



Townsville



SEPTEMBER 2016

City Update

The latest events, news, reports and happenings in your city



From the Mayor

Hello everyone. Thank you for taking the time to read the first City Update since the council

elections. The new council has had a very busy first few months. Our biggest achievement so far was definitely the community-wide rates freeze for every household and every business in the community. While my team and I were door knocking we heard about the increasing cost of living pressures, and this historic city-wide rates freeze was our way of helping out the community at a time when it is needed most. During these first three months my team and I have also secured the funding



for a new stadium in the CBD, and approved our first development for the Waterfront with Central Queensland University. Both are huge votes of confidence for our city and exhibit our vision for the future CBD. My team and I have also finalised a much better water deal from the Burdekin Dam, saving the city \$5 million from the original proposal offered to council in November last year. While we are experiencing the effects of water restrictions as the drought continues, this deal will help ensure Townsville's water security and highlight the importance to love every drop.

Cr Jenny Hill
Mayor of Townsville

Your Townsville City Councillors

CR JENNY HILL Mayor of Townsville

E mayor@townsville.qld.gov.au
M 0418 886 992

Infrastructure, Townsville Water and Waste, Planning and Development, Community and Cultural Development, Community Health and Environment, Finance and Governance.

Bachelor of Science
Master in Public Health and Tropical Medicine, MAICD

Cr Hill has previously worked in mining laboratories, the Department of Primary Industries, Queensland Health Pathology Department of the Townsville Hospital and as a serving officer in the Army Reserve. Cr Hill is passionate about easing the cost of living for residents and focussing on services that build a strong community, support business and employment and safeguard Townsville's lifestyle.

Number of terms with council: 6



CR ANN-MAREE GREANEY

E ann-maree.greaney@townsville.qld.gov.au
M 0448 378 111

DIVISION 3
Planning and Development, Community and Cultural Development, Community Health and Environment

Diploma of Education
Executive Certificate in Event Management

Cr Greaney is a long term resident, raised in Townsville who has watched the city grow into a thriving regional center. Ann-Maree has previously worked for the National Rugby League in Sydney, Tec-NQ, Marketing Manager for the Townsville Hospital Foundation and as Townsville City Council Special Events and Protocol Officer for 11 years; providing her with unique insights into the city's administrative functions. Cr Greaney's focus is on capitalizing on the city's environmental opportunities, rebuilding civic pride, vibrancy and vitality within the city and cementing Townsville as a desirable place to live and raise a family.

Number of terms with council: 1



CR LES WALKER Deputy Mayor

E cr.les.walker@townsville.qld.gov.au
M 0418 315 705

DIVISION 10
Infrastructure, Townsville Water and Waste, Planning and Development

Diploma of Correctional Administration

As a born and bred local with a family of his own in Townsville, Cr Walker joined council to help protect Townsville's unique lifestyle which residents love so much. Cr Walker wants to be involved in shaping Townsville into one of the best cities to raise a family. His career has included working on the Burdekin Dam Project, at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre, the Townsville Correctional Centre and owning and operating several small businesses in Townsville. Cr Walker is a member of the NQ Sports Foundation and is a past champion cyclist.

Number of terms with council: 4 (non-consecutive)



CR MARK MOLACHINO

E mark.molachino@townsville.qld.gov.au
M 0439 849 856

DIVISION 4
Townsville Water and Waste, Infrastructure, Planning and Development

Commercial Helicopter Pilot Licence
Diploma in Workplace Health & Safety
Diploma in Project Management
Certificate IV in Training and Assessment

Cr Molachino was born and grew up in Ingham and has worked in the sugar, aviation, mining and construction industries as well as serving in the Royal Australian Air Force for 15 years. Mark has a passion for North Queensland and improving Townsville's opportunities with his focus on reducing red tape for small business, infrastructure investment and employment opportunities.

