

COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MONTH ENDING 30 APRIL 2010

Author: DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

Purpose

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

Background and Discussion

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT

- Attended City Focus Advisory Committee meeting
- Consultation regarding Council's Aquatics Study
- Community Services 2010-11 budget refined
- Complete sports marketing concept further explored

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LIBRARIES

Management

- Attended LGMA Nth Qld Branch meeting in Cooktown.
- Was elected President of LGMA Nth Qld Branch for 2010/2011
- Debrief of Management Challenge Team results was held with Facilitator of event
- A morning tea was held at City Library to celebrate their win in the reduction of office paper challenge

Community Development

National Youth Week

Mackay events

Mackay young people displayed their talent at the Blue Water Quay, during the "Mackay's Got Talent" Youth Week Event on Saturday 17 April. The event was hosted by Tianna from Hot FM and the contestants were judged by Cliffo from Hot FM, Margie Ward, Karen Bonham and Erica Fewquandie. Around 500 audience members enjoyed 20 variety acts from talented local teenagers. The first place prize of a \$1000 WOW Sight and Sounds voucher was awarded to Taila Gauge, a thirteen year old singer. Second place, a \$750 WOW Sight and Sound voucher was awarded to Marcus Bico, a thirteen year old singer, and third place of a \$500 Good Guys voucher was awarded to Sensory Circus. Sydney band Ruby for Lucy wowed audience members with soulful sounds from their latest album. Organisers, participants and audience members enjoyed the wonderful facility, and talent on display!

Sarina events

Around 300 Sarina young people participated in the “Srina 2 Da Xtrme” event at the Sarina Youth Centre and surrounding grounds. Local band, Amulet, impressed participants with a variety of well known covers, while other young people took up the opportunity to climb the rock wall, work out their leg muscles on the bungee run, or test out their skills on the inflatable obstacle course. During the day MAD (Making a Difference) Committee members spoke with local young people about what they would like to see in the region. Around 50 written surveys were completed by Sarina young people, while others were caught on film having their say about their needs and wants for the region.



Young people enjoy Srina 2 Da Xtrme

Locality Development Officer presented a paper at the ‘Street By Street, Suburb By Suburb – Community Building and Social Inclusion’ National Conference in Melbourne, April 21 and 22. This presentation highlighted the work undertaken by the Locality Development Officer in the region’s growth areas, with a particular focus on the Northern Beaches. The Northern Beaches Community Network was used as a case study to exemplify a strengths-based approach to community development which harnesses the commitment and service for the locality by existing groups, organisations and individuals.

The Northern Beaches Community Group met on April 28 at the Northern Beaches Police Station. Member for Whitsunday, Jan Jarratt attended, along with Cr Karen May. The Network also welcomed 4 new members representing the RSL, Salvation Army, Mackay Vineyard Church and an interested individual, bringing membership to 24. The network edited the final draft of the Northern Beaches Community Flyer, a resource aimed at promoting the vibrancy of the locality to existing and new residents. Members also discussed the formation of a sub-committee to plan the Northern Beaches Community Day which will be held later in the year. Next meeting – Wednesday June 9, 7pm at the Girl Guide Hall, Fisher St, Bucasia.

The Andergrove Community Group has welcomed 9 new members this year. The group meets monthly, on the last Wednesday at 9.30am in the Andergrove Community Centre, Celeber Drive. Members are primarily older people, many who do not have their own transport. Reducing social isolation and encouraging connectedness with other residents is the primary aim of this group. Activities are organised according to the needs and wishes of members. For example, a “Cooking for One” information session was held on April 28. Next month’s meeting on May 26 will host the Hiromi Hotel community art project which will also be a community recovery creative activity following Cyclone Ului.

The Volunteers Conference: *Now More Than Ever* was held on Saturday, 15 May 2010 at Dolphin Heads Resort during National Volunteers Week. The conference attracted over 80 participants which represented 55 community organisations.

The conference aimed to provide relevant training for non-profit community organisations in the region to assist them to provide better services and resources to the community and meet their organisations aims and objectives.

