

5.9. GO DOUGLAS! 2018

REPORT AUTHOR(S) Contributions from all Douglas Shire Council teams
Mark Stoermer, Chief Executive Officer

DEPARTMENT Office of the Chief Executive Officer

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receives and notes the report and the *2018 Go Douglas!* publication.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is with pride that I present the *2018 Go Douglas!* publication which outlines some of the operational initiatives and major projects achieved by this Council during 2018.

This year's achievements reveal the strength of Council's greatest assets – its staff, who serve Council and the community with pride, commitment and passion. It is timely that I take this opportunity to thank all staff who have worked tirelessly and enthusiastically throughout the year to ensure that Council's vision for a sustainable future is achieved.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge the General Manager Corporate Services Mr Darryl Crees who competently held the reins until my arrival in August.

BACKGROUND

Each quarter an overview of Council's operations is provided by the Chief Executive Officer to Council's Ordinary Meetings. The aim of these reports is to communicate how the administration is managing the diverse activities and challenges arising in the course of Council's business, and to summarise work in progress and the milestones achieved. Detailed reports over past months can be located on Council's website.

As for each year since de-amalgamation, the final report for this year is presented as publication and converted to an e-book for use on Council's website. It is created by our teams as an account of just some of the work that they have achieved throughout the year. The e-book format differs from that of traditional reports and Councillors and the community are encouraged to enjoy a more interactive account of operational projects and initiatives.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council's operations are conducted in accordance with the adopted annual budgets.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Council's operations have been subjected to an early risk assessment process.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic:	The twin pillars of financial and economic sustainability underpin all Council's operations.
Environmental:	Environmental management is a priority consideration in the delivery of all Council operations and services.
Social:	The diverse communities of Douglas are Council's clients. Council's operations, services and programs are designed and delivered to support the people of Douglas.

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

Council's operations are conducted as required by the Local Government Act 2009, and in accordance with all applicable policies and the Douglas Shire Council Operational Plan 2018 - 2019 adopted 19 June 2018.

CONSULTATION

Internal:	Council's General Managers, Branch Managers, Team Leaders and all Council staff have been consulted and have contributed to the preparation of this report.
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ATTACHMENTS

1. Go Douglas 2018! Brochure **[5.9.1]**

DOUGLAS
SHIRE COUNCIL

go
douglas!

2018



Message from the CEO, Mark Stoermer

Douglas 2018 - Shining in the face of adversity

Douglas Shire Council staff work tirelessly and diligently for their community.

This *Go Douglas!* E-Book showcases our organisation's proudest achievements and the great results delivered to our ratepayers in the past 12 months. World-renowned beauty and strong sustainability credentials enticed me to apply for the Douglas Shire Council CEO position several months ago. I was delighted and proud to be welcomed in September and look forward to working with a team of knowledgeable and dedicated staff well into the future. I had the opportunity to meet with my predecessor, Linda Cardew, who we will be working closely with as the leader of our neighbouring council, Cook Shire Council. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Darryl Crees for acting up in the CEO role between Linda's departure and my arrival. Darryl and the whole of Council should be commended for ensuring operations continued as normal at Douglas Shire Council until my arrival.

I would also like to pay tribute to the late Brendan Leishman, Economic Development Officer, and grader crew member, the late Terry Langtree. Unfortunately, Douglas Shire Council lost these two much-loved employees in recent months, but what is not lost is the vast impact they had on Council and the legacy they have left.

Douglas Shire building its resilience ...

One thing I have quickly learnt in my few months at Douglas is we are a resilient bunch. Whether it is cleaning up after severe weather events, dealing with crocodiles at our waste water treatment plants or the mandatory five-day dry docking of the Daintree Ferry – Douglas Shire finds a way to get through it. We saw it when ex-tropical cyclone Owen tore through parts of Douglas Shire with heavy rain and damaging gusts in December. Council outdoor crews jumped in their trucks and backhoes just hours after the cyclonic winds hit, wasting no time clearing trees and other hazards to reopen key roads for residents and businesses. We also see it when our water team race up to the intakes to clear blockages and ensure a clean and safe water supply during these events.

These are just a snapshot of unexpected issues that fall into Council's lap when staff drop everything to be there for the Douglas Shire communities. They sometimes tackle dangerous and complex tasks, at all hours of the day, and have a beaming smile while doing it. One of Council's greatest assets is its staff. This show of resilience extends to our water wise residents who heed our messages about restricting water usage as we pushed through the grips of one of our driest years ever. Council staff will continue working with our big water users in Port Douglas to put our region in better shape to deal with these exceptionally dry periods.

