

Australia Day celebrations

Grab your boardies and thongs and celebrate Australia Day at one of 11 council supported events, from pie eating competitions to water slides and sailing - there's plenty on offer across the region

THE Aussie-themed events will take place on Australia Day 2020 (Sunday, January 26) at a range of locations from Sarina to the Mackay City Centre, north to Seaforth and west to Kinchant Dam.

Australia Day at Sarina Beach
Host: Sarina Surf Life Saving Club
Where: Sarina Beach
Time: 2pm - 6pm

In its seventh year, this event will be bigger than ever with a barbecue, water slide and heaps of fun competitions like pie eating, thong throwing, fastest man on the sand and wheelbarrow races. Cash prizes are up for grabs! BYO picnic blanket and chair. Note - this event is free to attend but some activities and food may require a gold coin donation. For more details, call 4956 6476.



Come along to any of these free community events

Aussie Day at Northern Beaches
Host/Where: Mackay Northern Beaches Bowls Club
Time: 11am - 6pm

Grab the kids and come on down for some ripper Aussie day fun. Activities will include a free giant inflatable water slide and inflatable obstacle course, free sausage sizzle, free barefoot bowls, live music and DJ, display by RACQ CQ Rescue, heaps of games for the kids with prizes and best dressed Aussie male, female and child. All raffle proceeds will go to CQ Rescue. For more details, call 4954 8677.

Australia Day Beach Party
Host: Mackay Surf Lifesaving Club
Where: Harbour Beach
Time: 9:30am - 4pm

Dive into Australia Day and bring the kids to this Aussie themed event with water slide, beach volley ball, tug-of-war, thong throwing competition and more! For more details, call Lexi on 0455 686 196.

Aussie Family Fun Day
Host: North Mackay Saints AFL
Where: Zeolla Park AFL Grounds
Time: 10am - 3pm

This event is guaranteed to make you shout "Aussie! Aussie! Aussie!". Activities will include a jumping castle/water slide, AFL grudge match (juniors versus parents), volley ball (round robin), cricket match and free BBQ lunch. For more details, call Peter on 0487 046 124.

Australia Day Open Fun Day
Host: Mackay Tennis Association
Where: 125 Kippen Street
Time: noon - 6pm
Event activities will include tennis

mini games, thong throwing competitions, giant snakes and ladders and connect four, giant egg and spoon, giant Jenga, giant quoits, tug-of-war, lamington eating competition, free tennis court hire, photo booth to capture the moment with friends, mini prizes for competitions, giant beach ball tennis, balloon animals and sausage sizzle. For more details, call 0422 676 276.

Australia Day Scouts Open Day
Host: Banksia Scout Group
Where: Jaycee Park, Cnr Fernleigh Av and Bedford Rd, Andergrove
Time: 10am - 1pm

Bring a chair and enjoy the shade of the trees while the kids have some fun. Activities will include rope bridge, low ropes course, 'land based' canoe races, damper cooking and much more! Sausage sizzle and drinks available for gold coin donation. For more details, call Peter 0419 732 783.

Habana Aussie Party
Host: Habana and Districts Progress Association
Where: 1091 Mackay-Habana Rd
Time: 3pm - 7pm
Community picnic (BYO) and

traditional Australia Day activities including sand castle building on our "borrowed" beach, backyard cricket, inflatable water play, lamington eating, tug-of-war and thong throwing. Cold drinks and meat pies will be available for sale. Find out about local groups you can join at the event including craft, rural fire and Tai Chi. For more details, call Danielle on 0438 787 791.

Pancakes and play in the park
Host: Shed Happens Mackay
Where: the grass area near the Mackay Sugar Bowl, Phillip Street, North Mackay
Time: 10:30am - 2:30pm

Shed Happens Mackay, a local men's support group, will be running heaps of games and group sharing activities during the event and of course free pancakes! The games will be family oriented and involve team building exercises including three-legged race, sack race and egg and spoon race. For more details, call Frank on 0434 908 968.

Sail Away on Australia Day
Host: Mackay Sailing Club
Where: "Sailor's corner",

Kinchant Dam Road, Kinchant Dam
Time: 10am - 3:30pm

Get sailing this Australia Day with a fun-filled adventure at Kinchant Dam. The event is being held for the first time on Australia Day and will include a free sausage sizzle, fun races, heaps of prizes and a commodore's sail past. We encourage anyone who already has a sailing dinghy to dust it off and join in the fun. All members of the general public are welcome to participate. For more details, call Commodore Geoff on 0432 033 188.