Number of terms with council: 1



CR MARGIE RYDER

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M 0439 915 033

DIVISION 1
Planning and Development, Community and Cultural Development, Community Health and Environment

Diploma of Frontline Management

Cr Ryder served as a councillor for the Julia Creek / McKinlay Shire for 10 years. Margie is proud of her work in events and tourism at Julia Creek where they won the Queensland Tourism Awards and came runner up for the Australian Award. Cr Ryder aims to motivate people through action and example and believes the biggest issues for her division are water security, youth unemployment, keeping rates low and building the local economy.

Number of terms with council: 1



CR RUSS COOK

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M 0439 866 640

DIVISION 5
Townsville Water and Waste, Community and Cultural Development, Community Health and Environment

Diploma of Arts (Psychology)
Diploma of Management
Diploma of Public Safety (Policing)

Cr Cook was born in Townsville, only moving away due to deployments or postings with the Australian Defence Force or Queensland Police Service. As well as 20 years' service with defence and the police service, Russ has owned and operated a range of businesses including turf farms, restaurants, cafes and franchise businesses. Russ has worked extensively with children at risk in the community and wants to continue to working in these areas. Community safety and job security are also a focus for Russ.

Number of terms with council: 1



CR PAUL JACOB

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M 0439 850 312

DIVISION 2
Governance and Finance, Townsville Water and Waste, Community Health and Environment

Diploma of Electronics and Communications

Cr Jacob was born in Sydney but has been living in Townsville for the past 23 years. Paul has worked for the Overseas Telecommunication Commission, specialising in Satellite Communications, the Department of Defence, James Cook University and The Townsville Hospital. Cr Jacob has strong community links; prior to joining council he founded and chaired the Townsville City Council Watch Group, was a foundation member of the Townsville Ratepayers Association and President of the Northern Beaches Community Consultative Group. Paul's focus is on public transport, traffic management, local laws and youth.

Number of terms with council: 1



CR VERENA COOMBE

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M 0439 854 820

DIVISION 6
Governance and Finance, Infrastructure, Community and Cultural Development

Diploma of Financial Markets

Cr Coombes' vision of Townsville is of a vibrant community with a thriving economy offering broad based business, employment, education and lifestyle opportunities.

Her career has spanned both corporate and not-for-profit sectors beginning her career in finance as a stockbroker and most recently



working with the Endeavour Foundation. She enjoys contributing to the local community and has held directorships on the Board of both TOTTs Community Flyer and AFL Townsville. Along with those roles she has also volunteered with many organisations including the RSL, Arcadia Surf Lifesaving Club and as immediate past President of the Hermit Park Tigers AFL Club.

Verena believes that by thinking globally and acting locally Council can strategically take advantage of innovation and global megatrends to reinforce our position as a leading city of Northern Australia and the tropics globally. With a passion for inclusive economic development, she will work to bring focus to events, tourism and local arts and culture that grow both our economic and social capital, while showcasing the lifestyle of our city.

Number of terms with council: 1

CR KURT REHBEIN

E kurt.rehbein@townsville.qld.gov.au
M 0439 847 860

DIVISION 7
Governance and Finance, Infrastructure, Community Health and Environment

Trade Certificate in Cabinetmaking
Certificate 3 - Dog Handling and Military Operations
Diploma in Fire and Rescue Operations and Public Safety

Prior to being elected to council, Cr Rehbein worked as a cabinetmaker, RAAF Military Dog Handler and a Fire Fighter. Cr Rehbein has seen the city grow from a relatively small town to a thriving 'Capital of the North', hosting huge events and with beautiful places to visit. Kurt understands the importance of planning and teamwork and wants to help lift the city to the next level, while also tackling crime, keeping rates affordable and supporting local business.

Number of terms with council: 1

CR MAURIE SOARS

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M 0439 849 622

DIVISION 8
Governance and Finance, Infrastructure, Planning and Development

Diploma of Business Management
Motor Mechanic
Rigger

Cr Soars has lived in Townsville for the last 27 years, has run a number of small businesses and managed national and international organisations. Cr Soars' interest outside business is focused on sport, raising funds for various charities and supporting volunteers across Townsville. Maurie wants to bring his experience to council to lift living standards for all and tackle unemployment through infrastructure investment.

