

COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 2010

Author: DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Purpose

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

Background and Discussion

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT

- Meeting held with the Pioneer Valley Tourism Development Association regarding Melba House Lease.
- Discussions held with Queensland Transport regarding Paget bus service.
- CBD LAP inception meeting attended.
- City Focus Forum and website preview attended.
- Northern Rivers Carpool project briefing held with Council.
- Coal to Coast debrief session held.
- Mackay to Marian rail line community consultation planning meeting held.
- Attended LGEG meeting.
- Youth Policy endorsed by Council.
- Further sessions held to finalise the MRC Cultural Plan.
- Discussions held with the Mackay Housing Company regarding head leasing and housing stock transfers.
- Public and Community Transport, Corporate Projects, Rural Affairs and Matsuura Sister City Advisory Committee meetings attended.
- Sarina customer service centre and library hazard inspections attended.
- Attended Paget Depot site tour to inspect progress.
- Attended Showgrounds masterplanning session.
- Open Space Sport and Recreation Plan endorsed for community consultation.
- Met with Sarina Museum volunteers regarding the future of the Yukon building.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LIBRARIES

Management

- Mentored team in Rural Management Challenge held in Townsville 26 October. Two Mackay teams entered this year.
- “Bridging the Gender Divide” workshop held on 28 and 29 October. This was arranged through LGMA to lessen the cost of Mackay staff having to travel to Brisbane for the workshop.

Community Development

- Youth Policy finalised and adopted by Council.
- 2010 Mackay Regional Christmas Lights Competition launched in conjunction with The Daily Mercury and Ergon Energy. Public bus tours of the lights will run between the 10-17 December 2010
- Luke Mallie is to launch his digital installation work in the old MEC box Office during the MRC Carols by Candlelight event. Article about Luke's work included in October – November issue of Creative Mackay Ebulletin.
- Creative Mackay Ebulletin 22 October – 26 November distributed and uploaded onto website
- Two Community Development staff members attended “Volunteering in emergency services” workshop, facilitated by Volunteering Qld
- Hampden Valley Progress Association continues to experience growth and momentum. At the October meeting, members discussed the pro's and con's of incorporation, the ongoing upgrade to the Council-owned park in the area and the need to raise community awareness about preparing for cyclones.
- Bloomsbury Soldiers Hall Association is making arrangements for a Christmas fair to take place on 10th December. The Association is hoping to raise some funds through ham-wheel raffles to add to its project to create a Remembrance Garden at the Hall.
- Global Grooves was highly successful this year with outstanding community support; with over 6000 people attending throughout the day.
- The Indian Community held Diwali celebrations (Festival of Light) following the official Global Grooves programming, this was a resounding success with the wider community joining the Indian community for the celebrations. Highlights from the night included Rangoli (sand art) competitions, henna, sari tying and a fabulous Indian DJ. This was a wonderful joint effort between the Festivals and Events team and the LAMP Program.
- Multicultural Swimming lessons are nearing completion with strong attendance throughout the program. Eleven participants from a variety of cultural backgrounds including Chinese, Zimbabwean, German and Pilipino have participated in the program.
- Council Conversations is growing each week. Council staff have been outstanding in their ability to share Council information in a fun, friendly and welcoming manner. New volunteers are welcome to be involved in Council Conversations at any time.
- A draft check list has been developed to ensure equitable access for Events Management.
- Research and consultations are being undertaken into the possible relocation of the Liberty Swing.
- Discussions have been held in relation to the content of the generic induction as recommended in the Disability Discrimination Action Plan.
- A small working group has been formed to provide feedback to the State Government on the Australian South Sea Islander Recognition and Action Plan.

Libraries

- **General**

The MECC experienced a very busy month. As a result customers attending the library provided feedback regarding the difficulty with parking and library access. Visitor numbers were reduced during this time at Mackay City Library.

Sarina Library is getting increasingly busy with the school holiday activities since they started 2 years ago. The last session fell on the 1st of October with a full house making Planes, Trains and Automobiles.



