

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

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Purpose

To review Community Services Department highlights and significant issues for the month ending 30 September 2010.

Background and Discussion

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT

- Attended Mackay Tourism trip to Scawfell and Keswick Islands.
- Coal to Coast Festival attended.
- Attended Grant Committee Assessment meeting.
- Met with the CEO of Queensland Symphony Orchestra regarding future tours.
- Met with DERM cultural heritage coordinators regarding legislative impacts.
- Initial planning discussion held for the 2012 NQ games.
- Attended Musica Viva free concert sponsored by BMA at MECC
- Attended corporate projects and City Focus Advisory Committee meetings.
- Community Planning consultant appointed.
- Attended Mining Trail meeting in Moranbah.
- Attended Mackay Tourism AGM.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LIBRARIES

Management

- Attended Women's Forum as part of the LGAQ Women in Local Government
- Attended Sarina Business Forum
- Conducted interviews for Heritage Collection Co-ordinator

Community Development

- The September School Holidays was a busy time at the Sarina Youth Centre with 200 young people attending over the two week period. The Youth Centre's School Holiday Program was action packed with activities including Pool Competitions, Basketball & BBQ, Indoor Games and Art Workshops.
- Sarina Youth Centre's Inaugural Handball Comp proved to be very popular with the 16 young people signing up. Due to the popularity of this activity, planning is underway to develop the competition into a regular event.
- The Youth Centre participated in the Coal to Coast Festival by running the first ever Coal Games with some of the young people being marshals and the games designed by the Youth Development Officer. There were seven teams from the community which included a team from the Sarina High School, Whitsunday Anglican, Bendigo Bank and many more. With the success of this year's Coal Games the hope is to get double the amount of teams signing up for next year's Games
- Arts Development Officer along with two members of the RADF committee attended the Junction 2010 Regional Arts Australia Conference in Launceston.
- The first round of application through the Regional Arts Development Fund for the 2010/11 financial year received five applications requesting \$29, 097.90. Four applications were approved to the amount of \$19,297.90.
- The four week artist in residency project - Hiromi Hotel Art Farm in association with Digital Odyssey HOME Project (a MCA Regional Touring Project) came to an end during September. Local arts workers and community members actively participated in the program of activities which will result in the project being continued, on a small scale by local arts workers.
- Sarina Chip held free CPR information sessions at the Sarina Cultural Hall on Wednesday, 29 September 2010. The two sessions were held by trained paramedics with over 20 people attending. The Sarina Childhood Injury Group 2010 aims include reducing childhood drowning and improving playground safety to reduce childhood injury.
- The first Free Volunteers Training Session was held in September. Guest speaker at the session was Ken Furdek, Manager Corporate Communications. Ken's session outlined strategies for volunteers to engage the media. The session was the first of 7, with the next session scheduled to be held on 12 October 2010.
- The Sarina Transport Fact Sheet has been finalised and is ready for distribution. The fact sheet aims to increase public awareness of transport options in the Sarina area. The fact sheet will be distributed to all households in the Sarina area in the near future.
- MAD Monday, an event planned for young people was unfortunately cancelled due to weather conditions. The Youth Team are now preparing to hold this event at John Breen park on Sunday 7 November.
- Northern Beaches Community Day continues to grow in popularity with members of the Northern Beaches Network being actively involved in the planning and organising of the event.

Libraries

- Young People's Services

Event	Current year	Previous year
Storytime	769	843
Baby Bounce	73	100

- Statistics

Computer Use and Classes	Current year	Previous year
DiscoverIT Classes (participants)	48	48
Public Computers - Users	2645	2101
Public Computers – Bookings	3045	3447
Public Computers – Express Computers	971	1119
Public Computers – Wireless (hrs)	287	153.5

Information Requests	Current year	Previous year
Ask a Librarian Queries	5	18
Interlibrary loans – Customer requests	153	180
Interlibrary loans – Library requests	77	240

Reference/Phone Enquires (Sample Period - 20 September – 2 October, 2010)	Current year	Previous year
Reference < 5 minutes	972	N/A
Reference > 5 minutes	211	N/A
Phone < 5 minutes	1023	N/A
Phone > 5 minutes	160	N/A

