

Revealed: Mackay's top 25 pooch breeds

With more than 13,000 dogs registered in our council region, the numbers show pet owners love their staffies

MACKAY owners of staffies are sure to prick their ears at this news — your pooches are the most popular dog breed in the region.

Cr Karen May said there were 13,037 dogs registered in Mackay.

"It is interesting to look at the numbers of the various breeds," Cr May said.

A quick scan of Mackay Regional Council's dog registration records shows Staffordshire bull terriers top the list, with 765 registered.

Staffordshire bull terrier crosses are next, with 561, just ahead of labradors (475).

Border collies and Australian cattle dogs round out the top five.

"Most dog owners tend to think their dogs are the best dogs," she said.

"Our registration records show which are the most popular.

"However, that doesn't mean that dogs further down the list are any less loved or popular with their owners."

Cr May said the message from council was for residents to love their dogs like one of the family and take responsibility for them.

"Even though we have 13,000 dogs registered, there would be many more that aren't registered," she said.

"We'd encourage those people to register their dogs. That helps ensure they're reunited with their owners quickly if they go roaming."

Remember — Your pet, your responsibility.



Mackay staffies Griffith (left) and Ffion.

Top 25 Mackay dog breeds

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Staffy bull terrier (765) | 10. Bull Arab X (262) | 19. Fox terrier X (163) |
| 2. Staffy X (561) | 11. Kelpie X (252) | 20. Mastiff X (155) |
| 3. Labrador (474) | 12. Cattle dog X (206) | 21. Border collie X (141) |
| 4. Border collie (466) | 13. Fox terrier (195) | 22. Maltese X poodle (128) |
| 5. Australian cattle dog (459) | 14. Kelpie (180) | 23. Dachshund miniature (122) |
| 6. Shih tzu X maltese (401) | 14. Chihuahua (180) | 24. Boxer (119) |
| 7. Maltese X (373) | 15. Maltese X silky (177) | 25. Cavalier King Charles (116) |
| 8. German shepherd (300) | 16. Labrador X (170) | |
| 9. Jack russell terrier (293) | 17. American staffy (168) | |
| | 18. Jack russell X (164) | |

>> For more information and guidelines on responsible pet ownership requirements in the Mackay Regional Council area, go online at mackay.qld.gov.au/pets

MECC to stage a monster kids' day

DINOSAURS, UV-active puppets, Rumpelstiltskin, a silent disco and some circus-inspired magical moments of mayhem will all combine to make the ultimate kids' day out.

On Saturday, April 13, the MECC will open its doors for its first Kids' Day at the MECC event.

The day will include performances, workshops and tours all designed with young families in mind.

Cr Justin Englert said the team at the MECC had gone all out to produce a day of fun guaranteed to excite and entertain school holiday crowds.

"This Kids' Day is designed as a festival for kids and is a first of its kind for the MECC," Cr Englert said.

"The main stage will be filled with wonderful performances from start to finish," he said.

"Dinosaur Time Machine will incorporate up-to-date science and discoveries about dinosaurs, as well as a life-sized T-Rex.

"Our emcee, Dandyman, will create circus-inspired magical moments of mayhem, complete with goofy games, fun competitions and prizes.

"Throw in a screening of Rumpelstiltskin, puppet-making workshops with UV-

active recycled material and a silent disco backstage tour, and you have the ultimate indoor school holiday adventure."

Cr Englert said the Neon Junk Puppets Workshop would be very popular.

"You can make your own crazy critters, luminous pets and magical monsters and then play with them in our interactive blacklight puppet booth," he said.

The MECC is encouraging families to get in early and register for the workshops and tours to avoid disappointment on the day. Book now online or at the MECC box office.



Bluey the Dinosaur with intrepid time machine builder "Flick".

>> For a full timetable of Kids' Day at the MECC workshops, tours and shows, and to purchase tickets, go online at themecc.com.au



Mayor Greg Williamson (fourth from left) with Sunrise Rotary members (from left) Richard Wainwright, Brendan Hughes, Karen Hold, Pauline Townsend Sandra Janson, Belinda Hassan, Brenda Heitman and Gabriele Giannangelo.

Platypus Beach closed for repairs

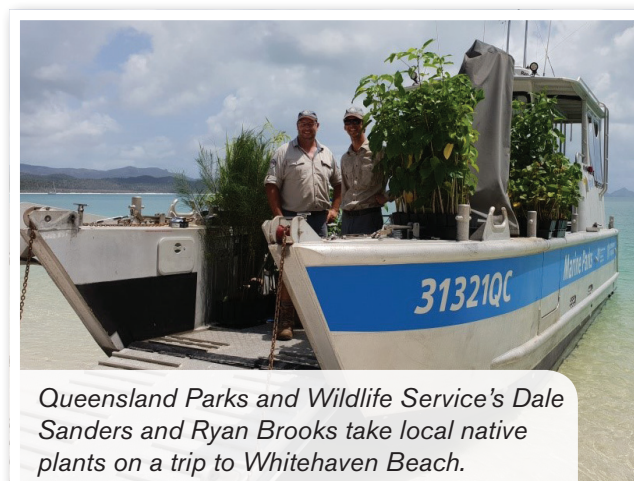
THE popular Platypus Beach will be closed on weekdays from March 25 to April 12.

Mackay Sugar is carrying out bridge maintenance, weather permitting.

The beach will be closed for safety reasons but will remain open on weekends for leisure and recreation.

Platypus Beach has proven popular with locals and tourists since its revitalisation in 2017.

