

# COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MONTH ENDING FEBRUARY 2011

**Author: DIRECTOR COMMUNITY SERVICES**

## **Purpose**

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

## **Background and Discussion**

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

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT**

- Attended discussions with Education Minister, Mayor and Portfolio Councillor Community Services at Proserpine Community Cabinet regarding possible Northern Beaches Library / Community Hub co-location.
- Attended site visits in the Northern Beaches looking at possible sites for sporting and community infrastructure with Strategic Planning, Recreation Services and Community Development and Libraries Managers.
- Attended Rural Affairs, Equitable Access, Sarina Sugar Shed, Corporate Projects and Public and Community Transport Advisory Committee Meetings.
- Participated in discussions with Reed Exhibitions regarding QME 2012 preparations.
- Participated in discussions with Mackay Tourism regarding the Town Hall visitor information centre.
- Attended Leap community meeting with Cr's May and Cameron to discuss the future of community halls and various other issues.
- Met with the Welcome Centre sub-committee to discuss location options for the centre.
- Chaired meeting of Council's Service Enhancement working group with initial 4 focus projects to include major project delivery, infrastructure charging and delivery, workplace culture and consolidated monthly reporting.
- Participated in EA discussions.
- Attended Community Plan steering committee meeting.
- Attended Mackay Sesquicentennial (150 years) Celebrations workshop.

### ***Management***

- Budget preparation was the main activity for the month
- Attended Northern Beaches Master Planning Workshop
- Meeting with consultant to further Community Plan

### ***Community Development***

- 3 new committee members were inducted into the RADF Committee.
- Art Is In Calendar Issue 47 for the period March – May distributed and posted on MRC Website
- Creative Mackay Ebulletin 4 February – 18 March distributed and posted on MRC Website
- 2011 RADF Showcase Event to be held Sunday 6 March. RADF Showcase Booklet to support the Showcase event completed and posted on MRC Website.
- Annual planning session for Healthy Ageing Reference Group has been held. The focus for 2011 will be “seniors-friendly environments” and “disaster/emergency preparation for seniors”
- Planning for Seniors Lifestyle Expo to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2011 has commenced.
- Support and assistance to community groups at Midge Point, Habana, Seaforth, and Calen continues.
- Workshops and rehearsals are well underway for “Outta This World” this year's Youth Council production to be held at the Pinnacle Playhouse during National Youth Week 2011. Performances will be held on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2 April and again Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9 April. Tickets available from Community Development.
- Multicultural swimming group held their first classroom session involving water and beach safety and CPR techniques. Attendance levels remain high.
- Discussions continue with the Muslim women in preparation for an all female Muslim swimming class project.
- Funding was recently secured from Multicultural Affairs Queensland for the Multicultural Driving Project.
- Migrant Voice publication distributed this month.
- Quarterly meeting of the LAMP Advisory Committee held this month.
- Planning is underway for Harmony Day multicultural picnic to be held on Sunday 27 March
- 73 applications were received through the grant program, assessment process to be held 7 March.
- The Volunteers Conference 2011 is being held on Saturday, 16 April 2011 at the Sarina Cultural Hall. The conference has been sponsored by the Sarina Community Bank who have provided \$5,000 to run the event. A committee has been formed to organise the conference with registration forms due to be distributed next week.
- Sarina Community Development Committee meeting was held on 21 February 2011. The committee are currently working through the Action Plan from the Sarina Community Development Forum held in November 2010.
- Sarina Chip group have developed the Action Plan for 2011 with focus to continue on prevention of drowning in 0-5 year olds. To support this initiative the committee are running another free CPR training day on Sunday, 29 May 2011 at the Sarina Markets.

- The February session of the Sarina Free Volunteers Training workshops outlined information on Mackay Regional Council Grants and Inkind Assistance programs. The session was well attended with great representation from local community groups. The final session of this program is scheduled to be held in April.

