

# Our Community

# #Healthy lifestyle opportunities for **all ages**





## Our Community

One of council's key aims is for local communities to take pride in being part of Moreton Bay region.

By working to create safe, harmonious communities that have access to high quality council services, healthy lifestyle choices and a broad range of creative and cultural opportunities, council is providing the scope for this pride to develop.

Many initiatives are legacies of the former councils. However, the new council has worked to build on events and projects to take the region into a new era.

### Time to celebrate

The region's much loved council-organised celebrations are now an integral part of our new council's events calendar. These include Redcliffe's Festival of Sails (held over the Easter weekend) and First Settlement Festival in September, Caboolture's Urban Country Music Festival held over the May long weekend and the Pine Rivers Festival in late May and early June. These events provide social and cultural experiences for residents, help promote the region and have a positive impact on local economies. All four events will be held again in 2009/10, with plans to expand the First Settlement Festival so it covers two days of action.

Unfortunately poor weather in early December forced in the cancellation of the 2008 Pine Rivers Christmas parade and concert, but planning for the 2009 event is already well under way. Sunshine ensured that 10,000 flocked to the Family Fun Day held at Centenary Lakes, Caboolture, on the Brisbane Ekka holiday in August, to enjoy a day of mostly free activities and entertainment.

### Recognising our quiet achievers

Many members of our community contribute to making our neighbourhoods, suburbs and townships dynamic yet safe places in which to live and raise families. Council supported and recognised their tireless efforts through:

- **The inaugural Moreton Bay Region Australia Day Awards.** The awards attracted 64 nominations and paid tribute to community, sporting, cultural and environmental achievements. Our first Citizen of the Year is Redcliffe Area Youth Service manager Jarryd Williams and our first Young Citizen of the Year is Louise Parkes of Caboolture, who has been deeply involved in volunteer work with Police Citizens Youth Clubs since 2003.
- **Chaplaincy breakfasts.** More than \$75,000 was raised in 2008 through three breakfasts for the Scripture Union's school chaplaincy program. Breakfasts were held in Caboolture, Redcliffe and Kallangur and were generously supported by local communities.
- **Community Volunteers' Day.** Council hosted an event to recognise community group volunteers in Moreton Bay region. More than 200 people representing more than 100 different groups attended celebrations at Centenary Lakes in Caboolture and council plans to hold a similar event at Pine Rivers Park in Strathpine in October, 2009.

## Our vital volunteers

More than 1,700 volunteers helped ensure the smooth running of many of council's projects, events, services and initiatives during our first year.

Of these volunteers, more than 500 were connected to Bushcare groups throughout the region, 183 were part of other environment-focused groups and activities, more than 220 helped out in museums, art galleries and cultural centres and 185 were involved in operating council's visitor information centre network.

Significant numbers of volunteers were connected to hall management committees, services for the aged and disability care, council's libraries and helping host major council-organised events.

The enthusiasm and dedication of all volunteers helps make Moreton Bay region a more friendly, community-spirited place.



## A new era for arts and culture

The new council has heralded a new era for arts in Moreton Bay region through the development and expansion of major initiatives. Council's aim is to create a region with a vibrant cultural life which values heritage and creativity.

- Regional Arts Development Funding (RADF) was awarded to 45 projects to support the region's cultural community. The fund – with a total budget for the year of \$170,000 – is a joint initiative of Moreton Bay Regional Council and the Queensland Government. It provides money towards establishing innovative arts projects and promotes professional development and employment of arts and cultural workers.

From 30 June, 2009, the three committees, which assessed the funding applications, are being disbanded and a consolidated program for Moreton Bay region will begin. The state government provides funding to councils proportionately, with smaller councils receiving a higher percentage of funding. To maintain funding for the arts and cultural community at pre-amalgamation levels, council has already announced it will raise its contribution towards the fund by \$17,000 next financial year to maintain the total annual RADF budget at \$170,000.

- Moreton Bay Region has its own art and youth art awards. The inaugural **Moreton Bay Regional Art Awards** received 280 entries. The winners of three \$5,000 prizes were Jennifer Redmond, of Samford, for her painting *Across the Valley*, Jemima Wyman from Arana Hills for her photographic work *More Jungle than Paradise* and Bundaberg artist Ariella Anderson for her sculpture *Me'Shee*. The **Moreton Bay Region Youth Art Awards** attracted around 450 works from 60 schools and Bribie Island student Aaron Butt took out the People's Choice Award for his painting *The Joker*, which depicted Heath Ledger's character in the recent Batman movie *The Dark Knight*. Both awards will be held again in 2010.



