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Executive Summary

Director Community and Client Services

The June/July period has been a successful one for the Community and Client Services Directorate, with a number of key projects either completed or nearing completion. The period also saw the completion and adoption of the 2014/15 budget, with staff quickly moving from the planning to delivery phase of the budget following its adoption on 25 June. This report is the first under an amended format following a review session undertaken by Cr. Morgan, Cr. Bonanno, Cr. Steinhl and Cr. Jones in partnership with the Community and Client Services Director and his management team. The report will continue to be refined over the coming months to ensure it is topical and informative and presented in an easy to read format.

Highlights

- First 5 staff sessions held with Departmental Staff to discuss 2014/15 budget, EA and Council Cultural Development with Director scheduling 18 more staff sessions in July 2014.

- The e-Content team are in the process of trialling a “no hard copy” policy across council.

- Mackay Sleepout 2014 will be held on Friday 8 August at the Blue Water Quay. This local fundraising event encourages people from the broader community to sleep rough for one night in order to raise awareness about homelessness in Mackay.

- June saw the winding up of the Healthy Rural Communities program with the final event and networking opportunity held at the Leap Community Hall. As a result of the sustainability strategy implemented as part of the project, a number of small businesses and community lead programs will continue to operate in rural areas into the future. The initiative enabled the project team to deliver 160 programs that engaged 960 residents in physical activity and healthy eating programs.

- The North Queensland Sports Education Tour for the Mackay region was held in the last week of June visiting Eton, Glenella, Marian and Mirani primary schools. The Tours are designed to assist in overcoming barriers to sport and recreation service delivery in rural and remote communities, and to provide opportunities for ongoing professional development for coaches, officials and club administrators.

- Parks and Leisure Australia (PLA) are presenting a free workshop and networking event to complement the national conference, which is being held in Queensland this year. The event will be held on the 20 August in Mackay.

- Major marketing campaign for the Mackay Festival of Arts began, with significant early sales for some events achieved and other events showing promise. Tremendous feedback has been received.

- Preparation of the Gordon Street Administration Building roof for Thermoshield coating has been completed with application work to commence in the near future, such work will provide cost savings through decreased air-conditioning usage.
• We have seen a slight increase in eNewsletter subscriptions during the month (total numbers are now over 10,000 for the 13 different eNewsletters provided).

• Parks crew completed stage one of the Dog Off Leash Park by the 30th June. Stage two works are currently in progress.

• Staff liaised with stakeholders and agencies about Tilapia (introduced fish species) and attended a workshop about stopping their spread and assisted with the release of Barramundi into the Gooseponds.

• The word bryophyte is the collective term for mosses, hornworts and liverworts and bryology is the study of bryophytes. Botanists and scientists came from around the country and as far away as Brazil to identify, collect and workshop topics on these plants at the 12th Australian Bryophyte Workshop. The Curator spent a day with the workshop participants and provided higher plant identification and information at Dalrymple Heights, Sky Window and the Wishing Pool Circuit at Eungella National Park.

Departmental Exceptions

• Meadowlands capital projects at Botanic Gardens have been significantly delayed and alternative mechanisms have been developed to complete these projects by December 2014.

Gerard Carlyon
Director Community and Client Services
Community Lifestyle

Management

- Coordinated the establishment of an internal Working Group to oversee the progression of an Application to Artslink Queensland for Animating Spaces funding to support efforts to activate the City Centre during the construction phase of the City Centre Revitalisation project.
- Supported the development of a new program to be delivered by Library Services, which is designed to improve early-parenting skills. The program is a joint initiative between State Library of Queensland and council’s Library Services.
- Supported the development of the Expressions of Interest for Phases 2 and 3 of the Public Art component of the City Centre Revitalisation project.
- Initiated and facilitated a Program Managers’ Innovation Forum. The initiative lead to a review session at the wider Management Forum about ways to further improve the Forum using ideas generated at the Innovation forum.

