



COOLOOLA SHIRE COUNCIL

AGENDA

of the

**ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

CHAIRMAN: Cr. Ian T. Petersen

**Held in the Boardroom
Old Bank Building
Cnr Channon & Nash Streets, Gympie Qld 4570**

**On Tuesday 19 February 2008
to commence at the conclusion of the preceding
General Meeting**



Cooloola Shire Council

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

*Councillor I.T. Petersen. (Chairman),
Mayor M.J. Venardos OAM, N.R. Ellis, S. S. Jocusmen,
F.G. Nissen AM, R. Owen, M. Prior, W.W. Sachs*

APPOINTMENTS etc.

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**SECTION 1: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF
PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION AND
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the Minutes of the Administration and Finance Committee Meeting held on 22 January 2008 be taken as read and confirmed.

**SECTION 2: VOUCHERS FOR PAYMENT AND
CONFIRMATION AND STAFF ACTION
ENDORSED AS AT 31 JANUARY 2008**

2/1 Vouchers for Payment and Confirmation And Staff Action endorsed as at 31 January 2008

Re: Vouchers for Payment and Confirmation And Staff Action endorsed as at 31 January 2008
From: Creditors Systems Officer – Kerri Sutton
File: FG94/00042
Date: 1 February 2008

Report: (Creditors Systems Officer – Mrs K. Sutton)

VOUCHERS TO BE CONFIRMED FOR PAYMENT

Operating Fund:- 5Vrs 87920 - 87921	\$971.85
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VOUCHERS TO BE CONFIRMED

Operating Fund:- Vrs 87797 - 87919	\$279,024.43
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EFT:- Batch 1148,1150-1165 (B1149 in prev.mnth)	\$3,484,343.12
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EFT Total Salaries and Wages:	\$927,518.48
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See list of vouchers “Attachment 1.”

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the above list of vouchers be confirmed and staff action endorsed.

SECTION 3: SUNDRY DEBTORS MATTERS**3/1 Parking Infringement 23334**

Re: Parking Infringement 23334
From: Meagan Thorne, Lot 7 Beroona Court, TAMAREE QLD 4570
File: WR97/00168
Date:

“I am writing to ask your assistance in small problem that occurred. My daughter Meagan Louise Thorne was living with us for a period of 4 months in which time she received a Parking Ticket (being unfamiliar with Gympie parking). She remembered to pay this before she left on the 19/09/07 at 9.35am Receipt No. 00460911. She incurred a late fee of \$19.10 also because the offence occurred on the 10/05/07. No information was given to her on this date. I however received a reminder letter to pay the parking fine a few weeks after the 19/09/07. I rang the Cooloola Council and stated the receipt number etc and was told “sorry about the reminder all was in order”.

I have now received a SPER letter for another parking offence on the 3 Aug 2007. Which my daughter did not receive a ticket for and was not told of any offence in any of the previous times we had contact with your office. If she has been given another ticket she would have paid it also on the 19/09/07 before she left. She did not receive a ticket if this offence occurred and I do not think that she should have to pay a now \$80.50 fine when she was not informed of this in previous communications.

As stated before she would of payed the fine on the 19/09/07 if she was aware of the ticket, if not I would of payed it when I got the reminder letter on but we were told from your office that there was no more fines under her name.

The party ID 66441825 and Debt ID 8711073 were stated on the SPER letter.

Thank you for your consideration and hope to hear a reply from you shortly.”

Report: (Revenue Officer - Debtors – Mrs A. Browne)

The driver received the first parking ticket on the 10/05/07. This ticket remained unpaid and after a Citec search was carried out a reminder notice was sent for this ticket on the 05/09/07. The driver came into the office and paid this fine on the 19/09/07.

The second ticket was placed on the windscreen of the driver's vehicle on the 03/08/07. This ticket also remained unpaid and after a Citec search was carried out a reminder notice was sent for this ticket on the 17/10/07.

Mr Thorne states that his daughter never received the second ticket and that when they rang Council he was told that there weren't any other tickets under his daughter's name. Unfortunately when Mr Thorne rang the second ticket only had the registration details and no driver details had been received. The reminder notice that was sent on the 17/10/07 did however have the second infringement notice number on it and this is the number that would have been asked for when he rang.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

For the Committee's consideration.

3/2	Parking Infringement 24239
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Re: Parking Infringement 24239
From: David Jones, PO Box 1185, GYMPIE QLD 4570
File: WR97/00168
Date: 21 January 2008

"I am writing in regard to a parking ticket issued to me for parking in a loading bay. My name is David Jones of DJM Salvage & Recycling contractor for Tin Can Bay & Rainbow Beach Waste Management facilities. On the day in question I had received a phone call from Council to pick up a sign for Rainbow Beach Facility, came into town to collect sign and to speak to Mr M Grant concerning the facility and had no choice but to park in a No Standing Zone near Council office due to a lack of parking for large vehicles so collected sign and moved vehicle before returning to see Mr Grant who was not in office at time.

In my search for a park I found that I could only get a park in a loading zone which was empty. The vehicle will not fit in normal car parking (Ford F250 Truck) and went back to council office only to return to a parking ticket on vehicle.

I feel that due to the complete lack of parking facilities for larger vehicles within a reasonable distance of main street leaving me no choice as to where I can park vehicle, my disabilities will not allow me to walk several blocks to and from main street, and the fact of my business requiring me to have the need to be parked for a time.

Then I feel that when council caters for larger vehicles and I do wrong I will willingly pay the fine but until this is available then no vehicle which will not fit in normal car parks have any choice and should not be fined for doing so.

Why are large vehicles not catered for and then penalised or fined for doing what is necessary to conduct their business no matter how long it takes to do so?"

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

For the Committee's consideration.

SECTION 4: INSURANCE AND LEGAL MATTERS

NIL

SECTION 5: COUNCIL PROPERTY

5/1 Request for Support Letter & Lease

Re: Request for Support Letter & Lease
 From: G.R. Durre, Gympie Clay Target Club Inc, P O Box 677,
 GYMPIE QLD 4570
 File: AG97/00242
 Date: 2 November 2007

"Recently the Gympie Clay Target Club Inc, Banks Pocket Road, Gympie made an application for a funding grant to the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund, for a grant to buy a 6m x 3m steel shed, a John Deere Ride on Mower and tables to upgrade our facilities at the club.

However, a request has been received from the Jupiters Community Benefit Fund for more information as to the following:

A copy of the lease and support letter from the lessor.

Assistance is now sought from the Cooloola Shire Council for a letter of support of approval, due to the fact that the Club wishes to construct the shed on Council property, subject to the clubs lease on this property.

Unfortunately, I as secretary cannot locate the lease document to supply a copy to the executive officer, Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund. I supplied a copy of the registration confirmation statement title no. 17390158, but this is not acceptable to them.

Since the lease was granted on 20/04/2001 there have been three different elected secretaries of the club and when I assumed this role on 1/01/2007 I was not given the lease with other documentation. I have searched all available documentation in my possession, made inquiries from the previous office bearers, but to no avail and the document cannot be located.

Due to this fact, until a copy of the lease is provided, and approval from the Cooloola Shire Council to build such a shed as requested, the application cannot proceed.

I now respectfully request that the Cooloola Shire Council consider approval for the construction of the shed, on land subject to the current lease. The shed is to be used for the storage of equipment owned by the club, as present storage facilities are antiquated and inadequate for the clubs purposes.

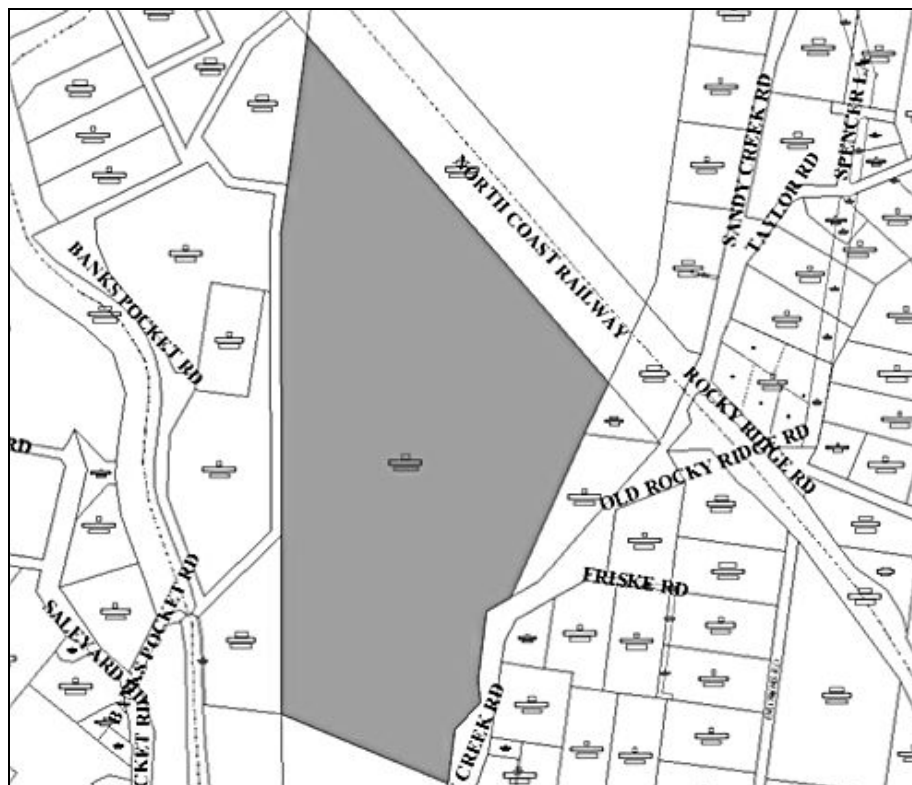
It would be greatly appreciated if a copy of the current lease could be supplied, as this is required to be held by the management of the club. It is most unfortunate that this very important lease document has been lost by previous office bearers of the club.

I look forward to the Cooloola Shire Council's early reply to the clubs request, as I have to have the information forwarded to the executive officer, Jupiters Casino Community Fund, as soon as possible so that consideration can be given to the application for funding."

Report: (Administration Manager – Simon Graham)

Council's Senior Building Inspector has considered the request for a shed on the premises and granted approval in principle pending receipt of building plans for consideration and approval.

Currently, the Gympie Clay Target Club have a lease over Council property located at Sandy Creek Road, Victory Heights, more particularly described as Lot 17 on RP 221336. (Please see location map below)



The Lease is to expire on 30 June 2011.

Conditions to the Lease indicate that any alterations or additions to the premises are not permitted without the written consent of the Lessor.

Previous Minute F04/05/07 requested staff to provide an up date on the progress, if any, on the establishment of a combined complex for sporting shooters. Further, that Council write to the Minister for Local Government Planning, Sport and Recreation to determine the State Government's plans for the long term accommodation of shooting clubs within the State and to encourage a State led approach to finding a solution for the diminishing opportunities for shooting sports.

The Department of Natural Resources and Water and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, (QPWS), have been contacted in regards to the availability of land for a combined complex for sporting shooters. The Department of Natural Resources and Water has advised that the matter had been referred to the Environmental Protection Agency, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, Cotton Tree. No written response has been received from the QPWS to date.

Verbal information from the Departments indicates that this matter has not progressed.

Council needs to consider the future use for this parcel of land.

Council may consider it appropriate, if it approves the construction of a shed, to require the construction of the shed to be in such a manner that allows for its removal, should the lease not be renewed in June 2011.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

That Council consider the request for the construction of a shed on the Council owned parcel of land, Lot 17 on RP 221336, leased to the Gympie Clay Target Club.

5/2	Request to Camp at Showgrounds
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Re: Request to Camp at Showgrounds
From: Rae Gaté, Gympie District Show Society, 76 Mary Street,
GYMPIE QLD 4570; and Joy and Baz Short
File: WG94/00053 and AG96/00225
Date: 9 January 2008 and letter received 22nd January 2008 (undated)

Correspondence from Gympie and District Show Society

“The Racecourse and Showgrounds Reserve has received a request to have approx 200-300 vans camp on the grounds the weekend of the 13/14/15 June 2008.

A Traditional Country Music Weekend has been booked into the Pavilion that weekend and the organisers of the event are requesting that the attendees be able to camp at the grounds as well.”

Correspondence from Joy and Baz Short

“We went and spoke to Rae at the Showgrounds and she gave us some plans of the grounds and explained that there would be no problems catering for the amount of vans we expect and that the shower and toilet facilities are ok.

We have arranged with Cleanaway for bins and they will service them on the Thursday and the Friday and again on the Monday.

As suggested, we will park the vans in the centre and as there are toilet facilities there, there will be no need for anyone to be crossing the track during 5.00am and 9.00am while the horses are training and that will be explained to everyone when they book.

We are going to be talking to one of the service organisations about helping with the parking of cars for the event.

We have also spoken to the police about the event and the rules about noise in the area that also will be included in the notices we will be giving to the patrons along with other rules, we feel need to be mentioned for a peaceful and successful weekend for everyone. I have included these for you and if you think there is anything else I should include, please do not hesitate to tell me.

Liquid waste caravaner’s will be using showers on the grounds and as far as washing up water is concerned, we will arrange some sort of disposal for this.

I hope this covers all the concerns you have.

Now for those dreaded rules.