- **Young People’s Services**

Event	Previous year	Current year
Storytime	1097	1040
Baby Bounce	143	132

- **Statistics**

Computer Use and Classes	Previous year	Current year
Discover IT Classes (participants)	77	45
Public Computers - Users	2033	2120
Public Computers – Bookings	3189	3122
Public Computers – Express Computers	1010	1039
Public Computers – Wireless (hrs)	167	236.5

Information Requests	Previous year	Current year
Ask a Librarian Queries	7	15

Top Website Visits	Previous year	Current year
Total Website Visits	N/A	14145
Website Visits - Home	9045	10687
Website Visits - Catalogue	1061	N/A
Website Visits - Locations & Hours	513	733
Website Visit - Online Resources	480	364
Website Visits – Ask the Library	130	392

Website Visits – Services for Children & Young People	N/A	223
Website Visits – Joining & Borrowing	209	310
Website Visits – Technology & Training	140	224
Website Visits – Heritage Collections	N/A	287
Website Visits – Services for Students	N/A	110
Website Visit - Children & Young People/Storytime	N/A	74
Website Visits – Kidzone	149	153
Website Visits – General Collections	N/A	169

Database Visits	Previous year	Current year
Databases - EBO	205	340
Databases - Newsbank	3	0
Databases - EBSCO Host	12	34
Databases - Thompson Gale	7	22
Databases - Your Tutor	33	22

Home Library Service Statistics	Library Branch		
	Gordon White	Mackay City	Sarina
Assistive Technology Computer	10	39	
Home Library customers	56	102	15
Bulk Loans	1	1	
Phone calls	15	26	6
Reservations	45	26	10
Kilometres travelled by FOML	55.1	40	10
Number of items loaned	355	566	146

Heritage Collection Room	Previous year	Current year
Total Users		46
Research Enquiries * up to 1 hr research required		6
Microfilm Reader Bookings		31

- Membership and loan statistics

New members

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	160	175
Mackay City Library	205	219
Mirani Library	9	11
Mobile Library	27	49
Sarina Library	31	47
Walkerston Library	20	15

Loans

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	29137	27108
Mackay City Library	30666	28866
Mirani Library	2637	2982
Mobile Library	3824	4484
Sarina Library	4645	5377
Walkerston Library	2368	2296

Visitors

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	12674	13717
Mackay City Library	14590	12576
Mirani Library	NA	1750
Mobile Library	NA	NA
Sarina Library	3110	3613
Walkerston Library	NA	NA

Museums

Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani

- The Friends will close the Museum for the Christmas break at 2.30pm Friday 10th December and reopen on Tuesday 1st March 2011. The Working Bee group will return to work on Wednesday 2nd February 2011.
- The Friends of the Museum will attend a Christmas lunch at the River Rock Cafe on Saturday 11th December.
- No groups visited the Museum in September. In October, a group from the Good Shepherd Lodge visited as well as a school group from Glenella State School.
- We have submitted an application to the RADF for funds to pay an artist to produce sketches of the Hamilton Dairy as part of the MOP project. There will be a function at the Museum to launch the art work on Friday 6th May 2011.
- The first aid kit in the Donga has been replaced and one has been ordered for the Museum
- The Friends will celebrate the centenary of the 1911 sugar workers strike on 12th June 2011.
- Four volunteers attended the WHAM network meeting in Sarina on Saturday 16th October. Bronwyn Roper attended and advised that the Small Museums' Conference will be held in Mackay on 12th to 14th August 2011. All Museums in the region will mount a display for this Conference. Pioneer Valley Museum's display will feature Dame Nellie Melba.
- Bronwyn Roper visited the Museum on Wednesday 20th October and helped the volunteers to reorganise the military display cabinet using the new acrylic stands.

Sarina Historical Society and Museum Inc

- Looking at display changes for 2011. One display will be relating to the 1911 Sugar Strike.
- A meeting was held between Mayor, Col Meng, Cr. Karen May, Mr. Peter Franks (CEO) and Mr. Gerard Carlyon (Director Community Services) regarding the future use of the Yukan building. The meeting was very positive and we look forward to future talks.
- The Museum will be closed from 10th December to 11th January.

Greenmount Homestead

- 1 x Wedding ceremony and reception in the park area (they had black Kenworth prime movers as their wedding vehicles)
- Attended WHAM meeting at Sarina. From this the WHAM group will meet twice per year. For 2011 – social meeting on 09April, conference (theme yet to be decided) to be held at Greenmount on 01 Oct.
- New tour group, based in Mirani, with first of what they hope to be many tours.
- Sunrise Rotary have commenced the replacement of the wagon wheel letterbox, project.
- Hort supervisor, Tony Proud, held a training / demonstration day here for some of his staff. Pruning and revitalisation of the hibiscus hedge has begun.
- Potential cleaning contractors inspected the site.
- Attended the MMOP (Mirani Museum Outback Project) meeting.
- Electrical fault in the dam pump repaired by MRC electrician.