Client Services

Initiatives

- Private certifier applications will now be managed entirely by the Sarina office. As of 1 July the Sarina office commenced processing of amendments, as well as new applications.
- Officer Julia Grisan from Queensland Police has conducted a security check of the cashier and foyer area. Height markers have now been installed. Overall Officer Grisan was complimentary of the design of the area and current processes.
- All staff in Client Services have undergone an Ergonomic Assessment of workstations. Recommendations have been received and are currently being reviewed.
- Operational processes and procedures are being reviewed at the Mirani office to increase the value derived from Bank of Queensland and Q-Gap.
Community Development

- Support is being provided to a small group of local grandparents who are investigating the possible establishment of a program to support grandparents who have the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.
- Planning for the visit to Mackay by residents of our Sister City in Matsuura, Japan was well-advanced.

Multicultural LAMP


Youth Development

- The State Government through the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services has advised that existing funding contracts with Mackay Regional Council for the provision of youth services in Mirani and Sarina will be extended to September 2015. Negotiations for the continuation of funding beyond September 2015 will begin in 2015.
- Programs on offer at the Sarina Youth Centre have been revamped and teenagers’ only days on Tuesday and Thursdays are being trialled in order to focus more intently upon this target age group.

Arts Development

- A community forum was held on 23 June to inform council’s application to Artslink’s Animating Spaces funding program. 28 people attended the forum to discuss project and place ideas. The application will be submitted in July.
- A ‘Becoming Incorporated’ workshop was held with Paxton’s Creative Space group of artists to assist the group with further understanding management committee roles and the proposed association’s model rules.
- Advice and assistance was provided to the Mackay Conservation Group to organise and host an art exhibition of local artists’ work with an environmental theme.

Indigenous

- Support is being provided to George Street Neighbourhood Centre with the development of their Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).
- A series of events was held at various council venues during Reconciliation Action week to raise awareness of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan working group and their work toward the development of a RAP for Council.
- In conjunction with Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens, planning for the launch of the Torres Strait Islander garden and signage was progressed.

CAMS

- Support is being provided to Australian South Sea Islander organisations across the State to plan events to mark the 20th anniversary of Federal Government Recognition of the ASSI community. Currently the communities and events include:
  - Morning tea in Rockhampton – Tentative booking at Rockhampton ASSI Community Hall for 27/08/14
  - Family Day in Mackay to be held at the ASSI Lagoons Hut 24 August
The Townsville group are in the process of finalising their event.

### Inkind Assistance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Request</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eungella State School P&amp;C Association</td>
<td>Provision of 10 general waste bins for the school stall at the Finch Hatton Show.</td>
<td>$87.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay Rowing Club</td>
<td>Provision of 2 general and 2 recycling bins for a rowing regatta event held at Pleystowe.</td>
<td>$37.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haber Racing</td>
<td>Waiver of fees for park booking and dumping of septic waste and provision of 10 general waste and 10 recycle bins for the V8 Super Car street racing event.</td>
<td>$1673.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaforth Progress and Sport Association Inc</td>
<td>Provisions of 6 general waste and 6 recycle bins, loan of 40 star pickets, caps, 200m bunting and a star picket driver for a community day held in Seaforth.</td>
<td>$165.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army Cadet Unit</td>
<td>Loan of 6 yellow and black road closure barricades, 2 prepare to stop signs and 2 hand held stop/go signs for a training exercise.</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackay Power Cruise Club</td>
<td>Provision of 5 general waste and 4 recycle bins for the Show and Shine car show.</td>
<td>$110.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Marine Rescue Mackay</td>
<td>Provision of 6 general waste bins and loan of road closure signs, for the VMR open day.</td>
<td>$212.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scouts Australia Qld Branch</td>
<td>Assistance for the construction of a mudlark course at Rowallan Park.</td>
<td>$600.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eungella Community Development Assoc</td>
<td>Assistance with the removal of excess soil at the Eungella Hall.</td>
<td>$400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Libraries

Young People’s Services

- Events held to encourage early literacy in children and teens had a total of 1,790 in attendance compared to 1,120 from 2013.
- Mackay Regional Council Libraries attended the Baby Welcoming Ceremony at the Botanic Gardens on Sunday, June 1 where library programs and services were promoted.