Top Website Visits	Current year	Previous year
Total Website Visits	15755	15581
Website Visits - Home	9916	9934
Website Visits - Catalogue	Not available	1741
Website Visits - Locations & Hours	696	596
Website Visit - Online Resources	577	511
Website Visits – Ask the Library	359	151
Website Visits – Services for Children & Young People	297	171
Website Visits – Joining & Borrowing	265	293
Website Visits – Technology & Training	203	157
Website Visits – Heritage Collections	231	66
Website Visits – Services for Students	108	83
Website Visit - Children & Young People/Storytime	79	165
Website Visits – Kidzone	173	N/A
Website Visits – General Collections	159	N/A

Database Visits	Current year	Previous year
Databases - EBO	422	348
Databases - Newsbank	1	22
Databases - EBSCO Host	35	26
Databases - Thompson Gale	20	35
Databases - Your Tutor	48	24

Computer Requests	Current year	Previous year
Computer Support Requests – Mackay City Library	6	n/a
Computer Support Requests – Gordon White Library	4	n/a

Home Library Service Statistics	Library Branch		
	Gordon White	Mackay City	Sarina
Assistive Technology Computer	12	39	0
Home Library customers	55	102	15
Bulk Loans	2	1	
Phone calls	18	12	6
Reservations	60	46	12
Kilometres travelled by FOML	58.2	40	10
Number of items loaned	638	1025	150

Heritage Collection Room	Current year	Previous year
Total Users	42	76
Research Enquiries * up to 1 hr research required	7	6
Microfilm Reader Bookings	40	49

- Membership and loan statistics

New members

Library Branch	Current Year	Previous Year
Gordon White Library	124	181
Mackay City Library	213	178
Mirani Library	10	6
Mobile Library	19	15
Sarina Library	38	38
Walkerston Library	12	22

Loans

Library Branch	Current Year	Previous Year
Gordon White Library	29013	28390
Mackay City Library	29987	25410
Mirani Library	2919	2536
Mobile Library	3813	3807
Sarina Library	5134	4343
Walkerston Library	2686	2313

Visitors

Library Branch	Current Year	Previous Year
Gordon White Library	13109	12075
Mackay City Library	13633	13094
Mirani Library	1585	NA
Mobile Library	NA	NA
Sarina Library	4097	3292
Walkerston Library	NA	NA

- Mobile Library

The mobile library did not visit:

- Habana on 21 September 2010 due to soft ground following the storm rain.
- Storms on 28 September 2010 prevented customers from visiting the mobile library.
- Seaforth Road and Seaforth Beach stops on 29 September 2010 as there was a mechanical problem with an air valve on the vehicle.

The mobile library attended the Northern Beaches Community Day on 4 September 2010. A total of 102 people visited the mobile library, 117 items were borrowed, 1 person joined the library and 5 people renewed their membership.

Greenmount Homestead

- 2 weddings took place in September
- Dam pump failed; has now been fixed.
- Artspace-to-go workshop held on 30 September, with 18 children attending
- Two Walkerston child care groups visited during the school holidays
- Final connection of power project took place on 1-2 September
- Two school visits; plus one visit from low-vision group.

RECREATION SERVICES

Management / Sport and Recreation

- Manager Recreation Services, Sport and Recreation Officer and Aquatics Program Coordinator met with representatives of Council's "Events Team" to discuss opportunities for synergies with the aim to promote Recreation Services' facilities and activities at Council managed events. A specific Recreation Services "Events Kit" was put together to provide Recreation Services staff with the materials required to promote the program at events.
- Sport and Recreation Officer attended the Transport Working Group meeting to discuss the finalisation of Council's Bike Plan. This is currently awaiting information from the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy which is nearing completion.
- Sport and Recreation Officer attended the Health & Wellbeing Committee meeting. The meeting mainly focused on Council's Health Expo which was held this month. This was the first time the Recreation Services "Events Kit" was used, which was very successful in attracting participants to its interactive 'hook a duck' game, as well as providing attendees with relevant sports & recreation and aquatics information.

