

COMMUNITY SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES REPORT – MONTH ENDING AUGUST 2010

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Purpose

To review Community Services Department highlights and significant issues for the month ending August 2010

Background and Discussion

Highlights and Significant Issues for August 2010 are as follows: -

COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGEMENT

- Attended Enterprise Risk management Committee Meeting
- NQ Sports Bursary winners presentation
- Aquatics Strategy, Condition Audit and Open Space Sport and Recreation briefings held
- Discussions held with Hotel Prospectus Consultant
- City Focus Advisory, LGEG, Sarina Sugar Shed, Corporate Projects, Asset Management, Rural Affairs, LAMP, Public and Community Transport and Coal to Coast Committee meetings attended
- Discussions held with the Electrical Credit Union regarding future plans for the Gordon Street Ergon building
- Festival of Arts debrief held
- Discussions held with CQU regarding future partnerships and potential MOU
- Coal to Coast launch attended at Sarina markets
- Attended mentoring workshop
- LGAQ Conference

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LIBRARIES

Management

- 2 – day Customer Service training workshops held for all library staff
- Completed State Government Community Engagement Return
- Attended HR E-Performance demonstration
- Hosting of Japanese students
- Finalised SLQ Annual Statistical Return and Service Agreement
- Populated [www.connectingmackay](http://www.connectingmackay.com), Council's new Community Engagement website
- Attended mentoring workshop
- Conducted FISH workshop with IT staff
- Recruited 2 teams for Rural Management Challenge

Community Development

A schedule of training for volunteers will be rolled out to assist volunteers in the region to meet their organisations aims and objectives. Free training on offer includes – How to Attract the Media, Effective Meetings, Safe Food Handling, Mackay Regional Council Grants and In kind Assistance, Engaging Youth in Volunteering for your Organisation and Regional Arts Development Fund. Contact for this training is Council's Community Projects Officer.

The Sarina Beaches Bus Scheme will add an additional stop during the September school holidays. The additional stop will enable Sarina Beaches residents to access the Blue Water Lagoon and is being trialled in an attempt to increase the usage of the Sarina Beaches Bus Service.

Sarina Transport Fact Sheet – A fact sheet has been developed highlighting all available transport in the Sarina region. Once finalised, it will be distributed to all residents in Sarina and surrounding areas. It is intended a fact sheet will be developed for each area of the region.

Crime Prevention and Community Safety Conference – The Community Projects Officer attended the Crime Prevention and Community Safety Conference in Ayr on 26th and 27th August.

Sarina Childhood Injury Prevention (Chip) Group have organised free CPR training for residents in Sarina. This training provides attendees with basic instructions on performing CPR. The training will be held in the Sarina Cultural Hall on Wednesday, 29 September 2010.

Support has been provided to the Walkerston Neighbourhood Centre group to undertake a bus tour of the Pioneer Valley during Senior's Week. The group of 50 local residents, including members from CALD and ATSI backgrounds participated in the event. Many of those participating did not have own transport and found the tour a great opportunity to explore the region. The group visited Greenmount Homestead, Melba House, Badilla Art Gallery as well as stopping in for a famous Pinnacle Pie.

Due to poor response the Valley District Youth Council has cancelled the Talent Quest planned for September. The group is now focusing on the next major Youth Theatrical Production to be held in Youth Week 2011 (April 2 – 10).

Youth Development team leader has assisted Queensland Transport to deliver "Youth Drive Alive" sessions in three local high schools (Holy Spirit, St. Pats and Mackay North High)

The MAD (Making a Difference) Committee are in the final stages of planning for MAD Monday to be held in the grounds of the Mackay Regional Council Administration building /Senior Citizens Centre – Monday 20 September.

Arts Development Officer along with RADF Committee members: Ron Ailwood & Wanda Bennett attended the Junction 2010 Regional Arts Australia Conference in Launceston Tasmania.

Art Is In Calendar of the Arts Issue #45 printed and distributed.

Creative Mackay Ebulletin distributed and posted on line.

Round 1 of the Regional Arts Development Fund 2010/2011 closed on 18 August with 5 applications received to the value of \$29,097.90.

Partie D'Artiste, Art Is In Regional Arts Awards were held on 21 August in the north Foyer of the MECC. Approximately 150 people attended and were treated to performances by "PopEyed" and roving local performers. The event was documented by local photographers and three local artists were commissioned to create banners for the event. Those in attendance learnt about Digital Odyssey, a Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) Sydney Regional Touring project from guest artist Craig Walsh.



Libraries

- Young People's Services

August has proven to be an extremely popular month with high numbers across all programs and special events. Early August we hosted Australian children's author and illustrator Kim Toft across 4 branches who had audiences in awe with her beautiful demonstrations of silk screen art and interactive sessions.

Our annual GOAL (Grade One's at the Library) project also occurred this month with staff visiting 4 classes of students at Mackay West State School for a storytelling session and the handing out of new membership cards. This project is an element of our Productive Partnerships initiative with the school.