Keynote speakers included Val Broady from Volunteers Queensland who discussed the concept of volunteering, a representative from the Community Benefit Funds Unit in Brisbane who discussed the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund. A representative from Our Community in Melbourne also attended and presented a session on Boards, Leadership and Governance.

Along with interstate professional advice, Mackay Regional Council's Community Development and Library Services Manager, Jan Kilbourne and Public Education, Training and Special Projects Coordinator, Debbie Adams provided a local perspective discussing Strategic Planning and Safe Food Handling.

Volunteer's conferences, held this year and last, were completely booked out demonstrating the need for skill development in the volunteering community.

Through evaluation, attendees at the conference indicated their desire for more regular training opportunities to keep volunteers up to date with relevant practices and the opportunity to develop skills. Councils Community Projects Officer is currently investigating opportunities to provide an annual calendar of training opportunities for volunteers in the region.

A copy of the results from the evaluation forms distributed at the conference is available for information of interested Councillors.

The Volunteers Conference meets Councils Corporate Plan Objective – To build safe, strong and self-reliant communities with access to a diverse range of community services and facilities aimed at providing opportunities for participation in community life.

Libraries

- Young People's Services

Treasures and Trinkets was the theme of our school holiday activities held at Gordon White, Mackay City, Walkerston, Mirani and Sarina libraries. 147 attended these sessions.

In keeping with the pirate theme, 5 young people watched *Pirates of the Caribbean: curse of the Black Pearl* at the Gordon White Library.



Hannah Chester-Master (5), Callum MacDonald (7) & Callum Chester-Master (7)

Event	Previous year	Current year
Storytime	1192	857
Baby Bounce	75	61

- Information Services

Computer Use and Classes	Total
DiscoverIT Classes (participants)	46
Public Computers - Users	2001
Public Computers – Bookings	2918
Public Computers – Express Computers	963
Public Computers – Wireless (hrs)	352

Information Requests	Total
Online Enquiries	22
Ask the Librarian Queries	13
Reference Queries – Staff	1207
Reference Queries – Phone	1222

Top Website Visits	Total
Total Website Visits	17,393
Website Visits - Home	10,677
Website Visits - Catalogue	2414
Website Visits - Locations & Hours	641
Website Visit - Online Resources	452
Website Visits – Ask the Library	291
Website Visits – Joining & Borrowing	240
Website Visits – Technology & Training	181
Website Visits – Services for Children & Young People	177
Website Visits – General Collections	164
Website Visits – Heritage Collections	159

Database Visits	Total
Databases - EBO	1007
Databases - Newsbank	24
Databases - EBSCO Host	33
Databases - Thompson Gale	5
Databases - Your Tutor	24

Computer Requests	Total
Computer Support Requests – Mackay City Library	2
Computer Support Requests – Gordon White Library	4

- Community Services

Home Library Service Statistics	Library Branch		
	Gordon White	Mackay City	Sarina
Assistive Technology Computer	8	22	0
Home Library customers	53	113	19
Bulk Loans	2	1	0

Phone calls	17	23	3
Reservations	62	68	10
Kilometres travelled by FOML	58.2	48	10
Number of items loaned	623	1198	148

- Heritage Collections

Mackay Regional Council Libraries hosted two events presented by State Library of Queensland and coordinated by Heritage Collections staff. The Australian Library of Art, White Gloves Tour and Conservation Clinics were conducted at Gordon White Library and Mackay City Library on 12 and 13 April. All sessions were well attended.

Heritage Collections staff attended an Audio Visual conservation clinic and Local Studies – Talking Queensland History Forum at Townsville Libraries. Presenters at the forum included acclaimed author and historian Professor Raymond Evans and Bob James from School of Indigenous Australian Studies and School of Arts, Education and Social Sciences, James Cook University.

Author and Vietnam Veteran Don Tate presented an author talk at Mackay City Library on 14 April. Don talked about his experiences in Vietnam as well as showing historic footage he shot as an infantryman serving during the war.

