

COUNCIL CONNECTION



GLADSTONE REGIONAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER
JUNE - JULY 2015
ISSUE 66



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Gladstone's Ben Davidson makes the most of the newly shaded skate park at Memorial Park Gladstone.

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Council Connection

This newsletter is produced by Gladstone Regional Council to give residents a bi-monthly update on Council events, activities, services and projects.

Delivery

Council Connection is delivered directly into all residential letterboxes by Australia Post as "unaddressed mail" and is also available for viewing or downloading from Council's website at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au

Cost

Council Connection is automatically delivered free of charge to households in the Gladstone Region who have a residential letterbox. Cost of printing and distributing the newsletter is 50 cents per household per edition.

Mayor's Message

Council keeps spending to a minimum



Council is committed to providing responsible leadership to the Gladstone Region which, for the upcoming Budget 2015-16, means keeping spending to a minimum.

Among other measures, Council will deliver a raft of operational changes, which we are referring to as Target Zero, with the aim of minimising rate increases for the 2015-16 financial year.

This is in addition to the deferment of a number of capital works projects and restricting staffing to its current level.

Unfortunately, the Gladstone Region has been overlooked for discretionary State and Federal government funding in recent years.

Coupled with the State Government's withdrawal of funding in 2008 and its decision, in 2011, to cap developer

contributions for trunk infrastructure, this has made it necessary for Council to tighten its fiscal belt in order to deliver necessary services to the region.

Council's response has been to put its processes under the microscope, looking at every avenue in which we can reduce our costs across the organisation and, in turn, ease the burden on ratepayers.

This exercise will not only have the immediate benefit of minimising the rating burden in the current budget, it will also provide key insights and valuable learnings on how Council can continue to reduce costs into the future.

Council has always taken its financial responsibilities seriously but, as with all things, there is always room for improvement.

Many potential cost cutting measures have already been identified and Council will continue to look for more in order to further minimise its costs into the future.

Go digital with rates payments

Gladstone Region residents will soon have another option to pay their rates, thanks to a new partnership with Australia Post.

MyPost Digital Mailbox allows residents to receive and pay rates electronically, rather than receiving a traditional hard copy paper account and it's free.

Residents will also have the added benefits of connecting with other service providers who have partnered with Australia Post and can use the mailbox to set reminders and make payments online using any device with an internet

connection.

Designed to help manage the business of everyday life, MyPost Digital Mailbox helps bring together residents' daily transactions and administration in one convenient and secure location.

To receive your August Rate Notice sign up today at www.digitalmailbox.com.au

For more information phone the Rates Section on 4976 6999.



Cr Gail Sellers - Mayor

Mobile: 0448 883 134
Email: mayor@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



Cr Maxine Brushe - Councillor

Portfolio: Community Services
Mobile: 0448 882 609
Email: maxineb@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



Cr Matt Burnett - Deputy Mayor

Portfolio: Regional Strategy
Mobile: 0437 086 401
Email: mattb@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



Cr Col Chapman - Councillor

Portfolio: Environment
Mobile: 0448 883 961
Email: colinc@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



Cr Rick Hansen - Councillor

Portfolio: Engineering Services
Mobile: 0448 885 047
Email: rickhansen@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



Cr Ren Lanzon - Councillor

Portfolio: Arts & Culture
Mobile: 0417 732 640
Email: renlanzon@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



Cr Graham McDonald - Councillor

Portfolio: Parks & Recreation
Mobile: 0409 730 469
Email: grahamm@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



Cr Karen Porter - Councillor

Portfolio: Economic Development Strategy
Mobile: 0417 723 042
Email: karenporter@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au



Cr PJ Sobhanian - Councillor

Portfolio: Rural Services
Mobile: 0412 544 201
Email: pjs@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

Council Contacts

PO Box 29, Gladstone Qld 4680
Phone: 4970 0700 Fax: 4975 8500
Email: info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au
Office Hours: 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Gladstone Office
101 Goondoon Street
Gladstone Qld 4680

Calliope Office
5 Don Cameron Drive
Calliope Qld 4680

Miriam Vale Office
36 Roe Street
Miriam Vale Qld 4677

www.gladstone.qld.gov.au
www.facebook.com/GladstoneRegionalCouncil

Council supports local business through tender process

When it comes to buying goods and services, Council has a policy of developing local business and industry as much as it can while still ensuring that ratepayers are afforded good value for money.

About 70 per cent of Council tenders, by value, were awarded to local companies this financial year.

In 2014-15 alone, almost \$13 million has been awarded and spent locally, benefiting various companies around the region.

The top tender among these was awarded to local Benaraby-based business, Aestec Services, for work associated with the Agnes Water Sewerage Pump Station and Gravity Main.

Manager Chris Skerman said the company would not be as successful as it has been without the support of Council.

"We employ more than 170 local men and women and our localised success will allow us to keep these people employed," Mr Skerman said.

"I encourage people to back their own business and put their best foot forward because there is no reason why local companies cannot be as competitive than the 'out of town' competitors."

Another local company benefiting from Council business is THE Shed Company, after it was awarded several smaller scale



tenders to supply infrastructure to Council projects.

Managing Director Tim Churchill encouraged other local companies to get on board and apply for Council tenders.

"As local businesses, it's good to know that our local Council is looking to offer these opportunities as much as it can," Mr Churchill said.

"That's good for local business and also good for ratepayers who can be assured that Council expects good value from all of its suppliers.

"We are very pleased to have been a successful tenderer because, in effect, the






decision benefits our local workers and ensures the money stays local too.

"To us, it's all about being a quality competitor in the tender process. We know there are a lot of good local suppliers who will also tender so we want to ensure that our product, trade services and back up services are of a high standard."

Both companies look forward to the possibility of being a part of Council's future developments.

The results of all of Council's tenders and quotes can be viewed at <http://info.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au/forms/tenders/availableTenders.cfm>

Top five tenders by dollar value

Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				
\$3,867,601.00	\$2,096,393.25	\$1,090,000.00	\$900,000.00	\$865,350.00
Aestec Services Gladstone Agnes Water Sewerage Pump Station and Gravity Main	Fulton Hogan Industries Gladstone Asphalt Resurfacing	Vision Environment Gladstone Desalination Plant Environmental Monitoring and Auditing	Trilogy Rockhampton Mechanical maintenance of Air Conditioning Plant and Equipment	Walz Group Gladstone Marina Bridge Pivot Bearing replacement

Grants for significant sport and recreational events on offer

Round one of Council's Regional Sport and Recreation Event Grant Program will soon open for applications.

This grant program is delivered in two rounds each financial year with a focus on assisting local organisations to deliver successful sport and recreation events that attract, promote and enhance the region's reputation.

Funding of up to \$3000 is available to eligible not-for-profit organisations, sporting clubs and community groups and businesses to host regionally significant sport and recreation events.

