

**Author: DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

## **Purpose**

To review Community Services Department highlights and significant issues for the month ending 31 May 2011.

## **Background and Discussion**

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

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS**

- Cr Steindl, staff and award nominees travelled to Richmond for the North Queensland Sport Star Awards with Mackay's barefoot water-ski champion Ashleigh-Kate Stebbeings awarded the Senior Sport Star Award.
- The MECC hosted Regional Parliament with thousands of local people attending various events across the Convention Precinct and at offsite locations.
- The Mayor along with various Councillors and staff met with the Ministers for Transport, the Arts, Education and Sports to discuss important community services priorities for the region such as public transport, libraries and sporting infrastructure.
- The Greenmount Heritage Fair was held on 29 May with over 8000 people attending.
- Northern Beaches Under 8's week event held at Seaview Park, Bucasia Esplanade, Thursday 26 May. More than 600 residents attended this inaugural event which was organised in collaboration with Bucasia State School and the Australia Early Development Index worker.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT**

- Continued work on defect rectification and finalisation of outstanding contractual matters and payments for the MECC and Bluewater Lagoon with final inspections scheduled for 15 June with paperwork and outstanding matters to be finalised shortly following this date.
- Continued work on the grants and inkind assistance program reviews with a report to be presented to Council early in the first quarter of 2011-12 year.
- Meetings with Mackay Tourism and Pioneer Valley Tourism Development Association to finalise lease and MOU relating to the Melba House site with the draft agreement to be presented for Council endorsement in coming weeks.
- Met with scholarship students and their families to gauge their views in advance of preparing a report on postponing the 2011 trip to Council.
- Chaired Tourism assets meeting where an initial 2 projects and working groups were established to look at re-living the town hall and advertising and promotion of Council tourism assets.
- Discussions held regarding applying for a grant for a major piece of public art to celebrate the M150 celebrations in 2012.
- Council's service enhancement team met to take forward two of its priority projects, corporate culture and reporting.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES TRAINING

- Director Community Services attended the LGMA Future Leaders Forum where he was awarded the 2011 LGMA Young Manager of the Year Award.
- Manager CD&L conducted FISH training session with Civil Operations (Maintenance Supervisors) at Mirani.
- Eight Learn-to-Swim staff successfully completed an Austswim “People with Disabilities “ course.
- All members of the community development team participated in a team building day facilitated by Susan Pearce of Reinvention. The day highlighted the need to better share information across the program and for officers to be better informed of what activities are happening within Council more broadly.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LIBRARIES

### ***Management***

- Several meetings were held to discuss potential Community Engagement around the new Planning Scheme
- A Debrief was held via teleconference for the Management Challenge Team and mentors to discuss participation and results of the recent Challenge
- Attended Mentoring Program network session

### ***Community Development***

#### **Community Development**

Co-ordinator Community Development along with the LAMP and CAMS Officers attended a luncheon with the Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs.

Interviews for the casual position at Sarina Youth Centre were held, the new officer to commence on 7 June.

New Officer commenced in 2 day per week job share position in Locality Development.

Community Development Officer participated in the planning committee for Disability Awareness Week to be held 18 - 24 September. An All Abilities Expo will be one of the main activities for the week.

The May meeting of the Homeless Outreach Partnership Network focused on developing models and strategies for:

- (1) wrap around services for the walking homeless
- (2) a Drop In Centre and
- (3) an Outreach Team for Mackay (focused on mental illness).

## **Locality Development**

A Positive Parenting program was held in Walkerston during month of May. This program was made possible by funding received from the Hail Creek Community Development Fund. All sessions were at capacity with 12 participants attending each of the four sessions. As a follow up the Locality Development Officer is developing a 'Food Cents' workshop program (budgeting and nutrition advice).

The Northern Beaches Community Network has formed a sub-committee to discuss pedestrian and cyclist access within the locality. Issues being reviewed include increased traffic congestion at Eimeo Rd State School and ways to alleviate this problem in light of continually rising enrolments and a new 2 stream kindergarten opening in 2012.

Mackay Child Friendly Community Action Group focus this month is on preparing funding submission to Qld Country Credit Union and the Dept of Communities for this year's Child Protection Week event to be held at MRBG in September.

LDO prepared media submission as requested by Plantation Palms developers for inclusion in their Coastal Living publication. This is to be a regular contribution to their twice yearly magazine promoting activities of the Northern Beaches Community Network.

The event was the culmination of a few months planning and attendance far exceeded expectations. Evaluations of the event were very positive and the locality will once again host this event in 2012.