RECREATION SERVICES

Management / Sport and Recreation

- Sports & Recreation Officer organised a significant amount of ‘Letters of Support’ for local sporting clubs in regards to the ‘Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Program’ from the Department of Communities, Sport and Recreation.
- Staff provided a significant amount of aquatics and sports/recreation information from an exhibitor’s tent at the River to Reef on Saturday October 9.
- Sports & Recreation Officer held the second Modern Club Management Kit workshop. Nine (9) clubs attended the evening.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sport & Recreation and Sports & Recreation Officer attended the AGM and regular North Queensland Sports Foundation (NQSF) meeting in Townsville. The meeting saw the end of an era with the Foundation’s Manager moving on and the beginning of the new era with a new Manager commencing.
- Further planning activities were undertaken regarding the ‘Mackay Sport Expo/Sign-On day’, with a new inclusion of the local Sport and Recreation Advisor of the Department of Communities (Sport and Recreation). Plans are progressing well, with funding for the event now confirmed. The regional event is scheduled to be held at the MECC on February 13, 2011.
- Sports & Recreation Officer met with local and state representatives from Queensland Ruby (Union) to set-up lines of communications.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sport & Recreation and Sports & Recreation Officer attended the Mackay Physical Activity Reference Group meeting. The group spent time reviewing their yearly plan and it was concluded that nearly all of their agenda items that were still relevant had been completed.
- Sports & Recreation Officer attended Council’s Health and Wellbeing Committee meeting. New suggestions were discussed by the group for consideration in the near future, with some new initiatives to be tested to enhance staff participation.
- Sports & Recreation Officer attended two meetings regarding the idea of a new Skate Park to be created in Sarina.

- Council's Grant Officer, Manager Recreation Services and Sports & Recreation Officer met to assess available grants and external funding opportunities.
- Queensland Government Mackay Sports & Recreation Advisor, Manager Recreation Services and Sports & Recreation Officer met for the start of future monthly meetings.
- Relevant Portfolio Councillors, representatives of Council's Community Development program, Manager Recreation Services and Sports & Recreation Officer met to discuss regional skate park requirements.
- The final draft versions of the OSSR Strategy and Aquatics Strategy were received and reviewed.
- Manager Recreation Services reviewed the draft Bicycle Plan.
- Director Community Services, Manager Recreation Services and Portfolio Councillor Health, Sport & Recreation met with the new Manager of the North Queensland Sports Foundation (NQSF) in Mackay to discuss future direction of NQSF and NQSF's Mackay 2012 events.
- Manager Recreation Services attended a Showgrounds master planning workshop.
- Manager Recreation Services assessed the "Blueprint for the Bush" (Building Rural Communities Fund) funding for potential sporting precinct master planning projects.
- Director Community Services and Manager Recreation Services informed aquatics staff and program support staff of the key aquatic recommendations contained in the OSSR Strategy.
- The draft Open Space, Sports & Recreation (OSSR) strategy was made available to the community for comment in accordance with Council's community engagement policy. The draft OSSR Strategy incorporates the Aquatics Strategy and feasibility study for an indoor sport/youth centre in Sarina. The overarching document will set the foundation for the future direction for the Mackay region's provision of sports, recreation, aquatics and open spaces for years to come.

Media / PR

- The Grapevine internal staff newsletter highlighted the recent Bluewater Trail launch.
- Manager Recreation Services was involved in a promotional shoot regarding the CBD and award winning Bluewater Trail.
- Local media covered the status of Sarina and Mirani Pools.
- The Bluewater Lagoon script for Council's "message on hold" was modified.
- A media invite was issued regarding the winner of the Pioneer Swim Centre mural competition; a student from Mackay North Primary School. The student was congratulated and presented with her prizes at a Council morning tea event. The student won a two-hour "Mission Inflatable" obstacle course session for her class and \$300 worth of sporting equipment for her school. The winning artwork will be recreated and painted on the plant room wall directly facing Malcomson Street for the whole community to enjoy.
- A media release was issued regarding the new lifeguard arrangements at the beaches and the Bluewater Lagoon.
- Several interviews took place regarding the recent operational changes at the Bluewater Lagoon.
- A media release was issued regarding the extension of opening hours at Mirani Pool.
- Local media published an article in regards to seeking team nominations for the 2011 Splash-a-thon to be held at Pioneer Swim Centre.
- A media release was issued regarding the public consultation period for the Draft Open Space Sport and Recreation (OSSR) Strategy.
- Re-branding of aquatic facilities brochures occurred. Information has been condensed to minimise the amount of brochures currently in use.
- The first Recreation Services E-Newsletter was introduced.