Prudent number crunching ...

Our dedicated finance and IT teams have driven a focus on efficiency and value for money that has set this Council up to be financially sustainable next year. Council's financial position continues to surpass budget projections. Staff have put extraordinary efforts into reining in costs, helping Council deliver record capital works programs and pumping more than \$433,000 in rates assistance to the community. All the while our teams have delivered quality frontline services, leadership in governance and property matters, civil works, water and wastewater, public space management, local laws, development planning services and disaster management.

Smart project management has locked in a strong \$16.49 million capital works injection that the organisation will build for to the community this financial year. We have already opened the \$13.49m Port Douglas Water Supply reservoir, which will increase the region's resilience during severe weather events, while we are in the process of delivering a capital works program that is Council's second highest on record. It features major infrastructure such as the \$3m Noah Creek Bridge Renewal, \$1.3m Craiglie Reservoir roof replacement, \$460K to repair the Sugar Wharf and \$250K to refurbish the Flagstaff Hill Communications Tower.

Environmental champions ...

Douglas Shire Council is a proud leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability. Our beautiful destination, nestled between the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics, has been endorsed as one of the top 100 Global Sustainable Destinations in the world. This is testament of the commitment by Council and the business community. It is obvious the worldwide recognition is just the tip of the iceberg.

Council also adopted a new planning scheme to define how land will be used in Douglas Shire for the next 10 years. The scheme promotes environmental responsibility, using the region's natural resources efficiently, ensures the region's atmosphere remains clear and clean and supports the development of a diverse thriving economy. Staff spear-headed the planning scheme process and facilitated community engagement that netted more than 600 submissions.

Council's Resilient Coast Project Team also proved they are state leaders in the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy. Our dedicated staff are tasked with understanding coastal hazards in the region and helping our diverse communities adapt in the future. Workshops were intensely centred around community engagement where coastal values and issues of concerns were discussed with the project team. The sustainability conscious residents clearly embraced the initiative.

The future in Douglas...

Council is gearing up for an extensive journey to complete a five-year Corporate Plan next year. The 2018/19 financial year marks the final year of Council's first Corporate Plan following de-amalgamation where we can proudly look back and tick off the achievements. The new Corporate Plan is a vital community engagement exercise that the whole Shire should be looking forward to.

Mark Stoermer
Chief Executive Officer

January



The State Library of Queensland's "Summer Reading Club" and school holiday activities were enjoyed by many at Mossman Library.



Civil Works

Civil Works Unit were busy completing capital projects, routine maintenance, disaster recovery operations and continued to maintain State Controlled Roads under the Road Maintenance Performance Contract with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.



Disaster Dashboard

Council's Disaster Dashboard provides an array of information on one page including flood cameras, social media feeds, notifications, power outage information, weather and road information. The Dashboard uses a separate URL and servers to help ensure reliability outside of Council's normal website. The Dashboard is continuing to be refined and is proving a very popular and useful tool for the public and emergency personnel.



Australia Day 2018

Council's 2018 Australia Day Awards and a citizenship ceremony were held at the Port Douglas Community Hall on Australia Day where five people took their oath of citizenship and seven Douglas Shire residents received Australia Day Awards.

January

Reusing Waste Materials

Council began diverting mattresses from landfill in 2016/17 and stockpiling them for processing that resulted in the recovery of four tonnes of metal for recycling.

670 tonnes of concrete was also stockpiled and crushed and used to improve the waste transfer station's internal roads.



New Truck Designs



Council's waste and recycling truck contractor unveiled new designs showcasing the unique fauna of the Douglas Shire, promoting the "Love Where You Live" message.

YouTube and recycling star, Max Dowling, featured in a video to introduce the trucks and encourage people to recycle and be environmentally aware.



Mowbray River Road

Council crews completed a pavement reconstruction project along Mowbray River Road during January.

The crews used fibre reinforced concrete to deliver a rigid pavement to a section of road that was susceptible to stormwater erosion and pavement failures.

February

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Council Commits to Clean Energy

Council is a founding member of the Cities Power Partnership (CPP), an independent apolitical organisation which exists to promote the transition to clean energy in Australian towns and cities.

In February Council endorsed five (5) Cities Power Partnership pledges, which are:

1. Utilise renewable energy at appropriate Council buildings;
2. Investigate and trial renewable energy opportunities at Council's transfer stations and landfill;
3. Utilise energy efficient public lighting in appropriate locations;
4. Create a revolving green energy fund to finance energy efficiency projects and receive savings; and
5. Improve cycle lanes and cyclist provisions in appropriate locations.



