



Rebate offered to desex cats and dogs

Fraser Coast pet owners who are concession card holders now have an incentive to desex their cats and dogs.

Council has adopted a new program to provide eligible pet owners with a \$100 rebate for dogs and a \$50 rebate for cats that have recently been desexed.



While desexing costs vary due to factors such as breed, weight and age, the reimbursement is about 25 per cent of the average cost of desexing a dog or a cat.

The reimbursement is available to eligible Queensland Concession Card holders such as seniors, people with a disability, carers, sole parents, widows and students.

The aim of the incentive is to reduce the number of unwanted cats and dogs on the Fraser Coast.

While Council has previously sponsored desexing programs through donations to the RSPCA and the National Desexing Network, neither offered dog desexing on the Fraser Coast, meaning local pet owners had to travel to vets in Bundaberg or Gladstone.

The new animal desexing reimbursement program allows Council to engage directly with Fraser Coast residents and local vets.

More information is available on Council's website at www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/animals-and-pets



Dog rego inspections start

Fraser Coast dog owners who are yet to register their dogs are urged to do so as soon as possible.

Registering your dog with Council every year is a requirement under Queensland Government law.

Ensuring your dog is registered and microchipped helps reduce the number of animals that end up at the pound and makes it easier for Council to reunite lost pets with their owners.

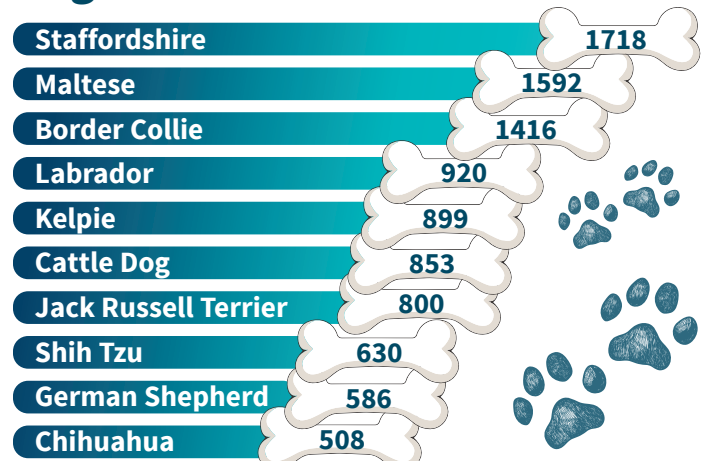
It is free to register your dog for the first time on the Fraser Coast.

Council's annual dog registration inspection program starts in March this year and runs through to the end of August.

Council staff and contractors conducting the inspections will visit homes across the region between 7am and 5pm Monday to Saturday.

If you have not reregistered your pet, or your pet's details have changed, especially if it has passed away, please contact Council on **1300 79 49 29**.

Top 10 Breeds of Registered Dogs on the Fraser Coast





Big year for the Brolga Theatre

Almost 30,000 people attended performances at the Brolga Theatre in 2022 and 2023 is shaping up to be an even bigger year.

The Brolga Theatre and Convention Centre in Maryborough is the entertainment heart of the region, regularly hosting national and international performers, award dinners, school formals, expos, trade shows and conferences both large and small.

Like all arts and performance venues, the Brolga Theatre was hit hard by COVID-19 closures in 2020, hosting 12 performances attended by about 4000 patrons, but the Brolga has bounced back over the past two years.

In 2021, the Brolga Theatre hosted 95 performances attended by almost 28,000 patrons, and that number grew to 111 performances attended by almost 30,000 patrons in 2022.

Highlights in 2022 included Queensland Ballet's Giselle, Xavier Rudd, Amy Shark, Human Nature, Kate Ceberano, The Ten Tenors and six local dance school concerts.

2023 is shaping up to be even bigger with many shows already on sale and more being added weekly.

Some of the shows on sale now include Anh Do, Cirque Mother Africa, Wendy Matthews and Grace Knight, and Celtic Illusion, to name just a few.

Find out more on the Brolga Theatre's website brolgatheatre.org



WetSide going from strength to strength

More than 10,000 people visited Hervey Bay's WetSide Water Park from Boxing Day to New Year's Eve 2022 – the largest number of visitors in a week since the park opened 13 years ago.

WetSide is a great place to keep cool and have fun with something for everyone, including waterslides, a water play arena, TotSide for under-fives play as well as a new Aqua Ninja course that is the first of its kind in Australia.

