

Take a jab at worst bin contaminants

Syringe needles, dirty nappies and plastic bags in recycling bins create safety risks for our workers

TOO many Mackay residents are dumping unsafe and unhygienic items in their yellow-lidded recycling bins, posing a serious safety risk to workers.

The three main contaminants found in recycling bins are:

1. Syringe needles
2. Dirty nappies
3. Plastic bags

There has been a significant increase in contaminants found in our region's recycling at council's

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) over the last year.

More than 22 kilograms of clinical waste (syringe needles and containers) has been found in Mackay's recycling stream in the last three months alone.

Frank Spiteri, a sorter at council's MRF, is scared for his and his family's health.

"I wear the correct personal protective equipment but I have been pricked by a needle twice," Mr Spiteri said.

"Every time I have to go to hospital, get tests done, and wait six months to see if I've been infected with a potentially life-threatening disease," he said.

"It is very stressful for both me and my family."

Mr Spiteri is pleading for residents to think about what they're putting in their yellow-lidded bin and only place recyclable items to keep everyone safe.

Infrastructure and Services Committee chair Cr Karen



Frank Spiteri, a sorter at council's Materials Recovery Facility, knows first hand about the dangers of contaminants in recycling.

Recycle safe tips:

> **NEEDLES** should only be placed in an approved sharps container and disposed of at your nearest public sharps disposal bin. They do not belong in your recycling or general waste bin.

> **DIRTY NAPPIES** should be placed in your red/green lidded general waste rubbish bin.

> **PLASTIC BAGS** should ideally be recycled at participating supermarkets.

May said this was alarming and as a community we needed to educate those who weren't using the right bin. "Placing hazardous material like dirty nappies and needles in your yellow-lidded recycling bin is unsafe for workers and is costly for ratepayers."

>> For more information on how to ensure you're recycling right check out Mackay Regional Council's website online at mackay.qld.gov.au/recyclerright



Alannah Wasson enjoys a winter stroll on the new path at Bucasia.

Visit show to win an Origin trip

COUNCIL'S display at the Mackay Show is proving popular.

The #MackayPride display at the show, which opened yesterday and concludes tomorrow, has something for young and old.

By visiting the council display, which is in the horticulture Pavilion 2 near the Milton Street entrance, you could win a trip to State of Origin Game III.

Simply drop in for the chance to win a trip for two to the big match at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium on July 12.

Also, stay rehydrated by making use of a free "Choose Tap" water bottle refill station. Fill up your water bottle, or one of council's, with high-quality tap water.

>> More information at mackay.qld.gov.au/mackayshow



Zoey and Hermes Brake are registered with council.

Register and save

HELP ensure the safety of your furry friends by registering them.

Community Engagement Committee chair Cr Fran Mann said residents could save between 30 and 50 per cent off their registration costs by taking advantage of the discount period.

"Anyone who registers their dog before July 31 will receive the discounted price," she said.

"Registration fees are put towards the cost of running Mackay's Animal Management

Centre, which provides care for lost animals while they are waiting to be reunited with their owners."

The cost to register a de-sexed dog during the discount period is \$36 and a dog that is not de-sexed is \$85.

The cost to register a de-sexed cat during the discount period is \$11 and a cat that is not de-sexed is \$26.

Pet owners can register their furry friends online at mackay.qld.gov.au or drop into one of council's client service centres.

>> More information online at mackay.qld.gov.au/pets

Pride of place for new sweeper

COUNCIL owns a new weapon in the battle to keep our streets clean.

The new Hino FG Dual Control street sweeper joins two other vehicles, but the latest addition has a different look.

It's been emblazoned with #MackayPride imagery as part of council's ongoing promotion to instil pride in our region.

Infrastructure and Services Committee chair Cr Karen May said the new vehicle would help enhance the coverage area of the street sweeping program.

"Each truck covers about 18,000km a year," she said.

Council's street sweeping crew runs a seven-day night roster, conducting street and kerb cleaning in the City Centre, as well as many residential areas.

"On average, the crew would clean about 85 kilometres a day," Cr May said.

The new sweeper has a high-tech computer system, high pressure water blasting and is also fitted with a hydraulic controlled suction boom for cleaning pits and man holes.



The new street sweeper emblazoned with #MackayPride imagery.

