Purpose

To review Community Services Department highlights and significant issues for the month ending 28 February 2013.

Background and Discussion

Highlights and Significant Issues for February 2013 are as follows:

COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

- The ‘Focus on Sarina’ program continued to expand during February. As the original funding from Queensland Government’s ‘Blueprint for the Bush’ expired in 2012, the program is scheduled to continue until June 2013 through funding secured from Queensland Health. The program has proven popular with the community in the Sarina area.

- The ‘Active Towns Get Walking’ program was officially launched in Mackay’s CBD. Walking groups, led by trained professionals, form part of the ‘Active...in the City’ program (refer to photo below).

Photo: Active Towns Get Walking participants

- The annual Mackay Sports Expo/Sign-On Day, held at the MECC on February 10 in conjunction with Artspace Mackay’s 10th Birthday Arty Party, was the most successful Mackay Sports Expo/Sign-On Day held and attended by more than 6,000 people. Over 100 groups from over 50 various sport and recreation activities provided information through ‘have a go' themed stalls. Positive feedback was received from participating groups and visitors. The Sports Expo/Sign-On Day Committee, which
consists of a range of internal and external partners, de-briefed the successful event and commenced planning activities for 2014 (refer to photo below).


- Gensets for Sarina Admin, Mirani Admin and Seaforth Hall have arrived (Emergency preparedness) and will be installed in March/April.
- The Entertainment Centre celebrated its 25th birthday in February, staging a performance from ex Central QLD University Musical Theatre students. A very pleasant evening ensued and the Entertainment Centre was wished Happy Birthday with joy.

COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT

- Attended breakfast presentation with Mr Ian Sedgman, General Manager of Adani regarding Adani's future plans.
- Attended meetings regarding Aecom Sustainability Framework.
- Attended LGAQ Elected Members Update.
- Met with Mackay Housing Company regarding property transfer project.
- Attended Artspace Family Day and Sports Sign on at the MECC.
- Met with HR regarding succession planning initiatives in Community Services.
- Assessed community grants round 2 for 2012/13.
- Met with Mike Mahoney, Sugar Shed consultant to discuss future opportunities for the facility.
- Took Manager's and Coordinator's to a Leadership Re-Wired: Leading for High Performance AIM presentation.
- Attended planning meetings for RDA rounds 3 and 4 grants application preparation.
- Participated in REDC Invest Conference Steering Committee.
- Undertook interviews for City Centre Co-ordinator position.
Community Development and Libraries

Management

- Chaperones finalised for students scholarship tour to Matsuura
- IPad (Zinio) training conducted for Councillors and Directors
- Two days of Strategic Planning workshopping for Library staff held for development of 2013-2018 Strategic Plan
- Attended Information Session for interested parties for November Citizens Tour of Matsuura
- Attended a “Leadership Rewired” Business Breakfast
- Community Development Priorities Workshop held

Community Development

Community Development
The second and final round of councils grant program for 2012/13 closed on 1 February. Thirty seven applications requesting a total of $126,897.62 were received, with twenty six applications being approved to the value of $50,477.29.

Interest in the Photovoice Disability Project is gaining momentum with nine people having registered their intention to participate in the project. All participants will come together on 18 March to begin the project. Images captured through this project will be displayed in Mackay Regional Libraries City Branch 3-7 December 2013, in conjunction with the International Day of People with a Disability.

Community Development staff attended the Friday Fun Day during O week at CQ University to encourage new and continuing students to join the Carpooling service.

Locality Development
The funding agreement with the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services for this position has expired. Negotiations are progressing for this position to continue, however the focus of the position will change to a Neighbourhood Centre position based in Sarina. Once the agreement has been finalised recruitment will commence.

Community Resilience Program
An SES Cyclone Awareness Day was held at Hatties Supa IGA on Saturday 2 February. Emergency bags and information were distributed to residents. IGA provided free supplies to the SES to have a sausage sizzle to raise funds and IGA also asked all customers to donate a gold coin as part of their transactions on the day.

A second Business Roundtable meeting was held in Walkerston on 4 February focusing on preparedness and continuity planning. Ten businesses/organisations including schools attended the meeting. Positive discussions took place and there is a plan for the group to meet again early in April. This event was organised in conjunction with Volunteering QLD.

A preparedness and resilience information stall was set up at CQUni as part of their O-week activities in order to target students new to the area.
**Multicultural Partnership Program**

The first quarterly edition of Migrant Voice was distributed during February. The newsletter has been forwarded to those on the mailing list and can also be found on council’s website and internally on BRUCE.

Funding has been received from the State Government, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs, to conduct learn to swim classes for people from multicultural backgrounds. A nine week program has commenced at Council’s Memorial Swim Centre while a Muslim women’s program will be held at Marlins Swim School. Both programs are full, with a waiting list in place for future programs.

**CAMS Program**

Support provided to the Australian South Islander Community who hosted a non denominational church service that recognised ASSI Elders. The service was an event as part of celebrating 150 years of Australian South Sea Islander contributions to Australia.

**Sister City**

Eight students have been successful in receiving a scholarship to travel to Matsuura in September 2013. Chaperones for this tour have now been confirmed and regular meetings to prepare the students for the trip will commence in March.

A community information session for those residents interested in participating in Council’s Matsuura Sister City Citizens trip was held during February. The tour will depart Mackay on 28 November, returning 3 December. Interest in this year’s tour is strong and tour numbers will be limited to 30 residents.

**Libraries**

**General**

The City Library opened from 10.00am – 2.00pm on Sunday 10th February in conjunction with the Sports Expo and Artspace’s Arty Party. 450 customers visited the library on the day, resulting in 5 new memberships and lots of non members enjoying the facility. Numerous entries for the library’s Library Lovers month competition were received.

Competitions held for Library Lovers Month included "Guess how many Lollies are in the jar" and "Why I love my library" where customers wrote down their reasons why they loved the Library.

Some of the winner's comments included;

Linden Williams: "My children are always welcome and I love coming to Storytime"

Junior Ashleigh Chase "It has all my favourite books and many others favourite books too. I enjoy Christmas holidays they have games and fun activities".

Royden Wood:" I like the library because it is peaceful and quiet. I go on heaps of adventures every time I read a book."

Juliet Schaffer: "I love the library because it caters for my: studying, reading, pleasure and is one of my children’s favourite places to visit. Great blend of new technology and broad options of good ole books!"
The winner of new library member during the month of February was Declan Goggan.

**Friends of Mackay Libraries**

The FOML hosted 2 author talks delivered by Helen Haskins, author of “The Reluctant Sailor”. Helen delighted the audience with stories about growing up in Mackay. She shared her personal memories of the region and described the humorous and sometimes dangerous adventures of the life she chose as a sailor’s wife. The City Library event attracted 14 guests with the Gordon White Library attracting 8.