- Representatives of Council's Recreation Services and Corporate Communications programs organised and facilitated the successful 'Bluewater Trail Celebration' on Father's Day, Sunday 5 September. Approximately 600 members of the public attended the event, walking the section of the Trail from the Botanic Gardens along to the Ron Cam Bridge and back again enjoying various activities along the way. The event was a great success, with great feedback received on the day.



Happy Heart at the Bluewater Trail Launch

- Further progress was made in regards to the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy. A draft version was presented to Councillors in a special workshop and feedback received from this session was compiled and sent through the consultant for inclusion in the next draft.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sports & Recreation, Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Officer continued meeting with representatives from Council's Corporate Communications Team, Mackay PCYC, Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and Queensland Department of Communities (Sport and Recreation) to further progress the planning of the Mackay Sport Expo/Sign-On day to be held February 13' 2011. Funding for the project was secured via Council's Community Grants, whilst Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal also committed financial assistance.
- Recreation Services staff worked with Corporate Communications to develop the new 'Recreation Services E-Newsletter'. This will be released at the end of each month beginning in November.
- Sport and Recreation Officer held the second 'Modern Club Management Club Kit' workshop. Nine sports attended the session, all of whom reported being very interested in taking the kits contents and applying it to their club.

Key Sport and Recreation Communications:

- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sports & Recreation and Sport and Sport and Recreation Officer met with the Manager of the Northern Region, Sport and Recreation Services and the new Mackay-based Sport and Recreation Advisor. They discussed the local areas' requirements for now, and in the future, and are planning to keep clear and open communication between the State and Local Government levels.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sports & Recreation and Sport and Recreation Officer attended the Sarina Brewers Park Sport Precinct Management Committee meeting in Sarina, with representatives from six of the clubs also attending. Positive discussions were had regarding the future of the precinct.

North Queensland Sports Foundation (NQSF):

- Cr Steindl, Director of Community Services, Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Officer met to discuss the future plans for the 2012 North Queensland Games to be held in Mackay. The games will be held in June that year, and those present at the meeting will be involved in the organisation of the event in various forms, particularly Portfolio Councillor Health, Sports & Recreation and Sport and Recreation Officer in their roles as Board Members for the North Queensland Sport Foundation, the governing body of the games.

Media / PR

- Local television and the Daily Mercury highlighted the Bluewater Trail winning the 2010 National Overall Winner and National Category Winner as part of the Heart Foundation Local Government Awards.



Cr Steindl with the Award from the National Heart Foundation

- Local media promoted the second round of Multi-Cultural Swim Lessons with an article detailing the outcomes of the previously held lessons.
- The Pioneer Swim Centre mural competition was highlighted in local media.
- The Fathers Day Bluewater Trail launch was advertised and extensively promoted through local media.
- Local media covered the Bluewater Trail Launch held on Father's Day.
- Local media covered the Bluewater Lagoon and the trial closures since re-opening the facility of waterslide and upper lagoon.
- A media conference was organised regarding the Queensland Government Local Jobs Plan. Minister Tim Mulherin, representatives of regional sporting groups, relevant Councillors and Council representatives attended the conference to hear the Minister announce that Recreation Services has been successful in obtaining \$156,000 over a period of three years to recruit a second Council Sports and Recreation Officer.

- Ausleisure (Australian Leisure Management) highlighted the recent awards from the Heart Foundation for the Bluewater Trail.
- Local media covered the announcement of funding for a second Council Sports and Recreation Officer for the region.
- Local media published an article and an editorial regarding the changes at the Bluewater Lagoon.
- Local media compiled a list of Council activities organised during the school holidays. The Bluewater Lagoon was mentioned as a family friendly leisure activity.
- Local media published an article on the recent warmer weather conditions and the increased patronage at the Bluewater Lagoon.
- E-newsletters were issued to local childcare facilities to promote the aquatic facilities.

Aquatic Facilities

Bluewater Lagoon

- ZINC FM conducted a live broadcast at the BWL on Monday 27 September with excellent feedback received from the 500 strong crowd.
- Aquatics staff attend cyclone damaged gardens and grounds.
- Facility opens all areas as school holiday bring in excellent crowds.