Round one opens July 1 and closes midnight on July 31 via an online application process. This funding is for eligible events being held between September 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016.

Round two funding opens and closes in February next year for events held between April 1, 2016 and August 31, 2016.

For more information, visit Council's website at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/sport-and-recreation-funding or phone the Community Advisory Service on 4976 6300.

Distribution of mulch remains off-limits to public

Mulch from Benaraby and Gladstone waste facilities is still unavailable to the public.

A fire ants' eradication quarantine was placed on Council and the two waste facilities in December 2014 by the State Government's Biosecurity Queensland.

The potential spread of fire ants from the Yarwun area outbreak stopped any public distribution of mulch.

Biosecurity Queensland recently completed its fourth and final treatment for fire ants and an additional 12-month quarantine withholding period is now in place.

The Gladstone waste facility sits within the defined quarantine area and Biosecurity Queensland has placed a strict quarantine on mulch from this facility being released to the public until June 2016.

Recent advice from Biosecurity Queensland states Benaraby Landfill will be permitted to distribute freshly ground mulch from about August or September 2015.

The exact date of mulch release will be dependent on when Council's green waste contract grinder arrives on site.

Crushed concrete pads will be constructed at Benaraby Landfill to provide separation of the ground and green waste during the mulch production.

Council is implementing new systems to minimise risks of contamination of green waste from other sources.

This will include closer interaction with customers as they unload their green waste to ensure that no other waste types are accidentally offloaded into the green waste stockpile.



Business licence renewals due by the end of June

Gladstone commercial operators should keep in mind that several types of business licences are due for renewal by the end of June 2015.

Licence renewals were issued to commercial operators falling within the food business, caravan park, environmentally relevant activity, tattooing/body piercing and commercial activities categories.

All businesses which fall under these categories must continue to meet Council-approved standards and conditions in order to retain their licences, following the initial approval process.

Renewals for licences are issued on a yearly basis and affected commercial operators are encouraged to have their renewal applications in by the 30 June deadline in order to ensure the licence renewal process can be completed as smoothly as possible.

For more information phone Council's Regulatory Services Division on 4977 6821.

Light shines at Baffle Creek intersection

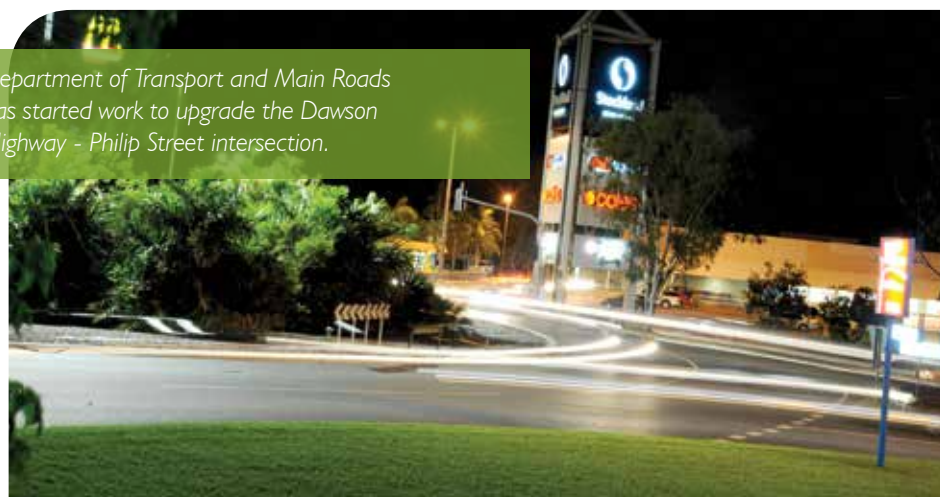
Two solar lights are illuminating the Coast Road and Hills Road intersection at Baffle Creek.

Installation of lighting and signage, line marking and removal of trees within clear zones was work recommended in a Road Safety Audit of Coast Road.

Council allocated \$200,000 for the works with an additional \$100,000 provided by State Government Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme (TIDS) funding.

All of the identified road safety improvement works are now complete in that area.

Department of Transport and Main Roads has started work to upgrade the Dawson Highway - Philip Street intersection.



Road upgrades part of State Government works

The Queensland Government's Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) is responsible for several roads that pass through the region.

Some upgrade works within the region that TMR is responsible for include the upgrade of the Kin Kora roundabout intersection and installation of traffic lights at the Hanson

Road and Roseberry Street intersection in Gladstone.

TMR has advised Council that motorists should expect traffic disruptions at both locations while works progress.

More information on these projects can be viewed at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/projects

Revegetation projects continue to protect coast and the Great Barrier Reef

Council's latest revegetation project has involved the planting of more than 700 trees, shrubs and vines within the Tannum Sands foreshore areas.

The project is part of Council's Shoreline Erosion Management Plan (SEMP) and its ongoing commitment to the Reef Guardian Council program.

The revegetation work aims to increase resilience of the foreshore area by promoting the build-up of sand, lessen the impacts of wind erosion, reduce weeds, increase biodiversity and protect infrastructure. Weather events, including the recent cyclone, have contributed to the degradation of foredune vegetation, resulting in the loss of native vegetation and the establishment of weeds.

Council has also allocated an area within the Wild Cattle Beach zone to Conservation Volunteers Australia for revegetation and weed control works.

Council has also allocated an area within the Wild Cattle Beach zone to Conservation Volunteers Australia for revegetation and weed control works.

Gladstone Regional Council is one of 17 councils between Bundaberg and Cooktown that are part of the Reef Guardian Council program. This covers 300,000sq km and a population of almost 900,000 people.

Council implements positive measures to improve the environment and reduce impacts on the reef through water management, waste management and land management.

For more information visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/shoreline-management

Council's Lewis Heuvel is part of the project team planting new trees along the Tannum Sands foreshore.



Botanical Walk reopens at Canoe Point

The popular Botanical Walk at the Canoe Point Environmental Reserve has reopened to the public.

Council closed the Botanical Walk earlier this year when a colony of flying foxes took up residence in the reserve.

The flying foxes are a seasonal part of the habitat and help to enrich the coastal rainforest at Canoe Point, Tannum Sands.

Once the flying fox colony moved on in late April, Council pruned back the overgrown vegetation, undertook weed control and tidied up the walkway.

The Botanical Walk weaves its way through the coastal rainforest and is ideal for walkers.



BRIEFLY

Budget meeting

Council will hand down its 2015-16 Budget at a dedicated meeting in the boardroom of the Gladstone Civic Centre, 101 Goondoon Street, Gladstone, from 9am on July 6. Residents are welcome to attend. Full details of the Budget will be available from Council's website soon after the meeting.

Seniors Week approaches



Council is keen to hear from community groups interested in presenting Seniors Week activities between August 15 and 23 this year.

