

**North Burnett Regional Council
CULTURAL MAPPING REPORT
2010-2013**



Acknowledgements:

The cultural mapping process was part of a larger project, to provide accredited training to North Burnett residents engaged in arts or cultural activities. The accredited training, subsidised by the Dept of Education and Training (DET), provided skills and knowledge in facilitation and community consultation. As part of their coursework the training participants conducted a range of research and facilitated many of the cultural mapping workshops. Thanks go to the following participants who put their learning into practice: Jenny Bebbington, Karen Cooney, Kae Dunn, Cr Paul Lobegeier, Melissa McCord, Jan Moss, Lauren Pattie, Liz Robertson and Joanne Trigger.

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This document was prepared by Creating Links in consultation and collaboration with Council staff and the communities of North Burnett Regional Council.



North Burnett Regional Council,
P O Box 390,
GAYNDAH, QLD 4625.
Ph: 1300 696 272.



Creating Links,
P O Box 373, CANNON HILL, QLD 4170.
Ph: 0410 564 982
audrey@creatinglinks.com.au

Acknowledgement and respect is extended to the traditional owners and custodians, past and present, of the land within North Burnett.

North Burnett Aboriginal Peoples¹

Wakka Wakka

Djaku-nde and Jangerie Jangerie

Goereng Goereng

Kabbi Kabbi

Gurang

Taribelang Bunda

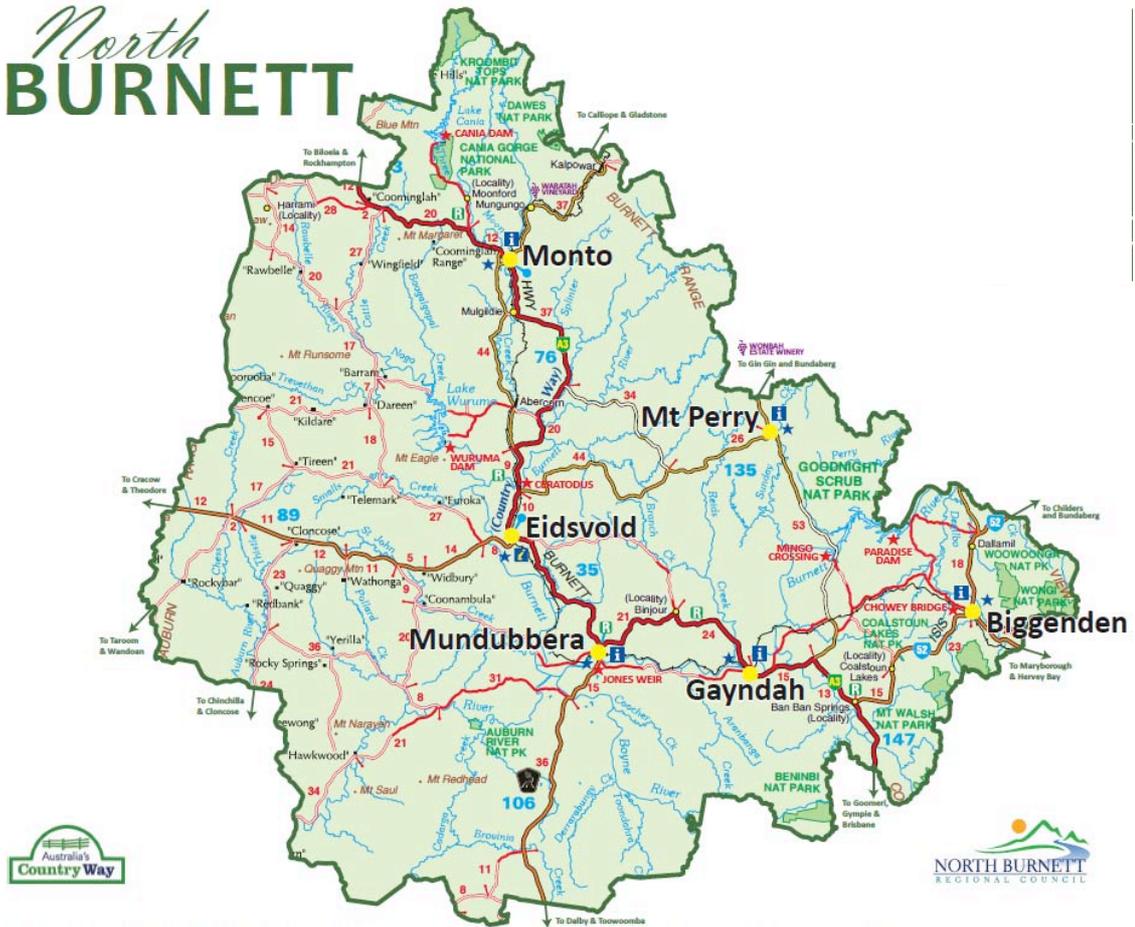
Wulli Wulli

it is important that people ... “recognise us and our culture and understand that the spiritual, mental and physical well being depends on being able to connect physically with our country. When we achieve this goal, along with all other Aboriginal people, Australians overall will benefit and we, as a nation, will prosper” .

*Hilda and Victor West,
the Djaku-nde and Jangerie Jangerie People,
traditional owners of the Auburn River Region*

(1) At the time of writing the above Indigenous groups were the only claimant groups known for the North Burnett. Any errors or omissions are the responsibility of the writer.

North BURNETT



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Section 1

Executive Summary

In March 2008, the six shires of Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Perry and Mundubbera amalgamated to form the North Burnett Regional Council, covering an area approximately 19,700 square kilometres. Each Centre quite different, Biggenden and Monto for their unique National Parks, Eidsvold with its strong Aboriginal identity, mining and cattle; Mt. Perry's mining; and Gayndah and Mundubbera as primary producers of citrus, agriculture and beef cattle.

Differing from the majority of other councils in Queensland by having a decentralised model of operation, North Burnett Regional Council has retained existing council offices and depots in each township to maintain local employment, underpinning council's commitment to value and respond to their citizens.

There are many challenges for the region with a bleak global economy and the subsequent economic downturn. Added to this are issues of communities combating reduced services, lack of career opportunities and changes post amalgamation. However, it is in times of enormous upheaval that major shifts can happen as Councils reinvent themselves, challenge mindsets and explore new possibilities to build stronger community cohesion, optimism and leadership.