Number of terms with council: 1

CR COLLEEN DOYLE

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M 0418 273 817

DIVISION 9
Governance and Finance, Infrastructure, Townsville Water and Waste, Community and Cultural Development

Bachelor of Community Welfare

Cr Doyle has over 30 years' experience in community services, planning and development. She has extensive knowledge and understanding of the issues facing seniors, people with a disability and issues affecting marginalised groups within the community. Colleen has an understanding of the issues facing small business, with her family operating businesses in the motor industry, retail and hospitality sectors. Colleen's focus is on building capacity and sustainability to ensure families, the community and businesses are resilient into the future.

Number of terms with council: 2



CONTACT TOWNSVILLE CITY COUNCIL

1300 878 001 8am-5pm www.townsville.qld.gov.au enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au Operating hours 8.30am-5pm, Monday to Friday



Street Art takes over Ogden Street

Ogden Street in the CBD has recently become a hive of activity, with impressive Street Art by world renowned artists Baby Guerrilla and Beastman adding colour and vibrancy to the streetscape.

Complementing existing works by the RUN Collective and ROA, the detailed geometric work of Beastman and the floating dreamlike diving figure by Baby Guerrilla complete the walls of the small Ogden Street carpark, creating a key CBD attraction for locals and tourists alike.

Street Art in the city is a growing presence - commissioned pieces by artists and local talents are a must-see when visiting the CBD. As well as

providing local artists with exciting professional development and career opportunities, Street Art helps to activate the CBD, encourage cultural tourism and strengthen the city's arts sector.

Head to the city and check out more Street Art at the following locations:


Ogden Street: featuring work by the RUN Collective, and ROA, and new works by Baby Guerrilla and Beastman

City Lane: featuring work by Fintan Magee and Lee Harnden

Sturt Street (at Cowboys Leagues Club): featuring work by ROA

Denham Lane: featuring work by the RUN Collective, Kennie Deaner, HAHA, and ROA

Convenient customer service at CityLibraries



Council now provides more convenient options for over-the-counter electronic payments and customer service at our CityLibraries Thuringowa and Aitkenvale branches.

Counter service at Aitkenvale and Thuringowa branches can assist residents with all EFTPOS and credit card payments including paying rates and dog registrations, alongside the full array of educational programs, activities and borrowing services offered at the library.

Council cash transactions can be made at any Australia Post Office or council's Walker Street customer service centre.



City update is moving online!

Like many things in the world, *City Update* is taking the big step up – into the digital space! You will receive all your latest council news on programs, services, events and more in an easy to read online format.

You can sign up to receive your new monthly City Update newsletter by visiting townsville.qld.gov.au and clicking on the appropriate link or searching “newsletter” and completing the online registration. We’ll send you an email to confirm your subscription.

As well as the new online edition, City Update will be available on council's website. It will also be distributed quarterly in the Townsville Bulletin and delivered in hard copy to all City Libraries branches and Customer Service Centre in Walker Street – keep an eye out for the Summer edition coming out in November.

T150

DEFENCE FORCE AIR SHOW

AND

TOWNSVILLE BULLETIN SKY SHOW



Saturday 15 October
The Strand and Jezzine Barracks

Townsville150
 townsville150.com.au



Let's Celebrate

PLATINUM SPONSORS









Dear Ratepayer,

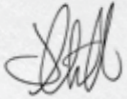
The 2016/17 council budget delivers on my team's key promise by giving residents, investors and businesses a rates freeze in our first year. To achieve this, council has had to tighten its belt across the board to deliver this historic rates freeze that will benefit every home and business owner across the city. The driving force behind this is the community comes first.



The zero per cent increase in rates and charges, combined with priority spending on key major projects, is the most effective way we can support our community and provide an economic stimulus for the city.

This rates freeze provides assurance to our residents who need relief from rising cost of living pressures. It also provides a boost to businesses that may be struggling or have been holding off on purchasing upgrades. This assurance will free up some hard-earned income that can now be spent in the community and benefit our local businesses.

Over the next 12 months, we will deliver more than \$568 million in capital works and services across the community, and most of this will be spent in our local businesses, which is just another way council is trying to keep every dollar local.