### **Libraries**

- General

Library Lovers Week was celebrated during February with Blind Date with a book. Customers borrowed 393 mystery items from the display in addition to their normal items. A lolly guessing competition was also held for our younger borrowers. The following prizes were awarded:

#### **Mackay City Library**

\$50 Sorbello's voucher – Rachel Taylor  
Lolly jar - John O'Loughlin

#### **Mirani Library**

\$50 Sorbello's voucher - Kaitlyn Peckett.  
Lolly jar – The Silvestri family

#### **Gordon White Library**

\$50 Sorbello's voucher - Mrs Irene Tooby  
Lolly jar - Nick Field

#### **Sarina Library**

\$50 Sorbello's voucher - Mrs Gloria Morris  
Lolly jar - Tahlia Walker

#### **Mobile Library**

\$50 Sorbello's voucher – Mr Aubry Thomson  
Lolly jar – Samantha Graham

#### **Walkerston Library**

\$50 Sorbello's voucher - Annette Treseder  
Lolly jar – Melissa Hall

- Young People's Services

Young People's Services now have a dedicated Young Adult librarian who will focus on the interests and needs of 12 – 25 age group.

This year Young People's Services have made an important change to storytime which reflects the importance of early literacy for young children. The storytime presentation now runs for 30 minutes during which the usual stories, songs and rhymes are presented. There is no break for craft. Parents and children can choose to take home a colouring sheet or do it in the library.

During storytime children learn valuable early literacy skills as they learn to predict what is going to happen in the story, count, recognize colours and sounds and widen their vocabulary. Our aim is to encourage parents to read and enjoy books with their children and

instil in them a lifetime love of reading. We also believe that at storytime children will be acquiring the first building blocks to being successful readers.

In the first month of this important change 1148 children and their parents and carers have attended Storytime. 189 have come to Baby Bounce, another successful literacy program in our libraries.

Event	Previous year	Current year
Storytime	1207	1148
Baby Bounce	133	189
Finally it's Friday (Teens)	3	10

- Statistics

Computer Use and Classes	Previous year	Current year
Discover IT Classes (participants)	54	52
Public Computers - Users	2207	2120
Public Computers – Bookings	3457	2994
Public Computers – Express Computers	1047	966
Public Computers – Wireless (hrs)	273	261.5

Information Requests	Previous year	Current year
Ask a Librarian Queries	16	16
Reference Queries – Staff	934 (month)	864 (sample)
Reference Queries – Phone	1163 (month)	1096 (sample)
Interlibrary Loans – Requests made	100	140
Interlibrary Loans – Requests received	79	99

Top Website Visits	Previous year	Current year
Total Website Visits	18857	15912
Website Visits - Home	9709	6723
Website Visits - Catalogue	5878	4744
Website Visits - Locations & Hours	671	649
Website Visit - Online Resources	270	297
Website Visits – Ask the Library	242	289
Website Visits – Services for Children & Young People	196	223
Website Visits – Joining & Borrowing	184	207
Website Visits – Heritage Collections	143	172
Website Visits – Technology & Training	150	158
Website Visits – Booklovers	86	140
Website Visit - New and Noteworthy	61	138
Website Visits – Services for Schools & Educators	63	136
Website Visits – Kidzone	90	132

Database Visits	Previous year	Current year
Databases - EBO	984	1212
Databases - Newsbank	9	1
Databases - EBSCO Host	26	45
Databases - Thompson Gale	27	4
Databases - Your Tutor	31	27
Databases – Safari eBooks	n/a	34

Heritage Collection Room	Previous year	Current year
Total Users	62	59
Research Enquiries * up to 1 hr research required	8	9
Microfilm Reader Bookings	48	46

- Membership and loan statistics

New members

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	191	195
Mackay City Library	248	249
Mirani Library	19	9
Mobile Library	81	54
Sarina Library	53	48
Walkerston Library	16	15

Loans

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	29322	25190
Mackay City Library	29315	26870
Mirani Library	2672	2836
Mobile Library	na	3162
Sarina Library	4706	4573
Walkerston Library	2002	1811

Bolinda Digital eAudiobooks

Month	Users	Loans
November 2010	158	251
December 2010	47	346
January 2011	43	353
February 2011	21	380
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>950</b>