Heritage Collection Room	
Total Users	57
Research Enquiries * up to 1 hr research required	8
Microfilm Reader Bookings	39

- Membership and loan statistics

New members

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	175	126
Mackay City Library	244	208
Mirani Library	1	9
Mobile Library	17	43
Sarina Library	34	13
Walkerston Library	15	51

Loans

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	27755	27688
Mackay City Library	28498	28249
Mirani Library	2420	2241
Mobile Library	3440	2817
Sarina Library	4511	5339
Walkerston Library	2060	2182

Visitors

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	11,559	11,722
Mackay City Library	11,592	Door count device malfunction
Mirani Library	NA	1,601
Mobile Library	NA	NA
Sarina Library	3,020	3,565
Walkerston Library	NA	NA

Museums

Greenmount Homestead

- Victoria Park State School visited with 85 year 4 students
- Museum Coordinator continued with the clean-up following cyclone Ului
- Mackay Sunrise Rotary have committed to refurbish/renew the wagon wheel mailbox sign adjacent to the carpark
- Presentation to Mackay Probus Club
- One wedding ceremony was held
- Preparations for the annual Heritage Fair are in full swing.

Sarina Historical Society Inc.

- Books are selling well and gearing up for the next unveiling on 5 June
- Sarina entered into the Heritage Week magazine with Museum Qld. Are also in the Fit and Fifty publication that came out in April.
- 4 members attended the Word 2007 Workshop
- Currently preparing for introduction to wireless internet which will enable more research to occur.

RECREATION SERVICES

Management / Sport and Recreation

- Discussions were held with representatives of a local fitness centre to discuss outdoor sports & recreation program opportunities.
- Council's Sports & Recreation Officer Tiffany Sandell finalised employment with Council on 29 April. Gemma Hewitt commenced on 22 April as Council's new Sports & Recreation Officer. The 1-week hand-over period and information transfer proved valuable.
- Commencement of "Eat Well Be Active" funding acquittal process (2x new 10,000 steps launches end March 2010).
- Community Grants were awarded to 29 groups sharing in \$97,000 in grants – among the beneficiaries were Mackay Lions Soccer Club, Dolphins Soccer Club, Mackay Gymnastics Inc, Mackay Ladies Vigoro, and Sarina Rugby League Football Club.
- Manager Recreation Services and Sports & Recreation Officer participate in Open Space Policy review with Council Strategic Planning staff and consultants.
- New Sports & Recreation Officer becomes member of Council's Health & Wellbeing Committee.
- Council's Transport Working Group Committee meeting, a sub-committee of the Sustainable Futures Committee accepts the 'Employee Transport Habits Survey Report' put forth by Council's Sports & Recreation Officer. The report incorporates ideas to encourage more

environmentally friendly and physically active ways of getting to work such as car pooling and biking.

- New Sports & Recreation Officer meets with the CEO of YMCA (Bundaberg) to discuss the possibility of the YMCA establishing in the Mackay region to provide community based programs to youth, indigenous persons, elderly and people with disabilities.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sports & Recreation, Sports & Recreation Officers and Manager Recreation Services attended the official media launch of the Mackay Stadium project. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd attended the media launch and officially ‘turned the soil’ to symbolise the start of construction.
- Manager Recreation Services hosts Council presentation by Complete Sports Marketing Pty Ltd regarding sporting event opportunities for the Mackay region.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sports & Recreation, Sports & Recreation Officer and Manager Recreation Services attended the Brewers Park Sports Management Committee meeting in Sarina.
- Manager Recreation Services developed draft funding application for a Sports & Recreation Coordinator through the QLD Department of Communities - Sports & Recreation. Submission to be finalised and submitted in May.

Aquatic Strategy Study

- Project branding created.
- Consultation took place with the broader community as well as specific key stakeholders and regular pool user groups. A public consultation night was held from 5.30pm – 6.30pm on Tuesday 27 April at Gordon White Library (Mt. Pleasant), whilst the consultant met with a significant amount of key stakeholders from Tuesday 27 to Friday 30 (inclusive) in Mackay for public consultation and interviews.
- Aquatic Facilities Condition draft report received by aquatics engineering consultant.