Aquatic Facilities

Blewater Lagoon

- Tour conducted of the facility for Gladstone Port Authority as they are intending developing the foreshore and constructing a wet play area for the region.
- Emergency repairs to solid shade structures required as several roofing sheets came loose in moderate winds.
- Minor issues experienced with the sewerage pump.
- Several pool grates replaced and repaired after being damaged.

Memorial Pool

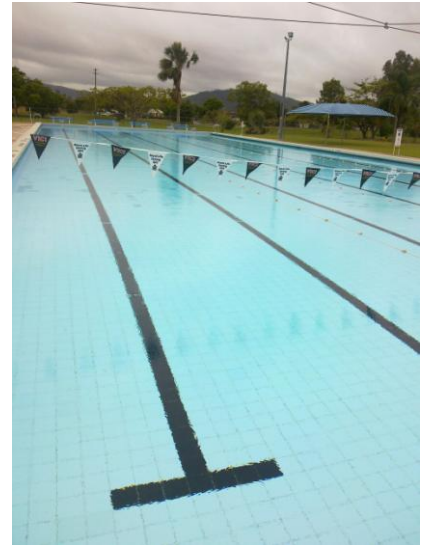
- Bookings
 - 4 x Water Polo game nights
 - 6 x community group booking
 - 1 x swimming carnival
 - 1 x water polo trials day
 - 56 x school group bookings
 - 8 x Water aerobics sessions
 - 1 x careflight training session
- Excellent numbers attending the “Mission Inflatable” obstacle course activity with more than forty (40) customers enjoying the activity.
- Staff training continues, improving staff skills and awareness.

Pioneer Pool

- Bookings
 - 27 x school group bookings
 - 3 x club nights
 - 4 x water aerobics sessions
 - 3 x training sessions for Eimeo Surf Life Saving
 - 1 x Austswim Course bookings
 - 1 x swimming carnival
- A total of five (5) cadets Swimming Teachers were employed. Three (3) of the cadets completed their Learn-to-Swim (LTS) competency and are teaching the LTS and Swim & Survive programs.
- A successful ‘Come & Try’ day was held at the beginning of the month to allow prospective children to be assessed and booked into correct levels.
- Term 4 of the LTS program commenced this month seeing sufficient growth compared to October 2009 with five (5) teachers being in the water in several sessions.
- Squad training has vastly improved on last year with four (4) lanes being utilised most afternoons and two (2) coaching staff being employed in the afternoons. Morning sessions commenced on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Term 4 of the Swim and Survive program has seen five (5) schools booked into Council’s swim program with two (2) of the schools joining the program for the first time.
- Adult Swim for Fitness sessions are well attended at both centres, with some members training for specific goals.
- Meeting was held with Committee members of Pioneer Swim Club Inc. to review the last twelve (12) months of club house and coaching arrangements.
- An Austswim “Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety” (TSW) course was held in Mackay. Eleven (11) prospective teachers attended the course with several teachers completing their practical hours within Council’s swimming program.
- The Multicultural swimming program (teaching swimming to people from a non-English speaking background) reached the half way mark. This program is fully funded and delivered in partnership with Council’s Community Development program.
- Further Austswim courses have been scheduled for November 2010 and January 2011. Mackay is now one of the leaders in providing these courses in regional Queensland.

Mirani Pool

- The tender for the management of this facility closed early October. Council received limited interest.
- Staff successfully completed extensive pool and plant works required to open the facility to the public.
- The facility opened early October for the start of the 2010/2011 swimming season under interim (in-house managed) arrangements until more permanent lease arrangements are finalised.
- Two new staff joined the team as operations at Mirani Pool continue expanding to Council employees managing the facility five days per week (since October 25) until more permanent arrangements are put in place.
- Hazard Inspection conducted at the facility.



Sarina Pool

- The tender for the management of this facility closed mid October. Council received limited interest.

