



Community and Client Services

Monthly Review
4 August - 7 September 2014

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Executive Summary

Director Community and Client Services

Community Development is championing the establishment of an Ovarian Cancer Support Group in Mackay. The group will commence with its first meeting on the 8th September.

A range of activities was held to celebrate Seniors' Week. A "Good Times & More" Morning Tea was held in Sarina on 21 August from 9am – 12noon. The event attracted approximately 120 seniors and a range of service providers. The Sarina Chaplaincy Committee provided a "home-baked" morning tea and was assisted with serving by students of the Sarina State High School Shine program.

To acknowledge Queensland Cultural Diversity Week, an "Eye For Difference – Cultural Diversity in Action" Photo Competition was held. Entries in the competition closed on 27 August with ten entries being received. The winning entry was submitted by Shona Brand with second prize taken out by Chris Seden. Entries are on display at City Library until 15 September.

A planning workshop was held at Central Queensland University to determine the phasing of the Mackay Regional Sports precinct project based at CQ University. It was agreed that the development of the athletics track would be the first phase of the project, due to the established need for a regional athletics track in the region. The Sport and Recreation team is currently researching other regional athletics track business models, as well as holding discussions with local athletics clubs to ensure their support for the project.

Children's Book Week "Connect to Reading" ran from 16 - 22 August and was celebrated with a Wine and Cheese Evening launch, Teddy Bear's Picnic's, a Picnic in the Park, Bedtime Stories, Baby Bounce sessions and the Walkerston Street Parade. Over **1,400** people participated in YPS' Book Week programs and events across the region.

Artspace has successfully secured a Danie Mellor exhibition being toured by the University of Queensland Art Museum. This exhibition will appear in a limited number of venues (including Artspace, UQAM, Museum & Gallery of the Northern Territory and Tarra Warra Museum in Victoria). Danie has agreed to come to Mackay to open the exhibition on Friday 19 December and will be an opportunity to display all five of Danie's work from the Artspace Collection. It is an honour for Artspace Mackay to contribute to an exhibition of this quality.

Jilalan Lookout sign installed to complete Jilalan Lookout project

Shade Sail Restoration - repairs and refurbishments to shade sails, columns and fittings at seventeen playgrounds across the region.

Confirmation of the Green Army project team was received from the Federal government. Pre-start planning meetings and media has taken place. The team is expected to start on ground towards the end of September.

August 19 – Curator Dale Arvidsson attended the International Horticultural Congress (IHC), supported by Mackay Regional Council. Out of over 2000 applications to present and submit papers, the MRBG's joint application with the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens was chosen and represented Botanic Gardens of Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) on the role botanic gardens can play with high-level research partnerships with the horticulture and agriculture industries. The paper on the presentation will appear in the international publication *Acta Horticulturae*, the publications of the International Society for Horticultural Science www.actahort.org On August 23, the Curator joined with south-east Queensland horticulture experts to offer IHC delegates to the conference a full day bus tour of the botanic gardens and major parklands of Brisbane, culminating in a guided tour of Brisbane Mt Coot-tha Botanic Gardens, due to the recent retirement of their Curator.



Gerard Carlyon
Director Community and Client Services

Community Lifestyle

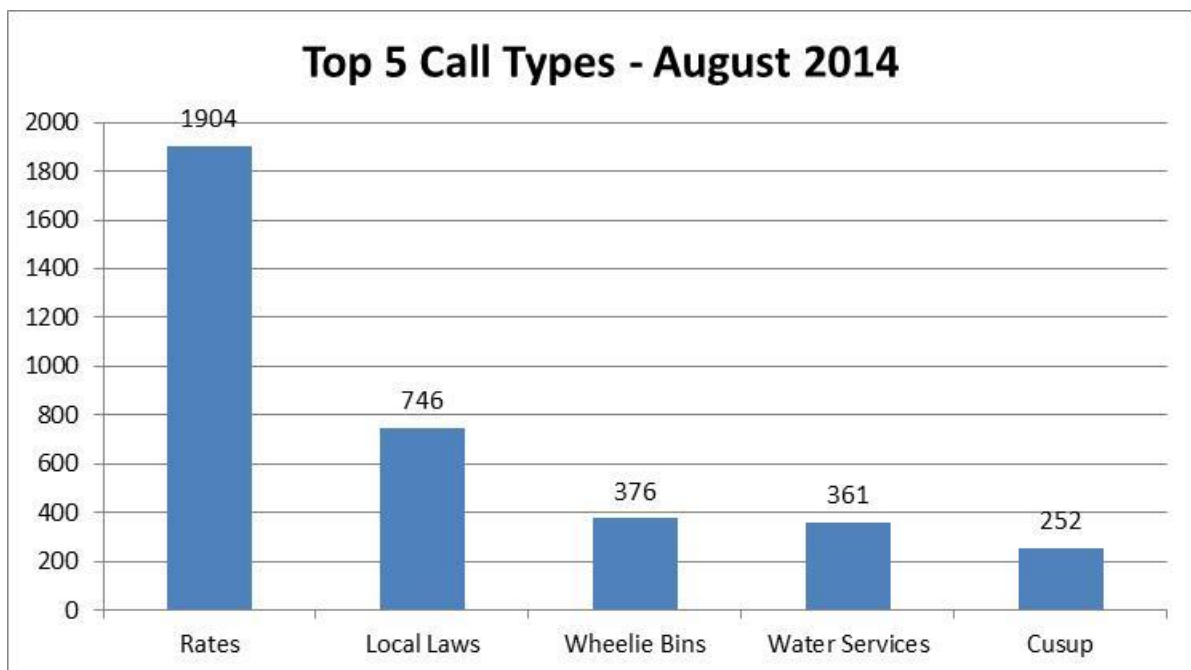
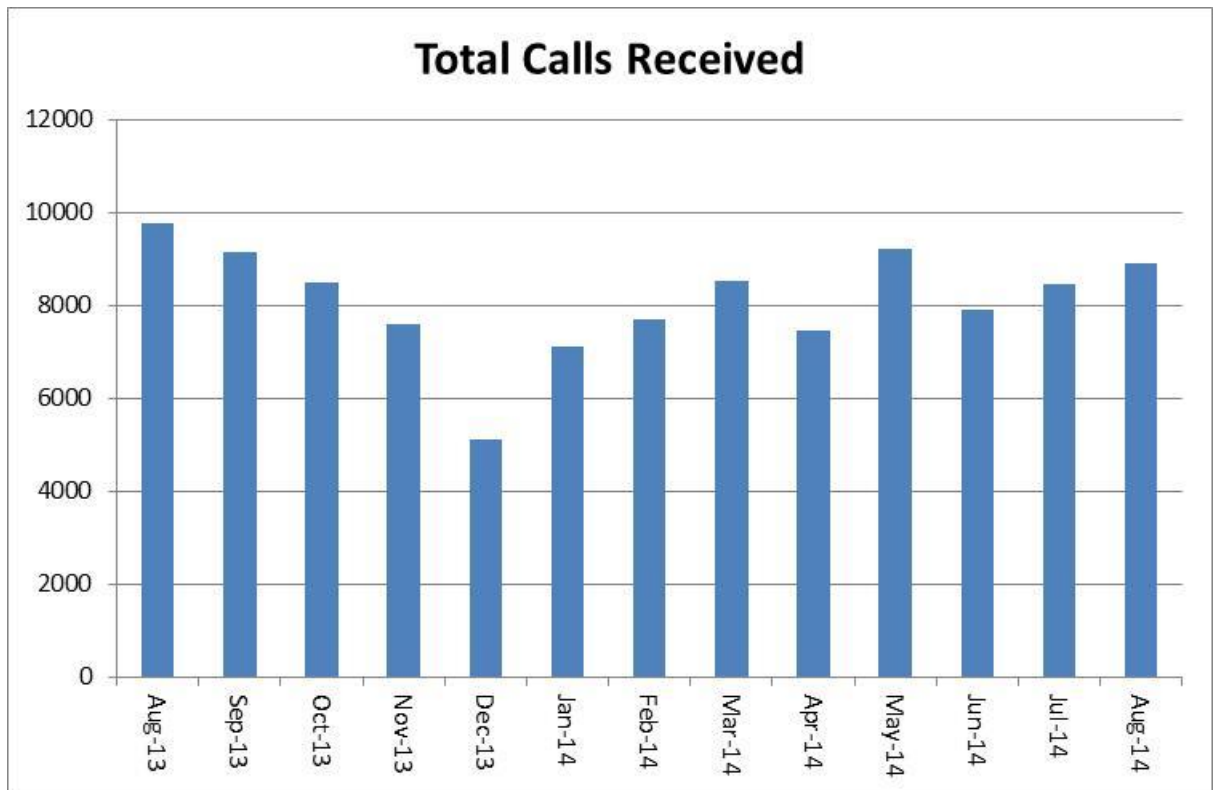
Management

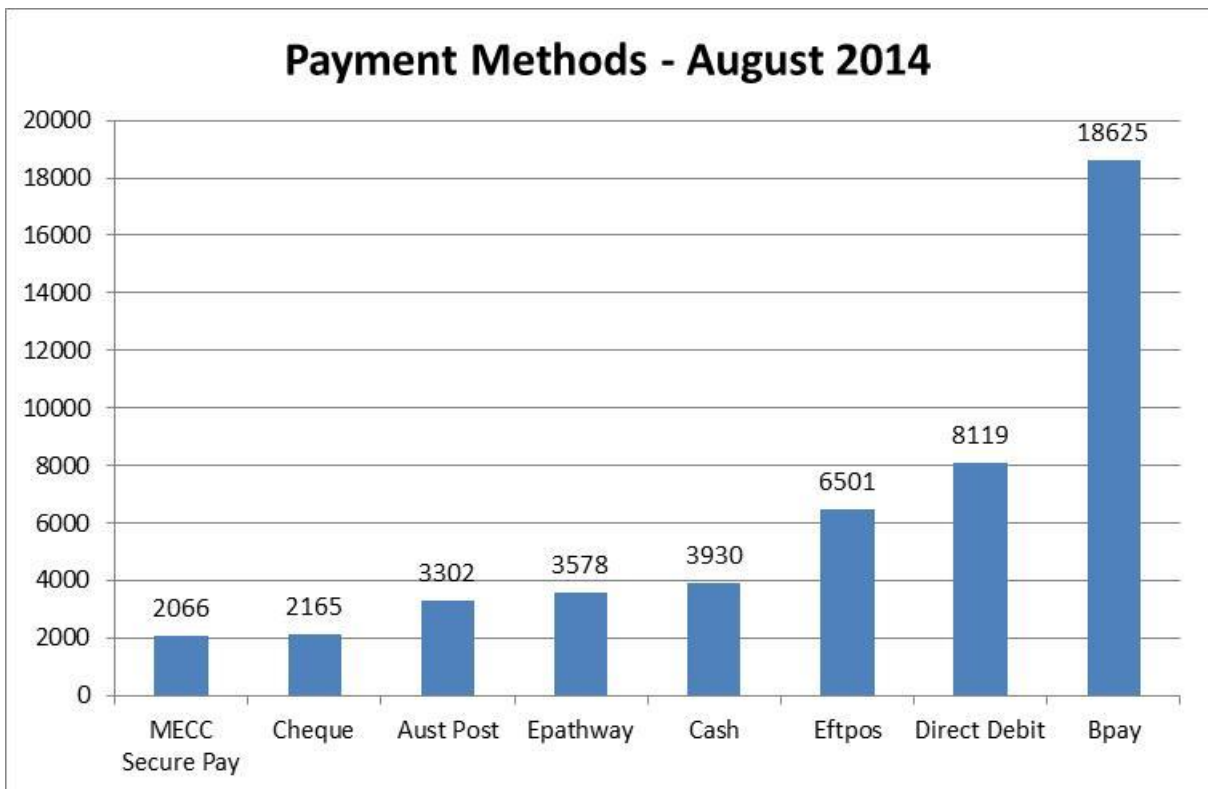
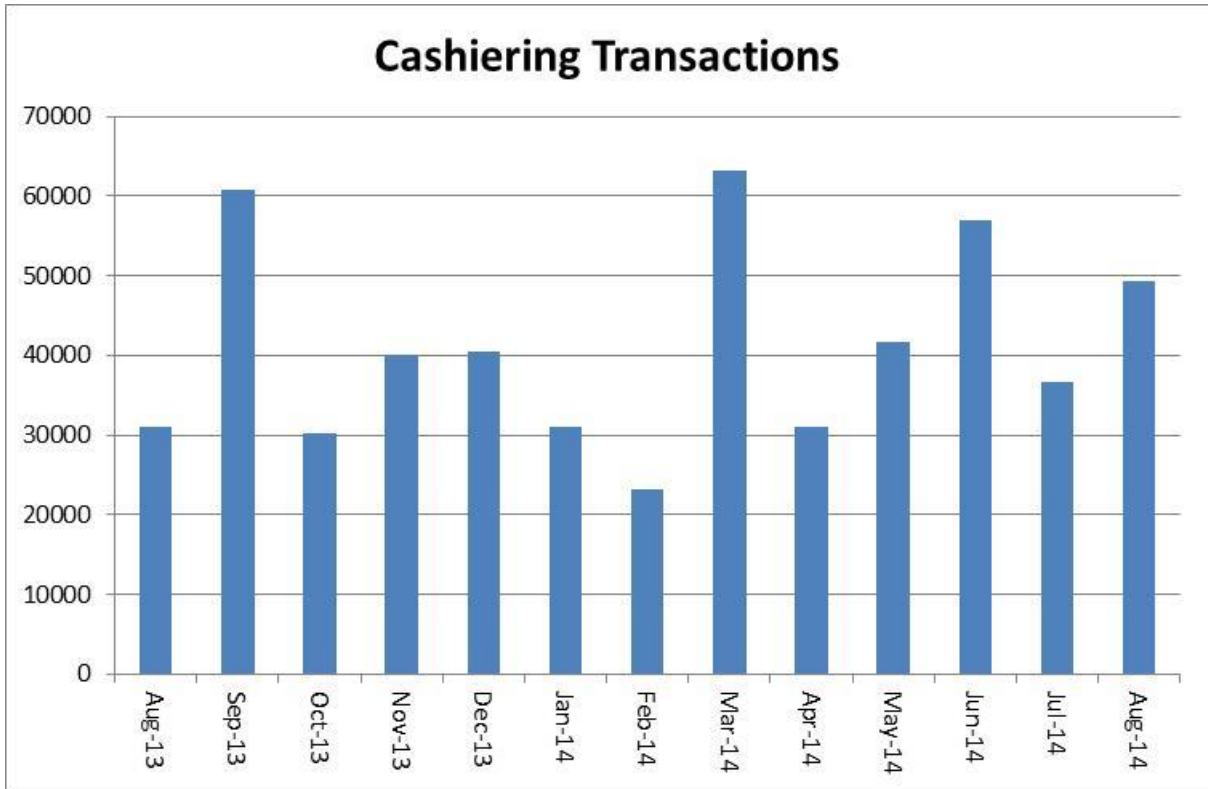
- Progression of the development of a Strategic Plan for council's Museums in consultation with the Museum Development Officer for Central Queensland.
- Finalisation of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan in preparation for Council consideration
- Development of a concept brief for an Application under the Anzac Centenary Arts & Culture Fund
- Evaluation of a sports event development and marketing program
- Identification of opportunities for the Mackay region to participate in the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games
- Attendance at the Parks and Leisure Australia Annual Conference
- Finalising development of the Expression of Interest documents for Phases 2 and 3 of the public art component of the City centre Revitalisation Project prior to Council consideration.