The revitalisation was part of the 2017-18 \$200 million Queensland Government Works for Queensland program.



Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service's Dale Sanders and Ryan Brooks take local native plants on a trip to Whitehaven Beach.

Plants find new home on Whitehaven Beach

MORE than 2500 locally-grown native plants have made the trip to Whitehaven Beach on their own personal barge.

Council's Mackay Natural Environment Centre (MNEC) has been helping Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service with the revegetation of Whitehaven Beach as part of Cyclone Debbie recovery efforts.

Cr Karen May said council was proud to be able to assist

with the recovery effort.

"The plants were propagated onsite at the Mackay Natural Environment Centre," she said.

"Plants grown at MNEC are regularly used in local revegetation and community projects.

"MNEC's next big project will see 31,000 plants sent to Midge Point and Lamberts Beach as part of their cyclone recovery efforts."

>> Visit council's website for information on MNEC.

Free workshops

BRING your family and join artists Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan when they visit Mackay and facilitate community art workshops as part of their new work.

Over many years, Alfredo and Isabel have created complex installations, working with communities around the world to create works that explore stories of displacement, change, memory and community. Participants in these free workshops will make their own cardboard houses to be added to a huge installation exhibition in the FIELD Engineers Gallery.

The free, family workshops will be held at:

>Artspace Mackay, 10am to 2pm, Sunday, March 24

>George Street Neighbourhood Centre, World Cafe, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Monday, March 25

>Dudley Denny City Library, after-school workshop, 3.30pm to 5pm, Monday, March 25



Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan's Here, There, Everywhere: Project Another Country 2018.



Sugar Bowl Mackay will host Skate Titans Mackay during Youth Week.

Skate to youth activities

QUEENSLAND Youth Week (April 3 to 14) celebrations in Sarina will be jam-packed with action and will end with a giant colour blast.

The free Unlimited Choices family fun day at Darts Hall in Brewers Park, Sarina, will kick off on Friday, April 5, from 3pm to 6pm.

Cr Fran Mann said the Unlimited Choices day would feature a live DJ, jumping castle, mechanical

bull, climbing wall and youth services.

"The biggest blast of colourful fun though will come at the finale around 6pm," Cr Mann said.

"We are asking everyone to wear a white t-shirt they don't mind getting blasted with colours."

Also happening during youth week, is the Skate Titans Mackay qualifier competition

for this year's Rumble on the Reef. Proudly supported by council and held at the new Sugar Bowl Skatepark, this event is free and open to all on April 13, from 3pm to 7.30pm.

To register for Skate Titans Mackay, head to the ASCI Events Facebook page.

The 2019 Queensland Youth Week theme is "unlimited", celebrating the boundless energy of youth.

>> For more information head to the Sarina Youth Centre page on Facebook

Street event

STREET Wise Art After Dark is an exciting after-dark collaborative event presented by Artspace Mackay Foundation and Young Professionals Mackay. Held on Thursday, April 11, from 5.30pm to 9pm, this fun event lets visitors experience Artspace Mackay in a different light. It combines Australian street artist Buff Diss making art live on the night, with live music, craft brews, street-themed catering, street-style fashion, a guest speaker (Autumn Skuthorpe) and much more. Tickets are just \$30. This is an 18+ event.

Choose names

TODAY is the last day residents can help choose names for the Mackay ARC's aquatic and athletics facilities. We're looking for your ideas because it's your facility. The only proviso is the aquatic and athletics facilities won't be named after people, as the ARC will have a "Walk of Fame" installed to acknowledge elite swimmers and athletes produced from our region. Suggestions close this afternoon (March 20) at 5pm. Submit your suggestion at connectingmackay.com.au

Seniors Expo

REGISTRATIONS have just opened and the exhibitor list for the Mackay Seniors Expo is filling fast. The Expo is locked in for Tuesday, August 20, and will be held in the Big Shed at the Mackay Show Grounds from 9am to 1pm. A capped 80 sites are available for businesses and not-for-profit organisations and will be offered on a first come, first served basis. To request an application form, contact Tania Leeson, Senior's Expo Working Group at tania.leeson@mackay.qld.gov.au or on 4961 9536. Registrations close Friday, July 26, and cost just \$25 for not-for-profits.

RADF survey

THE Regional Arts Development Fund is one of the ways in which creative, artistic and brilliant locals can tap into funding to complete projects. Council is looking at ways in which the program can be tailored to better suit you. Have your say at connectingmackay.com.au

Rock legends sign auction item

A FRAMED guitar signed by some Aussie rock legends will be one of the most-sought after auction items at this year's Mackay Mayor's Charity Ball.

Mayor Greg Williamson said the guitar had been signed by the likes of James Reyne, Rose Tattoo, Pseudo Echo, Baby Animals and Boom Crash Opera.

"Imagine having this signed guitar in your home or workplace," he said.

"Those who have signed it are among Australian rock royalty, so we're hopeful this auction item will raise plenty of money for charity."

This year's Mackay Mayor's Charity Ball will be held in the MECC plenary halls on Saturday, May 25.

The ball was officially launched by Cr Williamson last week, with tickets now on sale.

Proceeds from this year's

ball will help Mackay children suffering trauma from domestic and family violence.

The Charity Ball, a major initiative of Mackay Sunrise Rotary Club, has raised about \$500,000 for charities over the past 15 years.

This year's ball is supported by major sponsors, including DGH Engineering, Fergus Builders and Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. It is being organised by Sunrise Rotary, council and the MECC.

>> Book your tickets for the Mackay Mayor's Charity Ball now at themecc.com.au