

Feast of footy

A BUMPER crowd of around 7000 turned out at BB Print Stadium Mackay to watch the NQ Cowboys defeat the Sydney Roosters 11-10 in a pre-season NRL trial game at the weekend. Now it is the AFL boys' turn to stuff their stuff on the Mackay stage. The Gold Coast SUNS will take on the Essendon Bombers in a JLT Community Series match at Harrup Park on Sunday, February 25. This game is also expected to draw a large crowd and will be broadcast live on Fox Footy. Both the NRL game and the AFL match are supported by council's Invest Mackay Events Attraction Program.

Get active

COUNCIL is offering a range of \$5, \$10 and \$15 classes as part of its popular Get Out, Get Active fitness program. The program is designed to encourage women and girls to get involved in more physical activity. In addition to improving participants' general health and fitness, the Get Out, Get Active classes are also an opportunity to make new friends, boost self-confidence and have fun. More information on the classes can be found online at mackay.qld.gov.au

Tapping in

WATERmeter data management software developed by council is attracting interest throughout Australia. The software, created for council's automated water readings (ARMS) project, has been adopted by several other water authorities. Several more are also evaluating the possibility of investing. Called MiWater, the software enables council to convert a large amount of data into actionable insights. Customer portal myh2o is part of the MiWater software system. Currently, more than 10,000 Mackay properties are registered on myh2o. Sign up at myh20.qld.gov.au

Check leaks

BROKEN sprinklers, leaky hose fittings and irrigation pipes can waste a lot of water, sometimes without you even realising. Be sure to regularly check that your garden irrigation and hoses are in good working order to save yourself water, money and time in the long run.

Job seekers given start with council

2017 intake includes 26 apprentices and trainees but not all new recruits are fresh out of high school

FOR Wendy Dodds (right), starting a Community Services traineeship with council has been an ideal way to change careers in her 30s.



"I was looking at undertaking studies this year in Community Development," Mrs Dodds said.

"So, when I saw the traineeship come up, it was ideal. I had never seen one advertised before." As part of her traineeship with council, she will complete

a Certificate 3 in Community Services.

Mrs Dodds is one of 26 trainees and apprentices who have started with council as part of the 2017 intake.

Council received 980 applications for the roles. The most popular traineeship was electro-technology – electrical apprentice, with around 156 applicants.

The intake numbers were

up on last year, when 22 apprentices and trainees gained a start with council.

And not all trainees and apprentices are just out of high school.

Mrs Dodds, 37, who found out about council's annual intake of trainees on Facebook, has a background in administration.

She's had previous experience as a team leader and in supervisor roles with a company in the mining sector, but has always had



Class of 2017 - Members of council's newest apprentices and trainees intake.

a passion for community development.

From the age of 16, she's been involved in community groups, ranging from suicide prevention, Lions and other service clubs to P&Cs.

"I'm a strong believer in you get out of your community what you put in and if everyone does just a little bit

they can make a difference," she said.

Having relocated from Mt Isa to Mackay, Mrs Dodds decided the time was right to make the change.

"I think the Community Services traineeship is really unique and not something you see around a lot. What the council offers is a really

diverse experience in what community services are. Most programs only cater for a specific sector like youth work, aged care or case management.

"With the council I will get such a diverse experience. It's the first time council has run this traineeship, so it is new ground for the organisation as well."

Applications to fund total \$5.2m

THERE has been extraordinary interest in a new round of council's Better Community Building Fund.

With \$2 million in grants on offer, a total of 46 expressions of interest seeking \$5.2 million have been received.

The expressions of interest are being considered by an assessment committee to come up with a shortlist.

Shortlisted applicants will have five weeks to prepare detailed applications. The committee will then assess the shortlisted applications before final projects recommended for funding

approval are considered by council.

Mayor Greg Williamson said it was tremendous that so many expressions of interest had been received from sporting and not-for-profit community groups.

"There are many excellent proposals among the applications and it will be wonderful to help get them off the ground with funding."

The inaugural Better Community Building Fund was an initiative of council's 2015-16 budget, with \$3 million approved for 13 projects.



Mayor Greg Williamson (right) and Mackay Golf Club member Peter Walker. The club received a Better Community Building Fund grant in 2015-16.

It was an economic stimulus measure aimed at shovel-ready projects, with the condition that local contractors were used for construction. The fund

was so successful, council provided another \$2 million in this financial year's budget.

The inaugural fund was aimed at providing funding

assistance of between \$75,000 and \$250,000 for projects in the region.

This new round is aimed at smaller projects, with grants between \$25,000 and \$100,000 available.

However, applications for funding over \$100,000 will be considered on merit.

There were 10 applications for more than \$100,000 in the latest expressions of interest, Cr Williamson said.

"That shows there are some fairly significant projects in the pipeline for our community," he said.