Children's Book Week was very successful again this year particularly with special events Picnic in the Park (Mackay City) and Walkerston Street Parade. Staff visited local day care centres and schools at Walkerston conducting sessions to all age groups, as well school visits were conducted each day for a 2 week period at Walkerston Library.

Current year participation

Event	Previous year	Current year
Storytime	1089	1236
Baby Bounce	302	187
General school visits	203	115
Kim Toft Author visit		520
Children's Book Week		
visitors for class visits in Walkerston Library	723	673
students were visited in	193	160

schools/ daycares for Book Week		
Picnic in the Park	116	130
Walkerston Street Parade (Approximately)	800	900

- Community Services

Community Services staff were kept busy, and entertained, during Seniors Week (16-20 August) this year with the *Generation to Generation Oral Histories Project*. Thirteen senior library members took advantage of the offer to become familiar with Audacity, freely available and downloadable recording software, and record 30 minutes of oral history for their families.

The recordings were placed on discs and given to participants. The discs can then be played on any device (PC, CD or DVD player). The object of the project was to introduce participants (or their families) to the technology, so as they may continue to record further stories. This was not a formal oral histories project as often promoted by the National Library of Australia or State Libraries for example, but proved to be a good testing ground for possible future projects of this kind.

There is definite scope and a high degree of interest from the community at large to repeat the project, or something of a similar nature, for future Senior activities.

- Statistics

Home Library Service Statistics	Library Branch		
	Gordon White	Mackay City	Sarina
Assistive Technology Computer	15	35	0
Home Library customers	55	105	15
Bulk Loans	2	1	
Phone calls	14	15	3
Reservations	55	32	12
Kilometres travelled by FOML	54.1	40	10
Number of items loaned	645	565	130

Computer Use and Classes	Previous year	Current year
DiscoverIT Classes (participants)	71	59
Public Computers - Users	2075	2359
Public Computers – Bookings	3265	3488
Public Computers – Express Computers	1103	1142
Public Computers – Wireless (hrs)	202.5	315.5

Information Requests	Previous year	Current year
Ask a Librarian Queries	7	15

Top Website Visits	Previous year	Current year
Total Website Visits	15950	15832
Website Visits - Home	9083	11311
Website Visits - Catalogue	2327	Not avail.
Website Visits - Locations & Hours	445	667
Website Visit - Online Resources	607	740
Website Visits – Ask the Library	133	380

Website Visits – Services for Children & Young People	145	256
Website Visits – Joining & Borrowing	349	305
Website Visits – Technology & Training	154	225
Website Visits – Heritage Collections	200	302
Website Visits – Technology and Training	187	225

Database Visits	Previous year	Current year
Databases - EBO	479	1113
Databases - Newsbank	46	6
Databases - EBSCO Host	23	85
Databases - Thompson Gale	4	18
Databases - Your Tutor	47	69

Computer Requests	Previous year	Current year
Computer Support Requests – Mackay City Library	0	5
Computer Support Requests – Gordon White Library	2	3

Interlibrary Loan Requests	Previous year	Current year
Requests made (from customers)	116	151
Requests received (from other libraries)	184	54

- Heritage Collection

Heritage Collection staff attended a digital story workshop conducted by State Library of Queensland at Thuringowa Library. Digital stories are short (2-4 min) videos that tell a story around one central topic and can include video, narration, sound, music and images. The focus is of telling the story from your perspective.

As part of the workshop, Heritage Collection staff learnt what is involved with creating digital stories including writing a script, preparing media (images, sound, video), recording a narrative, laying out and editing stories and producing a final version. It is hoped that a similar workshop may be conducted in Mackay by SLQ or possibly Heritage Collection staff so that future digital story projects can be undertaken. It is envisioned that this kind of project would attract considerable interest.

Heritage Collection Room	
Total Users	77
Research Enquiries * up to 1 hr research required	4
Microfilm Reader Bookings	57

- Membership and loan statistics

New members

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	131	150
Mackay City Library	254	183
Mirani Library	15	20
Mobile Library	17	29
Sarina Library	46	41
Walkerston Library	25	35

Loans

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	27366	27503
Mackay City Library	29868	30593
Mirani Library	2593	3045
Mobile Library	3921	2723
Sarina Library	4416	5028
Walkerston Library	2296	2723

Visitors

Library Branch	Previous Year	Current Year
Gordon White Library	11987	12580
Mackay City Library	13197	12278
Mirani Library	NA	1803
Mobile Library	NA	NA
Sarina Library	3151	4170
Walkerston Library	NA	NA

- Mobile Library

Norell Binsiar, Library Assistant – Cultural Services has completed training in and has been issued with a HR Motor Vehicle Licence. Further training will be undertaken to obtain the HC Motor Vehicle Licence endorsement for use on the mobile library.

Several Schools which are visited by the mobile library have been involved in sporting and other events and excursions during August. This will have an impact on the mobile library loans.

Museums

Pioneer Valley Museum at Mirani

- 105 visitors in August – a good month
- Three Friends attended a two-day Disaster Preparedness Workshop conducted by Museums Queensland
- MDO Bronwyn Roper visited with advice offered on the reorganisation of the Military Cabinet display
- Project meeting held – attended by Cr. Karen May
- Friends plan to participate in the Pioneer Valley Tourism and Development Association's "Spring Event on 10th October
- Planning underway to celebrate the centenary of the 1911 Sugar Workers Strike next year.