Visitors

*Please note: people counter equipment is not available at all library branches.*

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	13338	11480
Mackay City Library	13313	N/A
Mirani Library	N/A	1618
Mobile Library	N/A	N/A
Sarina Library	3807	3700
Walkerston Library	N/A	2349

## **Museums**

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

- As the Museum was not open for visitors in February, there are no visitor numbers to report as yet
- The volunteer Coordinator, Carmel Kelly, attended a Mackay Regional Council Grants workshop in Sarina on 1 February
- Photo conservation workshop attended in Gladstone on 26 February
- Pioneer Valley Tourism meeting attended on 17 February
- Heritage Action Committee attended on 25 February

### **Sarina Historical Society and Museum Inc**

- Visitor numbers very low because of wet weather and news in the media about floods and cyclones
- Displays are being changed. This year will focus on the history of Sarina and the 100 year anniversary of the 1911 Sugar Strike.

### **Greenmount Homestead**

- Total visits for February – 64 (including one school tour)
- Gloria Arrow had her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday on 17<sup>th</sup> February
- Museum coordinator attended first meeting for next year's Sesquicentenary.
- Attended monthly meeting of the Mackay Historical Society.

## **RECREATION SERVICES**

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

- Further progress regarding planning for Council's application for the Healthy Communities grant. Phase 3 of the funding opens in May and applications close in October.
- Available funding options were explored in conjunction with Council's Community Development program.
- The Mackay Sports Expo/Sign-On Day was successfully held on 13 February at the MECC. 78 stalls from over 40 sporting groups were present on the day, with demonstrations from baton twirlers, wheelchair basketball, karate and roller derby, along with fun interactive displays including table tennis, basketball, hockey, rowing machines and gymnastics. Well-known Olympians were a big drawcard and it was estimated that over 4000 people attended the event. Staff involved met for a de-brief to summarise the evaluation forms from attendees and sporting clubs. The event was exceptionally well received by sporting groups and the community.

### ***Key Sport and Recreation Communications:***

- Sport and Recreation Officer sent out information about Council's Community Grants Programs to the local sporting and recreation groups.
- Cr Steindl, Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Officer attended a Brewers Park Sporting Committee meeting in Sarina. Presentations were made to the group from QLD Sport and Recreation Services, QLD Health and the Australian Drug

Foundation Good Sports Program. Discussions were in regards to potential funding for a Precinct Master Plan and the completion of the electricity upgrade.

- Discussions took place with representatives of Queensland Government's DEEDI to discuss a proposed application to the Building Rural Communities Fund. It is planned to apply for \$10,000 to complete a Master Plan for the Brewers Park Sporting Precinct in Sarina.
- Cr Steindl and Sport and Recreation Officer attended the first meeting of 2011 for the Mackay Physical Activity Reference Group. This meeting was a reflection on those things achieved in 2010 and a planning meeting for the areas the group would like to work on in 2011. The group intends to make themselves more well-known within their own organisations and externally and to make sure achievements are celebrated more often to boost the awareness of the group's involvement.
- Cr. Steindl and Sport and Recreation Officer met with representatives from the local Athletics Clubs to discuss the idea of creating a synthetic track and facility built in Mackay.
- Sport and Recreation Officer presented the Modern Club Management Kit to the AFL Junior's conference held this month.

#### *North Queensland Sports Foundation:*

- Cr Steindl, Director of Community Services, Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Officer met to discuss the 2012 North Queensland Games to be held in Mackay, and the 2012 North Queensland Sport Star Awards to be held in Sarina.  
Outcomes:
  - The NQ Games will be held 22 – 25 June 2012, at sporting facilities across the region.
  - The Sportstar Awards will be held at the Sarina Cultural Hall, Saturday 21 April 2012.

