

# COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MONTH ENDING 31 MARCH 2010

**Author: DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

## **Purpose**

To review Community Services Department highlights and significant issues for the month ending 31 March 2010

## **Background and Discussion**

Highlights and Significant Issues for March 2010 are as follows: -

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT**

- Attended Quarterly Mackay Region Community Sector meeting.
- Community Grants Assessment undertaken.
- City Focus Advisory Committee attended.
- Corporate Projects, Coal to Coast, Mackay Public and Community Transport Action and Sarina Sugar Shed committee meetings attended.
- Artists Books travelling exhibition launched at Sarina Art Gallery.
- 2 new 10000 steps tracks launched in the city.
- Easter in the City promotional campaign undertaken in partnership with City Focus Advisory Committee and local businesses.
- Gordon White Library celebrated its 10 year anniversary.
- Tourism conference, expo and awards dinners attended as part of Tourism Week at the MECC.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LIBRARIES**

#### ***Management***

Manager Community Development and Libraries was selected to be a mentor in the LGMA Year of Women in Local Government mentoring program that commenced on 3 March. Approximately 30 young women from across Queensland are being mentored by senior staff from other Councils to assist the in the areas of self confidence and goal-setting etc. The program will run until the end of the year.

Manager Community Development and Libraries participated as a member of the team in the state-wide Management Challenge held in Townsville on 19 March. Having mentored the team for six months it was necessary to step in as a team member due to the illness of one of the team members. With a slightly new format, this year's event certainly did challenge participants to consider how they work under pressure, in a team environment and with many conflicting priorities and deadlines. Teams were really stretched to produce innovative and quality solutions to problems that were posed.

## *Community Development*

### Sarina Youth Centre

- The After School Program at the youth centre has been a real success in term one of the School Calendar year. Young people have participated in a range of activities, with sport days being popular with in excess of 18 young people competing for prizes. Teenage Tuesdays where the DJ table is out and the Sarina Pool Competition is in full swing. Awards will be given out before the School Holiday and a new range of activities will be on next term.
- Positive School-wide Behaviour Systems - this is a series of individualized strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behaviour in the Schools in our area. The goal is also to have the Youth Centre involved as much as possible with integrating the same systems so there is a flow from school to school and to the Youth Centre.
- Rural Youth Connection Project - has been developed in response to the increasing levels of mental health distress in rural communities. This project aims to build the capacity of rural youth to be able to acknowledge, recognize and respond to early signs and symptoms of mental distress in themselves and families. Training has occurred at Sarina State High School with some very positive outcomes.
- Youth Week celebrations 2010 in Sarina are going to be huge with the main focus being put on 'SRINA 2 DA XTRME'. All plans have been put into place to run a very successful event. The objective is to maintain sponsorship and year after year to make it the biggest Youth event in the region.
- Duke of Edinburgh - planning is starting to happen for the Adventurous Journey portion of the award this year with a new range of young people signed up for the Bronze Award. The young people who were doing their Bronze last year will be receiving their Bronze Awards at a Ceremony next month and all will move onto the Silver Award. This has been a very successful program in 2009 with it to get better in 2010.
- Sarina Truancy Initiative is in its early stages with Youth Centre staff working with Sarina Police and the Sarina High School to develop strategies to address the increasing issue of truancy.
- RADF Round Three - 9 applications received. 5 applications approved by the RADF Committee to the value of \$25,124.00.
- RADF 09/09 Report & 10/11 funding allocation bid submitted to Arts Queensland
- Art Is In Regional Arts Awards nominations are now being accepted. Application forms have been included in the Calendar of the Arts and are also available online via Council's webpage. Date for Partie D'Artiste is 17 July 6pm - 9pm.
- Community Development Co-ordinator has been attending the Disaster Recovery -Functional Committee meetings following Cyclone Ului. Under the current recovery plan Council is responsible for the medium to long term recovery phase. A plan of action will be prepared for adoption by the committee in April.
- Co-ordinator Community Development and the Multicultural CAMS Officer met with a representative from the Australian Bureau of Statistics to discuss strategies to improve the census collection data in relation to the Australian South Sea Islander community.

