

Old Ways New Ways - The Sugarcane Harvest

--- MEDIA RELEASE ---



Watershed Land Art Project presents

Old Ways New Ways

Harvest Celebration & Pot Luck Dinner

Live demonstrations: Green cutting sugarcane 'the old way'
Growing sugarcane without chemicals, 'the new way'

Short Video of stories by old hands of the sugarcane industry
from Australian South Sea Islander,
Maltese and Italian communities.

Friday 4th October 2019, 3pm to 7pm
Meadowlands, Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens
Enquiries to 0405 700 142

Bring a plate of food to share & picnic blanket /chair

Information regarding the project can be found at www.watershedmackay.land

Image of Uncle Doug Mooney courtesy of Stefan Ambruster/SBS World News Watershed  



The Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF) is a partnership between the Queensland Government and Mackay Regional Council to support local arts and culture in regional Queensland.



This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body

When: Friday, October 4, from 3pm to 7pm

Where: The Beacon - near the Meadowlands Amphitheatre,
Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

Cost: Free, all welcome. Kid-friendly event.

Bring: plate of food to share, chair / picnic blanket, hat, sunscreen, waterbottle.

More info: www.watershedmackay.land

Contact: Lucas Ihlein, 0423 745 736 or info@watershedmackay.land

Old Ways New Ways - The Sugarcane Harvest

AFTER two years growing at the Botanic Gardens, *The Beacon's* chemical-free sugarcane crop is finally ready for harvest.

Join us on Friday, October 4, at *The Beacon*, located at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, for our sugarcane harvest. The harvest event titled *Old Ways New Ways* is based on traditional cut-out celebrations, with everyone invited to bring a plate of food to share.

Old Ways New Ways is a celebration of the sugarcane families who for so many years have been the heart of Mackay (the "old ways") as well as the growing movement of regenerative agriculture for soil health and human health (the "new ways").

Come and learn about the way things were and be inspired by the way they're heading to help our ecosystems flourish. *Old Ways New Ways* features a live cane harvesting performance, sugarcane juice, a shared meal, storytelling, science and movies. The event will be launched by Stephen Andrew, MP for Mirani, Australian South Sea Islander descendent and a champion of regenerative agriculture.

Starrett Vea Vea, chair of MADASSIA, said that *Old Ways New Ways* was a great opportunity to bring cutting-edge ecological farmers of 2019 together with the cultures that built Mackay's great sugarcane industry.

"It's the first time that the Maltese, Italian, and Australian South Sea Islander groups have come together for a celebration like this," he said.

Old Ways New Ways is a collaboration between Mackay and District Australian South Sea Islander Association (**MADASSIA**), **Mackay Maltese Club Inc.**, **Mackay and District Italian Association Inc.**, and the team of artists and farmers behind the ***Watershed Land Art Project***.

Artists **Lucas Ihlein** and **Kim Williams** have been leading the *Watershed Land Art Project*. The artists have had great success with community engagement around crops of legumes, sunflowers and sugarcane at Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens over the last couple of years.

"Recent scientific tests indicate that the soil has benefited from the chemical-free multi-species cropping methods we've employed on site," Lucas said.

"Regenerative farming is essential for both environmental and human health, and this project is an excellent demonstration of how innovations in sugarcane farming can have a positive effect on water quality in the Great Barrier Reef."

Old Ways New Ways has been supported by the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), Reef Catchments, Central Queensland Soil Health Systems, University of Wollongong, Yuwibara traditional owners, and a whole host of community participants!