

# COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MARCH 2011

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## **Purpose**

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

## **Background and Discussion**

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

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT**

- Attended initial meeting of the Yantai steering group.
- Undertook hazard inspections of the City, Gordon White, Mirani and Mobile Libraries.
- Attended the Coal to Coast, City Focus, Grant assessment, Barlink, Assessment Management, Enterprise Risk Management, Carpooling, Northern Beaches Community Hub, Sustainability Futures, Corporate Projects committee meetings.
- Participated in the City Centre EBD
- Chaired the initial meeting of Council's tourism related programs and businesses with the aim of creating better coordination between Council's various products.
- Participated in CQU's Engagement Breakfast and Workshop with visiting Professor Barbara Ferman from Temple University.
- First session of the grants review process was undertaken with a view to having an updated process and guidelines in place prior to the August 2011 grant round.
- Participated in the Tourism and Hospitality expo and conference at the MECC.
- Prepared RADF bid for Mackay 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations.
- Participated in first meeting of new Indigenous mentoring program as a mentor.
- Attended online engagement training with Bang the Table.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LIBRARIES**

#### ***Management***

- Facilitated a "FISH" team building workshop for Customer Services Program
- Attended an on-line engagement workshop developed by "Bang the Table"
- Travelled to Brisbane as Mentor of the Management Challenge Team competing in the State finals
- Attended Induction workshop for mentors in council's Mentoring Program

## ***Community Development***

A midway evaluation has been conducted for the multicultural swimming program currently being undertaken in partnership with Recreation Services. Positive feedback has been received from participants who have gained confidence in the water and developed their swimming skills. As an extension to this program, a separate program for Muslim women will commence in April. This program is jointly supported by LAMP, Aquatic facilities staff and Marlins Swim Centre.

Support has been provided to the Indian community by attendance and supporting the Holi (Indian) Festival.

Consultations with stakeholders continue for the possible establishment of a Welcome Centre for Mackay.

Funding has been received by the LAMP program to implement a Migrant Driving Program. This program will commence in May 2011.

LAMP continues to field requests for support with people from CALD backgrounds with employment opportunities. More research and the development of strategic partnerships need to be investigated in order to respond to the growing issue.

Multicultural Officers are receiving reports that some migrants in our community are experiencing social isolation and feeling disconnected from the community.

Sarina Youth Adventure Club was launched in March with 12 young people already signed up and training every Wednesday. The young people involved in this club will compete in a range of events throughout the year either as a team or an individual. The young people are really excited about the challenge of representing Sarina Youth at these events.

Sarina Suspended Students Program, talks have started with the High School, Community Connections and the Youth Centre to have the suspended young people from Sarina High in a separate program linking with normal school life.

Summit for Sarina Youth was a very successful venture raising \$8500 for future activities and events run out of the Sarina Youth Centre. Some of the raised money is already being used to run the Youth Week event in Sarina. A documentary is being made at the moment and will be used to inspire young people in this region to get out there and achieve – the first school to book in these sessions is Sarina High School.

An access checklist has been developed to support organisers of council and community events to ensure appropriate access is provided for all people attending events.

75 people representing a range of local agencies with an interest in homelessness attended a forum to address this growing area of concern in our community.

A steering committee has been formed to implement the Carpooling Project with the first meeting scheduled to be held in April. The group aims to have the project up and running for trial by July 2011.

The second last session of the Sarina free volunteers training was held on 15 March 2011. Volunteers learnt valuable skills in attracting youth to volunteer in their organisation.

A meeting was held with Mackay Taxis to determine ways to improve taxi waiting times on Saturday nights at the Wood and Victoria Street taxi ranks. It was agreed training will be held with the taxi marshals on ways to improve taxi sharing amongst patrons living in similar areas to try and reduce waiting times.

The annual Volunteers Conference will be held on Saturday, 16 April 2011 at the Sarina Cultural Hall. There have been over 70 registrations representing 45 organisations received with registrations closing on 1 April 2011.

### **Libraries**

- Young People's Services

Several schools have visited our libraries this month with a total of 114 students and 39 teachers and parents. Students toured the library and were impressed by the resources in the Heritage Collection Room at Mackay City library.

Children from a local kindergarten visited Gordon White library. All had new library cards and library bags which they had made themselves. They learnt how to check out their own items on the Self Check Out Terminal and were delighted to be able to manage their own loans.

Baby Bounce has attracted 195 parents and children, the highest number this year.

Event	Previous year	Current year
Storytime	1496	1491
Baby Bounce	163	195
Finally It's Friday	n/a	10

Ten busy teens satisfied their pre-Easter chocoholic fantasies by making moulded and confectionary embellished Easter eggs at Gordon White Library on Friday 25 March. They each left with 4 x large half moulds, sticky fingers and lots of smiles!