## *Libraries*

- General

Councillors Karen May, Deirdre Comerford and Wendy Cameron, along with Helen Paulsen, Lisa Jamieson, Jan Kilbourne and Donna Priddle pooled their 'Girl Power' resources to install 2 bench seats and some brightly coloured library signage on the south side of the Mackay City Library building for International Women's Day 2010 and Year of Women in Local Government. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the versatility of women in all walks of life, which was undoubtedly achieved.



To help celebrate Harmony Day Mackay City Library invited some students from Victoria Park State School to participate in a morning of activities, music and cake! Cultural Services Library Assistant Norell Binsiar led the students in making some traditional craft items, and decorating a large canvas. This was followed by some unique Island style entertainment, and a cake as delicious as it was colourful.



- Young People’s Services

As part of Gordon White Library’s 10th birthday celebrations, the Storytime children sang Happy Birthday and helped blow out the candles on the cake. They happily received a mini cup cake and balloon for their efforts.



**Singing Happy Birthday at Gordon White Library’s 10<sup>th</sup> birthday**

98 students and 19 teachers/parents from Central, West Mackay and Beaconsfield State Schools visited Mackay City Library.

Current year

Event	Current year	Previous year
Storytime	1496	1217
Baby Bounce	163	248

- Statistics

Computer Use and Classes	Total
DiscoverIT Classes (participants)	53
Public Computers - Users	2667
Public Computers – Bookings	4251
Public Computers – Express Computers	1254
Public Computers – Wireless (hrs)	421

Information Requests	Total
Online Enquiries	7
Ask a Librarian Queries	8
Reference Queries – Staff	794
Reference Queries – Phone	1229

Top Website Visits	Total
Total Website Visits	19,878
Website Visits - Home	11,660
Website Visits - Catalogue	3753
Website Visits - Locations & Hours	607
Website Visit - Online Resources	581
Website Visits – Ask the Library	268
Website Visits – Services for Children & Young People	168
Website Visits – Joining & Borrowing	216
Website Visits – Technology & Training	167
Website Visits – Heritage Collections	188
Website Visits – Services for Students	88
Website Visit - Children & Young People/Storytime	72
Website Visits – Kidzone	87
Website Visits – General Collections	92

Database Visits	Total
Databases - EBO	1740
Databases - Newsbank	2
Databases - EBSCO Host	N/A
Databases - Thompson Gale	7
Databases - Your Tutor	86

Computer Requests	Total
Computer Support Requests – Mackay City Library	5
Computer Support Requests – Gordon White Library	0

March saw an unprecedented 86 hits on the Mackay Regional Council Libraries' Your Tutor account. The extremely high use was likely in direct correlation to the various school visits conducted during the month, which exposed around 600 students to the online tutoring service.

Home Library Service Statistics	Library Branch		
	Gordon White	Mackay City	Sarina
Assistive Technology Computer	10	35	
Home Library customers	49	115	3
Bulk Loans	2	1	19
Phone calls	14	26	
Reservations	35	53	4
Kilometres travelled by FOML	58	49	15
Number of items loaned	305	597	150

Heritage Collection Room	
Total Users	86
Research Enquiries * up to 1 hr research required	4
Microfilm Reader Bookings	47

- Membership and loan statistics

#### New members

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	202	169
Mackay City Library	222	254
Mirani Library	23	19
Mobile Library	54	43
Sarina Library	74	70
Walkerston Library	17	21

#### Loans

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	28193	24635
Mackay City Library	28910	22297
Mirani Library	2732	2363
Mobile Library	2066	2363
Sarina Library	4740	5418
Walkerston Library	2440	2191

### *Museums*

#### **Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani**

The name of the museum has undergone a change from Mirani Museum to more reflect the region and is now known as the Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani.

#### **Sarina Historical Society and Museum Inc.**

Currently looking at connecting the museum to the internet which will provide much more flexibility for the volunteers

#### **Greenmount Homestead**

There was quite extensive damage to trees at Greenmount during the cyclone but this has since been cleared away.