**Community Services**

Our Community Services Librarian and library trainee visited and spoke to about 40 residents of Palmview Village about the diversity of services provided by our libraries. Many of the residents had been members but have been a bit too busy to utilise our services but the variety of our services seemed to rekindle their interest.

**Learning and Outreach**

Social Sewing Saturday launched for the first time at Gordon White Library with the assistance of a Friend of the Library, Robyn Young, a retired textiles teacher.

- **Young People’s Services**

**Storytime:**

The introduction of weekly Storytime sessions at Walkerston Library in 2013 (previously fortnightly) has been a great success and attendance continues to grow.

**Baby Bounce:**

Baby Bounce sessions for 2013 began in February with high attendance at both the Gordon White and Mackay City Library sessions.

We have introduced a new weekly Baby Bounce session at Mirani Library (previously a combined Baby Bounce / Storytime session) and while initial numbers are small the service has great potential for growth and is much appreciated by the new Mums in the area.

We will also be implementing a new weekly Baby Bounce session at the Sarina Library after the Easter school holidays.
YPLG Meeting

Two Young People’s Services staff attended the quarterly Young People’s Librarians Group meeting at the State Library of Queensland on Thursday 21 February.

Mackay West State School Leaders Induction

Young People’s Services library assistant Kirsty Huth attended the Mackay West State School Induction of School Leaders on Friday 22 February to present the ten 2013 library monitors with their badges. We have a close working relationship with the school library through our Productive Partnership program.

16 local young adults were treated to a mega dose of ‘cuteness’ at the library when they attended February Friday Frodos – “Lifesavers in the Bush”. Council’s Heidi Jarmaine, with the assistance of 3 volunteers from local wildlife rescue services, introduced participants to basic techniques to best assist injured or orphaned wildlife, and to protect themselves. 2 young Wallabies, a juvenile Kangaroo and a baby Possum, were very accommodating of the teens, but ‘Tasman’ (pictured) definitely has star quality!
February Friday Frodos – "Lifesavers in the Bush"

Library Lovers Month @ Sarina

Fletcher Campbell winner of the Guess the number of Lollies Competition with sisters Shelby (L) and Sana (R).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Previous year</th>
<th>Current year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Storytime</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Bounce</td>
<td>1377</td>
<td>1400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult Activities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Many Cultures Storytime</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>39</td>
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- Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information Requests</th>
<th>Previous year</th>
<th>Current year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ask a Library queries</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlibrary Loans – Requests made</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interlibrary Loans – Requests received</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>109</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Website Visits</th>
<th>Previous year</th>
<th>Current year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Website Visits</td>
<td>30,195</td>
<td>29,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visits - WebOPAC</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>15,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visits – Home</td>
<td>8,623</td>
<td>9,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visits – Online Resources</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>1,087</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website Visit – Branches</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>889</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website Visits – My Details &amp; Membership</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visits – Activities &amp; Events</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>312</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website Visits – Online Resources/Mackay Libraries’ Databases</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visits – Services</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>192</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website Visits – For Kids</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visits – For Kids/Storytime</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visit - Collections</td>
<td>Not available</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website Visit – Heritage Library</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>163</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database Visits</th>
<th>Previous year</th>
<th>Current year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Databases – The Computer School</td>
<td>726</td>
<td>224</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home Library Service Statistics</th>
<th>Gordon White</th>
<th>Mackay City</th>
<th>Sarina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistive Technology Computer</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Library customers</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Loans</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone calls</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reservations</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kilometres travelled by FOML</td>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of items loaned</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>80</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heritage Collection Room</th>
<th>Previous year</th>
<th>Current year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of visitors to Heritage Collection</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Microfilm Reader Bookings</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of research inquiries * up to 1 hr research required</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of digitised photographs in image collection</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>570</td>
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### Membership and loan statistics

#### New members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Branch</th>
<th>Previous Year</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gordon White Library</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay City Library</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirani Library</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Library</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarina Library</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkerston Library</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Loans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Branch</th>
<th>Previous Year</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gordon White Library</td>
<td>28810</td>
<td>27293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay City Library</td>
<td>22215</td>
<td>20221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mirani Library</td>
<td>2988</td>
<td>2520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Library</td>
<td>3195</td>
<td>2488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarina Library</td>
<td>4755</td>
<td>3965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkerston Library</td>
<td>2050</td>
<td>1599</td>
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#### Visitors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Branch</th>
<th>Previous Year</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gordon White Library</td>
<td>11442</td>
<td>11785</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mackay City Library</td>
<td>11680</td>
<td>12375 **</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mirani Library</td>
<td>1815</td>
<td>1772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile Library</td>
<td>1537</td>
<td>1380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarina Library</td>
<td>3585</td>
<td>3058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walkerston Library</td>
<td>2077</td>
<td>1627</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**City Library was open on Sunday 10th February**

#### e-Resource Usage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Previous Year</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safari e-books</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolinda Digital Downloads(audiobooks)</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zinio Digital Magazines</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>482</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Self check out usage (% of total loans)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library Branch</th>
<th>Previous Year</th>
<th>Current Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gordon White Library</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay City Library</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### TOP 5 Adult Non-Fiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stanley Gibbons simplified catalogue : stamps of the world/</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angels 101 : an introduction to connecting, working, and healing with the angels / Doreen Virtue.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay revisited / K.H. Kennedy.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet settlement : the making of Mackay and the Pioneer Valley 1860-1918 / edited by &lt;Martin&gt; Hislop ... &lt;et al.&gt;</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Australian Women’s Weekly classic cupcakes : wedding, birthday and baby cakes.</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Museums

Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani

Working bee held in February.

Mackay Historical Society & Museum Inc.

A new display on tourism has been completed at the Museum

Visitor Numbers

10 adults have visited the Museum during February.

Sarina Historical Society and Museum Inc

Volunteers returned on 5 February to change displays

Visitor Numbers

13 adults have visited during February

Greenmount Homestead

Farewell for long-time volunteer, Julie Worldon held during February

Visitor Numbers

Total of 78 visitors including 40 schoolchildren

RECREATION SERVICES

Management / Sport and Recreation

- Sport and Recreation Coordinator attended the first ‘Mackay Mountain Marathon’ meeting, assisting in the planning of a mountain biking event to be held around the Eungella area in August 2013.
- The Sport and Recreation Officer position experienced formal hand over, as the incumbent commenced maternity leave. Sport and Recreation staff, in conjunction with the Queensland Government’s local Sport and Recreation Advisor, successfully held the annual meeting for the chosen Local Sport and Recreation Job Plan cluster groups, as per the Operational Plan that guides the funded Sport and Recreation Officer position.
- Manager Recreation Services provided further assistance regarding the planned Mackay Gymnastics Building Project.
- Partnership arrangements were put in place with George Street Neighbourhood Centre regarding the ‘Sunnies for Sight’ campaign. This campaign includes the sale of
sunglasses for children at discounted price at the region's five public aquatic facilities with proceeds to be forwarded to George Street Neighbourhood Centre.

