

Some graffiti handy work at Cecil Plains.

Graffiti workshop draws young crowd

Young skateboarders and graffiti enthusiasts were in their element at a Cecil Plains workshop held on June 6.

The event, organised by council's Millmerran youth development officer Nicky Wallis and youth worker Jayde Harber, attracted at least 40 young people and two adult participants.

The 'sk8' workshop was led by local skate troop Kudos and included advice on how to take care of your skateboard and skate park safety tips and tricks.

The graffiti workshop, conducted by Christian from Aerografix, embraced the theme of environmental sustainability. A community barbecue for participants and their families was held following the workshops.



Council staff repair the velodrome surface.

Velodrome track re-cycled

With images of the 2010 Tour de France still on the minds of the region's cyclists and promise of further Tours of Toowoomba, a velodrome with a new facelift is sure to have great attraction.

Cyclists can now enjoy a smoother, and one would expect, faster ride at the Griffiths Park velodrome in Wattle Street, Toowoomba. Council recently completed a refurbishment of the competition track by repairing the cracks and recoating the surface.

Tree Day success

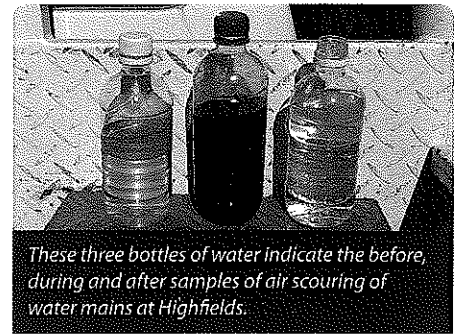
A big thanks to all the TRC residents who helped plant trees at the Waterbird Habitat and visited Peacehaven Park for National Tree Day on August 1.

Highfields & Yarraman water quality improves

Residents connected to town water supplies in Highfields and Yarraman should be seeing a marked improvement in their water quality.

Due to recent changes to both the Highfields and Yarraman water treatment plants, including the renewal of water filter media, levels of manganese and iron in the water have been significantly reduced. The new filter media are higher quality and more effective in removing these elements from the water.

In Highfields, council staff are undertaking a program of mains cleaning to further improve water quality. Measures to address dirty tap water have included an upgrade to existing internal infrastructure to bring the Highfields storage reservoir on line and a review of the Treatment Plant operations.



These three bottles of water indicate the before, during and after samples of air scouring of water mains at Highfields.

Since the improvements, the quality of water has improved significantly. Recent air scouring of mains has flushed iron and manganese deposits from the pipes. Over 40 km of water network will be scoured to improve water quality.

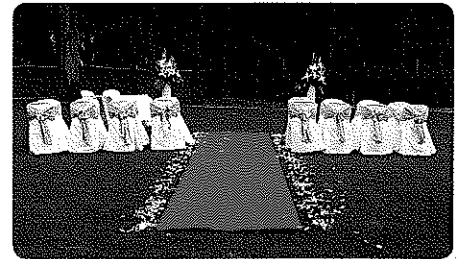
Ideas flow for special day at Wedding Expo

Planning is half the fun of a wedding. And it's something many girls (and boys) have been thinking about for much of their lives.

Brides and grooms-to-be, and even those who hope to get married someday, were able to check out over 50 exhibitors at the Toowoomba Wedding Expo held on Sunday, June 27 where they picked up plenty of ideas for dresses, cakes, cars, flowers, themes and more.

Council played host to the event held at the Highfields Cultural Centre and council staff ensured the day's proceedings went as smoothly as a beautiful wedding.

The exhibitors included venues, cake makers, decorators and music while outside there were several limousines and classic cars on show from which lovebirds could choose their ride.



To give a real-life taste of a wedding venue, a silk-lined marquee was set up in front of Highfields Cultural Centre, while a mock ceremony display was erected in the rear garden.

A range of prizes including a dream wedding gown, suit hire and \$500 decorating package, was given out on the day.

Are you bushfire prepared? Follow these tips

Whether you live in town, on the edge of town or on a property, it is essential you have a bushfire survival plan.