Cr Jenny Hill
Mayor of Townsville

AT A GLANCE

Rate charges breakdown:

- Residential sewerage charge » \$759
- Standard water plan (772kL allocation) » \$739
- Excess water charge \$2.83/kL **OR**
- Water Watcher fixed water charge » \$337
- Kilolitre rate » \$1.35
- Waste Charge» \$234

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- » \$61.1m road capital works
- » \$40.1m parks and open space
- » \$17.6m water infrastructure capital works
- » \$12.1m drain and stormwater management
- » \$1.35m coastal facilities

MAJOR PROJECTS

- » \$21.1M CBD Utilities Upgrade replacing inner-city water, sewerage infrastructure
- » \$5M stage 2 Townsville Recreational Boating Park
- » \$3.68M advanced planning for proposed Haughton Pipeline duplication for city's water security
- » \$4.135M Southern Suburbs Rising Main to upgrade services to support new development on southern side of Ross River.

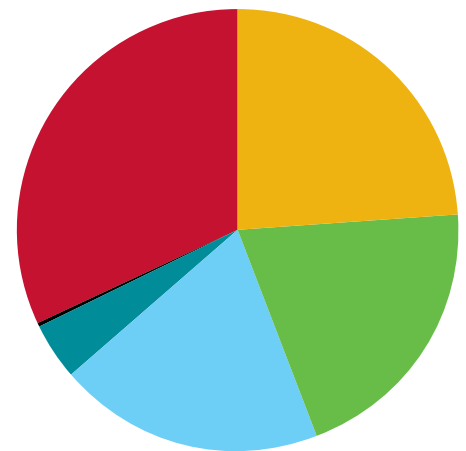
WHERE YOUR RATES GO

For every \$100 of your rates council delivers a range of services:

\$19.93	Water Services
\$18.70	Roads & Transport Management
\$16.82	Community & Cultural Services
\$15.08	Wastewater Services
\$12.27	Open Space Management
\$6.10	Solid Waste Management
\$5.43	Planning & Development
\$3.72	Drain & Stormwater Management
\$1.54	Environment & Sustainability Services
\$0.41	Coastal Facilities
TOTAL \$100	



COUNCIL TOTAL BUDGET \$568.34M



Employee and Contract labour	\$136.22M
Materials and Services	\$115.56M
Depreciation	\$110.75M
Finance Costs	\$22.91M
Other	\$1.10M
Capex	\$181.80M

BOOSTING OUR ECONOMY DURING TOUGH TIMES

The 2016/17 council budget will increase council debt by \$40 million to fund a **\$205.2 million** capital works program that will deliver income-producing infrastructure to support construction and the city's future growth. Projects in the capital works program for 2016/17 include:

1. \$21.1 MILLION CBD UTILITIES UPGRADE

Excavation and pipe installation work on the first major package of the four-year \$51 million CBD Utilities Upgrade is underway and expected to be completed by late December.

Works to be completed during 2016 include:

» Flinders Street West

Work will move progressively along Flinders Street West between Blackwood and Fletcher Street.

» Ross Creek underbore

Drill rigs are located in Archer Street, South Townsville and the carpark of Enterprise House, south end of The Strand. 400 metres of 600mm pipework will be welded into one length and laid out along the footpath from Enterprise House past Anzac Park before being pulled under the creek in one continuous section. **The car park will be closed for the duration of the project.**

» Stanley Street from Sturt Street to Walker and Wills Streets

Works started in mid-August and will continue for 16 weeks. Sturt Street intersection will be closed for the first two weeks. The work will connect new pipework to underground services upgraded in Stanley Street late last year between Flinders and Sturt. Work will progress further up Stanley Street in stages to Walker Street and onward to Wills Street.

» Sturt Street

Work in Sturt Street between Stanley and Stokes streets will take four months to complete and includes installation of new reticulation pipework for water supply to businesses.

Information on the CBD Utilities Upgrade and the latest package of works is available at www.townsville.qld.gov.au by searching "CBD Utilities".

2. \$7.1 MILLION FOR THE FIRST YEAR OF THE THREE-YEAR \$51M CLEVELAND BAY TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE.

