

16 May 2012

News Release > Council and the community have wonderful 'friends'

THE biggest donation in the 25 year history of the Friends of the MECC has added special significance to this week's celebration of National Volunteer Week (NVW) from May 14 to 20.

A \$52,000 donation will allow the Entertainment and Convention Centre to purchase digital radio microphones to replace the outdated analogue equipment.

Mayor of Mackay Regional Council, Cr Deirdre Comerford said the generosity and tireless effort of volunteers such as the Friends of the MECC provided enormous benefits to council and the wider community.

"We are thankful to have so many dedicated helpers that donate their time and energy voluntarily to council and the community," Cr Comerford said.

"This week's significant contribution is a tangible example of local residents helping local groups," she said.

Over the past 12 months, the MECC has had to prepare for the phasing out of analogue frequencies, and as a result every television set at the MECC has had to be replaced, along with other equipment such as lighting and sound being replaced at a considerable cost.

Convention Precinct and Events Manager, Mark Fawcett said with radio microphones being used for nearly every event at the Centre, it is critical to have the digital versions before the analogue frequency becomes redundant.

"The Friends of the MECC fundraised tirelessly and put in a mammoth effort at events such as ice skating, theatre shows and the like to raise the required \$52,000 for the purchase," Mr Fawcett said.

Cr Comerford went on to say the Friends passion to keep the Centre as one of the best equipped venues in Australia demonstrated what an amazing group of people they are.

This impressive gesture, exemplifies this year's NVW theme "Every One Counts", each and every helping hand is important in shaping the future of our region.

Over the past few years, council has been proactive in recognising our volunteers during NVW, and this year, have offered in excess of 400 helpers the opportunity to attend a preview performance of the Mackay Musical Comedy Player's Production, The Sound of Music tonight at the MECC.

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Where possible council likes to ensure that our volunteers are reminded that their hard work and efforts don't go unnoticed, not only by council but by our residents and visitors to the region.

“Although the volunteers don't expect the kind gesture of appreciation, they are most humbled and honoured to be thanked for their efforts,” she said.

Mackay Regional Council is continually looking for volunteers to come on board with a number of facilities or activities, for more information phone 1300 MACKAY (622 529) or log onto www.mackay.qld.gov.au.

For further assistance/comment:

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