## Making our heritage accessible

Redcliffe Museum attracted more than 16,000 visitors during the 15 months to June 2009 and presented a diverse range of exhibitions during the time including *Glamour: The Lorna Doherty Textile Collection*, that ran from September to November 2008 and *1824 – The Archaeology of First Settlement* which opened in June 2009. Council has developed a website that will bring together information about Redcliffe's first settlement history that can be accessed at [www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/1824settlement](http://www.moretonbay.qld.gov.au/1824settlement)

The museum has also been heavily involved with a joint council and Q150-funded project investigating a range of potential first settlement sites in Redcliffe. A council-funded dig will be held in September 2009, to search for the remains of a convict-built kiln in Redcliffe's Corscadden Park.

Proposed by the Rotary Club of Samford Valley as a community celebration for their international centenary, the Samford Village Heritage Trail was developed by volunteers at the Samford District Historical Museum. Council launched the 1.3-kilometre stroll through Samford Village on Queensland Day, 2009. The trail takes in 13 sites along Main and Station Streets and a brochure, available through council's Creative Moreton website, provides information about each of the sites including the railway yards, John Scott Park, Samford Hotel, and the Samford Rural Fire Brigade.

- Council employed independent contractors Brecknock Consulting to examine the region's cultural services, facilities and communities. The research gathered will provide a vital insight into the region's strengths and needs and will provide the foundation for council's cultural strategy to be launched in the next financial year.
- **Creative Moreton**, an online portal to arts, culture and heritage was launched in May 2009. This website, [www.creativemoreton.org.au](http://www.creativemoreton.org.au) profiles creative people and organisations across the entire Moreton Bay region and is a great hub for community arts and culture. Visitors to the site can sign up for an email to keep up to date with happenings across the region.
- Moreton Bay Regional Council's artwork collection contains more than 800 pieces. Selected works formed a special exhibition titled *I know what I like*. Respected community leaders were invited to choose their favourite pieces from the collection. After an initial showing at Redcliffe Art Gallery in March the exhibition was featured at Bribie Island Community Arts Centre in April and will be on display in Strathpine's Pine Rivers Art Gallery in October 2009.



- **Food for Thought**, a monthly professional development program for artists and arts workers, was extended across the region. Sessions such as Basics of Exhibiting, The Art of Sustainable Business and Websites for Artists, attracted a total of 623 attendees.
- Council's artwork collection continues to grow, and its special exhibitions and competitions are often sources of new material. The **15 Artists** exhibition, which has been an annual highlight on the Redcliffe arts calendar since 1997, helped boost the collection further in October 2008 when council purchased seven new works.
- Moreton Bay region's arts and cultural community is expected to gain significant benefits from the construction of community facilities across the region including the Pine Rivers Park amphitheatre at Strathpine, the Seaside Museum at Bribie Island, the new Woodford Community Museum & Arts Centre, a \$25 million library, learning centre and art gallery complex at Caboolture and extensive renovations at the existing Caboolture Historical Village. For further information on these projects please see pages 32 and 33.

## Good sports

Planning and developing a range of physical activity, sport and recreational strategies to meet the needs of the community is part of council's effort to provide active and healthy lifestyle opportunities for residents.

The larger projects include:



**Redcliffe Tennis Centre** – Council received \$1.5 million from the State Government towards its \$3 million planned upgrade of the Redcliffe Tennis Centre. Design work has been completed for plans that include two new tennis courts, the resurfacing of existing courts, a new clubhouse, new lighting and fencing, improved parking and associated landscaping. Construction is expected to begin in the next financial year.



**Caboolture Leisure Pool** – The \$450,000 Caboolture Leisure Pool opened at the King Street complex in Caboolture in September 2008. The 16-metre by 8-metre heated pool has a depth of 1.2 metres and has resulted in increased participation in learn-to-swim and aqua aerobics classes as well as allowing the facility to operate all year.



**Kinsellas Sporting Field, North Lakes** – Work commenced on a \$390,000 project to install new playing field light poles that will provide a safe well-lit facility for both school and community use.

**James Drysdale Reserve, Bunya** – Detailed design for an amenities building was completed and construction is expected to be finished in 2010.

**John Oxley Reserve, Murrumba Downs** – Work is under way on upgrading lights for the sports fields.

A number of existing sporting and playing fields have benefited from upgrades and improvements that have encouraged increased participation and usage. Planning for further works at other facilities has been carried out in the 15 months to 30 June, 2009.



**Donnybrook Community Hall** – The hall was reopened in October, 2008, following \$350,000 in repair works and refurbishments that included new air-conditioning and resealing of the floor.