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

Bluewater Lagoon*

Type of Customer	Bluewater Lagoon October 2009	Bluewater Lagoon October 2010
Children’s Lagoon	6,871	4,362
Middle Lagoon	14,959	8,558
Upper Lagoon	5,484	3,192
TOTAL IN WATER CUSTOMERS	27,314	16,112
TOTAL PRECINCT (non-swimmers)	34,015	22,745
GRAND TOTAL	61,329	38,857

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

Memorial Pool**

Type of Customer	Memorial Pool October 2009	Memorial Pool October 2010
Persons 15 years or older	1,262	1,037
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	382	342
Pensioner	72	55
TOTAL	1,716	1,434
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	129	109
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$4,217.80	\$4,363.80

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Pioneer Pool**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool October 2009	Pioneer Pool October 2010
Persons 15 years or older	1,223	818
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	735	625
Pensioner	80	47
TOTAL	2,038	1,490
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	76	51
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$7,851.00	\$7,166.35

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Mirani Pool***

Type of Customer	Mirani Pool October 2009	Mirani Pool October 2010
Persons 15 years or older	429	104
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	710	394
Pensioner	15	35
TOTAL	1,154	533

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

Revenue Received:**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool		Memorial Pool	
	October 2009	October 2010	October 2009	October 2010
Actual Gate	\$9,972.00	\$7,052.50	\$10,385.00	\$8,674.00
Season Tickets	\$1,815.00	\$2,380.00	\$2,090.00	\$2,445.00
Miscellaneous	\$8,677.44	\$7,206.65	\$4,232.70	\$4,427.90
TOTAL	\$20,464.44	\$16,639.15	\$16,707.70	\$15,546.90
Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate	\$2,280.00	\$1,530.00	\$3,870.00	\$3,270.00

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

PROPERTY SERVICES

Management

- Meetings held with the Pioneer Valley Tourism & Development Association and Nanyima Aged Care in regards to lease arrangements.
- Completion of Program Service Level Reviews.
- Attendance at Proposed Centralised Purchasing, MacDonnells Law and Asset Management presentations.
- Conducted Paget Depot site tour for members of the SLT.
- Presented information on the Paget Depot to the LGEG and employee groups at Sarina and Mirani.
- Arranged on site meeting with representatives of the Sarina Community Arts & Crafts Co-operative Ltd and the Manager of Parks & Environment to discuss site preparation work required for the relocation of the Mt Pelion School House from the Northview Primary School to the Field of Dreams. The building will be located on the southern side of the existing Tourist Information Arts & Craft Centre with associated costs to be the responsibility of the Co-operative.

Property Services

- Officers continued their role as part of the Paget Depot Project Management Team and form the Logistics & Change Management Team which took face to face communication to the forefront visiting numerous sites and team meetings ensuring depot based workers are up to date with the Paget Depot Project. The update included:
 - project outline
 - site overview
 - detail of representation on project teams and meetings and decision making processes,
 - building allocation and facility detail
 - ESD initiatives
 - communication processes, site tours
 - Project Planning eg. Logistics & Change Management Plan
 - photographs and construction status
 - meetings and site visits attended are as follows:

Meeting	Attendance	Date
Parks Program	Approx 110	21 July 2010
Maintenance Drainage Team	Approx 30	11 October 2010
LGEG	Approx 20	12 October 2010
Water Team	Approx 90	12 October 2010
Civil Operations Supervisors	Approx 15	20 October 2010
Sarina Depot	Approx 45	26 October 2010
Mirani Depot (Calen and Eungella Depot invited)	Approx 50	27 October 2010
Civil Projects Supervisors	Approx 15	28 October 2010

Other Meetings conducted include:

Meeting Name	Date
Paget Depot Managers Meeting	8 October 2010
Program Representatives Meeting	21 October 2010

- As Part of the Paget Depot Managers Meeting the Logistics & Change Management Plan was presented and particular emphasis was paid to the Relocation and Business Continuity Planning Sections.
- Following the Bedford Road and Ness Street Storage Audit a comprehensive Storage Audit Requirements package was developed and presented/provided to the depot based programs. This package provides all the information required for them to address their present storage situation and develop a plan for storage improvements with the relocation to Paget.
- Commenced Asset Management Development for Paget Depot and Property Services as a whole. Meetings with Asset Services and stakeholders.
- The tender for the Provision of Cleaning Services for MRC Facilities was advertised and closes early November for evaluation. Air Conditioning and Security Service requirements have been reviewed with draft specifications being finalised.

- *Capital Works Projects:*

PROJECT	COMMENTS
2009/2010 Program	
Mackay Admin Building – A/C Heater Element Replacement	Works completed.
Council Buildings – Security Upgrade & Consolidation	Works completed.
2010/2011 Program	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sourcing quotations for smaller scale projects to assist in scheduling works; and ▪ Reviewing larger scale projects to refine schedule and timelines for Project Briefs. 	