Council and the community partner each year for this program that recognises the contribution of over-55s and encourages them to make connections. Phone Andrea Hughes on 4976 6358. The program will be available at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/seniors-week prior to Seniors Week.

School holiday activities



Council's Art Gallery and Museum, Entertainment Centre, Libraries and Gardens often have activities for children during school holiday periods. Check out

the June-July school holiday offerings at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/school-holiday-activities

Aquatic facilities review



Tenders will soon close for the leasing or management and operation of Council's two aquatic facilities in Gladstone and Mount Larcom. The

decision to test the market was based on an extensive review of services and cost structures. The tenders will enable Council to determine whether external management of the Gladstone Aquatic Centre and Mount Larcom Swimming Pool facilities will provide a more cost-effective solution and enhanced services for patrons.

Over \$50,000 RADF funding allocated in the region

The region's arts sphere is set to come alive after local organisations and individuals received financial assistance through the Gladstone Region Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF).

The RADF program, a Queensland Government and Council partnership, provides valuable support to groups and organisations, encouraging the development and enhancement of arts and culture within the region.

Queensland Premier and Arts Minister Annastacia Palaszczuk said RADF enabled Queenslanders to engage with the arts on a local level.

"Arts and cultural activities are important to our communities and RADF celebrates our diversity and offers employment opportunities, delivering more than 3000 arts and cultural development and heritage projects annually," the Premier said.

"RADF gives councils across the state flexibility to shape their own arts and cultural projects and gives Queenslanders plenty of opportunities to get involved in arts experiences."



RADF committee member Wendy Barker discusses funding opportunities with local artist Natalia Muszkat.

The latest Gladstone Region RADF recipients totalling \$51,611 include:

- Felicia Lloyd, Concept Development Grant for new work using new-media platform;
- Welcoming Intercultural Neighbours, Concept Development Grant for art for Cultural Diversity;
- Kim Scrimshaw, Developing Regional Skills Grant to attend Wrapt in Rocky artist workshops;
- Gladstone Arts Council, Regional Partnerships Grant to host community short film workshops;
- Katrina Elliott, Regional Partnerships Grant for a One Wish sculpture project;
- Paulette Flint, Concept Development Grant for an early history research Port Curtis and surrounding areas;
- Gladstone Festival & Events Ecofest, Building Community Cultural Capacity Grant to host an environmental sculptor for community workshops;
- Queensland Music Festival, Regional Partnerships Grant to host a jazz masterclass and community performance;
- Margaret Worthington, Regional Partnerships Grant to host a Crush Festival exhibition in Bundaberg;
- Gladstone Independent Schools Music Association, Building Community Cultural Capacity Grant to secure a Conductor for 2015 GISMA music workshops;
- Capricorn Film Festival, Building Community Cultural Capacity Grant to host skill development workshops.
- Musica!, Regional Partnerships Grant to host classical, opera, jazz and Indigenous song workshops.

Councillor Update



Cr Rick Hansen

Phone: 0448 885 047

Email: Rick.Hansen@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

Portfolio: Engineering Services

Gladstone Regional Council, particularly the Engineering Services Directorate, hosts a Traffic Environment Advisory Committee (TEAC) which meets regularly. The committee discusses and advises the Council on road safety and road management issues in the region. The group contains representatives from Council's Engineering Services, elected members, Queensland Police Service and the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Road Safety may be defined as a road system of drive behaviour and use of network, which aims to protect users against injury or risk as a result of its engineering design, construction and usage. Road safety may be achieved by managing the following five key elements of safe speeds, safe road environments, safe vehicles, safe road users (including pedestrians, cyclists etc) and the safe interaction of the above elements with adjacent land use. A safer road environment for all road users within the region can be attained by Local and State Government agencies working closely with Council to understand crashes and risks, enforce road rules, minimise unnecessary road signage and thus driver distraction. The group reviews these areas to improve the traffic environment based on current technical standards and recognised best practice. Approved recommendations relating to major matters from the committee then proceed to a full Council meeting for consideration and endorsement.



Cr Ren Lanzon

Phone: 0417 732 640

Email: RenLanzon@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

Portfolio: Arts & Culture

Do you think there might be an event that the Gladstone Region is missing out on? Perhaps you've visited another town or city in Australia, or even overseas, that you thought might be exciting for the region to have. Or it might be a brand new idea. The Major Events Panel (MEAP) was set up by the Gladstone Regional Council to encourage organisations to present ideas for events that will help fill our calendar. They may be a one-off affair or something that might excite enough interest to become a permanent fixture as have the Boyne Hook-up, The Seventeen Seventy Festival or the Harbour Festival. The Major Events Advisory Panel will consider applications for funding for new events or something that will bring a wow factor to an existing event. Be aware though - an important point in MEAP's Terms of Reference is to "engender and attitude of enterprise, creativity and sustainability". Note that last word because the aim is that ultimately the event will be largely become self-reliant and not dependent on further funding. An updated application form will soon be available on our website. In the meantime ring me on 0417 732 640, or Council's Manager Arts and Culture on 4970 0700.

All Councillors contact details are available from Council's website www.gladstone.qld.gov.au under the 'About Council' tab.

Garden club flourishing in new home

The 90-plus members of the Calliope Garden Club are enjoying their new digs at the community hall at Bunting Park.

After tripling its membership in just two years, the garden club had outgrown its former meeting place at the Calliope CWA Hall.

In March, Council agreed to lease the former Girl Guide hut to the garden club which has renamed its new home The Garden Shed.

Calliope Garden Club will continue to share the hall with other community groups and has exciting plans to build a community garden around the building and host markets at the park, pending approval.

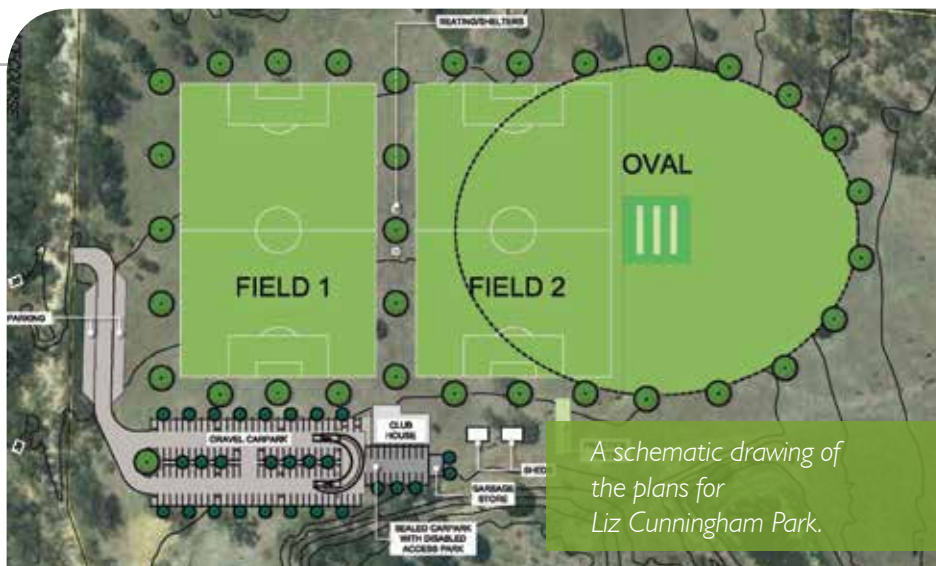


Calliope Garden Club chairman Richard Cornale receives the key to the new headquarters from Council's Heather Riches.