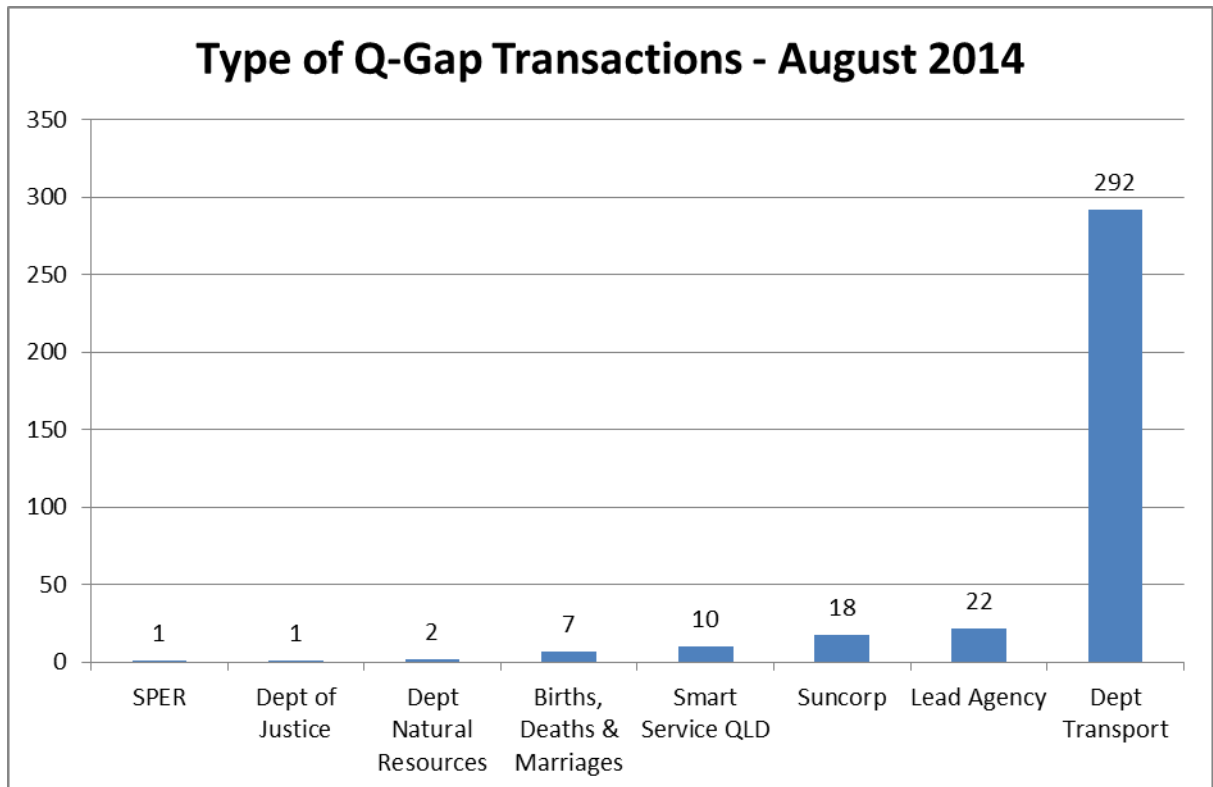
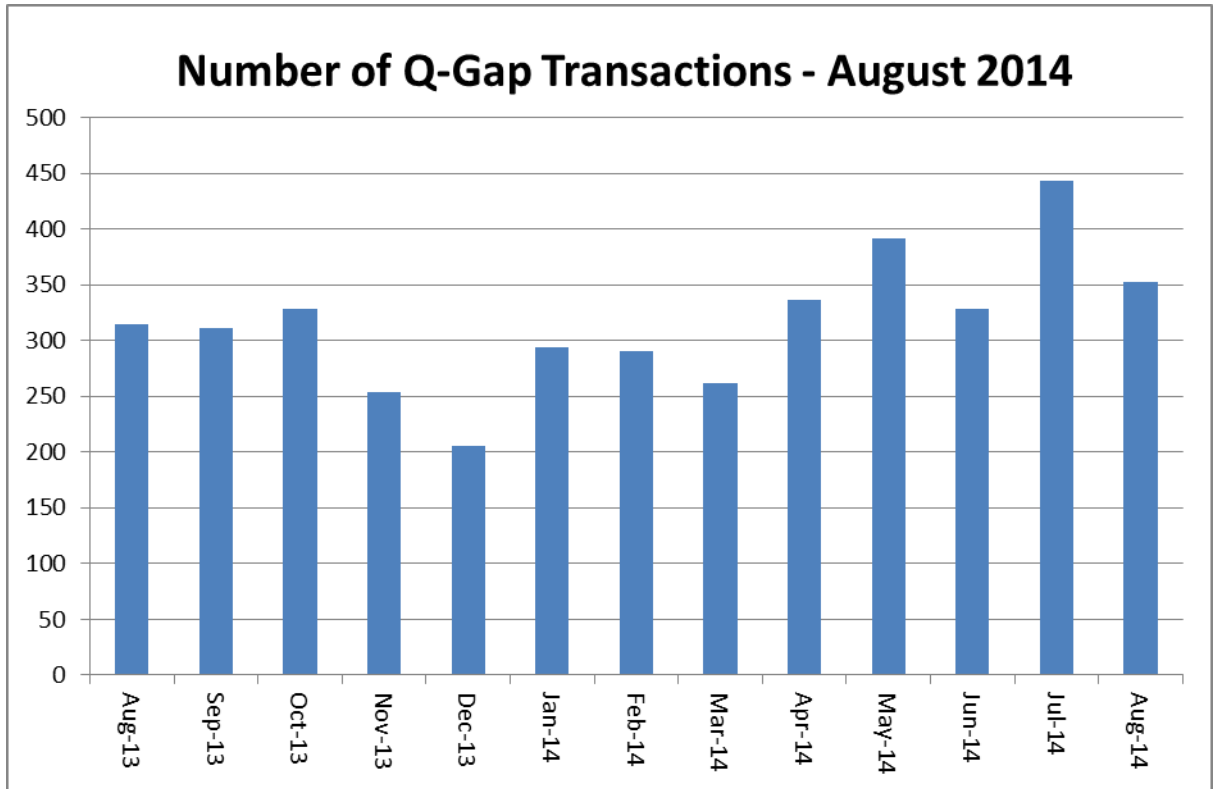
Client Services

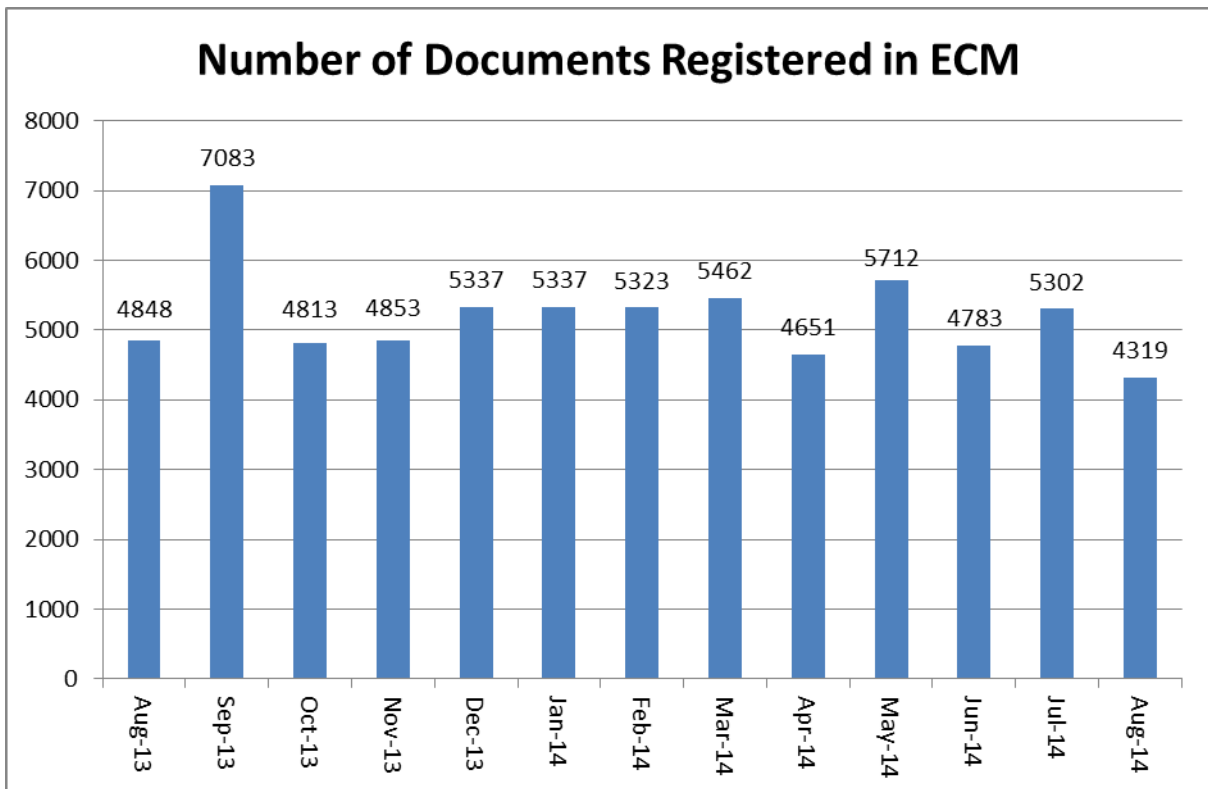
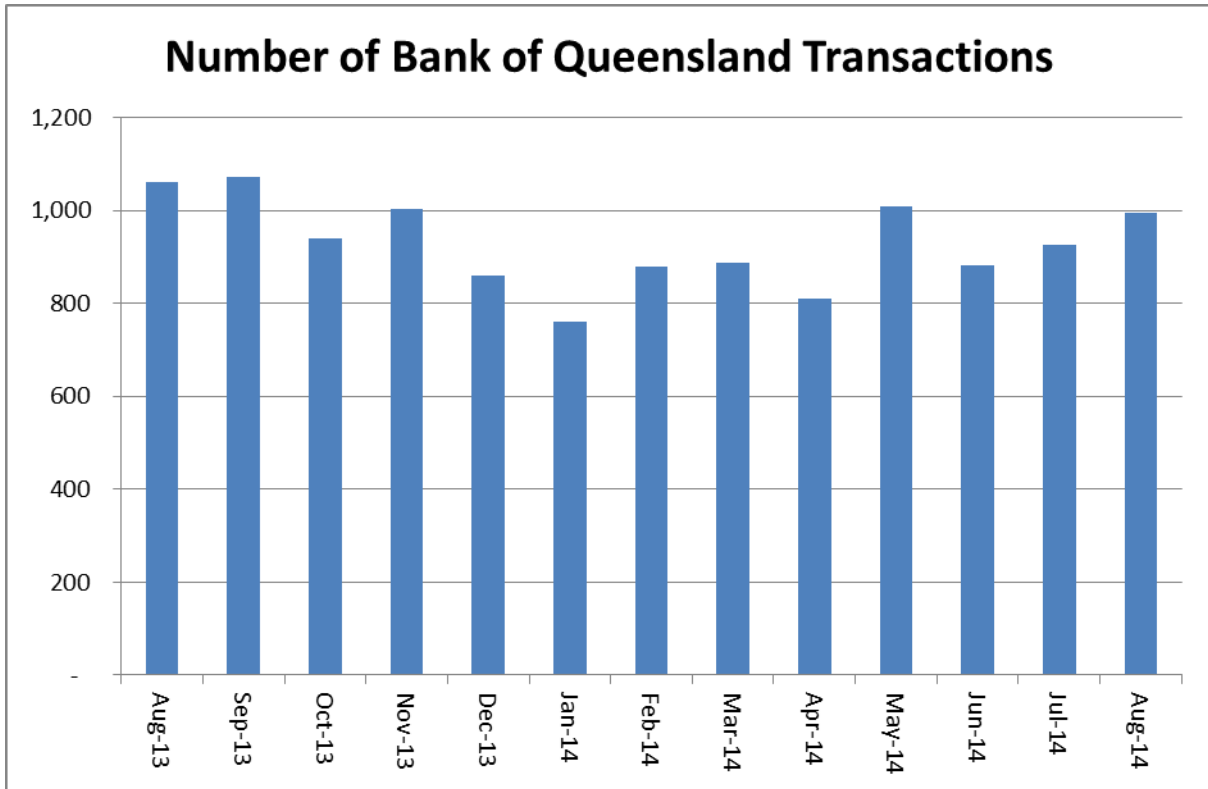
Initiatives