Bluewater Lagoon - Repair of damaged garden and grounds

Memorial Pool

Bookings: 2 x Water Polo training sessions
 11 x community group bookings
 1 x two day swimming carnival

- Duty Supervisor organised “Boot Camp” activity continues to improve in popularity.

Pioneer Pool

Bookings: 4 x school bookings
 2 x club nights
 1 x sign on night for Pioneer Swim Club

- Remainder of aquatics staff refresh Lifeguard qualifications.

- Three new staff join the team as operations expand to open Mirani Swim Centre until more permanent (lease) arrangements are put in place.



CPR refresher training

- Four new Learn-to-Swim Cadets were inducted and commenced training.
- Recruitment of one additional Learn-to-Swim Teacher in preparation for the busy Spring/Summer period.
- Learn-to-Swim “packs” were put together and offered on sale to program members with the aim to promote Council’s Learn-to-Swim programs.
- September’s school holiday Intensive Swim Lessons were well received and attended.
- Adult Swim for Fitness sessions resumed at both centres, with excellent attendance at both centres and the return of many regulars.
- Orca Squad returned to the Pioneer Swim Centre. Coaching staff was increased to manage the demand.
- Sponsorship money was received from two local businesses for the 2nd Annual “Big Splash” Swim-a-thon event to be held early 2011.
- Recreation Services Programs Coordinator was officially recognised as an AUSTSWIM Course Presenter for the “Teaching Swimming and Water Safety” courses and also as the AUSTSWIM Coordinator for all courses in Mackay.
- Pioneer Swim Centre’s mural design competition closed with the winner being announced. Prizes are to be awarded in October.
- Further AUSTSWIM courses have been scheduled for October and November 2010. Mackay is now one of the leaders in providing these courses to rural Queensland.

Mirani Pool

- Extensive plant and pool works continue by operational staff to open the facility on October 6 as an interim arrangement.
- Completion of Sodium Hypochlorite tank and bund work near the Plant Room.
- Interested parties take a guided tour of the facility in preparation for tendering.
- Manager Recreation Services and Manager Property Services organise a meeting with key stakeholders of the Mirani Pool on September 13 to provide an update regarding the tender process and management arrangements.



Mirani Pool – cleaning works

Sarina Pool

- Facility lease advertised for tender.
- Communication continues with Sarina State High School and Education Queensland regarding required chemical storage work in the Plant Room.

The following customers have attended the Aquatic Facilities during September 2010:

Bluewater Lagoon*

Type of Customer	Bluewater Lagoon September 2009	Bluewater Lagoon September 2010
Children's Lagoon	5,671	5,127
Middle Lagoon	9,549	9,661
Upper Lagoon	3,624	3,395
TOTAL IN WATER CUSTOMERS	18,844	18,183
TOTAL PRECINCT (non-swimmers)	28,655	25,388
GRAND TOTAL	47,499	43,571

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

Memorial Pool**

Type of Customer	Memorial Pool September 2009	Memorial Pool September 2010
Persons 15 years or older	1,110	930
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	297	231
Pensioner	87	53
TOTAL	1,494	1,214
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	115	97
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$4,684.95	\$3,210.75

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Pioneer Pool**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool September 2009	Pioneer Pool September 2010
Persons 15 years or older	629	445
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	444	338
Pensioner	38	25
TOTAL	1,111	808
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	39	23
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$3,026.80	\$2,175.95

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Revenue Received:**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool		Memorial Pool	
	September 2009	September 2010	September 2009	September 2010
Actual Gate	\$5,417.00	\$3,724.00	\$9,160.50	\$7,607.00
Season Tickets	\$1,625.00	\$1,340.00	\$2,085.00	\$2,225.00
Miscellaneous	\$3,624.26	\$2,411.52	\$4,629.65	\$3,389.00
TOTAL	\$10,666.26	\$7,475.52	\$15,875.15	\$13,221.00
Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate	\$1,170.00	\$690.00	\$3,450.00	\$2,910.00