Library late night hours

Residents will have until June 25 to swap their Thursday late night shopping for a quiet night in at the Gladstone City or Boyne Island Library. The trial, which commenced in late April, came after Council's decision to cease Sunday operating hours in a bid to cut costs across the organisation. The late night operating hours aim to accommodate those whose work does not enable them to visit the library during the day. After the trial period ceases, Council will conduct a review to assess its success and decide whether or not to continue on a more permanent basis. For more information on regional library opening times visit www.gladstonelibraries.qld.gov.au



A schematic drawing of the plans for Liz Cunningham Park.

Work under way on \$2 million Liz Cunningham Park development

Stage one of the Calliope Sports (Liz Cunningham) Park development should be complete by October this year, weather permitting.

In April, Council awarded the \$1.4 million contract for the civil and landscape works to Golding Contracting Pty Ltd while Gladstone building firm CCF Constructions received the \$494,000 contract for the construction of the new sporting club house with a sealed car park and gravel car/bus parking areas.

The 49ha park on Racecourse Road will

feature two full-size football fields, a full-size cricket ground, shared clubhouse and amenities.

The new sports park is designed to serve a rapidly growing population in the Calliope region and ease the over-use of Bunting Park.

The multi-purpose facility will allow Calliope's rugby league, soccer and cricket fraternities to grow and, in the future, accommodate a wide range of sporting groups including netball and AFL.

PARK ROUND-UP

Shade and weather structures

The Bray Park stage at Boyne Island is now covered by a hard roof structure, creating a more user-friendly facility for community groups and event organisers. The hard roof replaced the former PVC shade sails which were removed due to deterioration. The new roof has been installed in time for one of the region's largest events, the Boyne-Tannum Hook-Up on June 5-7.

A new shade structure was installed at the Gladstone Skate Bowl at Memorial Park, providing 90 per cent more sun

protection than the previous shade sails.

Work is also complete on the new shade structure over the Nagoorin Skate Park, providing park users protection from the sun and wet weather.

New playgrounds

Families and children are enjoying two new playground facilities at Boyne Island and Tannum Sands following completion of upgrade projects in May. Malpas Park received new playground equipment, while the Garnet Street playground features new equipment following removal of the previous facilities.



The new shade structure at Memorial Park.

BRIEFLY

■ Wheelie bin placement



Household recycling and waste wheelie bins should be placed one metre apart or preferably on separate sides of the driveway for collection. Do not place bins under low trees, near structures or posts. If using waste bin liners, remember to tie them to prevent spreading rubbish.

■ RADF Committee nominations

With the final round of the Gladstone Region Regional Art Development Fund (RADF) now awarded for 2014-15, the committee is seeking nominations from interested community members to be a part of the funding process in the 2015-16 financial year. Interested residents are encouraged to attend the 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum on Wednesday, July 15 at 5.30pm. Nomination forms are available at Council administration centres and facilities or download from www.gallerymuseum.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

■ Update your pet's address



Are you a pet owner who has moved residence recently? Make sure you do not forget to change your pet's registration details with Council as well. To update your

pet's registration details and/or your contact details, email Council at info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au, post a letter to Gladstone Regional Council, PO Box 29, Gladstone DC Qld 4680 or visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/change-of-address. If your cat or dog has been microchipped, you must also advise your microchip registry.

■ Council meetings

Did you know you can attend Council's general meetings? Held in the Council Chambers of the Gladstone Civic Centre, 101 Goondoon Street, residents are encouraged to arrive at 8.45am for a 9am start. The scheduled dates are: June 2 and 16; July 7 and 21; August 4 and 18; September 1 and 15; October 6 and 20; November 3 and 17; and December 1 and 15.

Last chance for pensioners to lodge subsidy form

Pension recipients have little time left to lodge the new rates subsidy application form with Gladstone Regional Council.

The form seeks vital information required by Council to ensure pensioners receive the full rate subsidy benefit to which they are entitled.

Council mailed 2400 forms to pension recipients throughout the region in March, asking for the documents to be lodged by April 27. Due to the number of outstanding forms, Council is now urging pensioners to complete the application and have it lodged before June 30.

The information will enable Council to add details not previously held in its system.

The signed application form should be

returned with a copy of the ratepayer's Pension Concession Card or DVA Gold Card.

The review of the current pension details will not affect any remission granted for the 2014-15 rating period, however, updated application forms must be returned to Council to ensure pensioners receive their remission for the 2015-16 period.

Eligible pensioners who do not return the form before June 30, will not receive a remission on the rate notices being generated and issued in August this year. For more information please contact the Rates section on 49766 999.

The form is available on Council's website at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/rates

Non-profit groups who could benefit from a 44KL or 22KL storage tank for non-potable water can submit an expression of interest by June 30.



Redundant storage tanks could benefit non-profit groups in region

Council is offering 15 redundant storage tanks for not-for-profit organisations and sporting groups to house non-potable water.

Those interested should submit an expression of interest to Council by June 30 to utilise either 44KL or 22KL tanks.

The tanks, surplus to Council's needs, were used during construction of LNG plants prior to establishment of a reticulated water and waste water service.

Tanks have been washed, disinfected and are not suitable to contain drinking water but could store water to use for

sporting field dust suppression, irrigation or in amenities.

Expressions of interest documents can be downloaded from the Tenders link "I want to - Request a Tender" on Council's website at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au

Submissions should be lodged at Council's Gladstone office at the Foyer Tender Box, 101 Goondoon Street, Gladstone Qld 4680 or electronically to submissions@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

Inspection of tanks can be arranged by phoning Rebecca in Water Services on 4970 0700.

The installation of advertising signage, including real estate signs, is regulated by Council Local Law.



Signage laws serve to protect public and environmental health

The installation of advertising signage within the Gladstone Region is regulated by Council, ensuring appropriate standards are met and public safety adhered to at all times.

Council's Subordinate Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011 provides for the installation and ongoing regulation and control of certain advertising devices and signs.

It is designed to assist with the management of potential public health and safety and environmental risks, and maintain comfortable public access to local or community amenities, while keeping within Council's planning scheme and related legislation.

The Subordinate Local Law applies to temporary (portable) advertising devices whether already installed or intended to be installed, and which do not otherwise require approval under Council's planning scheme.

