

ENGINEERING SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MONTH ENDING OCTOBER 2011

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Purpose

To review Engineering Services Department highlights and significant issues for the month ending October 2011.

Background and Discussion

Highlights and Significant Issues for period are as follows: -

ENGINEERING SERVICES MANAGEMENT

Coordination of project meetings, briefings and reports on the following projects:

- Attended Community Resilience Reference Group meeting - Brisbane
- Meeting held with QR National regarding the Viewing Platform at Jilalan
- Attended DDMG meeting
- Attended LDMG meeting
- Met with NQBP to discuss the Boat Car Park at Harbour and Mulherin Park
- Site inspections with Cr Casey
- Met with Sunwater to discuss Eton Emergency Action Plan

On-going involvement in the following areas:

- Paget Depot Steering Committee, Rural Affairs Advisory Committee, Whitsunday Regional Roads Group Technical Group, LGEG Meeting.
- Safe Plan, Design and Construct Review Meetings and SES matters
- Engineering Services Program Managers meetings

CIVIL PROJECTS

Works have been completed on the following projects:

DAY LABOUR

- Norris Road / Beaconsfield Road Traffic Signals
- Pacific Drive footpath
- Wood Street reconstruction works
- Victoria Street reconstruction works
- Keeley's Road Flood Damage Repairs
- Midge Point Road Culvert extension



Casey Avenue Culvert Construction

CONTRACTS

- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 905
- Roger Road Culverts

Works have been substantially completed on the following projects:

DAY LABOUR

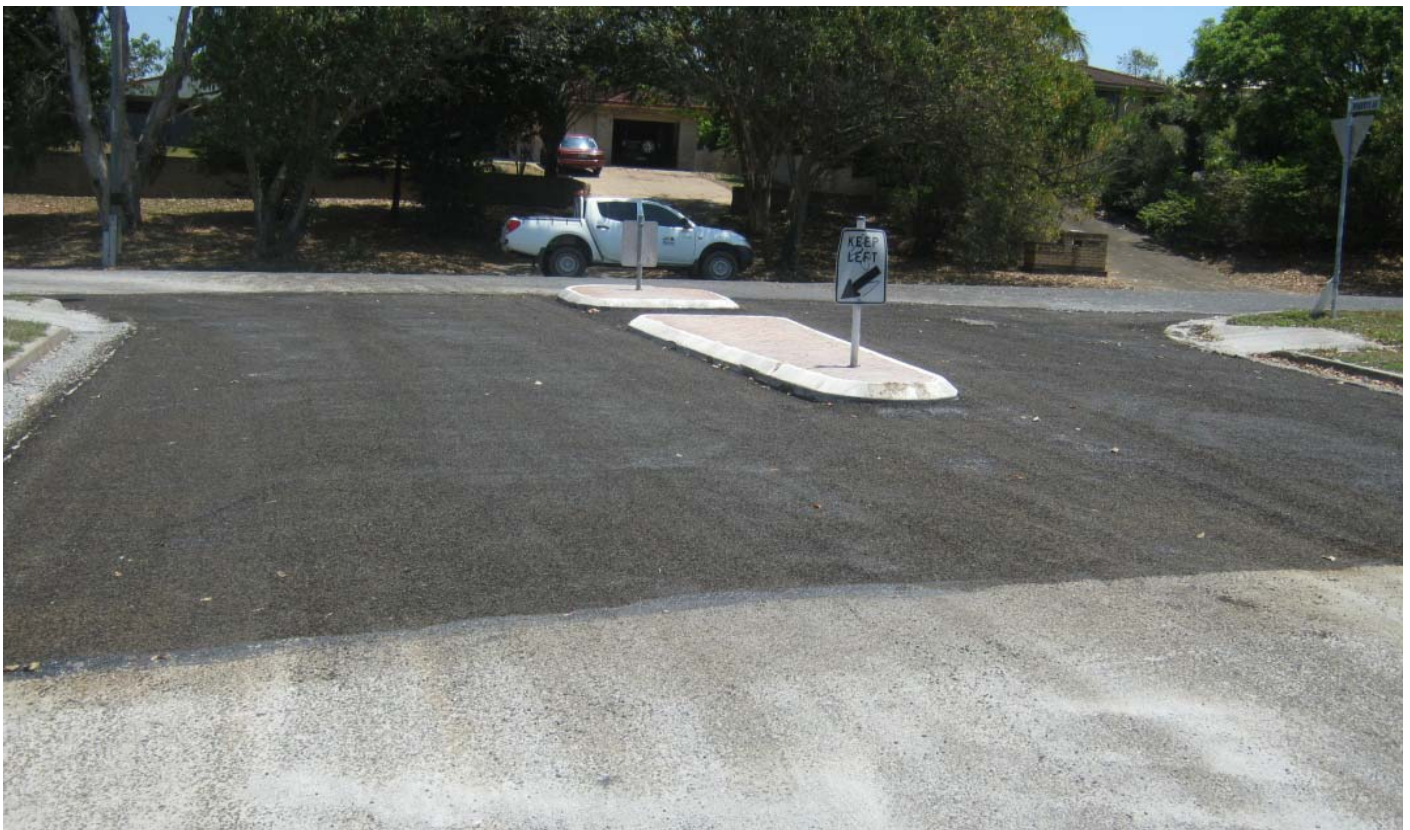
- Casey Avenue Drainage at Bridge Road
- Traffic Facility works at various locations Beaconsfield and Eimeo
- Calen's Area Stabilisation and Flood repair damage
- St Helen Beach Resealing
- Pratt's Road Drainage
- Petersen Street Sarina
- Matsuura Drive works



Cowley's Road

CONTRACTS

- Cape Hillsborough Widening
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 904
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 906
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 907
- Cell 2 Hogans Pocket



Roberts Avenue, North Mackay – Package 906

The following projects are in progress:

