



For more information phone: 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529) or visit council's website: [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au)

## Council works hard to keep our region clean and tidy

A lot of council work is conducted behind the scenes, tasks that are easily forgotten but would be extremely noticeable if they didn't occur on a day-to-day basis.



Caption: Gordon Pickett is one of council's employees who looks after our parks and gardens.

Mackay Regional Council is dedicated to looking after and preserving our public spaces and areas for everyone to enjoy which means carrying out essential tasks such as cleaning toilets, mowing, maintaining park furniture and cleaning bins.

For example, in the City Centre, Bluewater Quay and Bluewater Trail the following works alone were completed in the month of September; 10,000 sq m of concrete and path cleaned (blower), 5000 sq m of concrete and path cleaned (high pressure cleaner), 90 rubbish bins emptied, 40 of those bins as well as 38 umbrellas were also cleaned.

Parks and Environment portfolio councillor Theresa Morgan said the jobs aren't always pleasant or pretty, but our crews go above and beyond to provide top notch areas for residents and visitors to enjoy.

"Staff work hard daily to ensure our region is in tip-top-shape through maintenance and upgrade works," she said.

Some latest park upgrades include two playgrounds in Andergrove; Tanglewood Park and Karwin Drive Park.

Cr Morgan said both parks received improvements thanks to the installation of rubber soft fall under the existing equipment.

"Illawong Beach also benefited recently with four new aluminium picnic settings installed in the lead up to the busy beach period," she said.

Residents are reminded, if you are making your way to these outdoor areas remember to look after the areas and dispose or take any rubbish with you.

"Littering is an ongoing problem we face with workers constantly visiting high use locations daily to collect an excessive amount of rubbish. Littering is not acceptable and we all need to remember it's everyone's responsibility to ensure our region is kept beautiful."

## Roadside car sales against the law

Selling your car on the side of the road may seem harmless but it is in fact against the law. Health and Regulatory Services portfolio councillor Laurence Bonaventura said fines up to \$220 are issued to offenders.

"Parked vehicles on roadways and road reserves in the council area can pose serious safety hazards and potentially cause an accident on our roads," he said.

"It is important that drivers on our roads are not distracted to ensure we all make it home safely,"

Vehicles include but not limited to cars, trucks, caravans, boats and jet skis.

"Having these vehicles parked for sale encourages motorists to stop, enter and exit roads at inappropriate locations to view the vehicles."

Council is aware of the hot spots in the region, particularly off the Mackay-Bucasia Road.

Cr Bonaventura said these areas will be heavily patrolled to ensure compliance is maintained.

>> For more information or assistance, contact council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 MACKAY.

## Australia Day more than a summer BBQ

Did you know not even 1 per cent of our population will nominate someone they know for an Australia Day Award?

That figure is confronting considering we have 116,000 residents living in the Mackay region.

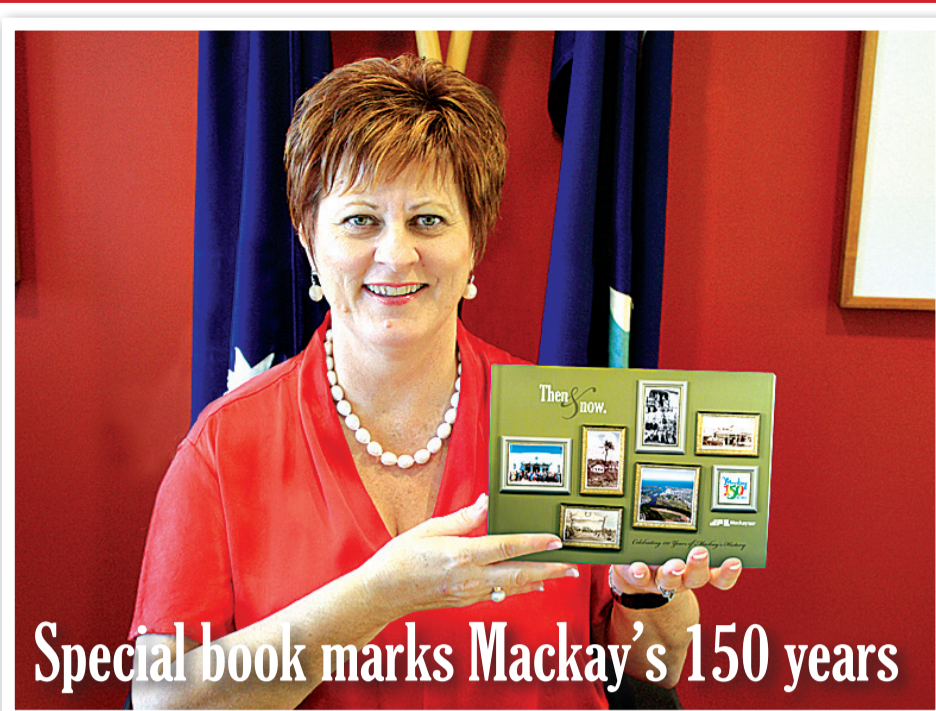
Help us make that statistic a thing of the past. Nominate a friend, family member, neighbour or work colleague that helps make our region great.