- Council's Recreation Services Team participated in a 2-hour Team Effectiveness Workshop on February 27 facilitated by a management consultant, following on from a previous Team Day and interviews with individual team members.

**Media / PR**

- **Media coverage**
  - ‘Active...in the City’ program and inclusion of social walking.
  - Introduction of 3-month member pass applicable at Memorial and Pioneer Swim Centres.
  - Memorial Swim Centre and associated patronage.
  - Expressions of Interest regarding management of Memorial and Pioneer Swim Centres.
  - Upcoming NQSF Sportstar Awards; calling for nominations.
  - Free Zumba classes as part of the ‘Focus on Sarina’ program.
  - ‘Active Towns’ Project and additional funding towards cycling and walking infrastructure.

**Aquatic Facilities**

**Bluewater Lagoon**

- Extensive rainfall and weather conditions impacted on overall patronage.
- Upcoming facility closure due to scheduled maintenance:
  - Upper lagoon closed from mid April – mid July
  - Waterslide closed from 1 March – 31 August (excluding school holidays)
  - Entire facility closed from Monday 8 July – Saturday 31 August (inclusive)

**Memorial Pool**

- Bookings: 54 x school bookings
  - 4 x sporting club bookings
  - 4 x water polo club nights
  - 4 x Active...in the City bookings
  - 3 x swim and survive bookings
  - 4 x community group bookings
  - 2 x aqua aerobics sessions
  - 2 x private coaching sessions
  - 2 x private bookings
  - 3 x school carnivals

- The 5th ‘Multicultural Swimming Program’ commenced. The program targets people from a non-English speaking background and is fully funded by the Queensland Government under 'Multicultural Queensland Partnerships Program' and delivered in partnership with Council’s Community Development program. One-off funds of $3,000 were received for this program. The program is scheduled to be completed prior to June 2013 (refer to photo below).
A Contractor was commissioned to facilitate drain clearing following extensive flooding inside the facility.

Upcoming facility closure due to scheduled maintenance:
- The facility will be closed from Monday 15 April to Friday 31 May (inclusive).

**Pioneer Pool**
- Bookings: 59 x school bookings
  - 1 x sporting club booking
  - 5 x club nights
  - 2 x school carnivals
  - 7 x swim and survive bookings
  - 3 x community group bookings
  - 1 x private booking
- Heavy rainfall impacted on existing drainage facilities, with water flowing out the main entrance during periods of extensive rainfall.
- Two new swim teachers commenced employment and joined the Aquatics Team.
- A ‘Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety Course’ was held from February 2 - 3, increasing the number of qualified swim teachers in the region.
- Upcoming facility closure due to scheduled maintenance:
  - The facility will be closed from Saturday 1 June to Saturday 31 August (inclusive).

**Mirani Pool**
- The facility’s automatic pool cleaner experienced a major overhaul.
- A mobile access ramp was fabricated and commissioned, allowing improved access and egress to the 50m pool (refer to photo below).
- Upcoming facility closure due to scheduled maintenance:
  - The facility will be closed from Monday 15 April until the end of August.

**Sarina Pool**
- Dosing lines were replaced improving overall functioning of Pool Plant.
- Upcoming facility closure due to scheduled maintenance:
  - The facility will be closed from Monday 15 April until the end of August.

The following customers have attended the Aquatic Facilities for February 2013:
Bluewater Lagoon*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Customer</th>
<th>Bluewater Lagoon February 2012</th>
<th>Bluewater Lagoon November 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRAND TOTAL</td>
<td>19,767</td>
<td>19,866</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Memorial Pool**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Customer</th>
<th>Memorial Pool February 2012</th>
<th>Memorial Pool November 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons 15 years or older</td>
<td>1,468</td>
<td>1,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioner</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Swimmer</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Swimming</td>
<td>882</td>
<td>890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim and Survive</td>
<td>602</td>
<td>356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRC Access</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Inflatable Entry</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access Card Entries</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Swim For Fitness</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squad Memberships</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Memberships</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>564</td>
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<tr>
<td>**TOTAL</td>
<td>4,271</td>
<td>4,241</td>
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</table>

Multi Visit Passes Sold (persons 15 years or older) 97 107
Multi Visit Passes Sold (children) - 8
Total Kiosk Revenue $11,691.30 $9,024.40

** Source: LINKS Software System

Pioneer Pool**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Customer</th>
<th>Pioneer Pool February 2012</th>
<th>Pioneer Pool November 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons 15 years or older</td>
<td>1,759</td>
<td>1,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years</td>
<td>1,040</td>
<td>1,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioner</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Swimmer</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Swimming</td>
<td>1,256</td>
<td>1,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swim and Survive</td>
<td>549</td>
<td>1,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRC Access</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Inflatable Entry</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orca's Squad</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>816</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access Card Entries</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult Swim For Fitness</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Learn to Swim Attendance</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>1,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Memberships</td>
<td>951</td>
<td>389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**TOTAL</td>
<td>6,186</td>
<td>7,905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older) 87 67
Multi Visit Pass (children) - 5
Total Kiosk Revenue $14,675.32 $11,780.90

** Source: LINKS Software System
Multi-Visit Pass Attendance MSC and PSC - 2012: 1,463  2013: 1,517  
Child Multi-Visit Pass Attendance MSC and PSC - 2012: -  2013: 54  

**Mirani Pool***

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Customer</th>
<th>Mirani Pool February 2012</th>
<th>Mirani Pool February 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons 15 years or older</td>
<td>646</td>
<td>378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years</td>
<td>1,393</td>
<td>946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioner</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,039</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,324</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

**Sarina Pool****

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Customer</th>
<th>Sarina Pool February 2012</th>
<th>Sarina Pool February 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons 15 years or older</td>
<td>641</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years</td>
<td>1,276</td>
<td>439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensioner</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,917</strong></td>
<td><strong>548</strong></td>
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</table>

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

**Revenue Received:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Customer</th>
<th>Pioneer Pool February 2012</th>
<th>Memorial Pool February 2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Actual Gate</td>
<td>$13,423.30</td>
<td>$10,733.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Season Tickets</td>
<td>$720.00</td>
<td>$2,410.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$14,865.56</td>
<td>$11,751.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$29,008.86</strong></td>
<td><strong>$24,895.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate</td>
<td>$2,784.00</td>
<td>$3,104.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

**PROPERTY SERVICES**

**Management**

- Attendance at meeting with legal representatives to finalise negotiations between Council and the property owners of land required for the Walkerston reservoirs.
- Initial meetings held to commence work on the Northern Beaches Library project.
- Attendance at meetings with Mike Mahoney from Extra-Mile Tourism & Leisure Management being the appointed consultant to review the Sarina Sugar Shed operations. The Sarina Sugar Shed - Future Directions Paper will be presented to Council on the 24 April 2013.
• Facilitated Freehold Land Register presentation to Council on 20 February 2013.