## **Community Projects**

The Sarina Childhood Injury Prevention Group will run free CPR training sessions at the Sarina Markets on Sunday, 29 May 2011.

The last free volunteers training session was held in Sarina on 10 April 2011, with participants gaining insight into the role of the RADF program, the eight categories of funding available, eligible projects and how to gain the best possible chance of getting an RADF funding application approved.

The Sarina Community Newsletter May 2011 edition has been developed and is available to view on Councils website.

The Community Projects Officer has met with Sarina SES representatives to assist them to develop their healthy BBQ event as part of the Measure Up program. The group has received \$1,000 to run a healthy BBQ event for SES volunteers to promote healthy eating and suitable foods to eat during volunteering to sustain energy.

Coalport Community & Recreation Association, Louisa Creek, received \$500 to provide a healthy cooking demonstration as part of the Measure Up program. 18 people attended the function in which Queensland Health dieticians discussed the benefits of various foods, how to reduce cholesterol and how to understand labels on packaged food.

## **Regional Arts Development**

Creative Mackay Ebulletin completed and distributed to 200 contacts via email.

Arts Development Officers assisted with the launch of the Mackay Region Festival of Arts

RADF Round Four Closed - 10 applications received to the total value of \$27, 969.30.

The 48<sup>th</sup> edition of the Art Is In Calendar was printed and distributed within the community.

### **Indigenous Issues**

A Torres Strait Island Community Meeting was held at the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens where Elders and members of the Torres Strait Island Community provided input and shared their ideas to progress the design of interpretive signage and a ceremonial gateway for the precinct.

### **Multicultural Partnership Program**

A midway evaluation of the Muslim Swim Course was held. No significant issues arose from the evaluation.

The Internal Multicultural Reference Group met to progress the development of Visa Information Policy for Council.

All 75 past participants of the Multicultural learn to swim courses from 2010 and 2011 have been offered a refreshers course as a means to further develop their water confidence and hopefully increase their patronage of the aquatic facilities.

New partnerships with Absolute Immigration Services and Central Queensland University have been made by the Welcome Centre committee in order to gather information and migration data to assist with progression of the Welcome Centre concept for the Mackay Region.

A Multicultural Youth Sports Grant funding application was completed in conjunction with Recreation Services.

Meetings have been held to develop a partnership with the Road Accident Action Group to progress the Multicultural Driving Project for migrants.

### **Multicultural CAMS (Australian South Sea Islander)**

Assistance has been provided to the Mackay Australian South Sea Islander Recognition Working Group members as they plan this year's State wide Australian South Sea Islander Recognition celebrations to be held in Mackay in September.

CAMS Officer attended the CAMS network conference held in Maleny. The conference program consisted of:

Workshops with Community Development expert Tony Kelly

Information sessions with Cultural Advisory Unit staff from QLD Police Service

Assistant Secretary of Multicultural Affairs Branch of Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Discussions have been held with Garry Page, Executive Director of Multicultural Affairs Queensland, to inform him of the Australian South Sea Islander community's plan to develop the Meeting House in to a Cultural Centre.

Meeting held with a representative from Walkerston Medical Centre to discuss their application for the proposed northern Beaches Super Clinic. The model for the proposed clinic is to be inclusive of the Australian South Sea Islander community.

### **Youth Development**

Integrated Case Management Working Party met to review existing Integrated Case Management Models in order to develop a model appropriate for use across Mackay services.

The Affordable Youth Housing Working Group met with key stakeholders to further a proposal by the Queensland Department of Communities Housing and Homelessness Services to sequester two 2 x 2 duplex buildings specifically for the use by marginalised young people. This project reached a successful completion and the working group handed this over to CASA and the YIRS One Stop Youth Shop who would manage the operational aspects of the project.

Youth In Safe Place (YISP) Working Group have distributed 500 surveys to workers in the youth and community sectors to gauge the interest, needs and expectations of young people that might use the service. 96 surveys have to date been returned. Of these responses, 11 young people indicated that they were living in an unsafe environment. Four (4) of these young people were aged between 13 and 15 years, 5 were aged between 16 and 18 years and 2 were aged between 19 and 25 years. 36 young people indicated that they are technically homeless in varying circumstances of the Primary, Secondary and Tertiary homelessness categories. Seventy-seven (77) young people indicated that they would use the Youth In Safe Places Centre if it was available.

