

## Fund helps community groups hit new heights

Scouts excited about their new abseiling tower at Rowallan Park and encouraging others to apply for the Better Community Building Fund

SCOUTS are renowned for being practical achievers in the outdoors.

So, it is little wonder they managed to secure \$140,000 in council funding and have made a long-awaited abseiling tower at Rowallan Park a reality.

The project, which has just been completed, was made possible with funding obtained in the inaugural round of council's Better Community Building Fund.

With a new round of the funding currently open, the Scouts are encouraging other community and not-

for-profit sporting groups to apply for funding to help get much-needed projects off the ground.

Souths Central Coast region commissioner Dougal McWhinney said scouts were looking forward to using the tower early in the New Year.

"There is a lot of excitement within the scouting community," he said.

"Rowallan Park has been trying to get a tower built for the last 20 years but through various issues hadn't been able to secure the funding and materials.

"We have also had a lot of interest from schools and other organisations wanting to use the abseil tower."

Another \$2 million in funding is available in round two following the success of the inaugural \$3 million Better Community Building Fund.

The main change is the fund will mainly be aimed at applications for grants of between \$25,000 and \$100,000. Last year's fund was aimed at grants between \$75,000 and \$250,000.

The Better Community Building Fund's assessment committee will still have the

discretion to recommend projects of between \$100,000 and \$250,000 on merit.

Mayor Greg Williamson said the program enabled council to invest in local jobs and stimulated economic growth and participation opportunities.



Mayor Greg Williamson (right) and Souths Central Coast region commissioner Dougal McWhinney when they turned the sod at Rowallan Park and the abseiling tower (above) as it neared completion.



>> Round two of the Better Community Building Fund is currently open, with expressions of interest closing on January 29. Go to [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au) for more details

## Nominate our unsung heroes

COUNCIL is encouraging residents to nominate someone for a 2017 Australia Day Award.

Mayor Greg Williamson said the awards were about recognising the unsung heroes in our community, who would be invited to attend a function on Australia Day Eve.

"We want to recognise the people in our community who make us proud to call this region home," Cr Williamson said.

"Whether it's an upcoming sports star, musician or community volunteer, let them know you appreciate their hard work," he said.

There are eight award categories this year including:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Arts and Culture Award
- Community Group Award
- Environmental Achievement Award
- Lori Burgess Community Volunteer Award
- Senior Sports Award
- Young Sports Award



This year's 2016 Australia Day award winners. The 2017 winners and nominees will be honoured at an Australia Day Eve function at the MECC.

>> Visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/australiaday](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/australiaday) to nominate someone deserving for an award. Nominations close at 8am on Tuesday, January 10



Bucasia Scouts are having an Australia Day Open Day

## Save the date!

Australia Day 2017 Community Events proudly supported by Mackay Regional Council:

- > Australia Day Red Devil Family Fishing Competition - 8am to 1pm, Shoal Point Beach, Shoal Point
- > Pioneer Valley Australia Day Awards and Celebration - 8:30am to 1pm, Pioneer Valley Show Hall, Finch Hatton
- > Australia Day Open Day at Banksia Scout Group Den - 10am to 1pm, Jaycee Park, Fernleigh Avenue, Andergrove
- > Australia Day BBQ and Family Fun Day - 10:30am to 2pm, Mackay Surf Life Saving Club, Mackay Harbour
- > Wests Australia Day Celebration - 11am to 4pm, Western Suburbs Rugby League Football Club, Walkerston
- > Australia Day Community Barbecue - 11am to 2pm, Iluka Park, Town Beach
- > We Are One - Aussie Family Day - 11:30am to 3pm, Quota Park, Southern end of Binnington Esplanade, Mackay
- > Australia Day Party 2017 - 2pm to 6pm, Seaforth Foreshore Park
- > Australia Day at Sarina Beach - 2pm to 6pm, Sarina Surf Lifesaving Club, Sarina beach
- > Habana "Beach" Party - 3pm to 7pm, Habana Catholic Church, 1091 Mackay-Habana Rd, Habana

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



## 'We Are One' for Australia Day event

ONE of Mackay's Australia Day events next month will be called "We Are One".

It will be hosted by the not-for-profit M&K Australian South Sea Islander and Mackay Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's group.

The group was one of 10 successful in securing council grants, ranging from \$500 to \$100, to stage Australia Day events in our region.

M&K Chairperson Marion Healy said "We Are One"

was all about celebrating family and diversity.

"It will be held at Quota Park on Binnington Esplanade on Australia Day from 11:30am to 3pm and our goal is to bring the community together as one," she said.

"This is the first time we've applied for Australia Day funding from council and it was great to have the support of the Mackay and District Australian South Sea Islander Association.

"There will be heaps of fun activities for the kids

including sack races, wheelbarrow races, and touch footy on the beach, not to mention plenty of Aussie food.

Community Engagement Committee chair Cr Kevin Casey said he was excited to see the range of Australia Day events in the Mackay region this year.

"For Australia Day 2017, we're proud to support an exciting line-up of events like Australia Day parties, beach barbecues, family fun days and even a family fishing competition," Cr Casey said.

>> More details on Australia Day 2017 events online at [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au)

## Dump vouchers

WITH cyclone season underway, council is urging residents to kick off their safety preparations by tidying up their yards and cashing in their dump vouchers. The dump vouchers issued in the August rates mail out are valid until the end of March 2017 and now is the perfect opportunity to tidy up your yard, dispose of unwanted palm fronds, tree branches and grass clippings. Not only will you be preparing your own property for the stormy season, you will also be helping our region keep cleaner and greener this summer. For more information, visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/vouchers](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/vouchers).