RECREATION SERVICES

Management / Sport and Recreation

- Representatives of Council's Recreation and Corporate Communications programs continued planning activities for a celebration event regarding the new section of the Bluewater Trail to be held on September 5.
- Community Development Coordinator delivered a successful Community Grants information session on behalf of Recreation Services for sport and recreation clubs on Tuesday 3 August. 18 different sporting clubs were represented.
- Sport and Recreation Officer attended the Mackay Physical Activity Reference Group meeting on Thursday 5 August, this being her first meeting in the role of Chairman. Health, Sport and Recreation Portfolio Councillor also attended. There were nine representatives present from relevant organisations and relevant information was shared about upcoming physical activity projects in the area.
- Sports and Recreation Officer attended the Health & Wellbeing Committee meeting. It was confirmed that Recreation Services will be having a stand at this year's Council Health Expo on September 9.
- Sports and Recreation Officer's Tai Chi classes finally got underway, with 15 attendees over the classes held so far. Positive feedback has been received and the group is looking forward to carrying on with the training.
- The draft Aquatics Strategy was presented to Councillors in a briefing on August 4, whilst the draft Sarina Indoor Sports Centre Feasibility Study and draft Open Space, Sports & Recreation Strategy were presented on August 11. The Steering Committee for the Open Space, Sports & Recreation Strategy met to further discuss the draft strategies on Monday 23 August.
- Manager Recreation Services, Sports & Recreation Officer and Health Sport and Recreation Portfolio Councillor met with representatives of Australian Sports Commission (ASC) - 'Active After School Communities Program' and Mackay PCYC to continue discussions in regards to the 2011 Mackay Sports Expo/Sign-On Day event, including the submission of a application to Council's Community Grants.
- Manager Recreation Services and Sports & Recreation Officer attended the 'Active, Healthy Communities' Workshop held at the MECC on Thursday 19 August along with others from various Council departments involved in the planning of the Mackay region. The workshop was about implementing physical activity and healthy eating strategies into Councils future strategic plans.
- Sports & Recreation Officer attended the Transport Working Group Committee meeting. The group focused on increasing the number of Council staff involved in the upcoming "Bicycle Week" in October.

Key Sport & Recreation Club Communications

- Sports and Recreation Officer met with a representative of the Volunteer Hub, a new branch of the Mackay Regional Council for Social Development (MRCSD) involved in helping organisations/clubs find volunteers and to find volunteering opportunities for individuals looking to help out. This information was then forwarded onto the distribution list of sport and recreation clubs.
- Sports and Recreation Officer met with Mackay Fibre Arts group, who are based in Pitkin Street, Walkerston to discuss their current leasing issues.
- Sports and Recreation Officer and Health Sport and Recreation Portfolio Councillor met with representatives of the Sarina Senior Rugby League Club to discuss their intentions to upgrade their toilet facilities on their grounds in Brewers Park.

North Queensland Sports Foundation

- The BHP Billiton Cannington Mine North Queensland Sports Foundation Sports Bursaries were awarded to Shannon Willet (Futsal) and Lauren Blank (Golf) at a Council Morning Tea

on August 4. The girls were awarded \$500 and an embroidered sports jacket, presented by Health Sport and Recreation Portfolio Councillor and the Mayor.

- Sports and Recreation Officer visited Calen School on Friday 13 August as part of the Southern North Queensland Sports Education Tour. Councils of the North Queensland Sports Foundation (NQSF) and Sport & Recreation Queensland were delighted to be providing children from remote and regional areas the opportunity to participate in a range of sporting activities. The Southern North Tour visited schools in Koumala, Sarina, Mirani, Seaforth, Calen, St Catherine's in Proserpine, Cannonvale, Bowen, Collinsville and Queen's Beach.

Media / PR

- A media release was developed for the symbolic hand-over of the all-terrain wheelchair. Port of Mackay Rotary donated the all-terrain wheelchair to Council in a ceremony held on Friday 6 August at the Bluewater Lagoon. Local media covered the event.
- Lauren Blank, 15, and Shannon Willett, 16, received \$500 towards furthering their sporting careers and a specially embroidered tracksuit jacket, thanks to the North Queensland Sports Foundation, BHP Billiton Cannington Mine and Mackay Regional Council.
 - Lauren's achievements for 2010 include taking out the titles of Mackay Golf Club Ladies B Grade and Junior Club Champion as well as the Glenden B Grade Ladies Champion. She intends to use her bursary to help pay for coaching lessons and travel assistance to attend events held mainly in Southern Queensland.
 - Shannon is extremely passionate about Futsal and has represented Mackay Open Women's Futsal at a local and state level and is soon to compete at a national level. The bursary will help with travelling expenses for when she travels to Brazil to represent Australia in the Youth Girls Team later this year.
- Relevant Council representatives and Manager Recreation Services attended a media conference involving Mike Brunner (Candidate for the seat of Dawson) and Minister Tanya Plibersek MP Minister for Housing; Minister for the Status of Women at the Mackay Basketball stadium. Outcome: A re-elected Labor Government would provide \$6million towards the redevelopment of Candlestick Park.
- The new Bluewater Lagoon billboard images were installed on August 16 (northbound and southbound on the Bruce Highway).
- Queensland Tourism representatives took photos of models at the Bluewater Lagoon for promotional purposes.
- Local media published/covered news:
 - Sportstar Awards
 - Comment regarding the Bluewater Lagoon, stating that it is the region's best tourist attraction
 - Local print media published several articles regarding the re-opening of the Bluewater Lagoon
 - Recent achievements of Ashleigh Stebbeings (North Qld Sportstar of the Year) at the recent Barefoot Water Skiing World Titles held in Germany.
 - Progress of the new stadium.
 - Launch of the Bluewater Trail scheduled for 5 September (Father's Day) between 8am and 11am (including radio commercials)