Please no crossing the track between 5am and 9am and please be as quiet as possible because of the horse training.

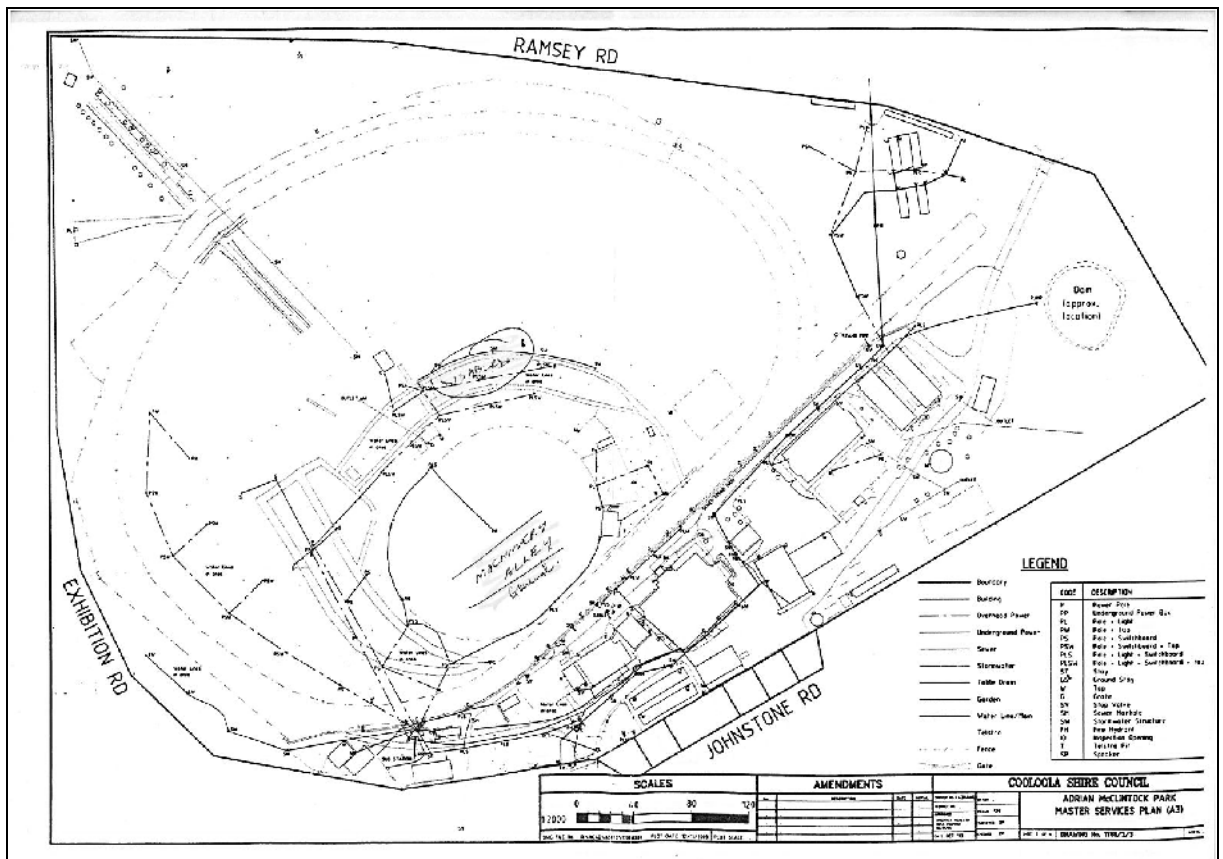
There will be green wheelie bins around please wrap rubbish. If the bin in your area is full, please let Baz or myself know so we can get you another.

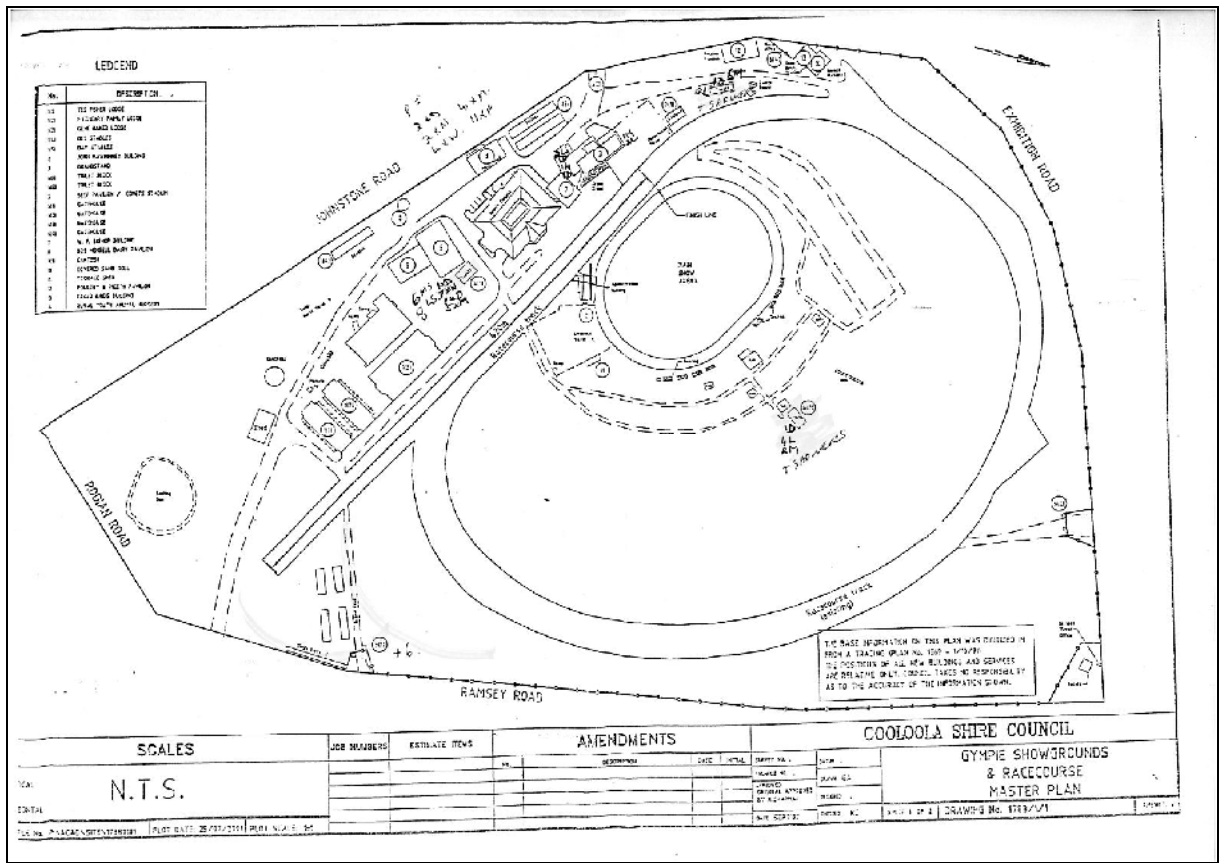
Smoking – no smoking anywhere near the main entrance to ‘The Pavilion’ we do acknowledge your right to smoke but we also acknowledge the right of others that do not want to walk through the smoke as we have quite a number of patrons with breathing difficulties. Smokers, please be considerate of them as one day it might be you.

Alcohol – only allowed in the van areas as ‘The Pavilion’ is a licensed venue. There will be a bar at the venue as this is in the area of the entertainment while you are there and if there is entertainment on please just get your drink and return to your seat or if you wish to talk, go outside away from the main door.

Noise – when leaving the venue, please keep your talking quiet as the showgrounds are surrounded by homes.

As there are plenty of powered sites, there will be no need for generators, nor will they be allowed.”





Report: (Administration Manager – Simon Graham)

The Showgrounds Reserve (‘for Recreation, Racecourse and Showground Purposes and for no other purposes whatsoever’) situated at Lot 72 on CP G14747, has been used in the past for camping for large events such as Motor Swap. Confirmation has been received from the Gympie Show Society that the Showgrounds will not be required for Southside Markets and the Turf Club has no issues with the grounds being used for this purpose on the days requested.

The Show Society is ensuring that both toilet and shower blocks will be made available to the users between and including 13 and 15 June 2008.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

That Council approve the use of the Showgrounds for approximately 200 - 300 vans to camp between and including 13 June 2008 and 15 June 2008.

5/3 Gympie District and Historical Society – Request for Lease over Lot 356 on CP 910156 (Current Leased by Eldorado Mining)

Re: Gympie District and Historical Society – Request for Lease over Lot 356 on CP 910156 (Current Leased by Eldorado Mining)
From: Administration Manager, Simon Graham
File: PG01/00286
Date: 1 February 2008

Report: (Administration Manager – Simon Graham)

Council Minute F11/01/08 refers.

F11/01/08

Recommend:

1. That Council advise the Gympie & District Historical Society Inc that a lease over land described as Lot 356 on CP 910156 would not be granted at this stage until further investigations into current usage and infrastructure on the site is completed.
2. That Council staff contact Eldorado Mines with a view to ascertaining ownership of the buildings on Lot 356 on CP 910156 and intended use of same.

Carried

Discussions with Eldorado Mining representatives has confirmed the following information:

- Eldorado Mining hold a Mining Lease over the surface area enclosed in the fenced compound area on Lot 356 on CP910156.
- Eldorado Mining hold a mining lease over a much larger underground area.
- Council has a Compensation Agreement with Eldorado Mining in relation to the surface mining lease area.
- The term of the Compensation Agreement is the term of the mining lease.
- The surface Mining Lease area is a restricted area in accordance with Mining Legislation.
- Eldorado Mining require access to the lagoon situated on Lot 356 on CP910156 for monitoring purposes.
- Eldorado require access across Lot 356 on CP910156 to access their mine shafts to the east of Lot 356 along the defined tracks.

This access is required under Mining Legislation as there is a Mining lease over the whole of this area.

Council has agreements with Eldorado Mining for access to their shafts situated on the eastern side of Lot 356 on CP910156.

Council's Parks and Gardens Superintendent has a proposal to develop Lot 356 on CP910156 and that is in accordance with the purpose of use in the Trust Deed ie Local Government purposes (Tourism and Recreation). This proposal will accommodate the restrictions outlined in dot point form above. Council's Parks and Gardens Superintendent is reporting separately on this matter.

On this basis it does not seem appropriate to lease all or part of Lot 356 on CP910156 to the Gympie and District Historical Society Inc, (GDHS).

Report: (Parks and Gardens Superintendent – Ed French)

The Retort House and Lagoon site is valuable to the Council and public for the following reasons.

- It provides a suitably sized area for water quality improvement such as a wetland to recirculate through water from Lake Alford. Such a wetland can be designed to reduce the nutrient, sediment and contaminant loading and increase the level of dissolved oxygen in the water;
- It allows for improvements within the site to reduce the nutrient, sediment and contaminant levels entering the site from upstream sources, and therefore improving water quality downstream into Lake Alford; and
- It provides an open space for the possible development of a natural style botanic gardens, similar to the Maroochy Regional Botanic Gardens, with interpretive signage for both the mining building ruins, and native flora and fauna.

Discussions are being held with Gympie Eldorado regarding their possible interest in water quality improvement projects that may be placed within this area that will be of benefit to Lake Alford.

The topography and historic ruins within the site would provide an excellent opportunity for native botanic gardens with a unique historical experience.

It is planned to include this site in the development of the Lake Alford Recreation Area Master Plan, presently intended to be undertaken in 2008.

Council has undertaken some woody weed removals and conducts environmental weed spraying operations approximately twice a year within the Lot.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

That Council receive the information as a progress report.

Further that the matter of leases to the Gympie and District Historical Society Inc. over –

- Lot 42 on SP 159642
- Lot 356 on CP 910156
- Lot 1 on MPH 30572
- Lot 2 on MPH 24041
- Lot 1 on MPH 33223
- Lot 2 on MPH 6290

be referred to the new Gympie Regional Council for consideration.

5/4	Local Law Process - Amalgamation
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Re: Local Law Process - Amalgamation
 From: Michael Kinnane, P O Box 15031, CITY EAST QLD 4002
 File: AB98/00015
 Date: 5 February 2008

“I am writing to all Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), Council Clerks of Island Councils and interim CEOs of merging Councils to advise that the Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation (the Department) considers it unachievable for merging Councils to complete the local law-making processes under the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), for new local law proposals prior to the local government elections being held on 15th March 2008.

As you are aware, part of the local law making process includes the Department undertaking a State interest check of a Council’s proposed local law which can take up to 10 weeks to complete. If approval is granted for Council to proceed in making the proposed local law and even in the event that Councils are not required to undertake a second State interest check, it is now considered unachievable for Councils to complete the local law-making process under Sections 867(7) to 871, 873 and 874 of the Act, which includes a minimum of 21 days of public consultation, prior to the Local Government elections being held.

If Councils choose to submit a local law proposal in the interim, the Department's assessment of Council's proposed local law and the Council's requirement to complete the necessary steps of the local law-making process under Division 3 of the Act cannot be completed prior to the Local Government elections. Therefore any merging Council's proposed law laws would need to be considered by the new Regional Council prior to being resubmitted to the Minister for approval under Section 867 of the Act.

Due to the necessary administrative timeframes associated with the development, public consultation and assessment of proposal local laws under the Act, it is recommended that merging Councils do not submit new local law proposals until after the elections are held on 15th March 2008.

