

Nation celebrating week dedicated to H₂O with theme of 'Water Life Growth' Let's preserve precious resource



IT'S National Water Week and this year's theme — Water Life Growth — aims to create awareness and take action to protect and conserve our precious water resources.

Mayor Greg Williamson said

Sign up to save dollars

COUNCIL encourages residents to save water and their hip pockets by signing up to the award-winning myh₂o initiative during National Water Week.

The benefits of saving water and detecting leaks early are simple — the more water residents save, the more money they save.

That's good for you and good for our community.

Sign up to council's free myh₂o website to see your daily water consumption information.

Set e-mail and SMS alerts and be notified of water leaks and high consumption within days of occurring — catch that leak before it starts costing you!

>> For more details and to monitor your water usage, visit myh2o.qld.gov.au

every single day for many parts of our lives and it is vital to make sure the different industries we all rely on are supported in a sustainable manner," he said.

Cr Williamson highlighted the importance of conserving water in Australia and the Mackay region.

"We are a very lucky country and we live in a beautiful part of it," he said.

"Not only have we got access to beautiful natural water resources, we also have some of the best water services in the world."

While the week is dedicated to encouraging communities to take action to protect our vital water sources, it's also a celebration of innovation



and water achievements that contribute to Australia's sustainable future and economic prosperity.

Cr Williamson said council's Waste and Water business was leading the way when it came to innovative practices.

Last week council's "Transformation of a Water Business" submission won an International Water Association (IWA) Project Innovation Award in the operations and management category. It was one of only four international winners,

with the others being Sydney Water and entities from China and South Africa.

It followed the submission also recently taking out the 2016 National Award for Excellence in Local Government.

Fast Facts

► A stringent Drinking Water Quality Management Plan ensures residents get safe water that meets global best practice standards.

► Our water network is over 1000km. Laid end to end, it would reach all the way down to Brisbane — now that's a lot of pipes.

► There are more than 40,000 individual water connections throughout the Mackay region supplying water to more than 100,000 residents.

► While our average per capita consumption of water compares well with many other regions in Queensland, it is still not the lowest. Last year we used up a little under 14 billion litres of water. That is over 5000 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

Treat trade waste properly

NATIONAL Water Week is a timely reminder for businesses across the region to consider the management of their trade waste practices.

Infrastructure and Services Committee chair Cr Karen May said the importance of managing our waste water was a priority of council as it affected the long-term viability of the region's wastewater treatment assets.

"The water that goes down our drains is just as important as the water that comes out of our taps," she said.

"It is up to local businesses to ensure they are undertaking sustainable trade waste practices because that will not only help reduce the wear and tear on our assets — it will also reduce their costs and ensure we are looking after our natural environment in the long run."

Waste water generated by commercial or industrial businesses is trade waste. All businesses operating in Australia require their water retailer's permission to discharge trade waste into the sewerage system as it is usually more contaminated than domestic waste.

"Businesses can contact council to check their trade waste practices are up-to-date," Cr May



Council's Joseph Chen does a trade waste inspection.

said. "There is plenty of information available at council for our local businesses and tradies who are looking for more details. Council is working closely with industry professionals and businesses to develop sustainable trade waste practices for now and into the future."

► Council is hosting a special trade waste information session for tradespersons, plumbing businesses and trade waste generators on October 31. Free entry. Bookings are essential. More details on trade waste at - www.mackay.qld.gov.au/services/water/trade_waste

TRADE WASTE TIPS

► Induct all staff in in trade waste best practices. Contact council to have a trade waste inspector visit your business to provide staff with information.

► Scrape or wipe oil and grease from plates and utensils prior to washing.

► Use quick break detergents.

► When pre-treatment apparatus (grease trap, oily water separator, holding tank) is serviced/ pumped out, ensure the apparatus is refilled with fresh water before recommending normal operation.

► Ensure you service your pre-treatment apparatus in accordance with the conditions of approval and the manufacturer's recommendations.

Single scheme on agenda

A NEW single planning scheme for the Mackay region will make it easier to do business with council.

Economic Development and Planning Committee chair Cr Amanda Camm said that was a key feature of the Draft Mackay Region Planning Scheme, which was back on council's agenda.

"That will be the case, whether it is a mum-and-dad application for a shed right through to investors coming to the region understanding what town centres are and what hierarchies exist, whether it be in Ooralea or out in the Northern Beaches," Cr Camm said.

