

Women in spotlight for week of events

Brunch, satellite simulcast and awards dedicated to those who make us proud part of city's celebrations

COUNCIL is helping celebrate Queensland's Women's Week with a week-long series of events, awards and activities next month.

Kicking off Sunday, March 6, will be the Zonta International Women's Day Brunch at the MECC from 9am.

Following this at 11.30am will be the All About Women satellite simulcast from the Sydney Opera House, beamed live to the MECC

Director of Community and Client Services Bridget Mather said the simulcast

was open to the public for a gold coin donation.

"This is a great opportunity for Mackay audiences to hear from influential speakers like multi-talented artist Miranda July, Orange is the New Black memoirist Piper Kerman and Washington powerhouse Anne-Marie Slaughter," Ms Mather said.

"The gold coin donations go towards Lowanna House, a local Woman's Crisis Accommodation Service," she said.

"Another highlight of the

week is the Women Who Make Us Proud Awards (#MackayPride).

"With awards ceremonies to be held at both the MECC on March 10 and the Sarina RSL on March 9, these awards are an opportunity to showcase the hard work and achievements of local women across the region.

"Each woman who is nominated will be sent an official certificate containing the text written by the person who has nominated her."

Nominations are now open



Washington powerhouse Anne-Marie Slaughter (left) and Orange is the New Black memoirist Piper Kerman (right) will feature on the All About Women satellite simulcast from the Sydney Opera House and broadcast to the MECC.

and close Thursday, February 25. Submit them to mackay.qld.gov.au/womenawards.

There will also be two information expos for women held during the week.

The first, on March 8, is the Sarina It's A Woman's World Expo.

It will be held at the Bob Wood Cultural Hall and will feature around 40 stalls.

The second expo will be held from 2.30pm to 4pm in the MECC foyer before the Mackay Women Who Make Us Proud Awards are presented on March 10.



Businessman John Donnelly with some graffiti. Council is offering businesses help with clean-up costs as part of a campaign to tackle graffiti.

Workshop to create a new space

COUNCIL'S Community Engagement team is looking for young adults to help create their own exciting space in the new Dudley Denny City Library.

The team is looking for passionate young adults, aged 12 to 25, to participate in an after-school workshop.

The workshop will be held next Wednesday, February 24, from 4pm to 5.30pm at the Dome.

It will be a fun, interactive journey - with snacks - that will be instrumental in shaping the library's young adult space.

The young adults' expertise will be used to help design the layout, develop the themes and discuss furniture concepts for the space.

>> Call 4961 9803 or email engagement@mackay.qld.gov.au



Blocked gutters can create ideal mosquito breeding grounds around homes. Make sure they are clear.

Stop dengue now

COUNCIL is encouraging residents to protect themselves and their families against dengue fever following recent wet weather events across the region.

Health and Regulatory Manager Craig Shepherd said dengue mosquitoes only needed a small amount of water to breed in.

"It is important that residents remove any rubbish lying around their home, clean out their gutters and store away or empty any items that can hold stagnant water at least once a week," he said.

"Stopping the spread at the source is the most effective way to reduce the risk of a dengue outbreak in our region.

"Other precautions residents can take to reduce their chance of coming into contact with dengue include wearing long sleeves, trousers, a hat and using an effective insect repellent."

Dengue fever symptoms include headaches, fevers, aches and pains, nausea and vomiting. Please call your doctor immediately if you experience these symptoms.

>> For more dengue tips visit mackay.qld.gov.au/dengue

Upgrade boosts dam's flood safety

WORKS are complete on the Middle Creek Dam safety upgrade.

Nearly \$1 million was spent upgrading the dam to meet new flood safety requirements set out by the Queensland Dam Safety Regulator.

Phase one of the two-phase project involved the spillway crest being lowered by about one metre and the dam wall raised by half-a-metre.

Director of Engineering and Commercial infrastructure Jason Devitt said the dam was now equipped to withstand flood events



significantly worse than the 2008 floods.

"We live in a region that experiences wet seasons and we need to effectively plan and be prepared for emergencies," he said.

Phase two is not required to be undertaken until 2035.

It will involve the installation of a more efficient spillway to improve capacity. The dam wall will be raised by another 60 to 70 centimetres.



The Middle Creek Dam upgrade (above and top left) has raised the dam wall by half-a-metre.

>> More information on council construction projects online at mackay.qld.gov.au

WATCH THE FLOW OF YOUR H₂O

If you own a swimming pool invest in a swimming pool cover. You can greatly reduce evaporative losses, saving between 11,000-30,000 litres of water a year. For more tips visit mackay.qld.gov.au/waterusage

Farmers land new options with policy

COUNCIL is delivering some alternative solutions for management and protection of the region's agricultural land.

