

COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – JUNE 2011

Author: DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Purpose

To review Community Services Department highlights and significant issues for the month ending June 2011.

Background and Discussion

Highlights and Significant Issues for June 2011 are as follows: -

COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

- Inaugural Meeting of the M150 Committee held
- Completion of the Community Grants Review
- Completion of the Convention Centre defects and finalisation of construction contracts
- Berenice Wright received an award for her contribution to community history at the State Library of Queensland
- Car pooling project ready for launch to staff
- Active in the City campaign rolled out by Economic Development and Recreation Services
- An introductory session for the 'Modern Club Management Kit' was held, with 16 representatives from 11 sports participating. Now, one year on from the first session, 108 copies of the kit have been taken up by sport and recreation groups across the region

COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT

- Participated in the Marian Community Meeting held at the Marian Hall to discuss options for reinvigorating the hall and forming a progress association.
- Inspection of the Ergon Energy building in advance of Council taking control of the facility with plan for the future of the building to be presented to Council on 20 July.
- Minor Tourism Infrastructure Grant lodged for improvements at Finch Hatton Gorge.
- Discussions held with Sarina Arts and Craft regarding the location of the Mt Pelion School House.
- Attended meeting with George Christensen MP regarding a proposal for beach horse racing carnival in 2011.
- Met with Pinnacle Playhouse Management and Cr May regarding opportunities to reinvigorate the Playhouse.
- Met with BMC regarding sponsorship opportunities for Council festivals and events.
- Along with Cr May met with Education Queensland regarding possible Northern Beaches Community Hub.
- Participated in CQU Regional Engagement Committee and chaired CQU engagement group looking at how to transform Mackay into a university city.

COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINING

- Two members of the community development team attended a 3-day training course on *Plan and Manage Recovery Functions and Services*, provided by the Australian Emergency Management Institute.
- Executive Coaching – Manager Recreation Services.
- Four Learn-to-Swim staff of Recreation Services attended extension courses this month; infant aquatics and competitive strokes.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LIBRARIES

Management

- Attended a meeting with Property Manager and Mackay Family History premises to determine requirements for new premises and to see if we could assist in any way.
- Friends of Mackay Libraries had a tour of the Waste Water facility at Bakers Creek, the recycling facility at Paget and the MECC
- Attended the awards ceremony at the State Library of Queensland where Mrs. Berenice Wright was given the award for her contribution to community history

Community Development

Community Development

Carpooling Program

The carpooling program for Mackay is ready to be launched to Council staff as part of the trial before the site goes live to the community. The website address is www.mackayregioncarpool.org

The carpooling project is designed to link compatible drivers and passengers via the web to create a network of commuters across the Mackay region that have similar travel patterns. The aim is for community members to share their travel time and reduce travelling costs. The benefits of the project are both directly to the carpool member and indirectly to the environment. Carpooling is a means to make new friends and colleagues whilst significantly reducing annual travel vehicle mileage and reducing the number of vehicles on the roads at peak times.

Homelessness Partnership

Community Development participates in the Mackay Homeless Partnership Network, formed to respond to homelessness issues in the Mackay community. A key focus of the network is to develop models that are not reliant upon funding. Outcomes from the June meeting were the formation of 3 sub groups;

- Outreach/Case Management
- No Wrong Door
- Drop In Centre.

The Drop In Centre sub group are gathering turn away statistics from all relevant local services, and are planning for a Sleep Out project at the Blue Water Quay to raise

funds and awareness of homelessness. The group is also in discussions with Mackay Regional Housing about a possible long term model.

Disability Action Week Coordinating Committee met to plan for the All Abilities Expo, the major information and awareness raising event for the week.

Inclusion Projects

- (1) Inclusion of people with a disability in sporting groups/clubs. Contact has been established with NICAN and the Regional Sporting Wheelies Coordinator along with Council's Sport and Recreation Officer to begin to plan how the project could be shaped for maximum effectiveness.
- (2) Draft of the Good Access is Good Business project is currently with EAAC members, members of Healthy Ageing Reference Group and Council's Planning section for their comments.

Locality Development

Midge Point Progress Association

This group met in June to hold an election for new office-bearers and to endorse the development of a new Constitution, following de-registration by the Office of Fair Trading in 2008.

The group is also working on a submission to the Federal Government's *Caring for our Country* "Community Action Grants" program.

Hampden Valley Progress Association

The group has made a submission to the Federal Government's *Volunteer Grants* program for fund-raising equipment, under the auspice of the Seaforth Progress & Sports Association Inc. Unfortunately; the previous submission to the NRMA was unsuccessful.

Measure Up funding

In conjunction with the Sport & Rec Officer an application was submitted to Qld Health for funding for community groups to host events or activities that promote physical activity and healthy eating among adults.

