

Last lagoon lazing before work weeks

\$400,000 on extra park benches, umbrellas, new pathways and higher fencing around waterpark

By SARAH CRAWFORD
sarah.crawford@dailymercury.com.au

IT has been hard to get a Mackay person to even dip their pinkie toe into the Bluewater Lagoon over the past week, but for our thick-skinned European visitors the temperature is perfect.

Mackay Regional Council director community services Gerard Carlyon said there had been quite a few Kombi vans in the lagoon car park over the past few weeks.

"While many locals find the June, July and August temperatures too cold for swimming many tourists still find the temperature appealing," Mr Carlyon said.

In June more than 11,000 visited Bluewater Lagoon, but by the end of this month no-one will be swimming at Mackay's favourite water hole.

From next Monday the Lagoon will be closed for six weeks for maintenance. When it reopens there will be more seats and shaded areas.

Council is spending more than \$400,000 on extra park benches, umbrellas, new pathways and higher fences surrounding the lagoon.

Mr Carlyon said they aimed to improve safety and comfort for families.

"There will be a range of new seating provided across the site which includes 10 bench seats located near the children's play area to allow parents to supervise children as well as a range of custom timber seating near the middle lagoon to allow for sun baking," Mr Carlyon

BLUEWATER LAGOON

- Closes next Monday for six weeks for more than \$400,000 worth of maintenance including:
- Ten new bench seats around the children's lagoon
- 11 umbrellas measuring four square metres.
- A higher fence around the lagoon.
- A new shade sail over the children's lagoon.
- A resurfaced timber path between the middle and children's lagoons which will be treated with a heat-retardant and slip-resistant coating.

said.

"Timber decking will be treated with heat retarding and slip-resistant coating to ensure it is cool under foot."

Mr Carlyon said there would be more sun protection.

"Eleven umbrellas, four-by-four metres in

Visitor health and safety at council facilities is a key priority and something we work hard at upholding.

— Gerard Carlyon

size, will provide extra shade.

"The new umbrellas and the replacement of shade sail over the children's lagoon will ensure maximum sun protection for all visitors – who already enjoy the free sunscreen.



Mackay Regional Council director community services Gerard Carlyon and Councillor for Tourism Dave Perkins join European tourists for a chilly dip at Bluewater Lagoon yesterday. Next Monday the facility will close for six weeks.

PHOTO: PETER HOLT 060709/324

"Visitor health and safety at council facilities is a key priority and something we work hard at upholding."

There had been no recent security issues and the Lagoon was monitored

overnight.

"To further assist the security officers to ensure that no unauthorised access or vandalism occurs at the facility outside of operating hours, the entire fence around the

lagoon will be raised half a metre."

Maintenance will start at the end of school holidays. This week the Bluewater Lagoon is open until 5pm daily.

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Move to save 200 jobs gets underway

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Mackay.

"This is a significant issue for Mackay," he said.

"The best thing we can do is keep people in employment in Mackay.

"Staff are absolutely our number one priority; we've been talking to them a lot. "They're a great bunch."

KordaMentha has not announced a deadline for when the sale would go ahead but that it "would occur quickly".

"We've issued a confidential information memorandum – it's the details of how we're selling the business," he said.

"There has been specific interest in it, absolutely.

"There's no offer on the table yet. But that's what we're working towards."

KordaMentha is now running the business alongside the usual management team but the spokesperson would not discuss how much Westhill owed creditors, nor specific reasons behind the administrator being appointed.

"It's a bit early to give real clarity on that, and we're not pointing fingers," he said.

"It's unfair on everyone."

Westhill is the second mining services company from the Mackay region to enter administration, following HMP Constructions which faced similar troubles in early April this year.

NEWS BRIEFS

Swine flu cases

AT 6pm last night there were 25 people with confirmed cases of swine flu in the Mackay district.

In Queensland six people with the disease are in hospital and two are being treated in intensive-care units. Those in the vulnerable group should seek early medical advice if they developed flu-like symptoms.



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