Planning continues in earnest for the Greenmount Heritage Fair, due to be held on Sunday 30 May

4 schools visited Greenmount in March with a total of 205 children

## RECREATION SERVICES

### *Management / Sport and Recreation*

- The report regarding the expansion of Mackay Netball was ratified by Council.
- Manager Recreation Services and Sport & Recreation Officer assisted Council's Strategic Planning program in assessing the submissions received for the "review of the Mackay Open Space Policy".
- Sport & Recreation Officer worked with Council Events and Corporate Communications staff to plan for the "Get Active in the City" event. The event was successfully held on 28 March.
- 10,000 Steps brochures were updated.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sports & Recreation Officer, Manager Recreation Services and Sport & Recreation Officer met with a representative from Sporting Advantage Pty Ltd to discuss the potential for sporting and recreation related workshops to be held in the Mackay region.
- Sport & Recreation Officer finalised the Council employees Transport Habits Report.
- Update of sporting organisation inventory.
- Planning of release and implementation of Club Management Kit commenced for sporting clubs.
- Research commenced regarding "Kids Sports" proposal - a company providing physical activity programs in communities.
- Manager Recreation Services and Sport & Recreation Officer met with two representatives of the Department of Defence in relation to the Mt Vince Rifle range.
- Portfolio Councillor Council Health, Sports & Recreation, Manager Recreation Services and Sport & Recreation Officer attended a Sports & Recreation State grants seminar in Mackay. The new funding program provides new opportunities for local governments in Queensland.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sports & Recreation, Portfolio Councillor Economic Development, Director Community Services, Manager Recreation Services and Sport & Recreation Officer met with a representative of Complete Sports Marketing Pty Ltd to discuss strategies of bringing sporting events to the region.
- Manager Recreation Services and Sport & Recreation Officer contributed to the finalisation of the Explore Mackay mapping project.
- The North Queensland Sportstar Awards were rescheduled due to cyclone Ului to July 3.
- Interviews commenced regarding the Sports & Recreation Officer position.

### Open Space, Sports & Recreation (OSSR) Strategy Study

- The OSSR Strategy Steering Committee met on March 18 to be informed by the consultant of interim study outcomes.

### Aquatics Strategy Study

- An inception meeting took place with members of the OSSR Strategy Steering Committee on March 18 to officially commence the Aquatics Strategy study.
- The Aquatics Condition Audits were successfully completed by a specialised engineering consultant between March 16 – 19 (inclusive). The conditions audits will be used in the development of the Aquatics Strategy.

### Key Club Development Activities

- Mackay Netball - approval to use additional land and advice regarding installation of new shade structures and future grants.

- Dolphins Soccer – concerns regarding fencing around fields.
- Mackay Rowing Club - requesting information from previous sports strategies to strengthen funding application to State government and survey for OSSR plan.
- Sarina Rugby League Club - electricity invoice matters.
- Canoe Club - requesting assistance with club development strategies.
- Coal to Coast Equestrian club – request for land.
- 4WD club – request for land.
- A geotechnical investigation took place at the Brewers Park precinct.

### ***Media / PR***

- The Bluewater Lagoon set the benchmark in architectural design across North Queensland. Announced at the Australian Institute of Architects' 2010 North Queensland Regional Architecture Awards, the Bluewater Lagoon (by AECOM) won a commendation for its form work.
- Local media coverage:
  - Mackay Netball being given the green light to add four (4) new netball courts on additional land near its current site.
  - The Splash-a-thon event held at Pioneer Swim Centre and the two new 10,000 steps routes.
  - Overhauling of safety practices at the Bluewater Lagoon as a result of the Division of WH&S Audit.
- Review of Recreation Services brochures, flyers and newsletters.
- Recreation Services Operations Assistant commenced the process of submitting a Bluewater Lagoon application for the 2010 National Awards for Local Government.
- Radio advertisements regarding the Active CBD morning being held in conjunction with the City Heart markets. The morning included the opening of two 10,000 Steps walks opened for use by the public.
- Bluewater Lagoon link to a story regarding one of the key projects undertaken/finalised by the amalgamated Council in the past two years.
- The recent National Architecture Award commendation received by AECOM for the Bluewater Lagoon was published on the Australasian Leisure Management website.
- Interview with Manager Recreation Services for the career section of the sportpeople.com.au website.