>> For more information on council's #MackayPride campaigns visit council's website at mackay.qld.gov.au/mackaypride

Festival throwing 30th birthday bash

THE stars are rolling into town for The Festival of Arts' 30th birthday bash.

Mark Seymour (of Hunters & Collectors fame), songstress Wendy Matthews, Aussie comic Dave Hughes, author/actor William McInnes and the cast of RockWiz Live are just a few of the familiar faces who will be in town for the celebrations.

And who could blame them?

This year's 30th anniversary Mackay Mazda Festival of Arts will be a spectacular of music, food, arts, entertainment and comedy.

Community Engagement Committee chair Cr Fran Mann said the Festival would kick off on July 7 with a special Gala in the Gardens.

"This year the Gala will be fully licensed and crowds can settle into the beautiful surrounds of the Meadowlands Amphitheatre for a night of live music under the stars headlined by Mark Seymour and The Undertow," Cr Mann said.

"From there, the Festival will



Mark Seymour and The Undertow will perform at Gala in the Gardens.

be packed full of dining and entertainment offerings, with something to suit everyone's tastes," she said.

For the food-lovers, Cr Mann said this year's Festival represented a smorgasbord with everything from tasty, locally sourced Chef's Bites to a full blown feast featuring a cascade of local restaurants' finest flavours.

"We already have more than 30 food vendors booked in for Wine and Food Day, but I think the offerings that will most excite foodies are the Chef's Bites and the Port of Mackay Marina Long Lunch," she said.

"The Long Lunch, hosted by the marina's resident restaurants, is the newest addition to the Festival and is a food-lovers feast consisting of a six-course lunch."

On the artistic front, Cr Mann said a special project, called "DBCT Illuminate – 30 Years of the Festival" would transform the Botanic Gardens for five days from Wednesday, July 12.

On top of all that, every ticket you purchase to a Festival show (not including satellite events) gives you two entries in the draw for a Mazda 2 Neo manual, valued at \$18,500 (including on road costs).

>> The Festival program is available online at themecc.com.au/festivals

KEY FESTIVAL DATES

Help us to celebrate 30 years of the Mackay Festival of Arts with a big party lasting 10 days and boasting some of the biggest names in entertainment, art, food and culture!

GALA IN THE GARDENS: Mark Seymour and The Undertow, Meadowlands Amphitheatre - Friday, July 7, 6pm to 10pm

G&S ENGINEERING WINE AND FOOD DAY Wendy Matthews, Elektrik Lemonade and Chef Bites by Paul West - Queens Park, Saturday, July 8, 10.30am to 5.30pm

ROCKWIZ LIVE! TWENTYSEVENTEEN MECC Auditorium, Saturday, July 8, from 8pm

PORT OF MACKAY MARINA LONG LUNCH Marina (near George's Thai), Sunday, July 9, from noon

LANDSCAPES WITH MONSTERS BY CIRCA MECC Auditorium, Tuesday, July 11, from 8pm

QLD MUSIC FESTIVAL: SONGS THAT MADE ME MECC Auditorium, Thursday, July 13, from 7.30pm

G&S ENGINEERING FESTIVAL COMEDY CLUB: Dave Hughes - MECC North Foyer, Saturday, July 15, 7.30pm

FRIENDS OF THE MECC JAZZ BRUNCH with Jazz Nouveau - MECC North Foyer, Sunday, July 16, 11am to 1pm



Life's a beach on new path

ENJOY the great outdoors these school holidays and take the kids to Seaview Park, Bucasia, for a day at the beach.

Pack the bikes and scooters and enjoy a ride along the recently extended shared path, which runs along the Bucasia Beach foreshore and provides easy access to the beach.

Economic Development and Planning Committee chair Cr Amanda Camm said the path

was designed to be suitable for people of all ability levels.

"The path makes the most of the foreshore and has helped improve beach access and walkability for residents and visitors by being constructed on level ground," she said.

"This makes for easy riding for all skill levels.

"The pathway has been extended by 300m and connects the carpark at Williams Avenue to the

northern beach access path, which features bike racks and a bench where residents can stop and have a rest before making their way down to the beach."

Seaview Park is a popular spot for exercise and picnics and features a playground overlooking a beautiful beach.

This project is stage one of a larger project that aims to construct a bike path from Bucasia to Shoal Point.

>> More information on the region's parks facilities at mackay.qld.gov.au/parks