Activities will be held by Seaforth Progress & Sports Assoc, Hampden Valley Progress Assoc, Midge Point Progress Assoc and the Quota Club of Mackay's Rural North.

Seniors Directory 2011

The Seniors Directory was finalised and prepared for printing. The directory will be available on the Council website as well hard copies for distribution to senior members of the community.

Seniors Lifestyle Expo 2011 Working Group

This group is meeting to organise the second Seniors Lifestyle Expo, scheduled for Friday 26th August in the Senior Citizens Centre.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day forums

June 15 was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. The Healthy Ageing Reference Group, in conjunction with the Elder Abuse Prevention Unit, hosted 2 forums on this day to raise awareness of elder abuse. The first session with older residents highlighted the range of behaviours that are identified as elder abuse, and ways to prevent themselves becoming victims of such abuse. The second session targeted

service providers and focused on identifying the signs and symptoms of elder abuse, and ways to assist their clients. Service-providers finished the day by forming an ongoing network to continue learning about, and addressing, elder abuse.

Indigenous Affairs

A follow up meeting was held at the Mackay Regional Botanical Gardens with Elders and Members of the Torres Strait Islander community. Members shared cultural information regarding Torres Strait Islands plants and their significance and uses in Torres Strait Islander culture. This information will support the MRBG development of an interpretive walkway and signage in the Torres Strait Gardens precinct.

The Mackay community NAIDOC Committee has been meeting fortnightly to organise and 2011 NAIDOC Celebrations. This year's celebrations include the annual NAIDOC Street Parade and Family Fun Day at Queen's Park during the National NAIDOC Week from the 2nd July to the 9th July 2011.

Preparations are well under way for the Mackay Regional Council sponsored NAIDOC 2011 flag raising ceremony to be held in the Administration Building precinct on Monday 4th July 2011. A feature of this year's flag raising ceremony will be the Community Forum that will be held on the precinct following the flag raising ceremony, cultural performances and traditional lunch. The theme of the Forum will be the National NAIDOC theme, "Change- The Next Step Is Ours", and will be bringing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community together to discuss the aspirations of change for the local community and ways of achieving that change. The Forum is open to broader community participation.

The Community Development Officer (Indigenous Issues) attended a 3 day Indigenous Women's conference in Bowen from the 27th – 29th May. The conference focused on a sharing of the "closing the gap" strategies and its progress within the local communities.

Multicultural Partnership Program (LAMP)

LAMP Officers participated in LGAQ's evaluation of LAMP program. The review is being undertaken by LGAQ's State wide LAMP co-ordinator as the program is entering its final year of funding under the current arrangements. At this time it is unclear if the program will remain in its current format or be further refined by Multicultural Affairs Queensland.

A refresher session was held at Memorial Pool for all past participants of the multicultural learn-to-swim courses. Those that attended were presented with multi-visit passes enabling them to continue practicing their swimming skills and techniques learnt throughout the course.

A cultural awareness presentation focussing on cultural competence in health care was delivered to 30 midwifery students at Central Queensland University.

Preparations for the 'Do You Speak My Language' conference scheduled for September 2011 are underway with interest being shown from many sectors in Mackay and surrounding areas.

LAMP Officers are currently working with Absolute Immigration Services to find and secure sponsorship for the Welcome Centre initiative. There is interest in the project from local mining and engineering companies who can see the benefits such a service can provide in supporting new families to the Mackay region.

Community Action for a Multicultural Society Program (CAMS)

Australian South Sea Islander Recognition

The CAMS Officer is currently working with members of the Mackay Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Working Group to develop a range of programs and activities in celebration of State and Commonwealth government official recognition of Australian South Sea Islanders. As part of the program an Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Dinner will be held in Mackay in September. In order to support this and other program initiatives, fundraising events continue to be held in the community.

Census

As this year is the national census, the CAMS Officer is working closely with the local Engagement Manager to ensure members of the Mackay Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Australian South Sea Islander people identify their ancestry and cultural heritage correctly on the upcoming Census.

Youth Development

North Queensland Youth Development Network Forum

The Youth Development team hosted the North Queensland Youth Development Network Forum on Thursday, June 16. This event provided the Youth Development team the opportunity to showcase the exciting programs, project and work that is occurring around the region. Around 16 members of the network attended the event, sharing their experiences gained from the respective councils.

Working Party for Young Pregnant and Parenting Service

Youth Development is working with Women's Health and Community Health to gauge interest of the sector in forming a working party to identify service gaps in relation to young pregnant and parenting services in Mackay. The current data shows that during 2010 there were 1119 births recorded at the Mackay Base Hospital, with 105 of these mothers being under 20 years of age. 16 of the 105 identified as indigenous.