**Property Co-ordinations**

• Initial stakeholder meeting held to establish direction for new Northern Beaches Library
• Asset Data Collection commenced with Contractors from Assetic (Council's system supplier). All structures managed by Council will be visited and assessed as part of the process. This work is expected to take approximately 2 months.
• Recent heavy rain has caused roof leaks to a majority of Council’s buildings, planning has commenced to rectify this situation.
• Sugar Shed experienced major communication issues with Telstra failures for over 10 days. Pressure was put on Telstra management to repair the fault which they have temporarily done, more work is scheduled to finalise the repairs.
• Break-ins at Ness St (Archives and SES) resulted in damage to the facility but theft was only minimal.
• Assistance provided to Grants Officer to enable CEEP funding application for sustainable projects to be processed.

**Leases**

Program Staff are currently dealing with 27 leases
• Letter sent to Mackay Touch Association in regards to the possibility of entering a new lease, awaiting reply
• Eungella Community Progress Assoc – Report in process of being prepared – awaiting Land Management Plan from Association
• Extension of lease area for Dolphins Soccer and Norths Netball to include car parking area, awaiting advices from Clubs prior to taking further action.
• Report ratified for Telstra lease renewal at Black Mountain, awaiting lease documentation from Telstra’s solicitors
• Lease expired on RP907578/900 – applying for exemption for tender due to nature of the lease and location (lease is for pumping water from river to household) – report has been ratified, however, issues have arisen with proposed rental
• Visionstream – NBN sites on Council land – report ratified for four sites, in negotiations for a fifth site at Calen.
• Rotary west have surrendered their lease in Loughnane Court, two new leases will be issued to HTM and Yamadi, have received confirmation from both groups that they are happy to proceed, report in process of being prepared
• Formalising agreement with Qld Police for antenna at Hicks Road - issues have arisen over proposed rental
• Meeting held with representatives from Reef Catchments regarding the proposal of setting up various wash-down facilities in the Mackay region, Property Services have been looking into possible sites for these facilities.
• Completion of lease documents review and amendment for both Trustee and Freehold land.

Council Freehold Land Register – Council briefing has been held, Property Services is in the process of undertaking associated work in preparation for submitting a disposal options report to Council.
Land Dealings

- Land being gifted by DTMR to MRC
  - 4 small parcels of old QR rail corridor are being gifted by DTMR to MRC as they have no further need for parcels. Council consented to gifting as the land has been earmarked for development as a cross city link bike path.

- Milton Street - Registration of Notices of Road Realignment for future road widening needs of Milton Street over 5 properties.

Property Services are currently dealing with:-
- 16 Road Realignments
- 7 Land Acquisitions of property for Council purposes
- 1 Land Encroachment
- 6 Easements being established

Sarina Sugar Shed

The month of February is traditionally the Sarina Sugar Shed's quietest month of the year for tours. Due to this fact, staff have taken the opportunity to run Familiarization tours for tourism operators and businesses in the region.

Mike Mahoney from Extra Mile Tourism presented options for the Sarina Sugar Shed's future direction to Sugar Shed staff, volunteers, management and Task Force Councillors.

Sarina Sugar Shed ice-cream - mooscoop is now available at the facility and some cafes, restaurant and information centres throughout the region.
Management

- Accepted appointment to the Playing Queensland Funding Committee, the State Government's new arts funding committee which assesses funding applications from artists wishing to tour Queensland.
- Confirmed ongoing Committee tenure on Local Government Arts & Culture Reference Group an initiative of Arts QLD and Local Government Association Queensland
- Attended Meadowlands Committee meetings assisting planning for Meadowlands Soundshell Conditions of Use and hiring protocols
- Attended Artspace Foundation Annual General Meeting as Company Secretary
- Continued planning and coordinating the KISS Monster Tour which arrives in Mackay on 16 March. This forthcoming concert is predicted to be the largest concert ever staged in Mackay. The economic benefits to Mackay are substantial with an estimated 5000 people from outside Mackay attending. It is highly pleasing to report an influx of 5000 visitors for non mining related activities which demonstrates Mackay can diversify and explore cultural tourism opportunities such as this successfully
- Facilitated the Entertainment Centre's 25th birthday celebrations
- Took a lead role in coordinating "The Big Family Day Out" in the Civic Precinct which saw thousands of visitors attend the Sports Expo & Sign On Day, Artspace's 10th Birthday celebrations, City Library's special Sunday open day and other activities held in the precinct
- Attended Mackay Tourism Ltd Major Events Committee meeting, and facilitated Ms Rhonda Burchmore becoming Ambassador for the Mackay Harbour Beach Races
- Assisted with the coordination of NARPACA (Northern & Regional Performing Arts Centres Association) Annual Conference, and agreed to facilitate conference sessions for the Association
- Awarded the Jack Sturgeon Bursary 2013 and the Hands On (Rick Wood) Bursary with Council providing a morning tea to acknowledge the award winners
- Conducted much media in relation to KISS and the Entertainment Centre's 25th birthday
- Reviewed all program position descriptions

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

Overview

Staff have been kept fully occupied preparing for the forthcoming KISS Monster Tour which will hit Mackay in March. With an anticipated crowd of 12,500 attending the preparation and logistical coordination is substantial. Centre staff will sell tickets, merchandise, manage the Virgin Australia Stadium Mackay on the day, oversee traffic management, liaise with Airport officials re firework displays, and liaise with a multitude of State Government bodies including QLD Police Service, Dept Community Safety, QLD Fire and Rescue Service, the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing to
mention only some. Hosting this concert provides many benefits to Mackay and it is highly pleasing to report that all matters are on track

Hirers this month included Rio Tinto (staff training), Lucy Dillon's Annual Bridal Fair, Harvey World Travel Expo, PRD Nationwide (Auction), Impact Leadership, Men of Honour, LGAQ (Local Government Association of QLD), and comedian Kitty Flanagan who played to a 100% capacity audience.

Mackay Tix ticketed for the Cowboys v Titans trial match at Virgin Australia Stadium Mackay, and the Friends of the MECC ushered at this event also. Mackay Tix also ticketed for an event to raise funds in support of Ovarian Cancer Research, and the ticketing arm of the Centre's business continues to grow.