Key club activities:

- Amateur Boxing - enquiring about progress of Community Grants for State Titles to be held in Mackay in October.
- Dolphins Soccer – maintenance of fields.
- Mackay Kennel Club – lease renewal matters.
- Mackay Community Visitors Association – request for land.
- Coast to Coal Quarter Horse – desire for indoor equestrian arena.
- Dirt Drags Club - seeking assistance to find suitable location for an event.
- Mackay Historical Society – Land Management Plan.
- Paintball organisation (for profit) - seeking suitable land.
- Representatives of Administrative Services, Property Services and Manager Recreation Services meet with representatives of Mackay Junior Tennis to discuss existing lease arrangements/future plans.

Media / PR

- Multi-visit passes were donated to the organisers of the Neighbour Day Promotion, congratulating and thanking those who helped the community following Cyclone Ului.
- Media releases and coverage:
 - Aquatic facilities opening hours during winter.
 - 10,000 Steps launch (Bluewater Lagoon area and Sandfly Creek).
 - Holiday activities at Swim Centres (including Learn-to-Swim intensives and Mission Inflatable obstacle course activities).
 - Grants received by several sporting clubs as part of Councils Grants and Sponsorship Program.

- Aquatics Strategy study.
- A new text was developed for Council's 'message on hold' service regarding the Bluewater Lagoon.

Aquatic Facilities

Bluewater Lagoon

- Relevant contractors and staff completed evacuation drill.
- Sodium hypochlorite pumps were reinstalled at a different location to plan for bund wall alterations.
- A professional photographer took a range of photos on 12 April to be used for future promotional material.
- A gate was installed near the start of the waterslide in the middle lagoon. The gate allows contract lifeguards to close the entry point of the waterslide when required.

Memorial Pool

- Staff and contractors continued with the clean-up work as a result of cyclone Ului. Work involved cutting of branches and removal of debris.
- Shade sails were reinstalled after being taken down in preparation for cyclone Ului.
- Contractors installed a new hot water system in the male amenities.
- Council's Programs Coordinator organised the 2nd Pool to Surf competition on 16 April at Memorial Swim Centre, a fun but competitive event involving Council lifeguards and SLSQ (Bluewater lagoon) lifeguards.

Pioneer Pool

- Shade sails were reinstalled after being taken down in preparation for cyclone Ului.
- The "Mission Inflatable" obstacle course activity continues to attract a significant amount of participants.
- Staff and contractors trimmed damaged trees and removed green waste after the cyclone Ului event.
- The Learn-to-Swim program term 1 – 2010 was successfully finalised. The 4-week term 2 Learn-to-Swim program commenced.
- The 4-day Easter Intensive learn-to-swim program commenced on 6 April.
- The Adult Swim for Fitness program, Multicultural swimming lesson program and Orcas squad training programs continue to be successful.
- Aquatics staff finalised a funding application for the 'Sport & Recreation Active Inclusion Program'. The submission relates to the expansion of Council's multi-cultural swimming lessons. Amount requested under this program: \$18,213.
- Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) and aquatics staff organised an educational day for Fitzgerald State School. Activities and demonstrations including CPR and the "Mission Inflatable" obstacle course.

Mirani Pool

- The facility closed for annual maintenance/winter break until September (the start of the 2010/2011 swimming season).
- Meeting held with lessee of Mirani Pool to discuss existing and future operations in relation to the current lease.
- Aquatics staff continue to progress with workplace, health and safety works.

Sarina Pool

- The facility closed for annual maintenance/winter break until September (the start of the 2010/2011 swimming season).
- Black dye has been added to the water to prevent algae growth during the shutdown period.
- Aquatics staff continue to progress with workplace, health and safety works.
- Facility office cleared out following departure of Lessee.
- Meeting taken with place with representatives of DETA to discuss the progress in regards to required capital/maintenance work.