#### **Young Consultants Program**

A need has been identified in the Mackay community that “real” consultation with young people is difficult, as there are limited opportunities to discuss strategic initiatives with a group that can give meaningful feedback. Government and Non-Government Organisations are caught up in the day-to-day facilitation of tasks to accommodate young people’s needs and struggle to “listen” to strategic opportunities that may have a wider impact on young people’s lives in Mackay and some work is being done in this area.

Sarina Youth Adventure Club has been training all month and will be competing in their first Adventure Race on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June at Kinchant Dam.

Sarina Youth Centre’s Youth Development Officer in conjunction with Sarina High School staff has developed a Suspended Students Program.

Duke of Edinburgh participants engaged in a training day at Kinchant Dam this month to prepare the young people for their Adventurous Journey in the next month. Training included First Aid and emergency procedures, navigation, environmental care, team building and leadership training and camp craft.

Valley District Youth Council held its Annual General Meeting this month with new executive members being elected. Youth Council members will meet next month to plan activities and events for the coming year.

## Rural Engagement

Assistance has been provided to the Hampden Valley Progress Association to prepare an application to the NRMA Community Grants program for solar-powered lighting to be installed in the council-owned park on Delachantos Road.

The newly-formed Quota club, Quota International of Mackay's Rural North Inc., is this year sponsoring and providing public liability insurance cover, for Calen Springfest 2011 – "Music on McIntyre". The Community Development Officer has worked with the working group to prepare invitations to performers, market stall-holders, volunteers, and businesses to participate in the event. Information has also been provided to the group about the need for permits for road closures, street stalls, etc.

Funding has been received from Queensland Health for community groups to host events or activities that promote physical activity and healthy eating among adults. Through Community Development the following activities will take place.

<b>Group/Organisation</b>	<b>Activity</b>
St.Helen's Bowls Club, Calen	Series of "bare-foot" bowls evenings, accompanied by BBQ
Bloomsbury State School P&C Assoc	Community walkathon, followed by picnic lunch
WOW (Women of Whitsunday Park), Bloomsbury	Healthy cooking demonstrations
Quota Club of Mackay's Rural North	Community swimming day, with healthy breakfast foods
Hampden Valley Progress Assoc	Community "sports day" in local park, including healthy BBQ's
Seaforth Progress & Sports Assoc	Community working-bee on beach foreshore, followed by BBQ tea
Midge Point Progress Assoc	Community working-bee on beach foreshore, followed by BBQ lunch

The Healthy Ageing Reference Group (HARG) in conjunction with Council's Emergency Management team, prepared a Factsheet outlining some alternatives to the purchase and filling of sandbags as water-repelling devices.

Work continues with Midge Point Progress Association as the members endeavour to reinstate the group after it was de-registered as an Incorporated Association by the Office of Fair Trading in 2008. A new Constitution, incorporating many aspects of the old, but formatted in line with the Government's Model Rules has now been developed. In addition, work to identify the "closed" financial accounts has been finalised, with an application to the bank, and consequently to the Public Trustee, to

re-open the accounts now underway. Work has also been done to prepare an agenda, resolutions, and election processes for the group to re-establish itself. These will be enacted during June.

The Leap & District Hall Committee Inc. has expanded its role in the community to have a broader whole-of-community focus. Assistance has been provided to the group to prepare constitutional amendments and resolutions that needed to be put to their General Meeting.

### Sister City

2011 Mackay Matsuura Scholarship Meeting was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011.  
Mackay Matsuura Sister City Advisory Meeting was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

### Inkind Assistance Request

Organisation	Request	Cost
Country United Soccer Club	30 waste bins for carnival	\$351.06
Eungella State School P & C	10 waste bins for stall at Finch Hatton Show	\$117.02
Mackay Basketball	4 waste bins for home games	\$50.82
MRC – Inaugural Under 8's Week in Northern Beaches	3 waste & 2 recycle	\$25.67
Mackay Road Runners	100 traffic cones for the Mackay Marine Run	No cost, supplied from Stores
Mackay Show Association	Grading of roadway, potted plants and traffic cones for the Mackay Show	\$4,150.00
National Seniors Mackay Inc	6 waste & 6 recycle bins, mowing and access to toilets for the Seniors Expo	\$142.73

## **Libraries**

### **Volunteer's Week**

Annemarie De Seriere - new Author / Self Publisher presented a one hour author talk to promote harmonious living and her 1st book called - Will to Wonder, 21 Jewels of knowledge: principles on the loss and recovery of Power. 12 volunteers and members of the public attended, staying for some time afterwards to ask further questions of the author.