**Woodside Sports Field, North Lakes** – Additional lighting is being installed for playing fields.



**South Pine Sports Complex, Brendale** – Netball court surfaces were upgraded and temporary toilets and change rooms were relocated as part of a \$215,000 project, while detailed design work was carried out for a netball clubhouse at the complex. Separately, another stage of a car park at the complex was constructed and further stages are in the design phase.



**Caboolture Regional Sports Park, Burpengary** – Detailed design commenced on concept plans. Future plans involve the staged construction of sporting fields and associated amenities.

The region's sporting community is also set to benefit from the construction of major community facilities at Samford Parklands and the State Equestrian Centre at Caboolture. For further information on these projects please see page 31 and 32.

## On the lookout for leisure

Some of council's larger health and activity programs are:



**Older and Bolder** – Adopted from the former Pine Rivers Shire Council, the program for the over 50s continues to grow as more activities are offered across the Moreton Bay region. Canoeing, cooking, crafts and coach tours are some of the opportunities offered that provide social interaction, physical activity and mental stimulation for seniors.



**Adventure Women** – Was extended region wide and provides physical activities for women aged 16 and above in a safe, secure setting. The program will run again between March and May, 2010.



**SHAFT** – Free and low-cost school holiday activities for teenagers are organised by council and this program is expected to expand next financial year.



**Active Kids programs** – Attracted about 6,000 participants in 50 schools and 10 parks throughout the region. It promoted sporting skills, fun and games to mothers and babies and primary school children.



**Community programs** at Morayfield Park Leisure Centre. The council-operated centre offers affordable programs for the community. More than 7,200 participated in general programs and a further 2,430 took part in holiday activities.

## Valuing communities and learning

Building communities involves undertaking social plans and strategies to guide the provision of development programs and activities. Promoting our libraries as being engaging centres of learning, working in partnership with the community to build connections and developing other education opportunities are part of this.

## Our libraries

Our new council's library service is the third largest in Australia with 12 library branches, four community libraries, a mobile library and a library express cart that serves commuters at Caboolture station.

Through amalgamation, the region's residents have access to a collection of more than 657,000 items. During the reporting period, more than 1.62 million visitors and 3.68 million borrowings were recorded at Moreton Bay Region Libraries.

Libraries have spent \$1.5 million on updating the collection and capital works have improved the facilities at Strathpine, Arana Hills, Woodford, Bribie Island and Deception Bay Libraries during the 15 months to 30 June, 2009.

Libraries are being aligned to use a single Library Management System which will provide customers online access to an easy-to-use library catalogue from the end of August, 2009.

Moreton Bay Region Libraries offer the community much more than books, with a diverse collection including fiction, non-fiction, large print, CDs, audio books, music videos, DVDs, magazines, newspapers, children's and young adult collections and local studies as well as toys and a sport library. Libraries also host a huge range of regular activities, from story times and reading groups, to local history, manga and anime clubs, online games, workshops and youth activities.

Some innovative programs include:

- **The Summer Reading Club** – This first major region-wide library activity organised by the 'one' library team attracted 3,511 participants.
- **Mash it Up!** – Young people between 12 and 25 years are offered the opportunity to engage and develop through film making workshops and multi-media technology. Fifty-six workshops attracted more than 430 participants in 2008/09. The Mash It Up Film Festival, to be held 10 July 2009 at the Redcliffe Cultural Centre, will showcase the top 20 entries.
- **Welcoming Places** – Caboolture and Bribie Island libraries launched Welcoming Places in April and November, 2008, and a third Welcoming Place is to be launched at Deception Bay Library in July, 2009. Welcoming Places are spaces within the libraries that have an Indigenous focus but all are welcome to use the facilities.
- **Author talks** – Local authors as well as celebrities including Matthew Reilly and Jeanette Rowe discussed their works with interested readers.





- An annual **Books, Wine and Cheese night** for the region's reading groups and book clubs.
- **Celebrating the region's cultural diversity.** In March 2009, libraries reached out to more than 650 participants through 16 key events which highlighted a variety of cultures including Aboriginal, African, Pacific Islander, Chinese, Italian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Middle Eastern and Greek.

## Try a trade

For the past three years, council's Caboolture depot, which maintains and repairs council's fleet of cars and heavy machinery, has been working with the federally-funded Caboolture Area Schools Industry Links Scheme that helps school students gain work experience before they choose a career path. Between 50 and 100 students from local schools take part in the project each year to get a hands-on appreciation of the mechanical trade. In 2008, the students focused on restoring a 1982 Holden VH Commodore sedan which raised \$1,750 at auction in May 2009. The money was donated to Caboolture Hospital's Paediatric Ward. In 2009, about 50 students will participate in the Try a Trade scheme.

