

Easter beats with chocolate treats

Homegrown country music star Karrie Hayward to take centre stage at the MLC Advice Mackay Easter Carnival at Caneland Park this Sunday, March 27

COUNTRY music starlet Karrie Hayward will have feet tapping at the MLC Advice Mackay Easter Carnival.

The carnival will run from 9am until noon at Caneland Park this Sunday, March 27.

It will include a live music stage, egg hunt, craft activities, face painting, jumping castle, plenty of food vendors and even a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Festival and Events producer Jemma Carey said the music stage would have a relaxed family atmosphere.

"We are really excited to have the powerful vocals of Karrie Hayward on the main stage from 9.05am," Ms Carey said.

"Karrie's style is really chilled and covers various genres," she said.

"After Karrie, we have the smooth sounds of Oliver Carter-Beck from 10.10am.

"The Mackay Vintage Motor Club's Easter Rally will also be a big drawcard, with 50 vintage cars from across Queensland displayed along Matsuura Drive."

Don't miss the dive-in movie "Pan" at the Bluewater Lagoon from 6pm. It'll be the perfect way to escape the recent "egg-streme" heat. There is also a colouring competition being run in the lead-up to the carnival with a very sweet, shiny prize.

"Being Easter, the prize had to be chocolate, so thanks to MLC Advice - who specialise in golden eggs - we've been able to source a 1kg golden chocolate Easter egg," Ms Carey said.

The colouring page can be downloaded from



Rising country music singer Karrie Hayward will take to the music stage at the MLC Advice Mackay Easter Carnival in Caneland Park this Sunday.

mackayecc.com.au/festivals and then submitted to MLC Advice Mackay at 172 Victoria Street.

The winner will be drawn at random and announced at the carnival. Entry to the carnival is free and entry to the dive-in movie is just a gold coin donation.



Don't waste free dump vouchers

RESIDENTS have until the end of this month to use free dump vouchers issued with August rates notices.

The vouchers, which expire on Thursday, March 31, are valid for the disposal of self-hauled domestic or green waste (under one tonne) at any of council's waste disposal facilities.

It's the perfect opportunity to tidy up your yard and dispose of unwanted palm fronds, tree branches and grass clippings. Old furniture, electrical items and toys can also be disposed of for free at Resource Recovery Facility the Incredible Tip Shop.

Vouchers issued with the February rates notice remain valid until the end of September this year.

>> For more details visit mackay.qld.gov.au or call 1300 MACKAY (622 529)



The site between Holts and Beaconsfield roads.

Vision for wetlands

COUNCIL wants community feedback on concept plans for a wetland and recreational area opposite Masters Home Improvement.

The parcel of land is between Holts and Beaconsfield roads.

Director of Development Services, Gerard Carlyon, said the McCrearys Creek South Regional Wetland project would help improve stormwater management.

He said it would also provide residents and tourists with a new open space to enjoy.

"We envisage the wetland

being a place where people can come to enjoy a variety of leisure activities, such as taking the dog for a walk, enjoying a spot of bird watching from a board walk, or a picnic with family and friends."

Consultation is open until April 1.

Residents are encouraged to complete a survey at connectingmackay.com.au/mccrearys-creek-wetlands.

Once detailed design is complete, council will seek grant funding to begin staging construction.

>> Contact Community Engagement on 4961 9803 or email engagement@mackay.qld.gov.au

Shopping experience 'Incredible'

RESIDENTS can enjoy a more professional and seamless shopping experience at council's Resource Recovery Facility - also known as the Incredible Tip Shop - at Paget.

Incredible staff are now armed with iPads that allow them to add the items clients want to buy to a virtual shopping trolley, removing the need for manual input and handwritten paper slips.

If customers see an item they like, they can wave down

a staff member to create a virtual shopping trolley and add the desired item to the cart.

"At any time you can call over a staff member and ask them to add additional items to your virtual trolley," said council's Waste Services manager Jason Grandcourt.

"Once you finish browsing, simply go to the check-out, give them your name, and purchase your items," he said.

"This innovative technology

will improve customer service and capture how much reusable waste is being diverted from landfill."

Mr Grandcourt said council's tip shop sold reusable items, including household furniture, white goods and building materials.

The tip shop is located at the Paget Waste Management Centre, Crichtons Road, Paget.

It is open 9am to 4pm, Thursday to Sunday, each week.



Making use of iPad shopping at Incredible Tip Shop at the Resource Recovery Centre at Paget are Nathan Lovett (right) and Peter Goodworth.