Game On DS2018!

The Game On DS2018 Come and Try! And Game On EVEN MORE Active Games in the Park projects were launched in February by Mayor Julia Leu and representatives from local sporting clubs hosting Come and Try sessions over the following months.

The projects, delivered under the Queensland Government's Embracing 2018 Legacy Program for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, were funded by the Australian Government.



Sporting User Groups formed

In February Council facilitated the inaugural meeting of the Coronation Park User Group in Mossman. The attendees developed the Group's Terms of Reference and laid the foundation for future meetings.

Ordinary Council Meeting - 18 December 2018
 A User Group Committee for the Port Douglas Sports Complex.

Robotics at the Library

The State Library of Queensland's "Lego League Robotics" grant gave children the opportunity to construct and program a Lego EV3 Mindstorm robot.



February



Road Maintenance

Council's road reseal program was progressing well with over half of the \$1.2m contract being completed. There was minimal traffic disruption during these works and the quality of the reseal work was very high.

Sections of Port Street, Port Douglas underwent pavement reconstruction during this period. A deeplift asphalt corrector course was used to fill areas of pavement deformation and an asphalt wearing surface was used to complete the repair work.

Feral Pig Trapping



Installation of the new remotely activated feral pig traps was completed in February.

The trial was very successful with one trap capturing a record 17 pigs. Council's pest animal controllers have trapped and destroyed a total of 89 feral pigs during the period including six weighing over 100 kilograms each.



Developing Future Leaders

Douglas Shire Council again hosted the Local Government Manager's Australia (LGMA) North Queensland Ignite Program in 2018.

This program is designed to build and refine staff leadership skills and was attended by aspiring Local Government leaders and managers from many North Queensland Councils.

This course represents a significant investment in Council's staff with twelve leaders attending the course in 2017 and another ten undertaking the 2018 course.

March



Ex-Tropical Cyclone Nora

March proved to be a major month for disaster management with three (3) significant events including the event triggered by ex-Tropical Cyclone Nora on 25-26 March 2018. Major flooding occurred throughout the Shire and Port Douglas received the second highest 24-hour rainfall total on record for the town.

Flooding from over-stretched drainage systems and significant landslips occurred in Murphy Street and on the Flagstaff Hill Walking Track. Council was subsequently activated for NDRRA funding for two events and the damage estimate is between \$12m and \$16m, with over 600 defects recorded.

Council's Disaster Dashboard proved invaluable throughout this years events.

Auditing our Rubbish

Public place bin audits continued in March with the auditing of recycling bins at the Daintree Gateway and on Front Street.

These bins generally had lower contamination rates than the public recycling bins audited in Port Douglas and surrounds.



Ordinary Council Meeting 18 December 2018

Exhibition - 'Railways 1914-18'

In partnership with Queensland Museum Network, Council hosted a travelling exhibition which looked at the role of the Australian rail network in the First World War. This exhibition ran from 13 March to 13 April 2018.



Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy

In March Council launched its Resilient Coast program which aims to develop a Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy (CHAS), utilising funding from the Queensland Government under the QCoast 2100 program.

The CHAS considers the potential impact of medium to long term climatic changes on the Douglas coastline. The final strategy will be used to inform future decisions regarding the protection and management of our coast and foreshores.

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Shoppers were asked to complete a survey to provide feedback to supermarkets about stocking alternatives to single-use produce bags, and offered examples of reusable mesh and homemade options.



In collaboration with Arts Nexus, Council commenced a monthly Arts Hotdesk at the Port Douglas Community Centre.

This service was open to all arts practitioners of the Shire who need to access advice, support and information relating to their art practice. It also acted as a meeting point for arts organisations to network and share strategies.

The first Hotdesk forum discussed the opportunity for organising a Creative Arts Summit as identified in Council's Arts Strategy 2017-2021.

Council provided in-kind support for this service via office space and marketing promotion. This initiative ran for six months to November 2018.

Mossman Library hosted Kids' on Tour, "Me, Myselfie and I", presented by GOMA (Queensland Galley of Modern Art Children's Art Centre).

The free program explored representation of self and featured video works by culturally diverse artists. The program included interactive and multi-media art projects that invited children to consider different ways of creating their own portraits.

Approximately 170 people attended over a three week period.



April

New Illegal Camping Signage

New signs have been installed in all of the public toilets in the Douglas Shire, advising that there is no "free" camping.

