



Ruth Della, curator of the new Gallery DownTown at Murwillumbah's M-Arts Precinct.

## Tweed Regional Gallery heads DownTown

There's now more of the Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre to enjoy, following the recent opening of the Gallery DownTown in Murwillumbah's CBD.

The Gallery DownTown is the annexe of one of the State's most recognised regional galleries, Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre (TRGMOAC). Located just 1.5km from the Tweed Regional Gallery, the Gallery DownTown is on the first floor of the M-Arts Precinct (corner of Brisbane Street and Proudfoots Lane).

An initiative of Council, the Gallery DownTown aims to act as a driver of creative and economic development in the heart of Murwillumbah's CBD.

The Gallery DownTown's recently appointed Curator, Ruth Della, has a background in both the arts and business. She was the Creative Director of the highly successful SWELL Sculpture Festival on the Gold Coast for 11 years however started her career somewhere very different – a stockbroking firm.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity to work for such a well-known and much-loved gallery and this role is ideal as I can draw on my experience in business and my passion for the arts," Ms Della said.

"Tweed Regional Gallery is a destination, whereas the Gallery DownTown is accessible right in the heart of town – easily accessed from the street, visitors can indulge in quality artworks and the beautifully designed space."

In the first 12 months of operation since opening in March 2014, the Margaret Olley Art Centre contributed \$7.38 million to the Tweed economy. The Gallery DownTown aims to build on this

success and further Council's work to support the establishment of the M-Arts precinct and stimulate the local economy.

"TRGMOAC visitors will be drawn to the town centre to explore the array of cultural facilities, private art studios and local businesses in the Murwillumbah CBD. It's also just a short walk to another wonderful Council cultural facility, the Tweed Regional Museum in Queensland Road," Ms Della said.

The inaugural exhibition, *Tetralogy: profiling the four collection areas*, features works across four areas: Australian portraits; artworks of regional relevance; Australian artists' prints and the life and work of Margaret Olley.

The Gallery DownTown is open Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 10am to 3pm (NSW time) and Saturday 10am to 2pm. It is closed Thursday and Sunday.

The M-Arts Precinct has become a focal point of creative activity in the region, presenting commercial exhibitions fostering the work of artists of the area and supporting creative development through workshops and tutorials.

M-Arts founder Stephen Webb said the addition of the Gallery DownTown to the precinct would add to the quality of the arts scene and bring more visitors into town.

"We're hoping to be the catalyst for many more initiatives along these lines – to bring the art out in the open and the people to art - for Murwillumbah to become known for its impressive art scene," Mr Webb said.

For more information visit [artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/GalleryDownTown](http://artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/GalleryDownTown)

## No wipes are flushable

Council has welcomed an initiative from Accord Australasia, the peak body of manufacturers and marketers of wet wipes, to educate consumers on the risks of flushing wet wipes.

Its new website [www.wipesmart.org.au](http://www.wipesmart.org.au) has a wealth of information about wet wipes and how they should be disposed.

"This site is certainly another step in the right direction to educate consumers not to flush wet wipes but it is clear the industry still believes some wipes are flushable," said Connections Engineer Elizabeth Seidl.

"As far as Council is concerned, no wipes are flushable."

Council has had a range of wipes sold as flushable, non-flushable and biodegradable in water for 18 months to show consumers that they do not break down when flushed.

"The wipe marketed as flushable is only just starting to break down 18 months after hitting the water. The biodegradable wipe is still intact, as is the non-flushable wipe.

"For the sake of our sewer system and to protect the Tweed's beautiful natural environment, we would like all our residents to treat all wipes as non-flushable."

That said, however, Council welcomes Accord's effort to acknowledge the significant problem of flushing wet wipes.

The Wipesmart site tells you what can happen if you flush the wrong things (including the plumber's bill you might get); why wipes in pipes are a problem; and, which wipes are blocking pipes.

The website states: "There is a strong case that wipes are a contributor to sewer blockages.

"Sydney Water and Hunter Water estimate between 75 per cent and 80 per cent of their sewer blockages involve flushed wet wipes, respectively."

Water authorities in the United Kingdom sifted through the contents of 54 sewer blockages and, by weight, found that wipes made up half the materials blocking the pipes. They went further and identified that baby wipes, as opposed to other wipes, were the main contributor.

In 2015, Australians bought 18 times more baby wipes than other wipes.

"All of this strongly suggests that, in Australia, people are flushing wipes – predominantly baby wipes – that should not be flushed," the site states.



Customer Service Officer Rose Gomez finds that the wet wipe marketed as 'biodegradable' is still intact after 18 months in water. The one marketed as flushable is beginning to break down.



Council and frequent users of the Murwillumbah Civic Centre Auditorium were happy to hear news of an upgrade. From left: Acting General Manager Tracey Stinson, Bryanne Jardine from the Murwillumbah Theatre Company, Manager Community and Cultural Services Robyn Grigg, Heather Martin from the Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts, Council's Auditorium contractor, Colin Elliot and the Murwillumbah Theatre Company's Di Robinson.