>> Final approvals will be considered by the Community Engagement Committee in April before being ratified by an ordinary meeting

What's on for Women's Week

> The Just Saying Project's 50 Fabulous Faces Exhibition: March 3 to 12, 10am to 1pm weekdays and 10am to 3pm weekends, Town Hall, Sydney Street

> All About Women Satellite Live from Sydney Opera House: Sunday, March 5, 9.30am to noon, MECC Auditorium. Gold coin donation on entry to local women's shelter

> World Cafe Morning Tea: Tuesday, March 7, 9.45am for a 10am start, Shakespeare Child and Family Centre, 43 Shakespeare Street. RSVP: Georgine on 49 577 222 by Friday, March 3

> How Our Women Lead - Three Among Many: Tuesday, March 7, 10am to 2pm, Mackay Yamadi Lera Yumi Meta, Association, Level 1/46 Macalister Street

> Sarina International Women's Day Expo: Wednesday, March 8, 9am to noon, Cultural Hall, Anzac Street, Sarina

> Pearl – The Janis Joplin Story Schools Workshop: Wednesday, March 8, 1.30pm to 2.30pm, Lynette Denny Space at the MECC. Contact mecc@mackay.qld.gov.au or 4961 9752 for more information
NOTE — Pearl: The Janis Joplin Story performance is on 7.30pm Wednesday, March 8, at the MECC

> Rocket Network International Women's Day First Class at Five, proudly sponsored by MECC: Wednesday, March 8, 5pm to 7pm, MECC South Foyer

> #MackayPride Women Who Make Us Proud Awards: Wednesday, March 8, 6pm to 7pm, MECC North Foyer

> MackayPride Women Who Make Us Proud Awards Dinner – Sarina: Thursday, March 9, 6.30pm, Sarina RSL Club, 34 Central Street, Sarina



Last year's recipients of Women Who Make Us Proud honours.

Women who make us proud honoured

THE Mackay region is celebrating Queensland Women's Week next month with a flurry of events focused on the celebration of local ladies.

The main event for the week, being held from March 6 to 12, is the Women Who Make Us Proud Awards, where women from across the region are nominated and publicly recognised.

Celebrated at awards nights in both Mackay (Wednesday, March 8) and Sarina (Thursday, March 9), these awards will give much-deserved recognition to women in our region who

might usually fly under the radar.

Community Engagement Committee chair Cr Kevin Casey said there were events being held across the region to suit everyone during Queensland Women's Week.

"On March 5, we will be once again live streaming the All About Women Satellite from the Sydney Opera House in the MECC Auditorium," Cr Casey said.

This will allow locals to tune in to a series of internationally-renowned women speaking on topics covering femininity,

media, gender stereotypes and body image.

Cr Casey said another highlight of the week was the Sarina International Women's Day Expo on Wednesday, March 8.

"It's a top event and from 9am until noon the Cultural Hall in Sarina is crammed full of exhibitors with services, goods and information that's all about women. It's free, morning tea is available and there will be more than a little pampering on offer."

There's still time to nominate someone for a Woman Who Makes Us Proud Award.

>> Nominate at mackay.qld.gov.au/womenawards until Monday, February 20

New stations to give alerts

SEVEN new rainfall and river height alert stations are being installed in the Pioneer Valley.

They will be located along Cattle Creek, Finch Hatton Gorge Creek and the Pioneer River between Netherdale and Mirani, including the Finch Hatton Showgrounds, which is subject to fast-rising floodwaters.

Mayor Greg Williamson said the alert stations would be an indispensable tool in emergency situations.



An alert station near the Forgan Bridge in Mackay.

"The stations will provide up-to-the-minute data on both river heights and rainfall received in areas that council previously had no data for," he said. "This project will enable better and more accurate public warnings to be issued and will lead to a review of minor, moderate and major flood levels at other existing sites.

"The improved data will assist council's Emergency Management team and

the Mackay Local Disaster Management Group in planning and making decisions about the need for evacuations due to riverine flooding."

The proposed alert sites have been chosen in close consultation with the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and all equipment is being installed to BOM standards. On completion, all data will be made publicly available on the BOM website.

Stage one is expected to be complete by August in readiness for the 2017-2018 storm season.

The \$320,000 project is a 50-50 joint-funded initiative between council and the State Government's Department of Infrastructure, Local Government & Planning Local Grants Scheme.

It is part of a five-year program included in council's Flood and Stormwater Strategy.

Students wanted for Japan trip

WANTED: Students to travel to Japan in the September school holidays.

Council is seeking students to be part of the 2017 Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Program.

The initiative provides students in years 10, 11 and 12 with a \$1000 scholarship to be used towards the costs of travel on the student ambassador visit to Japan.

The trip includes a week's home stay in Mackay's Japanese Sister City Matsurra. To be eligible, students must be studying Japanese at school or having private lessons, and have an exemplary behaviour record.

Applications close February 26.

>> More details at mackay.qld.gov.au/sistercity



Mackay's Got Talent 2015 winner Tia Mullins.

Talent set to shine

MACKAY'S Got Talent is back.

Last held in 2015, when it was won by musician Tia Mullins, the popular event showcases the talent of Mackay's youth.

Auditions will be held this Sunday (February 19) from 8am to 3pm at Split Spaces at the CQUniversity City Campus in Sydney Street.

Community Engagement Committee chair Cr Kevin Casey said the event was for young people aged between 12 and 18.

"All young people with any

performance talent are encouraged to audition," Cr Casey said.

"As long as the young person has turned 12 — or hasn't turned 19 — by the date of the final, they are eligible to enter," he said.

Entrants can pre-register, or register on audition day.

The 2017 Mackay's Got Talent final will be held on Saturday, April 8, starting at 2pm.

This will be a ticketed event at \$12 for adults and \$8 for students and concession card holders.

>> More details on Mackay's Got Talent Facebook page