### ***Aquatic Facilities***

#### ***Bluewater Lagoon***

- A significant amount of progress was made regarding the development of a “risk identification list”.
- Continuation of progress regarding outstanding directives/improvement notices issued by the Division of WH&S.
- Fire warden trainees were selected from Surf Life Saving Queensland (lifeguard services contractors) and Recreation Services staff. Fire wardens successfully completed fire warden training in March.
- Contractors installed an upgraded CO2 alarm system.
- Further development of Council and Contractor operating procedures.
- Electrical work completed in café.
- Several meetings took place with representatives of the Division of Workplace, Health and Safety regarding the status of the directives/improvement notices.
- A faulty CO2 cylinder was replaced.
- Shade sails were taken down in preparation for cyclone Ului.

- Cyclone Ului caused extensive green damage throughout the facility. The facility was closed for several days.

### ***Memorial Pool***

#### ***Bookings***

- Water Polo           7 x training sessions  
                                  4 x game nights
- 85 x school group bookings
- 6 x Mackay Master Swimmers bookings
- 5 x Barb's Aqua bookings
- 1 x school swimming carnivals
- 6 x community group bookings
- 7 x Swim & Survive school bookings

- Electricians repaired an intermittent fault in the power supply to the main pool floodlights.
- The automatic pool vacuum cleaners were serviced.
- Shade sails were taken down in preparation for cyclone Ului.
- Evacuation and liquid chlorine signage was erected.
- An emergency HAZMAT was installed at the entrance.
- Cyclone Ului caused extensive green damage throughout the facility. The facility was closed for several days.
- Disabled chair returns following essential servicing.

### ***Pioneer Pool***

#### ***Bookings***

- 60 x school bookings
- Pioneer Swim Club: 3 x Club Night
- 5 x community group bookings
- 1 x triathlon club booking
- 5 x school swimming carnivals
- 2 x Swim and Survive school bookings

- Installation of dump shower for chemical use.
- Installation of HAZMAT box.
- Chlorine gas and SCBA training took place to ensure WH&S compliance.
- Cyclone Ului impact: Significant. The facility was closed for several days.

### ***Mirani Pool***

- Flood lights inspected by external electricians.
- Completion of hazard inspections.
- Cyclone Ului impact: A tree collapsed on the fence near the deep end of the 50m pool/community hall. The facility was closed for several days.
- The facility finalised the 2009/2010 swimming season.

### ***Sarina Pool***

- Manager Recreation Services met with Division of WH&S representatives and representatives of Queensland Department of Education and Training (DETA) to discuss the outcomes of the recent safety audit conducted at Sarina Pool
- Cyclone Ului impact: A small tree fell on the “club house” located near the deep end of the 25m pool. The facility was closed for several days.

- The facility finalised the 2009/2010 swimming season.

The following customers have attended the Aquatic Facilities for March 2010:

### **Bluewater Lagoon\***

Type of Customer	Bluewater Lagoon March 2009	Bluewater Lagoon March 2010
Children's Lagoon	1,635	3,582
Middle Lagoon	5,336	5,918
Upper Lagoon	3,513	2,855
<b>TOTAL IN WATER CUSTOMERS</b>	<b>10,484</b>	<b>12,355</b>
<b>TOTAL PRECINCT (non-swimmers)</b>	<b>10,517</b>	<b>14,463</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>21,001</b>	<b>26,818</b>

\* Source: Lifeguard Statistics - Monthly Reports March 2010 - Visitations PDF by Surf Lifesaving Queensland (SLSQ)

### **Memorial Pool\*\***

Type of Customer	Memorial Pool March 2009	Memorial Pool March 2010
Persons 15 years or older	1,090	982
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	535	596
Pensioner	63	68
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,688</b>	<b>1,646</b>
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	97	87
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$9,234.70	\$4,896.30