The wording on the sign was professionally translated into a number of different languages including French, German and Chinese and also includes marine stinger and estuarine crocodile warning messages. The new signage has been well received by visitors to the area and feedback is showing that it is reaching the target audience.



More Robotics at the Library

The State Library of Queensland's "STEM.I.AM Coding and Robotics" grant enabled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to explore robotics.

"Robotic Challenges" workshops were facilitated at the Youth Centre. A "Walk in and Play" session at the Mossman Library provided community members with the opportunity to explore the world of robotics.

Ordinary Council Meeting - 18 December 2018

Historic Flagstaff Reinstated

The reinstallation of the historic Flagstaff on Flagstaff Hill, Port Douglas was completed with the first flag raised on Anzac Day



ANZAC Day

Council provided support to the Mossman RSL Sub-Branch to host ANZAC Day services in Mossman and Cow Bay.



April

Public and Natural Areas

Year-to-date, the Biosecurity team have conducted 1,769 work hours treating a total of 15 hectares of invasive weed species. A large portion of this time was spent north of the Daintree River treating tobacco weed and sickle pod on roadsides.



The Nursery operations supplied a total of 6,621 native plants for revegetation and landscape works to land care groups, residents and council works. Of these plants supplied over 5,000 were sold contributing to Council's revenue. To date our nursery has supplied 14,979 native plants this financial year.

The Parks and Gardens Team completed the following tasks:

- Repairs to stage 1 of the Flagstaff Hill Walking Trail;
- Hiptage Task Force focused on Butchers Hill;
- Drink fountains installed at Little Cove, the pump track and the Captain Cook Highway reserve;
- Oil Palms maintenance in Port Douglas;
- Biannual Coconut de-nutting;
- Macrossan Street garden mulching; and
- Carnivale preparations, staging and clean up.



Managing the Asbestos Risk

Council rolled out the new Australasian Safety Asbestos Management Plans across all Council facilities and all leased facilities on Council owned or managed land.

These have now been entered into the Council data base for easy access. The Facility Management unit also engaged NQ Fire Protection to renew the fire evacuation plans for all Council facilities. This was rolled out over the following months followed by a review of all emergency evacuation instructions.



May

Carnivale Rocks Port Douglas!

Council took on the role of Event Manager for the 2018 Carnivale for the first time and the three day event was considered a resounding success with healthy attendance figures reported at all of the events and throughout the town over the weekend.

The program included independently managed events:

- The 'Longest Lunch' run by Ochre
- The 'Seafood Extravaganza' run by Hemingways
- Spiegel Tent run by Knockout Events
- Amusements in the Market Park run by Festival Amusements

Council managed the icon events:

- Carnival 'Tropical Magic' street parade;
- Family Beach day;
- Tropic Rock concert in Rex Smeal Park featuring Ross Wilson and the Peaceniks.

Other Events Council supported were:

- 'Tropic Night Projections' event by The Culture Mechanics featuring images by local Indigenous artists;
- 'Tropical Destinations' Photography Exhibition by The Douglas Photographic Society;
- 'Tropical Colour' at the old Sugar Wharf by Port Douglas Artists Inc.;
- 'Out! At Carnivale' by the Out! Cairns organization.



Using our Local Library

The Library Board of Queensland along with Vicki McDonald (State Librarian) and Louise Denoon (Executive Director, Public Libraries & Engagement) visited Mossman Library to observe the ways in which the community make use of their local Library.



National Simultaneous Storytime was celebrated at the Mossman Library and staff visited schools in the area to celebrate Under 8's Week.



May

Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrades

At the Port Douglas Wastewater Treatment Plant commissioning of the belt press was carried out during the month with extremely good results that will allow the plant to cope with growth, large tourist numbers in the high season and ensure ongoing statutory compliance.



The construction of the Mossman water treatment plant forklift bay was completed during the month and the final design phase of the backwash water discharge reuse package plant was complete with the demolition of the existing structure



Wangetti Trail

After four (4) years work by officers from both Douglas Shire and Cairns Regional Councils, the State Government announced that it would fund the second stage of the Wangetti Trail concept.

The second stage includes the detailed design and business case development. The cost of this work is approximately \$1m and the State Special Projects group commenced work with ground truthing underway. Council's Manager Sustainable Communities spent time ground truthing the trail area in South Wangetti with World Trail.

June

Construction of new Depot Staff Lunch Area

The new depot staff lunch area was completed in time for the Employee Service Recognition Breakfast. This new facility provides dedicated and purpose built amenity for depot staff.



