

SUBJECT: COUNCILLORS' REPORT - MAYOR CR GAIL SELLERS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Council Meeting Date: 6th September 2011

Executive Summary:

Cr Sellers submits the following report.

Background:

Councillor Report:

Way to Grow Forum

Councillor Hanson and I, together with CEO Stuart Randle and several officers attended the Forum which was held at CQUni on the 17th August. The Queensland Government is planning for the future of our regions and the vision is to grow stronger regions with well-connected communities that spread the benefits of growth across the state. Three documents were released on the day:

- Bruce Highway Upgrade Strategy;
- Queensland Infrastructure Plan; and
- Queensland Regionalisation Strategy.

Minister Tim Mulhern spoke at the Forum and workshops were conducted on the needs of the region. Submissions are due on the 9th September.

Vietnam Veteran Day

There was a large turnout on August 18 for Vietnam Veterans Day which also marks the Battle of Long Tan forty five years ago. 108 Australian and New Zealand Troops repelled the advance of more than two thousand Viet Cong in a rubber plantation near the village of Long Tan. It was an opportunity to pay tribute to those who served in Vietnam as Australians during and for many years afterwards, were told very little about this war.

Annual General Meetings

Gladstone Maritime History Society

Councillors Butler, Cameron, Sellers and McDonald attended the Annual General Meeting on the 18th August. There was an excellent attendance and all positions were filled. On the evening Life Member Errol Pocock donated his award winning models to the Society.

Australian Red Cross

The meeting was held on the 25th August and was as always well attended. The services provided by Red Cross are very diverse: Blood Bank; Trauma Teddies; Mobile Equipment Hire Service; Hands on Care; Telechat; Emergency Response; and Emergency Accommodation.

Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association

On Friday 26th August the Gladstone PCYC held their 34th annual General Meeting. Councillor Rick Hansen was elected to the Management Committee. The club is

financially sound and conducts many activities for youth. The Thursday Night Events is one of their success stories.

Port City Power

What a weekend! Gladstone Port City Power Women's Basketballers made it three in a row. On Friday night in an all Central Queensland final Gladstone met Ipswich and Mackay met Bundaberg, this resulted in a Gladstone Bundaberg Grand Final on the Saturday. The game was extremely close with Bundaberg leading for most of the game. Gladstone came out winners to make it the third year in succession to win the Queensland Women's QBL State Championship. Some of the team left Gladstone on the Monday to play basketball overseas or interstate, thus the Civic Reception which was planned will be held very early in the 2012 season. Two Gladstone Power Players **Jessica Bibby** and **Natalie Hurst** are in the 2011 QBL State Championship Women's **All League Team** with Jessica being the **Leading Scorer** in the competition with **32.94ppg**.

Rowland - Tour De Gladstone

A group of twenty Brisbane business representatives visited Gladstone for a one day tour on 23 August. The visitors did a tour of the southern areas of the region in the morning; were involved with a panel discussion at lunch; and then toured the industry to the north in the afternoon. This no doubt gave each a greater level of understanding of Gladstone... not only the commercial opportunities it offers, but also the issues our community will face in the coming years.

Sea Dreams – Gladstone Region Festival of Arts

Sea Dreams was a week-long arts festival which was held from the 20-27th August and involved performances and displays from a variety of genres. This inaugural event was enjoyed by a great proportion of the community. The Opening event was at Community Arts on Goondoon and was an art exhibition **Visions of the Sea**. A portrait photography exhibition **Sea People** was held at the Gladstone Entertainment Centre. A highlight of the Festival of Arts was the Ballet **La Sylphide and Calliope**. Other activities were incorporated into the Festival also.

On Wednesday 24th August, **The Road to Goonong** by **David Cox** launched at Ambrose State School as the Ambrose area is where the book was set. The book is based on David's experiences of growing up in that area during the Depression years. He had not returned to the area for seventy years and was amazed that some of the original family names in his book had descendants still living in the area. He spoke to the children about his memories of that time.

At the Art Gallery and Museum on Thursday 25th August there was a launch of the exhibition of the original drawings which David Cox had done for his book **The Road to Goonong**. On Friday 26th August there was a Workshop **Across Imaginative Seas: Collaborating in Art Worlds and Music** by David Cox writer and artist and composer and pianist Betty Beath.

Seniors Week

A variety of events was on offer in our Seniors Week 2011 programme. We had a Coffee Cruise was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Our usual Morning Melodies and the Rotary Club of Gladstone Seniors Dinner which had over 300 attend. As well, there was: Pen Pin Bowling; Seniors in the Gardens, which was apparently and excellent event; Lawn Bowls; Seniors in the Valley; Golf; Croquet; Seniors on the Web; Movies; Tranquillity Walk; and the Mayor's Morning Tea.

Mayoral Prayer Breakfast

The annual Prayer Breakfast was well attended. The guest speaker **Simon McKeon 2011 Australian of the Year** is Executive chairman of Macquarie Group's Melbourne Office, Chairman of CSIRO and Business for Millennium Development; a Director of VisionFund World Vision International's microcredit arm; and numerous other boards and panels. Simon is the Helmsman of Macquarie Innovation which in March 2009 became the first sailboat in the world to sustain more than 50 knots. He is also the Patron of the Australian Olympic Sailing Team which won two gold medals, and a silver at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He stated he was an **ordinary bloke**.

PCYC Irish Dancers

There are now fifty dancers in our region aged from two years to adult. The Annual Concert was held at the Gladstone Entertainment Centre and was enjoyed by an audience of over two hundred. The concert went for two hours and our own staff members Kylie Ware and Shelley Williamson were the instructors.

100th Birthday Tree Planting

31st August saw beautiful Spring weather at the Tondoon Botanic Gardens for the tree planting ceremonies to celebrate the two one hundredth birthdays. Amelia Roberts (16 /06/1911) and Bernie Hedland (26/08/1911) were present with their families and Bernie actually planted his own tree.

Stockland Gladstone

On 31st August a Community Stakeholder Consultation Group session was held and Councillors Burnett and Sellers attended. Information was sought on the Gladstone region and what was needed in the way of Speciality Shops, Facilities and Services plus how Stocklands can become more involved in the community.

Welcome Morning Tea

The monthly morning tea for newcomers to our Region was again held at the Tondoon Botanic Gardens. Attendees were from all corners of the globe.

As well, **Rotarian Rob Byrne** was welcomed to the Gladstone Region; he is riding his bike around Australia in support of **Rotary's End Polio Now** programme. He is a member of the Grafton Rotary Club and is committed to the project which it is hoped will see the eradication of Polio from the world by 2012.

Shed 19

On 2nd September Shed 19 held an Open Day to introduce HopeLINK and its programmes for the community. Discussion was held on the needs of the community and possible future programmes.

Officer's Recommendation:

That

1. The report be received.

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Attachments:

1. Nil

Tabled Items:

1.

Report Prepared by: Mayor Cr Gail Sellers