The Sarina Youth Adventure Club competed in their first Adventure Race on 4 June. The race consisted of a 5km run, 5km kayak and a 15km bike. A team from the club won the event. Members of the club are now in full training for the club's next Adventure Race in July, where they hope to achieve the same kind of results.

Inkind Assistance

NQ Dirt Drags

8 rolls of barrier mesh, 40 star picks & picket driver \$368.00

NAIDOC Committee 2011

20 wheelie bins, Council Electrician for food stalls for the day and the erection of an extra flag pole \$974.00

Mackay Conservation Group

5 general & 5 recycle wheelie bins, access to power and maintenance of facilities in Queens Park. \$300.03

Friers Offshore Racing

40 general & 10 recycle wheelie bins and parks staff to clean and stock toilets in Mulherin Park. \$607.69

Libraries

Community Services Librarian gave library talks to over 90 community members from the Association of Independent Retirees, Multiple Sclerosis and Probus Groups. Services for seniors, people with disability and library services in general were promoted.

Libraries combined with MECC to promote Graeme Base's picture book My grandmother lived in Gooligulch. The story was read at each Storytime and a competition was held to win family passes to the MECC stage production.

School holiday activities were held during June with 274 children attending. Baby Bounce sessions continue to be well attended with a total attendance of 123. This figure is up by 69 compared to the same time in 2010.

Finally it's Friday activities held at Mackay City and Gordon White Library were attended by 37 young adults.

Public computer use continues to be well used with a total of 4202 computer sessions during June. Wireless internet access was used for a total of 425 hours.

438 new members joined the library service in June with a total of 68,617 items loaned and 34,220 visitors recorded at five of the six library branches.

Museums

Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani

- Only 5 visitors for the month
- 4 Friends received funding from RADF to attend the Museum and Gallery Services Conference in August
- Hamilton Dairy artwork dismantled from the Library, frames returned to Art Space, artwork photographed, catalogued and boxed
- Preparations continue for display for August Museums Conference

Sarina Historical Society and Museum Inc

Few visitors – roadworks are causing disruptions
Annual visit from Homefield Nursing Home

Greenmount Homestead

67 single or family visitors
2 bus loads from Good Shepherd Lodge and Blue Care
1 wedding ceremony held and one utilisation for wedding photographs

RECREATION SERVICES

Management / Sport and Recreation

- Sport and Recreation Coordinator and Officer attended the bi-monthly 'Mackay Physical Activity Reference Group' meeting. Staff from Economic Development were arranged to attend to discuss the regional walking trail maps they are working on.
- The 'BHP Billiton Cannington Mine North Queensland Sports Development Bursary' was opened for nomination. The two successful nominees were submitted to the North Queensland Sports Foundation. Once formally announced, a Council Morning Tea will be held to present them each with a cheque for \$500 and a specially embroidered jacket.
- Staff from Recreation Services, Community Development and Council's Grants Officer are working in conjunction with staff from Queensland Health to be prepared for the up-coming opening of Phase 3 applications for the 'Healthy Communities Initiative' funding. If successful, Council would receive \$566,000 over three years to employ a 'Healthy Communities Coordinator'. HCI aims to reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity within target populations of participating communities by maximising the number of adults predominantly not in the paid workforce who are engaged in proven or innovative physical activity and healthy eating programs. The Initiative also aims to build the capacity of communities to support healthy lifestyle behaviours.
- Recreation Services staff have worked in conjunction with Economic Development to create the 'Active in the City' campaign. The campaign aims to highlight physical activity and healthy eating options in the City Centre. Local businesses and providers have come on board to provide free activities for the public during weekends over the winter months. An in depth marketing strategy backs the campaign. This program received external sponsorship from Queensland Health under the Federal 'Swap It Don't Stop It' campaign.
- Sport and Recreation Officer attended the Mackay Good Sports Advisory Meeting. This meeting was held to highlight Regional and National updates from the Australian Drug Foundation and the Good Sports Program.
- Portfolio Councillor and staff attended the bi-monthly 'Brewers Park Sporting Precinct Management Committee' meeting in Sarina. Plans are moving forward to start the Master Planning process for the precinct, after a successful application for \$10,000 under the Building Rural Communities Fund.

Media coverage / PR

- 2011 Sports Development Bursary (advertisement).
- Sports Bursary that is available to young sporting achievers.
- Articles regarding Council seeking Lessee for Sarina Pool.
- New access steps at Memorial Swim Centre.
- Article regarding the Swap It, Don't Stop It Active in the City event.
- Closure of Memorial Swim Centre on weekends from September 1.