Statistics

- New members 350
- Items loaned 54,710
- Visitors 26,832
- Public computers totalled 2,681 bookings and 2,076 hours of use, and a total of 825 hours of wifi was accessed. Assistive technology equipment was used for a total of 20 hours.
- 18 DiscoverIT classes held with 37 attendees.
- 82 requests received for Heritage collection enquiries, Inter-library loans and ask a librarian queries.
- Top 3 library website visits for the month of June:
  - Official stuff/Contact Us 697
  - Get Involved/For Kids/School Holiday Activities 291
  - eLibrary/eBooks 261
- Database hits including The Computer School, Who Else Writes Like, Who Next, Transparent Language Online and Literacy Planet totalled 323.
- Three library Book Club groups attracted 13 attendees.
Top 5 Reserved Titles in June

- Saving Mr. Banks - DVD
- Nightmare at Neerkol by Garnett B. Williams
- The fault in our stars by John Green
- The power of bones: from a troubled childhood to running a cattle station – one woman's heartbreaking but uplifting story of triumph by Keelen Mailman and Kristina Olsson
- The blue mile by Kim Kelly

Museums

- Meeting held with representatives from each of the four museums to discuss emerging issues and working toward a consistent approach to the management of all facilities.
- Workplace Health and Safety inspections were carried out at all museums during June.
- The regional Museum Development Officer from Museums Network Queensland facilitated two skills development workshops with museum volunteers.

Greenmount Homestead

- 400 school children visited Greenmount during June. The visits were to support the local history elements of their curriculum.
- Visitor Numbers: 62

Sport & Recreation

- The team is preparing an application for a one-off Get out, Get Active funding opportunity provided by the State Government. The objective of the grant is to provide enjoyable, accessible and affordable activities aimed at increasing sport and active recreation participation of women who are not physically active in the region. The team is developing a sustainable program with multiple activities for women that reach various areas in the Mackay region, including Northern Beaches, Sarina and the Pioneer Valley.
- The South Mackay Working Group held its third meeting in July. A sub-committee has developed a draft Terms of Reference, which has been circulated for feedback. The group has also agreed to share the dates and locations of events, to ensure better coordination. The events will be uploaded to Councils Event Calendar and Mackay Tourism’s events page.
- The ‘Active in the City’ program continues to be well-supported, with several activities scheduled for the June/July school holiday period, ranging from Zumba for kids to jewellery making workshops.

Artspace Mackay

- A new exhibition featuring local artist, Donna Maree Robinson, is planned in the Orientation Gallery, which involves projection and moving imagery.
- Preparations were well-advanced for the Festival event Rock Paper Scissors Art & Design Market.
- The Term 2 Kids Art Club was held and many children returned for holiday activities.
Visitors

2,125 people visited Artspace Mackay during June 2014 (including Town Hall)
2,489 people visited Artspace during June 2013 (including Town Hall)

Graph Overview from June 2013 – June 2014

New Exhibitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orientation Gallery</th>
<th>28th June – current</th>
<th>Donna Maree Robinson: Far away here</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Orientation Gallery

**Donna Maree Robinson: Far away here**

*Far away here* was inspired by a residency at Nes Listamidstod Artist Residency in Skagastrond, Iceland during the winter of 2013. Through immersive installations and manipulated photomedia the exhibition explores the ethereal nature of the Icelandic landscape and our human presence within it. Drawn from multiple source imagery the work blends fact with fiction and brings together the artist’s inner subconscious world of ideas with the perceived realities of the physical world.