**Author talk at Mackay City Library**

### **Young People's Services**

- The 2011 theme of Under Eights Week was "From the bush to the beach" and was celebrated in the libraries with National Simultaneous Storytime and activity afternoons.

National Simultaneous Storytime is held each year to promote Australian authors and illustrators and a love of reading for children. This year's story was Feathers for Phoebe by Rod Clement,

- Storytime and Baby Bounce attendance has increased from previous years statistics with 1252 attending Storytime and 251 attending Baby Bounce.

### **Statistics**

- 3,156 computer bookings were made
- 310 hours of wireless internet was used during the month of May
- Phone and in person reference query statistics were collected for a two week period. There were 1,219 phone queries and 932 in person queries recorded.
- Libraries website visits, 15,610.
- 441 new members were joined, Mackay City Library recording 194 of those new members
- 66,140 loans were recorded for the month of May. Gordon White Library had the highest loans with 30,015 followed by Mackay City Library with 22,317.
- 35,097 people visited Mackay Regional Council Library Service during May. This total excludes visits to the Mobile Library.

## **Museums**

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

- Launch of the exhibition of Hamilton Dairy artworks by Harvey Stone at the River Rock to Mountain Top Festival went very well with artworks now hanging in the Mirani Library until 20th June
- Nellie Melba display and Dairy display completed
- Butter churn and some information on dairying in the Valley and Eungella added to Council's information on the region's Museums at the Mackay Tourist Information Centre.
- 3 volunteers manned the Museum's information kiosk at the Greenmount Fair
- Application submitted for RADF Grant for 4 volunteers to attend the M&GSQ Conference in Mackay in August
- Friends continue to work on the 1911 sugar workers' strike display for the August Conference
- Maintenance work on the Museum and donga carried out
- First group for the year from Glenella State School visited during May

### **Greenmount Homestead**

The Greenmount Heritage Fair was held on 29 May and was again a resounding success. The event grows in popularity each year and this year saw approximately 8,000 visit the Fair throughout the day. Donations of almost \$3,000 were received. Planning is already underway for next year's fair to celebrate Mackay's Sesquicentennial.

## **RECREATION SERVICES**

### ***Management / Sport and Recreation***

- Cr Steindl and staff attended a scope development workshop for the proposed sporting precinct to be located at CQUniversity. An external consultant facilitated the day, which included representatives from Council, CQUniversity, State Government and the local athletics clubs.
- Staff met with representatives from other Council programs to plan for using the 'Swap it, don't Stop it' funding recently received. The aim is to hold physical activity and healthy eating events in the City Centre over the winter months.
- Staff met with representatives from Community Development to develop ideas for Multicultural Youth Sports Partnership Program funding, which aims to engage youth from non-English speaking backgrounds or those that are culturally or linguistically diverse in sport and recreation. An application was submitted.
- Staff attended a presentation at Mackay Hockey on how to attract and retain volunteers through effective volunteer management.
- Staff met with representatives from Engineering Services, Strategic Planning and the Department of Main Roads to discuss cycle plans for the Mackay region.
- Recreation Services was successful in their application for \$10,000 from the Building Rural Communities Fund, under Blueprint for the Bush. The funding will be used to engage a Leisure Consultant to develop a Master Plan for Sarina's Brewers Park Sporting Precinct.
- Staff and local QLD Government Sport and Recreation Advisor held an introductory information session for the six clubs participating in the Local Sport and Recreation Job Plan. The six groups participating currently are:

- Mackay Gymnastics
- Mackay Netball
- Mackay Regional Football Zone (Soccer)
- Mackay Rowing
- Mackay Hockey
- Sarina Rugby League
- Staff met with a representative of Walkerston BMX Club to discuss objectives for the club, including increasing volunteer numbers.
- Staff and QLD Government Sport and Recreation Advisor met with a Mackay Mountain Bike Club representative to discuss the clubs future plans, including their involvement in the North Queensland Games for 2012.
- Staff met with a representative from Fitness Australia to discuss Council's current and future interaction with fitness centres and how the two can best work together to promote the common goal on increasing health and wellbeing within the Mackay region.
- Staff commenced planning activities to organise communications for the large number of sporting and recreation groups situated in the South Mackay sporting precinct.
- Staff and representatives from Property Services met with Central QLD Blokart Club representatives to provide an update on possible land sites.
- Manager and QLD Government representatives meet with Mackay Football Association to discuss relocation project.
- Cr Steindl, staff and award nominees travelled to Richmond for the North Queensland Business Technology Centre Sport Star Awards which was held on Saturday May 14. Mackay's barefoot water-ski champion Ashleigh-Kate Stebbeings was awarded the Senior Sport Star Award, receiving this award for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in a row, after her Junior Award in 2009. The Council representatives took note of how the event was run in preparation for hosting this event in Sarina in April 2012 (refer to photo).
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## ***Aquatic Facilities***

### ***Bluewater Lagoon***

- Electrical issues caused temporary closure of the facility.
- Confirmation received from insurance assessors regarding repair/replacement of damaged shade sails and umbrellas caused by Christmas Day 2010 tornado.
- Representatives of Gladstone Regional Council inspect facility to assist in planning for aquatic facility.

