

Facilities get back to business

Easing restrictions mean council facilities can return to business as usual

COUNCIL'S timeline for reopening its public facilities has been accelerated.

The announcement comes as the State Government brings forward stage two of easing restrictions.

As of June, and where social distancing space allows, all facilities have moved to a 20-visitor maximum capacity.

Mayor Greg Williamson said signage was in place but that some spaces within facilities would have their own capacity limits based on floor space.

"All of our facilities will be keeping records of visitors for contact tracing purposes, so we ask for your cooperation and please know that your privacy will be protected," Cr Williamson said.

He said it was tremendous to have so many of council's facilities back in action.

"Jubilee Community Centre meeting rooms and the foyer are now available for community

bookings from Monday to Friday," he said.

"All of our libraries have reopened and are offering extended visitation limits of an hour, which includes PC usage."

Evening and weekend opening hours for libraries will resume from Thursday, July 2. Check the library website (mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries) for details.

Greenmount Homestead and Artspace Mackay are also back in action.

Community Halls and public parks are available for bookings of up to 20 people.

Mackay Museum, Sarina Museum (June 16) and Pioneer Valley Museum (June 18) are opening this week.

Aquatic centres, including the Mackay ARC, have also reopened, however restrictions apply.

For more details on restrictions at facilities, head to mackay.qld.gov.au/facilities-covid



Our regional libraries have reopened.



Council's community halls have reopened and are available for booking.

OPEN NOW	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All librariesJubilee Community CentreGreenmount HomesteadArtspace MackayFoodspaceCommunity HallsSeaforth Camping Ground		CLOSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The MECCBluewater LagoonMemorial Swim CentreSarina Swim CentreMirani Swim Centre
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> Greenmount Homestead makes the most of closure

THE story of Greenmount Homestead and the Cook family who lived there has remained unchanged for well over a decade. However, during the COVID-19 closure, museum staff have been busy refining and building on the history of this historic homestead. Greenmount reopened to the public last week.

Museums coordinator Alicia Stevenson said council's Museums team had taken a deep dive into the Greenmount archives while researching new tour guide material. "We've done a lot of fact-checking during the closure and have matched many of the stories that have been passed on by word-of-mouth to physical documentation like old letters, articles and books written by and about the Cook family," Ms Stevenson said. "The result has been the uncovering of many new stories that we are looking forward to sharing with visitors now that we have reopened," she said.

An important textile conservation project has also been undertaken during the hiatus. The project will enable the original Cook family wardrobe to be stored in a way that will prevent degeneration and then be rotated through display. *For more information and opening hours, head to mackay.qld.gov.au/greenmount*

> Gordon White Library gets a birthday facelift

WHEN Gordon White Library was being built the bug of the day was Y2K. Now, 20 years on, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought about a rejuvenation of the facility.

The library reopened its doors today (Wednesday, June 17) and clients will notice some exciting changes.

Mayor Greg Williamson said council had jumped at the chance to complete a long-overdue renovation project during the closure.

"We had already budgeted for this 20-year birthday renovation, but originally the project would have required closing the library and working around customers," Cr Williamson said.

"Hats off to staff – they brought works forward and have done an amazing job to complete a fantastic overhaul and reopen inline with stage two of reopenings," he said.

Community and Client Services director Angela Hays said renovations had been significant.

"The 20-year-old carpet was ripped up and replaced, the interior has been painted and there's new shelving, end panels, RFID self-service equipment, after-hours chute, self-service kiosks and booth seating," Ms Hays said.

She said regular clients would notice some changes to the layout as well.

"We've updated the layout of our collections and installed new signage to allow for easier navigation and more effective display and promotion of collection items," she said.

"We've also relocated the public computer space and updated the layout of the children's space. Overall, the library has never looked better and it's good to go for another 20 years of serving the community."



Claire Grandcourt (left) and Shannon de Silva in the booth seats.



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Joblink offers 1200 local jobs

MACKAY Region Joblink has more than 1200 local jobs on offer.

This local platform offers a free service for job seekers looking for their next career and for employers in the region to advertise their vacant jobs.

Mayor Greg Williamson said it was a great initiative for job seekers and businesses to be a part of, especially considering impacts of COVID-19 on many industries.

"Mackay has a population of over 117,000 people, and the community are feeling the effects of COVID-19," Cr Williamson said.

"In a recent survey conducted by council, 12 per cent of local workers said they had lost their job due to COVID-19," he said.

"A further 28 per cent of workers said they have had their hours and/or income reduced.

"In the wake of those kinds of impacts, it's great to see there are 1200 jobs on offer right now – it means people in our community have options.

"Mackay Region Joblink is a fantastic one-stop-shop for local jobs across a variety of industries including trades, healthcare, agriculture, government and so many more industries.

"Whether you're looking for a job or the next step in your career, there is something for you in the Mackay region."

Signing up is free for both job seekers and job advertisers and the website is updated daily to provide access to the latest jobs in the Mackay region.

Visit mackayregionjoblink.com.au and become a member. Find your next career or upload your job vacancies for free.



> Sugar Shed offers mate's rates

ONE of the region's most popular tourist destinations has reopened after being closed for almost 12 weeks. Sarina Sugar Shed, which was temporarily closed due to COVID-19 restrictions in March, reopened on Monday (June 15).

The multi award-winning facility has also recently recruited a new coordinator to help Sarina Sugar Shed reach new heights. Sarina Sugar Shed coordinator Ian Mason said he was excited to join the team and was looking forward to meeting visitors to the facility.

"As a sweet incentive for people to visit, we are offering a free children's tour with every adult tour purchased, as a 'mate's rates' special," Mr Mason said.

"Residents need to call and ask for the 'mate's rates' special." To find out more, call 4943 2801 or visit the website sarinasugarshed.com.au

> Picture Pawfect

RESIDENTS are being encouraged to show council they practise responsible pet ownership!

Take a photo of you and your pet being responsible and submit it to mackay.qld.gov.au/pet to go into the draw to win a \$100 pet voucher.

Photos could include anything from taking your dog for a walk on a leash, playing in an off-leash dog park or snapping a photo of your pet sporting a collar with a council pet registration tag.