Council undertook an extensive maintenance program in 2022, including resurfacing all the softfall in the main area, and more than 50,000 people visited the refreshed facility between October and December 2022.

More than 1,000 people challenged themselves on the Aqua Ninja adventure course in its first two months of operation while more than 5,000 water slide passes were sold in the first three months of the 2022/23 season.

More information about WetSide is available at www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/wetside-water-park



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Australia Day Awards 2023

A passionate promoter of Maryborough events, a zoologist who has discovered 40 new marine species, and a centre providing support to the most disadvantaged in the community are among the recipients of Fraser Coast 2023 Australia Day Awards.

The annual Australia Day Awards are an opportunity to recognise outstanding local heroes and high achievers from all walks of life, including sport, arts and culture, STEM, community groups and volunteers.

Congratulations to the 2023 recipients



Citizen of the Year
Recipient - **Ginger Maryland**



Young Citizen of the Year
Recipient - **Emily Lingard**



Cultural Award of the Year
Recipient - **John and Sue Erbacher**



Young Cultural Award of the Year
Recipient - **Rhys Canham**



STEM Award of the Year
Recipient - **Dr Vernon Harris**



Young STEM Award of the Year
Recipient - **Charlie Morris**



Sportsperson of the Year
Recipient - **Annette Clifford**



Young Sportsperson of the Year
Recipient - **Jaden Hardy**



Volunteer of the Year
Recipient - **Jenny Elliott**



Community Group or Organisation of the Year
Recipient - **Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre**



Community Project or Event of the Year Award
Recipient - **Mobility Scooter/Wheelchair Convoy**



For details on the nominees and recipients, visit www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/australia-day



Explore the region with Playtime Passport

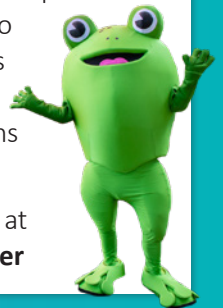
Young families can score stickers, a free book and a host of special memories by exploring the region and Fraser Coast Libraries' services with the new Playtime Passport.

The free passport is designed to encourage families with children up to the age of five to talk, read, sing and play around the region's fantastic beaches, parks, gardens, galleries, attractions and library branches.

Library staff will hand out a sticker for each play activity completed and when all 24 activities are done, families can head to their nearest library branch to collect a beautiful book.

A limited number of the passports have been printed and are being handed out by library staff to families with children under five, while it is also available as an online flipbook with an activity sheet that parents and guardians can print.

The flipbook and activity sheet is available at www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/first-5-forever

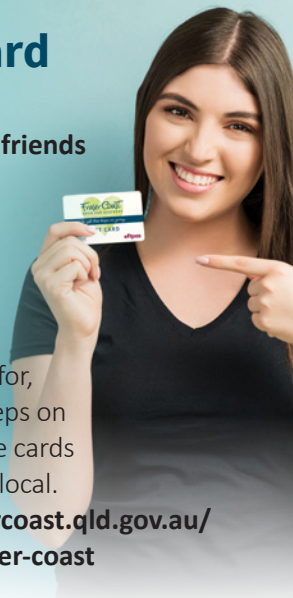


Buy Local Gift Card

Doing a little gift shopping?
Why not get your family and friends a Fraser Coast Gift Card?

The cards can be redeemed at about 200 businesses across the region. The Fraser Coast Gift Card makes a great gift for those who are hard to buy for, and it's the kind of gift that keeps on giving, as every time one of the cards is purchased, the money stays local.

Find out more at: www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/open-business-buy-local-fraser-coast



Customer Service:

Hervey Bay

77 Tavistock Street, Torquay, Qld, 4655
Hours of operation: 8.15am to 4.30pm

Maryborough

211-213 Adelaide Street, Maryborough, Qld, 4650
Hours of operation: 8.15am to 4.30pm

Tiaro Library

Lot 1 Forgan Terrace, Tiaro, QLD, 4650
Hours of operation: 8.30am to 4.30pm (Mon-Fri),
9am to noon (Sat).

PO Box 1943, Hervey Bay Qld 4655, AUSTRALIA



Phone: 1300 79 49 29
Fax: (07) 4197 4455



enquiry@frasercoast.qld.gov.au



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Have Your Say on important projects, initiatives and influence Council decision making.

For more information and to register visit frasercoast.engagementhub.com.au

Community Development and Engagement Team
E. community@frasercoast.qld.gov.au
P. 1300 79 49 29