#### **Media / PR**

- Extensive media coverage regarding the Splash-a-Thon event held at PSC end January.
- Advertising and articles regarding Sports Expo/Sign-On Day.
- Promotions of Council's Community Grants.
- Significant coverage of Sports Expo/Sign-On Day.
- Bluewater Lagoon - publicly announcing the need for a commercial diver to undertake work in the balance tank to replace a damaged foot valve.
- Bluewater Lagoon - article regarding the donation boxes and the amount of money received.
- Bluewater Lagoon - 'Street Talk' section: how often do you attend the lagoon?
- Council's Community Connect - highlighting the success of the Sports Expo and Council's Learn-to-Swim program.
- The Aquatic Facilities' advertising material was revamped this week in line with graphics used in internal and external Recreation Services newsletters. The revised branding includes the blue 'splash' logo.
- Bluewater Lagoon - article on diver who attempted to undertake work in the balance tank.

#### **Aquatic Facilities**

##### **Bluewater Lagoon**

- MRC Hazard Inspection completed identifying several areas for improvement by facility contractors.
- Trade waste pit pumped out removing all of the settled Perlite filtration media following recent filter cleanse.

- Carpet laid on board walk to provide cool surface for patrons and staff while shade sails are down.

### ***Memorial Pool***

- Bookings
  - 3 x Water Polo training sessions
  - 4 x Water Polo game nights
  - 2 x community group bookings
  - 79 x school group bookings
  - 5 x Water aerobics sessions
  - 10 x Swim and Survive sessions (same school)
- Certificate of appreciation presented to staff in recognition of their sponsorship of the annual Great Barrier Reef Swim Meet.

### ***Pioneer Pool***

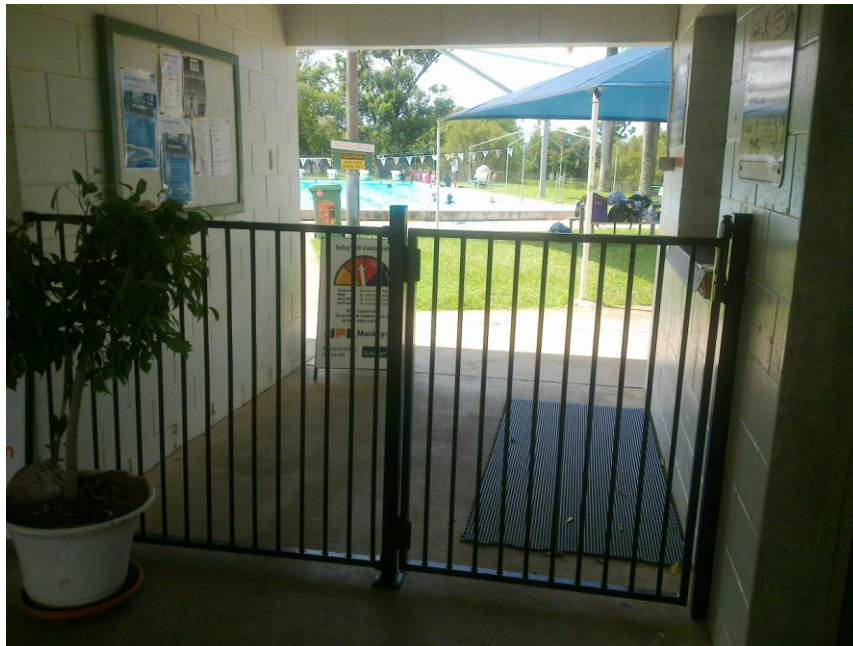
- Bookings
  - 76 x school group bookings
  - 4 x club nights
  - 1 x Club Swimming Carnival
  - 4 x water aerobics sessions
  - 4 x community group bookings
  - 7 x swimming carnivals
  - 8 x swim and survive sessions (same school)
- Staff complete RLSS Pool lifeguarding qualifications with local provider.
- Pool plant qualifications gained by staff assisting water treatment of facilities.
- Significant growth experienced regarding Council's Learn-to-Swim lessons.
- The school Swim & Survive program has seen an increase in attendance during the month of February with new school joining the program.
- The aquatic facilities and associated programs were promoted at the Sports Expo/Sign-On Day by aquatics staff.