I trust this information is helpful. Should you require any further information in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Alison O'Gorman, Local Government Collaboration of the Department on telephone number 3225 8659."

Report: (Administration Manager – Simon Graham)

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Recreation released the following information on it's website:

A review of Local Laws by local government will commence on 1 January 2008, concluding 31 December 2010. It will be the most comprehensive review and consolidation of local laws in the history of local government in Queensland. This review builds on the successful review undertaken between 1994 and 1999 following the introduction of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act), where the number of local laws was reduced by 47%.

The three components of the review that must be conducted between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2010 are:

- 1. Those local governments* whose boundaries are affected by the local government reforms will be required to consolidate multiple sets of local laws and subordinate local laws, the process for which will be provided by Regulation;*
- 2. All local governments, including those whose boundaries are affected by the local government reforms, will be required to review all local laws and subordinate local laws in existence on 1 January 2008 to identify any provisions that are redundant, as required by sections 899A to 899D of the Act; and*

3. All local governments, including those whose boundaries are affected by the local government reforms, will be required to review any anti-competitive provisions retained in any local laws and subordinate local laws that were in existence on 31 December 2006, as required by sections 893A to 893L of the Act.

It is proposed that the review process of Local Laws begins after the Gympie Regional Council comes into affect and that the recommended process from the State Government is followed.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

For the Committee's information.

5/5 Request for Extension of Lease

Re: Request for Extension of Lease
From: Gympie Junior Rugby League Club Inc., PO Box 520,
GYMPIE QLD 4570 (Ross Groundwater, President)
File: AG97/00263
Date: 1 February 2008

"I am writing on behalf of Gympie Junior Rugby League Club Inc. to seek negotiation on our current lease at Jack Stokes Oval on Smith Road, Monkland. I believe the current Lease expires in April of 2009. We are currently in the process of applying for different grants for the future upgrade of the facilities here and we have been advised that we may need to secure a longer tenure as we will also be submitting a 5 year plan outlining our future requirements.

I realise we may be outside of normal terms for negotiation but if we let it go too much longer, it may well effect our chances of obtaining assistance from these grants.

I am contactable on Ph. 0754 825 466 (B) 0408 825 466 (M) or email tyrepowergympie@westnet.com.au.

Looking forward to your reply."

Report: (Administration Manager – Simon Graham)

The Gympie Junior Rugby League Club Inc. currently have a lease over land described as Lot 36 on Crown Plan MCH4529, Lot 1 on Crown Plan MPH14096 and Lot 4 on Crown Plan MPH40589, situated at McVey Road, Gympie.

Lot 36 on MCH4529 is Reserve (Reserve No. 1472) land, for recreational purposes, where Council are Trustees. The land is 1.63 hectares in size.

Lot 1 on Crown Plan MPH14096 is Council owned land, being 1.194 hectares in size.

Lot 4 on Crown Plan MPH40589 is also Council owned, being 4,367m².

The lease was originally granted to the Wanderers Rugby League Football Club Inc., commencing on 6th April 1984, however was transferred to the Gympie Junior Rugby League on 9th December 1998.

The Gympie Junior Rugby League actively promote the rugby league culture for children throughout the Shire. It is believed that the interest shown in this field has not declined, but increased over the term of the lease.

Below, please find a map of the leased area.



It would be recommended that any offer of Lease, be in Council's standard format with a timeframe of 9 years and 11 months.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

For Council's consideration.

5/6	Community Mural for Kia Ora
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Re: Community Mural for Kia Ora
From: Alicia Murphy, Management The Frances Reilly Gallery,
EUMUNDI QLD 4562(frgallery1@bigpond.com)
File: AH94/00017
Date: 12 January 2008

“I would like to propose a mural in Kia Ora to commemorate the passing of the Dairy Farmers trader in the area after the amalgamation of dairy farms and the corporate takeover. By painting the old tank by the hall. Currently the men’s toilet could do with a make over so the mural could extend onto that as well. I live in the area and realise that there used to be a lot more going on in Kia Ora than there is today, maybe it would help to cheer the place up. I am prepared to try for a RADF grant if possible?”

I’m 35 and have had thirteen years as a mural painter in Europe with an extensive portfolio to view if needed. Let me know your thoughts or can you please forward this message to the appropriate person. Thank you.”

Report: (Administration Manager – Simon Graham)

It is recommended that Council consider the following points in determining whether the project will proceed:

- Is the offer made by Alicia Murphy free of charge or will Council need to call for tenders?
- Alicia Murphy advises that she resides ‘in the area’. It is noted that the email came from The Frances Reilly Gallery in Eumundi. Council may consider that if it wishes to proceed with the project, it should be offered to someone who resides within the Shire.
- Council’s Grants Officer, Janet Lee also indicated that when water tanks were muralised in the Shire previously, a Work for the Dole program was implemented. Council may wish to consider whether it wishes to undertake this project on a larger scale throughout the Shire.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

Should Council decide to muralise the water tank in Kia Ora (by the Hall), that:

- 1. Alicia Murphy be encouraged with a letter of support from Council for the project to accompany her application for a RADF grant;**
- 2. Should Council not support Alicia Murphy undertaking the project, then the project be put out to tender; and**
- 3. Should Council not wish to proceed with the project, Alicia Murphy be thanked for her proposal and advise accordingly.**

5/7	Request for Adequate Site – Gympie Netball Association
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Re: Request for Adequate Site – Gympie Netball Association
From: Gympie and District Netball Association, PO Box 220,
GYMPIE QLD 4570
File: FG94/00029 and 1MPH40750
Date: 9 November 2007

“I recently attended a general meeting held by the Gympie and District Netball Association, as a member, to show support with respect to their tireless dedication to the future growth, development and wellbeing of the association and its members.

The meetings major topic however, was to address the current state and condition of our clubhouse and facilities. With great concern, I was confronted with the issue of the committee and attending members seeking to spend a large percentage of available funds in building a new clubhouse. On discussing this matter further, it is understood that for many years the association has sought assistance from Council to provide a suitable site for the association to relocate its facilities, due to growth within the association and safety issues for its members – however it appears to date a suitable and economically viable site is yet to be decided by Council.

Due to my immediate concern, I personally sought direction from the Council’s information guide booklet and found a financial assistance number which personally led me to Janet Lee. I expressed my concerns with Janet, who was kind enough to meet with the attendees on Monday, 29th October 2007.

It was at this meeting, Janet advised the 'Final Report', with relation to Council's Open Space and Recreation Plan, was being released Friday, 2nd November 2007 – completion of a survey plan conducted in 2001. We were advised to wait for the release of this report and respond accordingly by the end of December 2007.

I personally, and on behalf of the Gympie and District Netball Association wish to respond to various issues:

- *We currently have (6) bitumen courts, all (6) needing to be resurfaced yet to use the associations funds or seek appropriate grants for the current site would be futile – (2) of which are unsafe due to insufficient run-off clear space' as per court specifications. Landcare have attempted to address the issue of continued erosion in 2007; however this can only be seen as temporary measure for the site is no longer suitable for any sporting body.*
- *The current site is situated in flood zone; therefore it is not economically viable to improve facilities e.g. clubhouse, netball courts and amenities when continued and long term damage can only be anticipated.*
- *Increased traffic flow anticipated from the opening of Hungry Jacks food outlet.*
- *Increased traffic flow due to the location of McDonalds, McCafe, Alidi, Tramcars Bakery Depot, Tramcars Take-Away, plus additional outlets, etc. To avoid the highway traffic lights at Excelsior Road, the usage of Rose Street has increased substantially at unacceptable speeds by the general public.*
- *Insufficient parking facilities.*

Mr Manson, this letter is purely meant to seek the assistance of Council, not to ask why our association's previous attempts for a suitable site appear not to have been adequately addressed and the matter finalised. We wish to allow for growth and development of the sport of netball and its members within our community.

The association is fully aware and respects the demands placed on Council with regards to planning and development within a growth area, continued improvement to health and community services, etc., when allocation of funds are limited. However, the surrounding area of the association's site has been planned, developed and upgraded, yet we remain in serious need of being addressed, if not for growth, but simply safety.

The association to date has proven its ability to:

- *Manage its financial affairs:*
 - *Lease*
 - *Rates*
 - *Annual budget*
 - *QNA Insurance*

- *Incoming and Outgoing outlays*
- *Fundraising*
- *The association has never sought financial assistance from Council.*
- *Maintaining and increasing membership numbers.*
- *Participation by all Cooloola Shire Primary Schools with Interschool Sport Competitions – held twice a year for a 6 to 8 week period.*

The Council's Open Space and Recreation Plan Report has suggested three possible sites – One Mile Sports Area, Six Mile Oval and the Gympie Showgrounds.

I have recently consulted with the Council's Planning and Development Department and have been advised the One Mile Sports Area, although appears inadequate in size for our needs, is already earmarked for increased football ovals and possible BMX expansion; therefore not available. Six Mile Oval appears again to be inadequate in size, the highway location is questionable for safe and easy access and may not be cost effective.

Our only option at present appears to be the Gympie Showgrounds, which at present is utilised every 2nd and 4th Sunday by the Southside Markets and during the Gympie Show. If this site eventuates, our endeavours would be to design a facility to cater for existing and future needs. I have also been advised by Council's Planning and Development Department, the Gympie Showgrounds lease has recently been restructured to cater for 'Sport and Recreation'.

I must stress Mr Manson, the association is more than approachable and open to suggestions/advice. We currently share facilities – amenities and parking etc with (3) other associations. The Gympie and District Netball Association is extremely positive towards continued shared/multi purpose sports facilities at a new sites and acknowledge the available opportunities for funding partnerships, shared expenses re: maintenance, etc.

The association and I look forward to your response and thank the Council for initiated the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which is a wonderfully positive move forward for a district whose continued growth and development proves we are in a geographical area where the community benefits.

I have enclosed the Court Specifications for your reference. As previously advised to Council, a minimum of (12) courts would be required due to growth within our community and Gympie's participation in regional and state carnivals – this in turn generating income for our district re the provision of accommodation, food, hire of amenities, equipment, etc.

Thank you Mr Manson for your time and consideration."

Court Specifications

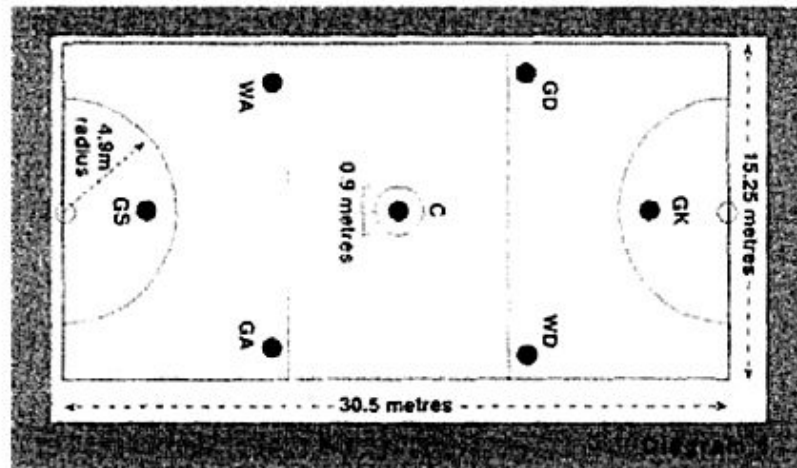
Court Specifications

These court measurements form part of the current Official Rules (dated 2001) of the International Federation of Netball Associations.

The 3.05m run off clear space outside each side line and end line is a Netball Australia rule introduced to ensure safety of players and umpires. This measurement is a minimum requirement to attain Official Netball Australia Venue Accreditation.

Court Dimensions (Diagram 1):

- Sideline: 30.5m (The court is divided into three thirds measuring 10.17m each)
- Baseline: 15.25m
- Centre Circle: 0.9m in diameter
- Goal Circle: 4.9m in radius
- Line Markings: White and max 50mm wide; all lines are part of the court
- Clear Space: 3.05m each side and ends



Goal Post

- Post height: 3.05m (2.4m modified netball)
- Post diameter: Standard 65mm
- Ring: 380mm internal diameter 15mm steel rod
- Post fixing: Internal

Report: (Administration Manager – Simon Graham)

Staff have been investigating possible sites for the Gympie and District Netball Association to relocate to. On the Reserve in Cartwright Road the topography does not lend itself to constructing 12 netball Courts without substantial earthwork costs.

The Gympie Showgrounds, Adrian Mc Clintock Park, is situated on Lot 72 on G 14747 and Council hold the title as a Deed of Grant in Trust for Recreation and Racecourse and Showground and for no other purpose.

There is sufficient space fronting Ramsay Road and outside of the leased area to accommodate the Netball Courts.

Report: (Strategic Planner – K.A. Rolfe)

Council recently completed its Open Space and Recreation Plan. The relevant recommendations from the report in relation to Netball are reproduced below. Those specifically related to Netball are shown first.