The placement of business signs on Council controlled land is an encroachment which occurs regularly within the region.

The most common types of advertising signs are portable versions such as A-frame sandwich boards.

However, business signs which have been placed on Council property and real estate signs are the ones which occupy most Council resources.

Under the Subordinate Local Law, real estate signs are defined as temporary, non-illuminated advertising devices which promote the sale, auction, lease or letting of premises.

By law, real estate signage is subject to limitations in size, duration and location of display, and must not interfere with the safe and convenient passage of pedestrians, detract from the amenity of the area or unreasonably obstruct existing views.

Similarly, business signs are also subject to a number of restrictions and are defined as advertising devices installed, erected or displayed on premises used predominantly for business or commercial purposes.

The placement of business signs on Council controlled land is an encroachment which occurs regularly within the region.

For more information on advertising signage contact Council's Regulatory Services Division on 4977 6821.



TAngler Bins help protect marine environment

Council has embraced another valuable environmental initiative and is encouraging anglers to do the same by correctly discarding their unwanted fishing line.

Council, in conjunction with OceanWatch Australia and with the financial support of Gladstone Ports Corporation, is participating in the TAngler Bin Project.

Committed to improving the environment, Council has thrown its support behind the project which aims to reduce the littering of fishing line in key fishing locations and improve community awareness of the impact of recreational fishing on wildlife.

The TAngler Bins are made from PVC pipe and are designed specifically for the disposal of waste recreational fishing line.


They also are an important receptacle for other fishing related litter such as hooks

and sinkers.

TAngler Bin locations have been carefully identified in consultation with Council and have been installed at popular fishing spots across the Gladstone Region.

Recreational fishing line is commonly made of monofilament nylon which when littered or lost in the environment can cause injury and death to marine and wildlife; is a hazard to boats and other watercraft; and causes pollution and significant, long lasting problems in the fishing environment.

The TAngler Bins are emptied and maintained by Council as part of its waste management and cleaning program with the collected fishing line appropriately disposed of to reduce further impact on the environment and our native wildlife.



Enjoy a bush getaway close to home in the Boyne Valley.

Locals form tourism group to promote the beautiful Boyne Valley

The Boyne Valley Tourism Group has recently formed to lift the profile of the Boyne Valley and encourage tourism.

Formed as a sub-committee of the not-for-profit Boyne Valley Community Discovery Centre Incorporated (BVDCDC), the Tourism Group is working with Council and Gladstone Area Promotion and Development Limited (GAPDL) to attract more visitors and events to the area.

The Boyne Valley is an hour's drive west of Gladstone and includes the small townships of Nagoorin, Ubobo, Builyan and Many Peaks dotted along the Boyne River.

Representatives from each township are involved in the Tourism Group.

Renowned for its friendly welcome, quiet, peaceful mountain views and natural attractions including the Boyne River, Kroombit Tops and unspoilt national parks, the valley provides the perfect backdrop for a weekend away.

Rich in history, visitors can step back in time with the Ubobo Heritage trail walk; take a trip to the old gold mines of

Glassford Creek, Monal and Many Peaks; or a day visit to Kroombit Tops National Park to see Beautiful Betsy, a World War Two Liberator bomber that crashed on the western side of the plateau in 1945.

Renowned for its friendly welcome, quite, peaceful mountain views and natural attractions.

The valley is accessible via Highway 69, which runs south from Calliope to Monto and links the Dawson and Burnett Highways, while Blackman's Gap Road links Highway 69 to the Bruce Highway at Miriam Vale.

One of the group's first actions will be to strengthen relationships with neighbouring towns and councils to address road signage issues and road conditions between the major centres.

The group meets bi-monthly and rotates meeting locations among the various townships.

For more information on the Boyne Valley Tourism Group phone coordinator Renee Keitley on 4974 1293 or secretary Margaret Pengelly on 4974 1212.

For more information on the Boyne Valley visit www.boynevalley.org.au

Governments share their vision for Gladstone Region future

Working together for the betterment of the Gladstone Region was the aim of the day when Council hosted a 'Three Tiers of Government' meeting in April.

On the invitation of Mayor Gail Sellers, Councillors met with Member for Flynn Ken O'Dowd, Member for Burnett Stephen Bennett and Member for Gladstone Glenn Butcher in the Council boardroom on April 13 for the third gathering to discuss the region's future.

The National Broadband Network, Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, and telephone mobile coverage were among the issues discussed on the day.

A key objective of the meetings is to ensure that government representatives at the three levels are all informed of what objectives the others are working towards achieving.

In addition to enabling Council to inform the Federal and State members of its regional objectives, particularly those contained in its 10 year plan, the Three Tiers meeting also presents Council with the opportunity to learn what priorities the other levels of government are focused on.

It is envisaged that future meetings, and the maintenance of open channels of communication between the parties, will encourage cooperation between the three levels of government and enable all to work together to serve the needs of the Gladstone Region.



Marina bridge closes to tall marine traffic

The Matthew Flinders (Marina) Bridge is closed to tall marine traffic for about four months until the start of repairs.

Council at its April 7 general meeting endorsed acceptance of a tender from Walz Group Pty Ltd for the Marina Bridge bearing replacement.

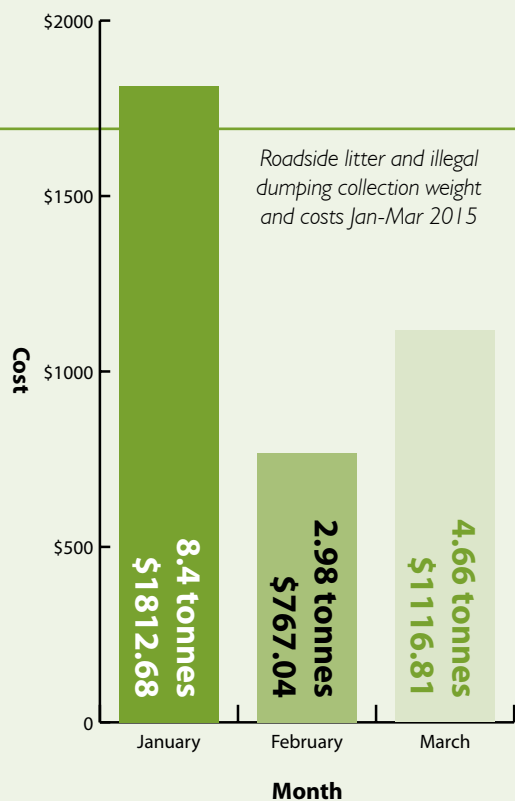
The bridge was lifted in late April to provide marine operators with one last chance to manoeuvre vessels along

Auckland Creek, prior to the extended closure.

A repair program for the bridge will be guided by the delivery time of manufactured components from overseas.

The road across the bridge to the Marina Parklands remains open to motorists and pedestrians.