Public Programs & Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3-8 June</th>
<th>Public art maquettes on display</th>
<th>Seminar room and foyer</th>
<th>150</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 June</td>
<td>Public art presentation</td>
<td>Artspace seminar room</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 June</td>
<td>Kids Art Club with Rosemary Payne</td>
<td>Artspace Seminar Room</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 June</td>
<td>School group tour – Holy Spirit</td>
<td>Main gallery, foyer gallery and seminar room</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Quantity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 June</td>
<td>Kids Art Club with Rosemary Payne</td>
<td>Artspace Seminar Room</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 June</td>
<td>Group tour – Blue care – aged care group with disabilities</td>
<td>McAleese Gallery and foyer gallery</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 June</td>
<td>Kids Art Club with Rosemary Payne</td>
<td>Artspace Seminar Room</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals participation for public programs for June > 235
Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre and Events

Management

- Completed community engagement and consultation regarding Stage 1 Public Art as part of Mackay City Centre redevelopment which saw all four short listed artists make public presentations while maquettes of the four short listed artworks were exhibited for comment.
- Judged Helpmann Awards, Australia’s Live Performance Awards, in two categories, Regional Touring Theatre and Children’s Theatre at the invitation of Live Performance Australia.
- Finalised Festival of Arts programme
- Assessed three Playing QLD funding applications for Arts QLD
- Completed several Playing Australia funding applications to secure funding for touring theatre shows in 2015/16

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

Overview

- The Centre finished a challenging year, meeting most KPIs. Centre staff curbed expenditure as best as possible and it is highly pleasing to report that the Centre has continued to maintain attendances and remain responsive and topical to hirers and audiences.
- Corporate / private hirers this month included Jehovah’s Witnesses, Deloitte Touche, Peabody Energy, Dept Housing & Public Works, Fabric and MAIN
- Performing Arts hires included Peppa Pig who delighted young audiences on her first visit to Mackay putting on three shows of Peppa Pig’s Treasure Hunt, One Night of Queen, a UK Queen tribute show, the Glenn Miller Orchestra and perennial favourites The Delltones.
- The Centre is now preparing for one of the largest events on the Mackay calendar, the Mackay Festival of Arts, which is promising to entertain audiences and bring the community together with a pleasing eclectic mixture of local and imported arts events.

Capital Program

- Most planned capital works have been completed, and work has commenced to advertise the tender for the Entertainment Centre’s new air conditioning system. Timing of the installation is critical as it must be completed over the annual Christmas closure to avoid impacts on the Centre’s business.

Entrepreneurial

- Five entrepreneurial performances were held this month. Boney M’s sold out performance delivered to the audience’s expectations, and a great night was had by all, a surplus was achieved. Similarly, Little Pattie who is always a favourite with the Morning Melodies audience received a great audience, and again a surplus was received. Wulyamanui and the Seven Pamanui, a Tiwi Islands pantomime put on to celebrate NAIDOC week received excellent feedback and was well supported by schools, again a surplus was achieved, thanks to funding received from both Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and BHP. The Thirteen Story Treehouse, another children’s production was well received by audiences, and the MECC was assisted with promotion by the ABC Shop and Mackay Regional Libraries. This production saw The Thirteen
Story Treehouse book sell out in Mackay in the lead up to the show, and it is always pleasing to see the MECC’s programs have the ability to effect popular culture in our region. A small subsidy was required to stage this performance. The Magic Hour, an indigenous piece of theatre currently touring QLD played to a small but appreciative audience. A subsidy was required to stage this performance.

Feedback

I had to write and say thank you for Boney M. I came home last night thinking I have just had the best time I have had for a long, long, time. Fantastic music, great company, and delicious food. We are really really lucky to have the MECC.