Netball

1. *“It is recommended that Gympie & Districts Netball Association and Council explore relocation of netball from Excelsior Reserve to a new site to support growth of the sport. Candidate sites for further investigation are:*
 - *One Mile Sports Area – investigate best utilisation of existing land area first (e.g. high ground near old basketball courts), prior to purchase of additional land for sportsground expansion;*
 - *Gympie Showgrounds; and*
 - *Six Mile Oval.*
2. *The cost of relocation is also a significant factor, and a source of funds for relocation has not been identified, therefore, the final decision should also be influenced by which site will be most cost effective.*
3. *Master planning for One Mile Sports Area should consider the potential relocation of netball to this major sports precinct.*
4. *Following relocation of netball, utilise Excelsior Reserve as a dog off-leash area. It may also provide a suitable space for activities such as model car clubs.”*

Master Plans

“Prepare Master Plans for major sport and recreation reserves in Cooloola Shire, in partnership with the community and stakeholder groups. Master Plans should ensure that existing land areas are planned and upgraded in a manner which maximises usage and viability, based on achievable objectives within a nominated timeframe.

Sites recommended for master planning are:

- *One Mile Sports Area, Gympie;*
- *Gympie Showgrounds;*
- *Lake Alford, Gympie;*

- *Centenary of Federation Park, Cooloola Cove; and*
- *The Complex.*

As a guide, the master plans should address the following:

- *Functional layout of existing and proposed facilities;*
- *Major infrastructure requirements and design criteria;*
- *Car parking and access;*
- *Pedestrian, cyclists and disabled access provisions;*
- *Environmental requirements; and*
- *Indicative cost estimates for capital works and project staging.”*

“These strategic sites are at a pivotal point in their development and would obtain value from an objective approach to planning their future direction to maximise usage, management and operational efficiency. This is also required to service the Shire’s future population growth which is generating demands for park and sporting lands.

Although the level of planning required for each site will vary, it is vital that plans are prepared in cooperation with user groups and other relevant stakeholders.

The master plans will also strengthen the position of Council and community groups to attract external funding assistance for progressive facility development and improvement.”

The Planning and Development Department intends to request funding for some of the recommended master planning projects in the upcoming budget with the possibility of attracting funding from Sport and Recreation.

Netball will be one of the stakeholders included in that planning process. Given that the Showgrounds and One Mile are two of the options for the Netball Club these are the highest priority and master planning should be undertaken as soon as possible.

Master planning will ensure that the needs of many clubs seeking to relocate and expand, not just Netball, will be appropriately catered for in an integrated and cost effective manner.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

That Council refer this matter to the 2008 Draft Budget meeting of the new Gympie Regional Council to allocate adequate funding for the preparation of a Master Plan for the major sport and recreation reserves.

Further, that the Gympie Netball Association be advised of Council’s referral of this matter.

SECTION 6 RATES MATTERS

6/1	Petition re Proposed Sewerage Rates Increase
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Re: Petition re Proposed Sewerage Rates Increase
 From: Director of Engineering, Mr R.A. Fredman & Finance
 Manager, Yvonne Oliver

File:
 Date: 7 February 2008

Re: MINUTE F42/01/08 Petition re Proposed Sewerage Rates
 Increase

From: Finance Manager, Yvonne Oliver

File:
 Date: 22 January 2008

Cr Prior tabled the following Petition from Cooloola Coast Residents & Friends Inc with 48 signatures. Cr Prior advised that further pages to the Petition will be tabled at future meetings.

From: Cooloola Cove Residents and Friends Inc,
 PO Box 103, Tin Can Bay Qld 4580
 Date: 15 January 2008.

“The Petition of residents, friends and visitors to Cooloola Cove, Division 2 and 5 of Cooloola shire wishes to draw the attention of Cooloola Shire Council to the GREAT burden of opinion held by the people of Tin Can Bay, Cooloola Cove and Rainbow Beach that the proposed increase of 14% on the sewerage rates should not be allowed to happen.

There is evidence to suggest that the increased costs of construction have been known for some time and should have been calculated into the overall figures at the outset.

We know that we are assisting Imbil with their sewerage upgrade to the tune of \$77,466.00 and in other circumstances we would be happy to do so, BUT we do not expect to finance Council’s incompetences.

NO 14% INCREASE ON SEWERAGE RATES.

*Principal Petitioner COOLOOLA COVE
RESIDENTS & FRIENDS INC, PO BOX 103, TIN
CAN BAY QLD 4580*

G06/01/08

That the Petition be received and referred to the Director of Engineering and Finance Department Manager to investigate and report to Administration & Finance Committee Meeting to be held on 22 January 2008.

Carried

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

Due to the Director of Engineering's absence a report is not available at this meeting. The matter has been referred to the February Administration and Finance Committee meeting for report.

F42/01/08

Recommend that the information be received and deferred to the February Administration and Finance Committee meeting to be dealt with other petitions in relation to the matter.

Carried

General Meeting 05/02/08

Cr Prior tabled the following Petition:-

From: Principal Petitioner – Cooloola Cove Residents & Friends Inc, PO Box 103, Tin Can Bay Qld 4580
Petition has 67 signatures.

Date: 22 January 2008

“The Petition of Residents, Friends and Visitors to Cooloola Cove, Divisions 2 and 5 of Cooloola Shire wishes to draw the attention of Cooloola Shire Council to the GREAT burden of opinion held by the people of Tin Can Bay, Cooloola Cove and Rainbow Beach that the proposed increase of 14% on the sewerage rates should not be allowed to happen.

There is evidence to suggest that the increased costs of construction have been known for some time and should have been calculated into the overall figures at the outset.

We know that we are assisting Imbil with their sewerage upgrade to the tune of \$77,466.00 and in other circumstances we would be happy to do so, BUT we do not expect to finance Council's incompetences.

NO 14% INCREASE ON SEWERAGE RATES."

G82/01/08

That the Petition be received and referred to the Director of Engineering and Finance Manager for investigation and report to the Administration & Finance Committee Meeting to be held on 19 February 2008.

Carried

Report: (Director of Engineering – Mr R.A. Fredman)

Council's Water & Sewerage budgeting for Cooloola Coast Sewage Treatment Plants was based on appropriate professional advice.

The Cardno Planning Report for the project dated November 2004 advised of a budget estimate of \$13.5million for three separate treatment plants. The subsequent Design report of October 2005 increased this to \$14.4million. In subsequent discussions at Council's Works Committee meeting it was decided to do all plants together as one contract in order to realise savings and to leave the budget at \$13.5million.

The process for receiving tenders was open and clearly competitive with several bids received. The lowest cost bid was selected.

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

1. The 14% Increase

At the time of compiling the 2007/08 Budget the amount reported for inclusion in the Budget document for the Cooloola Coast Sewage Treatment Plants was \$13.5million over 2007/08 and 2008/09. Total subsidy shown in this Budget was \$5.4million. Effectively Council would have needed to fund the projects in the amount of \$8.1million. The projected Budget outcome of this to ratepayers was that Sewerage Charges would increase by approximately 6% per annum for 2008/09 to 2011/12.

Tenders were received after the 2007/08 Budget meeting and as reported above by Council's Director of Engineering, the lowest cost bid was selected. Due to the increase in the price for this project, the effect of the increase from a Budget point of view was reported to Council. The adjusted Budget estimates factored in the new cost of \$21.8million over 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Total subsidy shown for the new costing is \$8,720,000. Effectively Council would need to fund the projects in the amount of \$13,080,000. The difference that now exists is as follows:

Post Budget Cost	\$13,080,000
Budget Cost	- <u>\$8,100,000</u>
	\$4,980,000

The projected Budget outcome of this to ratepayers is that Sewerage charges would increase by approximately 14% for 2008/09 to 2010/11 and then fall back to approximately 6% in 2011/12. So to cover the additional costs associated with the project, ie, operational costs, depreciations and interest and redemption etc, an increase of about 8% over and above the budgeted percentage would be required for 2008-2011.

2. Petition: “Construction cost should have been calculated into the overall figures at the outset”

As explained above the new costs were not known until post Budget 2007/08.

3. Petition: Cooloola Coast residents “assisting Imbil with their sewage upgrade to the tune of \$77,466.00”

Council’s Budgets for the 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06 years included an Imbil Sewage Infrastructure Charge. This was a separate charge of \$4.44 per assessable property (excluding grazing permits) of the whole Shire for the purpose of funding the establishment of sewage infrastructure in Imbil township including environmental impact assessment and planning costs (discount applicable).

Over the 3 year period Council levied \$48,627 gross to Cooloola Coast residents, NOT \$77,466.00.

Comment:

Ratepayers are advised that up until and including the 2007/08 year, Cooloola Coast sewerage charges have been the lowest in the Shire. With the abovementioned increase, sewerage charges for the Cooloola Coast will still be less than those projected for Imbil even in 5 years time.

Further, major upgrading and replacement works at the Gympie Sewage Treatment Plant are planned in the near future. Given a similar scenario with anticipated costs of this work, it may be that both Gympie & Southside ratepayers will incur larger than anticipated increases in sewerage charges.

The matter of rating is a Council decision. Presently, each of the sewerage areas are self-funding.

A change of rating policy in this regard could see even greater increases to the Cooloola Coast if major works in other areas (say the Gympie Plant) are significant in cost and the funding of all works is spread over the whole Shire with one sewerage charge. As stated earlier, rating policy is a Council decision.

Recommendation: (Director of Engineering – Mr R.A. Fredman & Finance Manager, Yvonne Oliver)

That the petitioners be advised as per the above report.

6/2	Water Consumption Account
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Re: Water Consumption Account
 From: Principal Finance Officer – Revenue – Russell Watson
 File: FR95/00026
 Date: 12 February 2008

Report: (Principal Finance Officer – Revenue - Mr R.W. Watson)

Assess No	Owner	Property Address	Amount	Reason	Recommended Action
6116	GO Burke	32 Manooka Dve	1 st Tier – 51 2 nd Tier – 1011	Undetected leak	Write off \$670.45

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

Recommend that Council endorse staff action.

6/3	Request for Lost Discount on Rates - Various
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Re: Request for Lost Discount on Rates - Various
 From: Principal Finance Officer – Revenue – Russell Watson
 File: FR95/00026
 Date: 12 February 2008

Report: (Principal Finance Officer – Revenue - Mr R.W. Watson)

Assess No	Owner	Property Address	Amount	Reason	Recommended Action
5517	Am & RE Burton	38 York St	\$86.59	Staff error	Allow discount
5482	NK Boyle	14 Elizabeth St	\$88.21	Paid wrong amount	Disallow discount
13648	RP & LH Ward	24 O'Keefe Rd	\$47.08	Payment lost in mail	Disallow discount

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)**Recommend that Council endorse staff action.**

6/4a	Land Valuations
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Re: Land Valuations
From: Finance Manager, Yvonne Oliver
File:
Date: 31 January 2008

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

Council's resolution G29/01/08 at its meeting held on 15 January 2008 stated that:

“That Council write to the Department of Natural Resources and Water requesting that due to the inflated prices paid by Queensland Water Infrastructure Ltd for properties in the proposed Traveston dam area that the Department consider an alternative method of revaluation so that the properties concerned and in the immediate vicinity are not adversely affected in the upcoming revaluation process for the Shire.”

Verbal advice received from DNR&W is that sale prices for properties sold to QWI were not used in the current revaluation of surrounding properties.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)**For the Committee's information.**

6/4b	Annual Valuation Effective 30 June 2008
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Re: Annual Valuation Effective 30 June 2008
From: Des Lucas, Department of Natural Resources and Water, GPO
Box 2454, BRISBANE QLD 4001
File: FR94/00016
Date Received: 1 February 2008

“The Department of Natural Resources and Water is to undertake a fresh valuation of your local government to become effective for rating purposes on 30 June 2008.”

The valuations will be made under the Valuation of Land Act 1944 and be posted to all landowners on 03 March 2008.

It has been practice to provide this data to the relevant local government or nominated agent prior to the date of issue of the valuations on the understanding that the information will only be used for budgetary purposes and will not be made available to any other person until after the issue of the valuation.

I would advise that the information on the new valuation will be provided shortly for your local government. You are asked to observe the previously mentioned protocol of not disclosing details of the new valuations until the official release of the new valuations on 03 March 2008. Should you have any questions on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me on (07) 3405 5503.”

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

For the Committee’s information.

6/5	Shead – Request for Pensioner Remission
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Re: Shead – Request for Pensioner Remission
 From: Tony and Lois Shead, 10 Haven Street, SOUTHSIDE QLD
 4570SOUTHSIDE QLD 4570
 File: FR94/00012
 Date: 1 February 2008

“Having been made aware of the State Government Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme from the leaflet received with our rates notice, today we made the necessary recipient application and during that process were pleasantly surprised to learn of Council’s own Pensioner Remission Policy, to which we are entitled

In view of this newfound knowledge we are asking if Council would consider backdating the remission to our rates dating from June 2002, (our pensions were granted from June 1, 2002). Our address at that time was 19 (35) Marroo Road, Brooloo, with Rates Reference Number 165431.”

Report: (Principal Finance Officer – Revenue - Mr R.W. Watson)

The State Government does not allow it’s pensioner subsidy to be backdated to before the current financial year and Council has always followed this procedure. The cost to Council to back date the remission to 2002 would be \$425.00

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That Mr & Mrs Shead be advised that Council will allow the State Government Pensioner Subsidy and Council's Pensioner Remission back to 1 July 2007 and a credit will be applied to their rates account in due course.