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

Bluewater Lagoon*

Type of Customer	Bluewater Lagoon April 2009	Bluewater Lagoon April 2010
Children's Lagoon	969	3,858
Middle Lagoon	7,724	7,874
Upper Lagoon	3,456	3,336
TOTAL IN WATER CUSTOMERS	12,149	15,068
TOTAL PRECINCT (non-swimmers)	11,399	19,996
GRAND TOTAL	23,548	35,064

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

Memorial Pool**

Type of Customer	Memorial Pool April 2009	Memorial Pool April 2010
Persons 15 years or older	455	675
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	154	174
Pensioner	22	46
TOTAL	631	895
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	32	72
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$749.60	\$1,297.40

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Pioneer Pool**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool April 2009	Pioneer Pool April 2010
Persons 15 years or older	615	571
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	329	365
Pensioner	47	26
TOTAL	991	962
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	76	37
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$3,288.60	\$2,864.00

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Mirani Pool***

Type of Customer	Mirani Pool April 2009	Mirani Pool April 2010
Persons 15 years or older	63	Closed for Annual Maintenance
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	107	
Pensioner	6	
TOTAL	176	

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

Sarina Pool****

Type of Customer	Sarina Pool April 2009	Sarina Pool April 2010
Persons 15 years or older	Closed for Annual Maintenance	Closed for Annual Maintenance
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years		
Pensioner		
TOTAL		

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

Revenue Received:**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool		Memorial Pool	
	April 2009	April 2010	April 2009	April 2010
Actual Gate	\$6,035.00	\$4,709.50	\$3,366.50	\$5,587.50
Season Tickets	\$2,200.00	\$95.00	\$0.00	\$725.00
Miscellaneous	\$3,255.16	\$3,385.55	\$906.00	\$1,686.50
TOTAL	\$11,490.16	\$8,190.05	\$4,272.50	\$7,999.00
Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate	\$2,280.00	\$1,110.00	\$960.00	\$2,160.00

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

PROPERTY SERVICES

Management

- On-site inspections of Administration, Library and Museum buildings at Mirani and Sarina as part of the project to define the future office requirements and options for co-sharing of buildings.

Attendance at Sarina Sugar Shed and Field of Dreams Committee meetings.

- On-site meeting with Representatives from the Sarina Tourist Art & Craft Centre, Cr K May and Director Community Services to discuss possible relocation of a building to the Field of Dreams to the operational requirements for the Centre.

Property Services

- Brewers Park Sporting Complex metering modification Request for Quotation issued to potential Contractors.
- Glass Upgrade at the Sarina Cultural Hall awarded via Letter of Acceptance with project timeline requirements finalised.
- Holmes Drive units 1, 2 and 3 for bathroom refurbishments finalised.
- Mackay Admin Building Refurbishment Stage 3 finalised.

- The Electronic Security System Upgrade and Consolidation of Council Buildings Request for Quotation issued to potential Contractors.
- Mackay Admin Building Air Conditioner Heater Element Replace Specification and contract documents finalised.

Property Co-ordinations

Leases

- SunWater Antenna Licence Agreement for Mirani Water Towers
- Seaforth Sport & Rec Access Easement to Seaforth Water Tower
- Mackay Junior Tennis Lease/Easement Area for Blue Water Trail
- Uniting Church (Blue Care) Lease/Easement Area for Blue Water Trail
- Mackay Tourism transfer of Lease of Melba House
- Program staff are currently dealing with 21 Leases and 7 Easements

Land Dealings

- MRC Purchase/handover of 1 Willetts Road, Mt Pleasant
- Program staff are currently dealing with 22 land dealings

Sarina Sugar Shed

The colder weather has snuck up on us and the Grey Nomad Army is upon us again with the daily visitor numbers and takings starting to increase.

Volunteers participated at the BSES Field Day which has been an annual event on the Sugar Industry Calender for over a hundred years, by selling some products such as our Gourmet Sauces, Ginger Beer, and Recipe Books.

We now have purchased all our equipment and ingredients to start our RUM Production which should be underway by months end.

Our new Bond Storage and Bottling Room is all but complete and we are just awaiting approval from the Excise Taxation Department.