Properties that are well prepared are far more likely to survive a bushfire, so everyone living in a bushfire-prone area should prepare their property, regardless of whether their plan is to stay or go.

Pre-summer checklist:

- Display a prominent house number
- Clear space around buildings and fences and ensure roof is in good condition
- Check all screens – doors, windows, roof vents
- Protect larger under-deck areas with non-flammable screens
- Make sure your property has cleared access for fire trucks
- Mow your grass regularly
- Remove excess ground fuels and combustible material (long dry grass, dead leaves and branches)
- Clear leaves, twigs, bark and other

debris from the roof and gutters

- Trim low-lying branches 2m from the ground surrounding your home
- Enclose open areas under your decks and floors
- Install fine steel wire mesh screens on all windows, doors, vents and weep holes
- Conduct maintenance checks on pumps, generators and water systems
- Check that you have sufficient water and fire-fighting equipment
- Relocate flammable items away from your home including woodpiles, paper, boxes, crates, hanging baskets and garden furniture
- Fill all gaps in the eaves, windows and door frames
- Check that the first-aid kit is fully stocked.

For more information visit council's disaster management website at disaster.toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

Council's draft planning scheme on track

Toowoomba Regional Council's new planning scheme is beginning to take shape, with a draft due for completion this month.

During March and June 2010 the planning team oversaw the public exhibition and endorsement of Strategic Directions - the parent document that sets out the community's vision for the future, which will form the basis of the new planning scheme.

In late May and early June, local plans consultation sessions were held to discuss seven of the identified high-growth areas within the TRC area, which included Glenvale, Charlton/Wellcamp, Highfields/Cabarlah, Wilsonton, Clifford Gardens, Kearney's Spring and the land surrounding the University of Southern Queensland's Toowoomba campus.

TRC planners and consultants are currently drafting the new codes that state the criteria and standards for land use and development for the new planning scheme.

Each batch of drafted codes is being reviewed by five planning scheme reference groups as well as internal council peer reviews.

Council has a dedicated team working on the Priority Infrastructure Plan (PIP) component of the new planning scheme. When complete,



the PIP and the planning scheme will forecast the type, scale, location and timing of future growth in the Toowoomba region for the next 15 years and will include an Infrastructure Charges Schedule for new development.

In October, the draft planning scheme will undergo peer and legal reviews, and in early 2011 the State Government will take its first look.

In mid-2011, the draft planning scheme will be available to members of the public to review and provide feedback.

If you would like any more information on the new TRC Planning Scheme, please visit www.futurebydesign.com.au or ring **4688 6426**.

High Level restrictions offer greater flexibility

Toowoomba Regional Council residents have welcomed the flexibility of High Level water restrictions which were brought in from mid March.

But, at the same time, a continued adherence to daily usage limits per person has shown residents are mindful of low dam levels and are playing their part to help conserve water.

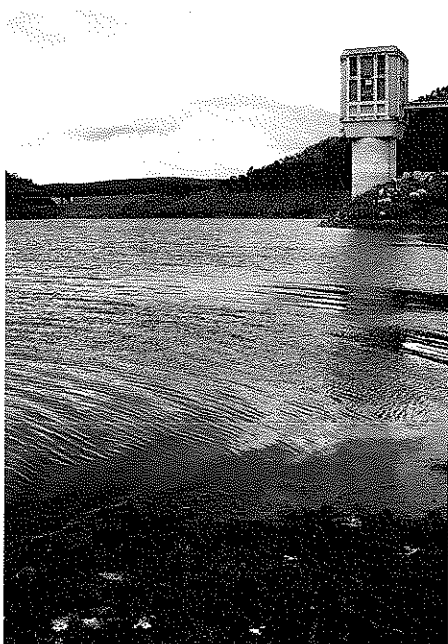
High Level water restrictions apply to residences and businesses connected to Toowoomba's bulk water supply as well as to the Greenmount water supply scheme, which includes Greenmount, Cambooya, Vale View, Wyreema and Hodgsonvale.