### ***Memorial Pool***

- Facility remains closed for the annual winter maintenance period.
- The 50m pool and toddler pool are drained to allow for concrete samples to be taken as part of the scheduled detailed condition analysis (refer to photos).
- Spreading of crusher dust produces a usable flat grassed area for user groups.
- Wind breaks were cleaned and reinstalled (refer to photo).
- The grandstand was repainted and several timber boards were replaced.



### ***Pioneer Pool***

- Chlorine gas was removed from site to prepare for the arrival of a granulated chorine disinfectant system.
- Staff improve ventilation in plant room, improving the flow to enhance safe working practices.
- The Term 2 swimming program was successfully completed.
- The “Ladies only Muslim swimming lessons” continued during May. The program received positive mid-term feedback from participants.
- The new “Sporting Club multi-visit pass” product was introduced, assisting and encouraging regional sporting clubs to use the aquatic facilities.

### ***Mirani Pool***

- Facility remains closed for the annual winter maintenance period.

### ***Sarina Pool***

- Facility remains closed for the annual winter maintenance period.

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

**Bluewater Lagoon\***

Type of Customer	Bluewater Lagoon May 2010	Bluewater Lagoon May 2011
Children's Lagoon	1,053	1,218
Middle Lagoon	2,070	1,764
Upper Lagoon	900	0
<b>TOTAL IN WATER CUSTOMERS</b>	<b>4,023</b>	<b>2,982</b>
<b>TOTAL PRECINCT (non-swimmers)</b>	<b>6,192</b>	<b>3,512</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>10,215</b>	<b>6,494</b>

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

**Pioneer Pool\*\***

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool May 2010	Pioneer Pool May 2011
Persons 15 years or older	385	305
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	67	129
Pensioner	14	28
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>462</b>
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	37	35
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$2,038.40	\$2,686.10

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

**Revenue Received:\*\***

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool		Memorial Pool	
	May 2010	May 2011	May 2010	May 2011
Actual Gate	\$2,938.00	\$2,803.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
Season Tickets	\$810.00	\$520.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$2,165.90	\$2,867.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,913.90</b>	<b>\$6,190.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate	\$1,110.00	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

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

## PROPERTY SERVICES

### ***Management***

- Appointment of Graham Smith to the position of Co-ordinator Property Services.
- Discussion held with representatives from DERM (Heritage) regarding the heritage listing of the World War 1 cenotaph and Jubilee Park.
- Appointment of consultants to facilitate Change Acceptance sessions with employees relocating to the Paget Depot and complete work associated with the A – Z Guide for employees.
- Completion of negotiations with the Pioneer Valley Tourism and Development Association Inc and Mackay Tourism Ltd regarding the new lease and MOU for joint usage of Melba House.

### ***Coordinator Property Services***

- Expressions of Interest advertised for a New Manager for the Leap Community Hall.
- Northern Beaches Community Hall parking area has been repaired.
- Paths around the MECC were cleaned prior to the Regional Parliament.
- Meeting held at the Mirani Caravan Park to advise tenants of increases in park fees, with no objections received to date.
- New washing machine purchased for the Mirani Caravan Park.
- Pest Control treatments have been completed on Council Properties in the Pioneer Valley Area.

### ***Asset & Lease Officer***

Program Staff are currently dealing with 21 leases

- Glenella Hall, Hill End Road – No current lease in place
- Lighting issues for Mackay Touch Association
- Boundary issues at Habana between lease area of Habana & District Progress Association and neighbouring property owner
- Possible locations for Vodafone telecommunication towers
- Location issues for Blokarts Assoc
- Following up on expired leases

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

- Balnagowan Mandarana Road realignment, The Leap
- Walkerston Cemetery Expansion Acquisition
- Completed the purchase of 5 & 7 Goldsmith Street, East Mackay for future amalgamation with Queens Park.
- Program staff are currently dealing with 19 land dealings and 6 Easements

### ***Technical Officer***

- State government approved builders on the 31 May 2011 for the provision of 2 relocatable dwellings at Macarthur Street, Mackay. Funded project value approx \$500K.
- State government has also approved extension of timing for above project.
- SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) site demolition and asbestos removal tender approved and awarded to CJD Investments.