\*\* Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

### **Pioneer Pool\*\***

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool March 2009	Pioneer Pool March 2010
Persons 15 years or older	954	824
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	497	435
Pensioner	51	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>1,279</b>
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	88	43
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$11,822.30	\$9,116.60

\*\* Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

### **Mirani Pool\*\*\***

Type of Customer	Mirani Pool March 2009	Mirani Pool March 2010
Persons 15 years or older	293	121
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	589	263
Pensioner	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>386</b>

\*\*\* Source: Information received from Lessee of Mirani Pool

**Sarina Pool\*\*\*\***

Type of Customer	Sarina Pool March 2009	Sarina Pool March 2010
Persons 15 years or older	762	Lessee and Attendance Figures Unavailable
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	555	
Pensioner	200	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,517</b>	

\*\*\*\* Source: Information received from Lessee of Sarina Pool

**Revenue Received:\*\***

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool		Memorial Pool	
	March 2009	March 2010	March 2009	March 2010
Actual Gate	\$8,305.00	\$6,118.50	\$9,188.00	\$8,625.00
Season Tickets	\$145.00	\$145.00	\$290.00	\$1,080.00
Miscellaneous	\$12,120.30	\$9,510.01	\$9,660.75	\$4,980.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,570.30</b>	<b>\$15,773.51</b>	<b>\$19,138.75</b>	<b>\$14,685.50</b>
Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate	\$2,640.00	\$1,290.00	\$2,910.00	\$2,610.00

\*\* Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

**PROPERTY SERVICES**

***Management***

- Continuation of work on the Gordon Street Administration Building generator backup project.
- Preparation of Master Plan for the Ness Street Depot.
- Undertaking review of building use for the Sarina and Mirani administration buildings.
- Proceeding with work associated with Freehold Land review.

***Property Services***

- Mackay Admin Building Refurbishment Stage 3 for CEO/Mayor area has progressed.
- Property Services staff on the ground the day after Cyclone Ului to assess damage.
- Rectification works for damage from Cyclone Ului well under way. (Works completed at Mackay Admin Building, Town Hall and Mackay City Library)
- Unit 7/13 Holmes Drive refurbishment commenced.
- Unit 3/38 Holmes Drive refurbishment commenced.
- Organised the first 'Accredited' Fire Warden training course in conjunction with Chubb Fire Safety Training Department, initial reports were that the course was very comprehensive. This new course was chosen as it also encompassed 'hands on' practical use of a fire extinguisher.
- The final specifications for the new VESDA fire detection system designed to protect the new IT server room has finally been agreed, Chubb will be installing this in the near future.
- An inspection of all the pre-1990 buildings in the Mirani and Sarina area has been carried out this month as part of the overall Asbestos Management Plan.

## ***Property Co-ordinations***

### ***Leases***

- Connors/Critchley Rd Water Main Easements
- Program staff are currently dealing with 17 Leases and 10 Easements

### ***Land Dealings***

- Shann Street, Eimeo Reserve/Road Realignment.
- Holts Road, Beaconsfield Land Exchange with Emergency Services.
- Grandview Drive Slip Lane Land Acquisition.
- Program staff are currently dealing with 34 land dealings.

## ***Sarina Sugar Shed***

Total sales for March were only up slightly on this time last year.

Sarina Sugar Shed was the winner of the Tourist Attraction section at the recent Mackay Tourism Awards 2010.

Sugar Shed was acknowledged recently along with 5 other local operators for taking part in Tourism Queensland's Sustainable Regions Project.