Cultural industries are an integral part of community life in the North Burnett with the potential to impact further on the regional economy through utilising the unique quality of the towns with heritage streetscapes, tourist sites, heritage trails, events and arts product development. The 2007-2008 Gross Regional Produce figures show that cultural and recreational services provided the least contribution to the region at \$0.8 million, highlighting a more strategic framework is required to take advantage of the region's cultural assets, creative and heritage industries; and the many talented individuals.

The consultations identified a wide range of art and craft groups and individual creatives in the Centres, however, it is estimated that very few obtain a regular income from their craft.

The region's cultural activities and programs are heavily dependent on volunteers. 2006 ABS figures showed that North Burnett had the highest ratio of volunteers, 29.3% compared to 18.3% across Queensland, see Table 4, page 48. With an ageing volunteer demographic and few younger recruits, establishing how to attract and retain younger volunteers will be imperative in maintaining current infrastructure and resources. Becoming more strategic with event management programs, will rely less on volunteers in co-ordinating roles and key positions budgeted.

The Arts and Cultural Strategy should be linked to the forthcoming Tourism Strategy as there is an identified need to support North Burnett creatives, cultural and heritage industries, and the myriad of other groups and individuals who are or could be impacted by tourism in the region. Resolving how arts and cultural activities can value add to the visitors' experience and provide potential income generation will be beneficial to the creative and cultural sector and of course, the local economy.

In Cultural and Heritage Tourism in Australia, 2008, a Cultural and Heritage trip is defined as one including:

- the theatre, a concert, or other performing art
- a museum or art gallery
- art, craft workshops or studios

- festivals, fair or cultural events
- Aboriginal art, craft and cultural displays
- an Aboriginal site or community; and
- historical/heritage buildings, sites or monuments.

Bearing in mind the availability and accessibility of arts/craft workshops and studios; and Aboriginal art/craft displays and sites compared to the other categories; the most popular domestic activity was:

- ‘visiting museums and art galleries’ with 44% overnight visitors compared to 35% day visitors;
- ‘visits to historical/heritage buildings’ attracting 30% overnight visitors and 24% day visitors;
- historical or heritage buildings, sites or monuments had the highest rate of attendance by international cultural and heritage visitors (61%); and
- museums or art galleries (57%).

(ABS: *Arts and Culture in Australia 2009*)

Providing the structures to develop and support creatives and cultural/heritage development in the North Burnett is a key focus of this report, particular in light of the current climate.

Innovation

In the landmark report “Why some towns thrive while others languish”, Ian Plowman and his cohorts summarised their findings and espoused the need for continued community engagement, a good communication strategy between council and community; supporting and advocating for local business and youth; providing leadership and more. Plowman advocates the need for innovation in communities, and for councils to work with those who have great ideas, but require assistance and seed funding to achieve success. This mentoring role is important for the success of the activity and to build trust, tolerance and a new council advocate.

Innovative ideas may start simply with community volunteers planting trees and beautifying the streetscape, which happened in the old logging town of Geeveston in Tasmania¹. The Geeveston community’s continued endeavours, attracted a government funded multi million dollar ‘skywalk’ facility built nearby, bringing 150,000 tourists a year and creating a thriving community with new shops and cafes; and people returning to live in the community.

Closer to home, in Tambo, the Tambo Teddies, initiated through a government funded Future Search Workshop, was the brainchild of three enterprising local women who ‘wanted to promote wool and the industry’ after drought pushed down wool prices. Tambo Teddies have sold over 29,000 teddies around the world, currently employ fifteen part time workers and is one of the biggest employers in the town².

Many cities and rural Centres impacted by industry closure, drought and/or reduced government services have had to rethink how they will facilitate their own change process into the next decade. The common elements of successful creative cities could easily transpose to regional Centres:

- “a recognition of talented artists and cultural workers
- an activity based agenda – festivals, exhibitions, experiential projects
- a creative environment
- business, media and community support
- supporting infrastructure – streetscapes
- cultural precincts – galleries, venues, streets, studios
- strong relationship with community and learning

- priority given to training and support for young people.”
(Guppy: 17))

There is tremendous creative and cultural potential in the North Burnett, which could be utilised and marketed, providing a myriad of sustainable cultural industries for the region. However, it is evident more groundwork is required in preparation.

A national regional consultation conducted by Regional Arts Australia in 2009 consolidated the responses of 85,000 people across the country, the results showed:

- over 50% believed the arts play a role in economic development and job creation.
- over 70% believed the arts play a role in cultural tourism.
- almost 70% believed that more skills development training and professional development opportunities were required to assist in the development of the sector.
- over 85% believed the arts play a vital role in the community wellbeing (and entertainment).
- over 90% believed that increased funding was required to build on existing levels of arts activity.

(Creating a better life for regional Australia, Regional Arts Australia, 2009)

The results support the key findings and recommendations of this report.

Project scope

The cultural mapping activity was three fold:

- 1) To conduct cultural mapping workshops in the six regional Centres and together with online surveys, gather feedback on community strengths, challenges, opportunities and needs. Students in all the Centres participated in creative activities and their contributions are included in this report. The consolidated data and recommendations will inform the development of an Arts and Cultural Strategy. Online survey form (Appendix 1).
- 2) To produce a template form for North Burnett Artists (professional and hobbyists) to complete for inclusion in an online database housed on the council website, accessed to promote and network artists and circulate training/workshop information. (Appendix 2)
- 3) To conduct an audit of the cultural groups and facilities available throughout the region. This included arts groups, community organizations, galleries, libraries, museums and national parks etc. This database will be available online and at local libraries. (Appendix 3)
- 4) A literature review value added to the community responses and informed the Cultural Mapping Report and this report will support the direction for the forthcoming North Burnett Arts and Cultural Strategy.