The Centre continues to receive exemplary feedback, and it is highly pleasing to report that customer satisfaction based on formal feedback received sits at 100% this year. The Centre is justifiably proud of this achievement. It is also important to note that the Centre has achieved its best February attendances on record with 15,558 people visiting the Centre this month.

The entrepreneurial program will be featured later in this report.

**Feedback**

One of our General Managers has just returned from the workshop held in MECC yesterday. His PA made a point of coming to me to let me know how good his experience was and how everything ran smoothly.

One of the main things he mentioned was how great the catering was. He loved the Thai and Aussie selections and said we must always use the caterers in the future. So definite thumbs up from the LGAQ.

Nicola Carter, LGAQ

Dear Nicky, Catherine, Lenine & the wonderful MECC staff,

Thank you so much for all your help in planning and running the 2013 Travel Expo! I really appreciate your help and have thoroughly enjoyed working with you! Our Travel Expo this year has been our most successful so far and that really is a credit to the support and help you provide – thanks! It’s a little too soon for me to say that I can’t wait until next year (lol) but I love working with you all.

Warm Regards,

Laura & the HWT Team

Just a short note to say thank you to all at Mackay for a great night. We really enjoyed ourselves at your beautiful theatre. Please thank Peter, James, Tara, Leah, Donna, Dan and especially Valma - Kitty would like to adopt her! Hoping to see you again in the future.

Kitty Flanagan’s Company (Note Valma is Friend of Theatre who attends the Green Room)
**Capital Program**

Much progress has been made with capital works in January and February. Roof restoration for the Entertainment Centre has been completed and remaining technical purchases have been completed too.

**Development/Other Issues**

Mackay Tix will be the ticketing agency for the forthcoming Airlie Beach Music Festival being held in Airlie Beach in November this year. With Mackay Tix securing ticketing rights for Virgin Mackay Stadium, Ooralea Racecourse, Harbour Beach Race Day and several other large events the level of business now generated is substantial. The Centre's ticketing agency is the envy of many other theatres around Australia and the diversity of events being sold through the Centre is highly pleasing.

**Entrepreneurial**

Three entrepreneurial events were held this month. The first Morning Melodies performance for the year, Billy Raymond's "Tribute to Tartan" generated a surplus, as did The Searchers in concert. A small subsidy was required to stage "Champagne Cabaret" the Centre's 25th birthday show, the subsidy was required as many complimentary tickets were provided as thank yous to sponsors, volunteers, Councillors and others who have assisted the Entertainment Centre over the past 25 years.

**Performance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th># of Events</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurial</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Fair / Expo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>15558</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-Financial Indicators:

- Number of Performances fully cost recovered: 50% (58% year to date)
- Minimum number of catered functions: 140 (83)
- Average attendance at shows:
  - Auditorium: 550
  - Auditorium: 392
  - Foyer/space: 100
  - Foyer/space: 141
  - Halls: 600
  - Halls: 840
  - One Hall only: 200
  - One Hall only: 419
- Number of non-utilised days: 90 (48)
- Number of Performances at the MECC: 200 (90)
- Yearly occupancy of facility: 173,890 (130,398)
- Average Response time for Patrons enquiries: <48 hours (<48)
- Customer Hire Satisfaction: 80% (100%)
- Ratio of Complaints to a sample of Patron Usage: 5% (0%)
- Are adequate range of facilities being provided: 70% (100%)
- Would you use the Centre again: 70% (100%)
### THREE YEAR COMPARISONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Performances</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>External Ticket Sales</th>
<th>Performances</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>External Ticket Sales</th>
<th>Performances</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>External Ticket Sales</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2012-2013</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2011-2012</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2010-2011</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **JUL** | 24 | 23 | 9,624 | 1,772 | 30 | 23 | 13,359 | 1,260 | 21 | 20 | 17,224 | 3,204 |
| **AUG** | 12 | 27 | 12,812 | 4,390 | 20 | 14 | 10,693 | 4,704 | 11 | 16 | 13,573 | 1,200 |
| **SEP** | 20 | 27 | 22,513 | 4,262 | 14 | 37 | 15,964 | 0 | 14 | 27 | 23,278 | 209 |
| **OCT** | 118 | 31 | 36,187 | 247 | 117 | 13 | 34,419 | 1,629 | 116 | 23 | 36,498 | 2,783 |
| **NOV** | 18 | 38 | 22,661 | 1,163 | 16 | 48 | 23,199 | 852 | 13 | 30 | 18,261 | 561 |
| **DEC** | 6 | 20 | 9,260 | 352 | 36 | 54 | 12,479 | 514 | 10 | 22 | 11,379 | 1,012 |
| **JAN** | 1 | 4 | 1,783 | 0 | 0 | 167 | 30,237 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 1,684 | 297 |
| **FEB** | 4 | 13 | 15,558 | 5,437 | 4 | 15 | 14,754 | 8,494 | 6 | 21 | 13,191 | 0 |
| **MAR** | 13 | 30 | 9,691 | 3,769 | 4 | 24 | 4,879 | 0 |
| **APR** | 4 | 23 | 6,013 | 2,440 | 7 | 18 | 8,964 | 1,397 |
| **MAY** | 14 | 19 | 10,601 | 1,484 | 11 | 31 | 13,434 | 62 |
| **JUN** | 13 | 13 | 8,383 | 11730 | 11 | 18 | 6,261 | 104 |
| **TOTAL** | 203 | 183 | 130,398 | 17,623 | 281 | 456 | 189,792 | 36,876 | 224 | 255 | 168,626 | 10,829 |

*This table includes "maintenance" as events/attendance until March 2011 when it has been excluded from reporting

#NOTE: October is Eistedfodd Month

#NOTE: December 2011-Jan 2012 - Ice City

### Attendances (44 Months) 646,805

![Attendances Chart](chart.png)
Festivals and Events

The Lanes Mackay's Easter Festival

Sponsors for this year's festival include BB Print (Kids Activities), The Daily Mercury (in-kind advertising), CBD Maguire's, The Ambassador Hotel and the Rabbit Hole (Mackay Grande Suites). There will be five performance areas + 40 Vintage cars on display in Sydney Street. There will be 17 different bands (mostly local), along with soloists and duos performing on the day. Due to the constant rain the planned graffiti mural walls have had to be changed to paste ups. Art work painted on butchers paper will be glued on site. The glue is from flour and water so easy to remove after the event. All wall murals have the consent of the building owners. Children's activities in Town Hall Park will run from 10 am to 1 pm. Brunch (9th) Lane, with an unplugged duo will run from 11 am to 1 pm. Activities in 5th Lane and at the Ambassadors Hotel will run from 3 pm to Midnight. The Zoo Stage at Maguire's will run from 11 am to Midnight.