DAY LABOUR

- Victor Creek Car Park Area
- River Street Reconstruction (Wood to Gregory Street)
- Armstrong's Beach Road flood damage
- Armstrong's Beach Road construction 4.55 to 6.2Km
- Cowley's Road Reconstruction Temples Lane to Peak Downs Highway
- McEwens Beach Road Construction 0 to 1.4km
- McEwens Beach flood Damage 2.9 to 3.7km
- Leichardt Road 0 to 4.5km
- LATM works various locations

CONTRACTS

- Demolition & Disposal – Bedford Road Depot
- Rosewood Drive Construction – Federal Funding
- Landfill Remediation Bayersville
- 2010 Flood Saturation Package 1001
- Capping Road – Realignment and River Crossing Repair
- Holts Road Culvert Upgrade
- Hague Street Drain Culvert Replacement
- 2009 Flood Saturation Damage Restoration Package 908



Caping Road Realignment & River Crossing Repairs, Bloomsbury

The following projects have been awarded:

CONTRACTS

- 2010 Flood Saturation Package 1002
- Branscombe Road Reconstruction – Flood
- North Mackay Levee Construction Stage 1B/2
- Park, Paradise & Porter Streets Reconstruction
- Grasstree Beach Road – 3.95 to 4.2km including Bikeway

The following projects have been put to tender:

CONTRACTS

- Hill End Road Reconstruction
- Construction of Meadowlands Soundshell

CIVIL OPERATIONS

Maintenance Grading in the following areas:

Heavy Grading	Gargett-Mia Mia Road,
Formation Grading	Cemetery Road, Toons Road, Matheison Road, Barron Creek Road, Barron Pocket Road, Bloomsbury Back Road, O'Donnells Road, Mitchells Road, Don Hausknecht Road, Forbes Road, Gells Road, Hume Street, Boundary Road, Conners Road, Cooks Lane, Crowleys Road, Brieffies Road, Camerons Road, Nicol Road, Rutlands Road, Howells Road, Desbois Road, Belmunda area,
Temporary Gravel Road Repairs (Grading & Gravelling)	
Shoulder Grading	Chelona-Sandiford Road, Dunrock Road,
Submergence Repairs (Job no. 1712)	Pinevale Road, Whitefords Road, Welshs Road, Sugarloaf Road, N Walz Road, Coalmine Road, Cathu - O'Connell Road, O'Donnells Road, Marwood Road, Barrie Lane, Walz Avenue, McEwens Beach Road, Holmes Road, Howells Road,

Special Works:

Footpath repairs – Brooks Street, Napier Street, Shakespeare Street, Stewart Street, Gordon Street, Evans Avenue.

Sign & Guidepost repairs – various North West areas.

Culvert, Pipe & Catchpit repairs – Admiralty Way, Sugarloaf Road, Wentford Street, Masottis Road, Field Street, Thomas Road, Masottis Road, High Street, Boden Street, Vicky Court, Spannagle Street.

Kerb & Channel repairs – traffic island maintenance – Victoria Street, Evan Street, Hill Street, Spannagle Street.

Water Board Patching –

Street and Gutter Collection –

Suckins, Digouts & Scours – Marine Parade, Geoffrey Thomas Drive, Gardiners Road, Spannagle Street, Palm Street.

Special Works – repair rail Andergrove Road.

Pothole Patching: Mirani-Mt Ossa Road, Owens Creek Loop Road, Mt Toby Road, Finch Hatton and Eungella areas, Rise & Shine Road, Old Bowen Road, Lelona Drive, various North-West areas, Slade Point area, Cowleys Road, Wellington Street, Goldsmith Street, Hansesn Road, Victoria Street, Burns Street, Farrelly's Road, Stockroute Road, River Street, Moore Street, Porter Street, Mary Street, Archibald Street, Pleystowe, Habana, South Mackay and Ooralea areas, Queens Park, Waterboard patching at North Mackay, Wollingford Road, Hannans Road, Farleigh area, Glenella area, Eungella area.

Drainage Maintenance: Coalmine Road, Old Bowen Road, Geeburga-Buthurra Road, Bogga Road, Crowleys Road, Oakenden Sarina Road, Dunrock area, Walkerston-Homebush Road.

Mowing & Slashing: Racecourse area, all dry drains in north and south areas.

Main Roads RMPC:

Other Bituminous Works / Pothole Patching / Pavement Repairs	Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North), Peak Downs Highway, Rosella-Homebush Road, Maraju-Yakapari Road, Marian-Eton Road, Mirani-Mt Ossa Road, Yakapari-Seaforth Road, Mackay-Habana Road.
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Heavy Formation grading / gravel resheeting / other formation works	Mirani-Eton Road, Yakapari-Habana Road, Koumala-Bolingbroke Road, Eungella Dam Road, Marlborough-Sarina Road, Mia Mia Connection Road.
Culvert / Drainage Works	Bruce Highway (South), Peak Downs Highway, Sarina-Homebush Road.
Tractor Slashing Rural / Urban / Boom Mowing / Clearing Works / Herbicide Spraying / Declared Plant Spraying	<p>Tractor Slashing: Bruce Highway (South), Gargett-Mia Mia Road, Marian-Eton Road, North Eton Road, Mia Mia Connection Road, Mirani-Mt Ossa Road, Bruce Highway (North), Rockleigh-North Mackay Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road.</p> <p>Boom Mowing: Mackay-Eungella Road, Gargett-Mia Mia Road, Mia Mia Connection Road.</p> <p>Herbicide/Declared Plant Spraying: Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North), Peak Downs Highway, Marlborough-Sarina Road, Koumala-Bolingbroke Road, Rosella-Homebush Road, Sarina-Homebush Road, Eton-Homebush Road, Mackay-Bypass Road, Maraju-Yakapari Road, Rockleigh-North Mackay Road, Mackay-Eungella Road, North Eton Road, Mackay-Habana Road, Sarina-Coast Road, Hay Point Road, Mt Ossa-Seaforth Road, Yakapari-Seaforth Road, Yakapari-Habana Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Eimeo Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road.</p> <p>Other: Clearing – Bruce Highway (South), Eungella Dam Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Maintain Landscaping – Mackay-Bypass Road.</p>
Rest Area Servicing	Bruce Highway (North).
Road Sweeping/Roadside Litter Collection	Bruce Highway (North), Peak Downs Highway, Maraju-Yakapari Road, Mackay-Bucasia Road, Bruce Highway (South), Mackay-Bypass Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road.
Emergency Call Outs	Bruce Highway (South), Bruce Highway (North), Mirani-Mt Ossa Road.
Signs / Guide Post Works	Mackay-Bucasia Road, Mackay-Slade Point Road, Peak Downs Highway, Koumala-Bolingbroke Road.

