



Council is finalising plans for a series of workshops and field days to help improve our local farmers land management skills.

## Sustainable farming education taking shape

As part of the **Small Farms, Big Changes** project, Council is finalising plans for a series of workshops and field days to help improve our local farmers' land management skills.

Almost 200 farmers and land managers completed a recent survey by Southern Cross University aimed at identifying key training and education needs. These farmers currently manage a total area of over 13,600ha of land or approximately 10 per cent of the Tweed local government area.

Council's Program Leader – Sustainable Agriculture, Eli Szandala, said farmers indicated their interest in learning through field days on farms rather than information from websites and brochures.

"The survey results highlighted that land managers are very interested in learning more about weed management, strategies to improve soil health and alternative methods of pest control," he said.

The first of eight field days and workshops are expected to take place in August. This project is an example of how Council is working to protect and enhance the Tweed's internationally significant environment.

Visit [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/SmallFarmsBigChanges](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/SmallFarmsBigChanges) for information about upcoming workshops or contact Mr Szandala on (02) 6670 2599 for further information.



### Farmers reaping in the prizes

Farmers who filled out surveys went into the draw to win a gift voucher of \$100 to spend at their preferred local rural supply store. The winners drawn were:

- N Reeve, Tyalgah
- M Houghton, Duranbah
- K Gessell, Nobbys Creek
- C Jackson-Saw, Eungella
- P & C Clarke, Mt Warning
- T Bruin, Tyalgum
- C Small, Eungella
- A Deen, Tyalgum
- P Cain, Tyalgum
- M Penglase, Sleepy Hollow

This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.

## State portal helping to streamline development applications

Tweed Shire Council has joined other NSW Councils in processing those development applications (DA) which require the consideration of one or more State agencies through the State Planning Portal.

Councils across NSW are transitioning to using the new online concurrence and referral service, accessed through the NSW Planning Portal [www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au)

Council's Director Planning and Regulation, Vince Connell, said Tweed Shire Council started using the new service from Monday 1 July 2019 which will lead to these requests being progressed electronically

and more efficiently.

"This new process is a logical progression for Council's well advanced electronic development assessment systems, and will enable our staff and local applicants to start using the NSW Planning Portal in a gradual fashion, as a step forward in transitioning to the State Government's ultimate requirement for all applications to be lodged through the Portal."

Council has provided briefings on the new electronic referrals process to local consultants in recent weeks. Council's Development Assessment and Building Unit staff can be contacted for any further assistance by calling (02) 6670 2400.

## More than just bookworms

You will find more than just books in your local library these days. Seed libraries can now be accessed in all three libraries at Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah and Kingscliff.

Visit a library in the Tweed and borrow some seeds for the season and plant in your garden straight away. Raise the plants, harvest the produce and let a couple of your best plants go to seed.

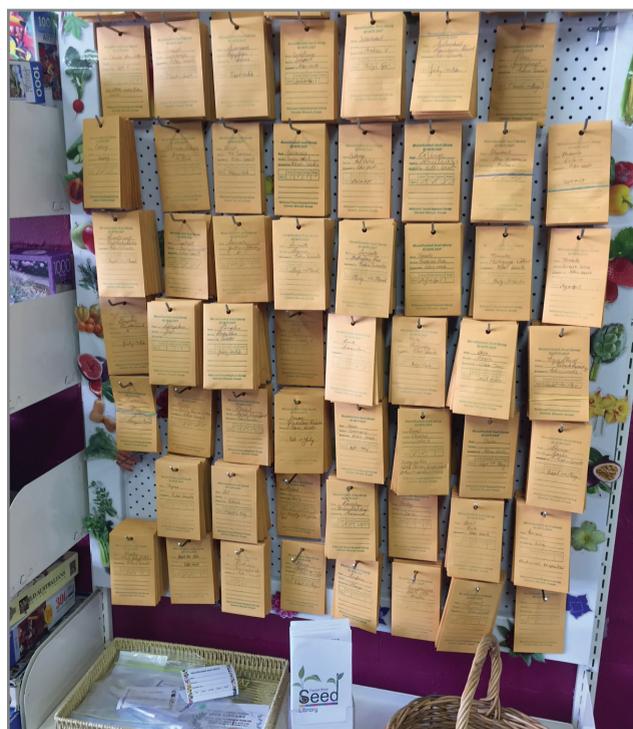
Collect the mature seeds, save some for your next crop and bring the rest of the mature seeds back to the library so other members of the community may borrow them and grow more crops. It's simple and great for the environment.