- Statistics

Computer Use and Classes	Previous year	Current year
Discover IT Classes (participants)	53	74
Public Computers - Users	2667	2507
Public Computers – Bookings	4251	3582
Public Computers – Express Computers	1254	1152
Public Computers – Wireless (hrs)	421	370

Information Requests	Previous year	Current year
Ask a Librarian Queries	6	27
Interlibrary loans – Requests made	110	217
Interlibrary loans – Requests received	83	100

Top Website Visits	Previous year	Current year
Total Website Visits	19878	17214
Website Visits - Home	11660	4209
Website Visits - Catalogue	3753	5743
Website Visits – Locations & Opening Times	607	436
Website Visit – Online Resources	581	244
Website Visits – Ask the Library	268	204
Website Visits – Heritage Collections	188	156
Website Visits – Joining & Borrowing	216	144
Website Visits – Services for Children & Young People	168	125
Website Visits – Technology & Training	167	103

Database Visits	Previous year	Current year
Databases - EBO	1740	515
Databases - Newsbank	2	Not available
Databases - EBSCO Host	22	42
Databases - Thompson Gale	7	Not available
Databases - Your Tutor	86	35

- Membership and loan statistics

New members

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	169	166
Mackay City Library	254	245
Mirani Library	19	15
Mobile Library	43	34
Sarina Library	70	40
Walkerston Library	21	23

Loans

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	24635	30488
Mackay City Library	22297	30456
Mirani Library	2363	3235
Mobile Library	2363	3693
Sarina Library	5418	5887
Walkerston Library	2191	2355

## Bolinda Digital eAudiobooks

Month	Users	Loans
November 2010	158	251
December 2010	47	346
January 2011	43	353
February 2011	21	380
March 2011	33	387
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>1717</b>

## Visitors

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	13313	13494
Mackay City Library	14430	13636
Mirani Library	1656	1972
Mobile Library	N/A	N/A
Sarina Library	4312	4142
Walkerston Library	N/A	2735

## ***Museums***

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

- Have been busy with display changes
- Have begun to list all businesses in Sarina that have existed since the beginning of Sarina. Anticipate that the project will take two years to complete

### **Greenmount Homestead**

- Photo shoot for April edition of City Life Magazine
- Crew from Qld Weekender visited on Sat 19<sup>th</sup>
- Museum briefing to Council – Wed 23<sup>rd</sup>
- School tours – 5
- 278 visitors for month – 248 of those school student.

## **RECREATION SERVICES**

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

- Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator attended several meetings including Council's Health & Wellbeing Committee meeting and the 'Working in the Community' workshop hosted by CQUniversity.
- Finalisation of Building Rural Communities Fund application. If successful, this will result in \$10,000 to be used for a Master Plan for the Sarina Brewers Park Sporting Precinct.
- Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator and representatives from Council's Community Development program met with representatives from QLD Health to finalise the application for the Measure Up funding available to Councils to promote healthy activities with the (federal) Measure Up message.

- Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator met several times with the local QLD Government Sport and Recreation Advisor to discuss funding agreement matters and to share information regarding regional sport and recreation developments.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sport and Recreation, Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator met with a Sports Editor of a local newspaper to discuss communication strategies.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sport and Recreation, Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator met with representatives from the Mackay region's athletics clubs and CQUniversity to discuss potential future sporting infrastructure developments in the Ooralea area/CQUniversity Campus precinct.
- Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator hosted a grant writing workshop in partnership with Mackay Hockey and an external leisure consulting firm. 13 participants from 8 sports attended the session, with great feedback being received.
- Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator met with representatives of Mackay Hockey at their grounds in South Mackay to discuss the association's long-term strategies and plans.
- Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator met Sarina's Youth Officer at the Sarina Brewers Park Sporting Precinct to discuss possible locations for a potential future skate park.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sport and Recreation and Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator attended a Sarina Skate Park meeting at the Sarina Youth Centre with representatives from Sarina Apex, Sarina Rotary, Sarina Lions and local youth.
- Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator met with representatives from Council's Property Services program in regards to seeking an appropriate new location for the Central Queensland Blokarting Club.
- Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator met with a member of the Mackay Rowing Club to obtain feedback in regards to the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy.
- Manager Recreation Services and Sport and Recreation Co-ordinator met with representatives from the Mackay Squash Club to discuss the club's future in the region.
- Interviews were conducted for the new Sport & Recreation Officer position.

#### *North Queensland Sports Foundation (NQSF)*

- Nominations for the 'Business Technology Centre North Queensland Sportstar Awards' opened late March. This year the awards are being held in Richmond on May 14, with nominations from all the North Queensland LGA's being taken for a Senior, Junior (under 18) and Services to Sport winner.
- Portfolio Councillor Health, Sport and Recreation, Director Community Services and Manager Recreation Services met with the NQSF Manager to plan for the North Queensland Games to be held in the Mackay region in 2012.

#### **Media / PR**

Local media covered the following news:

- Attempt to repair foot valve in Bluewater Lagoon's balance tank.
- Successful sporting club recipients of community grants.
- The Mission Inflatable obstacle course activity.
- Bluewater Lagoon.
- New agreement Sarina Pool in conjunction with Education Queensland.

#### **Aquatic Facilities**

##### *Bluewater Lagoon*

- Wet weather conditions resulted in lower than anticipated attendances across all facilities.
- MRC and SLSQ commence joint staff training to share lifeguarding knowledge and experience.
- Workplace, Health & Safety Queensland “spot checked” the facility, following up on previous improvement notices.

#### *Memorial Pool*

- Bookings
  - 4 x water Polo training session
  - 2 x water Polo game nights
  - 8 x community group booking
  - 62 x school group bookings
  - 7 x water aerobics sessions
  - 5 x swim & survive sessions (same school).
- Staff reinstalled the lower shade sails at the facility.
- Workplace, Health and Safety Queensland audited the facility and “Mission Inflatable” obstacle course activity. The auditors were pleased with the way the activity was managed.