Aquatic Facilities

Bluewater Lagoon

- Shade sail reinstalled over children's lagoon.
- The tender regarding the provision of Pool Plant Maintenance Services was advertised early June with site inspections for interested parties following soon after.

Memorial Pool

- Facility reopens on June 13 following extended maintenance shutdown.

- Remainder of shades re-installed providing welcome protection from wind and sun.
- Extensive underground water line degradation forces urgent and essential repair works.
- New disabled access stairs receive widespread appreciation.
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Pioneer Pool

- Facility closed for annual winter maintenance period the same day (June 13) Memorial Pool re-opened.
- Dividing wall constructed in multi-purpose building (formerly “Club House”), providing for a range of proposed activities and potential office space. Other works completed include the installation of fans.
- The Adult Swim for Fitness program re-commenced at Memorial Swim Centre on 7 June.
- The Squad program re-commenced at Memorial Swim Centre after a short break.
- The agreement between MRC and the Pioneer Swimming Club was signed off this month clarifying the partnership arrangement, including provision of coaching services and ownership of the multi-purpose building.
- All Multicultural and Muslim swimming lessons were successfully completed this month proving to be very popular with the multicultural community. The program was fully funded through an external grant.
- Arrangements were put in place with Mackay District Special School to allow MRC Learn-to-Swim staff to gain practical knowledge in working with people with disabilities.
- A new web link was added to Council’s website this month which will allow prospective customers to directly register their interest in any of the aquatic programs.
- Conclusion end of financial year statistics swimming programs:

<i>Program</i>	<i>09/10</i>	<i>10/11</i>	<i>% increase</i>
Squad	1,770	2,660	50.28%
LTS	4,922	6,530	32.66%
Swim & Survive	6,041	8,881	47.01%

This equates to an increase of 50.52% in revenue for the financial year.

Mirani Pool

- Facility closed for the annual winter maintenance period.

Sarina Pool

- Facility closed for the annual winter maintenance period.

The following customers have attended the Aquatic Facilities for June 2011:

Bluewater Lagoon*

Type of Customer	Bluewater Lagoon June 2010	Bluewater Lagoon June 2011
Children's Lagoon	597	652
Middle Lagoon	1,166	739
Upper Lagoon	412	0
TOTAL IN WATER CUSTOMERS	2,175	1,391
TOTAL PRECINCT (non-swimmers)	3,693	2,119
GRAND TOTAL	5,868	3,510

* Source: Lifeguard Statistics - Monthly Reports June 2011- Visitations PDF by Surf Lifesaving Queensland (SLSQ)

Memorial Pool**

Type of Customer	Memorial Pool June 2010	Memorial Pool June 2011
Persons 15 years or older	471	247
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	60	23
Pensioner	76	26
TOTAL	607	296
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	66	32
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$612.30	\$563.00

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Pioneer Pool**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool June 2010	Pioneer Pool June 2011
Persons 15 years or older	0	30
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	0	14
Pensioner	0	2
TOTAL	0	46
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	0	2
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$0.00	\$203.90

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Revenue Received:**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool		Memorial Pool	
	June 2010	June 2011	June 2010	June 2011
Actual Gate	\$0.00	\$248.00	\$4,309.50	\$2,140.00
Season Tickets	\$0.00	\$405.00	\$2,245.00	\$2,435.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$224.00	\$604.80	\$569.60
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$877.00	\$7,159.30	\$5,144.60
Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$1,980.00	\$960.00

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Management

- Inspection of recently acquired property at 5 & 7 Goldsmith Street to ascertain rental suitability.
- Attended on-site meeting at the Field of Dreams to discuss possible sites for the Mt Pelion School building which will be relocated from the Northview Primary School.
- Facilitated numerous inspections of the Ergon Energy building in preparation for presentations to SLT and Council on possible options for the future use of the building.
- Attended the Marian Community Hall Meeting at Marian to discuss the future management and operation of the hall.
- Facilitated meeting at the Mirani Caravan Park to discuss amended park rules with tenants.

Sarina Sugar Shed

Visitor numbers are starting to increase with the assistance of bus companies utilising the Sugar Shed for tours.

Sugar Shed staff recently participated in free Queensland Tourism workshops on Packaging and Bundling tourism products and On-line reputation management. Staff will continue to work with mentors from the workshops to implement associated projects.

Glenys Mansfield Co-ordinator, Sarina Sugar Shed attended the Brisbane Caravanning & Camping show working with Mackay Tourism on the Mackay Region display. A total of 1113 direct enquiries were fielded from people who are planning to travel, with the Mackay Region being included in their itinerary. Attendance figures for the show were 74292 people.

