



Spot superstars at Picnic in the Park

Mackay Regional Council Libraries' Picnic in the Park attracts the who's who of guests every year

FROM Darth Vader and Spiderman to Tinkerbell and Peter Pan, all of the main stars will make special appearances at the region's charming Picnic in the Park event.

perfect opportunity to celebrate books, and the characters that spring from their pages, by dressing up.

This year's theme is "Reading is My Secret Power".

This fantastic Book Week event in the Civic Precinct is on tomorrow (Thursday) from 10am to noon.

Cr Karen May said there were hundreds of children's books with inspiring characters and empowering messages.

Hundreds of young families are expected to turn out dressed as their favourite characters. After all, Children's Book Week (August 17 to 23) is the

"Perfect examples are the Dr. Seuss stories like the Lorax and Oh the places you'll go; classics like Madeline, Matilda, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

and Charlotte's Web; and more recent releases like The Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Hunger Games and Harry Potter," she said.

Picnic in the Park includes a Story Time under the trees and Baby Bounce on the lawn.

"There will be loads of fun for the kids, with face painting, puppets, craft activities and heaps more.

"Everyone is welcome - bring a rug, water bottle and picnic."



Allison, Ryan and Lara Bekker at last year's Picnic in the Park.

The Walkerston Book Week Parade, which is also an iconic Book Week staple, takes place this Friday (August 23) from 9am to 10.30am.

and she encouraged residents to line the street to cheer on the colourful characters from the local schools.

Cr May said the parade down Walkerston's Dutton Street was a spectacle like no other

"It's a wonderful celebration of books and reading, and the parade, which is supported by the Walkerston Library team and Walkerston Rotary, is a great event that really brings the community together."

>> To find out more details and times for all Mackay Regional Council Libraries' Book Week events head online at mackay.qld.gov.au/bookweek

Green light for recreational hub

RESIDENTS in Sarina are excited to watch Brewers Road Reserve transform into a recreational hub.

The space, which is designed to highlight the natural beauty and tranquility of the surrounding area, starts works this week.

The first section of works includes the construction of a new shared path and boardwalk, which will connect Sarina Field of Dreams Parklands to Brewers Road.



ride while providing beautiful views of Plane Creek and the wetland area," he said.

Cr Kevin Casey said the project would provide residents with a place to meet, socialise and get active with friends and family.

"The area is a perfect spot for a path like this as it offers plenty of shade, making it a cool place to walk, run or

Fergus Builders Pty Ltd was awarded the contract for this project and it is expected to be completed by early 2020, weather permitting.

This Works for Queensland project is delivering jobs for regional Queensland and is funded by the Queensland Government.

The project will be completed in four stages including:

- Stage 1: Pedestrian path
- Stage 2: Shared path in Field of Dreams parkland
- Stage 3: Shared path and access road to complete circuit
- Stage 4: Boardwalk connectivity - pending future funding.

>> To stay up-to-date on key council projects, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/mackayregionalcouncil

Join Mackay's clean-up effort

THIS is your chance to help keep our region beautiful. The Great Northern Clean Up is happening in the Mackay region on Saturday, August 31. Simply turn up to a registered site wearing closed-in shoes and sturdy gloves. Bring a hat, some sunscreen and water. For details visit mackay.qld.gov.au/cleanup.

Let's celebrate eSmart Week

ESMART Week creates awareness, solutions and ideas for community education on issues of cyber safety, bullying and wellbeing online and offline. The Mackay Police will deliver a handful of sessions at our libraries across the region from September 3 to 6. These free sessions will assist you in becoming more aware and responsible in today's digital technology world. To learn more about the sessions, visit your local library.

Council erects shade shelters

COUNCIL has erected new shelters at two barbecue areas at the Sarina Field of Dreams Parkland. One of the shelters is near the covered playground, and is proving a popular spot with locals and visitors stopping off at the Visitor Information Centre, sited in the old railway building. Other attractions at the parkland include the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre, the Sarina Museum, the Sarina Art Gallery and the Sarina Sugar Shed, giving visitors and locals a range of things to see and do.

New exhibition

VIOLENT Salt is a thought-provoking exhibition that gives a voice to marginalised, underrepresented and silenced Australians. Co-curated by Yhonnie Scarce and Claire Watson, the exhibition discusses issues surrounding racism and discrimination against First Nations peoples and minority groups, as well as the lack of respect for, and desecration of, culture and the natural environment. The exhibition opens in Artspace Mackay's FIELD Engineers Gallery from August 30 to November 24.