#### *Pioneer Pool*

- Bookings
  - 78 x school group bookings
  - 5 x club nights
  - 2 x community group hire
  - 4 x swimming carnivals
  - 22 x swim & survive sessions (same school)
- Staff reinstalled the lower shade shades at the facility.

#### *Activities & programs*

- Wet weather conditions impacted on the overall attendance and revenue of the activities and programs.
- Despite wet weather conditions, the Orca Squad (advanced club swimming) program experienced positive attendances during the month of March, with many of the swimming club’s children training hard for swimming carnivals.
- Several teaching staff movements took place during March including resignations and new recruits.
- Council’s Swim and Survive school swimming program was popular during March, with three schools completing their programs. Two schools joined Council’s program in March.
- An information/registration session was held for the first time for Muslim women regarding swimming lessons available in the Mackay region. These lessons have been made available at Marlin’s (indoor) Swim Centre, ensuring adherence to cultural swimming practices.
- The mid-way evaluation for the current Multicultural swimming program was held at the Bluewater Lagoon. Participants were able to practice basic water safety and rescue skills at Pioneer Swim Centre, as well as classroom sessions to assist in water safety familiarisation. A beach safety and awareness session is scheduled for early April at Harbour Beach.
- Activities & Promotions Coordinator participated in the annual Tourism and Hospitality Industry Expo at the MECC. The information provided was well received by visitors, before the display moved to Mackay Tourism’s office on Nebo Road for the remainder of the month of March (refer to photo).
- During the collation of data for the upcoming Water Safety Awareness Week, the following comparisons were made regarding Council’s Learn to Swim Program. These

figures are for Learn to Swim only and do not include new programs such as Adult Swim for Fitness, Squad training, and Swim and Survive programs.

29 January - 4 February 2007	31 January - 6 February 2011
77 students	684 students
12 classes	130 classes
No squad (advanced club swimming) training	Busy squad (advanced club swimming) program



Tourism and Hospitality Industry Expo

### ***Mirani Pool***

- Workplace, Health & Safety Queensland audited the facility.
- MRC staff conducted a hazard Inspection identifying several areas for improvement.
- Reinstallation of large shade sail over the shallow end of the 50m pool.
- Repair of automatic pool cleaner.

### ***Sarina Pool***

- Completion of extensive cleaning.

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

### **Bluewater Lagoon\***

Type of Customer	Bluewater Lagoon March 2010	Bluewater Lagoon March 2011
Children's Lagoon	3,582	4,717
Middle Lagoon	5,918	4,120
Upper Lagoon	2,855	1,580
<b>TOTAL IN WATER CUSTOMERS</b>	<b>12,355</b>	<b>10,417</b>
<b>TOTAL PRECINCT (non-swimmers)</b>	<b>14,463</b>	<b>10,515</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>26,818</b>	<b>20,932</b>

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



### Memorial Pool\*\*

Type of Customer	Memorial Pool March 2010	Memorial Pool March 2011
Persons 15 years or older	982	948
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	596	521
Pensioner	68	126
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,646</b>	<b>1,595</b>
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	87	98
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$4,896.30	\$4,495.20

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

### Pioneer Pool\*\*

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool March 2010	Pioneer Pool March 2011
Persons 15 years or older	824	733
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	435	465
Pensioner	20	46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,279</b>	<b>1,244</b>
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	43	44
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$9,116.60	\$9,412.76

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

### Mirani Pool\*\*\*

Type of Customer	Mirani Pool March 2010	Mirani Pool March 2011
Persons 15 years or older	121	263
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	263	963
Pensioner	2	46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>1,272</b>

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

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

Type of Customer	Sarina Pool * March 2010	Sarina Pool ** March 2011
Persons 15 years or older	Lessee and attendance figures unavailable	95
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years		362
Pensioner		16
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>473</b>

\*Source: Information received from Lessee of Sarina Pool

\*\*Source: Information Mackay Regional Council data

**Revenue Received:\*\***

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool		Memorial Pool		Sarina Pool	
	March 2010	March 2011	March 2010	March 2011	March 2010	March 2011
Actual Gate	\$6,118.50	\$5,995.00	\$8,625.00	\$8,873.00	n/a	\$1,041.00
Season Tickets	\$145.00	\$645.00	\$1,080.00	\$855.00	n/a	\$0.00
Miscellaneous	\$9,510.01	\$9,544.26	\$4,980.50	\$4,715.30	n/a	\$99.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,773.51</b>	<b>\$16,184.26</b>	<b>\$14,685.50</b>	<b>\$14,443.30</b>	n/a	<b>\$1,140.20</b>
Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate	\$1,290.00	\$1,320.00	\$2,610.00	\$2,940.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

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

## PROPERTY SERVICES

### **Management**

- Attendance at various meetings including MRC Tourism Assets meeting and Building Asset Management Diagnostic meeting.
- Continued participation in Paget Depot meetings.
  