Aquatic Facilities

Bluewater Lagoon

- The facility re-opened on Monday 16 August for the start of the facility's 2010/2011 swimming season.
- The trial opening hours of the waterslide and upper lagoon commenced on Monday 16 August.
- The following maintenance activities were successfully undertaken during August:
 - Replacement of expansion joints located in the upper lagoon
 - Planting a variety of new plants by Council's Parks & Environment teams
 - Resealing of the facility's timber seats/tables and benches

- Repair of pool lights
- Leveling of height signs for interactive waterplay area and waterslide
- Replacement of poolside spill gates
- Resurfacing of flooring in male and female amenities
- Aeration and selective top dressing of grass areas
- The cracks on the upper pool deck were cut out and re-concreted
- Repair of timber boardwalk located between middle and lower lagoons
- Repainting of upper board walk
- Resurfacing of plant room floors
- Stencilling of “caution shallow water” (100mm yellow) text near beach entry points
- Completion of electrical testing and tagging
- Widening of the emergency exit gate located on the eastern side of the facility
- Installation of new donation boxes
- Installation of “No Diving” and “No Running” signs near entrance of the facility
- Repair of irrigation lines
- Modification of chlorine dosing pumps intake line to reduce air blockages

Memorial Pool

- Key bookings : 5 x Water Polo training sessions
 6 x community group booking
- New staff uniforms were designed and implemented.
- Fire evacuation training was held on Friday 6 August.
- Installation of new car parking signage displaying “Pool Patrons Only”.
- Shade structures were realigned.
- Staff planted new plants /shrubs.
- Completion of staff lifeguard (refresher) training conducted by Pool Star Pty Ltd.

Pioneer Pool

- The facility is closed for annual maintenance/winter break until September (the start of the facility’s 2010/2011 swimming season).
- Painting of male and female amenities.
- Electrical connection of new BBQ (now fully operational).
- Painting of the main shade sail supports has been completed.
- Work on the ‘club house’ is progressing well and is anticipated to be completed by mid September.
- A pre-season Learn-to-Swim (LTS) Teachers meeting was held.
- Program branding for the LTS school section of the aquatic facilities was completed. This branding is to be used for promotion with national bodies and recognition of the swim school locally.
- 2nd round of externally funded multi-cultural swim lessons commenced with information session, followed by classes in the water. 15 participants are entered in this session.
- New swimming platforms were built to cater for the growing demand in the LTS program
- RLSS supplied the LTS program with Swim & Survive packs which will be utilised in the schools swimming program.
- Five (5) school group booking for the Swim & Survive program have been received for term 4, with one very large school group, Eimeo Road State School, now enrolled in Council’s program.
- Adult Swim for Fitness sessions resumed after the winter break with excellent numbers and a definite growth compared with the same time last year.
- Orca Squad has seen a dramatic growth since the same period last year with dry land and water training now incorporated into the program.
- Planning is well under way for Mackay’s second annual “Big Splash” scheduled for 29 January 2011.

- Further Austswim courses have been scheduled to be held in October 2010. Mackay is now one of the leaders in providing these courses in regional Queensland.

Mirani Pool

- The facility is closed for annual maintenance/winter break until October.
- Contractors removed damaged trees.
- Contractors commenced installing new hypochlorite and acid systems.
- The tender specification was reviewed and amended. The tender is scheduled to be advertised on September 11.

Sarina Pool

- The facility is closed for annual maintenance/winter break until October.
- Staff installed new signage and completed all painting activities.
- The main circulation pump was replaced with a new pump.
- The dosing line has been replaced.