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

2010 Festive Season Closure Dates

Memorial and Pioneer Pools: Closed December 25, 26
 Mirani and Sarina Pools: Closed December 25, 26 and January 1
 Bluewater Lagoon: Open every day

PROPERTY SERVICES

Management

- Attendance at property meetings to discuss lease options for community groups and the Blue Water Quay Cafe.
- Meeting held with Mackay Tourism staff to discuss issues pertaining to communication with the Sarina Sugar Shed and associated stocking of Sugar Shed product at the Mackay Tourism Centre.
- Continued participation in Paget Depot meetings which included the Project Management Group, Steering Committee, Paget Depot Managers and Risk Management Workshop.
- Work undertaken to complete Service Level Reviews for the Program.
- Attendance at the Field of Dreams Committee meeting.

- Appointment of Anthony Hodges to the vacant position of Property Services Technical Officer, the position is responsible for ensuring that Council meets the legislative requirements for Fire Safety and Asbestos management.

Property Services

- Involvement with the Paget Depot Project has continued with Property Services Tony De Brincat and Adrian Miles on the Management Team, Logistics & Change Management Team and the Steering Committee. Significant work has been undertaken including the following:
 1. Participation in the Paget Depot Risk Workshop
 2. Completion of Rev 1 of the Paget Depot Project Logistics & Change Management Plan
 3. Finalisation of specifications for the workstation and furniture fit out for office areas of Paget Depot including contract for supply & installation.
 4. Attend Project Management Group Meeting.
 5. Chair Paget Depot Managers Meeting.
 6. Undertake several Site Visits.
 7. Attendance at Project Control Group Meetings.
- The provision of Cleaning Services contract is in Final Draft ready for tendering early October with Air Conditioning and Security service requirements being reviewed to complete specifications draft ready for Procurement & Plant Program's assistance. Other Services scheduled for review are Fire Equipment, Sanitary Units and a holistic approach to Pre-Qualified Tradespeople.
- Capital Works Projects:

PROJECT	COMMENTS
2009/2010 Program	
Mackay Admin Building – A/C Heater Element Replacement	Project requirements to be finalised mid October 2010.
Council Buildings – Security Upgrade & Consolidation	Project requirements to be finalised end of October 2010.
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

- Grazing Lease – T McCahill - Sunnyside
- Grazing Lease Enquiry to be offered by way of Tender – Hampden
- Mackay Amateur Basketball – Revised Lease Area
- Mackay Kennel Club Inc – Lease renewal
- Program staff are currently dealing with 20 Leases.

Land Dealings / Easement Dealings

- Juliet/Bridge/Casey Avenue, South Mackay Upgrade – Mackay Amateur Basketball
- Running Creek Road Realignment - Sunnyside
- Cone Creek/Denny Road Realignment – Sarina
- Caping Road Realignment – Bloomsbury
- Kippen Rd, Ball Bay – Closure of Part of Road Licence Area
- Program staff are currently dealing with 23 land dealings and 7 Easements

Property Maintenance

Property Service Maintenance Officers actioned 145 maintenance requests in September.

Sarina Sugar Shed

Sales for September continued to be up there with our best months. This month all resources have been concentrated on getting our Chefs Gusto range of gourmet sauces into retail shops. The Sugar Shed has 34 shops throughout our region now selling our sauces.

School holiday tours were packed full of families enjoying a day out in Sarina. The Sugar Shed is now busy preparing for the lead up to Christmas which means hampers, lots of homemade treats and the rush on our sauces, liquers and schnapps.

