Adding spice to dishes
EASY EATING:
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Meteor off to Norway
WHO HAS SIGNED NEW DEAL? SPORT

Signing on to support our hearing impaired
STIRRING SHOW: Mia Sanim performs in the Northview Signing Choir as part of Hearing Awareness Week activities. The performance moved Mayor Deirdre Comerford to tears. STORY PAGE 7
PHOTO: TONY MARTIN
A CHOIR made up of some hearing-impaired children had a part to play in the official Hearing Awareness Week launch.

There were teary eyes in the audience, including those of Mackay Mayor Deirdre Comerford, as the group sang You Raise Me Up to thank their parents for their support.

The primary school students sang in sign language at the Mackay Children and Family Centre in Andergrove yesterday. Some were only able to feel the beat of the music.

Northview Signing Choir conductor Trish Ely chose four songs for the occasion, including Katy Perry’s Roar and Justice Crew’s Que Sera. Ms Ely said each song had a special meaning.

“We are all champions,” she said.

“Today’s performance was about celebrating our differences.”

The final song was about a hearing-impaired boy, Jeremy. With lyrics such as “he speaks with his hands and hears with his eyes”, the performance was a powerful addition to the program.

Ms Ely said the children understood the meaning of the lyrics.

“AWARENESS: Amaya Camilleri performs with the Northview Signing Choir at the launch of Hearing Awareness Week. PHOTO: TONY MARTIN

“We go through the emotions of the songs. It’s about transforming our situation into something positive.”

Mackay woman Maree Stead has been hearing-impaired since birth. The 40-year-old now leads a normal life after receiving a cochlear implant, a device that enables her to hear better.

Ms Stead said she had to get used to hearing more everyday sounds since receiving the implant two years ago.

“The world is a very noisy place,” she said.

“I was used to a silent life. All of the sudden I heard things like forks and knives. It was overwhelming.”

SIGNING CHOIR

THE Northview Signing Choir was established in 1986, when Northview State School opened. The choir welcomes all students.

Ambulance tracker

MACKAY residents can now see how many ambulances are available in the region and what their workload is. Health Minister Lawrence Springborg said the Queensland Ambulance Service was using social media to release real time tracking of the fleet of more than a thousand vehicles.

The tracking tool is now running on the QAS website via Facebook and Twitter.

School break-ins

TWO schools within the Mackay police division have been broken into.

Police are urging residents to report any suspicious activity around schools after normal hours by contacting their local police station or phoning Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Relay patron named

CANCER survivor and Mirani State High School teacher Mark Rosier has been named patron of Cancer Council Queensland’s 2014 Pioneer Valley Relay For Life, to be held at Finch Hatton showgrounds on September 13-14. Mr Rosier said he is honoured to be part of the annual event.

“I was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2012 and it really opened my eyes to the importance of events like Relay For Life and the difference those funds can make,” he said.

Relay For Life is an 18-hour event involving teams of up to 15 people.
NORTHVIEW State School aims to provide a supportive learning environment built on positive relationships and high expectations, where every student has an opportunity to reach their full potential in all aspects of their schooling. This vision clearly places the focus of everything that happens at Northview squarely on each individual student and their learning.

Northview principal Paul Manttan said the school was very proud of the academic results its students have produced over the past few years. “Over many years, the strength of our school has been our ability to provide a wide variety of opportunities for our students to succeed,” he said.

“Our ultimate aim is to give our students the best start to their schooling life — which will ultimately lead to a successful job.”

“Northview has developed strong partnerships and links with the community over many years.”

“Achieving good educational outcomes for children is very dependent on a successful partnership between home and school.

“A child’s progress is heavily influenced by the interest parents and caregivers show in their child’s education, the support they provide and how parents choose to participate in school events.”

The school is fortunate to have a very active parents’ and citizens’ association which continues to make a valued contribution to the school through both funding as well as initiatives and activities.

“This year our P&C has supported a number of initiatives within our school, including an upgrade to our internet bandwidth, which will allow students and staff greater access to digital technologies to assist with learning.

“The P&C has also run a number of community-minded events including a trivia night and an outdoor movie night.

“Becoming a CQ Sporty School this year has also led to us inviting many sporting development officers into our school to work with students in our quest to promote team sport and a healthy lifestyle within our students.”

“These partnerships are invaluable and make a difference in the quality of the learning product we are able to provide our students.”

Primarily servicing the communities of Mt Pleasant, Northview, North Mackay and Hibbardie, Northview school has come a long way since its inception some 28 years ago.

Northview school can definitely be proud of the facilities it has available for students from its large 6.9 hectare site to its air-conditioned rooms, as well as computers and interactive whiteboards in most rooms.

“Embracing technology and the importance it can play in a child’s education, the school boasts a computer laboratory with 30 computers including wireless and wired access to the internet.

“The campus also includes a multi-purpose court and oval areas, shaded eating areas, adventure playgrounds and attractive well grassed lawns or play areas.

“The school offers an inclusive curriculum from Prep to Year 7 with a Special Education Program (SEP) providing programs and support to allow students with a disability or vulnerability to access our school curriculum and activities.

“We’re very proud of the fact that all students remain members of a regular classroom with SEP staff supporting them in this environment,” Mr Manttan said.

“School programs and activities are generally well supported with a wide range of teaching resources at the school.

“Currently, there are 13 teachers for the P-7 classrooms with two specialist education teachers at the school. A range of specialist teachers for music, health and physical education, resource centre, learning support, Japanese and instrumental music closely support the students and teachers.”

“We aim to support every student so that they achieve the highest levels of success of which they are capable, because we believe that every child can learn and achieve.

“We start with our fantastic prep program which is a wonderful combination of experienced and dedicated staff and resources specifically targeting the prep year of school, allowing them to learn and achieve in a supportive environment.”

Students at Northview who are identified as academically talented are invited to participate in the school’s Rippas extended learning program which provides extension and higher order thinking activities for students, based on their area of expertise.

“We have a well established reputation for our inclusive education philosophy and practices which endear us to provide a wide range of curriculum programs and activities for all children irrespective of their background or vulnerability,” Mr Manttan said.

“We also believe it is crucial to provide our students with access to a wide variety of extracurricular activities to ensure they reach their potential in all areas of schooling.

“At Northview a strong school spirit and sense of belonging improves learning outcomes for all students.”

For more information, phone 4965 6888.