## Capital Projects

PROJECT	COMMENTS
<b>2009/2010 Program</b>	
Council Buildings – Security Upgrade & Consolidation	System training scheduled.
<b>2010/2011 Program</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mirani Admin Building, Reception Refurbishment (#90121) COMPLETED; and</li> <li>▪ Mirani Library (#90132) COMPLETED; and</li> <li>▪ Mirani Railway Station (#90355) COMPLETED; and</li> <li>▪ Sarina Admin building (#90122) COMPLETED May 2011; and</li> <li>▪ Fire system upgrades for Mackay Admin building (#90140) and Mackay City Library (#90130) – tendered to prospective contractors; and</li> <li>▪ Town Hall Electrical Review (#90123), Report - rectification works scheduled; and</li> <li>▪ Greenmount Homestead (#90127) Electrical Review – rectification works scheduled; and</li> <li>▪ Greenmount Homestead (#90127) Plumbing Review - rectification works commenced; and</li> <li>▪ Andergrove Neighbourhood Centre (#90348) COMPLETED April 2011; and</li> <li>▪ Seaforth Community Hall (#90350) Painting scheduled and new chairs ordered; and</li> <li>▪ The Leap Community Hall (#90352) window replacement awaiting quotation; and</li> <li>▪ The Leap Community Hall (#90352) works scheduled for grease trap outlet; and</li> <li>▪ Council Buildings Glass Report (#90120) Inspections scheduled; and</li> <li>▪ Sarina Sugar Shed (#90482) awaiting engineered plans for shade/wet weather covered area; and</li> <li>▪ Installation of appropriate Fall Arrest Systems for various Council buildings has been scheduled with Contractor; and</li> <li>▪ Sarina Cultural Hall (#90448) works scheduled for late May 2011; and</li> <li>▪ Mirani Community Hall/Youth Centre (#90345) COMPLETED May 2011; and</li> <li>▪ Mirani Museum (#90133) COMPLETED May 2011; and</li> <li>▪ Mirani Museum (#90133) shed and demountable building repairs commenced; and</li> <li>▪ Sarina Depot New Amenities (#90491) – Drafting Scope of Works; and</li> <li>▪ Sarina Beach Council House repairs (#90124) awaiting quotations; and</li> <li>▪ Senior Citizens Centre refurbishment (#90125) works being scheduled; and</li> <li>▪ Greenmount Homestead – Out buildings refurbishments (#90129) nearing completion; and</li> <li>▪ Gordon White Library refurbishments (#90131) works scheduled; and</li> <li>▪ Palmyra Depot structural reports (#90494) nearing completion.</li> </ul>	

## MACKAY CONVENTION PRECINCT AND EVENTS

### **Management**

Much time was committed in May to hosting the Mackay Regional Parliament sittings which are reported on in detail in the MECC Performance Report.

- Continued to manage Convention Centre defects and expect project to be successfully closed in forthcoming months
- Completed Convention Centre Service Courtyard and several other capital projects

- Facilitated development of Sesquicentennial Steering Committee
- Assisted and attended National Thanksgiving Day and received commendation for services to the community
- Launched 2011 Festival of Arts
- Met with Minister Simon Crean MP, providing tours of Artspace and MECC
- Worked with stakeholders including Arts QLD and Federal Government regarding satellite broadcasting at the MECC

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

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

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

#### **City Centre Markets**

The local chapter of the QLD Variety Club has expressed interest in managing the Victoria Street Sunday markets. A formal report is being presented to Council in June.

#### **River Rock to Mountain Top Festival 6-15 May 2011**

At the recent debrief of the RRTMT Festival the Festivals & Events Team were praised for their assistance in organising this year's Light Parade on Friday 6 May. The Festival received wider publicity than in past years and the stretching of the event to cover two weekends was seen as a positive. More activities do need to run in the first weekend however. There will have to be a major rethink of how this festival will be run in the future as the current coordinator Mary O'Neill will not be continuing. She will be greatly missed and has made an enormous contribution to the community.

#### **Mackay Festival of Arts 13-24 July 2011**

There was a very successful media launch of this year's festival program at Bluewater Quay attended by about 150 people on Wednesday 11 May. Initial public response to the program has been very positive. Tickets are on sale and will soon increase when the TV ,Radio and press ads start in mid June.

