

Spotlight: Global Grooves

The event on Saturday, October 26, at Meadowlands Ampitheatre in the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens is our largest multicultural showcase that allows locals to travel the globe in five hours

WHEN Tuza Afutu started traditional African drumming, he had nothing but tin lids and jerry-cans to get people moving.

“Because we were a poor family in Ghana, there was no way we had enough money to buy a drum,” Mr Afutu said.

That was more than three decades ago, and now the creative director of African Beat has a crew of 40 performers playing in schools, festivals and events across the world.

He’s bringing an elite group of those performers, The Salaka Ensemble, to Mackay for Global Grooves.

Held on Saturday, October 26, at Meadowlands Amphitheatre in the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, the region’s largest multicultural event lets locals travel the world in a single evening.

Running from 3pm to 8pm, the festival will feature an amazing array of 15 performers, bands and dance groups.

On show will be an amazing range of music and traditional dances and costumes from local and international performers.

Cr Justin Englert said the Salaka Ensemble were the perfect feature act for Global Grooves.

“They come direct from Ghana and will deliver an uplifting live show that blends vibrant rhythms, amazing vocal harmonies, stunning costumes, exotic percussion grooves and almost superhuman dance moves,” Cr Englert said.



The Salaka Ensemble are excited to perform this month

“They are aerobatic, authentic and absolute masters at energising the crowd,” he said.

Mr Afutu said a strong, simple, catchy rhythm was the secret to getting the crowd involved.

“Rhythm is the language to communicate with anyone from anywhere in the world,” he said.

“Mackay crowds should get their dancing shoes ready because we plan on getting everyone up and grooving.

“We will teach some simple dance moves that even the most uncoordinated dancers will be able to master, and I guarantee the rhythm will go through the crowd.”

Cr Englert said it wasn’t just the entertainment that made Global Grooves so popular.

“There’s a workshop tepee with activities to enthral children and adults – you can learn to drum or create a cultural mask or artwork,” he said.

“And the food is amazing - where else can you experience authentic food from so many different nations, all in the one place?”

“There will be more than a dozen food vendors with delicacies from across the world. From Italian and Maltese to Filipino, Pacific Islands, Dutch, Thai and Indian – there will be plenty on offer to tantalise your tastebuds.”

Global Grooves is an initiative of Mackay Regional Council and the MECC and is proudly supported by the Queensland Government and ABC Tropical North.

GLOBAL GROOVES - PERFORMER SCHEDULE	
3.00pm	2019 Global Grooves opening
3.08pm	Welcome to country and smoking ceremony
3.10pm	Mackay Filipino-Australian Association
3.20pm	Vama
3.50pm	Sakwalo Dancers
4.00pm	Mackay and District Pipe Band
4 - 7pm	Cultural colouring in and face painting
4.00pm	Pelican Zen Drumming workshop
4.10pm	Thai Aussie Community
4.30pm	Nepalese Australian Association of Mackay Region
4.40pm	Jonte Tupaea
5.10pm	Embellish Bellydance Mackay
5.20pm	Indigo Soul
5.50pm	Pacific Island Community
6.00pm	Pelican Zen Drumming workshop
6.10pm	Indonesian Community
6.20pm	Mackay Chinese Association
6.30pm	Ragtime Renditions
7.00pm	Mackay Chinese Association
7.10pm	African Beat presents the Salaka Ensemble



Photo credit: Paul Bright - A beautiful time of day in winter near the race course mill

> Go get snapping!

THIS week’s focus for the Mackay Through the Lens photo competition is “Sugar City”. For inspiration, take a drive around the region or visit the Sarina Sugar Shed.

By capturing the Mackay region in all its glory this month, you could win \$3000 in Camera House vouchers. Grab your camera or smartphone and get snapping - from beautiful sunsets and sunrises to lush rainforest and lookouts, the list of possible photo locations is endless.

Upload your photo to mackay.qld.gov.au or hashtag #mackaypridelens on social media by November 1.