6/6	Request for Extension of Discount Date
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Re: Request for Extension of Discount Date
 From: (a) JD & WJ Bisgrove, 1 Hall Street, GYMPIE QLD 4570
 and (b) Joy Srisornchai, 52 Golden Hind Avenue,
 COOLOOLA COVE QLD 4580 & (c) Trudy Bale, 987 North
 Deep Creek Road, NORTH DEEP CREEK QLD 4570
 File: FR95/00025
 Date: 1 February 2008

(a) *“This notice appears to be received early. Our previous half-yearly notice was payable on 04-10-07 budgeting for 6 months indicated that the next (current) notice would be payable about early April 2008.*

As your records would indicate, we pay in advance, fortnightly (being pensioners) to avoid a large amount to pay every 6 months. Accordingly could you allow an extension on the due date of 28-02-2008? This will considerably reduce financial difficulties (particularly if our on-time payment discount of \$81.79 is forfeited). I cannot understand how any bill can be forwarded early. Trusting you may give this request sincere and urgent consideration, undoubtedly there would be many pensioners in similar circumstances.”

(b) *“As a single pensioner, I am writing to you to ask for one extra week to pay my current rates, at which time, they will be paid, in full, on Tuesday, 4th March, if I am allowed my discount.*

I do not feel this request is unreasonable, as the rates are normally due in March. I do realise that the excuse for this will be ‘It’s because of the amalgamation!’ but surely you could have given us some prior notice.

My budget for the entire year is worked out, set out and adhered to before the 1st January each year so that I know the exact date every bill has to be paid. You might note that I have never been late with my rates payment or even my dog registration since I have been in Cooloola, so I hope you will view this request favourably.”

(c) “My letter of concern is written to you to bring to your attention to my rates notice arrived here on the 5th February with payment due by the 28th February. Normally I would receive my rates notice and have 28 days to make my payment in time for my discount. This year I get only 23 days. Now the difference is only 5 days but that difference means I am unable to receive my discount. As I am supposed to have 28 days to make my payment, this payment is not due until the 4th of March.

This would make it possible for my payment to be made on time. Please consider my decision as this discount is the difference between buying food or going hungry.”

Report: (Principal Finance Officer – Revenue - Mr R.W. Watson)

Discount dates in 2007 were 3 March and 4 October. Council resolved in October 2007 that water meters be read earlier than usual so that rate notices could issue earlier this year due to the amalgamation process.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the above ratepayers be advised that while Council apologises for any inconvenience caused by the earlier discount date, it is unable to extend the discount period.

6/7	Request for Waiver of Water Consumption
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Re: Request for Waiver of Water Consumption
 From: Natalie Dempster, Home Dialysis Service, Nambour General Hospital, NAMBOUR QLD 4560
 File: FR95/00026
 Date: 1 February 2008

“Mr Rogers became a Home Haemodialysis patient on the 12th September 2007. His water usage for the haemodialysis has been calculated to be approximately 18,900 litres per year.

This takes into account the actual dialysis hours including pre and post dialysis “run time” and scheduled maintenance procedures.

Currently we have a total of 20 patients from Kilcoy to Tin Can Bay/Rainbow Beach and at present the appropriate Council’s, waver the cost of their water used for their dialysis. I wish to apply for the same consideration for the patients in your shire.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter, and I await your response.”

“Mr Frost became a Home Haemodialysis patient on the 1 September 2007. His water usage for the haemodialysis has been calculated to be approximately 18,900 litres per year.

This takes into account the actual dialysis hours including pre and post dialysis “run time” and scheduled maintenance procedures.

Currently we have a total of 20 patients from Kilcoy to Tin Can Bay/Rainbow Beach and at present the appropriate Council’s, waver the cost of their water used for their dialysis. I wish to apply for the same consideration for the patients in your shire.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter, and I await your response.”

“Mrs Robertson will become a Home Haemodialysis patient on the 5th February 2008. Her water usage for the haemodialysis has been calculated to be approximately 18,900 litres per year.

This takes into account the actual dialysis hours including pre and post dialysis “run time” and scheduled maintenance procedures.

Currently we have a total of 20 patients from Kilcoy to Tin Can Bay/Rainbow Beach and at present the appropriate Council’s, waver the cost of their water used for their dialysis. I wish to apply for the same consideration for the patients in your shire.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter, and I await your response.”

Report: (Principal Finance Officer – Revenue - Mr R.W. Watson)

The charge for 189 kilolitres of water at the current second tier rate would be \$246.65 per annum net.

The amount from 12 September to 29 November 2007 for Mr Rogers is \$52.70. The amount for Mr Frost is \$82.44 for the same period and the amount for the next billing period for Mrs Robertson will be \$99.67.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

For the Committee’s consideration.

7/1 Financial Summary Report – Fund Balance and Investment Report as at 31 January 2008 and Rate Collection as at 8 February 2008

Re: Financial Summary Report – Fund Balance and Investment Report as at 31 January 2008 and Rate Collection as at 8 February 2008
 From: Acting Management Accountant, Lindy Bell & Principal Finance Officer Revenue, Mr R Watson
 File: FG94/00043
 Date: 12 February 2008

Report: (Acting Management Accountant – Lindy Bell)

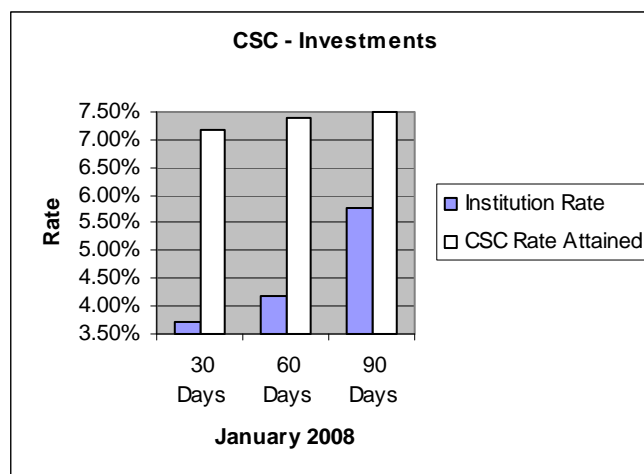
FUND BALANCE
as at 31 January 2008

Operating Fund	+ \$1,874,308.64
Trust Fund	- \$1,315,885.31

INVESTMENT REPORT
as at 31 January 2008

	Invested Balance	YTD Interest Yield	Budget Est.	% of Budget Est.
Consolidated Operating Fund	\$53,901,290.48	\$2,303,644.00	\$2,294,000.00	100.4%
Trust Fund	\$1,161,634.00	N/A		

Indicative Interest Rate 7.36%



Report: (Principal Finance Officer – Revenue - Mr R. Watson)**RATE COLLECTION**

Arrears 1 July 2007	\$1,582,771.85
Levy Raised 2007/2008 Financial Year	\$34,382,823.86
Interest Raised	\$81,843.99
Receipts	\$17,249,319.95
Discount Applied	\$1,551,924.88
Pensioner Rebate (Government)	\$646,656.85
Pensioner Rebate (Council)	\$246,096.27
Balance Outstanding	\$16,353,441.75
Credit Balance	\$62,856.29
Balance Outstanding 8 February 2008	\$16,416,298.04
Balance Outstanding 9 February 2007	\$15,660,913.09

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

Recommend that the report be received.

7/2 Summarised Budget Report as at 31 January 2008
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Re: Summarised Budget Report as at 31 January 2008
 From: Finance Manager – Yvonne Oliver
 File: FG94/00043
 Date: 14 February 2008

Report: (Finance Manager - Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

Refer to “Attachment 2” for the Summarised Budget Report

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the information be formally received.

SECTION 8: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS
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8/1	World's Greatest Shave
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Re: World's Greatest Shave
From: Peter Johnstone, Leukaemia Foundation, GPO Box 9954,
BRISBANE QLD 4001
File: FC00/00073
Date: 17 January 2008

“The Leukaemia Foundation’s World’s Greatest Shave is being held from 13-15 March 2008 and 30,000 Queenslanders across the state will be shaving or colouring their hair to show support for leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma patients and their families. World’s Greatest Shave is now in its tenth year with the Foundation aiming to raise \$3 million in Queensland to help care for patients and their families living with leukaemias, lymphomas, myeloma and related blood disorders.

Money raised from the World’s Greatest Shave will help the Foundation continue to provide free support services for patients and their families including information, resources, education and support programs, emotional support, transportation, and accommodation, as well as fund exciting new research into finding a cure.

The Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland was established in 1975 with the simple yet effective mission to care for patients and their families and vision to find cures for these insidious diseases. More than 30 years later its vital work is still continuing, with the Foundation providing more than 32,000 nights accommodation and over 25,000 face-to-face support consultations to patients and their families, free of charge, in the 2006/2007 financial year.

I ask you to support the 2008 World’s Greatest Shave and help the Leukaemia Foundation of Queensland continue its vital work by

- *Linking www.worldsgreatestshave.com to your Council intranet site*
- *Encouraging your staff to register and participate by shaving or colouring their hair.*

Your involvement in World’s Greatest Shave will make a tangible difference to the lives of patients and their families living with these diseases. I thank you in advance for your support and look forward to working with you on this exciting fundraiser.”

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

No allocation has been made in the current Budget for this request for financial assistance.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the writer be advised that Council can distribute a Leukaemia Foundation flyer in Cooloola Shire Council pay slips to promote the World's Greatest Shave.

8/2	Gympie Stampede
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Re: Gympie Stampede
From: Joy and Baz Short, P O Box 2556, NAMBOUR WEST QLD
4560
File: FC00/00073
Date Received: 22 January 2008

“We are having a traditional Country Music weekend for the 13th 14th 15th June 2008.

We are in need of sponsorship our only income is the disability pension, we have the time but not the finances.

We hope to have this as an annual event and for it to become self supporting.

Over the years we have come to know as friends a large number of Country Music artists such a Reg Poole, Laura Downing, Craig Giles, plus many more. All have agreed to come and perform that weekend.

We have also spoken to the Webb Brothers and they have responded favourably.

Our need is for money of any amount as little by little it all adds up. We also need goods and or gift vouchers for raffles over the weekend.

Profits from the weekend will be going to the Energex Sunshine coast Rescue Helicopter Service. In return for your support your business will be advertised over the weekend during the performance breaks. And on all our advertising material.

Looking forward to hearing from you in the very near future with a positive response.”

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

No allocation has been made in the current Budget for this financial assistance request.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the writers be advised that due to budget constraints Council is unable to provide financial assistance at this time.

8/3	Host a Healthy Breakfast on National Walk Safely to School Day
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Re: Host a Healthy Breakfast on National Walk Safely to School Day
From: Harold Scruby, Pedestrian Council of Australia Ltd, P O Box 500, NEUTRAL BAY NSW 2089
File: WM99/00048
Date: 4 February 2008

“Australia’s childhood obesity epidemic has two principle causes: lack of physical activity and poor diet. Regular walking is the best and easiest way for children and parents and carers to have an active and healthy lifestyle.

National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) aims to promote Better Health and Cleaner Air. It is sponsored by the Commonwealth government and supported by all State and Territory Governments, the national Public School Parents and Citizen Council (ACSSO) and the Australian Primary Principals Association (APPA).

All Primary Schools throughout Australia will receive a kit of posters, stickers and further information shortly after Easter. This year we are asking all councils and school P&C’s to get together to help fund and host Healthy Breakfasts at their local Primary Schools to help promote WSTSD.

Dr Rosemary Stanton OAM, Australia’s leading nutritionist, has recommended a wide range of items which would best comprise a healthy breakfast (see attached flyer). We estimate an average breakfast will cost about \$3 per child. For example: An apple and/or pear, a cheese stick, a pack of sultanas, a bottle of water and a pack of Up and Go.

Woolworths Supermarkets will supply participating schools with apples and pears at a price well below the regular price. They will also be promoting the event nationally in their catalogues, in –store radio advertisements and on their check-out screens.

Considering that there are over 8,000 primary Schools in Australia, school representatives should approach their local Woolworths Store Managers as soon as possible to discuss the supply of the other grocery items at the regular shelf price. Order Forms for the fruit will be available on our website at www.walk.com.au in early March.

Schools wishing to be involved in helping to promote WSTSD should register their interest with the PR Consultant in their state or Territory. Details are on the website.

We urge you to support this important initiative and contact your local School Principal as soon as possible, to organise the funding for the Healthy Breakfasts.”

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

No allocation has been made in the current budget for this financial assistance request.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

For the Committee’s consideration.

8/4	Gympie Sports Star of the Year
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Re: Gympie Sports Star of the Year
From: Judy Summers, Gympie & District Sportsmen’s Association
Inc, 6 Wisers Road, GYMPIE QLD 4570
File: FC00/00073
Date: 3 February 2008

“Thank you for your continued sponsorship of the Gympie Sports Star of the Year Awards. Our Awards night is to be held on Saturday 8th March at Gympie Civic Centre commencing at 6.30pm.

We invite you to join us as special guests to assist with these presentations and enclose complimentary tickets. Please RSVP by 28th February.

Could you also please advise if you wish to continue with your current sponsorship of the Sports Star of the Year Awards in 2008.”

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

The Gympie & District Sportsmen’s Association Inc applied through Council’s Financial Assistance Grants Program in 2006/07 for the Sports Start of the Year Award in which they received \$500 sponsorship.