Sugar Shed's new DVD is now on sale at the facility for \$9.95

## **MACKAY CONVENTION PRECINCT AND EVENTS**

### ***Management***

- Met with representatives from "Village Sounds" to assist with the facilitation of the "Powderfinger" farewell concert which will be staged at Mackay Showgrounds
- Met with representatives from QLD Events to locate a suitable outdoor venue to stage the Jimmy Barnes / Shannon Noll concert in Mackay
- Took a lead role in Mackay Tourism week, organising events at the MECC and speaking at the 2010 Tourism Conference
- Met with Woollam Constructions, senior Council officers and the Mayor to facilitate ongoing defect rectification work at Convention Centre.
- Secured the Mackay Home & Lifestyle Show and the Mackay Boat & Caravan Show for the MECC for 2010 & 2011
- Worked with local government representatives to finalise the two large local government conferences being held at the MECC this year, being LGAQ Annual Conference and ULGA Annual Conference and also arranged affinity packages for ULGA and LGAQ delegates ensuring these visitors to the region will take in significant

tourist attractions such as the Sarina Sugar Shed, Bluewater Quay, Bluewater Lagoon and the Mackay Marina

- Attended City Focus Advisory Committee Meeting
- Managed MECC operations in the immediate aftermath following Cyclone Ului to ensure commercial operations could be sustained on the Sunday morning. This entailed opening up the MECC commercial kitchen so that meals could be prepared and transported for Ergon workers who were based as far away as Proserpine.
- Worked in conjunction with various stakeholders such as the Department for Communities to make the MECC available as the Cyclone Recovery Centre following Cyclone Ului.

### ***Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre***

The Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre is reported on in the MECC Performance Report.

### ***Festivals and Events***

#### ***Mackay Region Festival of Arts***

The 2010 Festival program has almost been finalised. This year's theme of Fire & Sound has allowed for some exciting events to occur across the region.

The opening night event on Saturday 10 July at the Mackay Showgrounds will bring together local Bobcat drivers, members of motorbike and car clubs, the Sugar City Rock 'n' Rollers, Mackay North State High School students and the Mackay Pipe Band in a fire and sound extravaganza which will feature a Pyrophone, (a flame belching organ), which will set the crowd's imagination alight.

Brisbane Artist Sarah Hopkins is working with the Mackay Choral Society and the Mackay North State High School Big Band and other musicians and singers to perform an afternoon of sacred music. The final event will be the community Cabaret this year to be held at the MECC.

Altogether there will be over 30 events and performances over the 15 days of the festival. The Program will be launched at a mystery location on Wednesday 19 May.

Planning for the Coal to Coast Festival, River to Reef and Global Grooves are proceeding. Each has a major act booked. The Coal to Coast Festival will be revised into a smaller format in 2010.

The Festival team has been assisting the organisers of the Jimmy Barnes / Shannon Noll concert at Bluewater Quay to plan this major event. The Festivals team are also organising, in conjunction with Corporate Communications the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations of the Abel Tasman air crash.

#### ***Sunday Market***

This year's Easter market was a great success. Over 2500 people attended. There were competitions, Easter egg hunts and a chance to meet the Easter Bunny. Local group Lantana were warmly received and Cr Dave Perkins MC'd the morning alongside his outdoor Zinc FM broadcast.

### ***Artspace Mackay***

- 1,958 people visited Artspace Mackay during March 2010
- 611 people visited the Town Hall during March 2010
- 11,666 hits recorded on the Artspace Mackay website during March 2010

### **Exhibitions:**

McAleese Gallery	5 Feb – 4 April	<i>Habitus - Habitat: Art and Environment</i>
Foyer	5 Feb – 4 April	<i>Who Minds the Shells: Leslie Kane</i>
Cox Rayner Gallery	From 27 February	<i>The A-Z of Artists Books</i>
Mackay Town Hall	26 Feb – 7 March	<i>The Pioneer Tracks of Queensland Gallery.</i>
		<i>The Work of John Henry Mills 1851-1919</i>
Sarina Art Gallery	16 March – 21 March	<i>Artists Books on Tour : Sarina Art Gallery</i>

### **Artists Books on Tour: Sarina Art Gallery**

16 March 2010 – 21 March 2010

Sarina Art Gallery hosted a travelling exhibition of a selection of artist books and Barbara Hanrahan prints from the Mackay Regional Council collection. It was officially opened by Cr. Karen May on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. The opening was well attended with just over 50 guests. On the night, visitors were given guided tours by Council's Exhibition Curator who was thrilled with the level of interest from many people visiting an art gallery for the first time. The event was well catered by the Sarina State School P&C who were very excited to be a part of the event and have since expressed interest in catering future Artspace Mackay events at Sarina. The exhibition was well attended through out the week by locals, travellers and about 30 students from Sarina State High School were given guided tours. Both the Gallery Director and Exhibitions Curator travelled to Sarina on separate days to meet with gallery visitors and answer questions about the collection. Very positive feedback from locals who enjoyed the show and who were very pleased to see activity at the gallery has been received.