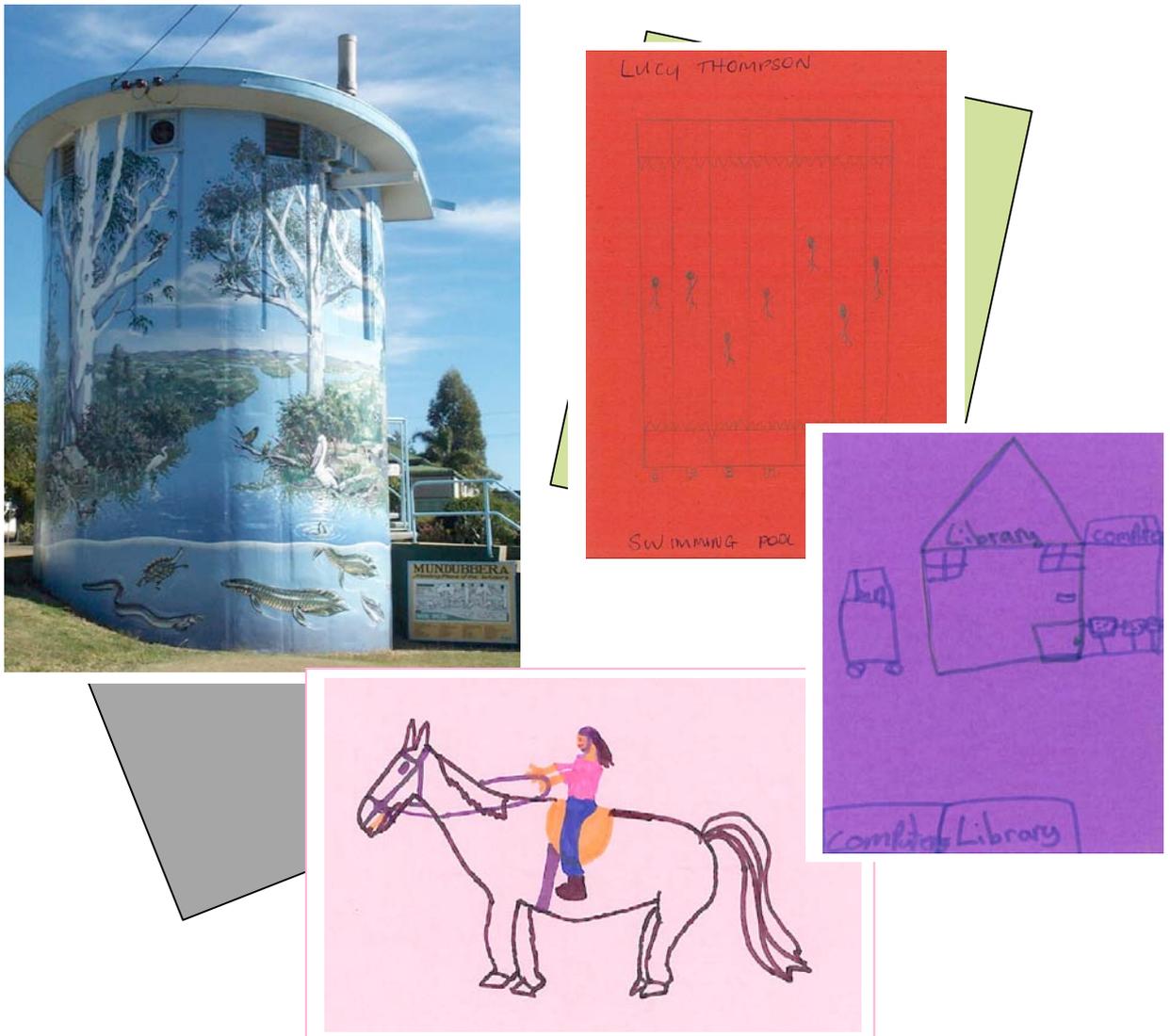
Methodology and limitations

Questions for the consultation were tailored to obtain the general reflections of the broader community. All the responses were documented regardless if they fell outside the remit of arts and culture as there may be scope to use community cultural development (ccd)* activities as a catalyst to address community issues that are not specifically arts related.

The consultation framework was developed for the community engagement to be as open, transparent and inclusive as possible. Online surveys with prize offerings were advertised across the Centres and Cultural Mapping workshops held with school children and community participants. However, the small numbers of attendees at the community workshops and limited online survey responses meant that many individual interviews had to be conducted face to face and by phone.

In total 15 workshops were delivered to 255 participants; 34 online surveys completed and 55 individual interviews conducted by the writer (face to face and by telephone). I acknowledge and thank all those people who gave their time and shared their thoughts.

*see glossary



The Key Cultural Challenges, Strengths, Needs and Opportunities in each Centre

The detailed responses can be located in Sections 2 and 3.

	Challenge	Strength	Need	Opportunity
Biggenden	Loss of Rose Festival. Lack of regular cultural activities	Strong art group. National Parks Active Museum group (incl Heritage)	More volunteers Art Gallery	Refurbish old hospital as gallery/workshop space.
Eidsvold	Community friction	High Indigenous population, strong cultural asset	Cultural infrastructure; Training and support for youth	Cultural tourism product development. Training needs assessment.
Gayndah	Lack of regular cultural activities	Good museum/ town history. Proactive quilting group.	Cultural venue for w/end & after school; More activities for youth	Assess availability of venues. Training Needs Assessment Develop activity program
Monto	Dairy Festival under threat; Lack of volunteers	Monto Magic, Art Walk. Talented artists	Business/ Marketing training for artists. Activities for youth.	Training Needs Assessment. Activity program.
Mt. Perry	Poor communication Youth leaving	Active art group. Annual Art Exhibition.	More youth activities Consolidate organizations	Activity program
Mundubbera	Communication issues Youth apathy, boredom	Cultural Diversity; wide variety of art forms and artists. entrepreneurs	Improve NAIDOC Marketing training for artists; Upgrade market.	NAIDOC support Training Needs assessment.

Key Results of Students' Feedback

Below is the top result for each question. Responses are expanded in Section 3.

Favourite Places broad headings: Recreational locations (RecLoc) within Town or National Parks; home; sports facilities; cultural locations.

What you like to do?: Recreational activities: active; passive-outdoor; passive-indoor; socialising

What could be changed: Better sports facilities; social activities; arts & entertainment; food; shops.

	Favourite Place	What you like to do	What could be changed
Biggenden	RecLoc - NP: 34%	RecActivities Active: 54%	Want Skate Park: 30% (see note 2)
Eidsvold	RecLoc - T: 45%	Sports activities: 40%	A Cinema: 16%
Gayndah	Town/shops/IGA 57%	RecActiv:Pas-indoor 30%	More shops 58%
Monto	RecLoc - T: 26%	RecActiv.Active 30%	Better sports fac: 12% Youth club/space 12% Cinema: 12%
Mt. Perry	RecLoc:Mingo 22.5%	RecActiv:Pas:movies 30%	Swimming Pool: 35%
Mundubbera	Sportsfacilities: 10%	RecActiv. Active: 32% (see note 2)	More shops: 24%

Notes: 1 – a 50% reduction was provided in the response rate to this question

2 – a 62% reduction was provided in the response rate to this question

Arts and Cultural pursuits

Only Gayndah students identified that they liked art and craft activities (14%) and 11% wanted an art gallery/art facilities compared to 8% requesting a cinema. Cinemas were a strong requirement in most of the Centres.