Budget Injects Essential Works

An impressive suite of fresh projects complimenting a strong \$16.49m capital works injection in Douglas Shire Council's 2018/19 Annual Budget.

The capital works program is Council's second highest on record and features major infrastructure such as the \$3m Noah Creek Bridge Renewal, \$1.3m Craiglie Reservoir roof replacement, \$460K to repair the Sugar Wharf and \$250K to refurbish the Flagstaff Hill Communications Tower.

Financial sustainability is Council's number one goal and this budget will put Council in a position we have fiercely strived for since 2014.

Eco Tourism

Council supported Ecotourism Australia's Ecotourism Workshop at the Mossman Gorge during the month that resulted in six local businesses committing to becoming Eco Accredited.

The Cairns/Port Douglas/Daintree region has the highest number of Eco Accredited tourism operations than any other region in Australia.



Rex Creek intake capital works project completed with the installation of the retaining wall, screens, stairs and hand rails.



Diggers Bridge replacement project commenced with the excavation works completed, which resulted in recovering an original Diggers Bridge pile.



The damage to Junction Bridge and the trunk water main was repaired during this month.

June

Dealing with Dangerous Dogs Training

Local Laws welcomed colleagues from Mareeba Shire Council and Tablelands Regional Council to participate with the team in Dangerous Dog and Canine Temperament Assessment Training during the month.

Officers had the opportunity to work with a trained dog and experience a simulated attack. The training was conducted by world renowned dog trainer Steve Austin and provided officers with extensive knowledge and practical solutions for dealing with dogs in the field.



Cities Power Partnership

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As a founding member of the Cities Power Partnership (CPP), Council proudly hosted the Great Barrier Reef CPP media trip in June 2018. The CPP is Australia's largest local government climate network, made up of 70 councils from across the country, representing over 8 million Australians.

In recognition of Mayor Julia's commitment to the mitigation of climate change and the CPP, she has been shortlisted for the CPP Ambassador Award.



Let's Get Tech Savvy at the Library

The Library was successful in obtaining a State Library of Queensland "Tech Savvy Regional Queensland" grant. The project provided free weekly digital literacy training to adults in the Douglas Shire, encompassing Tech Savvy Seniors Queensland, and introduced new programs in digital literacy and a general overview of robotics.



Game On DS2018!

Game On DS2018 was completed by 30 June 2018. The program provided opportunities for residents to participate in a variety of free sport and recreational activities at various venues across the Shire.

Eleven different sports and recreational activities were conducted under the Game On DS2018! Come & Try Event, ranging from one to 12 come and try sessions for the activities. Forty-two sessions were held with approximately 635 attendances from March to June 2018.

July

Unveiling of Public Artwork by Brian 'Binna' Swindley

A new sculpture, 'Dreaming Of The Oldest Rainforest Bush Food', by local Indigenous artist Brian 'Binna' Swindley, was unveiled during the NAIDOC 2018 celebrations by Deputy Mayor, Abigail Noli. Councillors and MP for Cook, Cynthia Lui were also in attendance.

Speeches were made by the Deputy Mayor and Traditional Owner Jenny Ryan as well as Indigenous business mentor Andres Simpson. The artwork was commissioned by Douglas Shire Council utilising funds from the RADF Grant program 2016-17.



NAIDOC Week

This year's theme for NAIDOC was 'Because of Her, We Can'. NAIDOC week in Douglas was held 16 – 20 July, 2018. The NAIDOC Committee met every fortnight to plan and prepare the week's activities.

The Flag Raising Ceremony commenced with a Welcome To Country from Janice Walker, Traditional Owner, and included speeches from Deputy Mayor Abigail Noli, MP for Cook Cynthia Lui and Kuku Yalanji woman Angelina Ross-Kelly.



Ordinary Council Meeting - 18 December 2018

Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF)

The 2017-18 RADF Grant Program for community art projects opened for applications in January 2018 and 11 applications were received for grants up to \$5K. The newly formed RADF Committee met to assess applications and discuss arts business.

In this year's funding round Council encouraged artists to submit proposals for Public Art Concept Development. Council adopted the RADF Committee's recommendation to fund nine projects, totalling \$37,197, with some funds reserved for a Council Initiated Public Art project.

The application to Arts Queensland for RADF funds for a 2018-19 grant program was submitted in April and was approved for funds of \$30K plus a contribution of \$15K from Council.



July



Education Fun Day – Mossman Gorge Community

The Local Laws team delivered an educational fun day to children at Mossman Gorge in early July.