Audience member

Thanks for all this. You guys are currently our front runner in the number of town survey responses so well done. Every dealing we have with you is an absolute pleasure. Can’t wait to get to Mackay. You know we are spending our days off in your town don’t you? You’ve made such a positive impression.

Road Trip cast and crew
## Performance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># of Events</th>
<th># of Attendances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awards Evening</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurial</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2591</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wedding</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
<td><strong>7593</strong></td>
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</table>

As at JUNE 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Financial Indicators</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Year to date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Performances fully cost recovered</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum number of catered functions</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(excluding performances)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average attendance at shows</td>
<td>Auditorium 550</td>
<td>Auditorium 422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foyer/space 100</td>
<td>Foyer/space 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Halls 600</td>
<td>Halls 296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One Hall only 200</td>
<td>One Hall only 148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of non-utilised days</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Performances at the MECC</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearly occupancy of facility</td>
<td>173,890</td>
<td>170,771</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customer Hire Satisfaction</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### 3 Year Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Performances</td>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>External Ticket Sales</td>
<td>Performances</td>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>External Ticket Sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUL</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9,953</td>
<td>9,229</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>9,624</td>
<td>1,772</td>
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<td>AUG</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9,994</td>
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<td>12,812</td>
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<td>SEP</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td>9,286</td>
<td>902</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>22,513</td>
<td>4,262</td>
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<td>OCT</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>42,128</td>
<td>1,202</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>36,187</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOV</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22,024</td>
<td>1,700</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>22,661</td>
<td>1,163</td>
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<td>DEC</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>14,211</td>
<td>760</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9,260</td>
<td>352</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAN</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>13,162</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,783</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16,391</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15,558</td>
<td>5,437</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>10,825</td>
<td>1,408</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>7,507</td>
<td>2,350</td>
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<td>APR</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6,154</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>8,873</td>
<td>4,038</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9,050</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9,729</td>
<td>3,094</td>
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<tr>
<td>JUN</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7,593</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2,227</td>
<td>4,902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>170,771</td>
<td>18,682</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>158,734</td>
<td>32,007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Bookings for stalls at Wine & Food Day have increased from previous years, 2014 shows bookings of over 70 stall sites.
- Four busking sites were advertised for Wine & Food Day which were booked instantly. This is a great opportunity for emerging artists who aren’t quite ready for a stage production but have talent ready to showcase.
- Global Grooves community committee monthly meeting proved successful with the new layout for 2014 received well by all.
- Applications for performers at Global Grooves opened online.
Property Services

Management

- Facilitated the Indoor Health & Safety Committee Meeting
- Participated in the Program Managers Quarterly Innovation Forum
- Briefings to Council included Boundary Road Realignment Notices and Middle Creek Dam.

Project Technical Officer

- The Sarina Administration Building reception area has been refurbished to improve the work environment.
- Structural repairs to 20 failed steel columns under the Sarina Bob Wood Community Hall has been completed.
- The Botanic Gardens Café – Kitchen has been refurbished to meet legislative requirements in readiness for the new lessee.

Leases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Various locations</th>
<th>Three sites were advertised via tender 5th July for leasing. They include Sarina Band Hut, Old Rocky Waterholes Road Greenmount and Mount Bassett Cemetery Rd Mackay Harbour.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Mountain</td>
<td>Research and investigations held into existing leases due to expire in conjunction with boundary issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fencing Enquiries</td>
<td>Currently dealing with two enquiries. One property is in South Mackay, the other in Mount Pleasant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The program is currently dealing with 32 leases.

