

# Anzac Day is going digital

## Residents are being asked to pay their respects from home this Anzac Day

RESIDENTS are being asked to pay their respects from the comfort of their own home this Anzac Day.

Anzac Day services across the country have been cancelled in line with the Australian Government's COVID-19 public health directive relating to public gatherings.

Mayor Greg Williamson said council would share a special Anzac Day video on social media as our Region's Anzac Day commemoration.

"While we will be marking Anzac Day in a very different way this year, it is important to remember the reason Australians regard this as one of our most important national days," Cr Williamson said.

"Anzac Day is a time when we reflect on those Australians whose lot it was in life to be called on to take up arms in defence of this nation and our values," he said.

"It is a day when we collectively say thank you to the men and women who have served and



Natan Gooch performed the Australian and New Zealand national anthems for the Anzac tribute video.

are serving this nation in our Defence Force.

"It is a day when we remember the 102,888 Australians who have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

"We were looking forward to having a local icon, Victoria Cross recipient Keith Payne VC AM, as a special guest at this

year's Mackay ceremony for the first time."

While it's unfortunate we won't be able to do that now, Keith was kind enough to film a short message for our video.

"It would be great to have Mackay region families participate in this very different Anzac Day

by gathering together in their homes to watch the video."

Council's commemorative Anzac Day video will feature an address from the Mayor and Keith Payne VC AM, a short prayer, the Australian and New Zealand national anthem performed by Navy cadet Natan Gooch, The Last Post, The Ode

and one-minute's silence.

Please join us on Saturday, April 25, at 9.30am on council's Facebook page or YouTube channel.

Local radio station, ABC Tropical North, will also be broadcasting an audio version of the clip at 9.30am.



Ms Suzie and Ms Claire in front of the camera for Story Time.

## Story Time goes ahead at Libraries

A SPECIAL arrangement has been made during the COVID-19 outbreak which has suspended copyright requirements and allows libraries to record Story Time sessions. Residents can now enjoy virtual Baby Bounce, Toddler Time and Story Time from the comfort of their own homes.

Young People's librarian Claire Grandcourt said they wanted to continue connecting with families during the library closure. "We know how much our families enjoy going to their local library for our First 5 Forever programs," Ms Grandcourt said. "All of our library staff are excited to keep this much-loved service going for as long as possible."

The videos will be uploaded onto Mackay Regional Council Libraries Facebook page and council's website each week. To view all virtual First 5 Forever episodes, visit [mackay.qld.gov.au/stayconnected](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/stayconnected)

Stay tuned for more programs to become digital such as STEAM club, book clubs and much more.



## Council dives into digital engagement

COUNCIL staff are becoming stars of the small screen as the organisation moves to engage with residents in the digital realm.

Through the Stay Home, Stay Connected program, council is working across departments and facilities to create content that residents can enjoy in their own home.

The program covers everything from popular library children's sessions to Artspace Talks and virtual art activities, gardening tips from council's nursery team and assorted expert content to support residents' mental and physical health.

Mayor Greg Williamson said the aim was to provide some normality to families who might be missing the services and programs council provided.

"Using social media and council's Connecting Mackay platform, there is an exciting opportunity to engage and communicate with residents who might feel isolated," Cr Williamson said.

"We want to encourage questions and answers, challenge residents to undertake projects and create a connected online community," he said.

"Artspace Mackay has already posted its first online Artspace Talk, an interview between art-collector Ros Jones and Artspace director Tracey Heathwood.

"Ros Jones was online and available to answer everyone's questions when the video was posted, and more than 50 people were able to engage with her.

"The Libraries have also been blown away with the audience response to their Baby Bounce, Toddler Time and Story Time sessions. Parents have even been sending in photos of their kids playing along at home to the videos and doing the actions."

Cr Williamson said the program was constantly evolving and would address serious issues like mental health and talking with children about the virus.

"We are working with local professionals in the recovery space to produce some content for residents dealing with the impacts of isolation," Cr Williamson said. "Those experts will then be available to answer questions through our engagement channels."

You can view the program at [mackay.qld.gov.au/stayconnected](http://mackay.qld.gov.au/stayconnected)



Stay Home, Stay Connected includes access to free, online Tai Chi every Monday from 5.30pm with Leeane Simpson.

### Quick clips



STEAM Club



Growing guides



Art talks



Craft projects



DIY projects



Facility tours

### Community Grants available during closures

COUNCIL has \$280,000 in community grant funding available for organisations, clubs and community groups looking to tackle projects during the COVID-19 closures.

There are different grant categories, ranging between (up to) \$1500 and \$30,000. These grants cover everything from small equipment purchases to infrastructure upgrades.

Funds are also available to assist with events, however, any organisation that does secure funding for an event will be required to return those funds should the event not go ahead.

Applications are open now and close on Friday, May 1. For more information, head to [mackay.smartygrants.com.au](http://mackay.smartygrants.com.au)



### Don't "rum" out - Sugar Shed delivers

THE Sarina Sugar Shed might be closed to the public, but customers don't need to worry about "rumming" out of their favourite products.

The miniature sugar mill and distillery is offering free shipping Australia-wide when you purchase any alcohol products.

This is the first time the facility has been able to take phone orders for alcohol products (conditions apply).

Simply call 07 4943 2801 between Monday and Friday, 10am to 4pm, or email [info@sarinasugarshed.com.au](mailto:info@sarinasugarshed.com.au) to place your order.