3. \$4.135 MILLION SOUTHERN SUBURBS RISING MAIN TO UPGRADE SERVICES TO SUPPORT NEW DEVELOPMENT ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF THE ROSS RIVER.

4. \$3.3 MILLION TO COMPLETE STAGE 1 OF THE PEGGY BANFIELD PARK UPGRADE AND \$1.8 MILLION TO COMPLETE THE NEW STRAND WATERPARK, WHICH WHEN FINISHED WILL SHOW OFF THE GREAT LIFESTYLE TOWNSVILLE HAS TO OFFER.

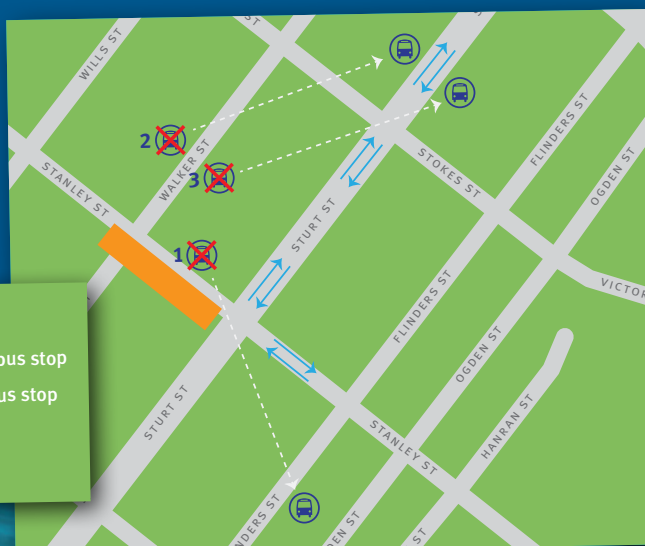
5. \$3.68 MILLION FOR ADVANCED PLANNING FOR PROPOSED HAUGHTON PIPELINE DUPLICATION THAT WILL SECURE OUR WATER SUPPLY FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS.

6. \$5 MILLION FOR STAGE 2 OF THE TOWNSVILLE RECREATIONAL BOATING PARK.

Townsville locals are already making the most of what the Townsville Recreational Boating Park (TRBP) has to offer and can look forward to enjoying a bigger and better facility by mid next year. Construction of Stage 2 of the boat park is underway, with more parking, wash down areas and ramp access to complement the existing pedestrian jetty, sheltered park area, BBQs and covered playground facilities. Project Manager Kylie Pomerence said this \$25 million initiative will be the largest facility of its kind in Australia.

"The TRBP was designed and developed with a lot of input from the community so we could really understand their needs and provide an accessible, fun and functional facility not just for boaties but for all the community to enjoy," Kylie said.

Stage 2 is set to open in June 2017 and will provide access to four ramps, each with four-lanes and centre floating walkway, two pontoons and approximately 330 car-with-trailer parks in total.



- Closed bus stop
- New temporary bus stop
- Redirection of bus stop
- Bus routes
- Work Area

TEMPORARY CHANGES TO CITY BUS STOPS DURING CBD UTILITIES PROJECT

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. Stanley Street bus-stop – closed August 15 until end of November.</p> <p>Alternative is as identified on Flinders St (in front to Powerhouse).</p> | <p>2. Walker Street (directly in front of Townsville City Council building) – closed 29 August until end of November.</p> <p>Alternative is as indicated on Sturt Street (near Courthouse Theatre and Suncorp building).</p> | <p>3. Walker Street (across from Townsville City Council) – closed 29 August until end of November.</p> <p>Alternative is as indicated on Sturt Street (near Cowboys).</p> |
|---|---|---|

New places to play!

You may have noticed some exciting developments in progress across the city that will provide many new parks and playgrounds to enjoy.

From Jezzine Barracks on The Strand to Illich Park in Aitkenvale, these sites are being transformed into multi-use, recreational hubs for locals to make the most of the outdoors and keep active.