- A staff member from the Mackay team is being up-skilling in Q-Gap operations to provide greater flexibility and continuity of service.
- Pathway Policy and Procedure project is almost 50% complete. This project is designed to provide greater on-line, real-time support to Pathway
- Call centre software upgraded to BluStar agent. This provides the same functionality with a completely different look and feel, with three screens combined into one, enabling Client Services Officers to be more productive.









Community Development

With the introduction of the State Government's Safe Night Out legislation, Community Development is providing support, through Bar Link, to engage all relevant parties in the development of local structures that meet the requirements of the legislation.

Northern Beaches Community day was held on 7 September, 11am -2pm at Seaview Park. The day was well attended and the 35 stallholders were kept busy on the day. The event, which coincided with Fathers' Day, provided a good opportunity to bring members of the Northern Beaches community together.

The Sarina Community Newsletter continues to gain popularity, with the August edition attracting submissions from 19 organisations. The newsletter is distributed to members of the Sarina community with copies being available at the Neighbourhood Centre, Sarina Library, Mackay Regional Council Sarina Admin building and the Sarina Tourist Arts & Crafts Centre. The newsletter can also be found on the council website at:

http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/community/arts_and_culture/arts/sarina_community_newsletter

The Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disabilities Services conducted a Service Assessment of the Sarina Neighbourhood Centre during August. During the assessment all policies, procedures and processes were reviewed.

"Looking beyond Tomorrow" information sessions were held at Mount Pleasant Shopping Centre on Thursday 21 August. Eight service providers offered a range of free practical assistance and/or advice to older residents. Positive feedback was provided by those accessing the services. Due to the success of this event, the potential to extend it to a week-long event in 2015 is currently being evaluated.

An Open Day was held at Alzheimer's Mackay on Tuesday 19 August, which was attended by approximately 100 people, including people living with Alzheimer's, their carers and friends, business sponsors and supporters and State and Federal Government representatives. Visitors enjoyed a free barbecue lunch and live music after a tour of the facilities which house the volunteers that operate the Alzheimer's Mackay office.

An Open Day at Mackay Respite Centre was held on Friday 22 August, where visitors enjoyed a free "high tea", music, and entertainment while experiencing the facilities available for day-respite at the Centre.

Australian South Sea Islander State-wide Worker (CAMS program)

25 August 2014 marked the 20th anniversary since the Federal Government formally recognised the Australian South Sea Islander community as a distinct ethnic group.

Multicultural CAMS Officer provided feedback on the following motion presented to Federal Parliament on Monday 1 September 2014, by Federal Member for Dawson, George Christensen, MP.

Support was provided to a Mackay committee to host Australian South Sea Islander Family Day at the Lagoons Meeting Hut. This event follows the success of the family day held in 2013 when Australian South Sea Islander communities commemorated 150 years in Australia. This year's event recognised 20 years of Federal Government Recognition of Australian South Sea Islanders as a distinct cultural group.

Multicultural CAMS Officer supported and attended the Rockhampton Australian South Sea Islander Council's (RASSIC's) Elders morning tea on 27 August 2014. 35 people attended the morning tea where Elders shared stories, songs and dances during the morning's program. Multicultural CAMS Officer also attended the Market Day in Rockhampton on Saturday 30 August which was part of RASSIC's 2014 Recognition program.

Arts Development

Issue 61 (September – November 2014) of the Art Is In Calendar was distributed.

Cairns-based artist Jill Chism presented *An artist's engagement with Public Art*, on Saturday 23 August. Ten local artists attended the event and feedback was extremely positive.

Applications for Round 1 of the 2014/2015 RADF grant round closed on 20 August. 11 applications were received seeking \$62,580 in funding.

Sister City

Final arrangements were made for nine Mackay students as they prepare to depart for Matsuura on 20 September.

Inkind Assistance

Applicant	Request	Cost
All Generations Focus Group	Provision of 15 general waste bins in support of Australian South Sea Islander Family Day.	\$210.38
Variety in support of CQ Rescue	Access to toilet facilities during fund raising fun run event.	\$158.60
Mackay and District Hack and Pony Club	4 general waste bins and 4 recycle bins for Annual Gymkhana.	\$119.30
River to Reef Ride	Provision of 16 general waste and 16 recycle bins, waiver of park hire fees and waiver of temp road closure fees for the River to Reef Ride.	\$396.42

Sport and Recreation

- Officers are liaising with local clubs to determine the viability of hosting a selection of sporting events in the region during 2015-16. This would provide a significant tourism and economic opportunity for the region.
- Sport and Recreation officers, in collaboration with Community Development, are in the process of developing a needs analysis survey for sporting clubs to understand the gaps/needs/issues for volunteers working in sporting clubs. A potential strategy being evaluated is for a comprehensive training calendar of

skills workshops to be developed that can be offered to all sectors including the sports sector and run annually.

- A review of sports club leasing process is currently under way, with a number of leases due to lapse shortly. The review will focus on ways to deliver mutually beneficial outcomes for both clubs and council.

Museums

Mackay Museum

- The construction of a new storage shed is almost complete
- Visitor numbers: 20 adult and 15 concessions

Sarina Historical Society and Museum Inc

- Volunteers have undertaken a Workplace Health and Safety induction.
- Visitor numbers: 64 adults, 75 concession and 21 children

Greenmount Homestead

- Two school groups visited the homestead
- Visitor Numbers: 85

Pioneer Valley Museum

- New Police and Red Cross displays are complete. Work is currently being undertaken on a Great Wars exhibition.
- Visitor Numbers: 19

Libraries

Young People's Services

- Programs designed to encourage early literacy in children and their families had a total of **1,915** in attendance.
- Programs designed to encourage library membership and to promote the library as an entertaining and informative place for children and their families totalled **28** in attendance.



Picnic in the Park at Mackay City Library.



Walkerston Street Parade.



Mirani Library Book Week Picnic.

- Mackay Regional Council Libraries, together with the Friends of Mackay Libraries Inc, hosted Tony Bones Entertainment who delivered a children’s theatre production called “The Windy Farm”, based on one of the Children’s Book Week shortlisted titles. **220** students attended the two school performances and about **140** children and their families attended the free public performance at the Gordon White Library on Saturday 30 August.

Young Adult Services

- The Young Adult Book Review Competition, which was run to acknowledge the Australian Children’s Book Week, attracted several entries of good quality. Entries were taken from all library branches with the winning entries from Mirani and Gordon White.

Community Services

- 10 book clubbers from the Between the Lines Book Club (Gordon White Library) met to discuss Foal's Bread, The Clothes on Their Backs, whilst 4 Mirani Book Club members met to discuss Age of Miracles
- The Social Sewing Saturday attracted 4 sewing enthusiasts

Cultural Services

- Many Cultures Storytime attracted 47 children and 35 adults to hear Wombat Stew presented in Japanese by Holy Spirit students and their teacher.

Heritage Collection

- 53 researchers visited the Carmel Daveson Research Room during the month, whilst 17 research inquiries were actioned.

Key Statistics

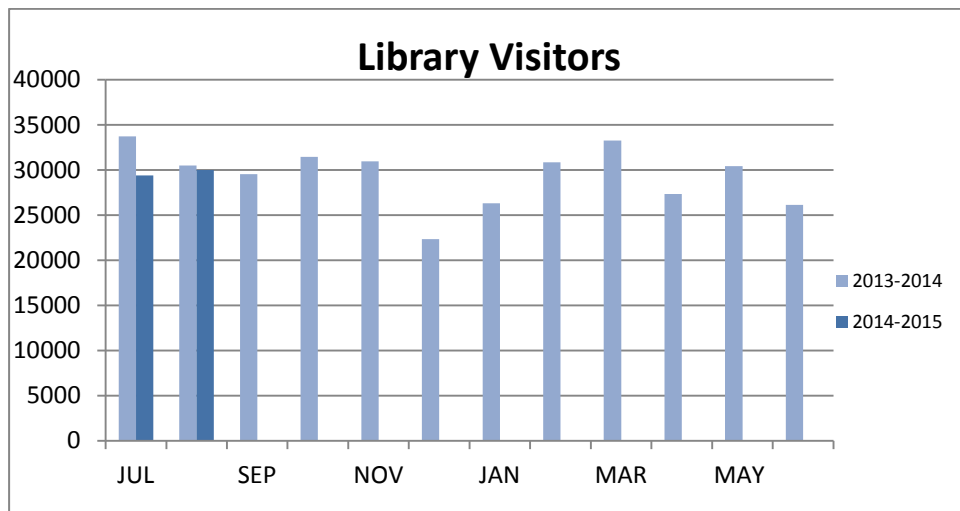
- Public computers had **3,353** bookings and **2,314** hours of use, and a total of **723** hours Wi-Fi accessed. Assistive Technology equipment was used for a total of **12** hours.
- **15** DiscoverIT classes were held with **73** attendees.
- **12** requests were received for *ask the library* enquiries.
- Top 3 library website visits for the month of **August**:

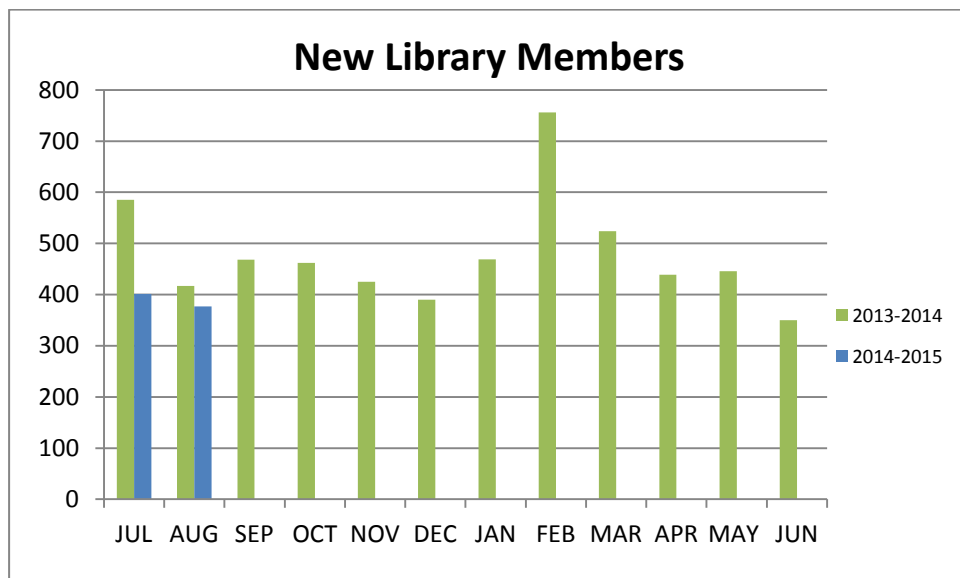
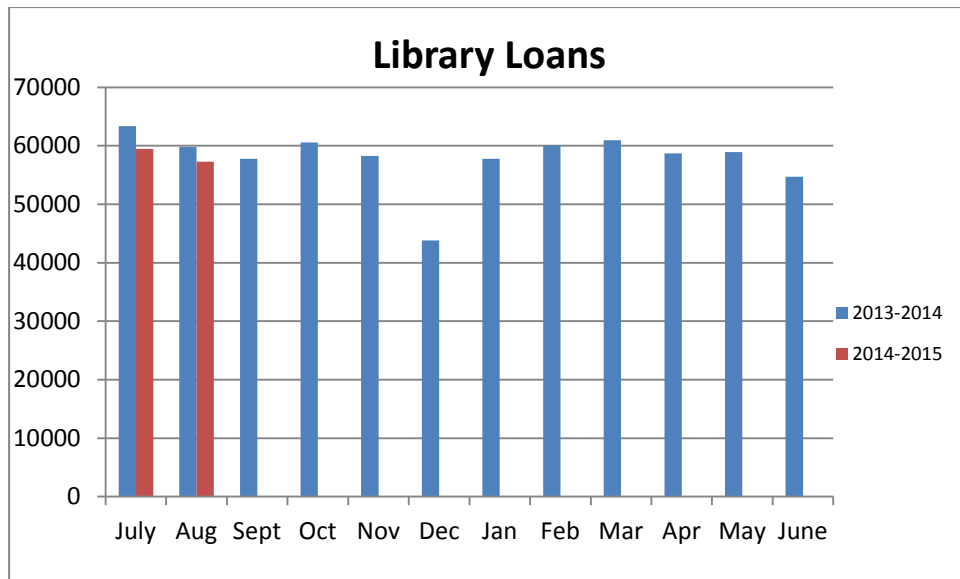
Web Catalogue

Library Home Page

Contact Us

- Database hits including The Computer School, Who Else Writes Like, Who Next, Transparent Language Online and Literacy Planet totalled **4,253**.





Top 5 Reserved Titles in August

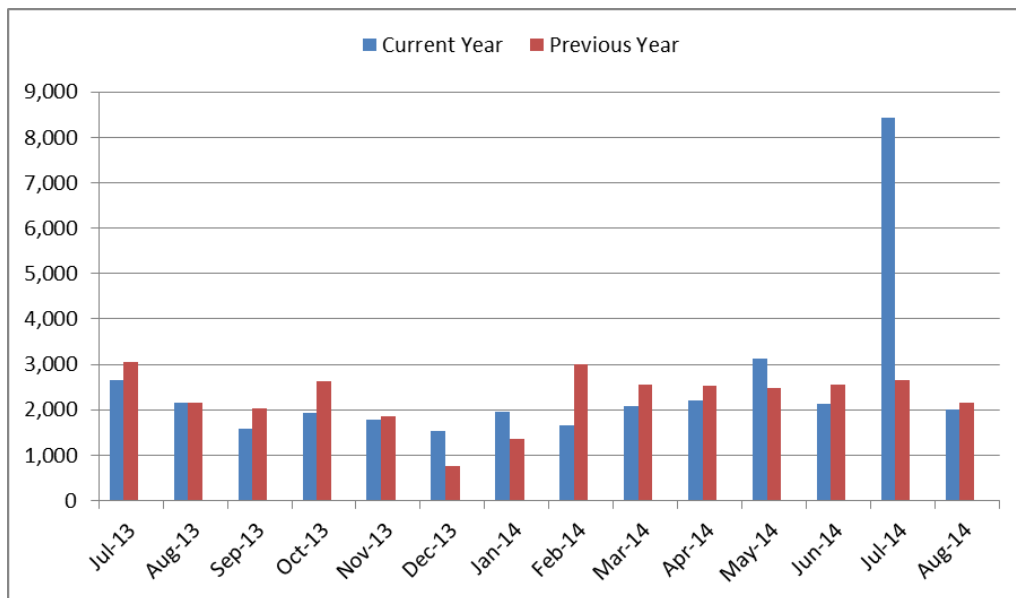
- Nebraska [DVD]
- Personal / Lee Child
- Stop walking on eggshells : taking your life back when someone you care about has borderline personality disorder / Paul T. Mason, Randi Kreger
- The Silkworm / Robert Galbraith.
- Dust of the land / J.H. Fletcher.

Artspace Mackay

Overview

- August was a quieter month for Artspace Mackay, after the success of the Festival of Arts and Artspace’s Rock Paper Scissors art market.
- Artspace is putting the finishing touches to an upcoming event that will be a first for Mackay. *ACO Virtual: Play with the band* is a fully immersive, interactive experience, where the viewer is surrounded by screens with larger than life projections of members of the Australian Chamber Orchestra. Via a touchpad, the viewer can control the look and sound of the orchestra – it’s like being the conductor and standing right in the middle of the group. The gallery is currently marketing *ACO Virtual* to schools around the region, and will hold a media launch on Monday 13 October. The event will run from Tuesday 14 – Friday 31 October.

Visitors - Graphical Overview from August 2013 - August 2014



Exhibitions

McAleese Gallery	11 July – 31 August	<i>The Three Os: Orban, Olsen & Ogburn</i>
Foyer Gallery	11 July – 31 August	<i>Roy Huff: Old Dog New Tricks</i>
Orientation Gallery	Until 3 October	<i>Donna Maree Robinson: Far Away Here</i>

Public Programs & Education

16 August	Cyanotype workshops for adults with local artist Tracey Johnson	Seminar room	18 participants
30 & 31 August	Encaustic workshop with U.S. artist Patricia Baldwin Seggebruch	Town Hall	12 participants
19 - 29 August	Roy Huff painting in the gallery to celebrate Seniors Week	Foyer Gallery	200 (estimate)
19 August	BMA Kidspace	Seminar room	65 participants
Total participants in public programs in August			295

Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre and Events

Management

- Launched Nitro Circus which will be held at Stadium Mackay in April 2015 to media receiving excellent public feedback. Mackay's Nitro Circus event will be the only regional QLD showing in 2015
- At the invitation of Holy Spirit College gave a Year 10 presentation on Public Art, explaining process such as Expressions of Interest, maquettes, contracts, installations and maintenance. The Cane Fire commission provided a contemporary framework for the students.
- Coordinated the final stages of *Project Puccini*, the MECC's RADF funded community chorus who appeared with Opera QLD in La Boheme. Excellent feedback was received and Manager MECC and Events has been asked to present this project to Arts QLD as a valuable cultural and audience development program
- Hosted a visit from the Australia Council and the Australian Performing Arts Centres Association who provided training to Centre staff on engagement strategies.
- Undertook Playing QLD funding application assessments for Arts QLD

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

Overview

- August attendances at the Centre are at their highest level since August 2010. A statistic the Centre is proud of given the changed economic climate.
- Performing Arts hires this month included *The Wiggles*, Hoge's *One Night Only*, *Wakakirri*, Kate Miller-Heidke, local productions of *The Lion The Witch and The Wardrobe* and *Miss Saigon* which both featured a number of performances, *The Gruffalo*, *The Soweto Gospel Choir*, *Buddy Holly in Concert*, and the Mackay

Comedy Players *Bonnie & Clyde*. The QPAC simulcast of the American Ballet Theatre's *Swan Lake* live from Brisbane was also screened attracting an audience of around 600 people.

- Corporate and private hires this month included local fight night *Carnage in the Cage*, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Department of Housing and Public Works with their Travel Tool Workshops, The Australian Institute of Management (Networking Event), Engineers Australia (CANSTRUCTION), St Patricks College Formal, Student Festival of Fashion, Community Development Careers Expo, 2014 Queensland Master Builders Awards Dinner, a Wedding Reception, Peabody Energy Australia, Zoetic Client Appreciation Night, the Tensar Conference, Mind and Medicine, Medical Association Students Breakfast and Council with its Citizenship Ceremony and Doing Business With Council Information Session.

Capital Program

- New carpet tiles for the Halls have been installed which has refreshed the plenary halls in time for October's busy conference schedule
- The Centre's air conditioning tender has been prepared and will be advertised in September.

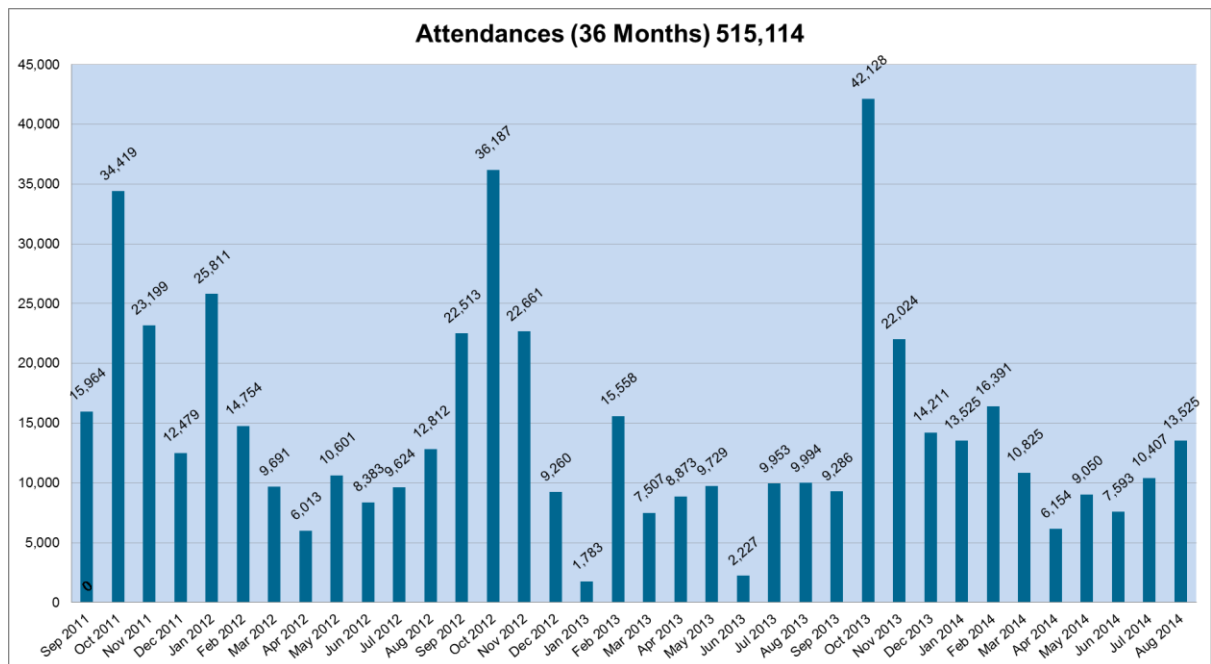
Entrepreneurial

- There were five Entrepreneurial shows this month. Dancenorth's *Threefold*, featured contemporary dance from Queensland and Tasmania and was enjoyed by a small audience. Morning Melodies favourite, Simon Gallaher delighted an older audience although attendances were down due to inclement weather with a number of nursing homes cancelling. Opera QLD's *La Boheme* starred Mackay's community chorus who were trained through Project Puccini the RADF funded project which was very well received. The largest operatic audience on record at the MECC was received for this performance with over 600 people in attendance. The Centre's world music for 2014 was the Seychelles Grace Barbe's concert and her cooking workshop. Three performances of Wombat Stew delighted family and school's audiences and over 2000 attendances were received.