4% of Mundubbera's students chose the Gallery as a favourite location, which is relatively high when 5% of students chose the popular MotoX track, the water ski area, Archer Park and the Pool.

Summary and Recommendations

1. Education and Training

Training provision has been identified as a requirement from the current consultations and prior findings⁽³⁾. The value of targeted training is particularly important for all creatives as they connect with peers, build confidence and motivation to expand ideas, and explore their potential. Education and training should be part of a lifelong learning strategy to value add to existing knowledge and develop new skills.

There was an identified need for Aboriginal training in business and marketing skills, and to use trainers who were familiar with Aboriginal styles of learning; and a need to deliver cross-cultural training to non-Indigenous people to provide an understanding about Aboriginal culture and protocols.

The following training was identified as a requirement: Marketing, Event Management and Business Development for artists and small businesses; and locals offering work-shops in arts, craft and horsemanship. Conducting a regional Training Needs Assessment would provide a more thorough assessment across a larger demographic. Education and training programs could also be linked to tourist activities, such as cultural and conservation tourism.

Recent discussions have centred on virtual technology to support Years 11 and 12 students harness East Coast education in regional classrooms. Virtual technology could be explored to deliver training to the arts and cultural sectors..

Mentoring opportunities should be also explored to involve more young people in community activities and events to broaden their skills and experience and provide new insights.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 A Training Needs Assessment Strategy for North Burnett is developed.
- 1.2 Train the Trainer courses for artists and businesses wishing to offer unaccredited workshops or 'learning experiences'.
- 1.3 Small business assistance provided to explore potential for (1) local tourist activities/training; and (2) marketing their products locally, nationally and globally, i.e. website development, branding, product development.
- 1.4 RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre, rural training arm –unaccredited training; short courses for tourists and Aboriginal cultural studies.
- 1.5 Business and marketing training for artists.
- 1.6 Explore the potential for an Artist in Residence program. There is current Federal / State Arts funding for Artists in Schools and Artist in Residence programs.
- 1.7 Provide training and mentoring opportunities for local youths, and if relevant, emerging artists, included in all program of activities.
- 1.8 Tailored training provided, in consultation, for Aboriginal groups.
- 1.9 Cross-cultural training developed in collaboration with Wakka Wakka Elders.

2. Employment and industry

Youth unemployment was a recurring topic with angst about youths leaving communities to locate work on the coast and not returning. New mining operations are imminent with the potential for more exploration; and there are many opportunities for tourism, industry and business development which are currently being pursued by the Council. Community and Industry partnerships could be explored to address common goals

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council employs a Grants and Project Officer to seek funding to implement relevant projects and programs identified in the Economic Development Plan, the Tourism Strategy and the Arts and Cultural Strategy.
- 2.2 Council employs a Marketing and Promotions Officer to develop and implement a Marketing Plan, and liaise with relevant staff to promote the Arts and Cultural Strategy, and Tourism and Events Strategies when available.
- 2.3 Potential community cultural development (ccd) activities in the region. The Council (Arts and Cultural) Officer liaises across community and identifies opportunities. If the QT rail line is reopened in North Burnett through mining and/or other industry activities, discussions ensue about employing regional artists in community arts activities, (QT have an arts budget).
- 2.4 Produce tailored sponsorship packages (Grants & Project Officer brief) to target major industries throughout North Burnett and allied industries elsewhere.
- 2.5 A Grants Register is produced and grants/deadlines mapped to activities.

3. Health and Community Services

A **recurrent issue** in all the Centres was lack of public transport, health services, including mental health, and dental care. Most funded services are being delivered from Regional Centres on the coast, however it is argued this is insufficient and not frequent enough to maintain optimal wellbeing for some residents. Social issues identified were youth alcohol consumption and suicide.

The Arts have an important place in health and wellbeing and recognised by government departments to have direct benefit with increased mental well being, community capacity, self esteem and confidence.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Community cultural development (ccd) activities developed in consultation with local communities to engage with young people around specific issues; mental health clients and the broader community to develop stronger community relations. These activities develop new skills and knowledge and allow participants to discuss and explore issues of concern, and build confidence and capacity.

4. Regional lifestyle

The region has an ageing population of locals, which could be further increased with an influx of retirees, due to its close proximity to the coast (and medical services) together with cheaper housing and land. How to attract creatives to the region could be explored. Access to cheaper housing, relatively close proximity to major centres, broadband access and beautiful environs could provide a strong incentive.

There was a strong emphasis on community spirit. Respondents also felt safe in their homes; that there was very little crime and their community was resilient, particularly in times of adversity. People mentioned their communities as welcoming and inclusive, however, in some towns relative newcomers felt the opposite, feeling excluded even though they had resided in the Centre and environs for many years.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Community cultural development (ccd) activities developed to engage broader community and youth.
- 4.2 Explore strategies to attract more creatives and creative industries to the region.

5. Communication

Communication issues were a problem across all the Centres, not only between community organisations, but council and community; and with new and established locals. This issue could underpin how well any new community initiatives and strategies are implemented. It was apparent during the consultations that many community participants did not access circulated information and communication between Centres were at times fragmented and ad hoc resulting in a clash of events and programs delivered unbeknownst to others in the region..

The ‘age divide’ is an issue for some young volunteers who felt that their suggestions were dismissed, because ‘it had been tried before’, they subsequently stopped volunteering. Developing strategies to access input from young people and honouring their contribution is a contributing factor in building robust communities.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Conduct a regional Training Needs Assessment, see 1.1 and implement.
- 5.2 Modify council’s current communication protocol to include additional strategies for broadcasting information to the community.
- 5.3 Council (Arts and Cultural) Officer liaises with local service agencies to develop and build community capacity through local activities.
- 5.4 Recognition & valuing of local volunteers – could be done via Council awards/recognition, a Volunteer Grants fund and skill development opportunities.
- 5.5 Employ a Marketing and Promotion Officer.
- 5.6 Co-ordinate a local and regional Youth Council.

6. Community and cultural activities (including social life)

Many needs were identified including different cultural venues and more cinemas. Cinemas can be an important way to provide social opportunities for communities, particularly for young people. The current film viewing options are ad hoc and heavily dependent on individuals in the community. Eidsvold has used the local pool, park and Munjooram Hall as cinema venues; and Mt Perry use their community hall for a monthly film offered only to youths.