The following customers have attended the Aquatic Facilities for August 2010:

Bluewater Lagoon*

Type of Customer	Bluewater Lagoon August 2009 (closed)	Bluewater Lagoon August 2010
Children's Lagoon	0	844
Middle Lagoon	0	1,166
Upper Lagoon	0	546
TOTAL IN WATER CUSTOMERS	0	2,556
TOTAL PRECINCT (non-swimmers)	0	3,528
GRAND TOTAL	0	6,084

* Source: Lifeguard Statistics - Monthly Reports August 2010 - Visitations PDF by Surf Lifesaving Queensland (SLSQ)

Memorial Pool**

Type of Customer	Memorial Pool August 2009	Memorial Pool August 2010
Persons 15 years or older	1,400	736
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	581	186
Pensioner	52	80
TOTAL	2,033	1,002
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)	120	79
Total Kiosk Revenue	\$3,127.20	\$1,387.00

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Pioneer Pool**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool August 2009	Pioneer Pool August 2010
Persons 15 years or older	Closed for Annual Maintenance	Closed for Annual Maintenance
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years		
Pensioner		
TOTAL		
Multi Visit Pass (persons 15 years or older)		
Total Kiosk Revenue		

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

Mirani Pool***

Type of Customer	Mirani Pool August 2009	Mirani Pool August 2010
Persons 15 years or older	Closed for Annual Maintenance	Closed for Annual Maintenance
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years		
Pensioner		
TOTAL		

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

Sarina Pool****

Type of Customer	Sarina Pool August 2009	Sarina Pool August 2010
Persons 15 years or older	15	Closed for Annual Maintenance
Children from 3 years to persons under 15 years	35	
Pensioner	0	
TOTAL	50	

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

Revenue Received:**

Type of Customer	Pioneer Pool		Memorial Pool	
	August 2009	August 2010	August 2009	August 2010
Actual Gate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,459.00	\$6,249.50
Season Tickets	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,715.00	\$2,860.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,214.20	\$1,593.60
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$17,388.20	\$10,703.10
Multi-visit pass sales component of Actual Gate	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	\$2,370.00

** Source: Monthly Reconciliation Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel)

PROPERTY SERVICES

Management

- Attended meetings of the Sarina Sugar Shed, BESW, Bedford Road Operational Managers Group, Paget Depot Project Management Group and Steering Committees.
- On site inspection of the Marian Hall with representatives from the Hall Committee to ascertain the structural and operational condition of the Hall.
- Attended meetings to discuss lease amendments with the Mackay Amateur Basketball Association – decrease in size of land to accommodate roadworks for the new Sporting Stadium, Nanyima aged peoples hostel in Mirani – negotiation on lease fee for Community Housing land, Electrical Credit Union – discussion on future use of the Ergon Energy building and Habana & District Progress Association – discussion on establishing a lease over a portion of Habana Park.
- Participated in group meetings to discuss Native Title issues and Asset Management software.

Property Services

- Program staff have dedicated significant time and resources to the Paget Depot Project through attendance at all relevant Project Management Meetings and facilitating the preparation of office layout and furniture fitout plans, plant and equipment parking and storage allocations through a consultative process with Paget Depot Operational Program Managers.
- The Paget Depot Logistics and Change Management Plan is very comprehensive and Property Services staff have developed the document which will be further enhanced with the Paget Depot Project Team and Depot Managers. Significant work has gone into addressing Business Continuity and Relocation issues.
- Unit 23a MacArthur Street, Mackay was refurbished in preparation for new tenant. Freshly painted throughout. New carpet, new bathroom vinyl, new light fittings and tap-ware.
- Refurbishment of Council House at Mirani Depot is 80% complete. New carpet and window coverings to complete project.
- Lagoons Meeting Hut. Lift up wing doors were all fitted with gas struts to ensure safe operation
- Property Services Maintenance Officers actioned 131 Maintenance requests in August.
- A full storage audit of Bedford Road and Ness Street Depots and Offices is being undertaken in September and this will include storage mapping for Paget.
- Members of the Corporate Project Team were shown around the Paget Depot Site in August.
- Detailed work on the Cleaning Service Contract is being finalised, with tendering anticipated for mid to late September 2010. Other Service Contracts in the drafting stage are Mowing, Air conditioning and Security requirements with some services being looked at with the view of consolidation across Council.
- Capital Works Program

PROJECT	COMMENTS
2009/2010 Program	
Mackay Admin Building – A/C Heater element replacement	Project schedule being finalised with Contractors for mid to late September 2010 in conjunction with other project requirements.
Council Buildings – Security Upgrade & Consolidation	Upgrade works completed with training and management review ongoing.
Greenmount Homestead – 3 phase power/road access	Expected completion date of works mid August 2010.
Brewers Park Sporting Complex	Switchboard installation to be scheduled with Contractor to finalise works for mid to late September 2010.
2010/2011 Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The new Capital program has been reviewed with works being scheduled and commencement of Project Briefs for large scale works. 	

Property Co-ordinations

Leases

- New Lease enquiry for Habana & District Progress Association
- Program staff are currently dealing with 28 Leases.

Land Dealings / Easement Dealings

- Middle Creek Road, Sarina Road Realignment
- Intersection of Boundary and Milton Street Upgrade – 4 properties involved.
- Caping Road, Bloomsbury O’Connell River Upgrade
- Nebo Road WTP Ergon Easement application with DERM
- Bakers Creek Water Main Easement
- Program staff are currently dealing with 28 land dealings and 15 Easements

Sarina Sugar Shed

Sales for August were significantly higher than August 09 this was mainly due to extra bus groups and the wholesaling of our gourmet sauces.