River Rock to Mountain Top Festival

The festival will start on Saturday 27 April with the Tagalong Charity Ride. On Friday 10 May the Lantern Parade will occur at Mirani. The weekend of 11th & 12th May sees the Festival Artist Trail operating, and this year a special artist workshop is being held at the Broken River Resort. Sponsorship is reduced this year, a sign that the local economy is not as buoyant as previous years, but more stall holders have opted to attend the Lantern Parade.

Mackay Festival of Arts 6-21 July 2013

Planning is well underway for the 2013 Festival of Arts which will commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the importation of Australian South Sea Islanders to Queensland. Many of the favourite events will return next year with an extra emphasis on community involvement. Some sponsors have declined to be part of this year’s...
festival but some new ones have come forward, namely Lend Lease. The program will be launched on Wednesday 8 May.

QantasLink has purchased the naming rights for this year's Festival of Arts, and the QantasLink in flight magazine winter edition will be dedicated to Mackay. QantasLink and Tourism & Events Queensland are now approaching Mackay stakeholders regarding advertising in Spirit, supporting a raft of editorial which will be featured, ensuring Mackay and the Whitsundays are seen Australia wide as a winter "hot spot".

**Queensland Music Festival July 2013**

Following a meeting with the Mayor, Cr Deirdre Comerford in 2012, it can now be confirmed that the Queensland Music Festival will occur in Mackay this year after an absence of many years. This year's Queensland Music Festival will comprise three separate acts in July. American gospel group Take 6, will play during the Festival of Arts umbrella, and work with our community to form a massed gospel choir. Romanian pianist Marian Petrescu will perform on 23 July in a "Tribute to Oscar Petersen" and acclaimed Queensland pianist Anna Goldsworthy will perform on 24 July in what will be billed as a piano double bill over two nights.

**Sarina Festival**

The new Sarina Festival Inc Committee has met with new faces and new energy. The new date for the festival will be Saturday 31 August. The Festival will start off in central Sarina closing off Central Street from the Railway line to Brandon Street and holding free kids entertainments, buskers, bands, and dancers from 9 am to 1 pm. Muelth–Niyelta House is to provide exhibitions and performances of their indigenous dancers, drummers, weaving displays, plus crocodile meat on skewers.

At 1pm a planned Ute/4WD drive by, will occur. Traversing from the Sarina Showgrounds to Central Street and back this will start an afternoon and evening **Muster and Mud Trials** event culminating in local bands and DJ's

**Bluewater Ecofest**

Following Council approval, the merger of the River 2 Reef Festival and the EcoMackay Fiesta will now occur. This new event, the Bluewater Eco Fest will take place on Saturday 5 October. Featuring a Raft Race, Pelican Push, the World's Greatest Seafood Grill and the River 2 Reef Bike Ride, there will be a major emphasis on sustainability, lifestyle and recreation. Stalls and exhibitors from the past EcoMackay Fiesta will set up on the Bluewater Quay lawns. There will also be an exhibitor’s tent for displays and educational seminars. The festival will be managed using sustainability principles, i.e., electricity sourced from green power, bio diesel fuel for generators, all stallholders required to provide packaging which can be recycled. This festival will start earlier in the day than previous years to coincide with the return of the bike riders and finish earlier as there will be no fireworks display due to sustainability concerns. Taking place along the Bluewater Trail from Caneland to Paxton’s Warehouse, new events will be a kids fishing competition run in the shallows of the Pioneer River near Caneland, a yet to be named event at Bluewater Lagoon, a rubber duck charity race, and a Latin American Conga line, hopefully stretching the length of the Bluewater Trail.

**Global Grooves**

Planning will start in April for this year's Global Grooves.
**Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies in the Mackay Region 1-8 December 2012**

Planning has not commenced for this year’s event, although through the Meadowlands Committee it is recommended Council consider the new Meadowlands Soundshell as the venue for this year's Carol's celebrations. Officers are to brief council in this regard later in the year.

**New Year’s Eve**

Planning will commence once 2013/14 budgets are endorsed.

**Artspace Mackay**

Visitors: 3,005 people visited Artspace during February 2013 (inc. Town Hall)
1,817 people visited Artspace during January 2012 (inc. Town Hall)

**Exhibitions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gallery</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Exhibition Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>McAleese Gallery</td>
<td>1 Feb - current</td>
<td><strong>Yulyurlu: Lorna Fencer Naparrula</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foyer Gallery</td>
<td>1 Feb - current</td>
<td><strong>Still life: Joachim Froese photographs 1999 - 2008</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cox Rayner Gallery</td>
<td>9 Feb - current</td>
<td><strong>Highlights: Libris Awards 2006-2010</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 Nov - current</td>
<td><strong>New acquisitions by Danie Mellor commemorating Mackay 150</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collectors' Cabinet</td>
<td>current</td>
<td><strong>Antique irons: a collection of irons from John and Caroline Snowdon</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**McAleese Gallery / Foyer / Cox Rayner Gallery**

**Yulyurlu: Lorna Fencer Naparrula** (McAleese Gallery)

A stunning retrospective of the high profile senior Walpiri artist Yulyurlu Lorna Fencer Naparrula (c. 1924 - 2006), this exhibition is the first major survey of the Lajamanu artist's work and traces her development as a highly original artist during twenty years of practice. The exhibition, presented by Artback NT: Arts Development and Touring and Mimi Arts & Crafts, is the first that has been displayed at Artspace from the Northern Territory.

**Still life: Joachim Froese photographs 1999 - 2008** (Foyer Gallery)

Over the last ten years Froese's work has concentrated on photographic still life and often explores personal family history. His photographic tableaux are painstakingly assembled and seemingly defy reality. This exhibition is a cohesive overview of the work of a significant Queensland artist of international standard.

**Highlights: Libris Awards 2006-2010** (Cox Rayner Gallery)

*The Libris Awards*, Artspace Mackay's signature artists book competition was launched in 2006 and has become a popular nationwide event. This new exhibition is curated from the Mackay Regional Council Collection and features prize winning entries and purchases from past *Libris Awards*.

**New acquisitions celebrating Mackay's sesquicentenary** (Cox Rayner Gallery)
The two brand new artworks by Danie Mellor, commissioned by Artspace to celebrate Mackay’s sesquicentenary arrived at the gallery this month. *Wambool Yuibera* and *A changing ecology* are now on display in the Cox Rayner gallery until February 2013.

**Collectors' Cabinet**

**Antique irons from John and Caroline Snowdon**
This collection of irons from Seaforth couple John and Caroline Snowdon is the result of a lifetime of passion for collecting. A love of collecting is a trait that John acquired from his mother and inheriting her early *'Mrs Potts' travelling iron* marked the beginning of the collection you see here. John and Caroline have built on their collection over the years, travelling to markets and antique shops across the country.