Officers combined fun activities such as coloring competitions and face painting with educational messages about microchipping, registration and dog welfare.

Nineteen new dog registrations were received as a result of the day.
(Special thanks to Paws and Claws for the use of their hydrobath and to BBN for supporting the day).



Mossman Show

The theme for this year's show stall was 'Keep Paradise Plastic Free'.

Staff at the stall were dispensing shopping list note pads and door hangers as 'Got your reusable bags?' reminders and Show visitors were invited to write their message about protecting our reef and waterways on a speech bubble and have a photo taken with Nemo for display throughout the Show.



First5Forever

The Library introduced a new program in July - "First5forever Music & Song for Little Ones".

The sing-a-long with piano and instruments was held monthly at Mossman and Port Douglas Shire Halls and was aimed at parents with children aged 1 to 5yrs.

Local musician, Rosina Santarossa, played the piano and the initial program was a great success.



New bin toppers were purchased to encourage recycling at Council supported events in accordance with Council's Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan.



August

War on Wrecks – Dickson Inlet

A local task force of stakeholders was organised by Council Officers to discuss and continue to advocate for the removal of vessel wrecks in the Dickson Inlet.

During the month, the State Government created a taskforce called “War on Wrecks” (WoW) and announced a \$20 million fund to remove derelict vessels from Queensland waterways and to discuss a range of strategies to help prevent vessels from becoming derelict in the first place.

Mayor Julia Leu was appointed Deputy Chair and the first meeting was held in Brisbane on 24 August 2018. A second meeting occurred on 28 September 2018 at Port Douglas where the local group met with the WoW Taskforce and a community forum also organised for the day.



Disaster Management



The Guardian disaster management platform underwent significant changes which will assist in the management of events.

Movement of the system to a cloud based program will allow Guardian to be remotely accessed which will be particularly useful when key staff are isolated as happened during the March 2018 event around ex TC Nora.

Significant improvements were implemented to Council's Disaster Dashboard with the simplification of field updates for road closures.

Economic Development Strategy 2017 - 2021 – Taskforces Established

Allied Health Hub & Health Tourism

Taskforce: The main activity for the group is working towards hosting an Allied Health forum for key stakeholders in October at Mossman Bowls Club

Sustainable Development and Attracting &

Facilitating Investment Taskforce: A meeting was held this month with the main focus being an update of progress towards Eco Tourism Certification and Eco Destination Certification. The group also received an informative presentation from Jabalbina Aboriginal Corporation on proposed tourism initiatives.

Study, Training, Entrepreneur Incubator Hub

Taskforce: A meeting was held 30 August for members. A bootcamp for start ups was scheduled by The Space in Port Douglas in September to encourage entrepreneurship and commence the implementation of an Entrepreneur Support Network.

August

Library is a 'Treasure'

'Find your treasure' was the theme for Children's Book Week in August. The Library celebrated with a treasure hunt and afternoon tea. The event was fun and enjoyed by all.



Seniors Week

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Seniors week 2018 saw DSC contribute funds to a variety of activities throughout the Shire in August. Building on the success of the annual event, the range of programs and events increased this year with most days having multiple options right across the Shire.

The media spend and social media promotion resulted in healthy attendance of all events. Community groups including Douglas Shire Seniors, Mossman Support Services, Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre and the Daintree Seniors Group all received funding as well as a special "Building Active Communities Workshop" at the Mossman Shire Hall. The Mossman Library was also busy with a Coding and Robotics workshop.

Suzanne Graham from the Daintree Seniors Group, Circle of Wisdom, organised a matinee movie, "It was a great success, with 20 of us, and people donating cheese and crackers and ice cream as well as Council's and Woolworth's contributions."



Ordinary Council Meeting - 18 December 2018



Water Works

There were a number of projects that were completed, including:

- Stage 1 Whyanbeel to Mossman water main interconnection;
- Grant Street water main realignment;
- The water connection at the Depot staff amenities; and
- Pump replacement at the Mossman Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Construction began on the new Mossman Wastewater Treatment Plant second clarifier and Stage 2 of the Whyanbeel to Mossman water mains interconnection.

September

Study, Training, Entrepreneur Incubator Taskforce:

A bootcamp for start ups was held by The Space in Port Douglas in September to encourage entrepreneurship and commence the implementation of an Entrepreneur Support Network.

Supporting Child Protection Week

In September library staff attended Queensland Child Protection Week events in Rex Smeal Park at Port Douglas and Coronation Park in Mossman. This was an ideal opportunity to engage with parents and children and to raise the profile of the Library in the community.