## The shows will go on thanks to Auditorium upgrade

The Murwillumbah Civic Centre Auditorium is set to receive a much-needed makeover, thanks to an injection of more than \$1 million from round two of the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund.

The Regional Cultural Fund supports projects which will enhance the cultural richness and vibrancy of regional communities.

Council's Acting General Manager, Tracey Stinson, welcomed the \$1.114 million in funds for the project.

"The Murwillumbah Auditorium was built in 1974 and continues to be a much-loved community facility, but of course it is ageing and so needs some TLC to bring it up to modern standards for accessibility, energy efficiency and general functionality" Ms Stinson said.

"We're grateful to the NSW Government for this opportunity to bring this well patronised community facility into the 21st Century, so it can continue to celebrate, inspire and entertain our community for many years to come."

The project will include:

- replacement of the roof to fix persistent leaks

- technical upgrades to theatre equipment such as lighting and sound
- refurbishment of the foyer and provision of accessible toilets
- backstage refurbishment and addition of accessible toilets

The refurbishment is expected to save regular hirers of the auditorium up to \$48,000 a year in hire fees for external lighting and sound equipment. Regular users include the Murwillumbah Theatre Company, DoubleMask Youth Theatre Company, Kingscliff Performing Arts, who share an interest with Council in the functionality of the venue for performances.

Other savings include a reduced carbon footprint and increased energy efficiency by installing 274 LED stage and house lights, as well as eliminating ongoing repair costs to a leaking roof that has reached the end of its lifespan.

The total budget for the project is \$1,300,835, with a 14.4 per cent contribution from Council.

Refurbishment works are yet to be scheduled however will commence this financial year.

# Australia Day recipients celebrated

Two people who have inspired their local communities have received Tweed Shire's top Australia Day honour.

**Sam Ford** (below left) and **Meredith Dennis** (below right) have both been named 2019 Tweed Shire Citizen of the Year for their outstanding inspirational work in the community.



Sam survived horrific injuries as a result of a 'coward's punch' in October 2009, leaving him with severe and permanent disabilities. Since his injury, Sam has achieved many milestones and has become a beacon of hope and inspiration to others who have suffered a brain injury. Sam is involved in many local fundraising efforts and participated in the inaugural Tweed Coast Charity Walk to raise funds for the Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter.

Meredith has been a palliative care innovator for nearly two decades. Trained as a nurse, and volunteering at the Wedgetail Retreat community hospice since 1998, Meredith oversees the operation of volunteer palliative care training, home-hospice support services, the community hospice, educational courses, Sunshine 'Pamper' Days, the loan of medical equipment to clients and the Tweed Palliative Support Hospice Op Shops. Meredith also takes care of many rescue dogs and horses at her Limpinwood property.

The Volunteer of the Year Award has also been shared between two recipients, Team Koala Inc. President, **Jenny Hayes**, and Agape Outreach founder, **Theresa Mitchell**.

Jenny has dedicated the past decade to raising awareness about

the endangered status of Tweed Coast koalas. In 2018, she was influential in obtaining a grant from the NSW Government Parks and Wildlife Service to produce a koala information booklet that provides details about koalas, their habitat, how to deal with sick or injured koalas and a 24/7 emergency contact number. This booklet is freely distributed at the Pottsville Market and to local schools.

Theresa founded Agape Outreach Inc., which provides meals to over 190 homeless people, as well as food hampers, shower facilities, free laundry facilities and low priced clothing. Through Agape Outreach, Theresa also provides life coaching and emotion and relationship classes, as well as nutrition and budgeting classes.

The Young Achiever in Community Service Award (under 25 years) has been awarded to **Jaime Coetzee** for her dedication to community service. Jaime is Deputy Mayor of the Tweed Youth Council and also undertakes volunteer work with numerous organisations including her regular Sunday commitment to helping homeless people through the You Have a Friend charity.

The Australia Day Award for Sporting Achievement goes to Perth Glory goal keeper, **Eliza Campbell**, who made her debut with the team in November 2017. She has also represented her country with the Matildas. Eliza has made a successful career from her passion for football and is helping to show other young players the pathway to achieving sporting success.

The Community Event of the Year Award has gone to the **Charity Cup Touch Football Tournament** for the second consecutive year. The Charity Cup is in its seventh year and involves a large scale touch football competition where every cent raised goes directly to assist local individuals or families suffering hardship. The tournament has raised a total of more than \$100,000 that has been distributed to over 40 local individuals and groups. It now attracts some 300 people from all age groups and backgrounds who come together to promote healthy living and support those in need.

The Arts and Cultural Achievement Award was awarded to the **2018 Murwillumbah Arts Trail**, which provided a forum for musicians, indigenous artists, circus and theatre performers, dancers and fashion designers to come together and share their talents in a fun, festive atmosphere for the community.

