

# Better Business

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A MACKAY father has won the chance to complete a trade qualification through the National Apprenticeship Program. He has previous experience in the industry and is set to finish his trade within 18 months. PAGE 16

Printing expo on way to town bringing revolution in the way things are made

# 3-D printing prepares to make change

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**EXPO**

- Date: Thursday, June 13
- Time: 9am-5pm
- Place: Souths Leagues Club, 81 Milton St, Mackay
- More information: 3dprintingexpo.org

MACKAY has the opportunity to become a world-class manufacturing hotspot.

In June this year the 3D Printing Expo will come to town. There will be key industry speakers who will explain how new 3D printing technology has changed the manufacturing platform and could make a big difference in Mackay.

Mackay-based fabrication company Torque Enterprises has just started using 3D Printing technology at their Paget workshop.

Torque Enterprises director Bevan Garioch said the technology sped up the manufacturing process.

"It helps with marketing as well," Mr Garioch said.

"You can make something

without having to put it into (mass) production."

The company is well known in Mackay for its successful racing team, Garioch Racing. Racing car manufacturers have been among the early adopters of 3D Printing, otherwise called additive manufacturing.

3D Printing Expo event co-ordinator Lila Clarke said the technology was extremely versatile and had been used for dental and medical products.

Additive printing technology is a new development that provides companies with cheaper, faster ways to develop integrated manufactur-

ing processes in a manner that was simply not possible until very recently, she said.

"Development in advanced and additive manufacturing technology removes traditional limits on design and manufacturing techniques," Ms Clarke said.

"Additive technology is a real game changer because it gives companies a huge opportunity to take better control of their supply chains and logistics by enabling companies to create a system for "integrated manufacture", whereby the steps from concept to design to manufacture become more

seamless and timelines con-



**3D Printing Expo co-ordinator Lila Clarke:** Additive technology is a real game changer because it gives companies a huge opportunity to take better control of their supply chains.

tract enormously.

"Mackay has a strong and varied industrial base perfectly positioned to take advantage of Australia's continued mining boom, and there is every reason for companies based in the region to aspire to becoming world class and for Mackay itself to become a world class manufacturing hub."

Mackay's Regional Economic Development Corporation CEO Narelle Pearse encourages business to identify

ways to merge into the digital economy while also retraining their workforce and identifying how they can drive down costs and increase productivity.

"It's fair to say we had quite a challenging year in 2012, where we went from a period of rapid growth to a period of consolidation virtually overnight. The whole market went through this structural adjustment, which was driven by external factors," she said.

## IN BRIEF

### Clean technology regional alliance

REGIONAL Economic Development Corporation plans to launch an initiative this month that will put the region on the national stage for innovation in clean technology. REDC chief executive officer Narelle Pearse said the Cleantech Alliance was the result of years of planning and investigation leading to the discovery of local talent.

Ms Pearse said the aim was to diversify the regional economy and establish a self-sustaining cleantech industry. "The Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region is already moving in this direction with more than 40 local businesses identified as leading the way in terms of environmental innovation," Ms Pearse said.

"We will work closely with these and other businesses to both support and develop them."

### Confusion over penalty days

MACKAY employment lawyer Cyndel Muscat says some employers and employees are uncertain as to which are penalty pay days this Easter. The answer is that public holiday penalty rates apply on Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Monday, but normal Sunday pay rates apply for anyone working on Sunday.

"The Easter Bunny would be better off picking Saturday to deliver his eggs," she quipped. Mrs Muscat, an employment law expert with McKays Solicitors, said there was often confusion around designated public holidays at Easter. She was aware of a Queensland employer who wrongly thought there was no public holiday payment for staff rostered to work on Saturday. "The situation is also slightly complicated by how penalty pay rates are determined, according to different awards or collective agreements," she said.

"Confusion over the Easter penalty rates is a recurring issue," Mrs Muscat said.



A WINNER: The Garioch Racing Team won two races at the 2013 Kumho Tyres Australian V8 Touring Car Series at Sydney. 3D Printing technology has been used in the motorsport industry for years.

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