MACKAY CONVENTION PRECINCT AND EVENTS

Management

- Attended Local Government Arts & Culture Advisory Reference Group at Arts Queensland where good progress was made as to prioritising an action / advocacy plan for arts and culture at local government level. Considerable discussion was had regarding the need to advocate for facility maintenance funding.
- Attended City Focus Advisory Committee and discussed various operating challenges faced by the Victoria Street Sunday Markets
- Attended major projects board
- Continued to organise event logistics for the Urban Local Government Conference which Mackay is hosting in May at the MECC
- Attended Libris Awards and compered the Libris Awards gala dinner

- Spoke at length on radio station 4CRM, with a monthly appearance on this radio station now planned.
- Prepared operational and capital budgets for endorsement
- Oversaw introduction of new Catering Compendium for MECC
- Assisted Variety Club of Queensland with the “Old Bags Luncheon” a fundraising event at the MECC which raised in excess of \$11,000

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

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

Festivals and Events

Mackay Region Festival of Arts 10 - 25 July

All preparatory work has been undertaken to launch the Mackay Region Festival of the Arts in May. An ambitious program will see favourites such as the G & S Wine & Food day return along with the John Donnelly Good Guys – Jack Sturgeon Lunchtime concerts. New activities have also been programmed across the region, along with a large number of community events. Record financial sponsorship has been received this year with several new sponsors coming on board.

Coal to Coast Festival - 11 September

Qld Regional Events Development Program has granted this festival \$15,000 in funding in a very competitive round. As mentioned in a previous report this festival will become a one day event partly modelled on the Festival of Arts Wine & Food Day but will have its own distinct flavour with new stakeholders coming on board.

River 2 Reef Festival 9 October

Sponsorship applications are about to be sent to prospective businesses.

Global Grooves 24 October

The Mackay Indian community is planning to celebrate the Hindu festival of Diwali (festival of light) at Global Grooves where these two events will coincide.

Planning is well underway for Maltese band SCORBA to run workshops prior to performing at this year’s Global Grooves thanks to a grant from the Qld State Governments Dept of Multiculturalism.

Headlining this year’s Global Grooves will be Spanish flamencoist Diego Guerra, who will be appearing with Ben Winkleman from the Ben Winkleman trio and an artist from the Cat Empire.

Training & Development

Jemma Carey is attending the Next Wave Festival in Melbourne 20-22 May, where she will meet other Festival Marketing Managers/Officers.

David Gerrand will be attending the Festival of Dreaming at Woodford 11-14 June to be part of a national Festival Producer seminar. Both David and Jemma's travel and accommodation has been paid for by the Australia Council. Officers made successful grant applications in this regard.

Artspace Mackay

- 1,990 people visited Artspace Mackay during April 2010
- 94 people visited the Town Hall exhibition during the last week in April 2010
- 14,453 people visited the Artspace Mackay website during April 2010

Exhibitions:

McAleese Gallery	9 April -23 May	<i>2010 Libris Awards: Australian Artists Books Prize Exhibition</i>
Foyer	9 April -23 May	<i>Assimilated Rhythm No. 4 Bint Trembuckey: Recent works by Deanna Hitti</i>
Cox Rayner Gallery	From 27 February	<i>The A-Z of Artists Books</i>
Mackay Town Hall	21 April – 2 May	<i>A Quirky Perspective by Bob Faulkner</i>
Sarina Art Gallery	21 April – 2 May	<i>Bush to Beach Sarina Art Group</i>

Community Exhibitions Program

The Artspace Exhibitions team assisted two groups to put on exhibitions at the Old Town Hall, and at Sarina Art Gallery. Assistance provided included making up artwork labels, layout of the works, and teaching the groups how to correctly hang artworks.