Council is working on finalising its Draft Mackay Region Planning Scheme to resubmit to the State Government for approval



A new single planning scheme for Mackay will be a blueprint for our future.

to adopt. It will supersede three existing schemes in our region — the Mackay City Planning Scheme 2006, the Sarina Planning Scheme 2005 and the Mirani Shire Plan 2007.

Council has already undertaken extensive community consultation on the draft scheme in 2013 and again in 2014 before it

was submitted to the State Government.

But progress was delayed and there have also been further amendments to State Planning Policy, which council must now incorporate into the scheme.

Council has reconsidered a report on all submissions received during the 2013 and

2014 public consultations and approved some changes to the draft scheme.

"It's been timely given the change in our economic climate, so this is a real opportunity," Cr Camm said.

A meeting of council later this month will decide on further community consultation on the changes.

>> Be sure to sign up for the Mackay Regional Planning Scheme e-newsletter at mackay.qld.gov.au/enews

Bollywood taking over Queens Park

AS the night falls on Saturday, October 29, Queens Park will come alive with the flowing colours and costumes, fast-paced rhythms and the stunning, choreographed dances of Bollywood.

DJ A PRJKT will have the crowd up and dancing to his electronic-inspired Bollywood set complete with Bollywood dancers from the Brisbane-based Dance Masala.

This free, one-day, open-air event is a celebration of



Andrea Maria Lam (front) leads the Dance Masala Bollywood Dance Company.

the cultural diversity of the Mackay region.

Community Engagement Committee chair Cr Kevin

Casey said while last year's festival had Spanish and Latin themes, crowds would this year experience a more Asian-inspired festival.

Kicking off at the new time of 2pm to escape the midday heat, festivities will be launched with an opening parade featuring representatives from our region's various community groups wearing the traditional costumes of their cultures.

From there, festival-goers will be treated to the sounds and dances of the world, with entertainment running continuously on the main stage until 8.30pm when the festival will finish with a bang thanks to a fireworks display.

>> For full program, follow Mackay Festival on Facebook and like the Global Grooves 2016 event page

Lifting the lid on bin collection changes

THERE will be some changes to waste and recyclables collection services across the Mackay region beginning this Monday, October 24.

The changes, announced recently, will provide the region with a more efficient

waste collection service, reduce the number of bins collected on peak days and increase the number of collections on slower days.

Infrastructure and Services Committee chair Cr Karen May said some bin collection

routes across the region would remain unchanged.

She said residents and businesses that would be directly affected had now been notified in writing. "Council has also been applying information stickers

to wheelee bin lids this week before the changes come into effect."

Residents are reminded to have bins placed for servicing prior to 6am as truck collection timings during the day will alter.

>> For more information on bin collection changes, visit our website at mackay.qld.gov.au/bins

COUNCIL - in brief -

Join to win

WANT a chance to win by staying informed? Sign up for one of council's eight eNewsletters via Facebook and you could win an iPad Air 2, thanks to the team at Harvey Norman Mackay. Council's eNewsletters are a great way to stay connected with what is happening in our region. To enter, go to council's Facebook page and subscribe to an eNewsletter. The competition closes 5pm, Monday, October 31. The winner will be randomly drawn on November 1.

Pet Portraits

ARTSPACE Mackay is calling all artists to take part in a very special portrait exhibition. The gallery wants you to make a special portrait of your pet for Mackay's Pet Portrait Project. On a good quality piece of A3 paper, draw, print, paint or collage a portrait of your pet. For your chance to take part, deliver your finished unframed artwork with label attached and a \$5 entry fee to Artspace Mackay by 5pm Friday, November 4. All funds raised will go to our local RSPCA. Drop into Artspace Mackay or go to the website for more information.

Helping fish

THE Gooseponds is becoming even more fish-friendly. As a popular migration area for a number of commercial and recreational fish species, it is vital that fish are able to move freely through this area. Council is remediating the fishway located downstream from Willetts Road at the Gooseponds this week. Due to the type of work being carried out, council has been required to close the section of the footpath on Willetts Road that passes through the Gooseponds during construction, which is due to be completed this Friday.

Later openings

COUNCIL'S Client Service Centres will open a little later than normal tomorrow (Thursday, October 20) due to staff briefings. The Mackay administration building will open at 9.30am, and Client Service Centres at Sarina and Mirani at 10am. Anyone with urgent matters will still be able to call 1300 MACKAY (622 529).