Overall cost of the bridge project is estimated at about \$1.6 million.



Roadside litter volume down on last quarter

Latest figures show a reduction in the volume of roadside litter and illegally dumped rubbish collected by Council in the first quarter of this year, compared to the previous three-month period.

Council collected more than 16 tonnes of illegally dumped rubbish and litter throughout the region, at a cost of \$3700 in the first three months of this year.

These figures were down from about 20 tonnes in litter volume and \$17,450 in costs in the three months to the end of December 2014.

The rubbish collected from roadsides, parks and Council owned land is in addition to regular waste collection services and is a regrettable waste of Council resources and ratepayers' money.



Council's Community Services Directory is available online and connects residents to local groups and organisations.



Finding a local community group is easy with the Community Services Directory

If you are new to the region or just want to find the contact details for not-for-profit groups or community organisations, visit Council's website and follow the links to the Community Service Directory or visit www.gladstonecommunitydirectory.com.au. The directory is updated regularly online and annually as a booklet.

Not-for-profit groups and community organisations, including sporting groups, are welcome to register their details at any time by contacting the Community Advisory Service on 4970 0700 or email cas@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au, stating the:

- Street address;
- Postal address;
- Contact person;
- Contact details;
- Open times;
- Days of operation;
- Physical access;
- Who can access the group;
- Access fees;
- Age range(s);
- Area serviced;
- Key words for web searching; and
- A brief description of the group or organisation.

BRIEFLY

Change of address

Did you know that you can notify several Council services of your change of residential and/or mailing address by filling out just one form? Council cannot change addresses over the phone but you can complete our new online form by visiting www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/change-of-address

Lodge your event

Does your community group have an upcoming event? Lodge your event on Council's online Community Calendar for free. Go to www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/submit-an-event and fill in the event submission form. Flyers, logo or images can also be uploaded to accompany text.

Rebuilding Relationships

Council is offering an eight week educational program designed to assist people in dealing with the end of a relationship. Participants will learn new strategies to help develop appropriate ways to express anger and identify what contributed to the separation. The program will commence on Tuesday, July 28 from 6pm to 9pm. There will be two small payments of \$5 to cover course materials. Phone 4676 6300 to book a spot today.

Combined measures encourage responsible dog ownership

Council's annual dog registration inspection program is having the desired effect.

Since the program started on February 16, Council's Local Law enforcement officers have, as of April 24, identified 149 properties with unregistered animals, of which 94 have since registered their pets.

During that time, 20 infringement notices were issued with possibly more to follow if pet owners had not complied by the end of their allotted time period.

The six-month Systematic Approved Inspection Program is a key element in Council's efforts to enforce pet registration and contribute to an effective animal management program.

Accurate registration records, including ownership details, also help reunite lost pets with their owners and assist control measures by listing the type and number of dogs at particular premises.

Under Section 113 of the Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008, Council Local Law Enforcement Officers are authorised to enter residential properties to monitor compliance with the Act or an aspect of the Act.

Council took the first step towards providing its Regulatory Services Division with greater registration enforcement tools when it proposed to make the Animal Management Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2015 at its general meeting on April 21.

Officers identified 149 properties with unregistered animals.

The subordinate local law (if formally adopted) will provide Local Law enforcement officers with the authority to impound animals if owners continue to ignore their obligation to register their dogs or cats. Previously, officers could issue fines but did not have the additional means to enforce pet registration among dog and cat owners who repeatedly refuse to fulfil their obligation.



Cats require registration too

Council's making of the new Animal Management (Amendment) Subordinate Local Law (No. 1) 2015 should not be seen as meaning that only dogs have to be registered by pet owners.

The registration of cats within the Gladstone Region is required under Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011 with owners having 14 days in which to register a cat once it has come into their possession, providing it is at least 12 weeks old.

Council approved Local Law amendments in August last year, ensuring the need to register cats within the Gladstone Region would continue.

This was as a result of the State Government's passing of the Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment bill in September 2013, repealing provisions requiring local governments to register cats.

The retention of a cat registration program encourages responsible pet ownership via the discounted fees for de-sexed and microchipped cats.

It also enables the costs incurred by Council when providing cat complaint and impoundment services to be offset by registration fees.

Council amenity and aesthetics policy updated

Council recently revised its Gladstone Region Amenity and Aesthetics Policy which aims to better address those issues associated with the placement of detached buildings, non-habitable buildings such as sheds, shipping containers and other Class 10 buildings and structures in residential areas.

The policy revisions ensure street appeal is not compromised and protects residents from visually impacting buildings.

The policy is available from Council's website at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/policies

For more information phone Council's Development Services division on 4970 0700.

Register for your free email newsletter with eConnect

Residents are invited to register for Council's free email newsletter, eConnect. The newsletter was launched more than a year ago and is now one of Council's most popular forms of communication with residents. eConnect is issued fortnightly and arrives to subscribers' email inbox in a format that is easy to view and read.

To register for the free eConnect newsletter, either visit the home

page of Council's website www.gladstone.qld.gov.au and follow the eConnect icon on the bottom left side of the page or go direct to www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/econnect and complete the subscription form. You will receive an email that asks you to read and agree to the terms and conditions before the subscription is finalised. For further information, phone Council's Communication & Marketing Section on 4970 0700.