Here's a snapshot of what's going on and where:

ILLICH PARK, AITKENVALE

\$1.2 million for upgrade completion

Multi-use community, sporting, recreational hub including two new rugby league fields, park facilities, shade trees and recreational pathways.

STAGE 1 COMPLETED BY END OF 2016.

PEGGY BANFIELD PARK, NORTHERN BEACHES

\$2.4 million for completion of Stage 1
\$900,000 for start on Stage 2

Multi-use park with playgrounds, dog off leash areas, football fields, netball courts, amenities and connecting paths.

STAGE 2 IS UNDERWAY AND SET TO FINISH IN DECEMBER 2018.

THE STRAND WATERPARK RENEWAL

\$2.8 million

The new waterpark will have a new big bucket, additional slides and a full range of new water play equipment and shade structures.

COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 2016.

TEENRAGER PLAYGROUND, STRAND PARK

\$300,000

This playground for older children has \$300,000 worth of new play equipment including a small tower, net and slide combination and super frisbee on top of soft fall flooring.

COMPLETE

JEZZINE BARRACKS, THE STRAND

\$2 million for completion of Stage 2

Family-friendly community hub complete with picnic shelters, all-inclusive playground, barbecues and amenities.

COMPLETE

FITNESS NODES, THE STRAND

\$130,000

Upgrade and construction of new fitness equipment near Longboards and the Seaview Hotel.

COMPLETE



Riverway

MOVIE NIGHTS

MINIONS 16 September, 6.30pm, Riverway Oval
INTERSTELLAR 21 October, 6pm, Tony Ireland Stadium
AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON 18 November, 6pm, Tony Ireland Stadium

FREE ENTRY

Proudly sponsored by:
TELSTRA STORES TOWNSVILLE

Get

active

TOWNSVILLE

Looking for fun, affordable fitness options?

Check out Sport and Recreation at whatson.townsville.qld.gov.au and discover low cost fitness classes and activities happening in our city.

Active Update

Keep your finger on the pulse with the latest news in the field of sport, fitness, health and recreation.

Sign up and receive the latest news directly in your inbox!

Get on board!

Are you a physical recreation service provider or community group who provides community focused low cost classes? You might be eligible to be involved in the Get Active Townsville initiative.

Visit our website for more details.

#GetActiveTSV

www.townsville.qld.gov.au



We're shopping for ideas!

Markets offer an opportunity to revitalise public spaces, bolster the local economy, create jobs, and give food producers, artisans and makers a place to showcase their wares and grow their business.

Council is seeking your views and ideas about Townsville's growing market scene to ensure that markets including flagship events like Cotters Market, are meeting the needs of the city.

GET IN QUICK! CONSULTATION CLOSSES 5 SEPTEMBER

To share your views or to find out the locations of our consultation team visit:

www.townsville.qld.gov.au

LEVEL

3

WATER RESTRICTIONS

ARE NOW IN FORCE

Townsville is experiencing one of its driest periods on record. With the Ross Dam dropping below 20 per cent, Level 3 water restrictions are now in place and on-the-spot fines apply.

For Townsville households, this means that sprinklers or irrigation systems cannot be used. The odds and evens system applies for handheld watering.

Council's Water and Waste Committee chairman Cr Paul Jacob said we all needed to work together to bring our city's average daily consumption rate down.

"Townsville residents have done a great job in reducing their outdoor water use, unfortunately the drought continues and we need to bring in tougher restrictions to keep our water secure," Cr Jacob said.

"In terms of pumping water from the Burdekin, it's important to start pumping at a time when evaporation losses are at their lowest and we can pump from the deepest part of the dam. Ross Dam, the city's largest dam, is shallow and wide – if we pump too early, water will be largely lost to evaporation and this will be a huge waste of ratepayers' money and our precious water."

"Regardless of when pumping begins, water restrictions will need to continue as the level of the Ross Dam will continue to drop. Council has already cut back its water use by more than half."

"We really need everyone to pitch in to get through the current shortages by reporting any leaks they see to council on 1300 878 001, by sticking to the new water restrictions, and learning new tips to conserve water."

On the spot fines apply for breaches. Infringements are \$365 for an individual and \$1,828 for a company.