Technical Officer

- Fire Panel upgrade tenders closed – currently under review/evaluation
- Fire Maintenance services contract tender advertised – closing 19th July
- Chief wardens meeting held

Property Services Support Officer

- Facility Manager Meeting (Hall) held 17/6/11. Well attended with good feedback from Managers.
- New Facility Manager for The Leap Community Hall commenced Monday, 27 June 2011.
- On-site meeting held with residents of the Mirani Caravan Park 29/6/11 to discuss new Park Rules.

Property Co-ordinations

Land Dealings

Purchase of the land from Queensland Rail for the construction of the new Sarina Water Treatment Plant was affected on the 4th July 2011.

Program staff are currently dealing with 19 land dealings and 5 easements

Asset & Lease Officer

Program Staff are currently dealing with 19 leases

- Glenella Hall, Hill End Road – No current lease in place
- Lighting issues for Mackay Touch Association
- Boundary issues at Habana between lease area of Habana & District Progress Association and neighbouring property owner
- Following up on expired leases
- Nebia-Coningsby Rd Dumbleton – grazing lease
- Mackay BMX – Following up on changes in lease documentation to proceed with the lease

Maintenance Team Leader

- **Ness St Depot:** (Records building). Works completed to eastern wall to prevent water inundation. Works included removal of old roller door, Timber framing installed in opening, All old corrugated iron removed, New colorbond sheeting and flashings installed; and
- **GWL:** Repairs commenced on damaged shade sails in rear courtyard. Large broken support arm has been removed for repair; and
- **Admin Building external clean:** 90% complete, awaiting certification of new anchor points and cable for cleaners to complete plant room cleaning from roof.

Capital Projects

- 10360- Macarthur St Community Housing, tendered – finalising award and schedule of works; and
- 90119- Mackay Admin Bldg Anchor points, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90120- Glass Report, awaiting condition report and proposed schedule; and
- 90121- Mirani Admin Bldg Refurb, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90122- Sarina Admin Bldg refurb, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90123- Town Hall Electrical review and upgrade, works scheduled; and
- 90124- Sarina Council House roof replacement and paint, works scheduled; and
- 90125- Senior Citizen amenities upgrade, works scheduled; and
- 90127- Greenmount Homestead Electrical and plumbing review, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90129- Greenmount minor bldg maintenance, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90130- Mackay City Library AND 90140 Mackay Admin bldg – Fire system upgrade, tendered and finalising award and schedule of works; and
- 90131- Gordon White Library air conditioning requirements, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90132- Mirani Library ramp improvements, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90133- Mirani Museum repairs, nearing completion; and
- 90137- Artspace anchor points, scheduling works; and
- 90138- Mackay admin bldg stage air conditioning requirements, pending further negotiations; and
- 90139- Mackay Admin bldg amenities upgrade, works scheduled; and
- 90344- Wellington Street anchor points, **COMPLETE**; and

- 90345- Mirani Community Hall refurb, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90347- Lagoon meeting hut fire wetting system, scheduling works; and
- 90348- Andergrove Neighbourhood Centre floors, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90350- Seaforth Community Hall external paint and new chairs, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90351- Slade Point community Hall refurb, scheduling works; and
- 90352- Leap Community Hall window frame upgrade, pending report and quote; and
- 90352- Leap Community Hall plumbing requirements, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90354- Tommy Webster Memorial Hall upgrade, near completion; and
- 90355- Mirani Railway station repairs, **COMPLETE**; and
- 90356- Field of Dreams - Arts & Crafts and Tourist Information Centre painting, works scheduled; and
- 90448- Sarina Cultural Hall toilet and change room refurb, nearing completion; and
- 90482- Sarina Sugar Shed shade/shelter construction, works scheduled; and
- 90491- Sarina Depot new amenities and upgrade, scheduling works; and
- 90492- Mirani Depot wash-down facility, scheduling works; and
- 90493- Mirani Depot amenities modification, scheduling works; and
- 90494- Palmyra Depot upgrade, nearing completion; and
- 90495- Eungella Depot emergency eye wash, **COMPLETE**.

MACKAY CONVENTION PRECINCT AND EVENTS

Management

- Actively participated in the roll out of Safe Plan to staff
- Finalised Convention Centre building defects and associated project accounts
- As QLD representative participated in Helpmann Awards judging for Live Performance Australia
- Prepared end of year accounts for MECC
- Pre-planned for July Festival of Arts
- Facilitated inaugural Sesquicentennial Steering Committee meeting
- Sought sponsorship and met with potential sponsors regarding Ice Skating at the MECC
- Met with representatives from Mackay Stadium Committee regarding ticketing options at the Stadium
- Assisted Mackay Historical Society providing advice on digital photographic displays.

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

The Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre is reported on in the MECC monthly performance plan.