There is a huge dependence on the free service provision provided by community volunteers, which may not be sustainable in the long term, as volunteer numbers are dwindling through age, health and burn out, and they are not being replaced by younger peers. Duplication of services is currently being explored, which could be extended to all the Centres as part of a Volunteer Strategy.

Skill development and mentoring is another pay-back strategy for volunteers and a possible way of obtaining and retaining younger recruits.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Develop a regional Marketing Plan. All documents should be linked with the Corporate Plan, Arts and Cultural Strategy, Tourism Strategy and Economic & Development Plan.
- 6.2 Develop a Regional Movie Program using existing venues as an asset and attraction for audiences.
- 6.3 Offer Oral history skills development to capture Elders' and Seniors' memories and stories.
- 6.4 Secure funds for a North Burnett Venue and Facilities Feasibility Report, to assess current facilities, their use and ascertain if additional venues are required.
- 6.5 Investigate the potential to amalgamate some of the local groups where there is duplication of activities.
- 6.6 Develop a Volunteer Strategy, including skills development and other incentives for events and other arts and cultural projects.
- 6.7 Promote and encourage more creatives (hobbyists and professionals) to include their details on the Artists' Database.
- 6.8 Develop a comprehensive and strategic Events Plan for the region, including a funding plan, negotiated calendar of events and market days.
- 6.9 Develop a local activities program in each Centre, eg: activities around Film Club, Book Club, Digital Video and Photography training, Community Choir, Drama workshops, etc.
- 6.10 Develop an Oral history project, including local training around "Hidden Treasures" – to locate and identify hidden community talents, assets and stories.

7. Diverse communities

There is a rich cultural diversity in the North Burnett and a genuine acceptance of other cultures residing in the regional Centres. Multicultural activities have happened ad hoc in Mundubbera, recently with the Tongan community, through NAIDOC and the inaugural Taste of the Burnett Event.

Aboriginal creatives have been identified in Mundubbera and Eidsvold, most of whom are not adequately promoting and marketing their work for sale. A Needs Assessment of Aboriginal communities and individuals in the North Burnett would identify all the creatives and, in consultation, resolve how individuals can be supported locally and regionally.

Arts Queensland is providing a four year funding commitment of \$3.43m for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives and has identified four key actions of support provision:

- 1) Raise cultural awareness and knowledge.
- 2) Support arts development and promotion.
- 3) Support Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to protect and strengthen culture.
- 4) Increase employment and training in the arts and cultural sector.

(Arts Queensland, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Policy 2009-2013*)

Also of note is the rich Aboriginal heritage in the region. Reports have been written by Archaeologists and Anthropologists for mining and government bodies as a legislative requirement; and researchers at Bundaberg's Central Queensland University (CQU) have been uncovering data in Cania Gorge, placing Aboriginal people there over 18,000 years ago. Other information is held with landowners, who have historical documentation relevant to local tribal groups handed down through the generations.

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy would identify and consolidate this rich resource and provide recommendations regarding the maintenance and sustainability of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. The Strategy should identify the possibility of a North Burnett Aboriginal Keeping Place to house artefacts, documents and historical data.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Include NAIDOC week celebrations as part of the Festival and Events Plan.
- 7.2 Include cultural diversity as part of the Arts and Cultural Strategy and ensure consultation with people who are culturally and linguistically diverse.
- 7.3 Encourage and support the Tongan Community's arts and cultural knowledge by celebrating their national day and supporting other activities of non-English speaking background (NESB) cultural groups.
- 7.4 Develop a Needs Assessment of Aboriginal communities and individuals in North Burnett working closely with Aboriginal Elders
- 7.5 Work with the Aboriginal communities to develop an Indigenous Cultural Strategy. Research and collate existing historical data, capture undocumented stories, identify Cultural Assets, Places of Significance, particularly Cania Gorge, Ban Ban Springs and other locations; and locate Indigenous artists who currently use traditional skills and contemporary practice.
- 7.6 Seek Arts Queensland, Federal and philanthropic funding to support and implement the Strategy.
- 7.7 Include local and transient NESB cultures in activity programs.

8. Tourism, History and Heritage

There is enormous potential for arts, cultural and heritage activities to link in with tourism development across the region. However, with many groups working in isolation more groundwork may need to happen to resolve how this will be achieved. Historical Societies have a strong presence in North Burnett supported by a dedicated volunteer network, with key players in each Centre who market their local museum, buildings and collections. With many of the key volunteers ageing, an issue is the lack of risk management, succession planning and availability of younger volunteers to step into the key roles when required.

With many creatives in the region arts and cultural activities can provide an economically sustainable contribution using local artists to deliver skills workshops, and develop products for sale as well as gallery work. Regional artists are typically self effacing and may not promote their work, still qualifying it as ‘not good enough yet’. The challenge is changing mindsets, to provide effective business and marketing skills and knowledge to build confidence and allow local creatives to blossom and be recompensed for their work.

Central locations besides a gallery are important for displaying and selling artefacts. This could include an arts precinct or hub, as well as local shops and cafes. Monto artists are painting empty shop windows in their main street to rejuvenate a bleak streetscape. Other towns have used their empty shop windows to show case artworks and other creative endeavours. Central buildings in regional towns have been reclaimed if council owned, or purchased/leased if privately owned, to reinvigorate community activity, such as theatres, performing arts spaces, artist workshops and more.

In collaboration with regional creatives, Artists’ studio trails could be promoted (with artists’ studios open to tourists at certain times of the week); Aboriginal cultural tours and workshops offered and Cottage industries supported.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Consultation of arts and cultural organizations and individuals to identify creative activity opportunities and funding as part of the implementation of the Arts and Cultural Strategy.
- 8.2 Council’s (Arts and Cultural) Officer liaises with Tourism Officer to identify arts opportunities for Tourism.
- 8.3 Explore arts opportunities such as interpretive signage and sculptures in different locations in national parks across North Burnett.
- 8.4 Support local artists and businesses to develop, market and promote art and cultural workshop packages for tourists.
- 8.5 Support an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy.
- 8.6 Support a Venue Feasibility Study for arts, cultural and heritage activities.
- 8.7 Explore transport potential for bus hire/ passenger rail carriage transport to bring tourists to the North Burnett during events, market days and for other creative and cultural opportunities.
- 8.8 Develop a History and Heritage Plan for the Region in consultation with the communities in each Centre.

Section 2

North Burnett Indigenous Australians Profile of the North Burnett Centres



**Biggenden
Eidsvold
Gayndah
Monto
Mt Perry
Mundubbera**

“We should try to invest in and build on strengths as our Natural and Cultural Capital and seek new economy. We should grasp opportunity such as those that will stem from new and emerging environmental economy; we need to be working to understand how we may become a sustainable community in light of climate change rather than arguing whether it is happening or not”.