Installation of banners - Kuku Yalanji Art - Mossman & Port Douglas

Utilising funds from the 2017-18 RADF Grant program, banners featuring artworks by four Kuku Yalanji artists went on display in Mossman and Port Douglas. Artists featured were Linda Burchill, Sheryl Burchill, Daphne Naden and Delissa Walker.



Loan of paintings by Strom Gould

Douglas Shire Historical Society loaned three paintings by notable resident artist, the late Strom Gould, for hanging in the Port Douglas Community Centre. The artworks feature local figures from the late 1980's Port Douglas community.

Arts Hotdesk 4 – Film

September's Hotdesk was all about Film. Port Shorts Film Festival organisers Ali George and Greg McLean hosted talks and a workshop and showed winning films from last year's event by Radheya Jegatheva.



September

Civil Operations

The following tasks were highlights during the month:

- Road grading of Bloomfield Track and Chinacamp Road;
- Cleaning of Wharf Street Drains for flood mitigation purposes;
- The Bridge crew conducted level 2 inspections and maintenance work on all our bridges;
- Road side slashing was completed north of the river;
- Guard rail repairs to all areas.



Disaster Planning Continues to Improve

A review of Council's Disaster Management Plan was conducted during the month. The review was conducted in partnership with QFES and the District Disaster Coordinator in line with the Inspector General Emergency Management requirements. Results of the review showed a continued improvement in Council's Disaster Management Plan.

Goods on Footpath Audit

Officers completed an audit of goods on the footpath in Port Douglas and Mossman, including outdoor dining areas and sandwich boards.

A significant number of premises with outdoor dining approvals were revealed to be using larger areas than approved and Council records have been adjusted to reflect true measurements and ensure correct billing. Further, a number of new applications for sandwich boards and goods on footpath were received.



Sustainable Development and Attracting & Facilitating Investment Taskforce:

To determine a benchmark for the current practices in local eco and sustainable tourism industry, a submission was lodged with Green Destinations under the Global Top 100 Sustainable Tourism Destinations Program.

This program is accredited under the Global Sustainable Tourism Council's Destination Criteria and is a globally recognized accreditation program.

On the 27th September, the Douglas Shire was recognized as a Global Top 100 Sustainable Tourism Destination at a ceremony in the Netherlands.

October

Open Spaces and Natural Areas

Weed and Pest Management had a busy month including the annual Hiptage eradication program throughout the Douglas Shire.

Working in conjunction with Mossman QPWS, the weed team treated over 80 historical revisit points and 37 new sites found on the aerial survey.

After numerous delays because of weather they finally managed to conduct the helicopter aerial surveys for 2018.



Keeping Our Streets Clean

Streets in the centre of Port Douglas at this time of the year required additional attention due to the semi deciduous nature of some of the trees as well as seeds dropping.

Works entailed blow and clean of kerb and channel incorporating Sweeper Truck, Traffic Control and Douglas Shire Council staff manually moving debris.

'The Call Of The Running Tide' Workshop

Port Douglas Artists Jill Chism, Rosey Cummings and Ross Cummings hosted a 2-day workshop for 20 artists to explore environmental art processes and engage with environmentalists protecting the reef and rainforests.

This workshop was presented as part of a RADF grant project developing the concept for an environmental art ephemeral sculpture event in 2019.

Guest speakers included: Bill Wilkie, Author of 'The Daintree Blockade', Peta Campbell from Tangaroa Blue, Dean Miller & John Rumney from Great Barrier Reef Legacy, and Bruce McDonald and Laurene Hull from Douglas Shire Sustainability Group.



October

Reef Guardians Drain Stencilling Program

Council received funding from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority: Reef Guardians Program to run a series of community drain stencilling events in the September/October school holidays.

The objective to paint storm water drains with stencils advising people to take care about what goes down drains was to raise community awareness and caution about the connection between what we do on land and the resulting pollution and damage to waterways and the environment.

An exhibition of the entries received in the stencil design competition was held in the foyer of Council's administration building during September and the public were asked to vote on their favourite designs.

Eight stencilling events were held between 2 – 5 October with a total of 95 people participating throughout the week. The program received positive feedback from the public and will be adapted to allow schools or community groups to apply to run their own sessions.



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Colour My World

The Mossman Library obtained a Play Space Pop-up kit; "Colour my World", on loan from State Library of Queensland.

"Colour my World" is a play based interactive environment for children from birth through to eight years of age. From the high-tech to low-tech and tactile, "Colour my World" provides a rainbow of opportunities for children and families to imagine, play and create together.