### **Other occurrences in March**

Exhibitions staff have been in discussion with two separate Sarina residents about upcoming exhibitions in April. An exhibition of works by the Sarina painting group "Bush to Beach" will be held at Sarina Art Gallery from 23<sup>rd</sup> April, and another Sarina local Bob Faulkner, will hold an exhibition of his works at Mackay's Old Town Hall, also from 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **Recycled Library: Altered Books touring exhibition**

Gladstone Regional Gallery & Museum (18 December 2009 – 6 March 2010)  
Grafton Regional Gallery & Museum (26 March – 25 April 2010)

Gallery Director travelled to Grafton as a guest of Grafton Regional Gallery & Museum to open *Recycled Library* on Friday 26 March and give a floortalk in the exhibition on Saturday morning, 27 March. He also took part in a Forum discussion on Artists Books on Saturday afternoon with an artist, a gallery dealer and a book dealer.

## **Public & Education Programs in March**

- ‘Life Drawing with Leonie Wood’ workshops were held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March. - The inclusion of a series of day classes to the evening class program meant that participants had the option of more convenient hours.  
20 participants attended these classes over the 6 week program.
- The monthly *BMA* Kidspace program was held on Tuesday 9th March. A free program of toddler activities, gallery tours and concert sponsored by BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, this program attracted approx. 100 parents and children.
- Artspace Mackay played host to a Book Sale with Steve Pearce Quality Books on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. The evening allowed interested members within the community to view and buy a large selection of art themed many of which are unavailable in stores in Mackay.  
This event was attended by 60 people.
- A ‘Guerrilla Knitting’ Interest Meeting was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> March in the Artspace Mackay Seminar Room. This meeting, in the prelude to the Mackay Region Festival of Arts, attracted 35 participants and sought to develop a strong community based art project for the Artspace Mackay component of the festival. The project so far has attracted a lot interest through word-of-mouth exposure, and will be underway in early May.
- Regular Smith Family workshops were held in the Artspace Mackay Seminar Room on 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March. These Artspace supported workshops were attended by 14 school aged children.
- Term 1 Kids Art Club continued on the Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March. These regular workshops were attended by 22 participants over the 6 week program.
- 22 St Patrick’s College Students attended a gallery tour on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- Acting Public Programs Officer presented a guided tour of *Habitus Habitat* for year students on Tuesday 23rd March.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Management***

Briefing to council “Tourists in recreational vehicles”

Participated in Mackay Tourism Planning Strategy Workshop - Caravan Strategy and Fishing Strategy

Tourism conference, expo and awards dinners attended as part of Tourism Week at the MECC.  
Meeting with Department of Transport and Main Roads regarding Forgan Bridge celebrations and possible timing to coincide with Sunday market

Presentation and meeting with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) regarding the running of the 2011 Census

Organised Statistical Training Workshop with visiting ABS Director and staff from the Office of Economic and Statistical Research, for cross-council staff – no cost to council

Meeting with Chair of Chamber of Commerce to discuss integration of upcoming business networking, promotions, and continuing development of a close working relationship

Meetings regarding development of a commercial property register, and related private sector publications

Attendance at initial Workshop “Towards a Car Parking Strategy for the City Centre”

Attendance at Inaugural REDC Networking function

Meeting with REDC regarding Invest Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Conference to be held in Mackay, May

Meeting with Mayor of the Mackay Region, Col Meng and Economic Development Portfolio chair Cr David Perkins with Chinese investors – including Deputy Director Labour Export-orientated Training Department Chief Mr Li Shouyi from Jiangxi Province International Economic and Technical Centre, regarding investment opportunities in the region;  
Attendance at City Centre Walking Tour – Activation of Laneways and Preliminary Workshop for City Centre Local Area Plan