Materials were extracted during the month from the following quarry operations:

- Bezzinas Pit
- Breadsells Pit
- Buggybend
- Eton
- Hazelwoods Pit
- Hoffman Pit
- Howells Pit
- Jensens Pit
- Larsens Pit
- Mezzens Pit
- Omands Pit

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Development and design of projects for saturation damage projects throughout the Council area for 2009, 2010 and 2011 events.
- Development and design of projects within Capital Works Programme.
- Development of draft 20 yr Capital Works Programme making provision for all current projects and proposed development projects and its revision to match LTFP and PIP requirements. Indicative 2012/13 & 2013/14 CWP presented to Council for approval to allow advance planning.
- Consultation and detail design regarding Archibald Street (Connors to Milton) upgrading.
- Consultation and detail design of the HAFF Grant project including Rosewood Drive from Mackay Bucasia road to Chenoweth Drive including design development for works associated with Northern Beaches Central and the Northern Beaches High School.
- Discussion with property owners and businesses to finalise pavement upgrade and alterations to pavement markings in Shakespeare Street between Milton and Sydney Streets.
- Detail Design associated with CBD footpath upgrades via Bluewater Trail extension from Bluewater Quay to River Street Boat Ramp and from the boat ramp to Iluka Park via East Gordon Street.
- Design and Quotations associated with Bluewater Quay shade structures and balustrades. Shop drawings in preparation for installation prior to end of 2011.
- Consultant commissioned for CBD Access Audits for Sarina, Walkerston, Marian and Mirani.
- Lead role in the preparation of “Safety in Design”, Erosion and Sediment Control and Fish passage and Waterway Barrier applications in relation to designs to meet industry standards.
- Attendance at Paget Depot Management Group & Steering Committee meetings and Corporate Projects Meetings , Program Managers, Shakespeare street public meetings with residents.
- Participate in Departmental Briefing to Council.
- Provision of Council report regarding CBD DDA Audit.
- Trial rationalisation of school zone times currently in operation for later report to Council.
- Ongoing rationalisation of Cemetery database to upgrade records and verification of records with Mackay Historical Society. In addition trial of MARCIS GIS recording tool for cemetery records.
- Completion of street lighting audits and reporting of information to Ergon.
- Various drainage investigations for assessment of maintenance and capital upgrading requirements to address system performance issues.
- Development of remote access for rural traffic counters via 3G network to improve efficiency and reduce costs to maintain traffic counts in remote rural areas.
- GPS Base Station Network installed at Civic Centre, Koumala and Midge Point SES buildings, Mirani Council Chambers & Eungella Maintenance Depot. GPS undergoing data collection and processing to reconcile position to survey accuracy for Geoscience Australia to certify the GPS network for use by registered surveyor.

- MRC Surveyor currently testing network coverage for mobile phone reception and accuracy relationship to DERM permanent mark Mackay area Control (ongoing into New Year).
- Testing to date shows the Civic Centre Base may need to be relocated to Slade Point to gain better coverage north and south along coastline (cannot be relocated until outcome of extra bases from DTMR is confirmed).
- Extra base stations at Calen, Hay Point and Hogans Pocket appear to be required to provide full coverage. Discussions underway with DTMR and NQBP to provide funding for these installations. (Outcome of discussions with DTMR and NQBP not available until December).

PARKS AND ENVIRONMENT

The Parks & Environment report for the month of October contains information on activities undertaken throughout the month by the staff within the program.

Officers on call received 27 after hours phone calls and attended 11 after hours call outs.

- **Administration** –174 park bookings were recorded.
- **Customer Requests** - Actioned: 202, Received: 176, Unactioned: 98
- **Technical Officers** – No Off Maintenance inspections were carried out. Matsuura Drive was accepted On Maintenance, however, Central Park Stage 1, Cuttersfield 304 & Mountain View 3 & 4 failed On Maintenance Inspections, 3 Irrigation inspections, Planting inspections of Cuttersfield 306 & Civil project inspections completed daily for Matsuura & River Street during the week days.
- **Horticulture Activities** 57961m2 garden beds serviced; 29.7 hours spraying herbicide and 31.3 hours spent fixing vandalism.
- **Grass Maintenance Activities** –3016 toilet cleans; 1426 BBQ cleans.



Tolcher street Park top Dressing



John Breen Park top dressing and drainage work

- **Mirani** – 217 hrs spent mowing 333,525m2 parks, 422,052m2 road reserves and 62,339m2 in cemeteries; 68 hours spent whipper snipping. 300m2 of garden beds mulched
- **Sarina** – 500000m2 parks & road reserves mowed, 40000m2 Cemeteries mowed; 190 hours spent whipper snipping, 50 hours spent picking up rubbish
- **Tree-Crew** –

Sum of Scoping (hours)	Sum of Total Trees Pruned	Sum of Council Trees Removed	Sum of Scheduled Palm Trees defroned/deseeded	Sum of Requests-branch pick up	Sum of Coconut Trees denuttet	Sum of Trees Planted in Streetscapes
2	286	144	12	4	0	0

- **Cemeteries**

2011 (YTD)	Oct-11
Burials Mt Bassett	9
Burials Mt Bassett Ashes	5
Burials - Mackay	2
Burials - Mackay Ashes	0
Burials - Walkerston	4
Burials - Walkerston (Ashes)	0
Burials - Mirani	0
Burials - Marian	0
Burials- Sarina	0
Hand Dig of grave	1

- **Natural Environment and Marine Beach Activities –**

- Conservation Volunteers Australia:

- Worked at Sarina Community Native Gardens and the Armstrong Beach Community Revegetation site from 3rd to 6th of October undertaking weed control, mulching and planting, in partnership with council and SLCMA, funded by BMA
- Worked at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve –18-21st October in partnership with council and funded by Hail Creek Mine Development Fund undertaking watering and weed control
- Worked at Finlayson’s Point undertaking track maintenance and weed control on Monday 31st October – funded by council



Track maintenance work and Finlayson’s Point



Happy dog and owner at the Welcome to the Waders/Dog’s Breakfast event.