November

Watch the [video](#) of the reservoir construction here

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Eco Fashion Week comes to Port Douglas

Eco Fashion Week Australia (EFWA) organisers were attracted to the Douglas Shire to host their inaugural east coast event by the rich natural beauty and world heritage significance of the region as well as acknowledging the aspirational values of the Douglas Shire Council and its ongoing efforts to be proactive in eco sustainability and tourism.

Douglas Shire Council was a significant sponsor of the event and assisted the organisers by way of venue hire, advertising and marketing, on the ground event day assistance and local publicity. One of the key objectives put forward by EFWA was to engage local artists, models, designers, stylists and environmentalists and offer the unique experience of participating in a world class event at a local level. EFWA's conservation and environmental mission as well as their willingness to engage with the community placed them well for council support.



Douglas Shire Reservoir Opening

To celebrate and acknowledge both the efforts and funding of various government departments the opening of the \$13.5m project was held on November 17th.

Government officials, representatives and Douglas Shire council staff were in attendance for the unveiling of a commemorative plaque and to "turn the tap on" in what was a symbolic moment signifying the facility was now in use.

Accompanying the guest speakers, a video presentation featuring time lapse, drone and graphic footage as well as information relating to the scale of the project communicated just how significant the efforts and achievements are.



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November

White Ribbon Day

Council partnered with community organisations led by Elders Justice Group and Mossman Magistrates Court to hold a White Ribbon Day event on 10 November.

As well as a march, guest speakers and information stalls, the event contained a display of shoes donated by female Council employees: 59 pairs of women's shoes to represent the 59 Australian women killed by domestic and family violence in 2018.



Free Green Waste

Council offered residents free green waste disposal to clean up their back yards in November

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Armistice Day 100 year Commemoration

Council hosted the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day on the 11th November that commemorated the end of World War 2. Key addresses were delivered by the Hon Warren Entsch, Member for Leichhardt, Elida Faith, representing Cynthia Lui, Member for Cook and Douglas Shire Mayor, Cr Julia Leu.

The dedication of the statue recently installed on top of the cenotaph was also included in the event.

Over 400 people attended the event and the morning tea provided by Douglas Shire Council.



December

Get Ready Disaster Resilience Campaign

The 2018-19 community disaster resilience campaign kicked off before the official start to cyclone season with a presentation to the Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre's Carers' Group this month.

Council's Vulnerable Residents' Evacuation and Recovery Register was also launched for the season and received six new applications during the month.

The next part of Council's campaign was the delivery of a half day workshop on business continuity planning for community organisations in partnership with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and based on a toolkit developed by the Community Services Industry Alliance.



Council Grants Program

Council's Community Support Program (CSP) assists not-for-profit organisations develop programs, projects or activities that provide cultural, recreational, environmental, community and economic development opportunities in the Douglas Shire.

Public information sessions, facilitated by four Council officers, were held 5.30pm 21 August at Port Douglas Community Hall, 10am 22 August at Cape Tribulation and 5.30pm Mossman Council Offices.

Applications closed 4.30pm Friday 28 September 2018, with 12 applications received across the three funding streams.

After a rigorous assessment process Council approved eight grant applications totalling \$38,287.

Landfill Capping

The Capital Works project for capping another portion (11,000m²) of Killaloe Landfill was completed during the month. This capping is required by Council's environmental approval and is expected to significantly reduce the amount of leachate which is generated at Killaloe Landfill.



December

Diggers Bridge Replacement Completed

The construction of the new \$2.6m Diggers Bridge across the Mowbray River is anticipated to be completed on time and under budget.

The old bridge will be retained as a pedestrian and cycle bridge and will continue to be used as a location for wedding photographs.



Facilities Management

The roll out of the W4QR2 Toilet Projects is progressing well with four toilet block kits and one picnic shelter on order and due for delivery during December.

The final documentation has been completed for the refurbishment of George Davis Park, Wharf Street and Mowbray Street Toilet blocks.

The Toilet design has been largely based on the 'Public Toilet Design Guidelines' developed by the Brisbane City Council. This guide incorporates policy initiatives from the Building Code of Australia and the Disability Standards 2010.

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Replacement of Seating at Mossman Showgrounds

Progress has also been made with the removal of all the Mossman Showgrounds Asbestos seating being removed and replaced with aluminium seats.

Removal of a large amount of asbestos from the Mossman Depot is planned for the second week-end in December 2018 as part of a staged program to eventually remove all asbestos from this building.