Notification has been received from the organizers of the 2010 Sydney Royal Regional Food Competition that two of our entries have received awards. Our Mango Vinegar has won a Bronze medal in the vinegar section. Our ginger sauce came second in the chilli sauce section, but not enough points for a medal. This is a significant achievement for the Sugar Shed and the work done by John Walker over the last 12 months working on these products.

Management

- Upon invitation, attended Fraser Coast Regional Council to discuss the Mackay Convention Centre and assist the Fraser Coast Development Board with their feasibility study on the proposed Fraser Coast Convention Centre at Hervey Bay.
- Provided advice to consultants contracted to REDC on hotel and accommodation requirements to support convention and tourism growth in Mackay.
- Finalised arrangements for hosting the Local Government Association of Queensland Annual Conference at Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre and managed all aspects of conference delivery including off site events at Bluewater Quay
- Attended Mackay Corporate Projects Meeting
- Welcomed David Helfgott to Mackay as part of the 2010 Mackay Professional Theatre and Music Season arranging substantial media coverage
- Commenced facilitating regional Christmas celebrations
- Continued work on Service Level Reviews
- Finalised MECC Strategic Plan
- Achieved funding from BMA to stage a classical chamber ensemble at MECC which can be conducted as a free concert
- Assisted Council's Health and Well Being Expo team with the Health and Well Being Expo being held at the MECC.
- Attended Public Transport Meeting.

Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre

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

Festivals and Events

Coal to Coast Festival

There is a great sense of excitement about this year's Coal to Coast Festival. Being held over one day with free admission (gold coin donation only) the organising committee is expecting over 2,000 people to attend. Sarina Rotary has been excellent in organising a large Swap Meet which will be part of a mix which includes 150 market stalls, food vendors, and different amusements.

Headline acts are golden guitar winner, Markus Meier, children's act Ben 10 and The Twine. Sarina High School students and the Solomon Island Bamboo Band round off the performers.

This year the inaugural Coal Games will be run with great cash prizes up for grabs.

River 2 Reef Festival

Planning is well advanced for this year's festival of all things aquatic. Some challenges are being managed as the Bluewater Quay end of Brisbane Street is being resurfaced and new footpaths are being constructed. This has resulted in a 25% loss of site. This year Mackay's largest bike ride involving 600 riders will start and finish from Bluewater Quay at this event. The festival will run from 9 am to 9pm on Saturday 9 October.

Global Grooves

Two major headline acts, the Diego Guerrero Quintet and Skorba will delight Queens Park revellers this year on Sunday 24 October. Skorba will also be running choral and percussion workshops targeting the Maltese community. Other activities include a children's national costume parade and we are expecting many stall holders and ethnic food vendors

The Indian community are holding their Diwali festival of light from 6pm to 8pm in Queens Park and this is being coordinated with Global Grooves. Bollywood DJ, drummers and dancers will set a lively mood for this event. This will finish with a lantern parade and a fireworks display

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies

Council along with Zinc FM are organising this year's main Christmas Tree lighting on the Administration Building lawns in Mackay on Saturday 4 December. An added bonus this year is that the Australian Army Band will be performing at this year's event. All the old favourite carols will be played along with a visit from Santa and a Bethlehem/Christmas display coordinated by the Mackay Churches.

On Wednesday 8 December it will be Sarina's turn for carols and tree lighting followed by Mirani on Thursday 9 December and on Saturday 11 December celebrations will occur in Walkerston and Calen.

Artspace Mackay

- 2131 people visited Artspace Mackay during August 2010
- 1222 people visited the Town Hall during August 2010
- 11677 hits recorded on the Artspace Mackay website during August 2010

Exhibitions:

From 27 February	Cox Rayner Gallery	<i>The A-Z of Artists Books</i> (Works from the MRC Collection)
16 July – 12 September	McAleese Gallery	<i>Paolozzi + Kitaj: British Pop Prints from the Art Gallery of New South Wales Collection</i>
16 July – 12 September	ASM Foyer	<i>Working Through/Turning Pages: The Artists' Books of Robert Jacks</i>
From 16 July	Cox Rayner Gallery	<i>Tate Adams</i> (Prints from the MRC collection)

Recycled Library: Altered Books touring exhibition

Western Plains Cultural Centre, Dubbo, New South Wales, (3 July – 8 August).
Civic Hall Galleries, Port Lincoln, South Australia (26 August – 10 October).

The catalogue for this exhibition was shortlisted for the 2010 MAPDA (Museums Australia Multimedia & Publication Design Awards) for the category Major Exhibition Catalogue. Winners will be announced at the awards presentation at the State Library of Victoria on Wednesday 29 September.