- Met with council staff regarding various matters including coastal and natural environment projects, illegal activities and structures on council land, council reports and presentations etc.
- Met with Natural Environment Advisory Committee members regarding budget matters
- As part of the Mackay Coasts and Communities project and in partnership with Reef Catchments, Pioneer Catchment and Landcare and the Mackay Whitsunday branch of Bird Observation and Conservation Australia, a Welcome to the Waders event was held at Iluka Park from 9.00am - 11.00am on Saturday 8th October, to promote dogs on leads, the alternative route to avoid Sandfly

Creek Environmental Reserve during the wader season and raise awareness of shorebirds and their vulnerability to disturbance. Morning tea was provided (for both people and their pets) and giveaways include information on shorebirds and free dog leads.

- A Coasts and Communities working bee was held on Saturday 8th October at Bucasia Beach from 3.00pm - 5.00pm. Council and Reef Catchments staff and volunteers spread mulch and removed weeds.
- A presentation was made to councillors on Wednesday 19th October 2011 regarding the review of the Natural Environment Plan and the prioritisation of the coastal projects. 10 major projects to be funded this financial year were highlighted. Derek Ball from Reef Catchments made the presentation.
- Kerri Woodcock from Reef Catchments presented the model for the Mackay Coasts and Communities Project at the Queensland Coastal Conference in Cairns on Wednesday 19th October
- Liaised with Reef Catchments regarding the Natural Environment Plan and the prioritisation and implementation of on-ground coastal works, including site visits and meetings with contractors to discuss weed control works on council land as part of the priority coastal projects funded this financial year.
- The Sarina Beach team has been undertaking weed control at all sites including spraying prickly pear at Freshwater Point and hand weeding at Grasstree Beach. They are undertaking major capital projects involving the removal and replacement of timber stairs at Salonika Beach and the installation of stairs at Grasstree Beach. Other works have included seed collection, propagation of local native plants and watering revegetation.
- The Mackay Beach team watered revegetation at Shoal Point, Bucasia, Holiday Bay and Finlayson's Point and undertook weed control, fencing repairs and rubbish removal across several sites
- The Habitat Restoration team controlled weeds and watered seedlings at Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve, undertook depot maintenance including weed control and fencing work and undertook fencing and weed control work at Blacks beach
- The Natural Environment Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday 25th October
- Met with Seaforth Residents to discuss various issues including those associated with the camping grounds, Seaforth beach plan and a proposed path
- Council funded Pioneer Catchment and Landcare group to hold an Open Day for schools at Wetland Walkabout on 13th October, and for Sarina Landcare Catchment Management Association to hold weekly sessions at their community nursery and a Caring for our Coasts session with 300 school students as part of the Landcare Group Support Projects

- **Parks Building Services Activities –**

Parks Electrical Department Monthly Report for October 2011

Traffic Signals	
Traffic Signal Push Button Maintenance	3
Traffic Signal Re-alignment	2
Traffic Signal Lamp Replacement	27
Traffic Signal LED unit Replacements	0
Traffic Signal New loop Installations	1
Traffic Signal Emergency attendances	2

Other Electrical Work	
Site Hut Connection	0
Site Hut Disconnection	0
Test and Tag Inspections	5
RCD test - switchboards	2
Park Light Repairs	6
Building Light Repairs	3
Barbeque Repairs	2
Amenities Light Repair	4
Tool Box Talks (Take 5's)	1
Street Light Repair	1
Building Repairs/Installations	4

Playgrounds:

Operational Inspections	23
Visual Inspections	15
Play Equipment Repairs – Substantial	10
Play Equipment Repairs - Minor	12

Built Asset Maintenance:

Substantial repairs were completed on the Blacks Beach amenities, following considerable fire damage due to vandals. The amenities were fully rewired electrically, plumbing fittings including toilet pedestal were replaced, walls were cleaned, ground and patched before repainting and epoxy flake floor was fully redone.



Other Amenity repairs included repairs and adjustments to six toilet doors, replacement of four indicator bolts in amenities at Seaforth, Walkerston, Eimeo and Sarina. Graffiti was cleaned or painted over in three amenities. Roof and guttering were cleared of leaves and debris on two amenities at Queens Park. Picnic settings were removed for repair and reinstalled at Mt Ossa, Blacks Beach and Seaforth. Three park bench seats have been assembled ready to install at different locations to replace old damaged seating. A twelve monthly test of all RCDs in parks and amenities switchboards was completed. A Gas BBQ from Willett's Rd. has been removed following consistent and ongoing vandalism, investigations showed that the BBQ received very little or no use at all other than the regular vandalism which was proving to be expensive to rectify.

Capital Projects – The following projects are completed



Security Fencing for Leichardt Tree River St



Murals Completed on Second Shelter Sarina Beach



Broad St Sarina, Furniture Replacement



Broad St Sarina, Furniture Replacement

Two picnic settings and two park bench seats in the southern most median of Broad St were unable to be installed as the area is closed to access while Main Roads are currently completing a major upgrade. These settings will be installed once the works in the area have been completed early in the new year.