A Tradeable Development Rights Policy has been adopted.

The policy enables farmers in our region to sell titles for development of allotments in areas where no rights currently exist.

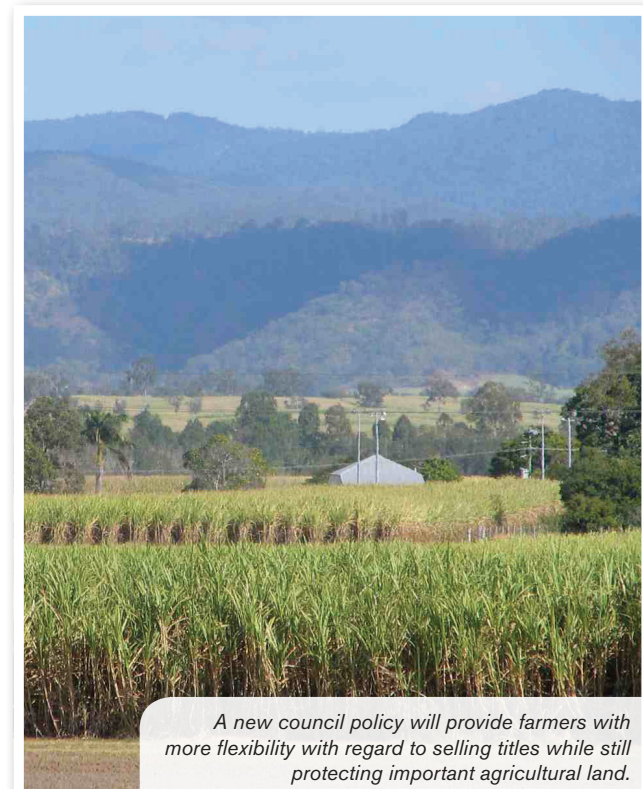
It protects agricultural land but also provides the opportunity for farmers to realise value from their land titles.

Planning and Development director Gerard Carlyon said the system identified "sending" areas and "receiving" areas.

"Sending areas are those needing protection where development is not desirable," he said.

"In this case, the land is within Mackay's most fertile sugar producing land.

"Receiving areas are locations where the



A new council policy will provide farmers with more flexibility with regard to selling titles while still protecting important agricultural land.

development is possible, but is contrary to the zoning of the land."

Mr Carlyon said the policy was developed with the assistance of Canegrowers and Mackay Sugar Pty Ltd.

He said it was anticipated the policy would empower farmers to:

- > Improve their farm management;
- > Plan for succession;
- > Raise capital through realisation of title value; and
- > Consolidate farming land

The policy is available at mackay.qld.gov.au.

>> Contact Strategic Planning on 1300 MACKAY (622 529) for more information

Regos open

REGISTRATIONS for exhibitor tables are now open for the Mackay Seniors Expo 2016. Visited by up to 2000 community members, the expo is the ideal platform for businesses, service providers and community groups to connect with the region's seniors. If you have services, facilities or information designed to make a real difference to seniors' quality of life, this is the place to be. The expo will be held at the Mackay Senior Citizens Centre, 58 Macalister Street, on Friday, August 19, from 9am to 1pm. Get in quickly as last year's event booked out fast and there are limited places. The online registration form can be found at mackay.qld.gov.au/seniorexpo2016.

Notices sent

RATES notices for the second half-year of 2015-16 are in the mail. Notices for the January 1 to June 30 billing period were issued on Tuesday. The discount due date is Thursday, March 17. Council was the only one in Queensland to achieve a zero per cent movement in the general rate in this year's budget. More rates information, including how to sign up for eNotices or direct debits, is available at mackay.qld.gov.au under the "residents" and then "rates information" tabs.

Voting nears

THE 2016 local government elections will be held on March 19. Unlike the last Mackay Regional Council election four years ago, this will not be a postal ballot. Voters will have to attend a polling booth on the day or cast a pre-poll vote. The ballot draw for candidates is due to be conducted today. Pre-poll voting at the Mackay Showgrounds' 500 Pavilion will open on March 7. More information is available at ecq.qld.gov.au or mackay.qld.gov.au.

SES upgrades

THE Campwin Beach and Koumala State Emergency Service (SES) groups' facilities had major structural upgrades in the lead-up to storm season. The upgrades were part of council's commitment to provide fit-for-purpose and improved facilities for SES volunteers in our region.