Paolozzi + Kitaj: Prints from The Art Gallery of NSW Collection

This major exhibition from the Art Gallery of NSW has been well received judging from the many favourable comments in the Artspace Mackay visitor's book and feedback to Artspace staff. While 2 out of the 56 visitors who wrote in the visitors books this month were not impressed (An anonymous visitor wrote "Where is the art?" and a visitor from Warrnambool wrote "No paintings (disappointed)" all the other comments were very positive. In addition to the many comments like 'Awesome', 'Great',

‘Wonderful’, ‘Impressive’ ‘Refreshing & interesting’, a visitor wrote, “ Thank you to the Art Gallery of NSW for bringing such important work to Mackay & thank you to the workers of the McAleese Gallery for making this happen”.

Namatjira to Now

Artspace Mackay staff are currently preparing for the next major exhibition *Namatjira to Now* on tour from the Queensland Art Gallery / Gallery of Modern Art, which will open on Friday 18 September. With watercolours, paintings and ceramics by Albert Namatjira and other indigenous artists from the Hermannsburg region of Central Australia, this exhibition is expected to be a very popular inclusion to this year’s exhibition program.

Craig Walsh: Digital Odyssey touring project and The Home project

Internationally renowned digital media artist, Craig Walsh, began a month long residency in Mackay on 16 September. *Digital Odyssey* is a joint project between Artspace Mackay and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, where the artist is travelling in a specially equipped motorhome, visiting regional and remote centres throughout Australia to deliver public programs and large-scale public projection artworks in response to local people, architecture and the surrounding landscape. Artspace staff worked with a local business to facilitate the hire of an empty city central office space on the corner of River and Wood streets to house the project (the former ITEC Employment site). Craig has set up a projection in the window facing Wood Street, running every evening after dark until 10 September. In collaboration with Artspace and MRC Arts Development Officers, artist Hiromi Tango has joined Craig to bring the *Home Project* to the Mackay community. In this project, members of the community have been invited to participate in a hands-on, joint venture with the artist to help build a giant ‘screen’ out of personal items and trinkets. Hiromi and Craig have then made a series of video interviews of local people which are projected onto the screen. These screenings can also be viewed every evening from 6-9pm at the project site until September 10.

In addition to the involvement of the local community, Craig Walsh offered a mentorship to local Sarina artist, Donna Robinson. Donna was able to work with Craig over a two week period, learning new digital media techniques which will allow her to grow her own digital media art practise.

Other exhibitions and events:

Digital Odyssey talk:

An information session on *Digital Odyssey* was held at Artspace on August 22 for members of the public to come and learn about the upcoming residency in Mackay and how they can get involved.

Annie Pring Marten watercolours:

A series of historical photographs relating to the Mackay area and watercolours by local artist at the time, Annie Pring Marten were taken off display in the Cox Rayner gallery and re-hung in the City Library. As a joint initiative between Artspace and the library, it was decided to exhibit the collection at the library also, in order to reach an expanded audience. The exhibit was very well received by library goers.

Sarina Art Gallery – exhibition preparations:

Staff are preparing for the upcoming exhibition at Sarina Art Gallery titled *Lockhart River Art Gang: prints from the Mackay Regional Council Collection* The Sarina State School P&C Association provided catering at the last opening and to foster the relationship it is proposed to invite the group to cater this event also.

Artspace wins awards:

Artspace won three awards at the Art-Is-In Regional Art Awards.
The awards were:

1. *Outstanding local government cultural initiative* – for the Artist Book Forum and Libris Awards
2. *Outstanding contribution to the arts- Business Art Partnership* – for the *Artstreet* project run by Artspace’s volunteers
3. *Outstanding contribution to the arts- Sponsorship* – for BMA Kidspace.

Upcoming exhibition at Town Hall:

Exhibitions staff have met with local artist Tarah Bowman, who is facilitating an exhibition by members of the Mental Health Fellowship to be shown at Town Hall as part of the Community Exhibitions Program. The exhibition will be on display throughout Mental Health Week.

Artists at Town Hall:

Printbank Mackay, a group of local printmakers held their monthly meeting at Town Hall studio. The group meets to discuss and share ideas and techniques and to use the printing press.

Public & Education Programs in August

1-13 Aug	Mackay State High School	MOVE: Video Art in schools dvd pack made available Mackay State High School to show to both Art and Film & TV high school students.	3 teachers – approx 3 classes of students
3 August	Tate Adams Reading Room	Met with Lifeline representatives about being involved in future community projects. They were heavily involved in the Guerrilla Knitting project. Their funding comes through Qld government to support victims of Cyclone Ului in the region. They feel they achieve great responses from clients when engaging in ‘Art therapy’ and the community creative projects Artspace and council have been running. Artspace has invited them to be involved in the Craig Walsh Digital Odyssey and Hiromi Hotel Projects that begin in September, and they enthusiastically accepted!	2 Lifeline representatives from Mackay and Townsville
3 August	Seminar Room	MOVE: Video art in schools workshop. Delivered by Queensland Art Gallery curatorial staff from the Cinematique at GOMA	20 participants
4 & 5 August	Seminar room	Smith Family Workshop	10 children, two teachers
7 Aug	Seminar room	Kids Art Club Term3 <i>Ongoing workshops with Rosemary Payne</i>	
10 Aug	Seminar room	<i>BMA Kidspace</i>	204
10 Aug	Main Gallery & foyer	School group tour – MSHS Art students	15 x Year 11 students from Mackay State High School with 2 teachers
11 Aug	Main Gallery and foyer	Holy Spirit tour group booking 40 minute group tour of Paolozzi+Kitaj	30 Yr 11 & 12 students 2 teachers
14 & 15 Aug	Artspace seminar room	Glen Skein workshop	15 adults
18 Aug	Gallery	Group tour of gallery for Matsuura students, aged 13 to 15 years	2 groups of 12-13 students +

			accompanying adult and interpreter
24 & 25 Aug	Seminar Room	Smith family workshops	10 students