Repairs, Tensioning of bolts and fixings and full repaint, Mulherin Park Shelter

Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens -

Meadowlands:

All phase 1 Earthworks are complete with the tender for the Outdoor Performance and Events Centre expected to be awarded in early December.

BGANZ:

The Botanic Gardens Australia and New Zealand (BGANZ) biennial congress was held in Albury, New South Wales from October 20 – 23. Attended by 115 delegates including delegate/presenters from Hawaii and the United States, Queensland's Botanic Gardens were represented by Dale Arvidsson - Curator, Maya Harrison - Visitor Services Officer and Horticultural Team Leader - Ross Demuth from the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens (MRBG), Gladstone Regional Council's Tondoon Botanic Garden and Gold Coast City Council's Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens.

A variety of relevant and informative topics including 'invasives' – weed and disease prevention and management (in the face of the threat of Myrtle Rust), collections management systems, databases and managing risks was presented in one stream, whilst the latest ideas in education delivery, visitor services information and public interaction within botanic gardens was the second stream theme.

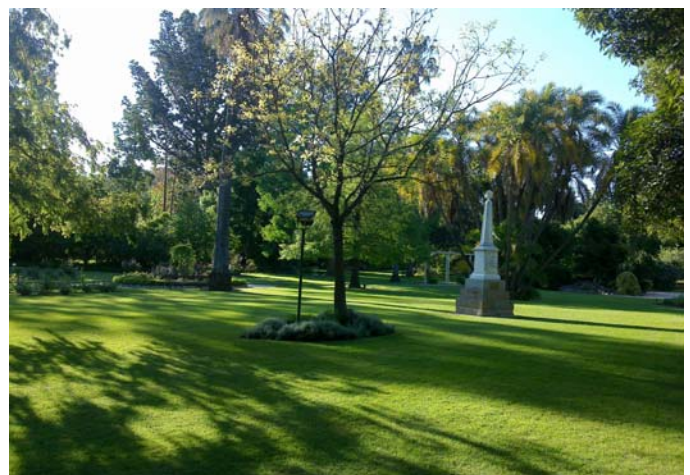
Tours to Albury's natural environment and wetlands took in stunning wildflower displays and highlighted key conservation methods Albury Botanic Gardens is undertaking to preserve incredibly rare and threatened species *in situ*.

Directions forward for BGANZ in 2012 include:

- The revitalisation of the Botanic Gardens Education Network (**BGEN**) and the Botanic Gardens Records Officer Network (**BRON**) both of which Mackay is an active member,
- The '**interactive tool kit**' resource launched for BGANZ members, will help regional botanic gardens promote themselves more professionally, assist with funding applications and 'sell ourselves' to our funding bodies better than ever before, with images and information all tied up in a slick PowerPoint presentation that can be altered and changed for each garden,
- **Tourism** – commencing the Queensland Botanic Gardens Trail concept in 2012, then potentially creating a new national tourism trail,
- **Training and Professional Development** – setting national/NZ standards,
- **Information technology** improvement - to support website and network communications,



Delegates from Gladstone, Mackay and Gold Coast – L-R: Phil Sharp, Alan Heffernan, Helen Paulsen, Ross Demuth, Maya Harrison, Dale Arvidsson, Kate Heffernan



Historic Albury Botanic Gardens

- Seeking new **Partnerships/Sponsorships / Grants** for the network and opportunities for member gardens.

Dale Arvidsson – MRBG Curator is on the BGANZ Council as the Qld Regional Group representative and accepted the nomination of BGANZ Vice President for the next two years.

The next BGANZ Congress is in Dunedin in 2013 and coincides with the two other international botanic garden events in the latter part of the year - Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) World Congress and the Walking Guides in Botanic Gardens conference.

Volunteer working bees:

SGAP Regional Forest Working Bee

A 4-person Society for Growing Australian plants (SGAP) Mackay branch team joined Curator Dale Arvidsson and dug in on October 8 for a working bee from 7.30 to 11.30am at the Regional Forests Garden..



Wildflowers and carnivorous plants – Monument Hill Conservation Park

After the preceding long dry spell there were very few weeds but lots of leaf litter and very dry, rock-hard ground, so undertaking watering of the most recent plantings was a priority.

Permanent location signs -funded by SGAP for the branch's 30th birthday were cleaned of mould and dust, then plant identification labels were spiked into the ground for 30 of more specimens. Mmany more identification labels are needed throughout the forests and an additional working bee will be organised at the end of this year or early 2012.

The efforts of all SGAP participants for both this and all the working bees throughout 2011 are greatly appreciated by the MRBG.

Gardens Friends

Members from the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens Friends Association Inc. participated in and funded the plant procurement of, the last major planting bee for the year on October 15.



Garden Friends planting bee October 15. L-R Meryl Ritchie, Dale Arvidsson, Harry Kupke, Rita Kupke

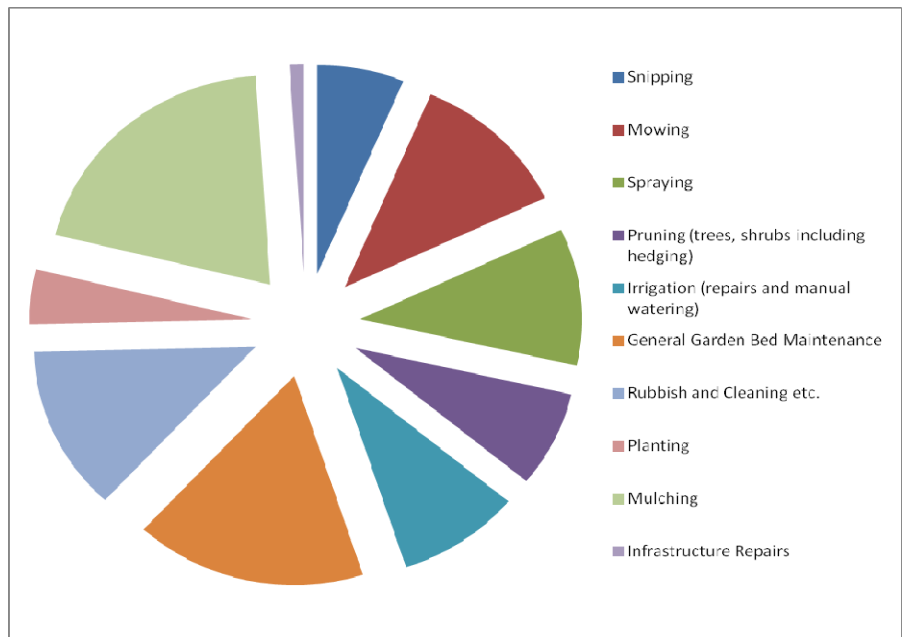
Spectacular species included many rare and threatened plants – predominantly from northern Australia wehere added to the Australian Regional Flora Terraces – Wet Tropics, Dry Tropics, Monsoon Forest and Northern NSW beds, the Torres Strait Island Precinct and Sterculiaceae and Allied Families Garden between 8am and 11am.