- 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 Admin Building, Reception Refurbishment (#90121) COMPLETED; and</li> <li>▪ Mirani Library (#90132) ramp and door improvements COMPLETED; and</li> <li>▪ Mirani Railway Station (#90355) stump and floor levelling COMPLETED; and</li> <li>▪ Sarina Admin building Refurbishment (#90122) – nearing completion; and</li> <li>▪ Fire system upgrades for Mackay Admin building (#90140) and Mackay City Library (#90130), systems have undergone Consultancy review with Scope of Works in final draft; and</li> <li>▪ Town Hall Electrical Review (#90123) underway with expected Report by end of April 2011; and</li> <li>▪ Greenmount Homestead (#90127) Electrical Review underway and Report also expected in April; and</li> <li>▪ Greenmount Homestead (#90127) Plumbing Review completed with minor rectification works pending; and</li> <li>▪ Andergrove Neighbourhood Centre (#90348) floor strip and polish scheduled; and</li> <li>▪ Seaforth Community Hall (#90350) Painting scheduled and new chairs ordered; and</li> <li>▪ The Leap Community Hall (#90352) window replacement - awaiting quotation; and</li> <li>▪ The Leap Community Hall (#90352) Septic system and grease trap condition under investigation; and</li> <li>▪ Glass Report on various Council Buildings (#90120) Inspections scheduled; and</li> <li>▪ Sarina Sugar Shed (#90482) awaiting engineered plans for shade/wet weather covered area; and</li> <li>▪ Various Council buildings, Fall Arrest Systems being investigated with quotations sourced on options for appropriate systems; and</li> <li>▪ Sarina Cultural Hall Refurbishment of amenities (#90448) works scheduled for late May 2011; and</li> <li>▪ Mirani Community Hall/Youth Centre (#90345) Refurbishment works scheduled with Contractor; and</li> <li>▪ Mirani Museum (#90133) painting and repair nearing completion; and</li> <li>▪ Sarina Depot New Amenities (#90491) – Drafting Scope of Works.</li> </ul>	

### Lease Agreements over Council Owned and Trustee Land

The Property Services program is undertaking a review of lease arrangements on Council owned and Trustee land which has highlighted the fact that a number of community groups

have constructed infrastructure and are operating on such land without any formal agreement over the land being entered into.

For example:-

- 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Beaches Guides Association have constructed and use a hall on Council owned land in Bucasia with no lease for the land;
- Eungella Community Development Association has a hall which is utilised by the Platypus Day Care Facility in Eungella with no formal lease agreement for the land.

The process followed by Property Services staff on discovery of a land use where a lease is not in place is to start discussions with the group highlighting Council's requirements and the benefits that the club will receive from entering into a lease such as the opportunity of applying for financial assistance by way of Council, State and Federal Grants.

The main concern in these matters is the responsibility of insurance with the following information being provided from Governance and our insurer Jardine Lloyd Thompson:-

*"In the Manual, it is strongly recommended that Council have some formal agreement with such external parties to outline each party's obligations.*

*It is also recommended that Council require such external parties to provide an indemnity to Council and, because an indemnity only has the value of the person granting it, to have the indemnity supported by adequate and appropriate public liability insurance cover. To confirm that the contractor has obtained the relevant insurance, it is also recommended that Council sights a certificate of currency from the contractor's insurer to confirm the cover is current and appropriate.*

*In the event of a claim, where the club is not required to have insurance in place and has no such insurance, Council could be required to pay the entire damages awarded to the plaintiff, under the legal principle of joint and several liability, despite the fact that the court found that the Council was say 10% liable and the club 90% liable. This is because a plaintiff can elect to pursue any defendant for the entire amount of damages awarded by a court and it is then up to that defendant to recover their loss from the other defendant. This usually occurs where one of the defendants is not seen to have readily available finances or has no insurance to cover the damages awarded.*

*For this reason, LGM Queensland recommends that Council ensure that some formal agreement is in place with the clubs and that appropriate and adequate insurance is arranged by the club to support the indemnity provided by the club to Council."*

In light of the above it is essential that groups/clubs are made aware of the requirement for a lease to be in place for their continued use of Council owned or trustee land and efforts are underway to address these outstanding matters.

### **Property Co-ordinations**

#### **Land Dealings**

- Brooks Road Sarina – Sarina Land Fill – Land Swap with DERM
- 22 Grace Street – Encroachment Easement
- Carbeen Street – Encroachment Easement
- Marcham Rd (Edmunds) – Water Main Easement
- Program staff are currently dealing with 25 land dealings and 11 Easements

## **Leases**

Program Staff are currently dealing with 20 leases

- Eungella Progress Association possible lease
- Glenella Hall, Hill End Road – No current lease in place
- Signage issues for Mackay Woodturners
- Lighting issues for Mackay Touch Association

## **Sarina Sugar Shed**

Visitor numbers are significantly down with just a few travellers calling in each day. For the Sugar Shed to record the same amount of visitors as we did in 09/10 we need 4,900 visitors to take a tour between now and 30<sup>th</sup> June. Income for tours in March were down by half compared to this time last year. However we did manage to increase our gift shop sales, produce, café and alcohol sales to record a higher total income for March 10/11 than March 09/10.

Recently we conducted two days of famil tours for businesses, tourism operators and outlets for our products to experience a tour and learn more about our facility. It was very well received with over 20 operators taking part and assisted our sales for the month.