(Monto resident)

North Burnett Indigenous Australians

Historical context

Aboriginal presence in the Burnett-Dawson region has been recorded as at least 20,000 years. Sites reflecting occupation include 'artefact scatters, quarries, ceremonial places, pathways and special places'⁴. Aboriginal pathways were regularly used and maintained with fire and it is suggested that early explorers and settlers entered the country by established Aboriginal pathways that followed the boundaries of tribal lands, major rivers and direct tracks through country to popular meeting places⁵.

Many tribes occupied the region, the Wakka Wakka, who were spread throughout the North Burnett; the Darielbelum and the Dundubara around Biggenden, the Djaku-nde/Jangerie Jangerie, west of Mundubbera, the Gooreng Gooreng in Monto the Wulli Wulli bordering on the north west of the region and other claimants are emerging such as the Gurang and the Taribelang Bunda Peoples⁶.

Ban Ban Springs, located at the junction of the Burnett and Isis highways, was a meeting place for the Wakka Wakka and other tribes. Just south of the junction are the springs, a Dreaming place the Wakka Wakka People associated with the Rainbow Serpent, believed to have originated there. It is also the first location in Queensland to have been formally registered as an Aboriginal cultural heritage place⁷.

The Burnett River was a pathway to the Bunya Mountains, a gathering place for the Bunya Festival, held every three years when the Bunya trees fruited. Thousands of people from many tribes gathered there during this time. Feuds were set aside and crucial business took place around alliances and discussions of rights and obligations, allowing people movement between territories. Festivities included ceremonial activities, learning and exchanging stories; and items were swapped, such as 'weapons, possum skin rugs, nets, dilly bags, shells and necklaces'⁸.

As the region opened up with new settlers arriving, homesteads were placed on favoured waterholes and Aboriginal people were forced away from the waterways and life and the landscape soon changed. By 1848, the Aboriginal inhabitants were in open warfare with the settlers. Hostility was widespread and peaked with the Hornet Bank Massacre in 1857, when 14 settlers were killed. The reaction to the attacks was excessive. It is estimated that between 150 to 300 Aboriginal people were killed. The perpetrators never prosecuted.

The Native Mounted Police were renowned to be ruthless to local Aboriginal people, as recruits were enlisted from enemy tribes; it is suggested their violence was the crucial factor in the eventual destruction of Aboriginal resistance. This effectively ended traditional life as groups were forced into one another's territory and many displaced from their home country.

The first Aboriginal reserve was established in 1873 near Mackay and additional reserves and missions established over the next 30 years throughout Queensland. The resulting legacy from the removal of Aboriginal people to missions and the accompanying loss of control of their destiny and the treatment they received, lingers today⁹.

Aboriginal People in North Burnett today

At the time of the 2006 Census, there were 550 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in North Burnett, 5.4 % of the total population (compared with 3.3 % in Queensland). Gayndah has the largest number of Indigenous residents at 177 persons followed by Eidsvold - 173 persons, however, Eidsvold has a higher percentage.

Table 1: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents in North Burnett Region in 2006*

Centres and environs	Aboriginal	TSI	Both	Total Indig	Indig %	Non-Indig	Total 2006	Total 2008
Biggenden	38	0	3	41	2.7	1,444	1,525	1,634
Eidsvold	165	5	3	173	20.1	625	860	909
Gayndah	151	8	18	177	6.3	2,500	2,788	2,937
Monto	25	14	6	45	1.8	2,298	2,434	2,509
Mundubbera	84	9	3	96	4.5	1,000	2,117	2,187
Perry	18	0	0	18	4.2	404	431	470
NB Region	481	36	33	550	5.4	9,171	10,155	10,468
Queensland	98,716	18,374	10,488	127,578	3.3	3,552,041	3,904,532	

*The most recent ABS figures (2006) for Eidsvold is a 20% Indigenous demographic, however, there has been a population increase in all the Centres since 2006 and it has been suggested that there is now a higher percentage of Indigenous residents, particularly in Eidsvold and Mundubbera.

The North Burnett is a rich resource of Aboriginal cultural heritage and history. More information is gradually becoming available through archaeologists and anthropologists studying well known sites, such as Ban Ban Springs and Cania Gorge; and through consultants hired by mining companies and government as an obligatory requirement to assess land they intend to disturb. Established landowners may also have Aboriginal artefacts discovered on their property and other items and knowledge handed down through the generations. Other documents are housed in the John Oxley Library in Brisbane.

Although the Wakka Wakka are recognised as the dominant tribal group in the North Burnett region, different Aboriginal boundary lines intercept the area. In Eidsvold, the Wakka Wakka, have established a respectful and transparent process when asked to inspect any new country by private enterprise or government and invite a representative of the Wulli Wulli or the Gooreng People as a 'monitor'. The monitor is requested to attend if there is a possibility that their tribe may have some cultural affiliation with the same country.

From discussions in Eidsvold and Mundubbera*, it was apparent that many people are engaged in art and craft activities. In Mundubbera, a spare bedroom was used as a gallery space with bark paintings propped on the furnishings and exquisitely carved emu eggs nestled in boxes. In Eidsvold, participants screenprinted, painted, made traditional beaded jewellery and baskets. Some items are sold at the local market held once a month or work displayed for sale in the library or local bistro.

An Aboriginal screen printing business had previously been established in Eidsvold, which survived whilst funding was available, however, the business was not sustainable with only community customers and limited marketing expertise; the business eventually folded.

A Monto Elder mentioned a need for an Aboriginal Park Ranger, particularly for park areas such as Cania Gorge with its rich Aboriginal heritage and cultural significance. Other needs were: cross cultural training to understand Aboriginal culture and protocols; and marketing and business skills development, bearing in mind that trainers should be receptive to Aboriginal learning style and deliver training accordingly.

*we were unable to connect and consult with any Aboriginal representatives in Gayndah..