Grading and potholes are most common CouncillorConnect requests

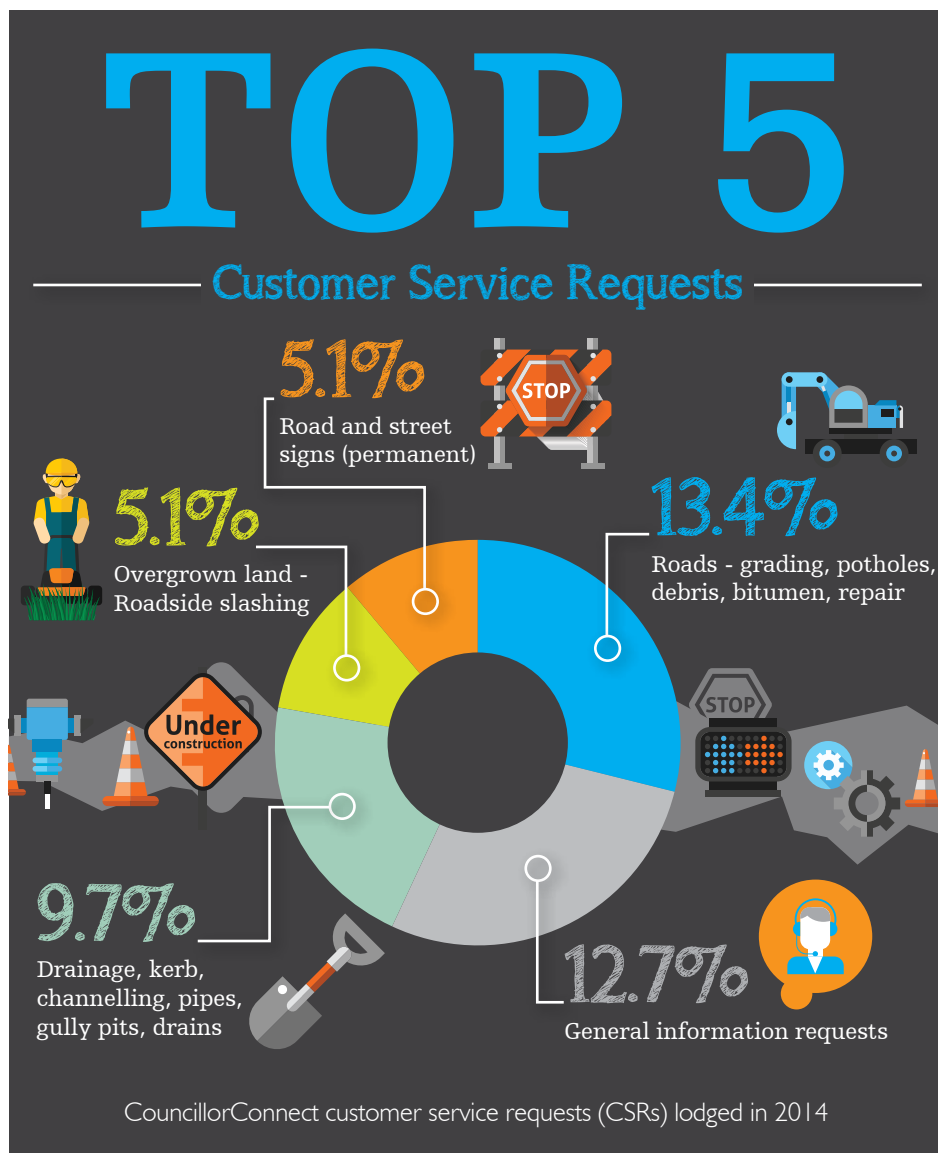
Did you know that 13.4 per cent of CouncillorConnect customer service requests (CSRs) lodged in 2014 were related to grading and potholes? Of the 216 requests received by Council, a further 12.7 percent were general information requests, 9.7 per cent related drainage, another 5.1 per cent related to overgrown land and a further 5.1 per cent were in regards to permanent road and street signs. This year, elected members are keen to help more residents with their regional concerns at the upcoming CouncillorConnect visits. Bookings are now being taken and residents are encouraged to get in quick to meet with an elected member. A morning tea and information chat session will be held from 9.30am at each location, followed by pre-booked, 20 minute individual meetings with Councillors from 10.15am. Residents wishing to discuss local issues and concerns can make a booking by phoning Council on 4970 0700 or emailing councillorconnect@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

Thursday, June 25

Boyne/Tannum	Boyne Tannum Community Centre, Mount Larcom Room
Nagoorin	Nagoorin Progress Hall
Miriam Vale	Miriam Vale QCWA Hall

Thursday, July 30

Yarwun	Yarwun Hall
Many Peaks	Many Peaks Grand Hotel
Lowmead	Lowmead Hall



Small loads of rubbish are now free at regional waste facilities

Disposal of small loads of rubbish are now free at all regional waste facilities.

Council removed previous fees on May 5 making it free to dispose of general waste contained in:

- Garbage bags,
- Up to 240 litre wheelie bins,
- A car boot.

The change is part of Council's pre-budget analysis of Waste Services fees and charges and aims to encourage responsible waste disposal and discourage illegal dumping and littering.

Council has also made it easier to determine the fee which applies to waste disposal.

Changes include:

- One fee applies to general waste

disposal at all regional waste facilities;

- Tyre classes have been simplified;
- Disposal of clean green waste in a ute or car trailer is free, regardless if from a commercial or domestic source; and
- A charge will apply for disposal of a sprung mattress unless the mattress is disassembled into recycled components of steel and wood.
- Free disposal for 10m2 of material containing asbestos from home owners or owner-builders (conditions apply).

More proposed amendments to Waste Services fees and charges will be considered as part of Council's 2015-16 Budget considerations.

Tax Help soon available to eligible residents

Free and confidential tax assistance is available for low income earners in the Gladstone Region through Council's 2015 Tax Help program.

Council will operate Tax Help at the Community Advisory Service in Gladstone from late July to October 31. This service is manned by volunteers who are fully trained and accredited and supported by the Australian Taxation Office.

There are eligibility guidelines for people to access this service, but it is generally available to people earning approximately \$55,000 per year or less who have simple tax affairs, which can include claims for refunds of franking credits.

Tax returns will be prepared and lodged electronically through this service.

To enquire about eligibility or to book an appointment, phone the Community Advisory Service on 4976 6300 during business hours.

The Gladstone Region's premier environmental awareness event, Ecofest, is scheduled for Tondoon Botanic Gardens on May 31.



Take the bus to Ecofest and reduce footprint

Local residents are being encouraged to take advantage of hassle-free transport to the region's premier environmental event, Ecofest, on Sunday, May 31.

In an effort to reduce the event's environmental footprint and to alleviate traffic and parking congestion in and around the Ecofest venue at Tondoon Botanic Gardens, Council is offering a complimentary bus service to transfer visitors to and from the event.

Visitors can park at the four designated Ecofest bus collection points and be returned to the same location at dedicated times from 9.30am to 3.15pm. All those who catch the bus will go into the draw for a Heron Island holiday for two people.

Those visitors taking part in the free Harbour Watch tours on the day are invited to park at the Curtis Ferry Terminal

and take the bus transfer to and from Ecofest.

Harbour Watch tours will run from 10am to 12pm and 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

Tour places are limited and those wishing to ensure their spot can do so by pre-registering online at www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/ecofest

Participants must be assembled at least 15 minutes before departure at Curtis Ferry Services on Alf O'Rourke Drive at the Gladstone Marina.

Ecofest is an annual event which marks World Environment Day and aims to raise environmental awareness in our region.

In keeping with this year's Ecofest theme 'Grown in Gladstone', there will be plenty of home grown wisdom to be shared with those attending the festival.



What's on at Ecofest

- Television gardening celebrity Jerry Coleby-Williams and renowned landscape architect Lawrie Smith will headline an impressive list of guest speakers
- Live entertainment
- Hubbub Sound Playground (presented by WICET)
- Marimba's on the Move - interactive percussion
- Healthy eating and cooking demonstrations
- Recycled Art (presented by Bunnings)
- Children's rides and activities
- Native animals
- Go Wild Reptiles
- Woman's look at camping and cooking
- Arts and crafts
- Food stalls
- Harbour Watch boat tours

Ecofest 2015 is on at the Gladstone Tondoon Botanic Gardens on Sunday, May 31, from 9am-3pm, and entry is free.