Performance

Type	# of Events	Actual Attendance
Awards Evening	2	528
Concert	10	3,102
Dinner Dance	1	91
Entrepreneurial	5	1,080
Event	4	770
Exhibition	1	40
Formal	1	750
Meeting	1	70
Performing Arts	13	4,395
Seminar	1	30
Tour Group Booking	1	25
Trade Fair / Expo	2	2,350
Wedding	1	154
Workshop	2	140
	45	13,525

Non-Financial Indicators	Target	as at AUGUST 2014
		Year to date
Number of Performances fully cost recovered	50%	50%
Minimum number of catered functions (excluding performances)	140	18
Average attendance at shows	Auditorium 550	Auditorium 469
	Foyer/space 100	Foyer/space 88
	Halls 600	Halls 329
	One Hall only 200	One Hall only 162
Number of non-utilised days	90	3
Number of Performances at the MECC	200	45
Yearly occupancy of facility	175,000	24,521
Customer Hire Satisfaction	80%	96%





Opera QLD tweet re Project Puccini

Stadium

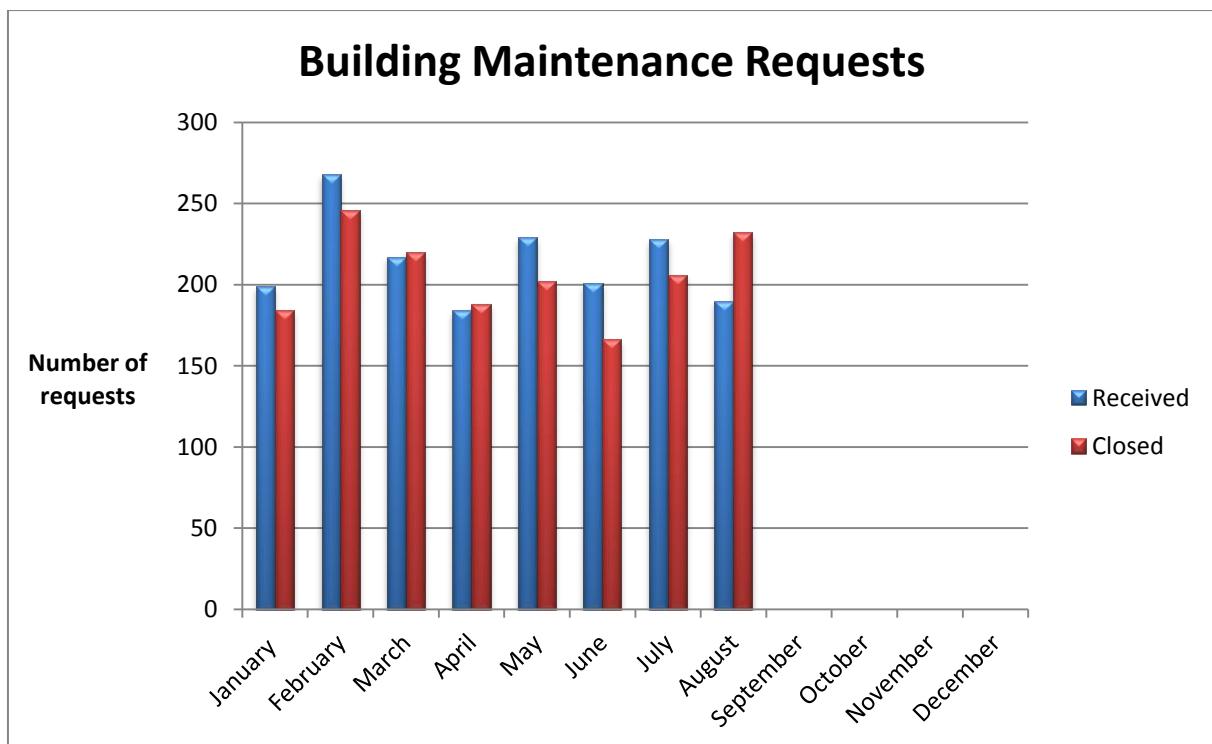
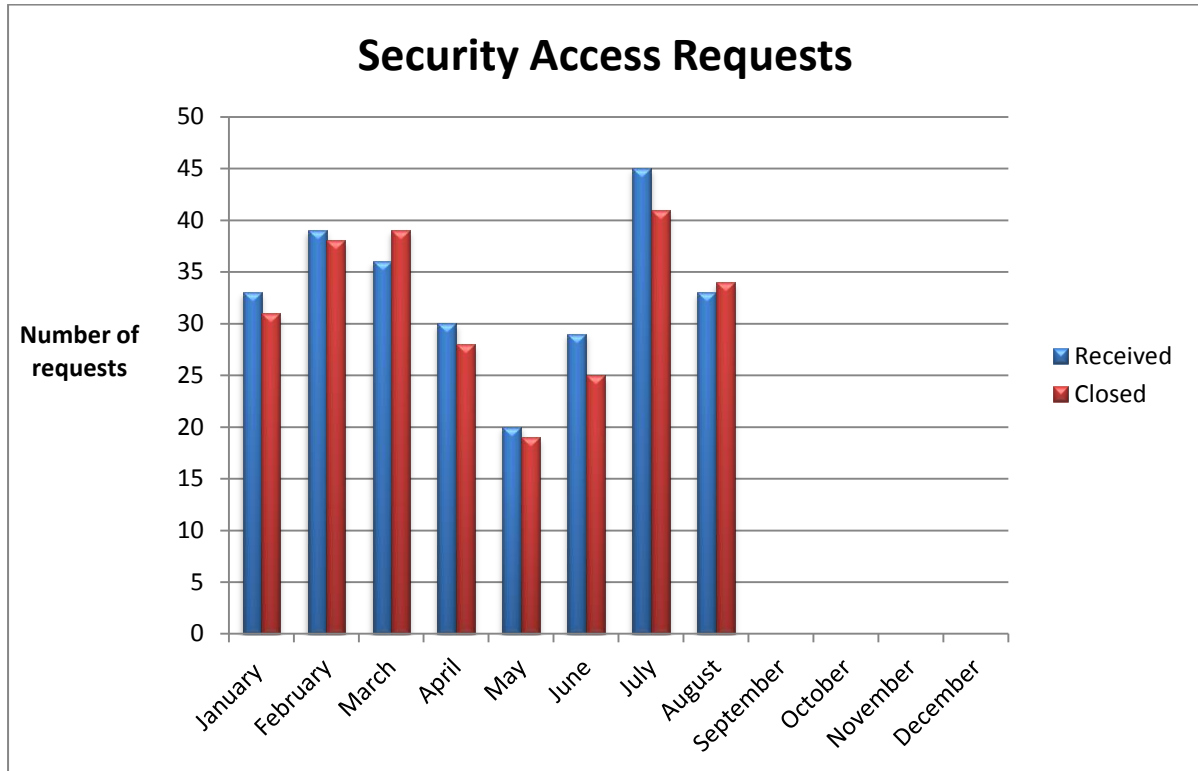
- There was one dry hire for the Stadium which was Autocorner 10 Year Club.
- Three games were played at Stadium Mackay in August; two QLD Super in Trust matches - Cutters Vs Northern Pride & Cutters Vs CQ Capras as well as the MDRL Grand Final.

Football season has now come to a close, and the Stadium is being prepared to host Professional Bull Riders and Monster Trucks. Turf repatriation will commence at the end of October

Festivals and Events

- Global Grooves planning is at its final stages, with applications for community stalls, food vendors and performers closing 29 August. This year there are 13 food vendors, 22 local performing groups and 3 interstate professional cultural performers.
- Global Grooves will also feature cultural cooking demonstrations by celebrity chefs Jake & Elle from television show My Kitchen Rules.
- Planning for Christmas and New Year’s Eve celebrations is well on track.
- Officers are assisting the Sarina Festival Committee to hold the Sarina Festival on 13 September.
- The Lanes Easter Carnival planning is underway with a new site being confirmed for the family activities.
- Expressions of Interest for the Mackay Isaac Anywhere Festival have opened and are being coordinated by the Anywhere Festival

Property Services



Property Co-ordinations

- Asset Management System development and Testing of data and field devices is ongoing.
- Town Hall movements, reallocation of office space to accommodate new tenants i.e. RSDC
- BWL tender evaluation commenced to appoint a contractor to undertake plant, building and ground maintenance.
- Facilitated the photo shoot for Miss Teen Australia at the Blue Water Lagoon.
- Assisted with lease discussions and document preparation for the Pioneer Shire Council Building.
- Installation of lighting equipment to turn the Town Hall gold for Light the Night.

Leases

Sarina Swimming Pool	The tender has closed, officers are in the process of reviewing submissions.
Pioneer Potters	Meeting held to discuss lease conditions, previous lease had clause for another 30 year lease, legality of clause under review.
Mirani Swim Club	New user agreement prepared

The program is currently dealing with 37 leases

Land Dealings

Irving St Drainage Easement	Existing drainage infrastructure within private land being formalised as a stormwater/drainage easement.
Campwin Beach Road Drainage Easements	Existing drainage infrastructure within privately owned land being formalised as a stormwater/drainage easement.

Property Services is currently dealing with 10 road realignments, 3 land acquisitions and 13 easements.

St Helens Beach Campground

Council has made application to the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to formalise the existence of the St Helens Campground. This application has progressed to a Notification of Offer being received by Council.

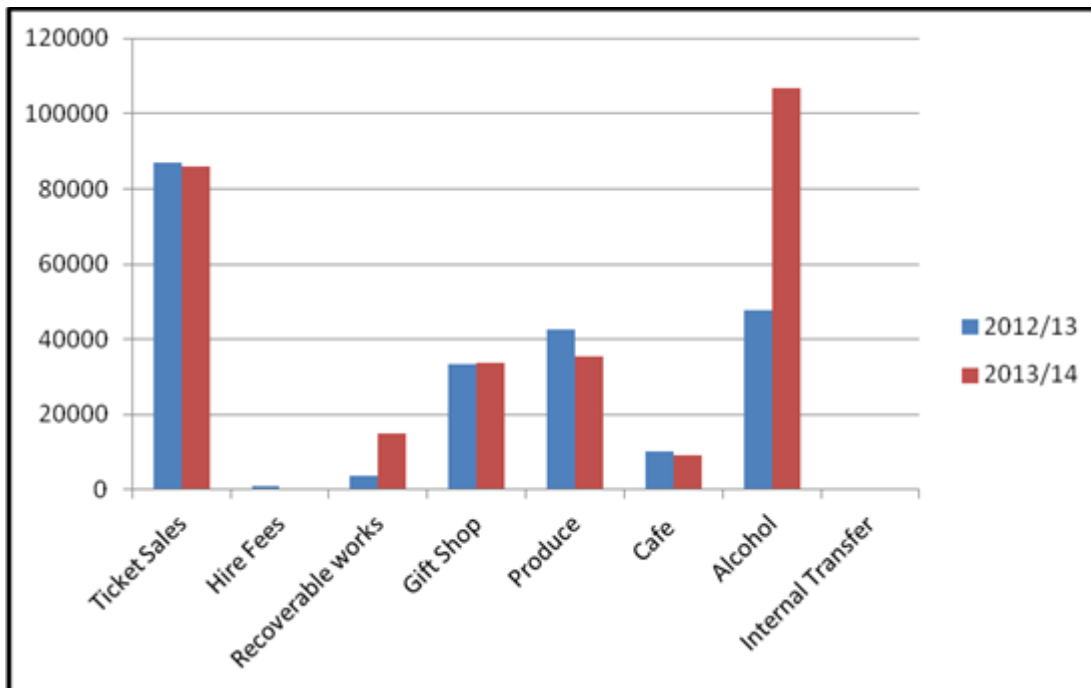
Property Services has placed this acceptance of offer in abeyance until such time as the "Future of State Land" discussion papers to improve the management of State land has been undertaken as recommendations for change may affect this applications requirements for the betterment of Council and the campground users.