Cr Ross Gee, Cr Ayril Paton with Convic's Jack Bohmer and Colm O'Mahony.

Athletes set to visit the region

THE Mackay Aquatic Recreation Complex is ready to host its first major event this month - the Oceania Masters Athletics Championship.

The \$24 million dollar state-of-the-art sporting complex will welcome more than 450 athletes and their families to the Mackay region.

The week-long championships will be on show from August 31 to September 7.

The program includes a full track and field program, half-marathon, cross country run and 10km road race walk.

Athletes are travelling from Tahiti, New Caledonia, Nauru, Cook Islands, Fiji, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, United Kingdom and USA, as well as across Australia and New Zealand.

>> For event results, visit athleticsnorthqld.org.au



Help keep our crews safe on our regions' roads.

Please drive safe

SLOW down around roadworks - that's the message council is reminding motorists during Queensland Road Safety Week.

The week, which runs from August 26 to 30, provides a timely reminder for anyone who is getting behind the wheel of a vehicle.

While many people think of road crashes as something that happens to someone else, the truth is one in two Queenslanders have either been involved in a road crash or known someone who has.

Cr Kevin Casey said crews were on roadsides throughout the Mackay region daily, and they relied on motorists doing the right thing to keep them safe.

"Every time you use the road, you should be making road safety your priority," Cr Casey said.

"This includes adhering to reduced speed limits, obeying directions and detours and removing distractions, such as mobile phones, from your reach while driving. Please take care," he said.

>> Visit our website for a list of road works, upgrades and maintenance programs occurring in the region

Save the date

FREE EVENT
> Mackay Scottish Bluewater Fling
Saturday, August 31, from 3pm

PIPE bands from around Queensland will join the Mackay and District Pipe Band's celebration of Scottish music, song and dance this month.

Pipers and drummers from six pipe bands will march across the Forgan Bridge into the Bluewater Quay where the entertainment will continue until 6pm. Celtic folk band Hullabaloo, highland dancers and individual pipe bands will perform on the River Stage throughout the event.

Bring a fold-up chair or picnic blanket, enjoy a coffee, ice cream or snack from the onsite food vendors while listening to the stirring sounds of the pipes and drums. The music will continue after 6pm at the North Mackay Bowls Club, where performers will launch themselves into a rip-roaring Ceilidh.



Library members can now enjoy two hours of free computer time.

Delivering on community feedback

LIBRARIES have unveiled a series of user-friendly changes based on community feedback.

More than 900 library clients completed the 2019 Customer Satisfaction Survey and more than 80 per cent rated the library service as "very good".

Cr Fran Mann said libraries appreciated the feedback provided.

"Residents took the time to tell us they wanted lower overdue fees, changes to our

opening hours, more books, more online collections and more time on computers," Cr Mann said.

"We've listened, and our Libraries team have been quite innovative at Dudley Denny Library by implementing a shelving project that will add 1500 items to the space and also dampen noise in the adult fiction areas," she said.

"We've removed overdue and card replacement fees, increased online content by 30 per cent and introduced new digital platforms.

"We now offer free wi-fi in all branches and are looking at wi-fi options for the Mobile Library this year.

"The opening hours have also changed slightly to tie in with external events.

"For example, from September 2, Gordon White Library will open on every second Sunday to cater for the Troppo Market crowd."

New opening hours for each branch can be found online at mackay.qld.gov.au/libraries. Click on "visit us".

>> For the full summary of the survey, visit mackay.qld.gov.au/librarysurvey

Full steam ahead for project

CAMILLERI Street Park at Blacks Beach has been a hive of activity over the last two months with the next stages of work about to begin.

Cr Ayril Paton said the facility was starting to take shape.

Council is now progressing with Stage 1b and Stage 2, which has been awarded to Fergus Builders Pty Ltd.

Cr Paton said Fergus Builders represented the best value for money for this project.

"We are looking forward to delivering this project in the Northern Beaches," he said.

Upcoming works include the installation of a boardwalk and footpaths to improve connectivity from Barber Drive to Camilleri Street car park, toilet block, additional picnic shelters, drinking fountains, drainage and a fenced dog park, among other things.

"There is a strong demand for improved recreational facilities like this in the

Northern Beaches due to the growing residential population in this area."

In July, council contractors Convic Pty Ltd started work on the youth hub, which features a skate park and pump track, a half basketball court and a hit-up wall.

This project is expected to be completed by November, weather permitting, and is jointly funded by the Queensland Government and Mackay Regional Council.

>> For more information on current and future projects, visit council's website