### ***Mirani Pool***

- Failure of both automated pool cleaners see the facility provided with the Memorial Swim Centres automated cleaner to ensure water quality and a clean swimming pool.
- MRC hazard inspection of the facility takes place highlighting several areas for improvement.

### ***Sarina Pool***

- MRC staff install a pool fence at the entrance of the facility to prevent the unwanted entry and exit of unsupervised children (refer to photo).
- Sarina State High School increases their booking of the facility as marine and water based classes increase in popularity.



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

### **Bluewater Lagoon\***

Type of Customer	Bluewater Lagoon February 2010	Bluewater Lagoon February 2011
Children's Lagoon	4,946	4,252
Middle Lagoon	10,113	7,964
Upper Lagoon	4,188	4,417
<b>TOTAL IN WATER CUSTOMERS</b>	<b>19,247</b>	<b>16,633</b>
<b>TOTAL PRECINCT (non-swimmers)</b>	<b>20,549</b>	<b>15,205</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>39,796</b>	<b>31,838</b>

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

### **Memorial Pool\*\***

Type of Customer	Memorial Pool February 2010	Memorial Pool February 2011
Persons 15 years or older	1,312	1,490
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	627	612
Pensioner	74	105
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,013</b>	<b>2,207</b>
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	113	103
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$6,789.10	\$4,913.70

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

**Pioneer Pool\*\***

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool February 2010	Pioneer Pool February 2011
Persons 15 years or older	1,083	1,316
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	537	692
Pensioner	47	46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,667</b>	<b>2,054</b>
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	88	69
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$15,722.00	\$18,488.45

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

**Mirani Pool\*\*\***

Type of Customer	Mirani Pool February 2010	Mirani Pool February 2011
Persons 15 years or older	245	875
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	441	998
Pensioner	14	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>1,873</b>

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

**Sarina Pool\*\*\*\***

Type of Customer	Sarina Pool February 2010	Sarina Pool February 2011
Persons 15 years or older	101	564
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	313	1,822
Pensioner	92	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>2,386</b>

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

**Revenue Received:\*\***

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool		Memorial Pool	
	February 2010	February 2011	February 2010	February 2011
Actual Gate	\$8,977.50	\$9,778.00	\$10,811.00	\$11,341.00
Season Tickets	\$260.00	\$818.65	\$1,225.00	\$1,775.00
Miscellaneous	\$16,025.00	\$18,542.70	\$6,888.05	\$5,095.40
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,262.50</b>	<b>\$29,139.35</b>	<b>\$19,024.05</b>	<b>\$18,211.40</b>
Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate	\$2,640.00	\$2,070.00	\$3,390.00	\$3,090.00

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

## PROPERTY SERVICES

### **Management**

- Preparation of Programs 2011/12 Budget.
- Presentation to the Sustainability Futures Advisory Committee.
- Inspections of Sarina and Mirani Depots to finalise Capital Works schedules.
- Attendance at Sarina Sugar Shed Advisory Committee Meeting.
- Attendance at Paget Depot Meetings.

### **Property Services**

- New cleaning contract awarded and commenced 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011
- Air conditioning servicing and maintenance tender in final draft
- Capital Projects

PROJECT	COMMENTS
<b>2009/2010 Program</b>	
Council Buildings – Security Upgrade & Consolidation	Finalising system profiles with system training schedule to follow.
<b>2010/2011 Program</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mirani Library (#90132) - completed; and</li><li>▪ Mirani Railway Station (#90355) – nearing completion; and</li><li>▪ Sarina Admin building (#90122) – works still ongoing; and</li><li>▪ Palmyra Depot – preliminary meeting with Supervisor from Civil Operations Program in planning to replace pump shed and upgrade existing storage; and</li><li>▪ Fire system upgrade requirements being investigated with Scope of Works being drafted; and</li><li>▪ Drafting specifications on various Depot projects; and</li><li>▪ Project Briefs commenced for larger scale projects and sourcing further quotations for remaining smaller scale projects with scheduling of works.</li></ul>	