Sarina Sugar Shed

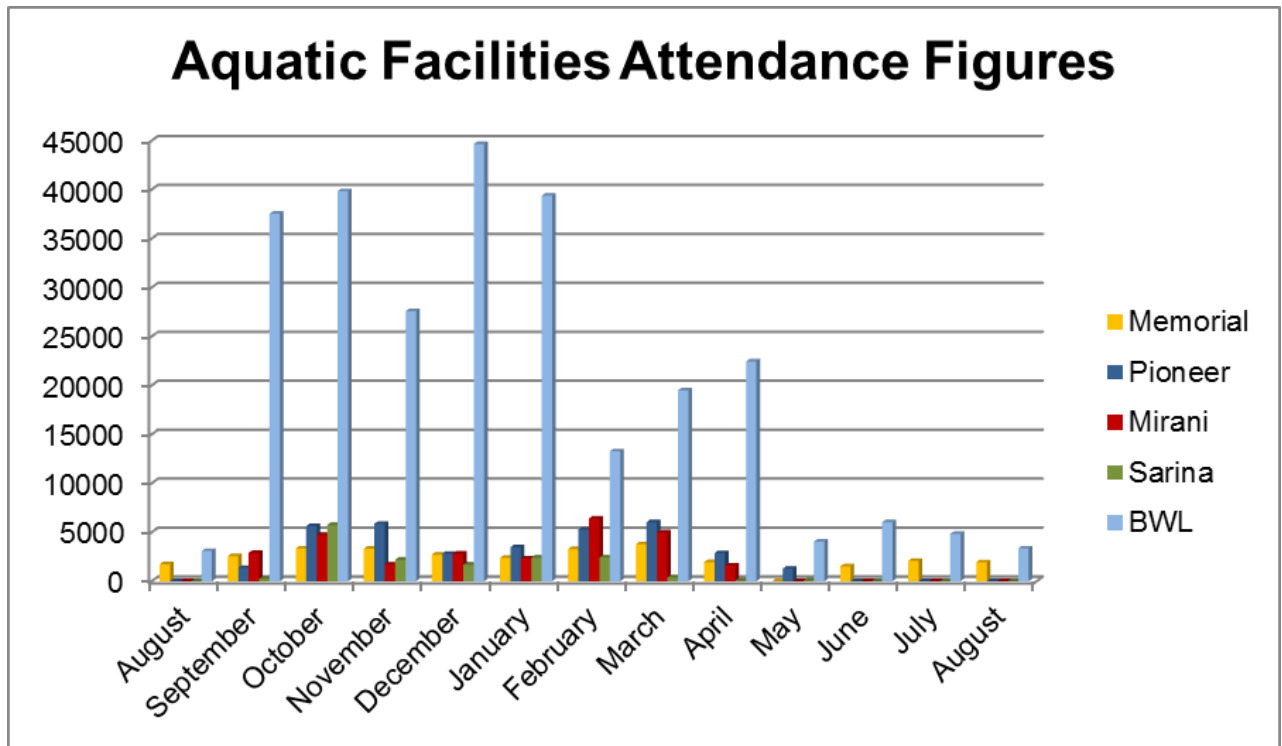
Sales for July were \$39,356.75 as compared with \$33,738.28 the previous year.

The crushing season has been interrupted by problems with our mill and boiler, major works on both pieces of equipment will to be carried out. Work is continuing this season on a limited scale to crush as much cane as possible to maintain alcohol production.

Sugar Shed Sales



Aquatic Facilities



Note on attendances:

Bluewater Lagoon

Closed late July and August (attendance in August reflect contractor attendance)

Memorial Swim Centre

Closed May 2014

Pioneer Swim Centre

Closed June, July August

Mirani Swim Centre

Closed May, June, July and August

Sarina Swim Centre

Closed June, July and August 2014 (May, June, July and August 2013)

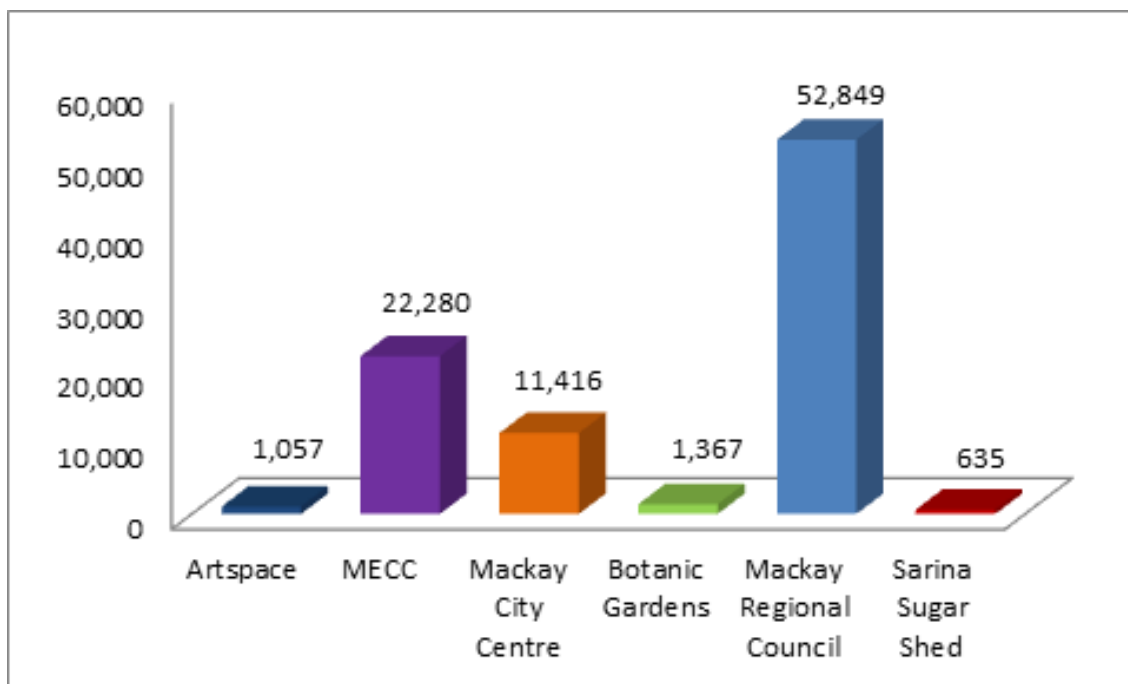
Corporate Communications and Marketing

Management

- Arranged a series of media info briefings with each organisation’s Senior Journalist and Manager about City Centre Revitalisation Project. These have been with Economic Development Manager and Project Manager and have been well received by all media.
- Conducted first round of interviews for vacant Communications Coordinator role
- Liaising with Water Services to arrange opening event for Sarina Water Recycling Facility to be held in late October
- Compilation of information for Annual report 2013-2014

Website visitation

Visit’s to Council’s Websites – August 4 – September 7 2014



Facebook

6939 Friends

Top four Facebook posts for August-September 7 were:

- Mayor Deirdre Comerford’s Ice Bucket Challenge received a reach of **12,300** including 832 You Tube views and over 200 comments and likes.
- Official opening of North Mackay Dog Park had a **11,900** reach with over 400 likes, comments and shares
- Applications for council Trainees and Apprenticeships **11,500** reach with 268 likes, comments and shares

- Image of Cr Theresa Morgan with Shandee Blackburn's mum for the launch of the new garden installed by council and a local contractor. This had a reach of **8,900** with 182 likes, comments and shares.

Council Facebook - ORGANIC REACH: The number of people who visited your Page, or saw your Page or one of its posts in News Feed or ticker. These can be people who have liked your Page and people who haven't

Council Facebook page August Monthly average - **5060**

Twitter

- Followers: 1041

- **YouTube**

1739 views registered during the month.

The top selection was:

Mayor's Ice Bucket Challenge – 832 views



Twilight City TVC – 234 views

Council Connect – dump vouchers trial – 98 views

Council Connect – Focus on Development – 81 views

ENewsletters:

Steady growth in eNewsletter subscriptions – total is 10,394

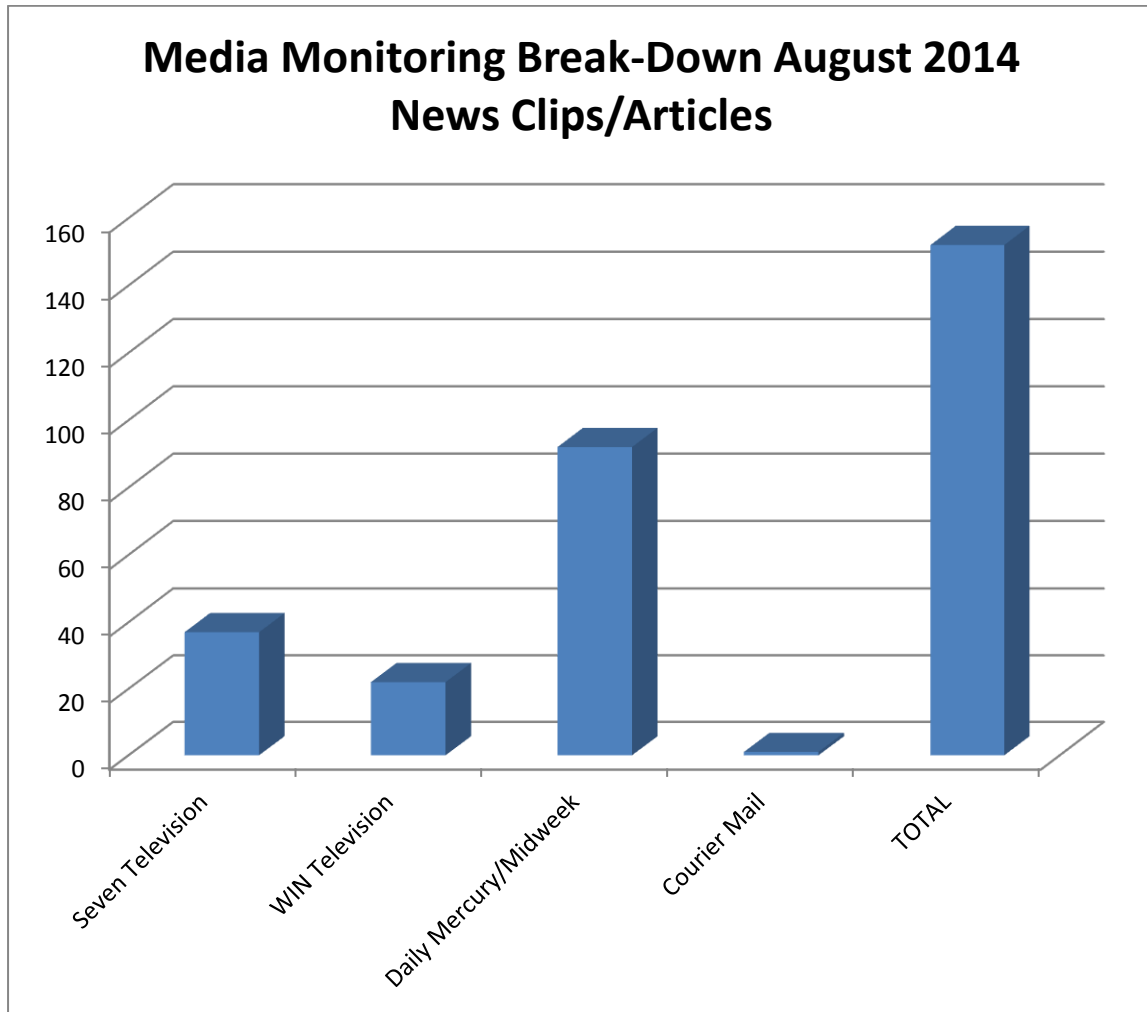
Library – 1552 subscribers

Artspace – 1263

Mackay Region Planning Scheme - 1076

Council Connect -935

About 160 media mentions for council during August. This is about our average for each month, excluding radio



General

- Two separate Dog Park openings conducted during August for the North Mackay facility. First was with Mayor and Whitsunday MLA Jason Costigan and following week was a "come n try" afternoon for residents with a good turnout.
- Over 25 news releases issued including carbon credit, dump vouchers, book week, promotion of trainee and apprenticeships
- Provided media assistance and promotion for the City Centre Imagine More Street Party

- Media and social media promotion to heighten awareness of 100 year commemoration of first Mackay troops to go to World War 1.
- Finalised nominations for Baby Welcoming Ceremony to be held in September
- Ongoing preparation for Cyclone Saturday event and finalisation of Emergency Action Guide for 2014. Distribution to residents to occur in October



Official opening of Dog Park. Mayor, Councilors and Whitsunday MLA Jason Costigan



**Interpretative lookout sign installed at Jilalan Rail
Yards Lookout**

Parks and Environment

Management

- Attended Delta S demonstration to ascertain system suitability to provide asset management processes to operational field staff, from a Parks & Environment and Property Services aspect.
- Participated in the Mackay Regional Sports Precinct Workshop at CQU, appointed as leader of the structural work group and member of the project team.
- Participated in Parks Culture Cascade Workshop for Parks & Environment co-ordinators, supervisors and leading hands.

Parks Building Services Activities

Electrical Operations

Items dealt with, during August reporting period, by the Parks Electrical Team include the following.