Telephone Meetings regarding Workforce Innovation Program with Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Workforce Development Branch. - This project will develop a business practice guide for small to medium business to operate in a constrained workforce supply environment addressing Productivity , Skills retention, Innovation, Continuous improvement, Labour utilisation



- *Tourism and Economic Development Portfolio Chair Cr Dave Perkins congratulates award winner, Mary O'Neill at the recent Tourism Awards.*
- *Mayor of the Mackay region, Col Meng, speaking at the Tourism Awards*
- *Tourism Conference Scene*

### ***City Focus Advisory Committee***

Easter In the City Radio and TV Campaign

City Centre Marketing Consultancy Brief prepared with Corporate Communications and out for quotation

City Centre Website Consultancy Brief prepared with Corporate Communications and advertised for quotation (April)

Urban Enhancement Plan Draft brief under preparation

Planning commences for May “In the City” TV and Radio campaign which will focus on City Centre attractions, with the City Centre featured as the place to meet, alfresco dining - ‘Brunch in the City’, ‘the place to meet’ and Business in the City.

Final Draft of Explore City Centre map complete – this offers a guide to City Centre attractions and will be launched through a May TV and Radio campaign to coincide with introduction of Sunday Trading in the region

### ***Economic Development***

New Economic Development Statistical Publications

Preparation of population growth forecast data, building activity and economic activity materials focused for financial institutions – specifically for council’s recent Financial Institution Roadshow (council elected members attending: Mayor Mackay Region Col Meng and Deputy Mayor and Finance Portfolio Chair Cr Darryl Camilleri)

March Snapshots and Profiles prepared and posted on web – work commences on upcoming April release which includes latest Estimates of Resident Population.

Upcoming Conferences:

REDC Invest Mackay Whitsunday Isaac ( May 19-25 ) Council is a sponsor of this event and will be undertaking an investors day tour on Friday 19-25. All elected members will be invited to attend the tour which will visit local sites including Hay Point and Racecourse Mill (Cogeneration project and Ethanol QUT demonstration project and proposal) plus Caneland redevelopment, Paget and Ooralea residential development. Lunch is planned at the Mackay Marina with a guest speaker planned from North Queensland Bulk Ports. Industry reps including BMA, Dalrymple Bay, MAIN and Mackay Sugar are planned to speak at various locations.

Urban Local Government Conference – Booth with materials showcasing Mackay region to be installed and manned at MECC

Business Email Networks:

- 900 Postcard reinforcing the Easter Campaign and sign-up to the City Focus Email Business Network delivered to City centre businesses, professional offices etc
- City Focus Network grows to include over 100 members (online sign up on website)
- Sarina Business Network over 50 members and growing ( online sign up to commence April)
- Sarina and City Focus Email Addresses established, to send regular updates
- New-look Email Template developed and available for Sarina and City Focus

Business Guide

Guide to doing Business in the Region draft underway – draft to be presented to council for approval. The Guide showcases Mackay region investment, elected members portfolios and council programs, plus offers relevant information about the region as well as other government programs and assistance available to business.

USB Promotional materials being developed for conference and investment promotions

#### ***Tourism Facilities: Mackay Region working to RV Friendly Status***

\$50,000 funding approved for 3 Blackwater RV Waste Dump Points approved (Grant Funding sourced to subsidise cost).

Design layouts completed by Technical Services for Sarina Railway Square upgrade and works at Mackay Visitor Information Centre at Nebo Road (incorporating dump point parking and access).

Liaison with local shopping centres to offer ‘Park and Shop facilities’ for RV tourists  
Information release to Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia to advise their membership networks of council plans

#### **Consultation**

There has been consultation with Community Services Program Managers.

#### **Resource Implications**

Nil.

#### **Conclusion**

All programs are performing well for this stage of the financial year with all teams focussed on achieving 2009/10 operational plan goals by 30 June 2010.

#### **Director’s Recommendation**

THAT this report be received.