Current Indigenous groups

Eidsvold Wakka Wakka Aboriginal Corporation

Djaku-nde and Jangerie Jangerie Aboriginal Corporation, Mundubbera

Wakka Wakka Jinda Aboriginal Corporation, Gayndah (unsure if still operational)

Eidsvold Aboriginal and Community Development

Jena Boran Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation, Mundubbera

Indigenous Wellbeing Centre, Bundaberg (also covers North Burnett) Offers health and community services for Indig and non-Indig people. M-F 8.30-4.30pm

12B/9 Maryborough Stret, Bundaberg Q 4670. Ph: 4151 5402

email: info@iwc.org.au

website: <http://www.iwc.org.au>



Biggenden Region

“Gateway to Paradise”

Townships: Biggenden, Coalstoun Lakes, Dallarnil, Didcot and Degilbo

Population: 1,634 (2008)

It is suggested that Biggenden is the Aboriginal name for “the place of the stringybarks”¹⁰. The area was originally settled in 1847 with the establishment of the Degilbo Station and the Biggenden township populated later in 1889, initially for gold mining and then to service other emerging local industries.

In 1959, Biggenden was described in the Maryborough Chronicle as ‘the thriving heart of a rich agricultural, dairying, timber and mining district’¹¹. Beef and dairy cattle is currently the dominant industry. Cattle Sale yards are held every fortnight, bringing together local and visiting graziers to network, deal and compare prices and news.

Biggenden has the oldest average aged population in Queensland. It’s proximity to the Bruce Highway and coastal towns and services, together with relatively cheap housing has enticed retirees to move to the Centre. The short term impact on the community could be beneficial as seniors can bring a wide range of skills with them; and potential new volunteer recruits as they find their place in the community. The downside is that Biggenden is also the lowest socio economic group in the North Burnett. Cultural life is on the downturn, one participant lamented ‘Social life isn’t what it used to be, people don’t want to put in the time. We used to have a big Rose Festival, it just stopped. There was a week of activities before it was on, a big art show, fashion parade and wine and cheese nights.’

Locals mentioned the need for an Art Gallery. ‘Biggenden is the closest to the coast (than the other Centres) and a lot of Isis Highway people travel through.’ If there was an art gallery, more people would stop. There have been discussions with the arts groups about accessing the old hospital, when the new hospital is built (estimated to be finished in eighteen months).

June Kimber, owns the extensive Stephenson Collection¹² comprising family memorabilia, most of the books that Inky Stevenson authored, his paintings and more. The Blacksmith’s Shop, is now only opened on request, usually booked in advance by tour groups. June provides teas and lunches when she opens for the tours and a regular monthly dinner on Fridays, ‘which makes good money’. However, she is heavily dependent on volunteers and would be happy to step aside and lease the Café. The complex is in a central location, large and could readily accommodate more buildings, the property is owned by the Heritage Society and debt free.

June was amenable to having the old hospital buildings relocated to the Heritage complex behind the Blacksmith Shop, potentially establishing a small cultural precinct with one building housing more of the Stephenson Collection and the other building/s used for a Gallery Space, studio space, workshops and meetings. There are cost implications for the relocation of the buildings and the renovations to comply with standard requirements for displaying heritage listed artefacts, artworks and regulations regarding public spaces.

The Biggenden Historical Society and Museum, is run independently and provides general memorabilia, photographs and information about Biggenden’s history. The two Historical groups do not connect with each other.

Mt. Walsh overlooks the picturesque town and the area boasts of unique gorges and the largest area of evergreen picket/vine. The National Walking Trail passes through the area.

Public Art

'Cedric' – Man wheeling a wheelbarrow looking towards Mt. Walsh

Paradise Dam is located in the Biggenden region together with two National Parks, Mt. Walsh and Coulstoun Lakes, Mt Woowoonga National Park and The Bicentennial National Trail.

Events: Annual Agricultural Show, Charity Camp Draft (fund raiser for Leukaemia Foundation), Dallarnil Sports Day, Dallarnil Rodeo, Fortnightly Cattle Sales, Steer Sales twice per year, Cattle Show Sale, Annual all Breed Bull Sale, Annual Arts Show, Biggenden Monthly Markets.

Cultural infrastructure and organisations

Library, Five Community Halls, Paradise Dam, Historical Society, Art and craft groups.

Summary of Students responses

Active outdoor recreational pursuits in the natural environment were generally more important to the surveyed youths with indoor recreational/cultural activities less important. Creative endeavours (drawing, photography, painting, sculpture, etc) were not mentioned by anyone.

Favourite locations

	Total responses	%
Recreational locations in National Parks	18	34
Home	10	19
Recreational locations: within town	9	17
Total	37 of 53	70%

What you like to do?

	Total responses	%
Recreational activities: active – walking, water skiing, horse riding, swimming, bike riding, disco, youth at CWA	28	54
Sporting activities	9	17
Recreational activities: passive – outdoor -fishing, shooting	7	13
Recreational activities, passive indoor such as writing, reading, tv, movies, music, computer	6	12
total	50 of 52	96%

What could be changed to make living in your community better?

Less than half the respondents answered this question:

	Total responses	%
Recreational activities: active: skate park	7	30
More parks	4	17
Large shopping Centre / more shops / better shops	4	17
total	15 of 24	64%

Community responses:

Challenges

- Oldest average aged population in Queensland with low socio economic groups.
- Increased unemployment, particularly school leavers.
- Youth leaving.
- No public transport.
- Reduced community activities.
- The Rose Festival no longer held through lack of volunteers – impact across other areas in the community.
- Availability of land for development.
- Need more people to join the community choir.
- Deterioration of the buildings.
- Like to see empty shops open up again.
- Need more buildings/facilities.
- Lack of community commitment.
- People go elsewhere to do their shopping.

Strengths

- Community - resilient, welcoming, friendly, embracing, caring, sociable.
- Low crime rate; quiet town; tidy town.
- Good lifestyle, not expensive and close to major Centres.
- Good Bowls Club – people attend from outside community.
- Many people active and help out.
- Good health services and facilities and close to central towns for full medical care.
- Close to major Centres.
- Cheap real estate.
- Strong art group, great Historical Society; and Blacksmith shop (not currently open).
- Regular Cattle Sales, which brings people into town every Monday fortnight.
- Good caravan park.
- National Trail, Paradise Dam.
- Turtle Hatchery.

Needs

- More small acreage for people to buy.
- Have small airport – linked to tourism.
- Regional transport and air service.
- An art gallery.
- More volunteers; greater community involvement.

Opportunities

- Potential to use old hospital as an art gallery and for community workshop.
- Heritage and historical sites – renovate and promote better.
- Potential to develop the current museum site as a cultural precinct.
- Oral history projects.
- Natural environment promoted more – and partner with other councils.

Eidsvold Region

‘Country living at it’s best’.

