"There is a tonne of people around town who have done more than I have done in my life who, for one reason or another, go unrecognised. Without all those people who do what they do behind the scenes, what kind of community would we have?"

Mayor Greg Williamson echoed those sentiments and said last year we had 138 residents nominated for their service to the community.

"These awards are about recognising the contributions and talents of amazing individuals and groups in our community," Mayor Williamson said.



2019 award winners with Mayor Greg Williamson

"If you know someone who tirelessly, and selflessly, gives up their time for our community, or has achieved exceptional results in their sporting or artistic pursuits, take a moment of your time to make sure they receive the recognition they deserve," he said.

Award categories include Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Arts and Culture, Environmental Achievement, Lori Burgess Community Volunteer, Community Group, Senior Sports and Young Sports Award.

Nominate by January 5, 2020, at mackay.qld.gov.au/australiaday

> Sports Expo registrations open

THE Optus Sports Expo and Sign-on Day is an annual event aimed at increasing participation in sporting, active recreation or get-active leisure pursuits. Happening on Sunday, February 9, from 9am to 1pm at the MECC, registrations are now open for organisations to apply to be involved. Simply complete the online form on council's website by December 13.

> Snap and check your recyclables

UNSURE if you can recycle it? Well now, you can snap and check it. We have developed a Recycle Right – Snap and Check webpage. Simply take a photo of the item you're unsure about and upload it to connectingmackay.com.au, along with your question and one of our waste officers will answer it.

> Summer holidays means beach time

THE school holidays are fast approaching and it's the perfect time to enjoy a day at the beach with the family. Mackay Harbour, Sarina, Eimeo and Bucasia beaches will all be patrolled over the holiday period. Remember to swim between the red and yellow flags, wear a stinger suit and apply a water-resistant sunscreen to avoid sunburn.

> Local awards pay tribute to heritage

THE Heritage Awards, first celebrated in 2004, are a biennial event which pays tribute to those individuals, schools and organisations that make an outstanding effort to keep our region's heritage alive. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Heritage Awards. Learn more and apply at mackay.qld.gov.au/heritageawards by January 28. Entry is free, and winners can receive up to \$1000.

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SAVETHEDATE

- Disability Expo** December 3
- CHRISTMAS in the gardens**
- Xmas in the Gardens** December 13
- New Year's Eve Party** December 31
- 2020 Sports Expo** February 9

For more information visit, mackay.qld.gov.au