There are a number of awards available for nomination including Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, Environmental Achievement Award, South Sea Islander Sesquicentennial Achievement Award, Community Event of the Year, Community Volunteer Award, Cultural Award and Sports Achiever Award.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said she's confident that there is a category available to suit all types of contributions that are made in our region.

**Nominations are open now and close January 7, 2013.**

>> Nominate online on council's website, [www.mackay.qld.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/australiaday).



## Special book marks Mackay's 150 years

Mackay Regional Council has produced an official Mackay 150 Commemorative book which is set to be unveiled to the region this Friday and on sale from next week.

The book titled, Then & Now, is a beautifully printed piece encompassing a series of comparative pictures of the Mackay region over the past 150 years.

Mayor Deirdre Comerford said celebrating our sesquicentenary has been significant for our community and provided us a chance to relive those memorable moments and reflect how we, as a region, have evolved.

"For days to come, the Then & Now book will allow us to always reflect on our

people, places and stories," she said.

"It would also be a perfect gift for family and friends this Christmas."

The book will be for sale at the low price of \$9.95 and if you purchase before December 14 you receive a bonus gift.

This year council has been selling a series of three commemorative postcard packs, and as a special gift residents will receive one pack of postcards with each book purchased before December 14.

>> The book will be available for purchase at all council libraries and at the Customer Service Centre in Gordon Street, Mackay.

## councilconnect Christmas Giveaway

Win! a \$500 Wish Giftcard plus a double pass to MECC Theatre Season

Simply visit: [www.mackay.qld.gov.au/codeword](http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/codeword) and enter the special codeword: "CHRISTMAS"

## Did you know?

Covering your swimming pool or spa with a well-fitted pool cover will save water. An uncovered swimming pool can waste up to 200 litres a day from evaporation alone.

## Learn how to go green

To help nourish your garden and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, council is providing a free composting workshop.

The workshop will be held this Saturday (Nov 24) from 9 to 11.30am at the Mackay Community Gardens on Streeter Avenue, West Mackay.

There are many benefits of turning food and garden waste into compost such as reducing the amount of waste disposed, reducing the use of artificial fertilisers and improving your soil quality.

If you can't make the workshop this week, council's website has four easy steps on how to start composting - simply, hop online and get started today.

>> To book your spot for this weekend's workshop, phone Fiona Paterson on 4961 9051 by 3pm this Friday.

## Shop locally this Christmas

Sarina Sugar Shed can personalise a delicious Christmas hamper for your loved ones packed with delectable goodies. Treat them to locally made liqueurs, gourmet sauces and homemade treats such as rumballs, Christmas cakes, shortbreads and much more.

The hampers are beautifully hand-packaged in stylish boxes and can be

## Council notice board:

### Know when to water

The science of watering your lawn is simple.

**Stick to your designated water days and times and never use water between 10am and 4pm!**

Visit [mackay.qld.gov.au](http://mackay.qld.gov.au) for details of the water restrictions in your area.

### Aquatic Facilities will keep the kids busy

There is a number of programs coming up at the pools including a holiday intensive, lessons and stroke development classes. Swimming is a skill for life. To find out more on these activities phone 4957 5767 today.

### Food for Fines in full swing at your local library

Waive your overdue fees and help those less fortunate in the local community this Christmas. Simply donate non-perishable food items by December 8 and have your fees cleared all in the spirit of Christmas.

### Carols in the City!

Saturday, Dec 1 from 6.30pm marks this year's family-friendly Christmas Carols event. Held at the MECC there will be special performances, the lighting of the Christmas Tree plus much more.

>> To view all the upcoming events and activities, check the 'What's On Calendar' via council's website.

## Don't trash our region

Dumping of household rubbish, garden waste, building and commercial waste, or other materials at a site other than a council approved waste disposal site is illegal.



## Celebrate our coastline by lending a hand

December 1-8 marks this year's Coastcare week and locals are being asked to lend a hand.

The condition of Mackay's coast has greatly improved thanks to our volunteers. Cr Morgan said throughout the year a number of working bees are held across the region to clean up and care for our coastline.

On Saturday, December 1 an activity is scheduled for Bucasia Beach from 8am in conjunction with Coastcare week. Come along and help with dune planting, weeding, watering, mulching, rubbish collection and learn about our coast. Afterwards to say thank you, a free sausage sizzle will be held.

>> Please bring a hat and wear protective clothing and shoes.

It not only damages our natural environment including the Pioneer River, natural waterways and beaches, but it is unsightly, often dangerous and is a cost to ratepayers.

If you see someone trashing our beautiful region simply note the necessary details and report the incident to council by phoning 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Illegal dumping is a concern for the community and will not be tolerated with illegal dumpers looking to incur fines of up to \$110,000.

Mackay Regional Council has over 10 waste facilities in the region for residents to dispose of their household and green waste.

When visiting these facilities, remember it is important to dress appropriately such as wearing enclosed shoes, long pants and protective gloves and glasses.

>> To find out more details on our waste facilities such as locations and opening times, visit council's website.

>> Alternatively, visit the Sugar Shed in the Field of Dreams Parkland to tailor your stocking fillings this Christmas.