## **MACKAY CONVENTION PRECINCT AND EVENTS**

### **Management**

- Completed 2011/12 Convention Precinct & Events budget for endorsement
- Attended Council Tourism Assets meeting
- Continued to prepare for Regional Parliament in May managing many stakeholder requests
- Project managing construction of MECC Service Courtyard and ongoing defect rectification works
- Attended Age Friendly policy workshop
- Attended Queensland Showcase (a forum organised by Arts Queensland and Artour), and the NARPACA (Northern & Regional Performing Arts Centres), AGM
- Completed funding applications for Federal Government arts touring (Playing Australia)
- Conducted consultation into potential steering committee and celebrations for Mackay's Sesquicentennial in 2012
- Undertook several media requests

### **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 is well advanced 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. Sea FM /HOT FM have become the main media partners and have embraced this event with great gusto providing a Hamilton Island trip and stay for two and the return of the human Lamington game. The Easter Carnival will take up two city blocks in Victoria Street and several Victoria Street traders are involved.

### ***City Centre Markets***

Council has received no Expressions of Interest for a community group to manage the Victoria Street Markets and consultation with the City Focus Advisory Committee concludes that these markets will cease operation by the end of financial year if Council endorses the Committee's recommendation.

### ***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 Lantern Parade on Friday 6 May.

### ***Mackay Festival of Arts 9-24 July 2011***

Planning is well under way for this year's festival. The program will cater for all elements of the Mackay community with a strong emphasis on family entertainment with many events free to the community. The Festival programme will be launched next month.

### ***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. Jon English has been contracted to be the headline act with *The Amazing Drumming Monkeys* and THE MILLEY & HANNAH tribute shows for the youngsters.

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

The Childhood Cancer Support Group will manage the *Pelican Push* and the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland will manage the *Great Seafood Barbeque Burn Off* and are the new official organisers of these respective events. We are negotiating with Corry Cycles to take over the very successful Deakin Fun Ride which raised over \$20,000 for the Mackay Foundation last year. These initiatives allow community groups a fund raising platform, and the process strengthens community organisational capacity and potentially reduces the officer time required to manage these events within the festival.

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

Planning has commenced in earnest to build on the success of last year's Global Grooves. *King Marong* from Melbourne has agreed to be the headline act this year. It is hoped that that this year the Sister City Committee will involve the Matsuura/Japanese community along with other multi cultural community groups. Negotiations with the Indian community are proceeding so that the successful Diwali Festival of Light will be included in this year celebrations.

### ***Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies in the Mackay Region 3-10 December 2011***

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.

### ***New Years Eve 31 December 2011***

The Australian Credence Clearwater Revival tribute band has been booked for this year's NYE party.

### ***Other Issues***

Council's mobile stage needs major structural repairs brought about by a combination of issues. Repairs are being organized however the mobile stage cannot be used presently.

### ***Artspace Mackay***

- 2668 people visited Artspace Mackay during March 2011 (1958 during March 2010)
- 598 people visited the Town Hall during March 2011 (611 during March 2010)

Website statistics for March 2011

1,090 Visits

3,877 Page views

3.56 Pages/Visit

### **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 – 6 March	McAleese Gallery	<i>Studio</i> : Australian Painters photographed by R.Ian Lloyd (Museum and Galleries NSW touring exhibition)
11 March - current	McAleese Gallery	<i>May's</i> : The May Lane street art project
21 Jan – 6 March	ASM Foyer	<i>The Artist's Studio</i> : Ron McBurnie prints
11 March - current	ASM Foyer	<i>Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose</i> : Recent works by Corey De Muth

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

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery 4 March – current.

There has been a slight change in the tour for Recycled Library. Noosa Regional Gallery, which was due to host the show in September, has unfortunately had to cancel. Logan Art Gallery, however, has expressed interest in the tour and will take the exhibition from 11 January – 18 February 2012. This extends the life of the tour by 3 months and maintains a total of 4 Queensland venues for the show.

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

***Studio*: Australian Painters photographed by R. Ian Lloyd and *The Artist's Studio*: Ron McBurnie prints**

March saw the last week of this photographic exhibition by National Geographic photographer R. Ian Lloyd and Ron McBurnie's series of etchings of artists in their studios. Both exhibitions were very well received by the public.

## **May's: The May Lane street art project**

The May Lane project began in Sydney in 2005 when Tugi Balog turned the walls of his business into an outdoor gallery space for street artists. The May's collection now consists of over 100 panels by celebrated Australian and international street artists who have worked in May Lane. The exhibition features a selection of 25 works from this collection and explores the history and evolution of the Australian street art movement with particular reference to the May Lane project.

The exhibition is the first comprehensive exhibition of street art to tour nationally, subsidised by the Federal Government Visions of Australia Programme, and Artspace Mackay is the sole Queensland venue to host the exhibition. Artspace is boasting very high visitor numbers in the first 2-3 weeks of the show (2033 in 18 days- averaging 113 per day) including a very large number of visits by various schools (see Public Program events below). On Wednesday 13 April, Artspace will be hosting the **Highschool Art Debate – Graffiti: Art or Vandalism?** in association with Apex, as part of the Apex Secondary Schools Debating Competition. This subject has been debated at their regular Tuesday meetings and Apex have chosen the best two senior reams & the best two junior teams for this public event in the McAleese Gallery.

## ***Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose: Recent works by Corey De Muth***

Using text and watercolour to create portraits, Corey De Muth's series is a close observation of young men today. While they may be at different places, they share a common link; the awareness of a generation, a society, doomed.

Corey is a local artist, now living between Mackay and Brisbane, where he is studying Visual Arts at tertiary level. Corey has previously exhibited at Old Town Hall as a part of Artspace Mackay's Community Exhibition program.

