

AUSTRALIAN READING HOUR

Pack your lunch, grab a book and head to Bluewater Quay to rediscover the benefits of reading.

TOMORROW (Thursday 19), Australians across the country are being encouraged to pick up a book and read for one hour on their own or with the children in their life as part of the Australian Reading Hour.

Cr Fran Mann said it was important that we all took the time to learn, escape and relax from the daily stresses of our everyday lives.

"Reading has been shown to reduce stress by 68 per cent more than listening to music, going for a walk or having a cup of tea," she said.

"In children, reading helps to identify formation, setting them up for success in the future.

"The aim of Reading Hour is to encourage everyone to rediscover or introduce themselves to the benefits of reading."

Mackay Regional Council Libraries are encouraging local city centre workers and families to join in on the Australian Reading Hour tomorrow during their lunch break, any time from 11.30am to 2pm.



Cr Fran Mann is encouraging residents to get outside and rediscover the love of reading

The special Reading Hour event will be held at the Bluewater Quay on River Street – bring your lunch and relax while reading and enjoying some fresh air and sunshine.

Cr Mann said for those who want to take part and don't have time to pick up a book before

Thursday, the Libraries' Outreach Team will have a selection of books available at for you to read on the day.

"Our Library Services encompasses five branches and one mobile library," she said

"More than ever our libraries are

accessible to residents, with fines now removed and extended opening hours added.

"If it has been a while since you visited your local library, I encourage you to take the time and reconnect with this wonderful resource at your fingertips."

Did you know... Reading a bedtime story six days a week can put kids almost a year ahead when they start school.

To learn more about your local library and the wide range of resources available, visit mackay.qld.gov.au.



Time to plan some holiday fun

> Keep the kids busy

ENTERTAIN the kids these school holidays with a variety of fantastic activities occurring across the region. Our facilities are offering a diverse range of events and workshops to cater for many different interests.

Facilities offering school holiday activities and workshops include Artspace Mackay, Libraries, Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens and Sarina Youth Centre. Most events are free however, some activities do incur a small fee.

To view a detailed list and secure your child's spot, visit [council's website](http://councilswebsite.com).

SAVETHEDATE

	September 23 - 29 Etnies Rumble on the Reef
	September 28 & 29 Orchid Extravaganza
	October 13 Greenmount Spring Picnic
	October 26 Global Grooves

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



Tenori - Timeless is coming to the MECC this month

Morning Melodies presents tenor trio

AS part of the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre's Morning Melodies program, Tenori - Timeless is on show next week, Friday, September 27, from 11am.

With a three-piece band, David Kidd, Craig Atkinson and Andrew Pryor are excited to share fresh versions of songs by Puccini, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lloyd-Webber, Simon and Garfunkel, Verdi and Peter Allen.

Cr Justin Englert said the trio would share a classic collection of songs that remain as current as the day they were written.

These Queensland tenors met while touring internationally with The Ten Tenors; performing in venues such as London's Royal Albert Hall, The Pantages Theatre in Los Angeles and the

Aussie icon, Sydney Opera House.

After some time apart working with Opera Australia, Opera Queensland and many of the country's finest orchestras, they are back together doing what they do best.

"As part of morning melodies, the MECC now offers free coffee, tea and biscuits - so make sure you arrive early to enjoy with friends," Cr Englert said.

Purchase your tickets today to make sure you don't miss out on this fantastic show. Visit the MECC Box Office or call 4961 9777.

Morning Melodies is proudly sponsored by Map Pharmacies West Mackay and Ooralea.

Save the date MACKAY THROUGH THE LENS PHOTO COMPETITION

COMING THIS OCTOBER

> Waterfront vision

ANOTHER important piece of the picturesque Mackay Waterfront puzzle is in place with the release of a draft master plan, which is currently open for public comment (until Nov 4).

The draft master plan sets out the overall vision for the Mackay Waterfront Priority Development Area (PDA) and its five precincts: the City Centre, Riverside, Enterprise, Queens Park and Beachside.

View the draft masterplan at connectingmackay.com.au.

MOVIES IN THE MEADOW

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
MEADOWLANDS AMPHITHEATRE
MACKAY REGIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS

6.30PM - SPIDER-MAN: INTO THE SPIDER-VERSE (PG)
8.15PM - SHAZAM (M)

POPCORN AND HOT FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON THE NIGHT

Free Event | mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au

> Lend a hand and reap the rewards

Volunteering is a rewarding activity that allows you to give back to your community whilst making new friends and learning new skills. Council has a number of facilities and areas that are in need of volunteers to lend a helping hand. To learn more and see if there is any area that interests you, visit council's website and complete the online form.

> McEwens Beach local coastal plan

We are continuing to take proactive steps towards protecting and enhancing the region's beaches into the future. A draft local coastal plan for McEwens Beach has been released for public comment as part of a strategic and coordinated approach to managing the region's coastlines. You can provide your feedback online at connectingmackay.com.au. Feedback closes September 30.

> Pioneer Valley Museum now open

Managed by the Friends of the Museum, the small but beautifully presented social history museum includes a display on the sugar industry, Indigenous artefacts, a large natural history section and well-used reading nook with photo albums, local family history booklets and many publications relating to the Pioneer Valley. Located behind the library in Victoria Street, Mirani – visitors welcome Tuesday to Thursday, 9.30am to 2.30pm. Free entry.

> Warmer weather around the corner

With winter now a distant memory, warmer weather is driving locals to cool down. Don't forget the family-friendly Bluewater Lagoon located in the heart of Mackay's City Centre is the perfect spot for a splash and splash. Open Monday to Sunday, 9am to 5.45pm. Additionally, take advantage of any of the aquatic facilities across the region.