MACKAY CONVENTION PRECINCT AND EVENTS

Management

- Attended Public & Community Transport Action Advisory Committee meeting to discuss MECC ticketing services and how these could be utilised by the Mackay turf Club in selling advance tickets to races which include a public transport (bus) ticket.
- Met with CEO, QLD Symphony Orchestra and Deputy Mayor Cr Camilleri re the Queensland Symphony Orchestra's touring commitment to North Queensland
- Attended Arts Law Society in Brisbane, representing Mackay Regional Council mediating a claim regarding an artwork which was damaged while in Council's possession.
- On behalf of Northern and Regional Australian Performing Arts Centre's Association interviewed for the position of Executive Officer, a position which Arts Queensland has funded for three years thanks to successful lobbying. An appointment had been made.
- Attended Corporate Projects Meeting
- Met with CEO and staff from Queensland Events to discuss funding opportunities for entrepreneured indoor events at Convention Centre
- Prepared a wet weather and contingency plan for the Mackay Home & Lifestyle Show so that this event could proceed in spite of very inclement weather.
- Attended several media requests concerning events at MECC
- Continued Service Level reviews
- Managed many large events at MECC

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

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

Festivals and Events

Coal to Coast Festival

The second Coal to Coast Festival was planned as a one day event with entry by gold coin donation. Excellent support from the corporate sector was received by way of financial and in kind donations. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd provided significant funding, with additional support from Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton Mitsubishi Alliance, The Daily Mercury, Harvey Norman, Sea FM and more. The Festival was organised around a large market which included a car swap meet organised by the Sarina Rotary Club and the inaugural Coal Games where seven local teams battled it out over a 2 hour period for the winning prize of \$1,500. Local and interstate bands performed and a special children's concert by *Ben 10* drew strong family crowds.

A host of live bands such as popular 2010 Australia's Got Talent contestants, The Twine plus children's performers such as Ben 10 coupled with amusements, food, markets and licenced bar, hit the spot with revellers.

The revised one day format with an "optional" entry gold coin donation was successful, with good attendances all day. An anticipated crowd of 2000 enjoyed the day's festivities. The festival returned a small surplus this year.

Much praise and thanks must go to the organising committee and the many community stakeholders who assisted with this event.

River 2 Reef Festival

Bluewater Quay will come alive with the 7th River 2 Reef Festival on 9 October. Many fundraising events will either start or finish at Bluewater Quay as part of the Festival. This includes the Deakin Bike Ride which has attracted over 600 riders supporting spinal research. The River Raft Race in support of Childhood Cancer Support will prove a highlight of the day as will the Pelican Push. Revellers will be entertained by local and interstate bands, children's entertainment, circus and mural painting workshops, a pleasing array of food and over 60 market stalls.

Site access challenges due to Brisbane Street roadworks have been managed with stakeholders co-operating with restricted site access issues.

Global Grooves

Planning is well under way for this year's Global Grooves in Queens Park. ABC Tropical North has declined to be the major sponsor of this world music event this year. This challenge has been successfully managed with Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd providing additional financial support to hold this event. Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal Pty Ltd has supported an increasing amount of cultural activity in the Mackay region, and their assistance is proving invaluable. Community radio and commercial television has stepped in to fill the void left by ABC Tropical North and widespread advertising will be achieved.

It has been challenging to get community groups to attend compulsory training sessions with Health & Regulatory staff so that a large range of ethnic food is available on the day.

This year Global Grooves has been extended by an extra 2 hours so that the Indian Community can celebrate Diwali (festival of light).

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

- 2,966 people visited Artspace Mackay during September 2010 (2,437 people visited Artspace Mackay during September 2009)
- 1,064 people visited the Town Hall during September 2010 (1176 people visited the Town Hall during September 2009)
- 12,734 hits on the Artspace Mackay website during September 2010 (9450 hits on the Artspace Mackay website during September 2009)

Exhibitions:

From 27 February	Cox Rayner Gallery	<i>The A-Z of Artists Books</i> (Works from the MRC Collection)
16 July – 12 September	McAleese Gallery	<i>Paolozzi + Kitaj: British Pop Prints from the Art Gallery of New South Wales Collection</i>
From 17 September	McAleese Gallery	<i>Namatjira to Now</i> (Qld Art Gallery touring exhibition)
16 July – 12 September	ASM Foyer	<i>Working Through/Turning Pages: The Artists' Books of Robert Jacks</i>
From 17 September	ASM Foyer	<i>Maelstrom: Recent works by Kelvyn Cunningham</i>
From 16 July	Cox Rayner Gallery	<i>Tate Adams</i> (prints from the MRC collection)
From 29 September	Sarina Art Gallery	<i>Lockhart River Art Gang</i> (prints from the MRC collection)

Recycled Library: Altered Books touring exhibition

Civic Hall Galleries, Port Lincoln, South Australia (26 August – 10 October).