Festivals and Events

City Centre Markets

It is proposed that providing suitable consultation feedback is received that the Mackay City Heart Markets will move temporarily to Bluewater Quay when the Victoria Street roadworks commence. A report to Council seeking endorsement for the Variety Club of QLD to formally manage these markets is in preparation.

Mackay Festival of Arts 13-24 July 2011

Festival planning is well underway with initial ticket sales exceeding expectations.

Coal to Coast Festival Saturday 10 September 2011

Planning has commenced and this year's festival will build on last year's successful format which included working with the Sarina Rotary Club's large scale *Swap Meet* and the *Coal Games*. Headline acts Jon English and the Hannah & Milley Show have been booked. An application for funding to the Queensland Regional Events Program has been lodged for assistance. 40% of the sponsorship target has now been met.

River 2 Reef Festival Saturday 1 October 2011

Planning is well advanced with the Childhood Cancer Support Group (Pelican Push and River Raft Race) and the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland (Great Seafood Barbeque Burn Off) to ensure that these iconic events are even bigger and better this year. Childhood Cancer Support has commissioned Total Engineering to build four rafts so that businesses who haven't the time to construct their own raft can enter the race. Qantas Link has become naming sponsor for this year's event. Last year's Deakin Bike ride which raised substantial amounts for charity will now be coordinated by Corry Cycles and will be called the Xstrata Coal / Thiess River 2 Reef Ride.

Global Grooves Sunday 30 October 2011

Planning has commenced in earnest to build on the success of last year's Global Grooves. The Filipino Community will set up a *village store* and the Fijian Community will produce a lovo feast of food. It is hoped that that this year the Sister City Committee will involve the Matsuura/Japanese community along with all the other multi cultural community groups known to take part. King Marong from Melbourne will be headlining the day and Qantas Link has agreed to be the naming rights sponsor.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies in the Mackay Region 3-10 December 2010

Planning has not commenced other than to book the MECC for Saturday 3 December for the annual Carols in the City co-organised by ZINC FM.

Artspace Mackay

Visitors: 3,875 during June 2011

(3,291 during June 2010)

Exhibitions:

McAleese Gallery	6 May – 26 June	<i>2010 Ranamok Glass Prize</i>
ASM Foyer	6 May – 26 June	<i>Clem Forbes: Recent Additions to the MRC Collection</i>
Cox Rayner Gallery	Oct 2010 -	<i>c/o Poste Restante: MRC Artists Books Collection</i>
Sarina Art Gallery	23 May – 3 June	<i>Highlights from the MRC Pottery Collection</i>

Recycled Library: Altered Books touring exhibition

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, 24 June– 7 August 2011

Artspace Director, Michael Wardell, was invited to officially open the exhibition on Friday 24 June.

MacAleese Gallery / Foyer / Cox Rayner Gallery

2010 Ranamok Glass Prize

Now in its sixteenth year, the prize aims to encourage creativity, skill and innovation in contemporary glass from Australia and New Zealand. Attracting over 100 entries, this exhibition displays stunning contemporary glasswork from the award's finalists and includes the winner of the annual prize.

Clem Forbes: Recent Additions to the Mackay Regional Council Collection

Renowned local artist Clem Forbes was a major driving force behind the visual arts in Mackay. In 2009, Mackay Regional Council accepted two generous donations of works spanning approximately 20 years of his career, and ranging from synthetic polymer and oil paintings to pastels.

c/o Poste Restante: Artists books from the MRC collection

This long-term exhibition, curated by local artist Wanda Bennett and facilitated by Artspace exhibition staff, continued in the Cox Rayner gallery through May.

JUNE Public Programs & Education:

Artspace Mackay had 9 events in Public Programs & Education in May with a total attendance of 211. These included our regular children's programs as well as 3 adult workshops. One workshop attended by 15 local artists was the Burlesque Life Drawing workshop with Leonie Wood. A fundraising activity for National Breast Cancer Foundation. Artspace worked in conjunction with MECC's Breast Wishes musical performance, holding a Silent Auction in conjunction with the show – all proceeds raised to go towards the cause.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Management

Development Summit

Council's one-day Development Summit on Thursday, June 30 at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre proved an innovative first - bringing together State, and Local Government together with representatives of the Development Industry and members of the public to work through the draft Regional Plan, and to examine council's proposed response. The Summit, facilitated by Economic Development Portfolio Councillor Dave Perkins, included key segments with Mayor Col Meng and Development Services Portfolio Councillor Di Hatfield and encouraged an open discussion on future growth management strategies for the Mackay region. The organisation of the Summit was handled by Development Services, with cross-program integration including Strategic Planning, Development Assessment, and Economic Development.