For more information watch council's animation on YouTube – Search 'Love Every Drop: Townsville's Water Story'.



Find the Treasure in Your Neighbourhood

Now is the time to mark Saturday 22 October in your calendar and prepare for Garage Sale Trail 2016. Join in all the fun by either hosting your own garage sale or visiting some in your neighbourhood.

Australia's fastest-growing sustainability and reuse event is a great chance to spring clean, de-clutter, make some money and meet the locals.

The reuse and recycling of items through garage sales prevents useable items ending up in landfill which reduces cost to the community and lessens the impact on the environment.

To register a sale for free or to see what's on offer at other local sales visit www.garagesaletrail.com.au



Have you considered using sponsorship as part of your marketing strategy?

Get involved and sponsor an initiative that benefits you and the community through the Together Townsville Program.

Initiatives examples are Summer Reading, Morning Melodies, Naming Rights, Publications, Get Active & Healthy, National Youth Week and much more. For a list of initiatives available for sponsorship visit council's website.

Supporting our Community

For more information contact the Together Townsville Team at togethertownsville@townsville.qld.gov.au

City remembers Vietnam War

On 18 August, Australians came together to commemorate the men and women who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. This year marked a special milestone with the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. In Townsville, veterans, families and local dignitaries joined Townsville servicemen and women at services across the city.

Townsville Mayor Cr Jenny Hill said she was proud to represent the people of Townsville at these commemorative events.

"These ceremonies remind us of the great sacrifice made by these fallen Australians, their fellow servicemen and women and their families," Cr Hill said.

"Townsville, in particular, has a long and proud history as a garrison city which makes these sorts of events much more significant to our community."

Vietnam Veterans Day was originally known as Long Tan Day which honoured the men of D Company, 6RAR who fought in the battle of Long Tan in 1966. Eighteen Australians lost their lives and 24 were wounded in this battle, the largest number of casualties in one operation at the time in the Vietnam War. This year, services were held at Anzac Park and Townsville's Men's Shed along with a special memorial display at Riverway including vehicles, war memorabilia and information.

Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience

The Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience is on show at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre from 2 – 11 September, entry to the Spirit of Anzac Experience is free but bookings are essential and can be made at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au.

The Experience is a travelling exhibition that tells the story of Australia's involvement in the First World War and the ensuing Century of Service of Australia's armed forces. Visitors will be able to walk through recreated First World War environments and for the first time ever view more than 200 artefacts normally housed at the Australian War Memorial.

The exhibition also features a Community Zone that uncovers the contribution made by men and women from the region.

ARE YOU BUSHFIRE PREPARED?

You don't have to live in the bush to be threatened by bushfire, just close enough to be affected by burning material, embers and smoke. For Queensland residents, that can be just about anywhere. It's time to get the mower out and maintain your property as we head into one of our driest periods in twenty years.

Council encourages residents to make sure their properties aren't overgrown and become a fire hazard and risk a fine. There is no excuse for overgrown and untidy properties, not only do these properties reduce the amenity of the area, but they are a huge fire hazard, can attract vermin and in some cases reduce the visibility of motorists.

Local rural fire brigades patrol areas across Townsville and are often on the look-out for overgrown properties that are deemed a fire hazard. Residents in the Townsville area should follow the guidelines of the Rural Fire Service Queensland and clean up their yards and remove fire hazards.

Please take time to sit down with your family and discuss your bushfire survival plan and what steps you will take to **PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.** this bushfire season.

Visit the Rural Fire Services website at ruralfire.qld.gov.au to find out more about preparing your home for potential bushfire threats.

The team is busily preparing for this year's Appeal!

Charity organisations - get your applications in early to be considered as a recipient of the appeal.

Get involved in our Appeal Challenges:

- School Challenge – non-perishable food collection (by kg)
- Business Challenge – gifts collection (no. of gifts)
- Community Groups and Service Club Challenge – dedicate a sausage sizzle to the Appeal (\$ value).

Mayor's
Christmas
Tree Appeal
Townsville



To register your interest or simply make a donation please email the team on christmasappeal@townsville.qld.gov.au