The catalogue for this exhibition was recently announced as the winner of the Major Exhibition Catalogue category in the 2010 MAPDA (Museums Australia Multimedia & Publication Design Awards). The winners were announced at a presentation at the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, as part of the 2010 Museums Australia conference for the category Major Exhibition Catalogue.

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 is high, and comments in the Visitors' Book have been extremely positive.

Craig Walsh: Digital Odyssey touring project and The Home project

Internationally renowned digital media artist, Craig Walsh, completed a month long residency in Mackay on 16 September. As part of *Digital Odyssey*, a joint project between Artspace Mackay and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, Craig set up a projection in the window of a vacant shopfront facing Wood Street, that ran every evening after dark until 10 September. In collaboration with Artspace and MRC Arts Development Officers, artist Hiromi

Tango joined Craig to bring the *Home Project* to the Mackay community. In this project, members of the community were invited to participate in a hands-on, joint venture with the artist to help build a giant 'screen' out of personal items and trinkets. Hiromi and Craig then made a series of video interviews of local people which were projected onto the screen. These screenings could be viewed every evening from 6-9pm at the project site until September 10.

Sarina Art Gallery

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

Artspace Mackay created a display of prints from Mackay Regional Council's collection of prints by the Lockhart River Art Gang. This collection, donated to the council through the Australian Government's Cultural Gifts Program in 2006, has never been seen outside Mackay. Artspace Mackay hosted an opening night function at Sarina Art Gallery. Cr Daryl Camilleri, Deputy Mayor, officially opened the exhibition and approximately 35 people attended, despite the heavy rain.

Regional Galleries Association of Queensland

Artspace Mackay Director, Michael Wardell, was elected Vice President of the Regional Galleries Association of Queensland at their Annual General Meeting on 16 September.

Public & Education Programs in September 2010

3 Sept	McAleese Gallery	Glenella State School School Group tour Yr 1 & 2	25 students + 7 (teacher and parent helpers)
4 Sept	Seminar room	Kids Art Club Term3 Workshops with Rosemary Payne (2 classes)	12 students
11 Sept	Seminar room	Kids Art Club Term3 Final workshops with Rosemary Payne (2 classes)	12 students
16 Sept	Reading Room	Private viewing of MRC Collection: Gillian Glanville booked to see Glen Skien's boxes and artist books.	5-6 adults
7 Sept	Seminar room	<i>BMA Kidspace</i>	96 adults & toddlers
8 Sept	McAleese Gallery	Evening floortalk on <i>Paolozzi + Kitaj</i> for guests at a Foodspace function hosted by Aurecon	70 adults
17 Sept	McAleese Gallery and foyer	<i>Namatjira to Now</i> opening celebration. Entertainment by young indigenous musician, Jayden Ramsamy playing didgeridoo. Great night – positive feedback and excitement about both <i>Namatjira</i> exhibition and local artist, Kelvyn Cunnington's latest work.	180 attended

18 Sept	McAleese Gallery and foyer	Meet the collection and Namatjira to Now and Kelvyn Cunnington floor talks	50 adults
29 Sept	Artspace Mackay	Artspace Kids Holiday Workshops x 2 sessions	24 children aged 8 – 12 years
30 Sept	Greenmount Homestead	Artspace-to-go Kids Holiday Workshop Travelling program to Greenmount x 1 session	12 children aged 8-12 years.
29 Sept	Sarina Art Gallery	Lockhart River exhibition of works from MRC collection opening evening celebration	35 adults & children

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Management

Attendance at Local Government Association of Queensland Conference sessions held at the MECC.

Attendance at Planning Information Forecasting Seminar (PIFU) held at Magpies Sporting Club to review population data for Mackay region

Meeting with representatives from PIFU in relation to preliminary data collection to input to 2011 population projections for the Mackay region.