The Wivenhoe-Cressbrook pipeline commenced operation in January 2010, and Toowoomba's combined dam storages reached 18.9% of their total capacity, as at August 1, 2010.

Under High Level water restrictions, the following are permitted:

- bucket watering of gardens only, before 8am and after 4pm Tuesday – Sunday;
- washing vehicles using a bucket at any time;
- general cleaning and washing buildings using a bucket at any time;
- use of a hand-held hose with trigger or twist nozzle for the above purposes for 30 minutes per week (ie - odd numbered properties 4-4.30pm Saturdays. Even or unnumbered properties 4-4.30pm Sundays).

Hosing concessions for garden watering are available upon application for residents over



Combined dam levels currently sit at 18.9%.
Play your part, be water smart.

70 years of age or who have a documented disability. For these residents, watering times are odd numbered properties 4-4.30pm Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. Even or unnumbered properties 4-4.30pm Wednesday, Friday, Sunday.

However, remember no watering on Mondays, and no watering of lawns and no hosing of paved surfaces.

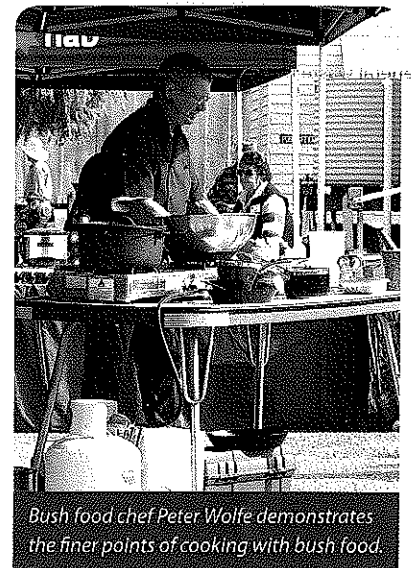
For more information, please call **4688 6253** or visit www.toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au/water

Bush food on the menu at Millmerran

Millmerran Museum dished up a day of interesting foods, crafts and machinery demonstrations at its open day on Sunday, June 13.

The open day and Bush Food Fest attracted about 400 people who learnt first hand from bush food chef Peter Wolfe and sugar craft artist Nancy Sayers.

Supported by the TRC Community Events Support Scheme, members of the public could also sample mini dampers and camp oven cooked meals while looking at displays of Dorper sheep, old machinery in action, aprons, art bras and tea pots.



Community Information Directory has the answers

If you're keen to join a community or social group in the Toowoomba Regional Council area but you don't know how to find them, then the Community Information Directory (CID) will prove a most valuable reference.

The CID is a completely free online service offering greater exposure and increased patronage to the region's clubs and social groups.

With more than 400 listings, the CID showcases a wide variety of social events, with members and potential members better informed of club activities.

Listings continue to grow as organisations discover the CID is a great vehicle to get people through their doors, whether as members, volunteers or supporters.

For further information, simply visit www.toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au/cid and click the link to add your listing or call **4688 6611** and ask for the CID officer.

Contaminated waste a health hazard and a nuisance

Contaminated waste is not only a nuisance, but also a potential health and safety risk.

Toowoomba city residents are reminded of the importance of placing items in the correct bin.

Hazardous items found in greenwaste and recycling bins disrupt services, pose a safety risk to officers and devalue recycled material.

All non-hazardous waste can be placed in the general waste bin which is collected weekly.

The recycling or yellow bin is collected fortnightly on the same day as the general waste bin.

Residents can place the following items in the recycling bin:

- Newspaper and paper, cardboard, magazines, junk mail
- glass bottle and jars (no lids)
- steel and aluminium cans, empty aerosols
- juice and milk cartons
- plastic containers.

Plastic bags are not allowed – these should be placed in the general waste bin or in retail

outlet collection bins. (also no foil, plastic wrapping, ribbons and strapping). A recent audit revealed plastic bags were among the worst items for contaminating waste.