## Community service delivery

Part of council's commitment to social and community well-being involves providing high-quality community services that respond to identified needs.

In the 15 months to 30 June 2009, council's community services recorded a number of significant achievements and milestones.

**Birralee Child Care Centre** – This in-demand facility has an occupancy rating of 99 per cent. The centre received a high quality assessment in all seven quality areas and scored an outstanding accreditation rating from the National Childcare Accreditation Council.

**Pine Rivers Family Day Care** – Increased carer numbers from 53 to 68, and provides high quality care for over 460 children. It received a high quality accreditation result in all six quality areas.

**Community Assisted Transport Service (CATS)** – Conducted 19,819 transports and 2,082 hours of social support. CATS won the Pine Rivers Press Business Achievers Award in the category of Community Service and Non-Profit Organisations.

**Aged Care Respite Service** – The respite service provided 49,588 units of Centre Based Day Respite Care for aged people and some younger people with disabilities who reside in the Pine Rivers area. The centre provided 2,094 units of in-home respite care and 211 hours of allied health/podiatry.

**Disability Program** – The program provided 34,805 hours of social and/or respite support, either in-home, centre-based, or out in the community to younger people with a disability and their families. Customer evaluations showed an overall satisfaction rate of 94 per cent. The program facilitated and played a leadership role in the inception and development of the Moreton Bay Regional Disability Network.

**Pine Rivers Home Assist Secure** – The service has taken on 800 new clients and 590 home modifications were completed in the 2008/09 financial year. The service celebrated 10 years of operations in April 2009.

**Community Grants** – A new Community Grants Program was developed, with applications to be invited from community organisations in August and February next financial year. Funding will be available under the categories of: Community Capacity Building; Community Facilities Development; and Community Events. In addition, funding will be available for individual excellence under the Individual Achievement category.

**Community Engagement** – Council has drafted a community engagement framework and policy which will provide an effective mechanism for council to engage with the community and to seek their input into the decision making processes.

**Community Activities and Programs** – A number of community programs and activities were coordinated and facilitated throughout 2008/09. These included: community capacity building workshops; coordination of the 'Free Tai Chi by the Sea' program; Redcliffe Healthy Ageing Expo and the facilitation of five community networks.

**Community Profiling** – A Community Profile of the region was completed in May 2009. This document provides a demographics snapshot and is an important resource for community organisations to help them tailor their programs and activities.

**Redcliffe Neighbourhood Centre Needs Assessment** – A detailed assessment was undertaken in consultation with the Redcliffe Community Association to determine the necessary functions of the centre and options for redevelopment.



## Making our communities healthier and safer

By working closely with residents and organisations, council is helping to improve the health and safety of communities, through education, provision of services and initiatives across a broad range of operations.

### Protecting our pets

Council's Petsmart programs offer information and advice to encourage responsible pet ownership.

During the 15 months to June 2009, about 13,000 school students attended more than 120 dog and cat awareness sessions to learn about pet safety and local laws.

Also during that time, council microchipped 1,600 pets – 1,200 dogs and 400 cats. Most of these microchippings were performed during K9 Clubhouse mornings held at various off-leash dog parks and the Caboolture Family Pet Fair which drew about 8,000 people to Caboolture in March.

As part of a State Government pilot program, council is conducting a series of "Snip and Chip" weeks where cat owners can have their pets desexed and microchipped for \$10. Three hundred cats were "snipped and chipped" during sessions held at Deception Bay in March, 2009, and Wamuran in May, 2009. Further weeks are planned at Kallangur in September and Bribie Island in November.

The new Queensland Animal Management Act will take effect from 1 July, 2009. This act introduces the compulsory registration of cats with councils. Council has decided on a registration fee amnesty for the first year of operation to encourage residents to register their cats. Other changes to the Animal Management Act include compulsory permanent identification for new pets after June 30, and changes to the laws for regulated dogs which include restricted, dangerous and menacing dogs.

### Cemeteries expansions

A master plan was designed for the redevelopment of Tallowood Cemetery at Deception Bay and a new lawn burial area was opened. The memorial walk at Samford Cemetery was completed.

### Declared plants

Council runs displays at various public events including regional shows and Caboolture's Farm Fantastic, which provide educational material about declared plants and animals in our region. There are plans to develop a scheme so residents can hire spray equipment to help eliminate declared weeds from their properties.

