

SUBJECT: COUNCILLORS' REPORT - MAYOR CR GAIL SELLERS

Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Council Meeting Date: 19th July 2011

Executive Summary:

Cr Sellers submits the following report.

Background:

Councillor Report:

NAIDOC 3rd – 9th July

The celebrations for NAIDOC took place over a week commencing with the Fun Day at the Marina, followed by a community breakfast and a Flag Raising Ceremony in front of the Council Chambers. Councillors were involved with many of the activities. On Monday evening Arts Naidoc curated by Pamela Whitlock of the Art Gallery and Museum was a resounding success. There were sporting, children's, Elders and social events. On Friday morning the annual street march took place with Councillors Hansen and Cameron taking place and the marchers taking a short break outside the Council Chambers. The week culminated with a Ball on the Saturday night where the Miss/Mr Naidoc was announced. Our Council was supportive of the NAIDOC week celebrations and flew the flags outside the chambers for the entire week, this is only an outward show of support but Councillors listened to the theme for this year ***Change: the Next Step is Ours*** and believe that working together will bring about that change.

Cultural Diversity

Reverend Daniel Paulraj of the Anglican Parish organised a week of cultural activities as a vacation activity. The Celebrating Diversity Masala a mixing of all spices together was held at St Saviours Church Hall. Over thirty children attended and they each day a different country was studied, including India, Torres Strait Island, Philippines, Brazil and Argentina. The primary school children enjoyed Art Craft, Stories, Customs, Film and Food from each country.

Sea Sunday

Sunday July 10 was Sea Sunday which was a combined service with the Anglican Parish of Boyne River and Gladstone. Councillors Brushe and Sellers attended. The day is set aside in the Church's calendar to remember seafarers and to pray for them, their families and those who serve them. It began in 1975 when the three Christian maritime mission societies – the Mission to Seafarers (Anglican) Apostleship of the Sea (Roman Catholic) and the Sailors' Society (Free Church) decided that there should be a day in which the contributions of seafarers were recognised.

Teleconference – Wood Buffalo

Fred De Waad and I had discussions with the Mayor of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo in Alberta, Canada, Melissa Blake. The offer was made by QER to host the telephone hook-up as it was believed that our areas faced similar problems resulting from large population growth. The Municipality of Wood Buffalo contains

significant resources of oil sands deposits which are currently being developed and mined.

Common issues emerged from the discussions including:

- Housing availability and affordability;
- Increased health emergency services demands;
- Strains on infrastructure capacity to deal with increased demands such as roads no longer being able to cope with increased traffic volumes;
- Extra demands on the community in the volunteering areas without an increase in supply of volunteers (fly-in fly-out impacts); and
- The challenges of obtaining appropriate funding to meet the demands on community services and infrastructure.

Many of the problems encountered by Wood Buffalo are similar to that being experienced by the Gladstone region and the sharing of ideas on solutions which have been identified and tried as well as the understandings gained from successes and failures will be invaluable. It is hoped that a continuing dialogue between the two regions will continue.

	Wood Buffalo	Gladstone
Area	68,454 Sq Kms	10,488 Sq Kms
Townships	Major Community of Fort McMurray with 9 other rural communities	Major Communities of Gladstone, Tannum Sands/Boyne Island and Calliope with 17 other smaller semi-rural and rural communities
Population	1999 - 42,871 2010 - 81,013# (*Excludes 23,325 project accommodation) Average growth rate 8.1%	2001 - 46,369 2010 - 60,316 Average growth rate 3.34%
Annual Budget	\$845M 2011-12	\$312M 2011-12

Visiting Ships

On Friday 8th July CEO Graeme Kanofski and I visited the HMAS Diamantina and the HMAS Gasgoine was alongside. The American Ship USNS Richard El Byrd was here on Tuesday 12th July and CEO Stuart Randle and I visited. This was an amazingly large ship which carries supplies. We presented each Captain with a new plaque which was designed by Pamela and constructed by Hotprint.

Cyril Golding Language Centre

Thursday 14th July, I attended the opening of the BER at Gladstone State High School. Senator John Hogg performed the unveiling ceremony and the building was named the Cyril Golding Language Centre. Cyril, his wife Shirley, children Sandra, Russell and Neil and their partners attended the opening. There were student presentations and a hook-up with two students who were in Korea for a five week stay.

Wototo Children's Choir

On Thursday 14th July I attended a concert at Shed 19 which featured the Wototo Children's Choir. These children from Uganda are travelling the world on a fund raising and profile raising exercise for their country and to make the world aware of the plight of children in Uganda.

Red Cross Blood Bank

Each year, Gladstone Regional Council hosts a morning tea in Blood Bank Awareness Week. This is to celebrate the donors who have given over 100 and 150 donations. This is a remarkable achievement as one can only donate ever three months. These donors have shown incredible commitment to providing a life-giving service for our region.

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