Property Co-ordinations

Leases

- Lease enquiry - Sarina Rotary Club – Sarina.
- Lease enquiry - Mackay Habana Road, Nindaroo
- Program staff are currently dealing with 18 Leases.

Land Dealings / Easement Dealings

- Kennys Road, Mirani – Old MSC resumption never finalised.
- Holts Road, Beaconsfield – Road Widening
- Caping Road, Bloomsbury – Road upgrade and widening
- City View Court, Mt Pleasant – New service road
- Program staff are currently dealing with 27 land dealings and 8 Easements

Sarina Sugar Shed

Sales figures have been maintained at a similar level as last October despite a big drop in visitor numbers, this has been achieved mainly through the wholesaling of sauce and alcohol products.

The Sugar Shed is preparing for the Christmas season and focusing on hampers and gift shop sales. This early preparation has been made possible through the hard work of the volunteers, who have compiled very good stocks of alcohol ready for the Christmas period.

In line with previous years bookings from regional schools for end of year excursions have commenced.

MACKAY CONVENTION PRECINCT AND EVENTS

Management

- Attended Artspace Foundation Annual General Meeting in capacity of Company Secretary for the Foundation and CEO's Delegate.

- Attended Arts Queensland for Local Government Arts & Culture Advisory Group meeting.
- Completed Regional Infrastructure Grant application.
- Finalised Convention Precinct & Events Service Reviews.
- Formally met with Grinders Corporate Catering to discuss licence reviews pertaining to Foodspace and Lagoon's Cafe.
- Met with officers from Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing and solicitors regarding the Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre Special Facility licence and the third party licence agreement with contractors Grinders Corporate Catering.
- Conducted several media interviews mostly pertaining to the Mackay Eisteddfod.
- Met with officers from Parliament House (Brisbane), and the Department of Premier and Cabinet facilitating the Mackay Region Sitting of Parliament to be held May 2011.
- Met with State Opposition Leader John Paul Langbroek to assist with the planning of Mackay Region Sitting of Parliament to be held May 2011.
- Completed 20 year capital works plan.
- Attended River to Reef Festival assisting staff as necessary.
- Attended Global Grooves Festival.
- Hosted over 500 delegates who attended the Bowen Basin Symposium.
- Finalised MECC Morning Melodies Programme for 2011.
- Finalised arrangement to install City and regional Christmas decorations.
- Accepted the peer nomination to become Queensland representative on the Management Committee of the Australian Performing Arts Centres Association and was subsequently elected unopposed to this position which will enhance the MECC's reputation and provides for working directly with the Federal Minister for the Arts and industry organisations.
- Guest speaker and awards presenter at Holy Spirit College's Cultural Awards Evening providing an insight into career opportunities in the arts.

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

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

Festivals and Events

River 2 Reef Festival

Bluewater Quay came alive with the 7th River 2 Reef Festival. The day commenced with the David Deakin Bike Ride where over 600 riders raised \$35,000 for spinal research. The success of this bike ride meant early crowds and crowd numbers were significant all day. Another fundraising event, the River Raft Race raised \$15,000 for Childhood Cancer Support. Festival revellers were entertained by local and interstate bands, great children's entertainment, circus workshops, mural painting workshops, great food and over 60 market stalls.

Excellent feedback has been received, and Bluewater Quay continues to prove itself as a popular and safe site for large events which are family friendly.

Global Grooves

A highly successful Global Grooves saw over 6000 people attend a day of world music and activities celebrating Mackay's multi cultural community and multi culturalism.

Commencing with a Citizenship Ceremony where over 60 residents were naturalised, the day then took a festive direction with local community groups complementing professional entertainers. An eclectic and diverse region provides for an eclectic mix of world entertainment and revellers were treated to sounds from Fiji, Malta, Spain, India and much more.

The Victoria Street Sunday Markets were relocated to Global Grooves to reduce competition for attendances and to enhance both events. This successful amalgamation added another element to Global Grooves and a variety of food stalls ensured plenty of activity for crowds.

A community parade of national costumes proved highly popular and demonstrated well, the various communities that make up our region. And the display of fireworks at night thrilled both younger and older people alike.

Having lost ABC Tropical North as principle sponsors this year due to competing interests on the day (the Airlie Beach Festival), new sponsors Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd (DBCT) added a cash injection to this event so that commercial advertising could occur.