# Calling all library lovers

There's a special **Library Lovers Day** on **Thursday 14 February (yes, it's also Valentine's Day)** – a literary-themed trivia night at **Tweed Heads Library**.

Go along on your own or make a team of four and pit your wits against teams in Tweed, Ballina, Byron and Lismore. Go in the lucky door prize draw to win a tablet device. Bookings essential to (07) 5569 3150. Please come along at 5.15pm (for a 5.30pm start).

## Seniors Week events

Tweed Heads Library will be joining in the fun at NSW Seniors Festival Week on the Tweed.

**Laughter Yoga demonstration:** Laughter Yoga is a new twist on an ancient practice. Not only does it increase happiness, but it also strengthens the immune system, reduces pain and lowers stress. Go along to a demonstration at Tweed Heads Library at 11am, kindly presented by U3A Twin Towns. Bookings essential, phone (07) 5569 3150.

**Paper craft:** Join in to create something unique and beautiful at Tweed Heads Library on Saturday 16 February at 9.30am. Places are limited, so bookings are essential. Phone (07) 5569 3150.

**Vision Australia:** A representative from Vision Australia will discuss the services they provide, tips and tricks for people who have blindness or low vision and more. The event is at Tweed Heads library on Tuesday 19 February at 11am. Bookings essential, phone (07) 5569 3150.

**Will preparation:** Interested in preparing a will, making a Power of Attorney or appointing an Enduring Guardian? A representative from the NSW Trustee and Guardian will cover these topics and answer your questions at Tweed Heads Library on Thursday 21 February at 10.30am. Bookings essential to (07) 5569 3150.



The **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan 2018** information session will be held in Banora Point.

# Planning on developing?

An information session which aims to increase understanding and awareness of the recently adopted **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan 2018 (ACHMP)** will be held in **Banora Point on 6 February**.

After six months of successful implementation of the plan, Council is providing interested residents and landowners an opportunity to find out how the plan works and what it may mean for them when carrying out development.

The plan aims to:

- encourage an understanding and respect of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- build stronger relationships with the Aboriginal community on matters of Aboriginal cultural heritage
- provide an effective, legislated related policy framework for the protection, conservation and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage

The plan explains Aboriginal cultural heritage and uses mapping of known and predictive areas to help identify and explain legal responsibilities of landowners and developers.

The plan demystifies the operation and scope of the existing NSW legislation and provides the right tools and information for those legal obligations to be adequately met.

Staff of both the Tweed Shire Council and the Tweed Byron Local Aboriginal Land Council will be at the information session to talk about the plan and answer any questions or concerns those attending may have.

To find out if your land is mapped and find out about the ACHMP, visit [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/AboriginalCulturalHeritage](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/AboriginalCulturalHeritage) or call (02) 6670 2503.

For specific event details, see the **'Community information session'** advertisement on the last page of this issue of the *Tweed Link*.



Water testing at last years World Wetlands Day.

# World Wetlands Day 2019

Tweed residents are invited to connect with their environment this Saturday (2 February 2019) at a family event to celebrate World Wetlands Day.

A range of exciting activities, such as bird watching, water bug surveys and water testing, will be taking place along the banks of the Western Drainage Scheme on Riversdale Boulevard from 9am. There also will be plenty of opportunity to pull weeds and pick up rubbish.

The day is being hosted by Conservation Volunteers Australia, who have been engaged by Council to work with the community to build community ownership of the drainage scheme and 'restore it to a more healthy state'.

In November 2017, Council voted to inject more than \$750,000 into restoring the health of this significant drainage system by undertaking structural changes to remove shallow points in the waterway, increase weed removal, extend the floating reed bed system and involve the community in revegetation.

If you can join in this Saturday, dress to get dirty by wearing sturdy shoes or boots, a sun hat and gardening gloves. Book your spot with CVA Project Officer Shae Kolk by phoning her on 0475 973 888 or emailing her at [skolk@cva.org.au](mailto:skolk@cva.org.au) so she can ensure there are plenty of refreshments to keep you hydrated.

If you can't attend on Saturday, join one of the CVA working bees held every Friday along Avondale Drive from 9am.

"The Western Drainage System is an asset to local residents and wildlife alike, so come along and join in," Shae said. "If you can't participate in activities, drop in and have a chat to share your experiences."

# Reservoir nearly there

After 10 months in construction, Council contractors are now filling the new reservoir at Chambers Lookout to undertake the final tests before the three-megalitre tank is brought online in the next few weeks.

Stirloch Constructions Pty Ltd has built the reinforced concrete reservoir with aluminium roof next to the existing reservoir at Chambers Lookout on the corner of Fraser Drive and Terranora Road, Banora Point.

The reservoir has 350mm thick walls, contains 60 tonne of reinforcing steel, is 25 metres in diameter and seven-metres tall. Local developers contributed to the \$2.2 million cost of the project.



Top: The Chambers Lookout reservoir at Banora Point taking shape and (bottom) the finished product on the inside.

