

Councillor Report – 24th February 2009

Gail Sellers

Art Exhibition – Textured Canvas Exhibition

I attended the exhibition opening on Friday 6th February. This followed a ten week individual project where budding artists were asked to follow a number of steps in order to create their own masterpiece. Tracey Smith was the resident artist for the project. Mental Illness Fellowship of Queensland has invested in our community by providing a much needed Drop In centre called *The Haven*. Gladstone Mental Health Service is a community focused service that aims to provide opportunities for consumers to reinvest in social interaction between peers and community members. Both of these Services have partnered to provide an Arts/Activity Group.

Races (For the Sight of Others)

Councillors Cameron, Butler and I attended the Race Day on the 7th February which was a Fundraiser *For the Sight Of Others*. The day was well attended and over \$13 000 was raised for the Cause.

St Stephens Lutheran College

On Sunday February 8th Councillor Butler and I attended the Service of Installation for the new Head of College Mr Terry Schuster.

Potters Place

On Monday, I attended the 36th Birthday of the Potters Place. It was interesting to see so many of the original members of the group in attendance.

The Gladstone and District Sports Foundation

The monthly meeting of the Foundation on the 12th February was attended by Councillor Butler and me. One application was considered and approved. The Foundation is aware that their profile needs to be raised in the community. A fundraiser is being planned and looks like being a Race Day event.

Library Square Markets.

I attended the markets on Saturday morning and the crowd in the City Centre was quite consistent. There were three stalls and the most popular was again, the fresh fruit and vegetable stand.

New Arrivals in Gladstone

An initiative of the GAPDL and GRC was the morning tea for new residents in the district held on Thursday 19th February. The function was attended by around fifty people and will become an annual event, it is hoped. Councillors Burnett, Hanson and I enjoyed meeting the new arrivals. Helpful publications were presented to the newcomers during the morning.

Kirkwood Road

On Thursday 19th February the Gladstone Regional Council celebrated the opening of the Second Stage of Kirkwood Road. This stage completed a two land, arterial roadway approximately three kilometres in length from South East of the current Dixon Drive end to Glenlyon Road. Paul Neville, the former Member for Hinkler was instrumental in finding funding for Kirkwood Road and was honoured today with the Naming of the Bridge over Police Creek. The Paul Neville Bridge was opened by the Mayor George Creed, Mr Paul Neville Member for Hinkler and Mr Chris Trevor Member for Flynn. A significant Milestone; and with the completion of Stage Three this will give us the ring road link on the southern and western sides of Gladstone.

Jono Porter Road

The opening of the new Bruce Highway/Jono Porter Drive (previously Marrawing Road) intersection was also cause for celebration. This provides a safer access to the current Benaraby Regional Waste Management Centre which is earmarked to serve our Council but potentially other regional areas. The funding was made possible by the Australian Government Auslink Strategic Regional Program of \$900 000, State Government TIDS funding \$100 000 and Councils own contribution of \$400 000. The Road serves a dual purpose as it provides an all weather route to the Motor Sports precinct. The road was named for a resident of Gladstone Jono Porter, a well know International Motor cross rider who lost his life doing what he loved.