The influx of revellers and associated celebrations created a genuine "feel good" ambience that pleased sponsors Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd. Subsequent negotiation has secured DBCT as Festival sponsor for the next three years which ensures the ongoing longevity of this growing event.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Planning has commenced for this year's community celebrations which will occur in Mackay (4/12), Sarina (8/12), Mirani (9/12), Walkerston (11/12) and Calen (11/12).

Artspace Mackay

- 2,681 people visited Artspace Mackay during September 2010 (3,049 people visited Artspace Mackay during October 2009)
- 951 people visited the Town Hall during September 2010 (1,077 people visited the Town Hall during October 2009)
- 11,874 people visited the Artspace Mackay website during September 2010 (11,306 people visited the Artspace Mackay website during October 2009)

Exhibitions:

27 Feb – 24 Oct	Cox Rayner Gallery	<i>The A-Z of Artists Books</i> (Works from the MRC Collection)
From 16 July	Cox Rayner Gallery	<i>Tate Adams</i> (prints from the MRC collection)
17 Sep – 31 Oct	McAleese Gallery	<i>Namatjira to Now</i> (Qld Art Gallery touring exhibition)
17 Sep – 31 Oct	ASM Foyer	<i>Maelstrom: Recent works by Kelvyn Cunnington</i>
29 Oct - Present	Cox Rayner Gallery	<i>c/o Poste Restante</i> : Artists books from the MRC collection. (Curated by Wanda Bennett)

Community Exhibitions Program:

8 Oct – 16 Oct	Mackay Town Hall Studio Space	<i>Colour... Life... Expression... : Art Works by individuals who experience mental health issues</i> (Mental Illness Fellowship)
29 Sep – 5 Oct	Sarina Art Gallery	<i>Lockhart River Art Gang: prints from the Mackay Regional Council Collection</i>

Recycled Library: Altered Books touring exhibition

Civic Hall Galleries, Port Lincoln, South Australia (26 August – 10 October).
Port Pirrie Regional Art Gallery, South Australia (29 October – 12 December)

MacAleese Gallery / Foyer / Cox Rayner Gallery

Namatjira to Now

This is a touring exhibition, presented by the Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art. With watercolours, paintings and ceramics by Albert Namatjira and other indigenous artists from the Hermannsburg region of Central Australia, this exhibition has been a very popular inclusion to this year's exhibition program. Audience attendance dropped a little during the latter weeks of the exhibition but the overall attendance for the exhibition remained high at 4,875 and comments in the Visitors' Book continued to be extremely positive.

Maelstrom: Recent works by Kelvyn Cunningham

Accompanying *Namatjira to Now* is an exhibition by local artist, Kelvyn Cunningham. Artspace was proud to work with a local artist and Kelvyn's work has been well received by the community.

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

Throughout the month of October, Artspace staff worked closely with local artist, Wanda Bennett. Wanda is a well established local artist with an impressive exhibition history, has worked extensively with the community, and has recently completed a Masters in Visual Arts. Wanda was offered the opportunity of Guest Curator where she was mentored by the Artspace Director and exhibition staff. The result is this latest exhibition, which is on display in the Cox Rayner Gallery.

Mackay Town Hall Studio Space

Colour... Life... Expression...: Art Works by individuals who experience Mental Health Issues

Artspace exhibitions staff worked with members of the Mental Illness Fellowship to hang this exhibition at Town Hall. The exhibition ran from 8-16 October and featured some very interesting works by promising local artists.

Sarina Art Gallery

Lockhart River Art Gang: prints from the Mackay Regional Council Collection

This exhibition of prints by the Lockhart River Art Gang from Mackay Regional Council's collection continued through until 5 October. Despite the exhibition being held during school holidays, visitor numbers were the highest yet, totalling 175 over the 7 days.

Artspace Mackay Foundation

Artspace staff have been liaising with Melissa Broadhurst from the Artspace Foundation on the 2012 Diary Project. This project will see works from the Mackay Regional Council Art collection featured

as photographs within the diary. Due for release in October 2011, the diary will raise funds for the Foundation and raise the profile of the gallery and the MRC collection.

The Artspace Foundation has agreed to purchase a set of photographic studio lights for Artspace to assist with the process of photographing all works in the collection. Exhibitions staff are exploring funding avenues and plan to apply for a grant in the near future to assist with the payment of professional services for the project.