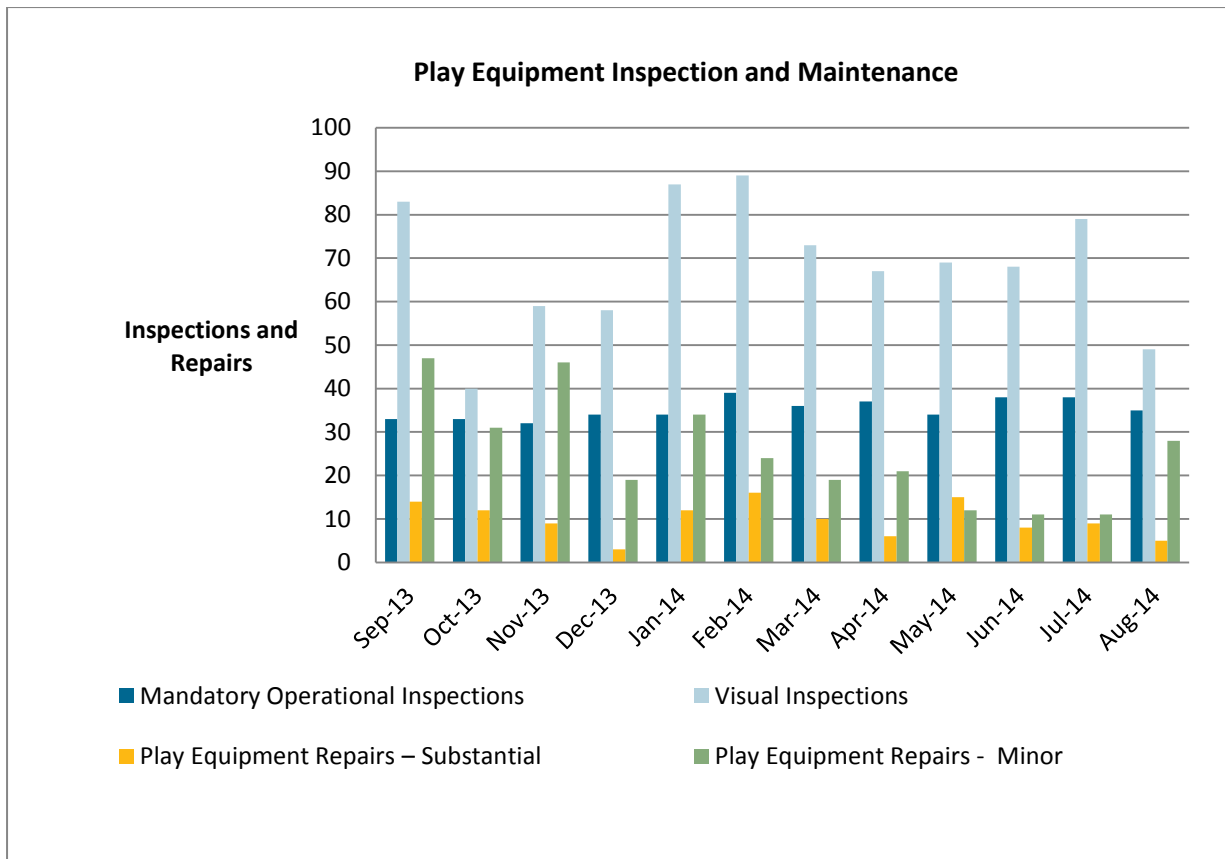
- Traffic signal maintenance checks were completed at seventeen sites, four after hours emergency responses were actioned, fourteen lamps were replaced and poles were lowered for wide loads on four occasions.
- An audit of school zone flashing yellow warning signs was completed and non-functioning units identified and sent to DMR for replacement/repair.
- Two new replacement barbeques were installed at Illawong Beach to replace older deteriorated units, as part of Parks Capital Works program.
- Electricians have also assisted Ergon and contractors with identification of services in the City heart as part of the recently commenced City Centre Upgrade.

Public Amenities

- New aluminium door fitted to Sarina Cemetery toilets and full external repaint completed.
- Graffiti to amenity doors at Blue Water Quay was cleaned and both doors stripped and repainted.
- Following the malfunction of both sewer pumps in the well of the Blacks Beach amenities, one pump has been repaired and the other has been removed and is being fully rebuilt.

Park Furniture

- Damaged and deteriorated park bench seats were removed and replaced at Jaycee Park and Slade Point Community Hall. A seat at Broomdikes Park and another at Schaefer St Park have been removed and replacements ordered.
- There were seven repairs to parks log fencing and gates, vandalised aluminium fence panels were also replaced at Mulherin Park.
- Recent checks have revealed corrosion starting in many shade structure roof screws. Fisholene has been applied to purlins and roof screws to address this issue in structures at Seaforth, Blacks Beach and Campwin Beach.



Other work Completed - City Heart, Bluewater Quay and Bluewater Trail

- 12,000Sqm of concrete and path cleaned with air blower
- 10,000Sqm of concrete and path cleaned with high pressure water cleaner
- 19 street furniture repairs were completed throughout the city centre
- 4 bags of rubbish and 11 shopping trolleys removed from the river bank

Capital Works - In progress

- Seaforth Picnic Shelter Roof Replacement – general repairs to the oldest picnic shelter, located adjacent to the swimming enclosure, and replacement of the corroded trim deck roof.
- Edward Lloyd Park Marian – construction of new play equipment and picnic facilities.

Capital Works Projects Completed

Dog Off Leash Park – Stage One and Two



Comments

Stage One of the Dog Off Leash Park involved the connection of water supply to the park, installation of a drinking fountain, fencing, concrete path and signage. Stage two involved the construction of a picnic shelter, installation of dog agility equipment and laying turf.

Picnic Shelter Roof Replacement



Comments

The last of the picnic shelters at Seaforth to receive new PVC custom orb sheeting to replace the old corroded colourbond roof. All four shelters at this location now have the new type of roof.

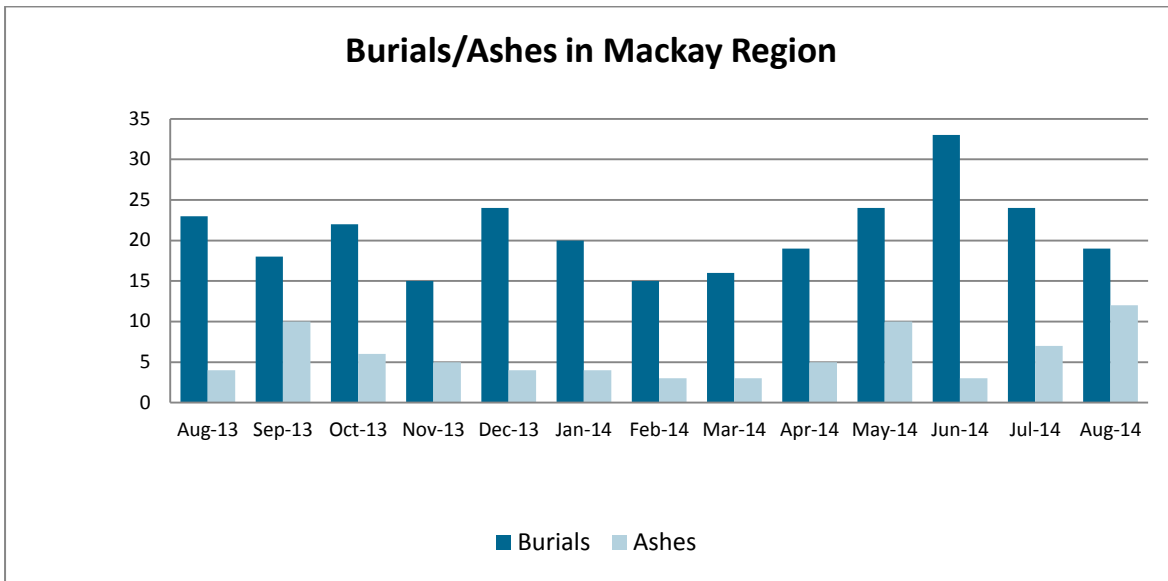
Playground Safety Signage



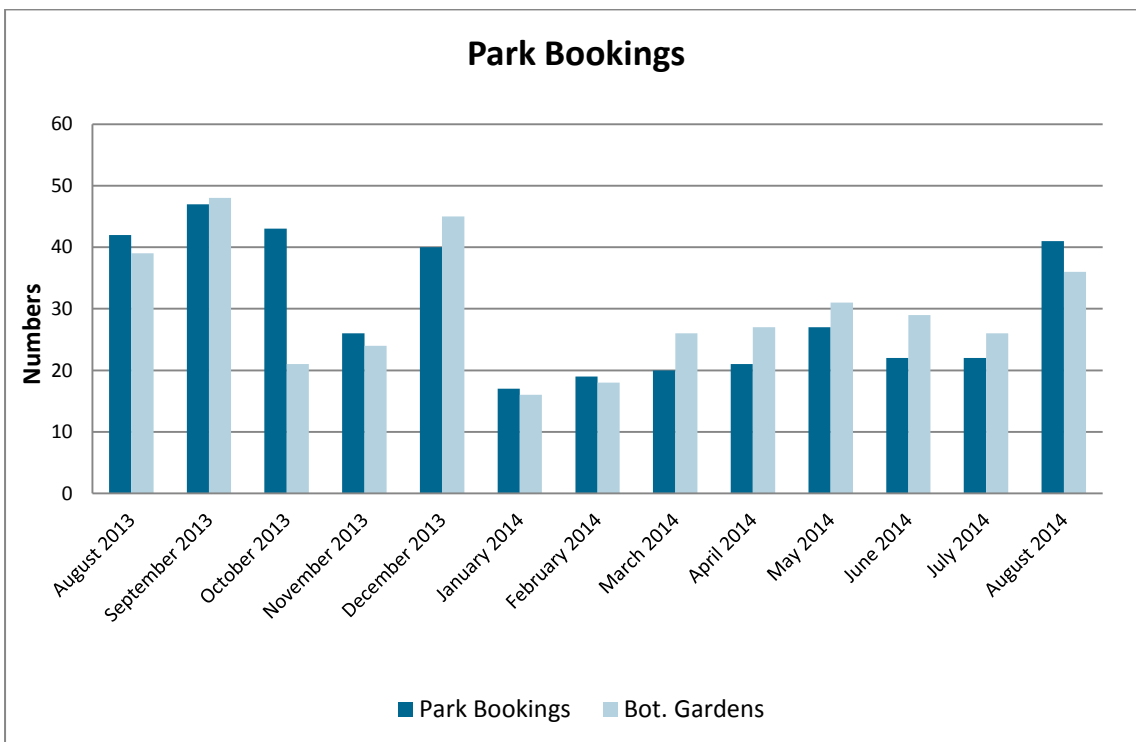
Comments

For the last couple of months these signs have been gradually installed at all council playgrounds across the region. This task is now complete with one hundred and twenty five signs installed in total.

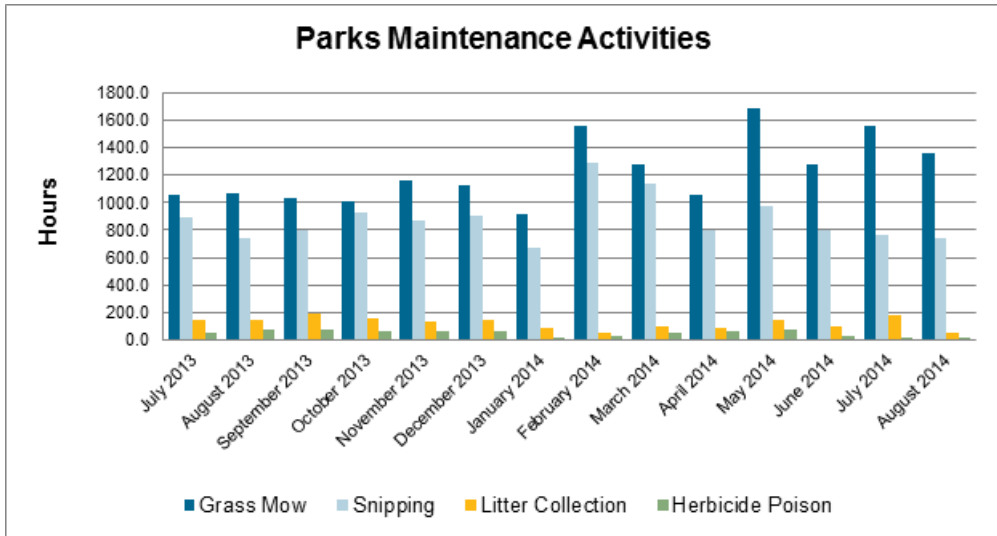
Cemeteries



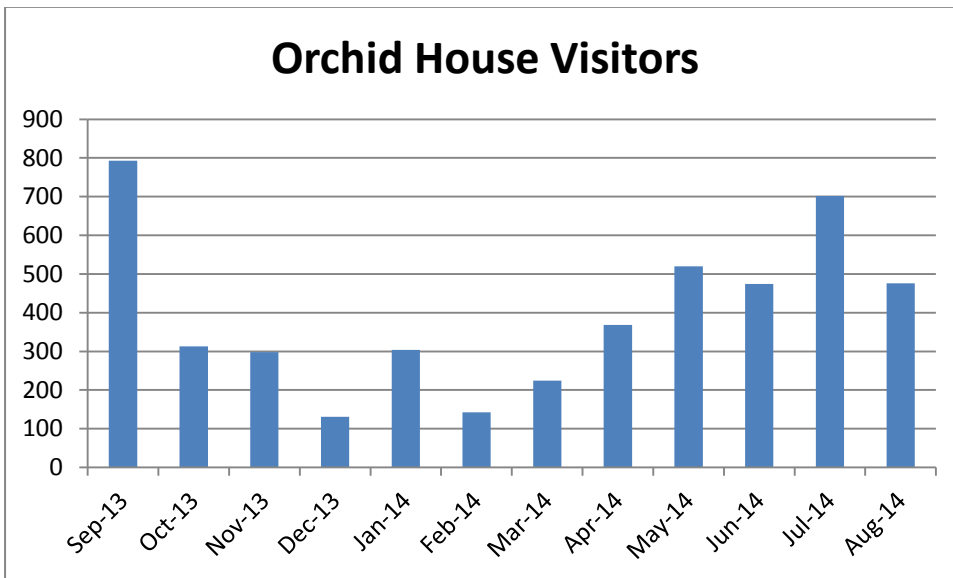
Administration – Parks Bookings



Grass Maintenance Activities



Horticulture



Plants Grown in the Nursery and Planted out by Horticulture Staff:

140mm Plants – 800

Natural Environment and Marine Beach Activities

Coastcare Volunteer Activities – Delivered in Partnership with Reef Catchments

- Saturday 23 August saw Coastcare host an event at the Slade Point Reserve.