Land Dealings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bridge Rd, West Mackay</th>
<th>Negotiations with State to dedicate area for access and sewer main easements for connecting to the adjoining pump station site.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crebers Road, Devereux Creek</td>
<td>Negotiations with property owners to formalise road outside of gazetted road reserve.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Street, East Mackay</td>
<td>Negotiations with State to dedicate area of land for drainage easement.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Property Co-ordinations officer is currently dealing with 10 Road Realignments, 6 Land Acquisitions and 13 Easements.
Aquatic Facilities

Note on attendances:

Bluewater Lagoon closed late July and August (attendance in August reflect contractor attendance)

Memorial Swim Centre closed May 2014 (late April and May 2013)

Pioneer Swim Centre closed June, July August

Mirani Swim Centre closed May, June, July and August

Sarina Swim Centre closed June, July and August 2014 (May, June, July and August 2013)
Corporate Communications and Marketing

Management

- Interviews conducted for replacement of Website PR position. Replacement to be finalised shortly.
- Several movements within the Program due to recent resignation of Communications Coordinator. Interviews for this position being held in July.
- Finalised council's branding for QME to be held in July.
- Finalised Budget communication material and Budget Kit for Budget Day.

Website

Visit's to Council’s Websites – June 2014

We had 44,481 visits for the month with most spending an average of about 3 minutes on the council website. Another strong month recorded by the MECC.

Website visits for June 2014

Facebook

Fans: 6637 – increase of 92 likes from previous month

Twitter

Followers: 985 (up from 950 last month)

YouTube

Video views: 630

Registered over 200 views of the June Council Connect TVC. This featured the Festival of Arts and council's general promotion of events. The specially produced Budget video also recorded 53 views during late June-early July.
General

- Festival of Arts media campaign launched during June. All branding, marketing and design production done in-house by Corporate Communications staff.

Example of Daily Mercury print advertisement for Festival of Arts

- Assistance provided to prepare publicity materials for Diversify Mackay Leadership Alliance
- Produced marketing collateral and communication material for Budget 2014 – theme Council Delivers Personal Best.
Finalised Marketing campaign for Active Towns 2014.

Hosted Citizenship Ceremony at the MECC.

Produced 4-page feature on Mackay for the Mining Advocate newspaper to coincide with arrival of QME.

Produced special booth skin for QME.

Finalised Developer Book to promote how the city is keen to attract investment and is open for business.
Parks and Environment

Management

- Attendance at Street Tree Workshop to commence review of tree requirements in residential subdivisions and associated processes between Council and developers for the provision and maintenance of trees during both construction and hand over periods.
- Provided tour of the city and Parks & Environment major assets to prospective candidate for the Operational Forward Parks Planner position who commences on 11 August.
- Attended meeting at Sarina Beach with members of the Sarina Beach Progress Association to review current playground equipment and discuss future plans that the association have for seeking funding to add additional equipment to the playground.

Parks Building Services Activities

Electrical Operations

Items dealt with, during June reporting period, by the Parks Electrical Team include the following.

- Asbestos pit inspections on DTMR and MRC traffic light installations and providing access instructions to identified pits. Together with this, seven asbestos pits were removed and replaced to facilitate detector loop installation.
- Installation of street light and associated circuitry at the Seaforth boat ramp has been completed.
- Traffic light works included four emergency responses, eleven maintenance visits, twenty five lamp replacements and three after hours pole lowering for oversize vehicles.
- Parks and other electrical work included five electrical repairs in parks, three amenity repairs and three site hut disconnections.
- Statutory testing and tagging of electrical items were completed in four council team areas.

Public Amenities

- Sharps containers were replaced at Seaview Park amenities.
- Graffiti cleaned/ repainted in Norris Rd, Iluka Park and Schaefer St amenities.
- Fire damage cleaned and repainted at Wilson Park amenities, Celeber Drive.
- Seats and doors repaired/ replaced at Eungella amenities and paint work touched up at Eungella and Finch Hatton amenities, a full repaint will be programmed in the coming months.

Park Furniture

- Vandalised stainless steel barbeque top and hot plate repaired at Grendon Park, Salonika Beach
- Picnic settings were repaired at Seaview Park and Quota Park.
- Staff have continued installing child safety signs in playgrounds around the region, 75 of the 125 signs have been installed to date.
Other Work Completed – City Heart, Bluewater Quay and Bluewater Trail

- 15,000 Sqm of concrete and path cleaned with blower.
- 5,000 Sqm of concrete and path cleaned with high pressure water cleaner.
- 18 furniture repairs to seats, table, bins, walkways etc.
- 23 Umbrella cleans.