No application was received in the 2007/08 funding period and therefore no allocation has been made in the current budget.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the Gympie & District Sportsmen's Association be advised that due to budget constraints Council is unable to assist in this instance and they be requested to apply through Council's Financial Assistance Program for any future requests.

SECTION 9: LIBRARY MATTERS

9/1 Monthly Library Report – January 2008
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Re: Monthly Library Report – January 2008
 From: Libraries Manager – Leonie Day Wilson
 File: FG94/00062
 Date: 8 February 2008

Report: (Libraries Manager – Ms L Day Wilson)**CIRCULATION (Number of items borrowed):**

Gympie	31 791
Tin Can Bay	4 743
Rainbow Beach	1 210
Imbil	1 078
Total	38 822

MEMBERSHIP (Active Borrowers from: 29 July 2003 onwards):

Gympie	19 669
Tin Can Bay	2 849
Rainbow Beach	1 178
Imbil	860
Total	24 556

Total Number of New Members this month: 287

Branch Breakdown:

Gympie	210
Tin Can Bay	46
Rainbow Beach	21
Imbil	10

STOCK (including magazines):

Gympie	71 692
Tin Can Bay	11 744
Rainbow Beach	5 691
Imbil	6 568
Total	95 695

VISITS TO THE LIBRARY (no. of people through the door):

Gympie	15 615
Tin Can Bay	3 904
Rainbow Beach	2 022
Imbil	829
Total	21 541

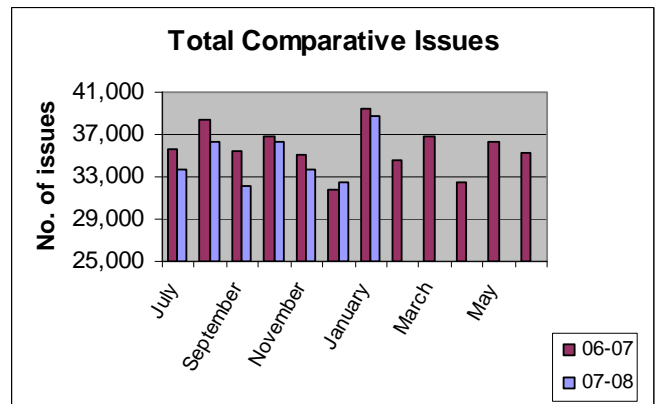
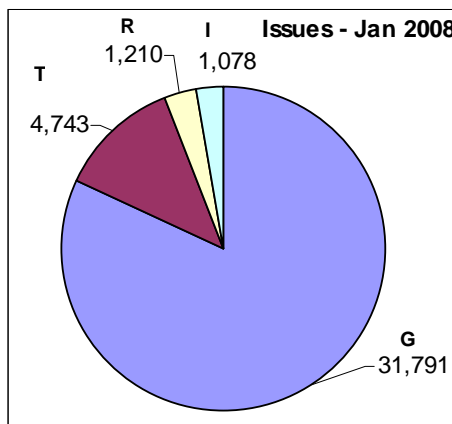
VIRTUAL VISITS TO THE LIBRARY

(i.e. no. of times the Library Web Page was accessed this month):

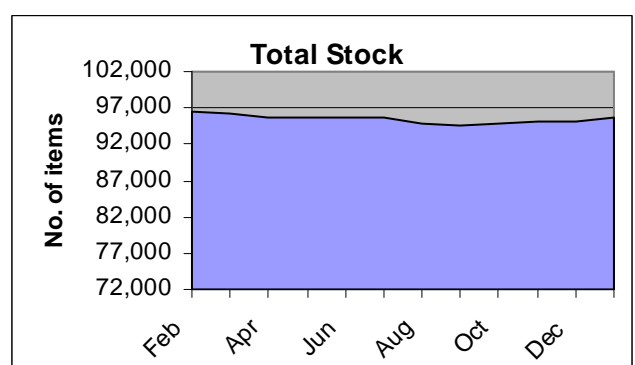
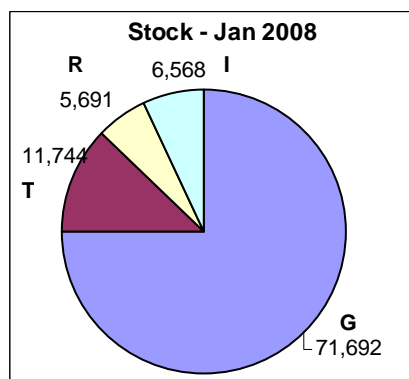
Total =2670

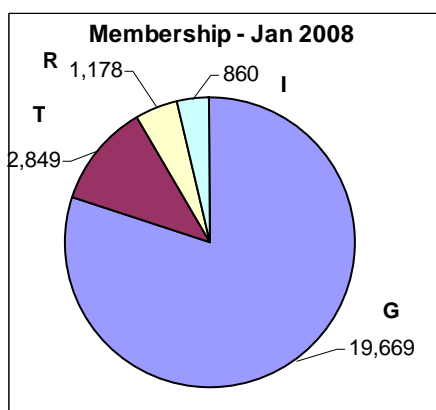
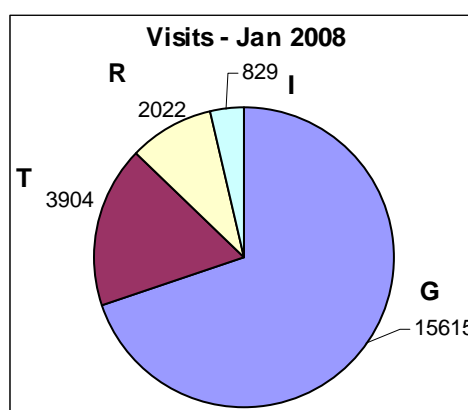
STATISTICS:

Issues



Stock



Membership**Door Count****GENERAL:**

The January Library Workgroup Meeting which was scheduled for Tuesday 29 January was cancelled because of staffing shortages at Kilkivan and Goomeri Libraries.

- The agenda, compiled by Leonie Day Wilson, focussed on a number of library matters which are primarily library management system related.
- Another meeting will be organised in the earliest instance to resolve these matters and to ensure Civica's project plan can be completed on time.
- The proposed GO LIVE date for Gympie Regional Library Services with the Spydus LMS is still expected to be Monday 17 March 2008.

CLIENT SERVICES

A successful and well-attended internet demonstration was held in Gympie Library foyer on Wednesday 30 January 2008, with positive response and feedback received from those in attendance.

Another internet demonstration has been scheduled for Gympie Library on Wednesday 27 February and for Rainbow Beach Library on Thursday 28 February.

INFORMATION SERVICES

The Information Services Desk was again a busy outlet throughout January, with the following queries being attended to:

Reference Queries	2,492
Inter-Library Loans requests	103
Local History Enquiries	67

Cooloola Then and Now

Cooloola
**Then
& NOW**

Following the success of the official launch, the Cooloola Then and Now display was assembled at the pavilion as part of Cooloola Shire Council's Australia Day celebrations on Saturday 26 January. The launch also received coverage in the Gympie Times on Australia Day.

These two factors led to 637 online viewings on the Cooloola Then and Now website (the highest number of viewings in a single day, to date). During the month of January over 3,532 photographic viewings were recorded.

Gympie Times Cooloola Views Calendar 2008

The Gympie Times donated over 200 calendars to Council's library service. Staff have since made these available to clients at all library service points. The calendar depicts aerial views of the Cooloola Shire and has been extremely popular amongst library clientele.

Cooloola Art Society

The Cooloola Art Society hung their annual exhibition in the library foyer this month. The venue provides local artists the opportunity to display their artwork. As usual, the exhibition has been well received by library users.

Library Stocktake

The library stocktake is well underway at Gympie Library: adult fiction, large print and sections of the junior collections have all been completed. Staff intend to commence the stocktaking of the branch libraries in February.

Drowning Report

The Royal Lifesaving Society of Australia has sent Gympie Library copies of "The National Drowning Report 2007". The Society has fielded requests from the public for this information and are now directing people to their local library to view the information. *The Drowning Report* is currently on display in the Gympie Library foyer. It is hoped that by raising awareness of this tragedy, people will become more aware, and be mindful of the increases in death from drowning. The report provides a summary of deaths from drowning (in Australia) and includes information on: age, activity, location of death and the State in which the victim resided.

The BIG Book Club

Cooloola Libraries are proud to support the BIG Book Club. This national campaign sponsored in Queensland by the Courier Mail promotes reading, the discussion of books and Australian authors. Information advertising how people can be part of the club is available from all service points or by visiting www.thebigbookclub.com.au. This month's selection is "The Murray Whelan Trilogy" by Shane Maloney.

CHILDREN'S & YOUNG ADULT SERVICES

Eleven sessions for children and young adults were held at the libraries this month.

The number of children, parents and carers in attendance totalled: **480**

EVENTS/VISITS:

- **School holidays** have continued to be the main focus this month in the C&YAS area. All sessions were well attended by children between the ages of 4 and 13, with the majority being in the 6 to 10 year old age group.
- **The Summer Reading Club** was another successful annual holiday activity, and saw 91 participants register and read an impressive total of 1,200 books.
- **Littlies Storytime 2008** commenced again this month, with a pleasing number of babies, toddlers and carers attending the first session for the new year.
- **Australia Day Celebrations at the Showgrounds & Pavilion:** The Children's and Young Adult Services Librarian, Lynne Alsop represented the library service and presented a storytelling session for the younger attendees. Lynne settled for the shade of a jacaranda tree to deliver her selection of Australian stories.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Contributed 221 hours and 25 minutes to the Library Service this month.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

That the report as presented be received.

9/2	Cooloola Then and Now
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Re: Cooloola Then and Now
From: Libraries Manager, Mrs Leonie Day-Wilson
File: FG94/00062
Date: 8 February 2008

Report: (Libraries Manager – Ms L Day Wilson)

The official launch of the Cooloola Then and Now website was held on 24 January at the Gympie Library.

- Eighty guests accepted an invitation from Council's library staff to attend the launch of this historical photographic website project, which was funded by a State Library of Queensland, Library Strategic Development Grant.
- Reference Services Librarian, Rachel Lethem, submitted the proposal to procure the funding and co-ordinated the entire project, utilising the assistance of local history staff and Friends of the Library. Greg Weir was engaged to take the photographs, and Lance Birch from Firewave Design was selected to construct the website.

Rachel also planned and organised the formal launch arrangements. Her skill and expertise in achieving such a successful outcome is to be commended.

- The procured funding allowed for the inclusion of 40 photographs of historical content, depicting Gympie sites from the 1860's onwards, and showcasing *same site locations* as they now appear in 2008. The changes and developments which have evolved throughout this period of time make interesting viewing, and provide a visual link to the contrasts of past and present. The website is readily accessible at: www.cooloola.qld.gov.au/library/thenandnow.
- "Cooloola Then and Now" is an excellent, additional complement to the existing "Picture Cooloola", which Rachel also co-ordinated, again obtaining SLQ funding.
- The Mayor, Cr Mick Venardos officially welcomed guests to the January launch and commended library staff for their quality work in the development and subject content of the project.
- Tania Paull, Director of Public Library Services, SLQ, represented the State Librarian, Lea Giles Peters and officially launched the site, acknowledging the project's innovative concept and the teamwork efforts of those involved in its creation.
- Tania is keen to continue the idea across Qld, encouraging the possible implementation of a state wide website utilising a similar theme. Currently staff from Noosa Library who are involved in the National Library of Australia's "Pandora Project" are web-archiving Cooloola's latest project for inclusion and posterity.
- It is also pleasing to acknowledge the attendance at the launch and the recognition and support afforded library staff by our Mayor, Cooloola Shire Councillors, Council Management and Friends of the Cooloola Shire Libraries inc.
- The project's celebration launch was an appropriate way to commemorate the final days of Cooloola Shire Council and to highlight the fact that with continued input, and available funding, the project will continue to serve as an ongoing historical, photographic database for the Gympie Regional Shire Council.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

That a letter of appreciation be forwarded to Mrs Rachel Lethem for her success in obtaining the State Library of Queensland's, Library Strategic Development Grant and for her commitment in overseeing such a valuable historical project.

10/1 Cooloola Shire Public Gallery Monthly Report – January 2008

Re: Cooloola Shire Public Gallery Monthly Report – January 2008
 From: Gallery Coordinator – Joolie Gibbs
 File: FG95/00073
 Date: 13 February 2008

Report: (Gallery Coordinator – Joolie Gibbs)

Exhibitions:

The Gympie Times Exhibition Space - 8th – 27th January 2008:

'Vessel and The Fertile Crescent' by Sally Spencer and Jenny Dodd. A ceramic exhibition based on ancient water symbols. Opened by Peter Harris.

The Hugo Du Rietz Gallery, 8th – 27th January 2008: 'Mark Making

in Stitch' Touring exhibition showing the results of several master classes in Australia with Ilze Aviks of USA, through Australian Forum of Textile Arts and Horsham Textiles.

Gallery Three: 8th – 27th January 2008: *'Digital Spectre'* by Sunshine Coast artist Debra Livingstone. Based on large 3D digital photographic prints addressing the concept about how we enhance nature through artificial means.