Horticultural and Site Works:

Mowing – 93.5hrs
Snipping – 51hrs
Herbicide Spraying – 85hrs
Pruning (trees, shrubs including hedging) – 59.5hrs
Irrigation (repairs and manual watering) – 72.25hrs
General garden bed maintenance – 136hrs
Rubbish collection including bin emptying – 102hrs
Planting – 34hrs
Mulching – 161.5
Infrastructure repairs – 8.5

Weather Station Data:

Rainfall for month (mm): 26mm
Days of rain: 12 (> .2 mm) 4 (> 2 mm)
Avg. Temperature for Month (deg C): 23 (high of 33.6 - low of 10.1)
High Wind Speed (knots): 28.7
Avg. Wind Speed (knots): 3.6
Dom. Wind direction: ESE



Visitor Services Program:

Events and Bookings:

Utilised the Meeting Room in October were:

- 11 community groups
- 2 corporate bookings
- 1 booking for Mackay Regional Council horticulture trainees

3 weddings occurred within the MRBG, with two of these holding their reception at the Cafe & Restaurant at the Lagoon.

A guided walk was held for Good Shepherd Lodge residents, whilst the annual West Mackay Rotary Christmas fair occurred at Col Story Park adjacent to and managed by the MRBG.

Exhibitions – Lagoons Gallery:

Botanica VI ‘*Colours of Nature*’ Exhibition by artists of the Mackay Botanical Art Interest Group (BAIG) was exhibited from October 5 – October 30 in the Lagoons Gallery.

The exciting forms and lively colours of native and exotic plants came alive at the 6th Annual Exhibition by group of self taught artists. Watercolour and pencil artworks captured the unique character of each plant in fine detail. This year’s exhibition



**‘Backscratcher Ginger’ –
by Thelma Farmer**

highlighted some of the regionally significant native plants currently growing in the Gardens.

Free Guided walks:

Complementing and including the Exhibition was the last free Guided Walk for the year titled The “Botanic Art and Garden” Special Free Guided Walk on Friday October 7 at 9.30am.

The walk included a visit to the Lagoons Gallery to view the “Colours of Nature” Exhibition and participants were led ‘down the Garden’s path’ to see the vast array of colours in the foliage and flowers in the Tropical Shade Garden.

The flowering emblem of the MRBG - *Graptophyllum ilicifolium* -The Mount Blackwood Holly, was in bloom as well as other spring flower flowers.



Mt Blackwood Holly

Plant-ed Education program:

October 11: 25 prep and year 1 children from Dundula state school visited the MRBG to learn about leaf shapes, sizes and colours, cacti & water plants adaptations to their environment and the session finished with a compost demonstration on sun lawn where children also made recycled newspaper pots to take home their planted seeds..

October 12: 130 prep aged children from Moranbah East State School came in two groups, rotating between the beach and the botanic gardens.

At the MRBG there were 4 rotating sessions: Mini-beasts/ creatures interactive display set up in the meeting room, Bird Bingo, showing where small creatures live in the Tropical Shade Garden, and no electricity physical games on the Tropical Sun Garden lawn. The four-hour session ended with cooling water icy-poles for all.

MRBG Web stats for October: www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au

- 940 Visits
- 797 Visitors
- 2954 Page views
- 3.14 Pages/Visits

eNewsletter total Subscribers in October - 505 (Last month: 498)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Community Education

The Emergency Management Section continues to support and promote community disaster awareness education, community preparedness and resilience for disaster events.

Disaster Coordination Centre

The Disaster Coordination Centre remains at a point of readiness.

A meeting was held on the 15th September 2011 to address some outstanding issues regarding the purchase of additional laptops and the movement of the system onto the main server to allow greater ability to train and provide a more secure system in accordance with the consultants report.

As at March 2011, Council has approximately 100 staff trained in the use of Guardian and approximately 140 staff trained in Disaster Coordination Centre Operations.

Guardian revision training has been deferred until after the upgrading of the server and installation of Version 4.

Review of Queensland Flood Commission Inquiry Recommendations

A review of the Queensland Flood Commission Inquiry recommendations released on the 1st August 2011 was undertaken and work is being planned to undertake the remedial actions required to comply with the review recommendations.

Approximately 65 recommendations need to be addressed by local government and it may not be possible to undertake and complete all recommendations prior to the commencement of the next wet season given competing priorities.

Emergency Management Website

The Emergency Management website content on was reviewed and updated during the month.

Mackay Local Disaster Management Group

The Mackay Local Disaster Management Group met on the 24th October 2011.

The next scheduled meeting is the 5th December 2011.

Meetings and Conferences

- Attendance as at the QTCCC Pre-cyclone season Workshop on 7th October 2011.
- Attendance at the Mackay District Disaster Management Group Meeting on the 20th October 2011.
- Attendance at the Mackay Local Disaster Management Group Meeting on the 24th October 2011.
- Attendance at meetings for Safe Plan, 5.1 Budget, Workplace Health and Safety Committee and review of Grants during the month.