**February Public Programs & Education:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>Yulyurlu floor talk by curator Margie West</td>
<td>McAleese Gallery</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 February</td>
<td>Kids APT and Artspace 10th Birthday</td>
<td>Artspace Mackay</td>
<td>761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>Kids Art Club with Rosemary Payne</td>
<td>Seminar Room</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>MSHS Year 11 tour of Yulyurlu exhibition + art teacher</td>
<td>McAleese Gallery</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 February</td>
<td>Kids Art Club with Rosemary Payne</td>
<td>Seminar Room</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total participants in Artspace public programs in February 2013 874

**Overview**

Artspace Mackay is back in business! Attendances figures are significantly up. The cafe is now trading Monday - Friday and Saturday mornings, and Council’s revitalisation strategies have commenced. The giant family activity day (the ‘Arty Party’) on Sunday 10th February, launched the gallery re-opening on Sundays as well as its 10th birthday. A huge day in the precinct was enjoyed by over 700 people and the feedback from the community was fantastic.

With regard to the revitalisation strategies, Artspace is working hard on coordinating the inaugural art market, *Rock, Paper, Scissors*. The market will be held on the lawn between the gallery and the MECC on Sunday 14 April, with over 20 local stallholders selling their handmade wares and the cafe open for food and coffee. The market will run from 1pm - 5pm and will feature music and theatrical circus entertainment. With the Wiggles appearing at the MECC that day, thousands will come through the precinct, and it is hoped that a highly successful day will be had with much cross over promotion occurring between Council’s major cultural facilities MECC and Artspace.

The Artspace film program will be launched in March. Movies will be shown in the Cox Rayner Gallery on the last Sunday of every month, starting on Easter Sunday, 31 March, with *Singin’ in the Rain*. Watch out for the program, which will feature classic Hollywood movies over six months.
Artspace is also helping to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Australian South Sea Islanders, with exhibitions being planned throughout the year. The gallery is excited to be hosting Body on the line, a series of photographs of NRL players with South Sea Islander heritage, dressed in traditional clothing. A stunning image of this exhibition has already gained attention in the Daily Mercury.

Planning is well under way for the Libris Awards. This is a national artists book prize, held to raise awareness of and develop Mackay Regional Council’s nationally significant artists book collection. Artspace has secured a $10,000 sponsorship (from Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal) for the main prize in the Libris Awards this year. The exhibition will be judged by a senior figure in the world of artists books, Helen Cole, Senior Librarian from the State Library of Qld. The winners will be announced at a cocktail function to be held on Saturday 11 May.

‘Arty Party’ - the glow-in-the-dark room was the most popular activity on the day!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Management

City Centre public realm improvements considered for Federal funding

Council received notification that it's Expression of Interest for grant funding for Mackay City Centre public realm improvements, under Round Four of the Regional Development Australia Fund, has received approval to progress to the second stage for final consideration. Submissions for the upcoming round are due April 11, 2013. The Regional Development Australia Fund (RDA) will consider project funding for a range of applications, from areas across the nation.
Council is seeking $8.8 million for Mackay City Centre public realm improvements to assist renewed investment into the Mackay City Centre and help boost business activity.

Mackay City Centre is the ‘place’ which symbolises the centre of the region. Public realm improvement in the Mackay City Centre offers a strong community benefit – not only for businesses in the area - but in support of the City’s role as the principal centre for our region. This in turn helps support and promotes the vitality, liveability and prosperity of the region.

Funding for the City Centre improvements will be determined when the results of round four are announced on Friday, July 12.

**City Centre Carparking Trial**

Council this month voted to trial timing changes to onstreet parking, within the City Centre. For those areas of Sydney, Wood and Gregory Street, located between River and Gordon Streets, maximum parking stay times will change to one hour, to come into force on Monday, March 11, 2013. Parking time limits in Victoria Street will remain unchanged as will all loading zones and anything under the one hour time limit.

The changes are aimed to free up convenient car parking right in front of the City shops for use by customers. With a one hour time span, the changes will deter employees and other all day parkers from 'doing the shuffle', and taking up parking spaces targeted for customer use.

To encourage city workers into council's off-street carparks, all day parking fees will be reduced from $5 to $3 for those who pre-purchase their tickets from Council. Those seeking discounted online prepaids can access these directly via [www.mackaycitycentre.com.au](http://www.mackaycitycentre.com.au) or from council's website.

The City Centre business email network, website and business contact listings proved useful resources in the lead up consultation and engagement, carried out prior to council's February decision.

The City Centre Business Network, has a database of more than 700 members, while council's expanding City Deals Customer Club maintains over 2,300 members.

Information on the Mackay City Centre Carparking Trial was communicated through a number of methods to City Centre businesses during the month of February 2013, including direct mail to business owners, via council's business email network and customer club, web posts, in store posters and flyers, in addition to personalised face to face visits by council's engagement officer, press releases and a dedicated phone 'hotline'.

The changes will be implemented from Monday, March 11, 2013.
The City Centre Carparking Trial offers discounts for those who purchase pre-paid off street parking, in any of council's all-day carparks.

**Active in the City sponsored programs**

Active in the City continues with a range of free fitness programs aimed at all ages.

Thanks to city business, 'Dirty Martinis', Swing Dancing has now also been added to the list of free City Centre activities. Swing Dancing is now available at Dirty Martinis on Victoria Street every Tuesday.

The 'Active' program has generated a level of interest for upcoming business sponsorship, with Economic Development fielding a number of enquiries from other City operators. Expect to see more sponsored sessions coming soon.

Recently, Active sessions have attracted between 50 and up to 70 participants. Zumba, which is proudly sponsored by Victoria Street business, Battery World, as well as aqua fitness based activities are consistently attracting high numbers.

February also saw the introduction of free walking groups in the Mackay City Centre, with the assistance of the Queensland Government's Active Towns Pilot project.

Walking groups are receiving great positive feedback and public interest, although wet weather in February has impacted numbers attending. With walking groups on every day, and with groups starting at different times and targeted to different interests, and fitness levels, the program is expected to soon gain momentum.

Programs for all 'Active' sessions can be downloaded from [www.mackaycitycentre.com.au](http://www.mackaycitycentre.com.au) and are available in easy postcard format for business distribution to customers, hotel guests and visitors.

Walking Groups have now been added to the Active in the city program as part of the Active Towns initiative.
**Focus on Sarina Funding Acquitted in February 2013**

The Focus on Sarina program kicks off in 2013 with a brand new business directory underway for Sarina.

Sarina Businesses have been consulted about the listings for the new Directory, and a draft is now print ready. The free Directory will be published in early March with widespread distribution to follow.

In other positive news, Focus on Sarina fitness activities will continue with funds received from Queensland Health in partnership with the Australian Government's Healthy Rural Communities fund. This follows the acquittal of the original funding from Queensland Government's 'Blueprint for the Bush' in February 2013.