### **Property Co-ordinations**

#### **Land Dealings**

- Midge Point Road, Midge Point Road Realignment
- Mapalo Road, The Leap Road Realignment
- Palm Street, Cremorne Land Acquisition
- Program staff are currently dealing with 28 land dealings and 7 Easements

#### **Leases**

Program Staff are currently dealing with 20 leases

#### **Sarina Sugar Shed**

February has been the quietest month on record since opening. However it has given us the opportunity to do maintenance on our machinery in the factory and to build up our stocks of gourmet sauces and alcohol in anticipation of a good tourist season. Wholesaling to various outlets has continued on strongly with the majority of our February income being generated from our gourmet sauces and alcohol.

### ***Management***

- Met with local police and other stakeholders to forward plan and facilitate Regional Parliament sittings in Mackay
- Prepared contingency plans to make MECC available as a Cyclone Recovery Centre should this be required given the February weather conditions.
- Negotiated a \$60,000 IT infrastructure upgrade to the Entertainment Centre in order to successfully host Regional Parliament at the MECC, with the State funding these infrastructure upgrade costs.
- Conducted interviews for the position of Operations Coordinator MECC the position being declared vacant with the resignation of Anita Freed in January.
- Attended and chaired meetings regarding Mackay's Sesquicentennial program and any associated commemorations which will occur in 2012.
- Attended media requests.
- Met with the Mayor, CEO, Director Community Services and representatives from Woollam Constructions to resolve outstanding items in relation to Convention Centre building works.
- Commenced preparing 2011/12 budgets.
- Coordinated 2011 Arts Bursaries, the Jack Sturgeon Performing Arts Bursary and the Rick Wood "Hands On" Bursary and attended the subsequent awarding of the bursaries by Deputy Mayor Cr Camilleri
- Continued to implement and further develop service level review initiatives.
- Met with representatives from Mackay Tourism Ltd to continue facilitating the Mackay Tourism Expo, Tourism Conference and Flavours of Mackay which are being held at the MECC as part of Tourism Week.
- Consulted with officers from Arts Queensland regarding selected programs from the Festival of Arts being studied as best practice cases.
- Attended APACA (Australian Performing Arts Centre's Association) Strategic Planning Committee meeting as Queensland State representative, with the costs of this attendance paid for by the Association.
- Prepared process and obtained Council endorsement to seek Expressions of Interest from not for profit community groups based in the Mackay Region to manage the City Centre Markets.

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

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

## ***Festivals and Events***

### **Easter Carnival Sunday 24 April 2011**

Planning has commenced for this year's Easter Carnival which occurs over the extended Easter holiday / Anzac Day period. Caneland Central is the major sponsor of this Carnival again.

### **City Centre Markets**

As mentioned already in this report Expressions of Interest are being sought to manage the City Centre Markets.

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

The Festivals & Events Team is assisting the Festival Committee to organise this year's event, especially the *Light Parade* on Friday 6 May. Officers from the Festivals & Events team will be based in Mirani one day per week in the lead up to the Festival.

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

Planning is well under way for this year's festival. The Festival has already received strong support from local businesses. Arts Queensland has selected several programs from the 2010 Festival to be significant and worthy of a best practice case study. The *Bobcat Ballet*, *Hiromi Hotel* and the *White Party* display community inclusion practices and target and achieve demographics which are considered difficult to attract in many cultural initiatives. The level of sponsorship and support the Festival receives is also very noteworthy.

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

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

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

Expressions of Interest for community groups/local charities to manage the *Pelican Push* and the *Great Seafood Barbeque Burn Off* have been publicised. Negotiations with the Childhood Cancer Support Group (*Pelican Push*) and the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland (*Great Seafood Barbeque Burn Off*) are now taking place. This initiative allows community groups a fund raising platform, strengthens community organisational capacity and potentially reduces the officer time required to manage these aspects.

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

Planning has commenced in earnest to build on the success of last year's *Global Grooves*. It is hoped that that this year the Sister City Committee will involve the Matsuura/Japanese community along with all the other multi cultural community groups.