Non-recyclable matter or waste interferes with the sorting of recyclable material. Similarly, only organic matter should be placed in optional greenwaste bins.

Grass clippings, leaves and small branches with a diameter of 15cm or less can be placed in the greenwaste bin. Items should not be bound with string, twine or wire.

It is especially important for compost to be free of contaminants. Organic matter from the greenwaste service is composted in rows.

Composting material heats to a temperature high enough to kill most plant pathogens and seeds.

The nitrogen and phosphorus-rich compost can be re-used on public gardens and various open spaces around the city.

Toowoomba city residents who have not taken up council's greenwaste service, can drop off their



Plastic bags incorrectly placed in the greenwaste bin contaminate a compost row.

own greenwaste at the Bedford Street Waste Management Centre.

To order a greenwaste wheelie bin or an additional service, please call council's Finance branch on **4688 6810**. The service costs \$17.50 per half year. Additional services can be ordered.

Greenwaste and all other waste enquiries can be directed to council's Environmental Health Services branch on **4688 6824**.

Check on asbestos

Home renovators and builders should take every precaution before performing any work likely to involve asbestos.

Asbestos was used in a range of building products in many homes built before 1990.

Asbestos was used in fibro roofs and walls. It was used in kitchens, bathrooms and laundries. Asbestos cement was used in numerous building products including pipes and guttering.

Often, the material can not be detected by sight and needs to be analysed. This underlines the potential hazards of working with asbestos products.

People performing high-pressure cleaning, particularly on roofs, should take extra care to check surfaces before starting any work.

Home owners and renovators must check whether certified operators are required to perform work.

Specific information about safe and responsible handling of asbestos can be found at www.deir.qld.gov.au/workplace/subjects/asbestos

Additional information is available through Queensland Health.

Clifton to host safe food handling course

Clifton will host council's next free regional safe food handling and preparation course from 10am to 2pm on Thursday, Nov 11.

Following the success of two courses at Oakey and a session at Pittsworth earlier this year, council is extending the service to Clifton.

A course will be held in Toowoomba on Oct 14.

Course information covers proper food preparation and storage, safe food handling,

personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitising, temperature control and pest management.

Subjects covered will suit food industry professionals and caterers or casual helpers who handle food at school, community or sporting events.

Light snacks will be served and bookings can be made by phoning Environmental Health Services on **4688 6824**.



TOOWOOMBA WASTE MANAGEMENT CENTRE

WASTE DISPOSAL VOUCHER

This voucher entitles the holder to dispose of one load of general waste or greenwaste at the Waste Management Centre free of charge.

CONDITIONS OF USE: This voucher may only be used for ONE LOAD of general waste or greenwaste. Valid only for passenger sedans, enclosed family vehicles, utilities, light vans including 4WDs with or without trailer.

NON TRANSFERABLE • Valid until 31 March, 2011

Show off your personality with council's Heritage Advisory Service

Libby Hobson was stuck. She knew the look she wanted for her character home in leafy Mount Lofty, but didn't feel confident in going ahead with painting and renovating without professional help.

Through a friend, she was pointed in the direction of council's free Heritage Advisory Service (HAS).

"I love older homes - I think they've got so much character. With the help of the HAS we were able to show off our personality when we renovated our house," Ms Hobson said.

"It's free advice, so why not take it? The HAS is there to help those who own a character home achieve a balanced look, which is so easy to get wrong if not done properly."

Council's heritage advisor Stephanie Keays, who is a local architect, offers advice on a range of issues, from colour schemes, extensions, verandas, and garages to carpports, awnings and fencing and can recommend how to maintain the character of a property.

Once a week, Stephanie travels around the Toowoomba region to give free advice to not just commercial, rural and residential property owners, but also developers, design consultants and tradespeople undertaking refurbishment works.