For more information visit www.gladstone.qld.gov.au/ecofest



GREENhouse Tent Stage Program

9am	Paul Groves (GBRMPA Coastal Ecosystems Project Officer) - How changes on the land are affecting the Great Barrier Reef
9.45am	Gladstone Region Mayor Gail Sellers - Official opening
10am	Jerry Coleby-Williams (TV gardening celebrity) - 21 st Century Cottage Gardening
11am	Lawrie Smith AM (Landscape Architect) - Design with nature, using native plants to create a uniquely Australian garden
11.50pm	Native Plants Bursary Award
12pm	Nicole Connolly, The Whole Foodie (Integrative Nutrition Health Coach) - A Taste of Gladstone cooking demonstration using locally sourced produce
12.50pm	GreenScenes - Environmental Short Film Festival presentations supported by Gladstone Arts Council
12.55pm	Presentation of Gold sponsors
1pm	Jerry Coleby-Williams - Creating and maintaining a sustainable house and garden and turning a grand vision into a domestic reality
1.40pm	Trent Attard (WICET Environment Manager) - A brief presentation followed by the announcement of winners for the audience survey and the Calliope Garden Club raffle
2pm	Kurt Heidecker (Gladstone Industry Leadership Group CEO) - An overview of the development of major industrial facilities in Gladstone
2.30pm	Stacey Curcio (Naturopath) - The health benefits of local food and Q & A to follow

Community CALENDAR

MAY			
Date	Name of the event	Location	Contact
23 to 30	Arts NAIDOC 2015	Art Gallery & Museum	4976 6766
30	Santos GLNG Mayor's Charity Ball	Entertainment Centre	4972 2822
31	Ecofest	Tondoon Botanic Gardens	4970 0700
JUNE			
Date	Name of the event	Location	Contact
1 to 30	Arts NAIDOC 2015	Art Gallery & Museum	4976 6766
1 to 30	52 Storey Treehouse Play Space	Gladstone City Library	4976 6400
2 & 16	General Council Meeting	Civic Centre	4970 0700
2-15	Meet Author Thea Hayes	Various Libraries	4976 6400
4	Welcome to Gladstone Morning Tea	Gladstone City Library	4976 6400
4, 11, 18, 25	Guided Gardens Tours	Tondoon Botanic Gardens	4971 6444
9	Language Cafe	Gladstone City Library	4976 6400
20	Col Elliott's Fair Dinkum Farewell Tour	Entertainment Centre	4972 2822
26	26 Storey Treehouse by Richard Tulloch	Entertainment Centre	4972 2822
JULY			
Date	Name of the event	Location	Contact
1 to 11	Arts NAIDOC 2015	Art Gallery & Museum	4976 6766
1 to 31	52 Storey Treehouse Play Space	Gladstone City Library	4976 6400
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Guided Gardens Tours	Tondoon Botanic Gardens	4971 6444
4	The Wiggles-Rock & Roll Preschool Tour	Entertainment Centre	4972 2822
6	2015/16 Budget	Civic Centre	4970 0700
7 & 21	General Council Meeting	Civic Centre	4970 0700
13	Andy Griffiths Student Sessions	Tannum Sands State School	4979 9132
14 to 31	The Many Story Treehouse Exhibition	Art Gallery & Museum	4976 6766
14	Free Andy Griffiths Book Signing	Gladstone City Library	4976 6400
14 & 15	Andy Griffiths Student Sessions	Entertainment Centre	4979 9132
14	Language Café	Gladstone City Library	4976 6400
24	Matthew Hale Comedy Hypnotist	Entertainment Centre	4972 2822
28	Rebuilding After A Relationship	Community Advisory Service	4976 6300
AUGUST			
Date	Name of the event	Location	Contact
1 to 22	The Many Story Treehouse Exhibition	Art Gallery & Museum	4976 6766
1 to 31	52 Storey Treehouse Play Space	Gladstone City Library	4976 6400
4	General Council Meeting	Civic Centre	4970 0700
4	Rebuilding After A Relationship	Community Advisory Service	4976 6300
6	Welcome to Gladstone Morning Tea	Gladstone City Library	4976 6400
6	Laughing Samoans 'Fink About It'	Entertainment Centre	4979 9132
11	Language Cafe	Gladstone City Library	4976 6400

Council conducts pest plant inspections throughout region

Council's Noxious Weeds Officers are in the process of conducting pest plant inspections throughout the Gladstone Region.

The Pest Survey Program, which started on May 25 and continues until August 25, consists of inspections conducted on urban and rural properties, including nurseries, seed merchants, landscape garden, stock fodder and quarry material suppliers, and any property, residence or building for which a declared pest permit has been issued.

The program enables Council to monitor compliance with the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002, map the distribution and future spread of declared pest plants, raise community awareness about them, and promote best practice in their treatment.

By conducting the program Council meets its obligation to monitor the provisions of the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002 to adopt a quarterly pest survey program.

For more information about declared pests phone Council's Parks and Environment Division on 4970 0700.

New Baffle Creek recovery shed

Baffle Creek residents will soon benefit from Council's decision to fund a \$50,000 recovery shed at the local Sport and Rec grounds.

The project, under way since late April, was determined as a high priority after the 2011 floods.

During the floods the Sport and Rec Shed provided insufficient space to store vital donations for flood victims which caused Council to rent a shipping container.

The additional facility will ensure there is enough space to stock food, clothes and emergency equipment for those who become isolated after a natural disaster.

Residents will also be able to use the facility for community purposes by contacting the Baffle Creek Sport and Rec Club at bafflecreeksportrec@gmail.com

Watch It! See It! Read It!



Australia's most popular children's author, Andy Griffiths is coming to Gladstone and he is bringing his treehouse with him! Be sure to visit your local GRC Arts & Culture venues to see one or more of these exciting events.

The 26-Storey Treehouse play by Richard Tulloch

GECC
Friday 26 June 2015
Book gladcecc.com.au or 4972 2822

Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale's (CCLC) Andy Griffiths Student Sessions! (Year levels 1 – 8)

Tannum Sands State School
Monday 13 July

GECC
Tuesday 14 July

GECC
Wednesday 15 July
School Groups book with CCLC
4979 9132

Andy Griffiths Book Signing for General Public

Gladstone City Library
4:00pm – 6:00pm Tuesday 14 July

The Many Story Treehouse Exhibition featuring illustrations by Terry Denton for the phenomenal series by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton

Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum
14 July – 22 August 2015
School groups book with Gallery & Museum - 4976 6766

Curated by Books Illustrated, Melbourne, and presented by the CCLC and the Gladstone Regional Art Gallery & Museum.

The 52-Storey Treehouse play space Gladstone City Library, presented by Brisbane Writers Festival and GRC

Gladstone City Library
1 June – 31 August
School groups book with Gladstone City Library - 4976 6400



For further information visit <http://carnivale.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au>