### **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies in the Mackay Region 3-10 December 2010**

Planning has not commenced other than to book the MECC for Saturday 3 December for the annual Carols in the City co-organised by ZINC FM.

### **Other Issues**

Council's mobile stage needs major structural repairs brought about by a combination of issues. Hopefully this work will be able to be completed before May.

## **Artspace Mackay**

- 1522 visits to Artspace Mackay during February 2011 (2472 during February 2010)
- 348 visits to the Town Hall during February 2011 (270 during February 2010)
- 12,446 visits to the Artspace Mackay website during February 2011 (10,881 during February 2010)

## **Exhibitions:**

From 29 Oct	Cox Rayner Gallery	<i>c/o Poste Restante</i> : Artists books from the MRC collection. (Curated by Wanda Bennett)
21 Jan – current	McAleese Gallery	<i>Studio</i> : Australian Painters photographed by R.Ian Lloyd (Museum and Galleries NSW touring exhibition)
21 Jan – current	ASM Foyer	<i>The Artist's Studio</i> : Ron McBurnie prints
16 – 22 February	Sarina Art Gallery	<i>Great Walks: Art &amp; Environment</i>

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

Murray Bridge Regional Gallery 18 December – 12 February

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

### **Studio: Australian Painters photographed by R. Ian Lloyd**

National Geographic photographer R. Ian Lloyd and acclaimed art critic and writer John McDonald have put together this exhibition which looks at the studios of 61 Australian artists. Their aim was to capture a broad cross-section of artists from all over the country, including traditional Aboriginal painters, working in a variety of styles. This exhibition has been very well received by the public.

### **The Artist's Studio: Ron McBurnie prints**

This series of etchings by Townsville printmaker Ron McBurnie explores the intimate and highly personal environments that are the studios of a number of well-known Australian artists. This project saw collaboration between McBurnie and the individual artists, where McBurnie worked directly onto the etching plate, in situ, and then invited each artist to etch their own work directly into his composition.

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

This exhibition curated by local artist Wanda Bennett and facilitated by Artspace Exhibition staff continued in the Cox Rayner gallery through the months of December, January and February.

## **Sarina Art Gallery**

### **Great Walks: Art & Environment**

For 7 days Sarina Art Gallery hosted an exhibition of works from both the MRC Collection and those on loan from the Environmental Protection Agency. These works have been touring Queensland for the past 3 years and Artspace staff saw this as an opportunity to bring an aspect of this wonderful exhibition to the community of Sarina.

The exhibition was opened by Councillor Karen May and was well attended on both opening night and throughout the week.

### **Public & Education Programs in February 2011**

2 Feb	Sarina exhibition opening event	A small but appreciative audience attended the opening of the Sarina exhibition – <i>Great Walks: Art and the environment</i> . Cr Karen May conducted the official opening.	20
18 Feb	School group tour	STUDIO exhibition Central State Primary School . Conducted tour, dividing into two groups to complete prepared activities in the gallery.	20 year 2s + 2 year 7 helpers and 3 adults + teacher
26 Feb	Kids art club	Kids art club 6 week program with Rosemary Payne. Age groups 6-8 morning and 9-12 afternoon. Full and overflowing with waiting list. Great response to marketing and media in week leading up to beginning.	13 > 6-8 year olds 13 > 9-12 year olds

### **Volunteer Meeting**

21<sup>st</sup> February Volunteer Meeting – The first meeting of the year was both successful and informative. All staff attended and gave a run-down of each program until July. The 15 volunteers that attended said that they enjoyed the agenda that was discussed.