## Library opens

OVER 1700 people visited the new Dudley Denny Library over the weekend. The library is 30 per cent bigger than the previous Mackay City Library and features state-of-the-art technology including interactive floor projectors, a 3D printer, robotic teaching aids, plus much more. Come in and see what all the fuss is about.

Opening times this week are:  
Wednesday 8.30am - 6pm  
Thursday 8.30am - 8pm  
Friday 8.30am - 6pm  
Saturday 9am - 1pm  
Closed Christmas day.

## Adopt a pet

COUNCIL and the RSPCA are encouraging residents to adopt a pet as a gift this festive season rather than buying one. Giving a pound pet a loving home is the best gift you could give this Christmas. Visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/poundpets](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/poundpets) to view a list of the current pets available for adoption.

## Feedback closes

PUBLIC consultation on the proposed Mackay Region Planning Scheme has closed. Council has been reviewing submissions and expects to respond to submitters early in the New Year. The proposed planning scheme will then be finalised and sent to the State Government for adoption. The new document will be a single planning scheme for the Mackay region. It will shape the future of our region for the next 20 years.

## Help put bite on mozzies

THE weather has heated up and mozzies are out in force. To help avoid an outbreak of dengue in the region it is important residents follow these tips:

> Tip out any water in pot plant bases and containers;

> Store items that can hold water in a dry spot or undercover;

> Throw out any rubbish lying around; and

> Clean out gutters.

The symptoms of dengue fever include headaches, fevers, aches, pains and vomiting. If you think you may have dengue fever, see your doctor immediately.

>> More dengue fever prevention tips at [mackay.qld.gov.au/dengue](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/dengue)



Lifeline volunteer Beryl Hogan is fed up with rubbish being dumped at their charity bins

## Dumping a low act

SOME of the things that volunteers have found dumped around their donation bins have been less than charitable.

Dirty nappies, fish scraps and grass clippings are just some of the items that have been left in the region's charity bins in the past.

Community Engagement deputy chair Cr Laurence Bonaventura said there was no excuse for dumping rubbish in or around charity bins.

"It is not only unsightly, but

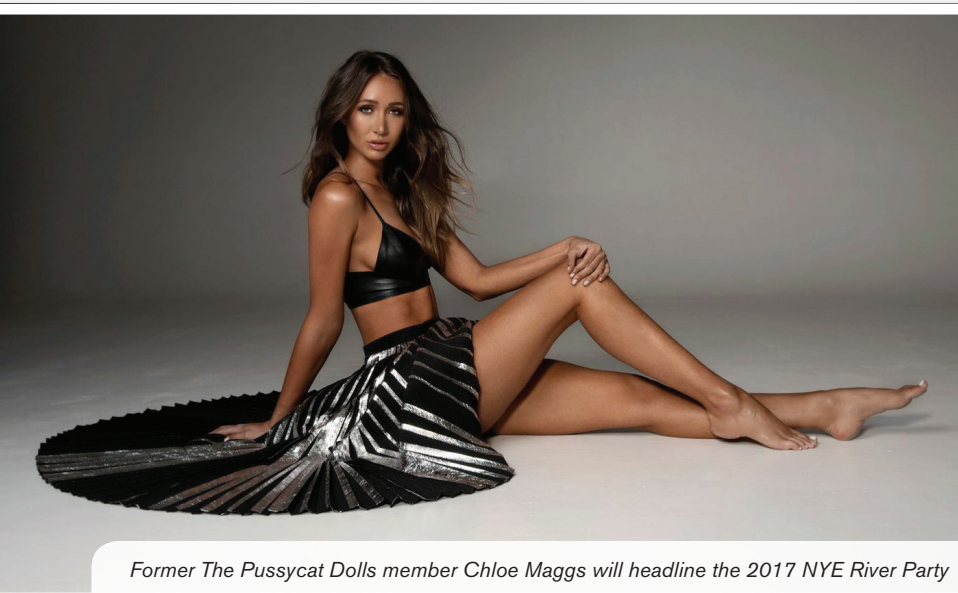
it is also illegal and carries fines up to \$2438," Cr Bonaventura said.

"Charity bins are designed for clothing and other small donations only," he said.

"Large unwanted items must be delivered directly to charity offices during their opening hours and rubbish is certainly not accepted."

Council is encouraging residents to do the right thing and help charities by reporting the car registration details of anyone they see illegally dumping.

>> Report illegal dumping on 1300 MACKAY (622 529)



Former The Pussycat Dolls member Chloe Maggs will headline the 2017 NYE River Party

## Celebrate New Year's Eve on the river

MASQUERADE is the glitzy theme for this year's BB Print New Year's Eve River Party at Bluewater Quay.

Come dressed in your best masquerade mask for an upbeat and high energy night of entertainment.

The event kicks off at 6pm with fun for the whole family including a dedicated kidzone, featuring free face painting,

mask making workshops and amusements.

Then, watch the spectacular fireworks display light up the Pioneer River at 9pm.

From 9pm onwards, party the night away with the region's best local bands and lead vocalist of The Pussycat Dolls' 2015 Australian Tour,, Chloe Maggs.

Chloe said she planned to bring in the new year with a bang with her band.

"We will be performing a mixture of 80's, 90's and current top 40 hits," she said.

"We are all super pumped about coming and celebrating NYE with you all.

"Get ready for an epic show!"

>> For more information on this event visit [www.mackayecc.com.au/festivals](http://www.mackayecc.com.au/festivals)