Planning

Mackay Local Disaster Management Plan and Operational Plans

The Mackay Local Disaster Management Plan (MLDMP) was submitted to the Local Disaster Management Group Meeting on the 24th October 2011 for consideration and review.

The MLDMP was accepted in principle, however members were given till the 5th December 2011 to review action plans and mitigation strategies of each of the individual agencies.

The MLDMP is expected to be approved on the 5th December 2011 by the LDMG and forwarded to Council for endorsement on 14th December 2011.

Work and revision of a number of Operational Plans continues. Some Operational Plans will require major changes due to new guidelines being released. At this stage, it is unlikely that all Operational Plans will be completed before the commencement of the storm season due to completing priorities.

Projects / Mitigation Strategies

A number of Projects and Mitigation Strategies are currently being either assessed or undertaken.

Storm Surge Study

This project is now being undertaken by the Planning and Development Program to meet the requirements of the Coastal Planning Guidelines.

Tenders have been received and reviewed and a recommendation has been prepared.

Community Emergency Wardens Project

A meeting to discuss progress on the project was held for the 12th September 2011.

This project will be co-ordinated by the Community Resilience Officer with the intention to have three trail areas (Midge Pt / Seaforth / Eungella) instigated in 2012.

Aged Care Facilities Emergency Planning Project

The Regional Aged Care Facilities Group has indicated it wishes to undertake this project in-house and will contact Council when further input is required.

SES Functions/ SES Instructors Project

No meetings were held in October.

Backup Generators for Sir Albert Abbott Admin Building

The project is continuing under the supervision of the Property Services Section.

Works to be completed include the construction of the permanent foundation and compound for both the 90kva & 350kva generators, relocation of the 90kva from the temporary site and installation of the 350kva and associated switch board and electrical works.

Works are scheduled for the removal and replacement of the existing electrical switchboard on the weekend of the 9th December 2011 and expected to be completed by the end of December 2011.

Community Resilience Officer Project

The Community Resilience Officer has been active in the community attending a number of meetings.

Memorandum of Understanding with Australian Red Cross

No further work has been undertaken on this project as Council is awaiting information from the ARC.

Memorandum of Arrangement with EMQ for the State Emergency Service

No further work has been undertaken on this project.

SES Update
Local Controller

Completed a Thematic Communication course at the invitation of Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal at the MECC on the 10th and 11th.

Current Unit Volunteer strength

Total unit strength as per official EMQ records in July was 278 volunteers

Current level is at 240 vols. Reduction is attributed to one less recruitment and one delayed recruitment in 2011.

However, still up 40% from 2009/2010 season and still at 190% above 2008 levels.

Activations

9th and 10th Bloomsbury – Emergency Traffic Control

Activated by Queensland Police (QPS) 000 calls

6 volunteers in two shifts, four vehicles responded from Midge Point, Calen and Mackay.

Local Controllers Note: I have no doubt that due to the seriousness of this situation, being a truck broken down on the apex of a corner on double white lines in heavy fog that SES intervention assisted in the prevention of further accidents at the site during the recovery process. SES volunteers carried out their duties in difficult conditions for many hours and at some risk to ensure the safety of road users.

12th Sarina – Emergency Lighting

Activated by Queensland Police – 6 volunteers from Sarina and Armstrong Beach provided lighting for fire crews to assist during a Road Crash Rescue of three persons trapped in vehicles.

13th – 17th Canelands Opening - Traffic Control

Activated by Queensland Police.

Police requested SES assistance due to low manning capability of police for an operation of this size.

Projects Officer 1 member @ 10 Hrs

Wednesday 12th, 4 members @ 2hrs = 8hrs

Thursday 13th, 23 members @ 10hrs = 230hrs

Friday 14th, 21 members @ 10 hrs = 210 hrs

Saturday 15th, 21 members @ 9 hrs = 189 hrs

Sunday 16th, 17 members @ 9 hrs = 153 hrs

Monday 17th, 3 members 2 4 hrs = 12 hrs

Total Hours = 812 hrs

Local Controllers Note: This exercise represents the MRU's most technical and prolonged event outside of an actual disaster to date and provided valuable training in operations, co ordination and command and control in the lead up to this storm season.

16th Wagaroo- Emergency Traffic Control

Activated by Queensland Police.

12 volunteers in two shifts while Emergency services removed two deceased and three injured from crash scene.

Other Donations

\$660.00 from Dulux

Courses Completed, all of Unit

High Risk

Chain Saw, 8 volunteers now qualified

Safe at Heights Mackay and Koumala 13 volunteers now qualified

Low Risk

Safety, 25 attended

Navigation Mackay, Armstrong Beach

Public Education

River to Reef

Light the Night

Canelands Opening

Carlyle Gardens retirement village (advised on flood mitigation strategies)

Events Attended

River to Reef in support of Raft Race and Pelican Push

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Number of Completed Maintenance Requests Surveyed for Customer Satisfaction