Focus on Sarina has shown growth with the program of events expanding to include more free or low-cost (gold coin donation) activities for the Sarina community.

The program is scheduled to continue through until June 2013 and now includes a variety of free and low-cost activities:
- Heartmoves
- Tight and Tone class
- Cuppa in the Park
- Walking Groups
- Gentle Fitness Session
- Pramercise
- Zumba
- Yoga
- Tai Chi

The 'Focus on Sarina' is a broad partnership, across Mackay Regional council programs, government and other agencies, which aims to draw business and other initiatives to focus economic and health benefits on Sarina.

**MAIN Members Breakfast**

A large audience of business, industry and others gathered to hear Adani's General Manager of Project Controls and Planning, Mr Ian Sedgman, speak at the Mackay Area Industry Network (MAIN) Breakfast on Friday, February 1.

The Adani Group, an international company based in Ahmedabad India, is a diversified conglomerate with interests in power generation and transmission, coal mining, shipping and ports. It is the largest trader of thermal coal in India.

It is the developer and operator of the Mundra Port, which is one of the largest coal import ports in the world. This port handled 40 Mtpa of cargo last year and is currently being expanded to 100 Mtpa capacity. Adani Mining Pty Ltd is an Australian subsidiary of the Adani Group. Adani Mining has a 100% interest in the Galilee Coal Tenement (EPC 1690) located in the Galilee Basin, which is now called the Carmichael Coal Project.

Adani is one of two proponents for the coal export terminals and associated infrastructure, with a combined capacity of up to 180 million tonnes per annum, proposed at Dudgeon Point, Port of Hay Point, 25 km south of Mackay. The Dudgeon Point Coal Terminals project which represents a $10-12 billion investment, is currently awaiting finalisation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the project proponent.
An estimated 1800 (construction) jobs and 640 (operational) positions are required by the project. The audience was one of the largest attracted to the MAIN breakfast sessions and is indicative of strong local interest in the development under consideration for Dudgeon Point.

**Leadership Re-Wired: Leading for High Performance**

The AIM breakfast 'Leadership Re-Wired: Leading for High Performance' on Wednesday, February 20 focussed on the science behind leadership. Keynote speaker, Tony Wilson, MBA, BSc., works with leaders around the world to help create the environment for their people to thrive, and works with individuals on managing their own performance and productivity. Council staff attended to learn from Tony Wilson's presentation and take the opportunity to network with other managers from regional business and industry sectors.

**Women in Business**

Economic Development staff, Manager Julie Cardiff and Economic Development officer Melina Pavlic, attended the Mackay Women in Business seminar on Friday, February 8. The keynote speaker for the session, Mayor of Mackay councillor Deirdre Comerford, updated local business women on current and future plans for the region, including budgets, major roadwork and enhancement projects, ongoing community services, and engagement programs.

**Investment Attraction - Department of State Development and Infrastructure Planning (DSDIP)**

DISDIP is currently preparing information for key investment opportunities, to inform approaches to investment attraction across the region. Opportunities within each local government area, over the next 12 to 18 months are being identified with assistance from economic development staff across all local governments and organisations, as initial steps to assist DSDIP in this process.

**Latest Mackay City Centre website competition**

More than 1,000 entrants recently jumped onto the Mackay City Centre website ([www.mackaycitycentre.com.au](http://www.mackaycitycentre.com.au)) to try their luck at winning a romantic Ocean Rafting Safari for two visiting Whitehaven Beach, Mantaray Bay and Bali Hai as part of the Harvey World Travel Spoil Your Sweetheart competition.

Vicky Cross of Andergrove was randomly picked as the winner after entering online and filling out an entry form. Hard copy entries were also available at the 27th Annual Bridal Fair, Creative Mackay Expo or Sports Expo and Sign-on day.

Nominations closed Thursday, February 14 with the announcement made at the 2013 Travel Expo on Wednesday, February 20 at Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC.)

**February - Expo Month in the Mackay**

Expo fever took over the Mackay City Centre with a number of events taking place at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) and other City venues in February. Economic Development staff, through the web-based Spoil Your Sweetheart competition, were able to add over 300 sign ups to the City Centre customer data base, many of which were signed at Expo events held during the month.
February Expos included:

*Mackay’s Premier 27th Annual Bridal Fair* on Sunday, February 3, 2013 Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre, with over 60 exhibitors from Mackay and the surrounding region, special offers, fashion parades and demonstrations.

City Centre businesses involved in the expo included:
Bupa
Escape Travel
Fiesta Rentals
Funk It Up
Greg Neill Jewellers
Hills in Hollywood
Jill Burston for Brides
Lucy Dillon for Brides/Crafty Cat
Mackay Grande Suites
Pure Spa Mackay
Roger David
Safari Pearl Bridal
Suna Shoes
The Cheesecake Shop
Torque Orthodontics
Wide Bay Australia

*Council’s Sports Expo and Sign-on Day and Families Big Day Out (including Artspace’s Arty Party) on Sunday, February 10, 2013*

The Families Big Day Out event at council’s civic precinct on Sunday, February 10 proved to be a huge success after over 6,000 people attended the organised events. Attendees visited the precinct to check out the third annual Sports Expo and Sign-on day, Artspace Mackay’s 10th birthday and the City.

*Harvey World Travel Expo* on Wednesday, February 20, 2013

February’s events proved a huge drawcard generating thousands of additional visitors to the City, and offering businesses and community organisations a chance to showcase their products and services.

*Council’s Business Networks*

Membership of council’s economic development business networks increased, across the board, during the month of February 2013. Economic Development maintains three business networks, City Sarina and Regional, plus a City Centre customer database (City Deals Club) - all are free to join.
Membership:

City Centre Business Network: 734 (last month 724)
Regional Focus Business Network: 179 (last month 175)
Sarina Business Network: 218 (last month 217)

**Growth in Customer Data base spikes in February**

More than 300 new subscribers signed up to City Deals Club in February. The customer based club membership grew from 1,984 in January to 2,306 in February. The 322 subscribers representing a healthy 16.22% increase, was achieved through targeted competitions running hand in hand with February Expo events.

The growing customer membership strengthens web viewings and supports businesses using the free web-based City Deals service. Business located in the City Centre can access a free e-platform to promote their business through City Deals. City Deals direct email updates, carrying business promotions are also sent weekly to all Club members.

**Mackaycitycentre.com.au web figures**

mackaycitycentre.com.au stats for the month of February 2013:

- 13,287 visits
- 31,949 page views

mackaycitycentre.com.au is a partnership between Mackay Regional Council and City Businesses, to promote the strength, diversity and convenience of our City Centre.

**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 the majority of operational plan goals.

**Director's Recommendation**

THAT this report be received.