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

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

## **Old Town Hall**

### **Mackay Region Tenant Group Art Festival 25 March 2011**

Artspace Mackay exhibition staff assisted members of the Mackay Region Tenant Group to hang their annual art and craft exhibition at Town Hall as part of the Artspace Mackay Community Exhibition program. This one day exhibition showcased art and craft by a variety of social housing tenants. The MRTG holds this yearly event in an attempt to challenge the community to look at social housing tenants in a more positive light.

## **Collection development:**

17 artists books from the series 'Artists & Photographs' published by Multiples Inc. in 1970, have been purchased for the MRC Collection. This series was published to coincide with an exhibition of the same title held at Dwan Gallery, New York. They are presented in a box, designed by the artist Dan Graham, and accompanied by a catalogue of the exhibition/project written by Lawrence Alloway. The box contains artists books by many of the most important artists of the time from America and Europe who were also pioneers in the development of the artists book as a medium: Mel Bochner, Christo, Jan Dibbets, Dan Graham, Douglas Huebler, Alan Kaprow, Michael Kirby, Joseph Kosuth, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long, Robert Morris, Bruce Nauman, Dennis Oppenheim, Ed Ruscha, Robert Smithson, Bernar Venet &



Andy Warhol. Some of the individual works such as Bruce Nauman's *LAAIR* and Ed Ruscha's *Babycakes* are classics of the period and much sought after by collectors. This important series from a pivotal moment in the history of the development of Artists Books, fills an major gap in the collection and enables Artspace staff to tell a more complete story of the origins of this art form.

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



#### **Kids Art Club with Rosemary Payne**

Saturdays 10-12am – 6-8 years  
And 2-4pm – 9-12 years

Kids Art Club was at capacity with 13 kids enrolled in each time slot.

Children have enjoyed a variety of fabulous MAYS related activities including chalk art on the Artspace walkways, paste-ups, zines, building and decorating large scale buildings using boxes, paint, collage and more.

Quite a few first timers – good to see we're engaging new kids☺

**26 children**



#### **Meet the collection With Geraldine Moylan**

10.30am Saturday 12 March

We were delighted to have a surprise visit from a young scout group who took part in the Meet the collection this month.

They really enjoyed themselves, and with them plus early birds for the floor talk, we had about 30 people taking a close look at artist books from the Mackay Regional Council Collection.

**30 people**



### **MAY'S Floor talk**

Tugi Balog, Mini Graff from Mays & Sarah Gurich from Bathurst Regional Gallery

11am Saturday 12 March

Wow! Floor talk attendance was 45 people. A very engaged audience including three of our local street artists enjoyed an informative floor talk by the project's creator, one of the artists, and a Bathurst Gallery representative.

Floor talk was recorded and made available on mp3 players for the duration of the Mays exhibition.

**45 people**



### **Kids art club**

Special visit to Zines workshop

26 March

Jeremy Staples kindly talked with the kids art club children and Rosemary about Zines. He showed them examples, and Rosemary went on to create zines with the kids the following week.

**26 kids**



### **Zines workshops**

with Jeremy Staples

26 & 27 March

Zines are a fabulous intersection between the MAYS street art exhibition and our Mackay Regional Council Collection of artist books.

This workshop received excellent feedback from all who attended. Many teachers attended the workshop with a view to teaching their highschool students the zines techniques.

**20 adults and teens**



## School group tours of MAYS

Throughout March

In March, approx 230 students engaged in the MAYS exhibition this month with tours including the exhibition, our local legal laneway in Sydney Street, and the Paste-up room activities.

Excellent responses are continuing from students and their teachers, saying tours are informative, exciting and engaging.

Many highschools, primary schools, kindy's and teachers across the region have been involved.

**15 group tours**  
**230 students**



## Guided tours

Troubled teens in region engage with MAYS exhibition and paste-up room

25 March

A get set for work program of teens 15-17 years enjoyed a guided tour of the MAYS exhibition. Teacher said they were unusually attentive and very absorbed with exhibition tour and inspired to do their own work.

They are now planning to use our Community Exhibition program to hold an exhibition of their own photography.

**15 teens 1 adult**



## BMA Kidspace

1 March

Our ever popular BMA kidspace toddlers with parents/carers program was well attended this month again.

The children worked with tutors Rosemary Payne and Wanda Bennett to make lots of creative items using collage, cutting and drawing techniques.

Then they danced and sang along with Kathleen in the foyer concert.

**100 toddlers and carers**



### **Mays Paste-up room**

Drop-in activities for children, teens and adults of all ages

The paste-up room is an ongoing 'drop-in' activity room for people of all ages to contribute to.

Have had a great response from all throughout the region, especially kids. The paste-up room is constantly changing as more people add to this street-art flavoured creation.