### Making food outlets safer

In the 15 months to 30 June, 2009, more than 240 people attended council's free monthly courses for anyone interested in learning about food hygiene. The courses, aimed at food shop employees, tuckshop staff and volunteers at sporting canteens, help residents and businesses comply with the State Government's Food Act that requires all people undertaking or supervising food handling operations to have appropriate skills and knowledge.

### Delivering on immunisations

Under an agreement with the Queensland Government, council is delivering a vaccination program to the region's high schools. This includes vaccinations for hepatitis B, cervical cancer, diphtheria and tetanus and is an expansion of council's role in local immunisation. The high school vaccination program visited 32 schools and vaccinated about 8,400 children.

Meanwhile council's community clinics offer free flu and pneumovax vaccines to residents over 65. During the 15 months, council reviewed its immunisation services and assessed community needs. As a result, there are plans to introduce a baby clinic to Redcliffe in the next financial year.



### **Cleaning up our communities**

Changes to the Environmental Protection Act now allow authorised council officers to issue fines to the owners of registered vehicles for illegally dumping waste. Single on-the-spot fines have increased to \$200 for general littering, \$300 for littering from a vehicle and \$400 for dangerous littering.

### **Managing mozzies**

In the year to June 2009, council treated 54,000 hectares of low-lying coastal areas to reduce mosquito numbers, while continuing awareness campaigns encouraging residents to reduce mosquito breeding areas by eliminating stagnant water around their homes. The storms in November and heavy rain between February and May proved an extra challenge for council officers working to minimise mosquito outbreaks.

Council established a native fish breeding program in conjunction with the Pine Rivers Fish Management Association. More than 2,000 Firetail Gudgeons and Crimson Spotted Rainbowfish, which feed on mosquito larvae, were released into dams at Murrumba Downs and Samford.

Council is also working with Brisbane City Council to control midges.

### **Safer suburbs**

Council was successful in obtaining \$130,000 funding for the financial year under the Federal Government Safer Suburbs program for Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and lighting projects. Council is investigating the feasibility of installing CCTV and public safety lighting in identified hotspots and will decide how to use available funding to produce the best results. The Safer Suburbs project, which will work in close partnership with the Queensland Police Service, is aimed at addressing crime and safety issues in foreshores, parks, licensed areas, shopping and business precincts.

### **A focus on road safety**

Council has been instrumental in developing a Road Safety Partnership Project that has gained national and international recognition. Aimed at reducing road trauma, the partnership involves council, the Roads Alliance, Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Police Service and the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia – Queensland.

The partnership coordinates initiatives and resources to achieve better road safety through improved road user behaviour and road engineering.

The Roads Alliance plans to use the Road Safety Partnership Project as a template for initiatives with other Queensland councils. The partnership won the local government category at the Queensland Road Safety Awards in October 2008 and gained global recognition in June 2009 at the INGENIUM International Conference for public sector engineers.

A draft five-year Road Safety Strategy and Action Plan are now being developed to prioritise potential initiatives to make local roads even safer.



## Managing disasters

As part of council's commitment to providing safe and harmonious communities it is vital to have disaster management plans in place and response teams ready.

Major storms on 16 and 21 November, 2008, an oil spill in Moreton Bay on 11 March, 2009, and floods in March and May 2009 put council's response to emergencies and natural disasters to the test.

Council received more than 3,200 formal requests for help after a severe tropical storm on 16 November affected areas including Narangba, Arana Hills, Burpengary, Albany Creek, Bunya, Ferny Hills, Everton Hills and Deception Bay. The storm also damaged 35 council playgrounds. The cost of rectifying damage in parks and streets was \$4.3 million, \$3.1 million of which the Queensland Government provided. Eighty staff were assigned to clean up duties for six weeks after the storm.

The same week, on 21 November, Scarborough was hit by a severe storm that caused more local damage. Following the storm, the much-loved Cottonwood grove next to the playground at Scarborough Beach had to be fenced off for public safety. In the next financial year, council is planning specific works, based on an arborist's recommendations to protect as many of the trees as possible.

An oil spill from the Pacific Adventure container ship in March attracted international attention. Council was part of a coordinated response team involving various State Government agencies. Council staff removed about 2,200 cubic metres of contaminated sand and marine vegetation from the northern beaches of Bribie Island at a cost to date to council of \$372,439. Reimbursement for this cost was still to be determined at the end of the reporting period.

Floodwaters in March and May caused significant damage to infrastructure in 25 parks throughout the region. Council staff were also called on to remove more than 100 cubic metres of sediment from Caboolture's Apex Park and more than 4,000 cubic metres of water hyacinth from parks next to the Pine River and Redcliffe beaches after it was flushed downstream during the floods.

The cost of repairing the parks was about \$641,000.