"I absolutely loved my time up

in Mackay over the weekend,"

"It was so good to see all our

passionate fans up there and

we hope to see them coming to

Whap-Farrar said.

support us." she said.

FAST FACTS

> AMP Funding

COUNCIL'S Activate My Place (AMP) placemaking grant program is back for another year, with \$30,000 up for grabs. The AMP program can fund up to 80 per cent of the project budget. For more information, visit mackay.qld.gov.au/amp

Mega book sale

IT'S been over four years since Mackay Regional Council Libraries last held a book sale, so this one is going to be huge! Bring a bag (a big one) to Gordon White Library on Friday, March 13, and stock up on books for just one dollar

Grants now open

COUNCIL has \$280,000 in community grant funding available. There are different grant categories covering everything from small equipment to infrastructure. Applications are open now and close Friday, May 1. For a more information, head to mackay.grantguru.com.au

Library app

THE Mackay Libraries App provides a one-stop-shop for customers to access Library services. It lets them check the availability of items by scanning their barcodes. Your library card's barcode is also accessible on the app books even if you forget your card. The Mackay Library App is available on both the Apple Store and the Google Play

Marine debris art

ROBYN Glade-Wright and

Barbara Dover explore the impacts of coastal and plastic pollution in a new exhibition open now at Artspace Mackay. themed Queensland touring exhibition is titled "Disquiet: Ecological Anxieties and Gallery 3 until April 19.

Free plant program returns

It's official - council's popular native plant giveaways are back from this Friday.

Andergrove, North Mackay and West Mackay love their plants.

These suburbs collected the most plants as part of council's free native plant program last year. Other areas where free plants proved popular included Marian, Sarina, Walkerston and the Northern Beaches.

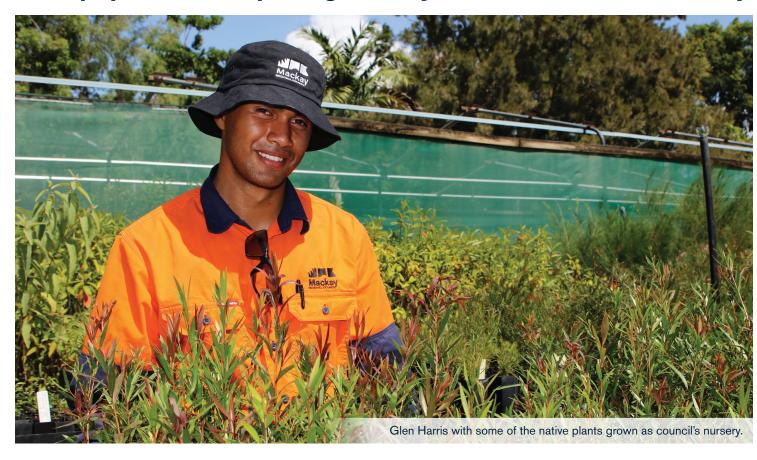
The program returns for another year, with the first round of giveaways of 2020 scheduled for Friday, February 21, and Saturday, February 22.

Cr Ayril Paton encouraged ratepayers to come along and choose from over 45 different species of plants that will be available on the day.

"There will be a range of climbers, ground covers, shrubs and trees to choose from," he said.

"As part of the program, ratepayers can receive four free plants per year.

"The program is run by calendar year, so if you collected plants last year and want to add some more natives to your garden, you can pick up another four at one



of this year's events.

"Local native plants are not only beautiful, but they thrive in our climate and require less water than many non-native species."

Residents who can't make it to the February giveaway can attend one of four other sessions held during the year including:

April: Friday 17 and Saturday 18 June: Friday 26 and Saturday 27 August: Friday 21 and Saturday 22 October: Friday 16 and Saturday 17

Due to the heat, the February

giveaway will be held from 8am to 11am at the Mackav Natural Environment Centre, 6 Swayne Street, North Mackay. The remaining sessions will be held from 9am to midday.

To collect your plants, bring along your most recent rates notice and your own bag or box to take your plants home. Extra plants can be purchased on the

For more details about the free native plant program visit mackay.qld.gov.au/nursery.

> Super Sarina Women to be recognised

The duo also met with keen

talking to the locals and seeing

all the young girls interested

"We loved meeting and

in football in Mackay.'

Smith said.

local AFL players.

Mackay

Suns

shines for

GOLD Coast Suns players

Kitara Whap-Farrar and Taylor

see what our region has to offer

That match will be played here

at the Great Barrier Reef Arena

at Harrup Park on March 6.

sabbatical, the players visited

and Artspace, dined in Wood Street, enjoyed a pizza while

watching some thrills and spills

at the Wakehouse Cable Park

and hung out at the beach at

the Mackay Marina.

the Bluewater Lagoon, explored

While on their weekend

the City Centre lane ways

Smith took some time out to

before the club's first prime-

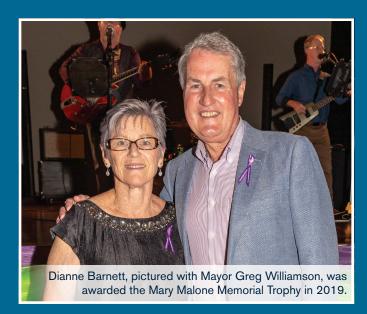
time match for 2020.

Gold Coast

COUNCIL is looking to recognise amazing women from Sarina, like Dianne Barnett. Mrs Barnett was awarded the Mary Malone Memorial Trophy at the 2019 Sarina Women's Week Awards for her tireless community service. Nominations for the 2020 Sarina Women's Week Awards are

Cr Fran Mann said the Sarina Neighbourhood Centre team had done an amazing job coordinating the awards night each year. "If you can spare a few moments to nominate someone, that acknowledgement means so much, and all nominees are invited to a special dinner on Friday, March 6." Cr Mann said. "So many of these women work exceptionally hard behind the scenes in our community and have an impact that is far-reaching," she said.

To nominate someone, email their names, contact details and Centre team at margaret.mcdowall@mackay.gld.gov.au Don't forget to include your name, email and phone number and let us know if you wish to remain anonymous. Nominations close Monday, February 24



Taylor Smith and Kitara Whap-Farrar at the Mackay Marina.

"The entire club is really excited

Watch the Gold Coast Suns

Reef Arena on Friday, March

take on the Geelong Cats from 6pm at the Great Barrier

to come up and play."

6. Entry is free.

All nominees will be invited as a guest to attend the Sarina Women's Week Dinner and Awards Night at the Bob Wood

The awards are an initiative of the Sarina Neighbourhood Centre and council and are supported by the Queensland Government, Sarina Community Bendigo Bank and BMA.

> Travel to Japan

COUNCIL is offering a chance to visit an Olympic city in the September school holidays as part of a scholarship program. The 2020 Youth Ambassador Program launched this week and applications are now open for students in years 10, 11 and 12 (in 2020) to visit Japan and stay in Matsuura. Cr Fran Mann said council was providing a \$1000 scholarship to be used towards the cost of travel for each student.

Download applications from mackay.qld.gov.au/sistercity Applications should be finalised and submitted to mackaysistercities@mackay.qld.gov.au no later than midnight, Sunday, February 23, 2020.



March 13

ebruary 21 - 22

For more information visit, mackay.qld.gov.au



Ella Heke trying her hand at

Taiko Drumming in 2019.