Smart Business in the Digital Economy' Mackay Isaac Whitsunday

Members of Council's e- Business Networks were invited to discuss initiatives in growing the Queensland digital economy and to interact with leaders in key industry sectors, in a series of workshops held in the region in June. Mackay IT Network (MITN) and the Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) supported the ICT Industry Development Workgroup to conduct a series of regional workshops. These addressed the expansion of the digital economy and the role that the NBN will have in facilitating its implementation in key industry and regional sectors.

Farmers Market

Farmers Market Consultant Mr Shane Stanley (operator of the successful Noosa Farmers markets) visited the Mackay region during June, for discussions with council representatives, as part of an information gathering study, to seek contacts in the region with existing market operators and growers to determine levels of interest in pursuing a Farmers market style operation in the Mackay Region

Online Welcome Centre project

REDC commenced the Online Welcome Centre project as a specific Mackay Regional Council project (the cost for this project is included as part of the REDC annual sponsorship package). The project will see REDC prepare and maintain an online Welcome Centre (website) aimed at offering information for prospective and new arrivals to the Mackay region. Cross council program participation, includes Community Development, Customer Services, Corporate Communications and Economic Development. REDC advise the project should be complete by the end of July.

Regional Mapping Project

A 'regional mapping project' has commenced. The project will provide a free hard and soft copy map covering attractions, things to do and places of interest in the local area. The map will show caravan parks, camping areas, toilets and amenities plus information for RV and Drive market tourists, as well providing a handy guide for local residents, especially those new to the region.

A draft copy of the map containing the Mackay region 'bucket list' is due out in the next month for comment.

Qwestnet Forum

Planning for the Queensland Water and Energy Sustainable Technologies Network JulyForum (QWESTNet) which connects Queensland business with sustainable technology users and retailers is being finalised. Members of council's e-business networks have received invitations to attend and actively take part with a business display. The Forum includes presentations on energy, water and waste efficiency options, support programs and local case studies. Shamrock Gardens Motel – The Pavilion, 165 Nebo Road, Mackay. Tuesday 19th July. 7:30am-11:30am. A number of council programs are involved with the Forum, including Plant and Procurement, Water and Economic Development. ED will host a display at the event to promote Council's e-business networks. .

Capacity Building workshops – Tourism Queensland

Tourism Queensland coordinated a series of capacity building workshops and programs to assist tourism businesses with the process of recovery after the recent extreme weather events. The workshops and programs are being held around the state to help operators effectively access domestic and international markets and to use technology to generate new business leads. This is part of the Queensland Government's contribution to the joint Federal-State Tourism Recovery Package. Members of council's e-business networks have received invitations to participate in the workshops.

City Focus Advisory Committee

A meeting was held in early June, with the committee making recommendations to council on a range of areas including the Explorer Bus service. Over recent years, the cost of the free weekend public transport service has been borne by City Centre businesses. Weekend public transport service also forms part of the considerations being prepared for the State government in a current consultancy review for public transport in the region.



Active in the Citya new initiative aims to improve health and fitness levels, while giving additional reasons to make the City Centre a regular destination.

The program, which aims to attract a target audience into the City on a regular basis, draws on funding available through Queensland Health. The Active ...in the City program is the result of a cross council collaboration between Recreational Services, Corporate Communications staff and Economic Development. Print, radio, website and business network publicity has been used for the program.

It is envisaged that the program will continue beyond the September 2 date (the date set for the finish of organised council activities). Ideally City Businesses will be able to continue the Activity program – with website publicity being offered through MackayCitycentre.co.au

Council's Business Networks

The membership for the Regional Focus is building, and businesses are encouraged to sign up for free membership. Updates and invitations continue to all networks, which now reach all districts across the local government area. A new aspect of the “Regional Focus”, includes a category for those based outside the region, but with an interest in keeping in touch with economic updates with a view to investing in the region.

Release of latest publications to the business networks including:

- Updated Economic Development Prospectus
- Population projection data at Local Government Area level (sourced from Queensland treasury)
- Information on the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday Regional Plan, including how to make a submission and relevant fact sheets and links to forms
- Links to latest statistical profile information on the Mackay Regional Council website

City Centre marketing

Web

Mackaycitycentre.com.au

The month of June 2011 produced the best seen figures for mackaycitycentre.com.au.

- The number of total visitors was 4,655.
- For the month of June there was a total of 20,253 page views; and
- The top 5 search phrases were: Mackay city centre, things to do in Mackay, Birch Carrol and Coyle, Kester Real Estate and Sydney Street Markets Mackay.

