

Cheers to Sarina Sugar Shed

Sugar Shed adds another prestigious award to their sweet collection

AFTER reaping dozens of awards over the years, Sarina Sugar Shed has won silver at the coveted Australian Tourism Awards.

The facility made the national finals in Canberra on March 6 after winning gold in Excellence in Food Tourism at last year's Queensland Tourism Awards (QTA).

Acting coordinator Sarah-Jane Parrott said it was a sweet win for the facility and the Mackay region.

"Being awarded silver at the national finals is a credit to all our amazing staff and volunteers," Ms Parrott said.

"Sarina Sugar Shed was first opened in 2006 and since then has won awards for tours and products at a local, state and national level," she said.

"It's been a successful six months for the Sugar Shed after being awarded gold at the Mackay Region Tourism Awards, gold at the Queensland Tourism Awards and now silver at the Qantas Australian Tourism Awards.



Sugar Shed visitors enjoying an afternoon tasting event.

"In 2017, Sarina Sugar Shed was also welcomed into the prestigious QTA Hall of Fame after winning gold in Excellence in Food Tourism three years in a row."

The Excellence in Food Tourism category highlights the food tourism products, experiences and services as part of the visitor experience.

Sarina Sugar Shed produces the award-winning Sarina Sugar Shed rum and liqueurs, made from locally grown sugar cane and processed in Australia's only miniature sugar mill and distillery.

For more information on Sarina Sugar Shed tours, visit sarinasugarshed.com.au



A Dylan Mooney mural.

Emerging young artist awarded bursary

A PROUD Yuwibara man of the Mackay region, who has twice been a featured mural artist at the Queensland State Library, is this years' "Hands On" Bursary recipient.

The \$4000 Artspace Mackay Foundation bursary celebrates its 11-year anniversary this year and was awarded to Dylan Mooney at the public exhibition opening on Friday, March 6.

President of the Foundation, Julie Boyd said the judges were very impressed with Dylan's commitment to both his personal art practice and community art work with Indigenous communities.

"Dylan is a proud Yuwibara man of the Mackay region and a very worthy recipient of the 2020 Artspace Mackay Foundation Hands On Bursary," Mrs Boyd said.

Dylan's long-term goal is to pursue a career in the arts industry, aspiring to the highest level and continuing to work with Indigenous communities.

He will use the funds from the bursary to further support the funding of his final graduation exhibition and his first solo exhibition this year.

COVID-19 MECC events update

THE MECC has created an *Events Status Updates* page on its website to act as a one-stop-shop for anyone enquiring about a MECC event impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.

You can access the resource at themecc.com.au/eventupdates

Manager MECC and Events Andrew Bobeldyk said there was some confusion in the wake of the Federal Government's advice that organised non-essential gatherings of more than 500 people should be

suspended from Monday, March 16.

"Our first priority is to make sure our patrons are properly notified and informed if an event is postponed or cancelled," Mr Bobeldyk said.

"If your event has been postponed or cancelled, you don't need to do anything," he said.

"You will be contacted with the relevant details and the full refund process.

"In order to provide you with as much information as we can, we have created an Events Status Updates page that will be updated daily with changes to the status of all impacted events, so feel free to check back often.

"The page will have the status of all events known to be cancelled, and the status of all events occurring over the next 14 days.

"Patrons can assume that all MECC events not on the list will be going ahead at this stage."



> Encouraging residents to drive under the radar

A SPEED monitoring device will be set up to slow down traffic following safety concerns along a street with a school zone.

The mobile monitoring device, dubbed "Smiley", will be placed on Norris Road this week for a minimum of two weeks, following concerns from residents about the speed of vehicles traveling on the street.

Norris Road has a speed limit of 50km/h and operates a 40km/h school zone twice a day.

Smiley will be set up to capture traffic between Phillip Street roundabout and Fitzgerald State School.

Director of Engineering and Commercial Infrastructure, Jason Devitt said that the safety of residents was a top priority.

"There are streets where we need drivers to slow down where safety concerns have been expressed," he said

"We have seen a reduction in speeding in areas that have been previously targeted with this device.



A mobile monitoring device "Smiley".

"Council is also investigating placing this device in other streets where speeding is a concern to the local community."

The device is a visible speed indicator which warns motorists if they are speeding. It will monitor and record the speed of passing traffic anonymously.

Small business digital workshops

AS the digital revolution charges on, the demand for digital marketing skills and knowledge in the rapidly changing online environment increases.

ASBAS Digital Solutions, in partnership with council, are delivering small business digital workshops for the Mackay region every month in 2020. From social media and websites to graphic design and online security, there are workshops to cover a variety of topics.

To view the full list of workshops and to register, visit asbas.rdabrisbane.org.au/workshops/mackay-region



> 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

> Volunteer Expo

THE Mackay Volunteer Expo – to be held this year at the PCYC Mackay on a date to be confirmed – is accepting expressions of interest from stallholders now. Sites are free. Contact Tamara Flynn at tamara.flynn@mackay.qld.gov.au to book a site.

> 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.smartygrants.com.au

> Library works

AS part of the Gordon White Library refurbishment project, works will cause minor disruption to residents during the next month. The project will alternate between day and night works and are expected to be completed by Thursday, April 9, weather permitting. Night works will be taking place from 5.30pm to 6am until March 21, followed by day works from 6.30am to 5.30pm from March 23 to April 9.

> Party in the Park

TO connect parents and their children with service providers and playgroups, council is throwing a party in the Civic Precinct park (near the fountain). The Party in the Park will be held on Tuesday, May 19, from 9am to 11.30am. Expressions of Interest are now open for service providers. Contact tamara.flynn@mackay.qld.gov.au for an EOI form.