Civil Operations - 48

Parks and Environment - 53

Water Services - 133

Number of Construction Projects Surveyed for Customer Satisfaction

0

Number of Customer Satisfaction Survey Results Finalised

3

Number of IMS Documents Reviewed and Updated

Standard Operating Procedures - 1

Forms - 0

Booklets - 0

Knowledge Reviews - 14

Diagrams – 2

Leaflets – 4

Plans – 1

Number of New IMS Documents Commenced

Standard Operating Procedures - 1

Knowledge Reviews - 9

Forms - 1

Number of documents uploaded to “Bruce” IMS site

4

Number of Work Sites Visited

8

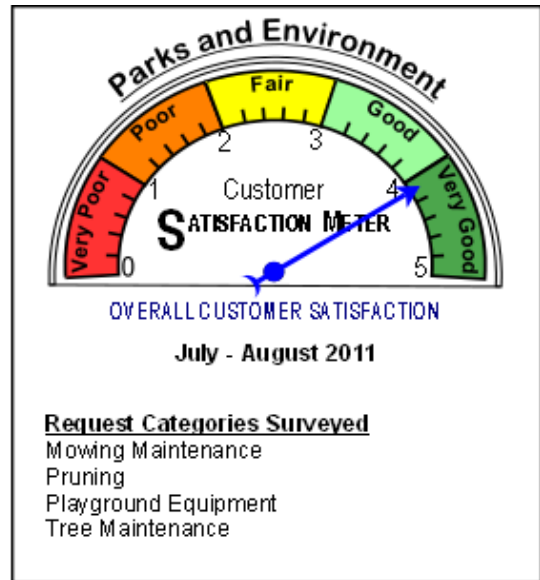
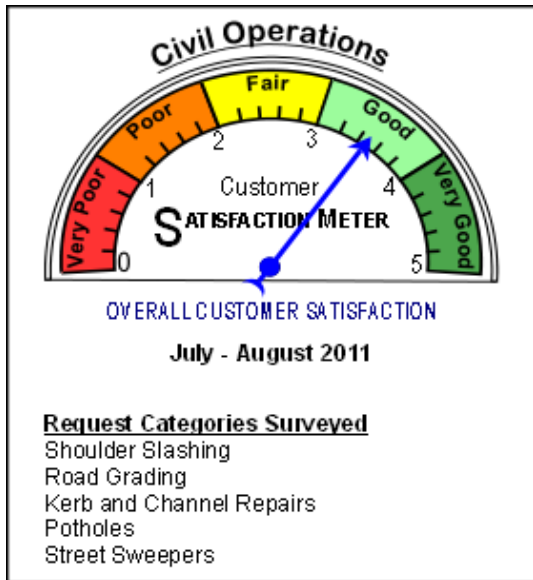
Number of Internal Quality Audits Conducted

3

Meetings Attended

5

Customer Survey Results

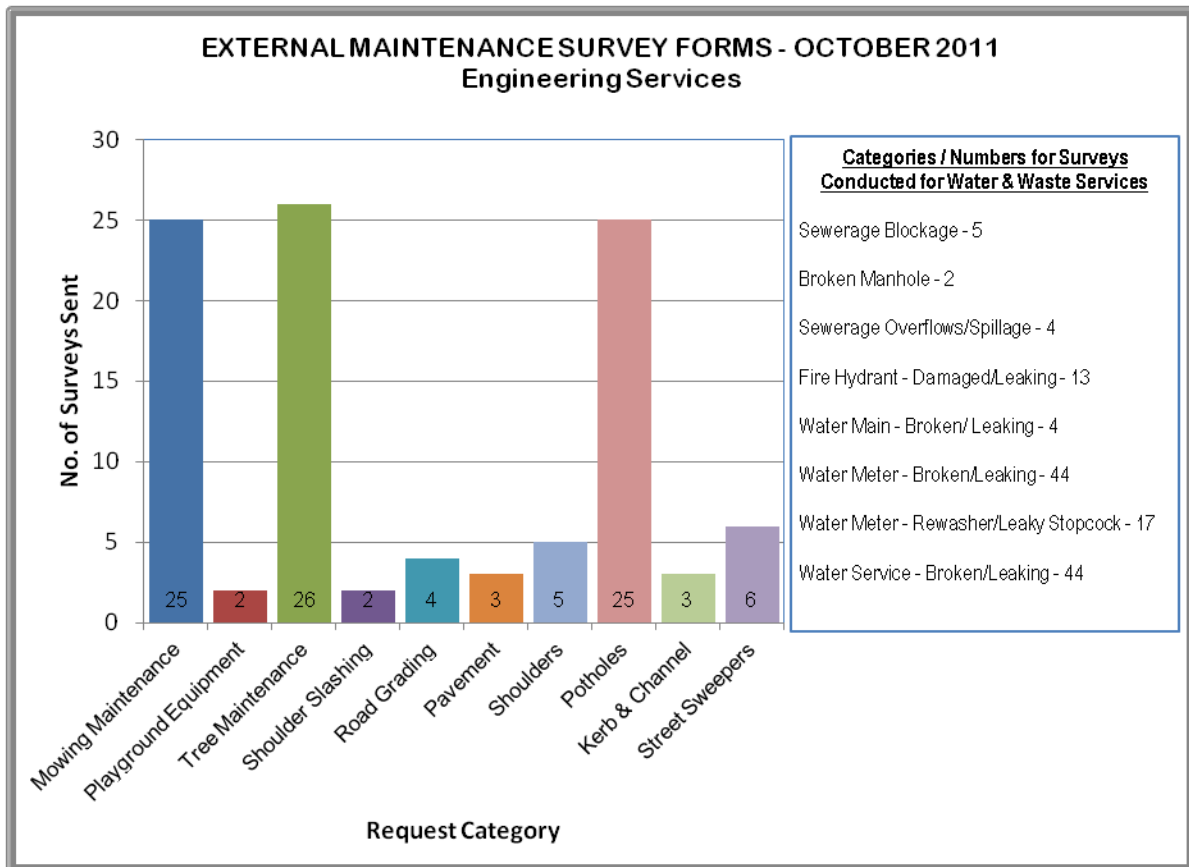


Maintenance Requests

Satisfaction surveys are posted to customers at the end of each month. The results are reported bi-monthly on a per Program basis.

Construction Projects

Satisfaction surveys are letter-boxed/hand delivered to customers on project completion. The results are reported on a per project basis.



Consultation

There has been consultation with Engineering Services Program Managers.

Resource Implications

Nil.

Conclusion

Extensive activity has taken place over the past month both in preparation for the upcoming wet season and in completion of a number of capital projects. The lack of rain has had a negative impact on vibrant appearance of the Botanic Gardens and many horticultural features which rely on irrigation.

Flood damage restoration projects have progressed significantly over the period and major projects such as Connors Road reconstruction, Meadowlands activity area and future flood damage packages have had tender processes finalised.

Officer's Recommendation

THAT this report be received.