#### **Coal to Coast Festival Saturday 10 September 2011**

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

#### **River 2 Reef Festival Saturday 1 October 2011**

Planning is well advanced with the Childhood Cancer Support Group (Pelican Push and River Raft Race) and the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland (Great Seafood Barbeque Burn Off) to ensure that these iconic events are even bigger and better this year. Childhood Cancer Support have commissioned Total Engineering to build 4

similar rafts so that businesses who haven't the time to construct their own raft can enter the race. Qantas Link have become naming sponsor for this year's event

### **Global Grooves Sunday 30 October 2011**

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

### **Artspace Mackay**

Visitors: 2,928 during May 2011  
(2,740 during May 2010)

#### **Exhibitions:**

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

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

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, 1 March – 30 May 2011

#### **MacAleese Gallery / Foyer / Cox Rayner Gallery**

##### **2010 Ranamok Glass Prize**

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

##### **Clem Forbes: Recent Additions to the Mackay Regional Council Collection**

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

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

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

#### **Exhibitions-related news:**

Exhibitions staff have been busy this month preparing for a series of art exhibitions across the Mackay Region to celebrate this year's Festival of Arts. There will be

exhibitions at Sarina Art Gallery and Mirani Library, one at Gargett Gallery (curated by owner/manager Lesley Kane), and two exhibitions in Mackay Town Hall.

In May, Exhibitions Assistant Alicia Stevenson undertook a one-week internship at Queensland Art Gallery. She was accepted into the gallery's 'Backstage Pass' internship program, where only one regional art gallery worker is fully funded by the gallery to go to Brisbane and experience different areas of this prestigious institution. Alicia spent time with Exhibitions, Collections and Registration and said it was "an incredibly valuable and rewarding experience".

Also during this month, Exhibitions Curator Anna Thurgood was congratulated by Queensland's Minister for the Arts, Rachel Nolan MP, at a special breakfast at Artspace Mackay during the Queensland Parliament's recent sittings in Mackay. Anna has been selected to undertake a mentorship at the National Gallery of Australia, and is one of five artists chosen by a selection panel to do a mentorship or fellowship through Arts Queensland's Mentorship, Fellowship & Exchange Program.

On Friday 20 May, the Hon Simon Crean MP visited Artspace with The Hon Tim Mulherin MP and was given a tour of the current exhibitions.

Throughout May, Exhibitions staff continued conducting a series of mounting and framing workshops for Artspace Mackay volunteers. The workshops have been well-attended and were very well received.

Crossroad Arts have been utilising the printing press at Mackay Town Hall with a group of participants in a joint partnership program with Ozcare. This will culminate in a small exhibition of their work at the Mackay Town Hall in June, through Artspace Mackay's Community Exhibitions program.

### **MAY Public Programs & Education:**

Artspace Mackay had 13 events in Public Programs & Education in May with a total attendance of 269. These included our regular children's programs as well as 2 adult workshops, lunchbox tours during Volunteers Week and an Artspace Foundation Film Night.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Management***

"Resources for regions" Conference:

Regions were the key theme for Queensland economic development practitioners, meeting in Gladstone in May, 2011. Economic Development and Tourism Portfolio Councillor, Cr Dave Perkins led Conference sessions about tackling the challenges posed by regional growth and development, during the recent Local Government Association of Queensland and Economic Development Australia event, which was also attended by council's Manager of Economic Development.

*Sustainable Minerals Institute Cumulative Impact Workshop:*

Manager of Economic Development was invited to attend the University of Queensland's Sustainable Minerals Institute *Cumulative Social Impacts Local Government Consultative Workshop*, held in Gladstone, immediately following the Resources for Regions

conference. The Workshop focussed on a better understanding of current approaches to evaluating the social impact of mining in regional communities and useful tools in assessing and managing cumulative impacts.

*Australian Society of Sugar Cane Technologists Conference and Sugar Research and Development Corporation's Innovation Awards*

A major international sugar industry conference and awards ceremony held in Mackay, May 4-6, attracted participants and recognised speakers from around the world. The conference held at the MECC, was officially opened by Deputy Mayor, Darryl Camilleri. ABC TV Landline Senior Reporter Pip Courtney was the Master of Ceremony for the 2011 Sugar Research and Development Corporation's Innovation Awards, which recognised outstanding innovation being carried out within the sugarcane industry, and showcased innovative aspects of the local industry.