Public Programs:

- **Artist Floor Talk** by Debra Livingstone after exhibition opening Saturday 12th January 2008.
- Three exhibitions opened on Saturday 12th January.
- **School holiday workshops** happened on 15, 16, 17, 18 and 22, 23, 24, 25 with two classes per day. This also involved the special workshops for the Celebrating with Mary Festival, and the circus skills workshops for Bizzart Day. In all there were 215 participants in 17 workshops.
- Special **Andy Warhol Activity Day** on Saturday 19th January. This was arranged by the Queensland Art Gallery with about 22 galleries around Queensland for free children's activities as part of the Andy Warhole exhibition which is on at the Queensland Art Gallery. About 100 visitors participated in the activities over a 4 hour period. The Friends of the Gallery catered with a sausage sizzle.

Visitor Numbers for January: 1,009

Gallery Sales for January: \$3,863

Friends of the Gallery Shop Sales for January: \$879.00

Gallery Focus Group

'Twilight of the Tin Tiaras' invitations have been sent out to the Friends of the Gallery list and to extras. The wine label has been judged and will be unveiled on the evening.

The commemorative plates and stubbie holders are at the printers to have the decal put on. Everything is progressing well.

RADF

There will be another round closing on March 14th, as there ended up being some money left over from last round. Information sessions will be held at the Gympie Library on February 21st, 5 – 7pm, Mary Valley, February 21st, 2 – 4pm, Tin Can Bay, February 20th and 27th, 2 – 4pm, Gallery, times to be confirmed.

Workshops, Rentals/Room usage

Weekly:

- Most groups started up again as school started back. Cooloola Arts Society every Wednesday, Tribal Dance Group every Wednesday, Friends of the Gallery Painting Workshops every Tuesday, Soul Sisters Choir Group, Life Drawing class every Thursday evening, U3A French Class, U3A Play Reading.

Monthly:

- Friends of the Gallery, Performers Cafe, Gympie Camera Club, Field Naturalists, QCWA Younger Set (twice a month), U3A Creative Writing Group, U3A Book Club, U3A Book Ends, CHATI, FOGlets (Friends of the Gallery little ones) art group.

Other:

- Celebrating with Mary Festival meetings
- Special practice session for Bellydancing
- Photographic society meeting as separate to normal
- Cooloola Climate Change Group
- Gallery Focus Group x 2

Friends of the Gallery:

Bizzart Day organisation going ahead. The day will be filled with children's activities all over the Gallery, circus performance, dress rehearsal for Dragon dance, cake cutting. Speeches will happen about 1pm. Gallery staff are assisting with activities.

Volunteers:

- Approximate Hours for month of January

Front Desk	261
Catering events	27
Installation approx.	141
Volunteer Office assistance	54.5
Education and Public Programs	6
Gardening	5
Total	494.50

Other happenings and Gallery Staff:

- The new arts administration trainee is Jess Edwards who started on 7th January on an Installation day.
- The downstairs floor was sanded and repolished from 2 – 5th January.
- Preparations are underway for a special Naidoc exhibition in July with meetings happening.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

That the report as presented be received.

SECTION 11: THE PAVILION AND CIVIC CENTRE MATTERS

11/1 Monthly Civic Centre Report – January 2008

Re: Monthly Civic Centre Report – January 2008
From: Acting Management Accountant, Lindy Bell
File: FG94/00017
Date: 12 February 2008

Report: (Acting Management Accountant – Lindy Bell)

BOOKINGS

January 2008

L Green	Band Practise
R Brady & L O'Farrell	Wedding Ceremony
Southbank Institute of Technology	Training–Food Safety Supervisors

BUILDING MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS

General maintenance has been carried out.

January was a quiet month in the Civic Centre, with the time being put to good use for important cleaning jobs and maintenance inside the Centre, in preparation for the busy months ahead.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

Recommend that the report be received.

11/2	“Orphans Fare”
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Re: “Orphans Fare”
From: Linda Shum, Chinese Orphans’ Assistance Team, 238 Nash
Road, GYMPIE QLD 4570
File: FG94/00038
Date Received: 25 January 2008

“You may know of our work with Chinese Orphans Assistance Team, but if you don’t, here is a very small description. I have hundreds of stories to tell, both good and bad, but we have grown now to run three family group homes that will house a total of about 70 orphaned or abandoned children in Jiaozuo, Henan Province, China. These need to be cared for 100% by us and that includes all clothing, food, education, medical, parenting and recreation. We have gained these children from one orphanage. These family group homes are called “Eagles’ Wings One, Two and Three”. The “parents” of these homes are volunteers, but we feed them and accommodate them. We also employ ayis (nannies) to help to care for so many children and babies. “Eagles’ Wings” empowers our children to rise above the storms of abandonment and abuse and achieve their full potential as citizens of Earth instead of being left to die on a rubbish heap as the boy featured below saying grace over his meal. He lives in Chicago now with a new mother, father and two sisters and he is thriving. I talk to him on Skye several times a week.

We also run a school within the orphanage. We have a paid staff of 14 and it is causing children to thrive who, just a few years ago would be tied to beds or chairs and left to die. We have given these children “worth” and so their lives are greatly improved.

So we have a total staff of 31 and that number is growing as we get more and more children. We have just been introduced to the next county, just 20 minutes away from Eagles’ Wings. This county has more than 1,000 abandoned children. This is quite overwhelming, but we are just steadily continuing to rescue them one child at a time.

We have sponsorship of various kinds, but it is expensive raising children. This month, it cost \$22,300.00, but our average monthly expenses are about \$12,000.00

So I got the idea to feed people what our children eat, charge them enough to make a profit to feed one child for two weeks, call it “Orphans Fare”, raise awareness and have an auction afterwards of some valuable items we have been given viz a limited signed print from David Hart, some other paintings and have photos of our children holding up a bowl in the attitude of Oliver Twist.

I have applied to hire the big hall at the Civic Centre, and am now being bold enough to ask for a discount in the costs of hiring that hall.”

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

The Chinese Orphans’ Assistance Team has requested a discount of the hire charges for the use of the Civic Centre on Friday 11 April 2008. The estimated hire charge for this function is \$321.95.

Rebating of the hiring charge is outside of the ambit of Council’s hiring policy. No other provision has been made in the current Budget for financial assistance for this group.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the Chinese Orphans’ Assistance Team be advised that no rebating of the hiring charges will be made as this is outside of Council’s hiring policy.

11/3	Housing Forum
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Re: Housing Forum
 From: Michelle Hine, Cooloola Community Housing Association Inc,
 22 Nash Street, gymMichelle Hine, Cooloola Community
 Housing Association Inc, 22 Nash Street, GYMPIE QLD
 4570
 File: FG99/00120
 Date: 29 January 2008

“I am writing to you as a member of the Wide Bay Burnett Regional Housing Board regarding an event that I am planning in Gympie. The event is a housing forum to analyse housing issues in Cooloola and investigate strategies for improvement. The forum will be open to all members of the community including consumers, service providers and government representatives.

I have booked the Fossicker’s Room at the Civic Centre for Wednesday, 5 March 2008 to hold the forum. It is anticipated that the venue will be required for 4 hours at a cost of \$163.95. See breakdown below:

Room hire	4 hours x \$18.15 = \$72.60
Air conditioning	4 hours x \$19.35 = \$77.40
PA Hire	= \$13.95
	<u>\$163.95</u>
Less deposit paid	<u>\$25.00</u>
	\$138.95

I am seeking participation from a broad cross section of the community and it would be appreciated if the Council would donate the use of the Fossicker's Room as part of their contribution to this community service event."

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

The Cooloola Community Housing Association Inc has requested free use of the Fossickers Room for its function to be held on 5 March 2008. The estimated hire charge for this function is \$168.00. The function is being held on a Wednesday and as such is eligible for a 20% rebate (excluding air conditioning) in line with Council's hiring policy for mid week use. Free use of the facility is outside of the ambit of Council's hiring policy. No other provision has been made in the current Budget for financial assistance for this group.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the Cooloola Community Housing Association Inc be advised that free use of the facility is outside of Council's hiring policy, however, the function is eligible for a 20% rebate (excluding air conditioning) for mid week use.

11/4	Heart of Gold – 2008 Film Festival
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Re: Heart of Gold – 2008 Film Festival
 From: Cos Schuh, Schuh & Company P/L, P O Box 191, GYMPIE QLD 4570
 File: AG05/00975
 Date: 12 December 2007

"As you know the Heart of gold Committee has staged a very successful film festival from the Gympie Civic Centre for the last two years.

We believe all people associated with the Heart of Gold Film Festival are of the opinion that it is an excellent promotion for Gympie as well as being a very valuable medium for the promotion of short film.

As the festival grows, the Committee is experiencing increasing pressure both financially and physically to stage the Festival from the Civic Centre.

We have outlined the issues we would like to discuss below

The issues are as follows:

1. *Queensland Events, who are looking at providing a grant for Heart of Gold are looking for a three year commitment from the Committee's local Council that the Council will support the Festival on a longer term basis.*

The Committee is mindful of the amalgamation process which Council is presently undergoing, however, we must make a decision about where the Festival will be staged in the 2008 year and unless we can receive some undertakings from the Council, it is apparent the Committee will not be able to continue to stage the Festival in Gympie

2. *We would like to discuss the sound and vision requirements in order to continue to hold the Festival in the Civic Centre.*
3. *We would also like to discuss the necessity of high speed wireless broadband access at the Civic Centre.*

Toni Powell and I look forward to meeting with you on Thursday, 13th December to discuss these matters."

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

Discussions were held with Mrs Powell and Mr Schuh regarding matters contained in this letter.

At that time they were informed that Civic Centre Management had planned to include the cost of installing high speed wireless broadband access at the Centre in the 2008/09 Budget for Council's consideration.

An investigation is being carried out relative to installation of additional cinema-type sound.

The request for a long term commitment from Council is a matter for the new Council to consider.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the above reports re the sound and internet access be referred to the 2008/09 Draft budget meeting for consideration.

11/5 The Pavilion Monthly Report – January 2008
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Re: The Pavilion Monthly Report – January 2008
From: The Pavilion Manager – Linda Kempster
File: AG96/00225
Date: 13 February 2008

Report: (The Pavilion Manager – Ms L. Kempster)

January saw stage two of the sound enhancement project completed with the installation of sound absorption panels above the stage area. The first event after installation was the Australia Day celebrations where the acoustics was greatly improved as a result.

We also welcomed back Gympie Volleyball Association Fixtures this month as well as the Gympie Apex Club meetings.

The Pavilion staff have been busy undertaking maintenance and extra cleaning around the building. The current wet season has brought to our attention some roof leakage problems we had to rectify.

Regular Bookings

Gympie Basketball Association
Masters Competition – Corbet Stadium, Monday evenings
Fixtures – Corbet Stadium, Monday, Tuesday.
Gympie Volleyball Association
Fixtures – Corbet Stadium, Thursday evenings
Queensland Futsal
Fixtures – Corbet Stadium, Wednesday evenings
E-Commerce
Business meeting – Smith Room, 4th Tuesday evenings
Business meeting - Smith Room, 4th Monday evenings
Cooloola Access Advisory Committee
Meeting – Smith/Bishop Room, 1st Wednesday mornings

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

Recommend that the report be received.

11/6	International Women's Day Dinner Dance
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Re: International Women's Day Dinner Dance
From: Cobi Van der Es, Gympie & District Women's Health Centre,
10 Lawrence Street, GYMPIE QLD 4570
File: FC00/00073
Date: 31 January 2008

"I am writing to you on behalf o the Gympie and District Women's Health Centre Management Committee to seek your assistance. The Gympie Women's Health Centre is a primary health care provider, run by women for women. It was established in 1994 and since that time has assisted numerous local women with health and emotional issues. Our purpose statement sets out who we are:

“To provide services which empower women to make informed choices that enhances their health and well being”

Whilst the majority of our funding is provided by Queensland Health, we still need to raise some funds ourselves. The organisation is a registered charity under the banner of health promotion, so donations to the centre are tax deductible.

In conjunction with the Queensland rural Women’s Network our major fundraising event for 2008 will be the International Women’s Day Dinner Dance on Saturday, 8 March. The Ordinary Women – Extraordinary Achievements finalists will be presented by the State President of the Queensland rural Women’s Network and winners will be announced in three categories.

The Inaugural Ordinary Women – Extraordinary Achievements Awards were held at the Women’s Health Centre in 2007 and proved to be a very successful evening.

We have hired the Apex Room in the Pavilion for the Dinner Dance and would be very appreciative if Council would consider making an in-kind contribution of the hire fee for the venue. This would be of great assistance to our fund raising effort.”

Report: (The Pavilion Manager – Ms L. Kempster)

The Manager for the Gympie & District Women’s Health centre has written on behalf of their Management Committee.

The Committee is planning to hold the International Women’s day Dinner Dance on Saturday 8th March 08 and have asked for Council to consider making an in-kind contribution of the hire fee for The Pavilion. The hire fee shall be \$770.00 and is at an already reduced rate.

It should also be noted that our liquor license has been decreased so as they may operate their own bar for fundraising.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

For the Committee’s consideration.

11/7	2008 Wide Bay Primary Schools Basketball Carnival
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Re: 2008 Wide Bay Primary Schools Basketball Carnival
From: Stella Macklin, 106 Sorensen Road, GYMPIE QLD 4570
File: AG96/00225
Date: 15 January 2008

“I have the position of Carnival convenor for 2008 Wide Bay Primary Schools Basketball to be held in Gympie on Wednesday 4th and Thursday 5th June.