Recycled Library: Altered Books touring exhibition

Grafton Regional Gallery & Museum (26 March – 25 April 2010)

Focus on Artists Books IV Forum (8 – 12 April 2010)

The 5th Focus on Artists Books started with two days of Masterclasses that were both fully booked; *Collographs* with Deanna Hitti and *From Print to Book* with Caren Florence. Feedback from evaluation forms was extremely positive:

“Well organised, informative, encouraging, good materials – nice environment” (Sue Anderson, Sydney)

“Inspiring with multiple possibilities available” (Marianne Little, Melbourne)

“I am glad I chose this workshop, fabulous + worth the trip!!!” (Caelli Jo Brooker, Maitland NSW)

Over 280 guests attended the opening of *2010 Libris Awards: Australian Artists Books Prize Exhibition* officially open my Cr. Col Meng, Mayor of Mackay Region with guest judge Kirsty Grant, Senior Curator of Australian Art, National Gallery of Victoria, who announced the winners:

The MRC National Artists Book Award: Marion Macken *Mies van der Rohe: Built houses*

The Regional Artists Book Award: Sheree Kinlyside *The reluctant nun*

The Emerging Artists Book Award: Kyana Pike *City survivors*

The Inaugural Zine Prize: Gracia Haby

65 delegates attended the two-day Forum on Saturday & Sunday at the MECC. Again the feedback from evaluation forms was extremely positive:

“Selection of good speakers – selection has added welcomed aspects of the history of artists books” (Noreen Grahame, Brisbane)

“The papers were of a very high calibre overall” (Irene Sourgnés, Brisbane)

“It was a great event; with a lovely spirit. We enjoyed the sessions thoroughly and thought the mix of speakers and papers perhaps the best ever. And the catering was amazing!” (Helen Cole, Senior Librarian, State Library of Queensland, Brisbane)

The Forum closed on Monday with a well-attended artist’s floor-talk by Deanna Hitti and a fully booked Workshop *Bound in yellow* with David Dellafiora:

“Very interesting approach with excellent outcome, I enjoyed this workshop very much” (Barbara Smith, Canberra)

“V. Successful. Very well organised. Great Educator... generous with information. Wonderful – learned a lot. Encore, please” (Sue Anderson, Sydney)

Public & Education Programs in April

- 13 April – Group tour: 20 first year teachers from CQU. Understanding ways of integrating the gallery into teaching practice.
- 16 April – Group tour: 20 Yr 11 & 12 students and 2 teachers from Whitsunday Anglican school to see the Libris Award exhibition.
- 16 April – Raafat Ishak artist talk. 20 participants. Presented by QAG.
- 17 April – Raafat Ishak Adult Workshop. Full – 14 participants. Presented by QAG.
- 18 April – Raafat Ishak Highschool Student Workshop – 6 participants. Presented by QAG.
- 20 April – BMA Kidspace. Approx 50 children + their carers
- 22 April - Group tour: 52 children + teachers and parents. 2 x Yr 4 classes.
- 27 April – Group tour: 20 students Mirani State Highschool
- 28 April – Group tour: Mercy College. 28 x Yr 8s with teacher
- 28 April – Group tour: Rockhampton Catholic Diocese. 30 x year 6 students (2 adults supervising)
- 29 April – Group tour: Mercy College 22 x year 9s and 10s.

Artspace Staff

- Linda Brownsey has been appointed as the new Artspace Mackay Administration Officer following the resignation of Pam Brooks. Linda has been acting Administration Officer since 1 March 2010.
- Asheligh Rogers has been appointed as the new Artspace Mackay Trainee (to commence 11 May 2010)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Management

Attended REDC Networking luncheon, where guest speaker Sevanth Sebastian from the Sunrise program outlined a global and national economic picture which, based on ongoing demand for Australian commodities, indicates a solid future economic outlook for the Mackay region

Attended Westpac Economic and Technical Update and met with Chris Caton, Chief Economist for the Banker's Trust Group

Met with representatives of Mackay Sugar, Mr Mark Gayton and Mr Dave Langham for a tour of the Mackay Sugar operation in April

Attended Tourism Queensland Sustainable Regions presentation Mackay Botanic Gardens, (Five local tourism businesses participated in this Sustainable Regions initiative which will culminate in a TQ Regional Action Plan. Participating local businesses are Broken River Mountain Resort; Cape Hillsborough Nature Resort; Forest Flying; The Criterion Hotel; and the Sarina Sugar Shed. Cr Dave Perkins Portfolio councillor for Tourism and Economic Development, along with Mackay Tourism Ltd CEO David Phillips presented certificates to participating business owners. Crs Karen May, Wendy Cameron, Ken Casey and Greg Thompson were in attendance.