Council's Economic Development Program actively participated in the three day event with a sponsored display and information stand. Keynote speaker, London based Emeritus Professor David Hughes, provided a conference highlight with a review of the economic outlook for sugar and the food industry.

*Mackay Area Industry Network "MAIN Game – Success Story"*

Attendance at release of the MAIN Game report, funded through DEEDI to address industry success factors and focus on innovation, research and development.

*Mackay Area Industry Network Breakfast with Cabinet*

Council's Manager of Economic Development attended the event sponsored by DEEDI at which representatives of significant local mining service and engineering fabrication businesses reported a marked upswing in employment demand in the industry, from March, 2011, mainly on the back of activity in the Bowen Basin. Skill shortages were reported as an ongoing concern for industry, however it was the ongoing need for housing and affordable housing options that local industry raised with Queensland Treasurer Andrew Fraser and Minister Jan Jarratt. Concern centred on the ability of the local building industry to keep pace with demand for housing to complement regional skills attraction. Within the Mackay Local government area, building approval numbers for the year to December 2010, were buoyant, bucking the national downturn trend, however wet weather earlier this year, has impacted numbers for the year to March 2011. Recent drier weather is now allowing builders to return to greater activity levels..

*Tourism Queensland*

A presentation and industry update by Tourism Queensland during the parliament's recent visit to the region, was attended by local Tourism organisations including Sarina Arts and Crafts Visitor Information Centre, Mackay Tourism Ltd, Economic Development and Tourism Portfolio Councillor, Cr Dave Perkins and Manager of Economic Development.

**Council's Business Networks**

May saw the introduction of a new business e-network covering the region: Regional Focus includes those areas, particularly the Pioneer Valley, previously not scoped through the City Focus or Sarina Business networks. The membership for the regional Focus is building, and businesses are encouraged to sign up for free membership. Updates and invitations continue to all networks, which now reach all districts across the local government area. A new aspect of the "Regional Focus", includes a category for those based outside the region, but with an interest in keeping in touch with economic updates with a view to investing in the region.

Innovation Seminar – AusIndustry

Mackay Regional Council's Economic Development Program worked with Aus Industry and DEEDI representatives to plan and offer inkind assistance for a recent seminar event held at the Windmill motel. The free event, was promoted through councils business networks with council's Business Guide and Prospectus featured in the materials available on the day.

#### Central Queensland Mining Update

Visiting Rockhampton-based, Regional Geologist Phil Ferenczi (DEEDI) provided an overview of recent developments in the Central Queensland Mining province, at council recently. A summary of the mining information is available in the updated Economic Development Prospectus, which is free to members of council's Business Networks. Mackay LGA, according to the Queensland Resources Council, experiences the second largest, direct resource sector supplier spend in Queensland (Brisbane is the largest). Mackay is described as being in the 'box seat' to benefit from recent Central Queensland mining province activity spend.

Release of latest publications to the business networks including:

- Update of council's *Economic Development Prospectus*
- New Profiles for Mackay LGA, Sarina, Mirani Statistical Local Areas (downloadable from web)
- Release of latest information on the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday Regional Plan, including how to make a submission and relevant fact sheets and links to forms
- Release of latest population projection statistics for Mackay Local Government Areas

#### **City Focus**

##### ***City Deals***

City Deals continues to grow in popularity with businesses located in the City Centre. New deals are uploaded to the website on a weekly basis and the majority of businesses update their deals once they have expired. 33 businesses in total have uploaded a deal onto the Mackay City Centre website. Harvey World Travel recently advertised a luggage deal on the website and reported everything was sold within a matter of weeks. Since the launch of City Deals, businesses located outside of the City Centre boundaries have also tried to be a part of the initiative by requesting to upload a City Deal and business listing.

##### ***Radio and TV advertising***

Mackay City Centre TVC's aired for the month of May and had a positive response on the number of hits to the website. Commercials aired throughout the month on channel's Seven and Ten. Radio ads were also introduced to the advertising campaign on Zinc and Hot FM. Since the airing of the mackaycitycentre.com.au ad hits to the website have been steadily high.

##### ***Web***

##### ***Mackaycitycentre.com.au***

The month of May 2011 produced very strong figures for mackaycitycentre.com.au. The number of total visitors was 4,278.

- The best day for total visitors was on Thursday, May 26 with 349 visitors to the website.
- For the month of May there was a total of 21,362 page views; and
- The top 5 search phrases were: Mackay city centre, masala mackay, spice n flavour mackay, spice and flavour mackay and www.mackaycitycentre.com.au

### **Consultation**

There has been consultation with Community Services Program Managers.

### **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.