**Approx 300 people/students/children**

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Management***

- Attendance at the first meeting of the Yantai Steering Committee which utilised council's video conferencing facilities to link with Whitsunday Regional council and other stakeholders to discuss and further develop the Strategy guiding the two council's ongoing relationship with China's Yantai Municipal Government. In late 2010 Mackay Whitsunday Regional Economic Development Corporation (REDC) held the China Invest Tour. During this trip Mackay Regional Council and Whitsunday Regional Council signed a memorandum of understanding with Yantai, to promote stronger relationships, and enhance economic ties.
- Meeting with State Director, and staff of Trade and Invest Queensland, Director DEEDI, and REDC for an Investment Attraction forum and presentations.
- Meeting with industry representatives, in relation to development of local oil recycling facilities and potential for a significant Queensland plant to recycle used lube oils including those from the Bowen and Galilee basin mining operations.
- Regular meetings with CEO and Manager of Mackay Whitsunday Regional Economic Development Corporation, including discussions for upcoming Invest Mackay Conference
- Attendance along with council's Tourism operators at the first of a series of regular workshop meetings to further an integrate corporate approaches in this sector
- Team attendance and booth display at the Mackay Tourism & Hospitality showcase at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre..
- Central Queensland University Engagement Reference groups formed and attendance at initial meetings, with economic development program targeting regional and strategic planning engagement reference group 2, chaired by Mackay Isaac Whitsunday Regional Development Australia (RDA) CEO.
- Attendance at the Regional Meeting, Economic Development Network practitioners throughout the region have come together to form a regular meeting group with a shared purpose to enhance communication and information. The group is chaired by MIW RDA.
- Team attendance at the City Centre Enquiry by Design at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre, including dvd and display presentations.

- Manager of Economic Development Julie Cardiff named the Westpac City Centre local branch's "Local Ruby" winner, for women in business award.
- Attendance at Meetings to plan the upcoming Questnet conference, to be held locally mid this year, with a focus on sustainability projects and innovative technology

### **City Focus Advisory Committee**

- The first meeting of the newly appointed City Focus Advisory Committee was held in early March. Thirteen of the fourteen appointed members were available to attend, this meeting at which the new Terms of Reference were introduced and members afterward viewed and offered input to the background report for the lead into the Enquiry by Design workshop being held later in the month.
- City Centre Committee called for feedback on the City Centre

- **Business Networks and media**

Regular Business updates continue to the Sarina and City Focus Business networks, including communication of free and low cost business events, training and networking opportunities. The networks reach around 700 businesses across the region, and communicate council messages and as a free local government network were sought out in March by others including CQU, ABS Census, REDC, Chamber of Commerce, Mackay Tourism, DEEDI and AusIndustry, to communicate messages of interest to local business. Business can take a level of confidence that material sent on council's business e-networks (particularly about free or low cost training) includes reputable government backed courses and seminars.

- **City Centre Media and Marketing**

During March, the Explore Map was updated and published. Free copies of the map were included in the Daily Mercury, and are available free to interested businesses across the region, in multi copy bundles.

Explore in the City feature  
Check on what's on... in the City advert

Full page colour advertorial prepared and published – Explore in the City (below)



**Make sure you get your FREE Explore Map in today's edition of the Daily Mercury.**

Share the experience and enjoy exploring the Mackay City Centre with friends. Being in the city is the perfect way to start the weekend and Mackay City Centre is the place to see and be seen. Eating out in the city is so popular with locals it has been listed in the Explore Mackay Map top-10 things to do. Take a well earned break from the week with some retail therapy at one of the many boutiques located throughout the City Centre. The wide variety of stores on offer means you no longer have to travel elsewhere to get your shopping fix... Sydney, Victoria and Wood streets, and more, have always been known as shopping destinations and you can view all of these on the Explore Mackay Map.

Each Sunday the Mackay Explorer Bus travels from the Visitor Information Centre at the City Gates to the Mackay Marina, to bring you to the City Centre. Once in the City Centre experience attractions including the Bluewater Lagoon, Bluewater Quay and ArtSpace, or learn about the city's history on a heritage walk. Check out the website for full details on the local Explorer Bus and City Centre attractions.

For things to do and see in the Mackay City Centre, head to Old Town Hall Visitor Information Centre and grab a copy of the FREE Explore Mackay Map, which outlines the top-10 must do's, or head to [www.mackaycitycentre.com.au](http://www.mackaycitycentre.com.au) and browse through all of the businesses.



[www.mackaycitycentre.com.au](http://www.mackaycitycentre.com.au) An initiative of Mackay Regional Council in partnership with city businesses Mackay REGIONAL COUNCIL

## **City Centre TV Marketing Campaign**

- TV Marketing campaign, from Out of the Blue marketing consultants featuring “Summer in the City” prepared and to air, January – February - March.
- A new City Centre TV Campaign featuring the Mackay City Centre website was under production during March, planned for airing in April, commencing Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April. The new campaign features the slogan “Check out what’s on” and will carry ‘teasers’ for the new City Deals promotion. Print media adverts appeared in the City Life magazine, plus low cost/high impact business cards featuring the web address and details are available to all City Centre businesses and tourism operators, which have preceded the TV campaign, but will continue to support and integrate with electronic media efforts.
- **Mackay City Centre Website and City Deals**

Planning and web development for the new “City Deals’ section on the Mackay City Centre website is well underway. The City Deals seeks to emulate web programs such as Spa Deals, Groupon, Brisbane Day Deals and Jump on It! , to offer City Centre businesses a low cost way to promote their businesses across the region and beyond. A test phase will commence in early April, and pending the outcome the City Deals will officially launch in late April. Further developments are available to promote and encourage access to City Deals, including applications for phones. “Apps” will be introduced once the City Deals are tested and up and running. City business is encouraged to get onboard with City Deals!

For the month of March 2011 visitor numbers to the web peaked at around 680 unique visitors per week.