### **Feedback**

In February, the President of Printbank Mackay Inc., a friend of Artspace, Brigette Zimmerman, wrote to express her appreciation of Artspace Mackay for hosting the Print Awards:

*All of the members of Printbank Mackay Inc. would like to send our warmest thanks to you and all of the Mackay Regional Council staff at Artspace for providing us with the opportunity to hold our Print Awards in partnership with the local gallery.*

*We really appreciate the time and effort that you put into not only hosting the exhibition, but also the guidance you offered our planning committee in undertaking the tasks involved in organising an awards process. Over the years our members have gained a great deal of knowledge and inspiration from Artspace and collaboration on this project has strengthened us as a group.....With the support of Artspace in our local community the many artists of the Mackay Region can be assured of continued opportunity to experience new and cutting edge art.*

### *Management*

- Assistance, advertising and sponsorship for area supervisor recruitment workshop for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), as part of their local engagement program for Census 2011. Council's workshop run by local ABS Engagement Manager, Chris Webb, drew the highest attendance at any ABS recruitment workshop in Queensland. The assistance of elected members in getting the message out to their email networks, including council's business email networks proved an important factor in attracting people to the workshop and drawing attention to the importance of the census for regional and local funding allocation.
- Participation in REDC sponsored meeting of regional economic development practitioners (including DEEDI, RDA, Isaac Regional Council, Enterprise Whitsundays, Tourism Whitsundays, Mackay Tourism). Since this initial meeting RDA has sponsored a survey of economic development agencies throughout the region and is hosting a further meeting of regional practitioners in March, with a view to regular meetings to enhance information share and co-operation in the region
- Involvement in Business "Innovation Event" in conjunction with AusIndustry, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research; and others including CQU, to be held May 11.
- Meetings and input to council's consultant for the 'economic' strands of the Draft Community Plan
- Attendance at Print media training workshop, through local City Centre business provider
- CQU Engagement Reference groups formed and initial meetings commence, with economic development program targeting regional and strategic planning engagement reference group 2, chaired by MIW Regional Development Australia CEO, Rebecca Andrews
- Team Attendance at Suncorp Business Seminar - disaster recovery for Queensland Business.
- Attendance at the CQUniversity and Sarina Community Bank Branch Partnership Agreement Signing – February 16 at CQUniversity Mackay Campus , along with Economic Development Officer.
- Meetings and work toward Mackay submission to the Australian government's National Urban Policy and Sustainable Population Strategy submissions
- Regular Meetings held with REDC CEO and Mackay Tourism CEO.
- Team Attendance at regular Mackay Tourism Networking Function



- Above left, a number of media articles including featuring Mayor Col Meng and Community Services Portfolio Councillor, Cr Karen May and, pictured above: Economic Development and Tourism Portfolio Councillor, Cr Perkins and Deputy Mayor Darryl Camilleri helped publicise the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census Mackay region recruitment.
- Pictured above right - Council's Economic Development Program Manager attendance at REDEC's Invest Mackay Conference Launch and media conference, to assist publicising the conference being held 13-15<sup>th</sup> April at the MECC. Council is a gold sponsor for this second annual investment attraction event, which will target over 120 attendees nationally and internationally.

### ***City Focus Advisory Committee***

- February saw council appointment of the City Focus Committee members for 2011 along with endorsement of Committee Terms of Reference.
- Planning occurs for first 2011 meeting of City Focus Advisory Committee, to be held in March.

### ***Mackay Tourism and Hospitality Showcase***

Preparation takes place for active involvement with Tourism and Hospitality Showcase event, in conjunction with other council program areas. Council's economic development team are supporting the event through publicity on the business email networks and with a showcase display booth featuring economic development publications and a spectacular floral display, courtesy of Mackay Regional Council's "Orchid House", which features on Mackay City Centre's Top 10 'Things to do' as included in the popular pocket size Explore Map.



## **Sarina Focus Business network**

- Regular updates provided to the Sarina Business email network.
- Sarina Advertiser carries release about the Business email network.
- A high priority for action from the Sarina Business Forum (2010) was the provision of more information for and about the area – further development of the economic development Sarina pages currently located on council's web has occurred. The business-Guide, available on the web, currently contains a specific section dedicated to the Sarina area. Meetings have been held with representatives of Pacific Parks and Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal, looking at the availability of existing websites and published materials about Sarina. Email Updates seek to connect business email network members and to encourage more feedback about Sarina happenings and developments. ( *an example is pictured above right, with the Bendigo Bank partnership with CQU*).

## **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.