

Mayoral Minute

21/09/10

The Rock Building Society Central Queensland Southern Great Barrier Reef Tourism Business Awards.

The 2010 Awards were a sell-out with 250 people attending the Gala Awards Ceremony at the Entertainment Centre on Saturday 11th September. The awards are designed to highlight excellence among tourism business operations in the Gladstone, Bundaberg, Capricorn and surrounding regions. It was the *Seventeen Seventy LARC Tours* that was awarded the biggest honour of **Tourism Champion and Best Visitor Attraction**. The *Observer* claimed honours in the **Media and Marketing category**. *Island Sands Café* was awarded the **Best in Service Award** and *GAPDL* was inducted into the *Hall of Fame for their Industry Tours and Gladstone Visitor Information Centre*. **Visitor Information Services** was won by the *Gladstone Visitor Information Centre* and the *Travel and Transportation* was **GAPDL Free Industry Tours**. Compares for the evening were Kimberley Busted and Grant Cooper.

Co-ordinator General Visit

The Co-ordinator General *Graeme Newton* visited Gladstone last week in his second week in his new role. He was accompanied by Geoff Dickey (Deputy Coordinator General and Project Assessment and Attraction). Acting CEO Cale Dendle and I had a meeting with them and discussed the excellent working relationship we have had with the department in the past and were looking forward to continuing that relationship into the future.

Builyan Hall Opening and Ball

Saturday evening the re-vamped Builyan Hall was opened by Liz Cunningham and me. Councillor Burnett was MC and Councillors Cameron, Brushe and Butler were also present. The work was completed by the GAPDL and \$892 000 was spend on the renovations. Chris Trevor (previous member for Flynn) gained funding for the project, with assistance from the Builyan/Many Peaks Community with the assistance of Andrea Hughes. There were 25 jobs, five traineeships and 25 work experience positions created by the project. The project provided apprentices training ain plumbing, carpentry, electrical installation, painting and landscaping. The ball was a great success with a sell-out crowd.