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Management

- Attendance at the Tourism Queensland Regional Workshop held at the Ocean International
- Meeting with Director Corporate Services Australian Bureau of Statistics regarding 2011 Census planning
- Attendance at Regional Planning Workshop Economic Development Transport and Infrastructure
- Attendance at a series of meetings with REDC and Mackay Tourism representatives as part of the Hotel Attraction Study being prepared by REDC.
- Meetings with Mackay Tourism Ltd CEO David Phillips to discuss upcoming MTL projects
- Together with Strategic Planning, Mackay Water and Corporate Services submission of preliminary materials to inform PIFU Queensland population projection process
- Visit from representatives of the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia, in Mackay for the LGAQ Conference, regarding Club programs and assistance for the provision of RV facilities.
- Meeting with Pro-Vice Chancellor Pierre Viljoen regarding CQ University and discussions around the Memorandum of Understanding process employed by CQU and local bodies including local government.
- Attendance at meetings and briefing for Mackay Sugar 20 year Strategic Plan.

Team Events/meetings

- Principal Economic Development Officer attended the AIM Engagement through Social Networking event, with speaker Pro Vice Chancellor Pierre Viljoen of CQ University
- Manager and Principal Economic Development Officer attended Chamber of Commerce Q and A for Dawson Federal election candidates
- Manager and Principal Economic Development Officer attendance at LGAQ Conference sessions
- Economic Development met with a representative from Pacific Parks (Sarina), and member of the Sarina Business Email network, about the promotional and economic development opportunities on offer through the planned business networking forum to be conducted in Sarina.
- Preparations for Sarina Business on Show Forum to be held Wednesday 22 September at the Sarina Cultural Hall 5:30-7:30 are underway. Invitations prepared, printed and emailed to Sarina Business Network and hand delivered to Sarina Businesses. Businesses are invited to host a display at the event, at no cost for the display space.
- Preparations underway for City Focus Forum event to be held October 4th, including invitations, engagement planning, media and advertising placement, and email update releases.
- City Focus Marketing campaign consultancy is progressing as is the web build and sign up of City Centre businesses to the business directory. A mail out to all CBD property

owners and personal visits to business houses in the City Centre will ensure that businesses are aware of the new website and the opportunity to take advantage of the individual business listings.

- Preparation of media to advertise and gain story placement for the upcoming Sarina and City Focus events as well as Fathers Day and upcoming Spring racing.

Media/PR

- Major Mackay region feature published in QantasLink's Spirit of Australia magazine for publication in August along with a full page ad promoting the investment, economic development opportunities and lifestyle attributes of the region. A further half page of material is offered as a complimentary bonus for the September magazine. (Prepared by Principal Economic Development Officer).
- A one page colour Fathers Day feature with photography of local people and city centre businesses prepared and published in the Daily Mercury, plus a free photo and story feature in the Mid Week.
- Work to expand and finalise the Business Guide is well under way with the document to be available as an e-guide on complimentary USB. Information about available local organisations that provide services/programs to support and aid local businesses will be included on the USB.

City Focus Advisory Committee and City Centre

- Out of the Blue providing council with a 12-month campaign that includes quarterly TV, radio and print ads, as well as an annual eight-page catalogue/brochure. (Their costs include quarterly meetings with City Focus committee). The marketing campaign booking process will continue to remain with local a booking agent, with council's corporate communications area to liaise directly with the booking agent. This breakup of work offers greatest cost benefit for City Focus and for council.
- City Centre Giveaway bags distributed to Sunday shoppers in the City in the lead up to Fathers Day. Bags were organised, through an appeal made via the City Focus business email network. City businesses have generously given promotional materials and vouchers to be included in the bags. Bags also include an Explore Mackay map, coffee voucher, free eco-friendly bag and an Explorer bus timetable were distributed in August.
- Centres and Transit Orientated Strategy under development with Strategic Planning, with consultants Macro Plan to undertake work.

Business Email Networks

- City Focus and Sarina Focus updates issued to the networks in the month of August
- The City Focus network is now around 230 members. This number will increase dramatically when a data capture of the entire City Centre is undertaken in August as part of the new City Focus website build.
- The Sarina Focus network now has over 110 members. This number will increase when the network is further promoted at the upcoming Sarina business networking forum.

Regular Publications

- Population and Housing Statistical Snapshot distributed

Consultation

There has been consultation with Community Services Program Managers.

Resource Implications

Nil.

Director's Recommendation

THAT this report be received.