There is no cost to borrow, and no obligation to bring seeds back, however, all seed borrowers are encouraged to have a go at saving some of the seeds produced from their plants, to help provide a sustainable seed library resource.

There are many benefits from participating in the seed library:

- **social** – meet new like-minded people, share your experiences
- **physical** – bending, lifting and being physically active, while enjoying the sun and fresh air
- **mental** – sense of achievement, knowing you are doing something worthwhile, and learning new things
- **environmental** – less food miles, less waste, improved crops, seeds resistant to pests and diseases in this area
- **healthy eating** – chemical free, picked fresh.

Find out what else is on offer at your local Richmond Tweed Regional Library at [rtrl.nsw.gov.au](http://rtrl.nsw.gov.au)



Some of the seeds available to borrow at the Murwillumbah Library.

## Waste tip 4

Take on the challenge ...

Challenge yourself during 'Plastic Free July' – no reusable coffee cups ... **no coffee?**

P.S. There is a plastic liner in the majority of single use coffee cups. All coffee cups go in the red bin.



## In brief ...

### Voice, Treaty, Truth

NAIDOC Week (7-14 July) celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It's a great opportunity to participate in a range of activities and to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

This year's NAIDOC theme is 'Voice, Treaty, Truth'.

The Tweed Heads NAIDOC program – which includes the annual march in Tweed Heads – can be viewed at [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/ATSI](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/ATSI)

### Holidays are Discovery Days

The Tweed's museums and libraries are a great place to visit these July school holidays, with fun for all ages.

Discovery Days is just one of the activities on offer. Fill your Discovery Days Passport with a stamp from each museum and library branch to go in the running for a fantastic prize of a weekend accommodation package at Tweed Coast Holiday Park's Hastings Point Holiday Park.

There are also other free events at the Tweed's libraries. To see what is on at each library branch, visit the events page at [www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au)

The Tweed Regional Museum also offers free children's activities, including the favourites 'My Museum', where children can design their own museum and 'Signed, Sealed and Delivered', where children can write and send a letter to anywhere in Australia.

The competition is open from 9am Saturday, 6 July to 1pm Sunday, 21 July 2019.

Give your completed passport to the friendly staff at Tweed Regional Museum Murwillumbah or Tweed Heads, or any library branch.

The prize will be drawn at 11am on Monday, 22 July at Tweed Regional Museum Murwillumbah and the winner contacted by phone or email. Please visit [www.museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au/TalksAndEvents](http://www.museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au/TalksAndEvents) for full terms and conditions.

### Local roadworks to watch

Nightworks begin on **Boyd Street at Tweed Heads this week (if it's not raining)** so motorists are asked to avoid the area if possible between 7pm and 5am each day through to Friday morning.

The work will continue for two to three weeks. During the day, the street will be open under changed traffic conditions.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is doing nightworks on the southbound Pacific Motorway off-ramp to Tweed Valley Way at Chinderah this week. A U-turn detour further south will bring motorists back to the Tweed Valley Way exit northbound. Heavy vehicles will need to use the Clothiers Creek Road interchange.

RMS is also widening the shoulder of the highway near Tweed Valley Way interchange to install a wire rope median, so take care there.

Council has also engaged contractors to re-asphalt Terranora Road from Sexton Hill Drive up to, and including, Johnson Street during the July NSW school holidays.

Traffic will still be able to flow through the site travelling on a single lane under the direction of stop/slow flagmen. The traffic lights at the intersection of Terranora Road and Sexton Hill Drive will be interrupted during working hours and all three approaches to that intersection will be under changed conditions.

Motorists are advised there will be delays and to seek alternate routes. One detour route to access the motorway and Tweed Heads South is via Banora Hills Drive on to Darlington Drive. Further west, motorists can travel via Fraser Drive and then Leisure Drive.

An information flyer will be delivered to nearby residents this week.

### New names reflect focus

Tweed Shire Council has introduced a new organisational structure that will modernise the descriptions of its services and better reflect Council's priorities.

As part of the changes, the Community and Natural Resources directorate will be renamed Sustainable Communities and Environment. Within that directorate, the Natural Resource Management department will change to Sustainability and Environment, Recreation Services will change to Parks and Active Communities, and Waste Management changes to Resource Recovery to better reflect Council's emphasis on recycling, and zero waste and circular economy ambitions.

A new coastal ranger will be added to the team to assist with protecting the coastal region and local threatened species. This important new role will assist in educating the public about enjoying our coastal reserves and foreshores while minimising negative impacts to the environment.

Find out more about Council's organisational structure at [www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/OrganisationStructure](http://www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/OrganisationStructure)