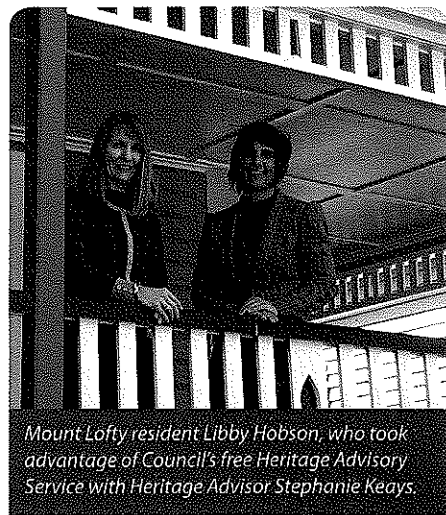
"When Stephanie came to see the house she really helped me balance the colour scheme I had in mind. I liked that she was receptive of what I wanted and could show me how to pull it together," Ms Hobson said.

"We recommend the HAS to friends and neighbours all the time now."

Stephanie said her role was about 'keeping the spirit of the house, no matter what'.

"Some people just want to know the age of their house, or what the names of the features are in their homes," she said.

"Home owners are slowly refurbishing more of the older houses in the Toowoomba region, but they still want to be sympathetic to the style and age of the house, which is what I can



Mount Lofty resident Libby Hobson, who took advantage of Council's free Heritage Advisory Service with Heritage Advisor Stephanie Keays.

help them with."

For more information or to arrange an appointment with council's Heritage Advisor, call **4688 6650** during office hours or email heritageadviser@toowoombaRC.qld.gov.au

Dial Before You Dig aids contractors, renovators

With so many of us working on DIY improvements to our homes and yards these days, it's worth noting an important service that is now available throughout the TRC region.

Dial Before You Dig is a free, national community service that connects users involved in all forms of excavation with the infrastructure owners of underground services.

Avoiding underground pipe and cable damage is as simple as having the right information to begin with. Knowing where underground networks are buried before digging, helps to protect a party from injury, expense and criminal prosecution.

The concept works by having individuals contact Dial Before You Dig with their plans and the company then passes the referral on to the owners of the underground infrastructure in that area.

They will then send the information directly to the person making the enquiry - usually within two business days.

There are two ways to lodge your enquiry with Dial Before You Dig:

- You can lodge online by visiting www.1100.com.au and log on using your username and password (or register as a new user).

- You can also call the national call centre on **1100** to register and lodge an enquiry from anywhere in Australia. The call centre operates Monday to Friday (except public holidays) and is staffed by a team of experienced consultants who can talk you through lodging your enquiry.

The service can literally be a lifesaver and will also save home renovators from any costly surprises.

Unlock the past on a Tombstone Tour

Don't miss your chance to delve into the region's intriguing past by being a part of the 2010 Tombstone Tours of Toowoomba and Drayton Cemetery during Carnival time.

The tours, led by local historian Peter Cullen, will focus on the prominent events and personalities featured throughout Toowoomba's history and will run on Sunday, September 19 at 10am, on Wednesday, September 22 at 7pm and on Saturday, September 25 at 10am.

Tickets cost \$5 and must be pre-booked by visiting the Local History Library at 476 Ruthven Street between 9.30am and 1pm Tuesday to Saturday or by phoning **4638 7766**.

Indigenous trainees join 'green thumbs' team



Joining council's horticulture team are Indigenous trainees (from left) Gary Hooper, Margie Clewin, Geoffrey McCarthy, Bradley Stewart, Jeffrey Nielson, Ronald Duncan & Lucas McKenna.

Seven Indigenous trainees have joined council's horticulture team in Parks and Recreation Services Branch.

The trainees will undertake on-the-job training in horticultural projects across the region for one year. As part of their Certificate II in Horticulture, they will learn about propagation and production of plants, irrigation and pruning methods, weeds and chemical controls, paving and turf establishment.

The Indigenous team at the Southern Qld Institute of TAFE (SQIT) obtained funding from the Commonwealth to support an employment and training initiative for 23 Indigenous trainees in horticulture.

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TOOWOOMBA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Council's emergency number

For after hours emergencies such as burst water mains, blocked sewers or dog attacks, call council's after hours emergency operators on **1800 626 198** (freecall).