Capital Works – In progress

- Edward Lloyd Park Marian - Picnic facilities and play equipment.
- Dog Off Leash Park Stage 2 – installation of picnic shelter and dog agility equipment.
- Shade Sail Restoration – Repairs and resizing of playground shade sails.
Capital Works Projects Completed

**Stage One - Dog Off Leash Park, Willis Street**

Stage one of the Dog Off Leash Area, Willis Street North Mackay, has been completed. Works involved connection of water supply to the site, earthworks, fence installation, concrete path construction, installation of a dog friendly drinking fountain, two park bench seats and signage.

Stage two will involve the addition of a picnic shelter and dog agility equipment and is expected to be completed by 30th August.

Cemeteries

**Burials/Ashes in Mackay Region**

![Graph showing burials and ashes over time]
Administration - Parks Bookings

Grass Maintenance Activities
Horticulture

Plants Grown in the Nursery and Planted out by Horticulture Staff:
140mm Plants – 486
Larger Plants – 47

Natural Environment and Marine Beach Activities

Coastcare Activities
- Two Coastcare community activities were held during the period including working bees at Blacks Beach Spit and Eimeo Creek

School Activities
- Finch Hatton State School students visited Wetland Walkabout to learn about wetland ecosystems

Natural Environment Plan Implementation – Priority Projects for 2013/14

Coastal Priority Projects
- Contractors have completed weed control work at Blacks Beach Spit, the track markers are ready to be installed and the interpretive signage is in development
- All other coastal priority projects for the financial year have been completed except for weed control in the Keeleys Rd Wetland and Slade Point Reserve wetland areas which will be completed shortly.

Waterways Priority Projects
- Contracts have been issued for the Blackrock Creek fishway construction project. The fishways prioritisation plan is currently being finalised and quotes have been received for a fishways monitoring program
- Sandringham Lagoon project has been completed and project fact sheet has been developed for distribution
Plains and Ranges Priority Projects

- DeMoleyns Lagoon management plan is being prepared

Field Team Activities (Habitat Restoration Team, Sarina and Mackay Beach Teams)

- Weed control has been undertaken at Plane Creek, Blackwood lookout, Sarina Beach, Louisa Creek, Campwin Beach, Blacks Beach, Slade Point, Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve, McCreadys Creek Reserve and aquatic weeds were sprayed at the Gooseponds
- Revegetation and revegetation maintenance activities have been undertaken at Hay Point, Salonika Beach, Grendon Park, Armstrongs Beach, Blacks Beach, Bucasia Beach and Far Beach
- Trees were trimmed over walkways at Campwin Beach, Plane Creek, Sandfly Creek Environmental Reserve and Slade Point Reserve
- Walkway and fence maintenance was undertaken at Half Tide Beach, Grasstree Beach, Armstrongs Beach, Campwin Beach, Louisa Creek, Salonika, Sarina Beach and Slade Point Reserve
- 60m of fencing was replaced at Grasstree Beach and walking paths were resurfaced at Plane Creek

Environmental Ranger Activities

- Waste dumping – letters sent to properties in John Oxley Ave, Leister Crt, Palm St and investigating rubbish dumping in McCready’s Creek area
- Illegal structures – letter sent to property in Abel Tasman Crt, and investigating items stored on council land from property on Melba St
- Illegal access and camping – notice to move on issued to camper in Blacks Beach Spit, warning notices issued to four vehicles driving on Shoal Point Beach, two notices issued to vehicles seen driving on council land off Warilla View and one vehicle involved in sand removal from Binnington Esplanade area
- Illegal clearing – investigation of illegal clearing of Miran Khan Drive and Melba St
- Protruding vegetation – compliance notices issued to 11 properties