School Activities

- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority held their annual Future Leaders Eco Challenge at the Wetland Walkabout on the 3rd September. The event was supported by GBRMPA, MRC, Conservation Volunteers of Australia and Reef Catchments. 68 children from 3 different schools were in attendance and the event featured on WIN news.

Natural Environment Plan Implementation

Coastal Priority Projects

- Juvenile coconuts were removed from Ball Bay and mulch spread to reduce weed infestation and erosion prior to planting occurring in the wet season.
- Contractors undertook weed control works at Finlaysons Point, Bucasia, Ball Bay and Slade Point Reserve
- Options analysis for rectification of Sarina Beach Walkways compiled.
- New beach access stairs installed at Town Beach opposite Cameron St

Waterways Priority Projects

- Sandringham Lagoon factsheet distributed to neighbouring landowners highlighting the invasive weed problems and encouraging landowners to assist Council with the control.
- Trashracks in the Ooralea & Paget areas were emptied by EcoBarge Clean seas on 26 August
- Spraying of Water Lettuce undertaken in the Gooseponds

Plains and Ranges Priority Projects

- Final draft of the DeMoleyns Management plan has been received. Initial impression good.

Field Team Activities – (Sarina and Mackay Beach Teams and Habitat Restoration Team)

- Weed control undertaken at Gooseponds and Janes Creek, Blue Water Trail, Weeping Cabbage Palm Reserve, Grasstree beach, Sarina
- Inspections carried out at the Haliday Bay swimming enclosure.
- Beach access maintenance carried out at Sarina Beach, Midge Point, Town Beach, Halliday Bay and Harbour beach

Environmental Ranger Activities

- 5 Letters of Demand issued for Green Waste dumping on MRC land
- Information notices issued to a variety of properties to inform them of the consequences of dumping green waste onto council land.
- 10 compliance notices issued in regards to protruding vegetation.
- 2 remote surveillance cameras placed in Ball Bay to monitor vegetation disturbance
- 14 warning notices sent to vehicle owners warning them about illegal access to council land. All registrations added to the police vehicle database.
- A single illegal campsite was removed off Binnington Esplanade after previous notices had gone unheeded.
- Coordinated the installation of information signage at Shoal Point to keep cars off the beach after they launch their boats.

Other Projects

- Natural Environment Officer attended the Stormwater Industry Association of Queensland annual conference and presented a paper outlining the MRC Gross Pollutant Trap analysis.
- A public session was held at the MECC for the presentation of the initial findings from the Eungella Biodiversity study.
- Natural Environment Grants awarded. \$29k across 3 grant applications
- Environmental Ranger and Mackay Beach Protection Labourer, travelled to St Bees to take part in the WildMob trip to undertake weed control on the island.



Portion of waste removed from the Binnington Esplanade illegal camp



Vehicles on Shoal Point beach after boat launch. New signs installed to deter this activity and park vehicles off the beach



Green waste being removed from Ball Bay



Green waste dumped around the base of trees in Eaglemount Park



Council Officers Jenni Bailey and Bill Munchow volunteering work on St Bees

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

Horticulture and site works

- August 4, 11 and 18 – botanic gardens staff, assisted by Gardens Friends and volunteers, have developed a new wetland edge planting along the lagoon at Meadowlands. This involved the planting of several hundred Matt Rush *Lomandra longifolia* and *L. hystrix*, other wetland species including Blue Quandong *Elaeocarpus grandis* and mulching of the area for water conservation and weed control. This area will provide a clear separation between the newly developed Meadowlands events area lawns and a stretch of ephemeral wetland habitat along the lagoon edge and act as an increased habitat and nesting area for birdlife.

Herbarium

- August 2 - The Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens (MRBG) Herbarium was the beneficiary of the Herbarium Collection of Queensland Parks and Wildlife Services Mackay office, containing many thousands of records. The Herbarium session commenced procedures for dealing with all the specimens that have been integrated with the MRBG collection.



Good Start Learning Early Learning Centre



Mackay West School



AFBG Conference



"The World We Want"



“Birds of a Feather”



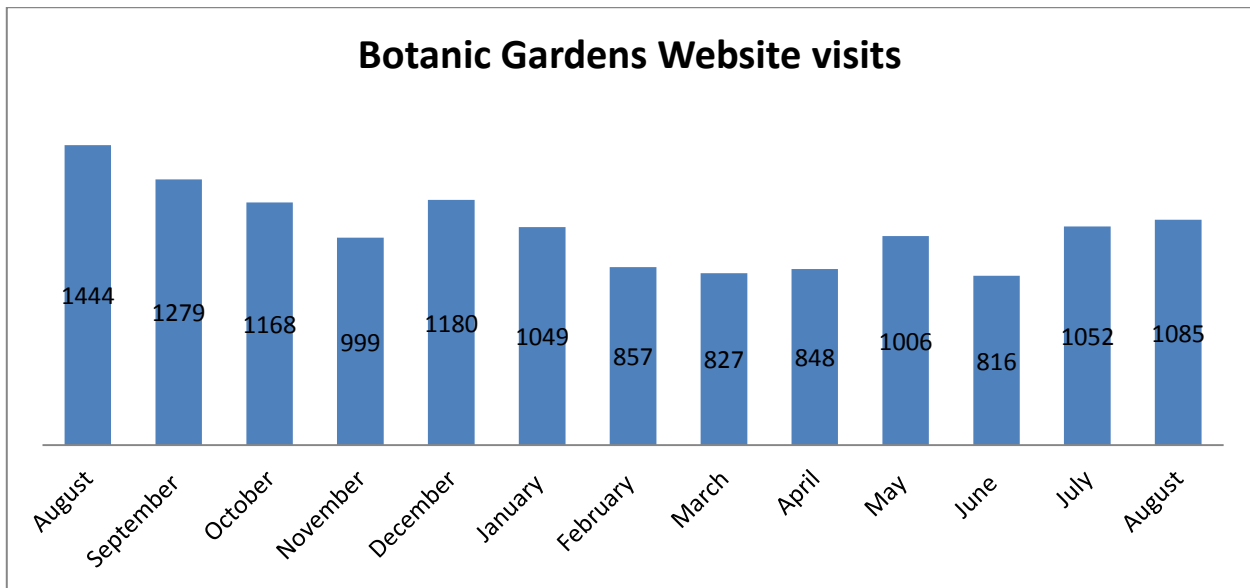
“Birds of a Feather”

Community Engagement

- August 5 - 16 Matsuura School students came to the MRBG. The walk in the botanic gardens included viewing the sister city gift of the Japanese Cranes sculpture and snow-viewing lantern, the living logo of Matsuura city and visiting the recent tree planting and commemorative sign area in the Timber Tree Arboretum and Matsuura Avenue.
- August 6-7 - Mackay West School students are regular visitors to the Plant-ed Education sessions at the MRBG, as the school is within walking distance of the botanic gardens. 130 year 2 children attended over two days and they participated in three rotations of activities during their visit.
- August 19 - Small Explorers: “Birds of a Feather Flock Together” - 20+ children and parents discovered the bird life who live on or around the botanic gardens’ Lagoons. BirdLife Mackay members Madge Barnett and Marj Andrews helped children see flocks of birds by assisting in the use of scopes and binoculars.
- August 20 - 22 children from Good Start Early Learning Centre visited the MRBG. The children were led on a walk to the Kitchen Garden which included a talk about bush tucker.
- August 30 – The Gardens Friends attended a third propagation themed workshop at Mackay Tree Factory and discussed potting up seedlings and cuttings and dividing up larger clumps of plants. Some of those seeds had some unusual techniques for separating out the seed from its casing including winnowing, applications of hot water, tea-towel rubbing and nicking hard outer casings with cutters. These workshops for the Gardens Friends are in preparation for Phase 1 of the botanic gardens nursery and plant holding facility being constructed this financial year.

Outreach and Conferences

- August 8-10 The MRBG Curator and Visitor Services Officer attended the Australian Friends of Botanic Gardens Conference on the Gold Coast. Both officers presented at the conference that explores and promotes the activities of the wider community at regional botanic gardens. Topics included partnership opportunities, the ever-more vital role volunteers will play at botanic gardens and arboreta using Mackay’s successful Gardens Friends as a case study and the successful partnership between the Gardens Friends and the MRBG that saw the creation of the “Bungee Jumping Caterpillars” book project, its value in raising awareness of threatened in the wild plant species and their conservation.
- August 26-28 – the Visitor Services Officer joined with Mackay Kindergarten and Preschool who were learning about looking after our precious beaches and environments by creating artworks using collected items including plastic and rubbish. The artwork created will feature in the next exhibition in the Lagoons Gallery in September.

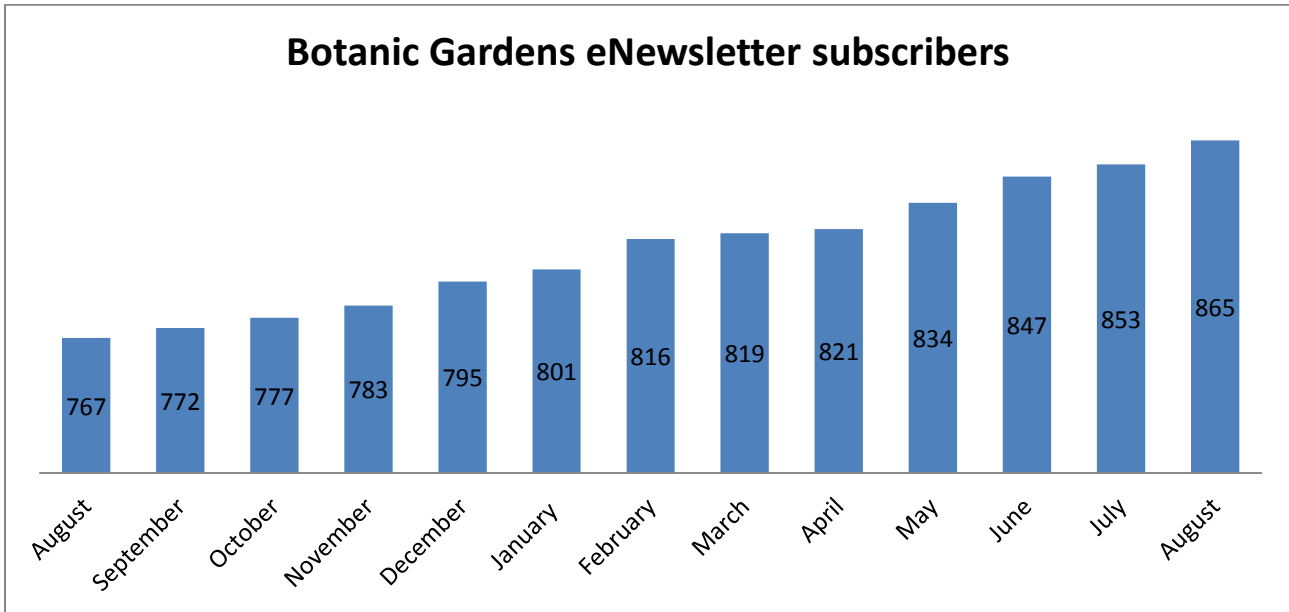


Top 3 pages

1. /cafe > 280 (7.27%)
2. /cafe/opening_hours > 197 (5.11%)
3. /cafe/menu > 191 (4.96%)

Comments

The MRBG website saw solid visitation with many of the visits and enquiries around the newly re-opened Lagoons Café and Gallery



Comments

- Subscribers continue to increase to the MRBG eNewsletter.