I have submitted a booking form with The Pavilion to use the indoor arena and am writing to Council requesting a reduction of fees associated with its hire. The charge quoted was almost \$40 per hour and we need two days to conduct the event. As students participating in this carnival must be levied for all costs associated with the event, I feel this charge is quite excessive.

I have also contacted the show society regarding use of the outdoor covered basketball court as we need to use two courts for the competition.

The carnival will be conducted during school hours over the two days, with teams from all Wide Bay areas (North Burnett, South Burnett, Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Maryborough and Gympie) in attendance.

The local basketball association has been approached to assist with providing umpires and the catering of lunches for participating students and officials. Gympie will also benefit from this carnival through motel bookings for officials and the many visiting students who stay with their parents in the town.

I would appreciate your consideration for a reduction in this fee structure, especially since the participants are primary school students and many have significant travelling costs in addition to the carnival levy.

I look forward to your support.”

Report: (The Pavilion Manager – Ms L. Kempster)

The Convenor for the 2008 Wide Bay Primary Schools Basketball has written on behalf of the carnival.

The Wide Bay Primary School Basketball carnival is to be held over the 4 & 5 June 2008. The convenor is requesting a reduction in fees for the hire of The Pavilion.

The hire fee quoted was at an already reduced rate includes the use of the Kiosk and P.A system.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

For the Committee’s consideration.

SECTION 12: STAFF MATTERS**12/1 Workplace Health and Safety Report – January 2008**

Re: Workplace Health and Safety Report – January 2008
From: Workplace Health & Safety Officer – Les Latemore
File: AS94/00011
Date: 14 February 2008

Report: (Workplace Health & Safety Officer – Les Latemore)

Report to be tabled as a Late Item

SECTION 13: MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**13/1 Request for Permission to Conduct Training in Tin Can Bay Township for Troops Deploying to Afghanistan**

Re: Request for Permission to Conduct Training in Tin Can Bay Township for Troops Deploying to Afghanistan
From: Colonel WD Vollant, Australian Army Combat Training Centre, Lavarack Barracks, TOWNSVILLE QLD 4813
File: WG94/00088
Date: 30 January 2008

“1. The Combat Training Centre will conduct a Mission Rehearsal Exercise to prepare troops deploying to Afghanistan as part of the 4th Reconstruction Task Force. The exercise will be conducted in the Wide Bay Training Area during the period 03 — 14 March 2008.

2. In order to help replicate the dispersed nature of townships the troops will encounter in southern Afghanistan, permission is sought for soldiers and vehicles to conduct some training activities in the township of Tin Can Bay. This training will incorporate the practicing of movement drills, security drills and reconnaissance procedures. The training will not involve the firing of weapons, use of pyrotechnics, or interference with civilian traffic or civilian routine. A number of personnel will be in the township, dressed in Afghan role-player clothing, adding to the soldiers’ environmental exposure.

3. Specifically, permission is requested to move to and utilise the vacant block beside the RSL on the morning of 07 March 2008.

Permission is also requested to move to the police station and the area in vicinity of the northern boat ramp on the morning of 10 March 2008. Troops operating during these activities will be armed, and several vehicles will be moving to and from the areas requested. Minimal impact is expected on local routine and traffic.

4. This type of training is immensely beneficial, and may be the only opportunity the soldiers have to experience the complexity of operating in an urban environment prior to deploying to Afghanistan.

5. If you have any questions relating to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Captain Ben Taylor, who is assisting planning the exercise. (07) 4771 7361 Mob. 0419 147 680. benjamin.taylor@defence.gov.au

6. Your kind assistance is appreciated.”

Report: (Acting Director of Corporate Services– B Hayes)

Council has approved similar requests from the Australian Army in the past for training exercises held in the Tin Can Bay area. A check across Council's various departments has not found any issues that would prevent the training plan proceeding as proposed. It will be the Army's responsibility to actively and adequately promote the exercise in the local media in advance of the March 2008 training event so that local residents are aware of the planned activity.

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

That permission be granted to the Australian Army to conduct a Mission Rehearsal Exercise training program in the Tin Can Bay township in March, 2008 as outlined. Further, that the Army be requested to ensure adequate publicity is provided in local media to alert the residents of Tin Can Bay as to the planned training exercise.

13/2	Suggestions for Flood Sub Plan
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Re: Suggestions for Flood Sub Plan
From: Beryl Spencer, 21 Smyth Street, GYMPIE QLD 4570
File: WG94/00002
Date: 10 January 2008

“The Gympie Business District Flood Committee met recently to consider the effectiveness of the current Flood Sub Plan. The small flood we experienced in August 2007 highlighted some issues that the committee believes should be addressed before our next flood.

Numerous members of the committee received phone calls from panicking business owners enquiring about what they should do and when if the waters continue to rise. This is in spite of the personal delivery of the Disaster Management Plan to all Mary Street Businesses only a few months beforehand.

Our concern is that should a flood be imminent, the limited resources of committee members will be consumed by business owners requiring guidance. It was agreed that Council be approached and requested to place relevant parts of the plan on their website. If links to relevant sites were also included, anyone wanting information could be quickly directed to their copy of the plan or to the Cooloola Council website. This would relieve the pressure on committee members and allow them to undertake more important tasks.

Since the last major flood, considerable discussion has been held on the best way to clean up after a flood. Normal brooms are not effective in removing water but the large metal brooms used to remove water from Tennis courts are ideal. These metal brooms have been used in the past but there were only two available and in many cases the mud residue had dried before it could be swept. If additional sweepers were to be purchased (6 suggested) the Fire Brigade has agreed to store them and issue them to business owners at the time they are hosing out buildings. It is believed these can be purchased from Sun Chem.

The other major concern is the number of sightseeing vehicles entering Mary Street when Business owners are attempting to move their stock to higher ground. The plan allows for passes to be issued once the street has been closed but the issue is the policing of the entry to Mary Street of pass holders only.

The Gympie Business District Flood Committee recommends that Council consider the following requests.

- 1. The purchase of 6 metal sweepers to be housed and issued by the Fire Brigade. Prices etc of these are being auspiced at present.*
- 2. The placement on the Cooloola Shire Council website of relevant excerpts from the flood plan together with links to relevant weather information sites.*
- 3. The engagement of Security Guards to police the restricted entry to Mary Street from the time Mary Street is closed until it is reopened.*
- 4. Supply of a phone answering system to the Information Booth. This could be then set with relevant information after hours and during an impending flood event.*
- 5. A large White Board for the purpose of display of flood heights outside the Information Bureau during a flood event.*
- 6. Access to the toilet facilities at the City Centre during a flood event for staff and helpers/or provision of a portable toilet facility may be necessary due to impact of floodwaters on the sewage system.*

The Gympie Business District Flood Committee would like to thank the Cooloola Shire Council for the proactive way they have been involved in the development of the plan and we are confident the above suggestions, when implemented, will further enhance the effectiveness of this Plan through saving escalation of costs as a result of flood damage.”

Report: (Acting Director of Corporate Services– B Hayes)

The Gympie Business District Flood Committee has made six requests of Council to enhance their capacity to deal with flooding issues within the CBD.

In relation to the various requests please note the following:-

Item 1 - indicative costs for the sweepers suggested are approximately \$275 each. (6 @ \$275 = \$1,650)

Item 2 - the Gympie Central District Flood Plan and links to the Bureau of Meteorology website are currently available directly from the Cooloola Shire Council website

Item 3 - a security guard service would likely cost around \$50 per hour per guard for the hours of operation required

Item 4 – a phone answering machine would cost less than \$100

Item 5 - a large white board would cost around \$350

Items 6 - this could be arranged as required by way of request to Council's Health and Community Services Mary St staff

Recommendation: (Acting Director of Corporate Services - Mr B. Hayes)

That Council considers the requests made by the Gympie Business District Flood Committee and recommend appropriate costs be included in draft budget considerations for the new Gympie Regional Council.

13/3 Council Cost Index 2008 5.2 Percent
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Re: Council Cost Index 2008 5.2 Percent
From: Greg Hallam PSM, Executive Director, Local Government
Association of Queensland Inc., PO Box 2230, FORTITUDE
VALLEY BC QLD 4006
File: FG96/00081
Date: 8 February 2008

“The Association has released an independent analysis of price movements for Queensland Councils that show costs increased to 5.2 percent in the last year.

A report by LGAQ Consultant Alan Morton has shown that the Council Cost Index has risen to 5.2% from 4.5% in the last year.

This circular provides an update of the Council Cost Index using the same methodology as used for the 2007 Council Cost Index (and for previous years).

The figures reveal that, in 2007, non residential building construction costs in Queensland increased at a rate 25% less than the national average whereas in 2006 costs rose 20% faster than the national average. However, road and bridge construction cost increases in Queensland in 2007 were 31% higher than nationally, similar to 2006.

The overall result was a Queensland general construction industry index increase of 6.5% (up from 5.6% in 2006), with costs for most inputs increasing faster than the national average.

This report update work undertaken by the LGAQ since 2004 in relation to the potential impact of price movements on rates. The data on price movements has been obtained from the ABS statistics from the general construction index for Queensland coupled with the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

While the Brisbane CPI increased by 13.3% over the 2007/2008 period, the Council cost index has increased by 23.2% therefore Councils relying on CPI have only recognised 57% of the real increase in costs.

Indices of potential relevance include:

<i>Index</i>	<i>Increase Dec 03 to Dec 04</i>	<i>Increase Dec 04 to Dec 05</i>	<i>Increase Dec 05 to Dec 06</i>	<i>Increase Dec 06 to Dec 07</i>
<i>CPI – Australia</i>	<i>2.6%</i>	<i>2.8%</i>	<i>3.3%</i>	<i>3.0%</i>
<i>CPI – Brisbane</i>	<i>2.6%</i>	<i>2.8%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>3.9%</i>
<i>Freight – Australia</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>3.4%</i>	<i>2.7%</i>	<i>1.4%</i>
<i>Wages – Australia (Sept 06 to Sept 07)</i>	<i>3.6%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>4.0%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>
<i>General construction industry – Australia</i>	<i>8.3%</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>5.2%</i>
<i>General construction industry – Queensland</i>	<i>9.5%</i>	<i>8.6%</i>	<i>5.6%</i>	<i>6.5%</i>
<i>Road and Bridge Construction – Australia</i>	<i>4.1%</i>	<i>5.5%</i>	<i>5.4%</i>	<i>4.8%</i>
<i>Road and Bridge Construction – Queensland</i>	<i>5.9%</i>	<i>7.1%</i>	<i>7.1%</i>	<i>6.3%</i>

<i>Index</i>	<i>Increase Dec 03 to Dec 04</i>	<i>Increase Dec 04 to Dec 05</i>	<i>Increase Dec 05 to Dec 06</i>	<i>Increase Dec 06 to Dec 07</i>
<i>Non Residential Building construction – Australia</i>	11.7%	5.2%	5.9%	5.7%
<i>Non Residential Building Construction – Queensland</i>	13.3%	13.3%	7.0%	4.3%
<i>Housing construction – Australia</i>	5.6%	4.5%	2.3%	4.9%
<i>Housing construction – Queensland</i>	6.0%	1.5%	2.2%	10.1%
<i>Local Government Cost Index</i>	6.1%	5.7%	4.5%	5.2%

Source: ABS Catalogues 6401.0, 6345.0 and 6427.0

As for previous publications on this Council cost index, it has been assumed that engineering work activities (representing 50% of outlays state-wide) are driven by the general construction index while the balance of activities are driven by the CPI.

Using the Queensland specific general construction cost index increase of 6.5% and the Brisbane CPI increase of 3.9% as shown above results in a cost increase for local government as a whole in Queensland in the past twelve months of around 5.2%. This compares with the 2007 Council cost index published by LGAQ of 4.5%.

For further information, contact Greg Hallam, Executive Director on telephone 3000 2222 (greg_hallam@lgaq.asn.au)."

Report: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

The Council cost index as released by the Local Government Association of Queensland is well in excess of the CPI figure.

This is provided for Council's use in budget preparations.

Recommendation: (Finance Manager – Mrs Y.J. Oliver)

That the circular be referred for information to the Finance Manager for budgeting purposes.

SECTION 14: MATTERS FOR COUNCIL'S INFORMATION

NIL

IN COMMITTEE ITEMS

**In Committee Item 1 The Pavilion & Civic Centre Financial Report – up to
31 January 2008**

Re: The Pavilion & Civic Centre Financial Report – up to
31 January 2008
File: AG98/00391 & FG94/00017
Date: 12 February 2008

**In Committee Item 2 The Pavilion Monthly Financial Summary Report – January
2008**

Re: The Pavilion Monthly Financial Summary Report – January
2008
File: AG96/00225
Date: 13 February 2008

**In Committee Item 3 Outstanding Accounts 3 Months and Over Sundry Debtors – as at
4 February 2008**

Re: Outstanding Accounts 3 Months and Over Sundry Debtors – as
at 4 February 2008
File: FG94/00011
Date: 8 February 2008

In Committee Item 4 Arrears of Rates

Re: Arrears of Rates
File: FR94/00009
Date: 11 February 2008