Public & Education Programs in October 2010

5 Oct	MAIJAG, Evans Ave, Mackay	Outreach public program - Showing of 'First Citizen' film of Albert Namatjira to members and visitors to MAIJAG.	10 attended
12 Oct	Seminar Room	<i>BMA Kidspace</i>	92 adults & toddlers
13 Oct	Mirani State High School	Artists books from collection taken to Mirani State High School. Year 10 class studying artists books and looking to be inspired by collection prior to making their own artists books. Reported in The Daily Mercury and Midweek. Received great response and feedback from art teacher.	25 students
13 Oct	Namatjira exhibition	Self-guided tour by Tony Baxter and students from Mackay State High School	20
21 Oct	Namatjira exhibition	School group tour – Andergrove State School. Year 2&3	27 students and adults
21 Oct	Namatjira exhibition	Sue Paton guided a tour of Vision impaired adults. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elderly group - Varying vision impairment ranging from completely blind with carers who can see to 'peripheral vision only' or 'tunnel vision only' 	10 adults
29 Oct	Namatjira exhibition and Fiona Foley public artworks	School group tour – Bowen state school Approx 60 year 5&6 students with teachers and adults.	66 students and adults
30 Oct 2010	Seminar Room	Felt Making with Katelyn Aslett	8 Participants + Tutor
31 Oct 2010	Seminar Room	Felt Making with Katelyn Aslett	8 Participants + Tutor

Management

City Focus Business Forum and City Centre Business Exhibition, October 4th

Attendance at Freight Summit, Thursday, October 28th.

Mackay Chamber of Commerce AGM – Tuesday, October 5th, South League Club.

City Centre LAP Inception Meeting – Tuesday, October 5th.

Economic Development

Business Networks:

Sarina Business email network now has over 130 members receiving updates.

Follow-up from the successful Sarina Business on Show held in September – saw press releases, photo articles appear in various media. Certificates of appreciation and letters distributed to over 25 businesses involved with the evening's events. A follow up communication was emailed to the Sarina Business network to advise all members of the top priorities that came out of the forum. As part of the business networking at the Forum, a local bank was invited to bid on business banking and lending opportunities for a major mining related industry!

City Focus network now has 521 members receiving updates.

City Focus Business Forum (October 4th) and preview of website – The City Focus Business Forum, held at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC), on Monday, October 4, 2010, attracted more than 130 people and 25 very high quality business displays and government information booths, helping to highlight the diverse range of business and services available in Mackay's City Centre. Thank you letters were distributed to all businesses involved with the evening's events along with a certificate of appreciation.

The e-business guide, a comprehensive guide for those wishing to source services to assist business – or simply find out more about the economic story for the Mackay region, was launched as part of the City Focus Business Forum on Monday, October 4.

Events

- Principal Economic Development officer attended the Mackay Showground consultation, Wednesday October 27th - Potential new users and usages were discussed. A draft presentation will be prepared by the third or fourth week in November.
- Economic Development display, including prospectus materials, at the Freight Summit, Thursday, October 28th.

Media

- Spring In the City – TV campaign, supplemented by print media features includes all things “spring” such as the spring racing carnival and Melbourne Cup. A special offer was made to economic development business network members of a promotional price for the spectacular Cup event and superb Richard de Chazal fashion parade, held at the MECC. “Spring in the City” Print Features formed part of the promotional materials for the MECC spectacular Cup event.
- A publicity photoshoot was conducted for the new City Centre website and ‘Celebrate’ marketing campaign to be launched in November.
- Investigations continue into upgrading the former Sarina business listing website - http://sarina.resolute.com.au/component/option.com_frontpage/Itemid,23/, to allow a

technical platform for the site to continue in service and be updated with business directory information and image gallery.

Publications

- New full Profiles for Sarina, Mackay and Mirani are available in hard copy and from the economic development pages of council's website
- The e-business guide, a comprehensive e-guide for those wishing to source services to assist business – or simply find out more about the economic story for the Mackay region, was launched as part of the City Focus Business Forum on Monday, October 4.
- E-Business guide available on promotional USB as well as downloadable version
- E-Business guide translated into Mandarin version for distribution on USB by Cr Dave Perkins as part of the REDC Investment Mission to China.

City Focus Advisory Committee

City Focus Advisory Committee Meeting – Thursday, October 7th.

City Focus matters raised for consideration, included: further investigation into the provision of toilet facilities in the CBD, discounted parking options for offstreet car parks, footpath cleaning and considerations for future design standards in relation to promoting ease of maintenance.

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.