City Deals

City Deals continues to grow in popularity with businesses located in the City Centre. New deals are uploaded to the website on a weekly basis and the majority of businesses update their deals once they have expired. 36 businesses in total have uploaded a deal onto the Mackay City Centre website. Since the launch of City Deals, businesses located outside of the City Centre boundaries continue to try and be a part of the initiative by requesting to upload a City Deal and business listing.

Developments are still in process to promote and encourage access to City Deals, including applications for mobile phones and subscription data base service, similar to Groupon. All City businesses are encouraged to get onboard with City Deals – whether day, night, professional service or retail.

City Centre TV and Radio

City Centre marketing consultants have produced a new marketing plan for the Mackay City Centre to run through to October 2011. The campaign, which has already begun, features Radio advertising for Active in the City, TV and radio advertising for City Deals and TV and radio advertising for Night and Day in the City.



Keeping banks onside

More support for state's economic engine room

MACKAY Regional Council is again knocking on the doors of major lenders to allow the region's economic strengths and investment potential following its successful 2009 banking tour.

The tour responds to tougher lending criteria post the GFC. For many small to medium enterprises, lending levels have yet to return to where they were before the onset of the global financial crisis and they continue to struggle to access credit. BRW (April 28 - June 1, 2011).

Mortgage and Finance Association of Australia (MFAA) chief executive Phil Naylor says property developers in particular are subject to the tougher lending criteria. Many are asked to make large equity commitments and to show at least 50% qualified proceeds. The Reserve Bank of Australia says building lending business lending fell 1.7% in the year to February 2011 and the Big Four banks accounted for 86% of the SME lending market in September 2010.

Mackay Deputy Mayor, Dr Daryl



DRIVING DEVELOPMENT: Mackay Council liaises with banks to promote regional interests.

Carrillean said the upcoming council visit to southern based lenders, continued to raise the profile of the Mackay region, keeping the major banks in close touch with the needs of the "engine room of Queensland".

"Continued access to finance for investment in this economically buoyant region is essential, especially

with future growth demands, producing a need for around 24,000 additional dwellings over the next 20 years," Dr Carrillean explained.

"The 2010 trip and ongoing discussions kindled strong interest in Mackay, with positive reports circulating about the potential of the region."

Bernard Salt, Australia's highest profile demographer predicts Mackay will "flex its economic muscles" over the next decade as he explains "something big is blowing and it's the rise of resource towns, of muscle towns," he said.

"By this I don't mean the destinations of fly-in fly-out miners but places

that are critical to the delivery of iron ore, gas, uranium and coal. Places like Mackay and other places that deliver ancillary services such as Gladstone and Townsville."

Council's banking tour will ensure major lending institutions are in close touch with the latest news and developments for the region.

Guides focus on facilitating e-business networks

MACKAY Regional Council is working to assist with the fast-paced economic growth of the Mackay Region. Council has recently introduced the City Focus, Sarina and Regional Focus business networks, which span the local government region. Through the new e-business networks, council is in regular communication with a growing membership of over 800 businesses to

provide up-to-date publications and information. In addition, business network members receive regular invitations to attend face to face workshops, seminars and business forum events. If you are interested in business in the region, why not think about becoming a member of the networks today. It's free to join. Contact council's economic deve-

lopment program on 1300 Mackay to register and receive your free, re-usable USB with copies of the Regional Prospectus and Business Guide. Or, keep in touch with everything that is happening in the region, by checking out latest range of publications on the council website at: www.mackay.qld.gov.au/business/economicdevelopment Free publications are available in both hard and soft copy include:

- ▶ Mackay Region e-Business Guide
 - ▶ Mackay Region Economic Prospectus
 - ▶ Mackay Statistical Soapshots
 - ▶ Mackay Regional Profile
 - ▶ Local Area Profiles for Mirani and Sarina
- Mackay Regional Council's Economic Development program has also developed the brand new Mackay City Centre website, www.mackaycitycentre.com.au

providing information on businesses and more within the city centre. The website features what's on, things to do, interactive maps and the latest specials and promotional offers in the city through the City Deals section. Make sure you check it out. To join council's City Focus, Sarina Business and Regional Focus business networks call Economic Development on 1300 MACKAY today - it's free to join.

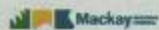
Join Mackay's free business networks!

Keep in touch with the latest updates and receive invitations to business workshops and seminars.

Join council's FREE business networks today > City Focus, Sarina Focus and Regional Focus!

Register now > visit www.mackay.qld.gov.au/economicdevelopment or phone 1300 MACKAY (622 529).

Brought to you by Mackay Regional Council.



For further information phone 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529) >> www.mackay.qld.gov.au



Consultation

There has been consultation with Community Services Program Managers.

Resource Implications

Nil.

Conclusion

All programs are performing well for this stage of the year and meeting operational plan goals.

Director's Recommendation

THAT this report be received.