>> For more details on recycling and waste facilities, visit mackay.qld.gov.au and look under the "services" and "waste" tabs

WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H₂O

Would you like to know if your property has a water leak or if you're using too much water? Sign-up to myh2o.qld.gov.au to receive email and SMS alerts. It's free to use.

How uni students can pocket \$5000

THE life of a university student can be a financial struggle.

Imagine what a difference \$5000 to help with their studies would make.

That is what is on offer through council's annual Academic Bursary Program, with applications for this year's round open.

Mackay's Kirstin Palmer, 20, was awarded one of the bursaries last year.

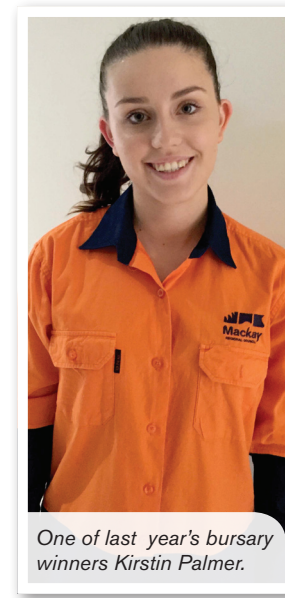
Now a fourth-year civil engineering student at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), she said it was a huge help with expenses like the purchase of text books.

She applied last year after hearing about the bursaries a year earlier.

"My mum found it in the paper and told me to apply for it the next year.

"I was only in my second year when she found it. It was always in the back of my mind to apply for it the following year."

>> For more details or to apply online visit mackay.qld.gov.au/academicbursary



One of last year's bursary winners Kirstin Palmer.

in July last year and I got my first payment soon after that," Miss Palmer said.

"The second payment was at the end of last year once I sent my results in," she said.

The program also includes opportunities for paid vacation work with council.

Miss Palmer said she did work experience with council over the recent summer period.

"I did 12 weeks and they were really flexible," she said.

"I did six weeks in tech services in design and six weeks in construction civil projects.

"I would love to be employed there when I'm finished."

There is just over a week left to apply for an Academic Bursary, with applications closing next Friday, April 1.

Students do not have to be studying in Mackay to be considered for the bursary. However, they must ordinarily be residents of the Mackay region.

Easter services

BIN collections will remain normal over the Easter break. Council's waste facilities will open normal operating days, but the Incredible Resource Recovery Centre will be closed Good Friday. Bluewater Lagoon will be open from 9am to 5.45pm every day over the Easter break. Council offices, Artspace Mackay and libraries will all be closed from Good Friday, reopening Tuesday, March 29. For a list of council facilities closures over Easter, go to mackay.qld.gov.au.

Arts reviewed

COUNCIL'S current Arts and Cultural Plan is being reviewed and community feedback, visions and ideas are being gathered. Anyone with any interest in local arts and culture is invited to a series of brainstorming sessions to help shape our region in years to come. You don't have to be an artist - you may just like admiring a painting or going to a rock show. We want your feedback and ideas. Brainstorming sessions will be held throughout the region from Eungella to Sarina, as well as online. To register your interest, contact Wanda Bennett on 0407 171 371 or Tracey Heathwood on 0401 825 728.

Scoot on in

BRING your helmet and scooter down to the Sarina Skate Park on Sunday, April 17, and join the scooter competition. An initiative of the Sarina Youth Centre and sponsored by Troppo's Skate N Scoot, the event will have loads of prizes, a DJ and will be fully catered. Nomination forms must be completed prior to competing and can be collected from the Youth Centre or Troppo's. The comp kicks off at 10am.



Illegal dumping is unsightly and the clean-up costs the community financially.

Stamp out illegal dumping

IT'S time to take pride in our region.

Most residents do. However, there is a small group who have no pride in their town.

Not only does illegal dumping make our region look ugly and unsightly, it also comes at a cost to the community.

In the last financial year, illegal dumping cost ratepayers more than \$250,000.

Community and Client Services director Bridget Mather said there was no excuse for illegal dumping.

"Although council provides residents with dump vouchers with their rates notices, only 30 per cent of residents use them," Ms Mather said.

"These vouchers provide the opportunity for residents to do the right thing and correctly dispose of items they no

longer want," she said.

"If the item doesn't fit in your general waste bin, you will need to take it to one of the region's waste facilities."

Fines are in place for those caught not doing the right thing.

Depending on the amount of litter dumped, those fines can range anywhere from \$235 to \$2356.

>> For a list of council's waste facilities visit mackay.qld.gov.au/waste