Other Projects

- Capital Beach Signage project – all signs have been delivered and staff are currently installing the signs at either end of each beach access track.
- Staff manned the council stall at the Sustainability Expo at the showgrounds.
Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens

Horticultural and Site Works

This June, planting bees included:

- Timber Tree Arboretum - mixed species trees including Red Cedar *Toona ciliata* ranging from tube stock to 200mm pots – 73
- Australian Vetiver Grass *Chrysopogon filipes* – as bank stabilisers - 200
- Buffer Forest – including Mackay Cedar *Falcataria* (syn. *Paraserianthes* toona) - 7
- Flora for Fauna – Golden Everlasting Daisy *Xerochrysum bracteatum* tubes - 25. This was the last of the ‘annual’ plantings that saw almost 1,500 local native daisies added to the Living Collection in 2014.
- Additional planting in the Eungella Cloud and Tropical Shade Gardens - 15 plants
- Torres Strait Island Garden – advanced Dwarf Coconuts *Cocos nucifera*, Sweet Potato *Ipomoea batatas*. Hibiscus cultivars *Hibiscus* sp, - 15,

Total of 335 new plants this month
Community Engagement

- Friends of the Gardens joined by botanic gardens staff and members of the community (including whole families with children), working as a well-rehearsed team to plant 73 timber trees in straight lines, reminiscent of forest plots.
- The Curator was joined by Society for Growing Australian Plant, Mackay Branch (SGAP Mackay) members for working bee at the Regional Forests on June 28 adding final plantings to the Koumala Range bed. The native Fishbone Fern *Nephrolepis obliterata* and Sweet Morinda *Morinda jasminoides* - both originally collected from the range were planted.
- The Low Vision group made their annual visit to the Botanic Gardens on June 26 and were introduced to seed shapes, textures, seed dispersal and even cloves had the group guessing as to the familiar scent.
- Ross Kendall from ‘Butterfly Encounters’ in Brisbane attended the Garden Friends’ Annual General Meeting as the guest speaker for the evening event. His presentation was “Attracting Butterflies to your Gardens”. The Garden Friends sponsored the flight, screens for the Friends’ Marquee to house the butterflies in as a special event for Small Explorers and for a lucky school group who attended on the same day.

Education in the Botanic Gardens - Plant-ed

- 3 Prep classes from St Francis Catholic School (totalling 68 children plus accompanying adults and teachers) visited over three days June 3, 4 and 5.
- Gardening, creatures and habitats were the interests of the 38 Prep aged MacKillop Catholic School children visiting on Wednesday June 11 after their previous school tour booking was postponed because of rain and enjoyed the treat of butterfly encounters.
- On Friday 13 June, 25 children from Mackay’s (Bridge Road) Good Start Early Learning centre visited.
- Good Start Early Learning centre in Walkerston were visited via the Planted-Elsewhere outreach program on Tuesday 17 June. Seed related stories were read and helped children realise there are many seeds in common fruits and vegetables.
- Eimeo Prep classes visited on Monday 23 and another group on Friday 27 June with over 40 children each visit.
Ten Kindergarten teachers associated with Lady Gowrie Centres, attended a special presentation and guided walk with the Visitor Services Officer on June 26. They explored different plants that were used by indigenous peoples for food.

Botanic Gardens eNewsletter subscribers

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Comments
- Subscribers continue to climb with 847 registered to receive the monthly eNewsletter.

Botanic Gardens Website visits

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Comments
- Website visits fluctuated down with 816 individuals visiting the www.mackayregionalbotanicgardens.com.au website. Top 3 pages visited were:
  1. /events/school_holidays_activities > 175 (7.15%)
  2. /functionsbookings/weddings > 149 (6.08%)
  3. /photo_gallery > 120(4.90%)