First Photo: L to R Cr Dave Perkins pictured with Robyn Shulkins representing Cape Hillsborough Nature Resort.

Second Photo : David Phillips Mackay Tourism Ltd (MTL); Paul O'Connor Chair MTL; Glenys Mansfield Sarina Sugar Shed; Cr Dave Perkins; Robyn Shulkins Cape Hillsborough; and Therese Phillips Director Sustainable Regions Tourism Queensland

Attended Australian Institute of Management Sustainable Discussion Forum, (speakers included Jaco Ackermann MRC Strategic Planning Manager)

Participation in the preparatory workshops for City Centre Car Parking Strategy

Participation in Priority Infrastructure Program Training session (organised by Strategic Planning in conjunction with other areas of council)

Met with Mr Damian Pearson, Regional Manager Department of Infrastructure and Planning (DIP) – regarding the upcoming Regional Plan

Interviews for Principal Economic Development Officer completed – with offer made and accepted. Economic Development welcomes Penne Kaddatz, Penne is well known to all in council and particularly recognised through her excellent work in council's Corporate Communications program.

City Focus Advisory Committee

- Around 900 "Postcard" size flyers distributed to City centre businesses and stakeholders to reinforce the "In the City" Easter Marketing Campaign message – and publicise the City Focus Business Email network
- City Focus website and marketing campaign projects out to public quotation
- City Centre urban enhancement concepts initiated and Draft Brief under preparation

- City Centre “Explore” map printed, with copies distributed to majority of City Centre businesses, Nebo Road and other tourist accommodation houses and Visitor Information Centres

Regional Focus

- Materials produced to support Council’s recent tour to familiarise southern-based, major bank executives with the solid investment and very sound lending opportunities fostered by the prosperity of the fast growing Mackay region.
- New Updated April 2010 Snapshots completed – includes latest estimates of resident population – 116,123 estimated to reside in the Mackay region at June 2009 – well over 60 new people resident in the Mackay region every week between June 2008-09- Average annual growth rate of 3.3% for the five year period 2004-09.
- New Snapshots delivered to selected City businesses including Banks, Real Estate Agents and professional offices, for distribution to the public
- April 2010 Profiles updated for Mirani, Sarina and Mackay
- Profiles circulated to Sarina Business Network (email network)
- Work continues toward a Mackay Regional Council “Business Guide”, featuring council services and details of other government and regional organisation assistance programs
- Additional materials for economic development, including usb based materials designed, developed and sourced.
- Work underway for two conferences being held in Mackay in May – Invest Mackay Whitsunday Isaac – for which council is organising and sponsoring a one day Study Tour showcasing regional highlights – Billions of development infrastructure is on show - including \$210 million major shopping development at Caneland Central, \$120 Million Co-generation at Mackay Sugar Residential development, the \$1.3 billion expansion at Dalrymple Bay (completed June 2009) and the proposed BMA expansion at Hay Point, Paget Industry projects including council’s waste facilities and new Paget depot, plus tourism development, Mackay Marina and more. Plus the Urban Local Government Association of Queensland 2010 Conference Balancing Growth and Liveability to be held at the MECC May 25-28th. Working with Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning, Economic Development will provide a display stand at the conference.
- Sarina Online registration facility now available for Business Email Network
- Both Sarina and Mackay City Centre Networks are growing. Positive comments received about the format of the Business News Updates – these offer very short – quick to read - updates on current topics.
- Planning work continuing with regard to “Transit Orientated Centres” (TOCS)- Development Services Strategic Planning program area in conjunction with Economic Development. TOC-based development strategies assist retain and enhance the primacy of the Mackay City Centre, within the regional hierarchy.

Director’s Recommendation

THAT this report be received.