Seaforth Aussie Family
Host: Hibiscus Coast Progress and Sports Association
Where: Seaforth Foreshore Park
Time: 9am - 1pm

Get your vitamin "sea" this Australia Day at the Seaforth Aussie Family Day! Activities will include park cricket, thong throwing, pie eating, SAO eating competition, cooe competition, lamington drive and best lamington competition. For more details, call 0429 897 045.

For more information on these events, visit mackay.qld.gov.au/ausdayevents

Behind-the-scenes theatre experience

BECOMING a Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) Youth Ambassador gives young adults a foot in the performing arts industry's door.

Not only do they enjoy special access to arts events, they gain hands-on experiences in performing arts, technical productions, media and marketing.

Cr Justin Englert said the MECC had just opened applications for 2020 Youth Ambassadors.

"This is an amazing opportunity for young people, especially if they are budding drama performers, singers, dancers, sound designers, lighting technicians, curators, producers or just lovers of the theatre," Cr Englert said.



Youth Ambassadors Savannah Vella and Emmalese Dunn with Disco Dani (Guru Dudu's Silent Disco Tour)

"The Youth Ambassadors gain a unique insight into the workings of the theatre and its productions and promotions while having behind-the-scenes access to performances workshops," he said.

2019 Youth Ambassador Emmalese Dunn said the opportunity allowed her to surround herself with the theatre and with people passionate about the performing arts.

"As someone looking for a career in the performing arts, it allowed me to make some amazing contacts and I loved the supportive environment," Emmalese said.

Grade 10-12 students are welcome to apply by completing the nomination form on the MECC website.

Wild Puppeteer brings Gruffalo Puppet Show

ROS Campbell has been instructed in the craft of puppetry by Peter Linz (Sesame Street's Ernie) and Noel MacNeal (Bear from Bear in the Big Blue House).

The local, self-taught puppeteer flew to Texas, USA this year and undertook an extensive workshop with the puppeteering greats.

She's now back and ready to take children from three to 10 years-of-age on a journey through the deep, dark woods as she brings family favourite The Gruffalo to life with her amazing puppets.

Ms Campbell will be putting on the Gruffalo Puppet

Show for children at four council libraries:

- Gordon White Library - 10.30am to 11am on Tuesday, January 21
- Mirani Library - 2pm to 2.30pm on Tuesday, January 21
- Dudley Denny City Library - 10.30am to 11am on Thursday, January 23
- Sarina Library - 2pm to 2.30pm on Thursday, January 23

Cr Fran Mann said council's libraries were lucky to have the Wild Puppets puppeteer performing.

"Ros has an infectious



Mayor Greg Williamson with Ros Campbell and puppet Dingo

enthusiasm for her craft," Cr Mann said.

Ms Campbell and her puppets will be roving through the library for an hour after the performances, so you can chat to her and

get up close and personal with her magnificent puppets.

Spots are limited. Make sure you reserve your spot by visiting mackay.qld.gov.au/whatson

Rotary Lookout upgrade under way

WORK on the Rotary Lookout in North Mackay has started. The \$1,389,375 upgrade is jointly funded by state and local governments, with \$694,687 provided through the Queensland Government's Building our Regions (BoR) program and \$694,688 from Mackay Regional Council. The upgrade works will see the current observation deck replaced with an architecturally designed viewing platform, giving visitors a safe space to enjoy the view in all weather conditions. The work is expected to be completed by late May 2020.

Protect yourself against dengue

DENGUE mosquitoes only need a small amount of water to breed in so it's important to keep the area around your house clean, so water doesn't pool in areas and become stagnant. Throw out any rubbish lying around and clean out your gutters. For more dengue prevention tips for your family, visit our website.

Catch the Sports Expo at the MECC

SIGN up to a new sport or recreation activity at the Optus Sports Expo & Sign-on Day, 9am to 1pm Sunday, February 9. More than 110 clubs and groups will be on display at the MECC with two active zones providing non-stop demonstrations and activities on the day. For more information, visit our website.

Open: Community Reference Group

EXPRESSIONS of interest are being sought for a new community reference group to help inform the redevelopment of facilities at Mackay's Memorial Swimming Centre. We are seeking up to 10 community members to join the group to provide input into any potential redevelopment plans in keeping with community needs. To apply, visit our website today.