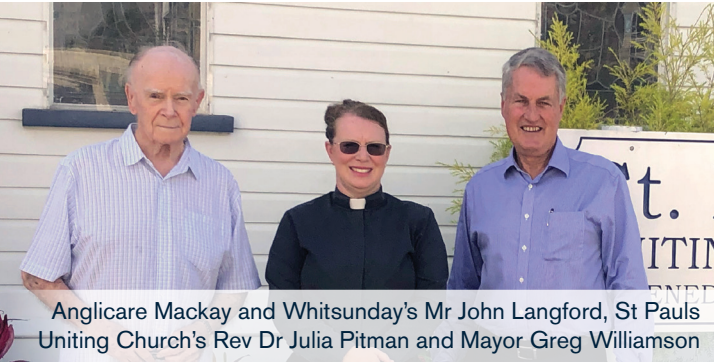
Asher Rogers waters his garden at home

> Be water smart...

DON'T get caught out watering on your non-allocated day. Residents who live on even numbered properties can water their gardens on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Odd numbered properties can water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. You must water before 10am and after 4pm, and don't forget no watering on a Monday.

Cr Martin Bella said a great way to stay on top of your household water consumption was to register for myh2o. "It's free and provides the convenience to monitor anytime, anywhere." By signing up you can also set email and SMS alerts to be notified of water leaks.

Visit myh2o.qld.gov.au to learn more about this service.



Food drive aims to resupply charities

FILLING their pantries is a constant battle for local charitable organisations.

Organisations like St Pauls Uniting Church, Anglicare Mackay and the Sarina Inter Church Council give away up to 50 food parcels a week to locals who would otherwise go without.

Council has launched a food drive as part of Anti-poverty Week to help ease the burden on charities.

Mayor Greg Williamson said council was leading the food drive to help local charities which supported those who experienced poverty in our region.

He said the food drive had become a regular council campaign each year.

“We are asking for non-perishable food items and toiletries that are in date and undamaged.

“We will then distribute everything to these organisations so they can distribute to those in need.”

Drop off your food and toiletry donations to any of the following locations:

- > Jubilee Community Centre
- > Council Client Service Centre, 73 Gordon Street
- > Dudley Denny City Library
- > Gordon White Library
- > Paget Council Depot
- > Sarina Neighbourhood Centre
- > Mirani Client Service Centre
- > Walkerston Library.

This is a council initiative, supported by Coles supermarkets.

SAVETHE DATE

Reasonable & Necessary: Prints and artist books by Artel Artists
October 18 - January 19

Losing Home, Finding Home: Mike Nakamura-Mather
November 29 - February 23

For more details, artspacemackay.com.au

St Helens Beach community session

A DRAFT local coastal plan that sets a vision for the St Helens Beach coastline into the future has been developed. Residents are invited to attend the community catch-up session to have their say on the plan on Friday (October 18) from 3pm to 5pm at St Helens Beach Esplanade Reserve.

Don’t vandalise valuable vegetation

LAST month, 18 native trees at Bucasia Beach were illegally cut down. The damage is disappointing and alarming as this vegetation helps stabilise sand dunes and provides protection to coastal properties in severe weather events, such as cyclones. Council is reminding residents that vegetation vandalism is taken very seriously and there are some major consequences for offenders, including fines from \$267 to \$6672, excluding remediation costs.

Cyclone Saturday on next month

RESIDENTS are being encouraged to save the date for next month’s Cyclone Saturday event on November 16 at Caneland Central. Learn how to prepare yourself, your family, your pets and your property for natural disasters. Visit our information stall located outside Sportsgirl from 8am to 1pm. Pick up your free copy of the Emergency Action Guide, gain some valuable information from experts and go in the draw to win a generator.

Head online for helpful event guide

IF YOU are planning an event in the Mackay region, you may need a Temporary Entertainment Event Permit. This guide is paramount as it includes details of dealing with council regulations, permits, traffic management, safety and grants and sponsorship opportunities, plus access to useful event planning resources. This handy online tool is found on our website, mackay.qld.gov.au.