## **Mackay Tourism and Hospitality Showcase**

Cr Perkins, Portfolio Councillor for Economic Development and Tourism, chaired sessions and hosted the open public showcase for the Mackay Tourism and Hospitality Showcase, run by Mackay Tourism Ltd, and held at the MECC.

Council’s Economic Development program, along with other Council programs and the Sarina Sugar Shed showcased booths including a spectacular floral display, courtesy of Park’s “Orchid House” at the recent MTL expo. The Orchid House features on Mackay City Centre’s Top 10 ‘Things to do” as included in the popular pocket size Explore Map.

*Lto R: Economic Development Display; Mackay Tourism & Hospitality Showcase attendees below snapped viewing the Explore Mackay Map; Cr Dave Perkins speaking at the Showcase.*



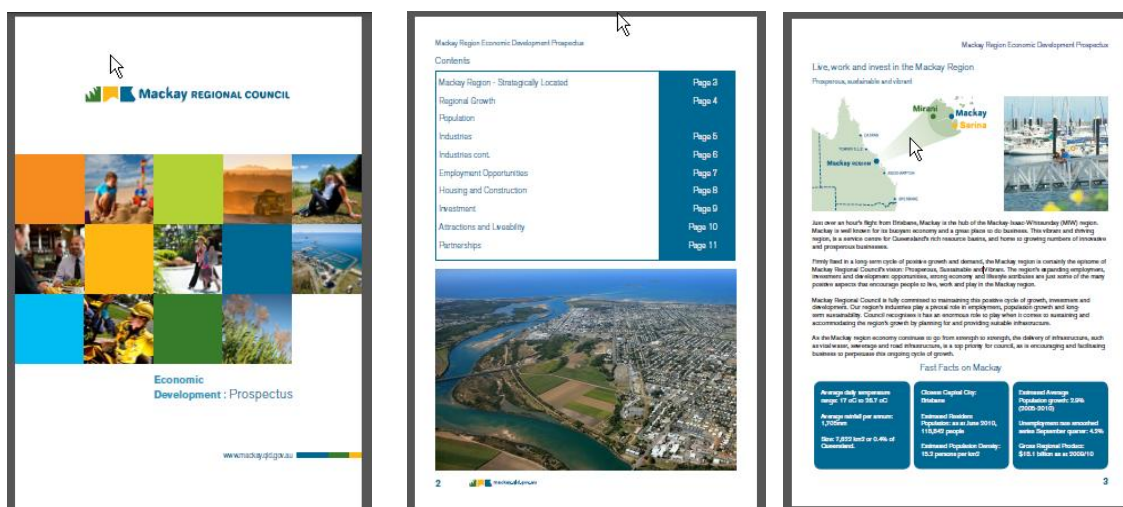
## **Invest Mackay Conference – Planning Underway for April Conference**

A new Economic Development publication, a Prospectus covering the Mackay Regional Council area is being produced to be soft launched at the Invest Mackay Conference in April.

The Prospectus will offer statistics and aspects of interest about the region, with a view to target investors attending the upcoming conference.

The new publication includes details of new and planned activity occurring in the Central Queensland mining region. This region includes the Bowen and emerging Galilee Basin, for which Mackay serves as the premier mining service hub. Billions of dollars of investment is planned in the Central Queensland Mining area, of which Mackay is set to reap a significant share. The recent EIDOS report prepared by the Queensland Resources Council indicates that Mackay, attracts the second highest \$ benefit from business supplier spend for Queensland, after Brisbane itself. Mackay due to its established supply chains, and significant expertise located at Paget industry hub, is in the box seat to attract business and growth as a result of current and significant upcoming activity in the Central Queensland mining region.

The Prospectus will outline information on population growth, employment and housing and construction. While wet weather in the early part of 2011 has caused some setbacks, housing and construction figures for Mackay for the year to December 10 are very positive, with Mackay bucking trends, to show an increase in total building values. These figures indicate the underlying strong economic drivers in the Mackay region.



A DVD showcasing the Mackay Region is also planned for launch at the Invest Mackay Conference which will be held at the MECC 13-15th April

### Census 2011

Council has an ongoing partnership with the Australian Bureau of Statistics to raise the profile of the Census to be held on the 9th August to seek a count which accurately captures all residents. It is estimated for each person missed at Census, the region could miss out on \$20,000 of funding over the life of the census - if an undercount results in a even a 5% level, this sum could mean over \$100 million in funding is missed over a 5 year period.

Council sponsored a February Census Area supervisors recruitment workshop, - which the ABS reported was by far the most well attended of its kind in Queensland, to assist with census staffing. The February Workshop was attended by councillors and opened by Mayor Col Meng. ABS reported that the quality of applicants attending far exceeded their recruitment expectations. Planning and publicity for a second April workshop – this time targeting census collector recruitment is underway. Deputy Mayor Darryl Camilleri, Community Services Portfolio Cr Karen May and Economic and Tourism Portfolio Cr Dave Perkins have given significant time and continue to promote the Census effort in the region, through radio and TV interviews, meetings and briefings with the community and local ABS Community Engagement Manager Christine Webb and ABS District Manager Beth Purcell.

Cr Greg Thomsen is set to speak and welcome attendees at the upcoming April workshop.



A view of the February Census recruitment workshop, held at council, as part of the ongoing partnership between council and the ABS, to promote Census 2011.

### **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.