Meeting with representatives from Queensland Health regarding synergies between active healthy communities program and council's Economic Development and Development Services programs. This meeting occurred post a recent Queensland Health workshop held at the MECC.

Attendance at meetings regarding the development of a drawing model for the Mackay City centre, Urban Enhancement Concept. Manager of Technical Services has prepared data inputs for loading onto the GIS digital cadastral database which will provide the base mapping to underpin the Local Area Plan and Urban Enhance Concept.

Attendance at Mackay Whitsunday Isaac Regional Economic Development Annual General Meeting, which was addressed by guest speaker, Chairman of Mackay Sugar Andrew Cappello.

Attendance at Statistical Liaison quarterly workshop and seminar presented by Annette Giess of the Office of Economic and Statistical Research of Queensland Treasury, held at Ocean International resort.

Sarina Business on Show Forum

Around 70 local Business people and others attended this successful evening which combined networking, a display of 25 business and government organisations, with a facilitated discussion. The number and quality of businesses showcased at this forum was impressive. Successful networking was reported from the Sarina Business Forum.

A highlight of the forum was the launch of the Mackay Region e-Business Guide. Electronic versions of this document were made available to attendants on USB and can now also be

downloaded from Council's Economic Development webpage. The guide is specifically designed to offer important and relevant information to our region's local businesses by linking business traders from across all sectors with local, state and federal services and other relevant organisations that may be able to provide service, advice, funding, training and/or skilling opportunities to help grow and establish their business.

Special guest speaker for the evening, Simon Smart, General Manager, QR National Coal (North), focused on the Jilalan Rail Complex and upcoming plans

Statistical Reporting

The September Profiles for Mackay and Sarina are released through to the email networks and also placed on the Economic development pages of council's website.

A new September Economic Activity snapshot is also now available along with council's Population and Housing Profile.

Most recent stats show that Mackay Regional Council is in the top ten local government areas in Queensland in terms of building approval numbers for residential dwellings for the year to June 2010. However residential land development activity trends for the Mackay region are presenting a divergent trend, with numbers of approved lots not showing as strong as previous. Some industry sources report that land activity trends are a reflection of a tight finance and lending market, applying for those in the property development and construction sector.

City Centre Marketing and Promotion

Website on track – first phase (static version of the website) presented to the City Focus Advisory Committee.

Marketing overview also presented to the City Focus Advisory Committee at the September meeting.

Father's Day in the City full page feature printed in the lead-up to Father's Day to encourage people to shop for presents in the city. Fifty promotional bags containing goodies from city businesses also handed out at the markets to encourage further patronisation of the city.

Spring in the City TV campaign finalised.

Promotion of City Focus Business forum (and Sarina business forum) in the form of press releases and ads finalised through Corporate Communications. These ads are due to start running the end of the month (September) and early October.

Next full page city advertising feature written and approved – Race into the City – to encourage shoppers to buy their outfits for race day.

E-Business Guide

300 USBs promoting the Mackay region have been professionally designed by Corporate Communications and printed. These have been loaded with the finished document titled The Mackay Region e-Business Guide. This document (which is also available on council's website) is designed to offer important and relevant information to our region's local businesses by linking them with state and federal services and other relevant organisations that may be able to provide service, advice, funding, training and/or skilling opportunities to help them grow and establish their operations.

This document is also set to be showcased at the REDC China Trade and Invest Mission in October.

City Focus Advisory Committee

The committee supported combining Global Grooves (on October 24) with the Sunday markets; hence the markets will be relocated for this date only to Queens Park to be part of this celebration.

The committee supported the spending \$25,000 (funded through the City Centre Special Management Rate) to increase the level of pressure cleaning of footpaths in Victoria Street from Sydney to Gregory Street from once a month to once a week. They also recommended that council investigate options for the cleaning of footpaths in the remainder of the CBD including Gordon Street to River and Sydney Street to Macalister Street.

The committee also discussed off-street parking and the possibility of discounts and recommended a report come back to council regarding the establishment of a discount regime.

Finally, the committee recommended council investigate the establishment of a precinct plan in the Mackay CBD as per recommendations of the Inquiry into Alcohol Related Violence.

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.