Towns and Localities: Eidsvold, Abercorn, Ceradotus, Wuruma Dam

This area was originally settled in July 1848 for sheep grazing by Thomas and Charles Archer, two of seven brothers, who were explorers and pastoralists and among the earliest settlers in Queensland. The property they acquired was named Eidsvold after the Norwegian town of Eidsvoll, where the Archer family had land holdings. The town of Eidsvold began in 1887 through the gold rush when the local population peaked at nearly 2,000 residents (800 were miners). The gold rush was short lived and after five years the town’s population had nearly halved. Beef cattle became the primary industry after 1926 followed by timber, citrus and cropping

Eidsvold today (See also **Aboriginal Profile**, page 19)

Population: 909 (2008 census) estimated 20% Indigenous

The Eidsvold Aboriginal Children’s Activities Program receives funding to provide a free child care service. The name is a misnomer, as it is available to all the community, however, not many non-Aboriginal parents use the service. Perceptions about the service could change if advertised as inclusive across all the community.

Munjoorum Hall – purchased by the Aboriginal Lands Council, is available for all the community to access. Movie nights have been held at Munjoorum Hall, which haven’t attracted many adults or youths. Cost could be a factor, as a copyright charge is now required for the public screening. Movies have also been held in the local park and swimming pool ‘Dive In Movies’ with reduced numbers if an entry fee charged. When free entry was made available, but a food charge imposed, the attendance numbers increased in the pool. It has been suggested that the park is the best family venue, as parents are more likely to stay and watch the movie with the children, rather than ‘drop them off’ and go elsewhere, which can happen when screenings are held in the Hall.

It is difficult to persuade young people to attend the screenings. It was suggested that different groups could arrange the catering to raise funds for their community activities and young people could be involved to fundraise for something meaningful to them. The work is done voluntarily, however, there is still a cost to cover the obligatory copyright fee.

The community has been beset by many social issues which has impacted on residents.

Eidsvold & District Historical Society Inc

The Society collects and preserves historical items and written and oral history with a focus on the local Shire. Founded 1976. The Museum displays a number of collections and memorabilia as well as buildings that have been relocated to the complex. Additional renovations are required to provide more space in the current venue, to house additional artefacts and a shell collection. Group members promote the Historical Society Museum with flyers and have connections with some tour operators.

RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre

The building work is finally underway and it is estimated that the building and fitout should be completed by August/September, with an official opening in October. The complex will comprise two large rooms, a foyer and storeroom. One room used for training and teaching bushcraft skills, technology and art and cultural workshops. The second room will be an Interpretive Centre, offering displays and interactive resources covering topics such as R M

Williams' life, Aboriginal culture and artefacts, oral histories of key seniors and Elders in the community and more. Space will also be allocated to display artworks. Two paid positions will be advertised shortly, one fulltime and one part time.

There is scope to add to the building in the future, to house a Cultural Keeping Place for the Aboriginal communities. In the meantime, 'an old slab hut' will be relocated to the site as a cultural activity space for Aboriginal groups to use for performance, music, art and craft. The R M Williams Centre will be a tremendous resource for the community for attracting tourists and others to the community and highlighting Eidsvold's attributes.

Events: Music Muster, Monthly Cattle Sales, Eidsvold Annual Show, NAIDOC Week, Hospital Auxiliary Garden Party, Apex Santa Fair.

Horse events: PoloX and Four Rivers (Trail Rides), Endurance, Pony club, Jockey Club, Dressage, Camp drafts, Annual Horse Races.

Cultural infrastructure and organisations

Gallery/Museum, Library, Community Halls , RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre (currently in construction), Munjoorum Hall, Skate Park, School Choir, Historical Society; and Art Groups.

Summary of Students responses

Favourite locations

	Total responses	%
Sports facilities	13	40
Recreational locations: within town	15	45
Total	28 of 33	85%

What you like to do?

	Total responses	%
Sports activities:	13	40
Recreational activities: active – walking, water skiing, horse riding, swimming, bike riding, disco, youth at CWA	12	36
Recreational activities: passive – outdoor -fishing, shooting	6	18
total	31 of 33	94%

What could be changed to make living in your community better?

	Total responses	%
Eidsvold Other: Improve Shire hall Stage; Indoor Equestrian Stadium; refurbish Munjooram hall; More camp draft schools; zoo; museum; drinking fountains..	8	32
Cinema	4	16
Better sporting facilities	3	12
Large shopping Centre / more shops / better shops	3	12
total	18 of 25	72%

Summary of community responses:

Challenges

- Lack of developed residential and industrial land.
- Lack of public housing.
- Lack of employment opportunities.
- Lack of services and trades people such as plumbers and electricians.
- Lack of public transport.
- Few skilled rural workers.
- Not many opportunities to progress career. Council best opportunity.
- GenY like to have options, options limited.
- Too many community organizations for such a small community with same people in each.
- Not enough volunteers.
- Prevalence of alcohol in community with some adult population and young people 15-16 year olds.
- Community friction between relative newcomers and locals
- Community factions and social issues
- Young people leaving town.

Strengths

- Infrastructure complete to support a larger population than the current one.
- Plenty of opportunities to improve skills.
- Has the only siltstone quarry in Queensland.
- Has a saw and sleeper mill.
- Many good parents in the community who help out and rally together.
- Have a lot of volunteers (parents in school).
- High Indigenous population.
- School choir.
- Many horse events.
- Accepting of amalgamations, positive about council.
- Safe community, friendly, people work together when needed, clean, attractive, scenic.
- Strong history.
- Situation on highway.

Needs

- Training for rural workers, eg cattle experience, horse riding, bush riding.
- Eidsvold Shire hall Stage – improve, add mural and props.
- A Civic Centre.
- Munjoorum Hall – refurbish – provide cinema/theatre.
- Music/piano teacher in school.
- Increase in aged care and facilities and health service to include dentist and chemist.
- Better and increased transport especially for medical treatment between towns.

Opportunities

- A motel and conference Centre to accommodate a bus load of tourists.
- Cultural tourism product development to encourage people to stay longer in Eidsvold.

Gayndah Region

“Oldest Town in Queensland”

Towns and localities: Gayndah, Ban Ban Springs, Binjour, Byrnestown, Gooroolba, Ideraway, Wetheron.

Population: 2,937 (2008)

Sister town: Zonhoven, Belgium, established in 1989

The name Gayndah is of Aboriginal origin, either from Gu-in-dah (or Gi-un-dah) meaning ‘thunder’, or from Ngainta, meaning ‘place of scrub’.

Established in 1849 by explorers Archer and James Charles Burnett, Gayndah is the oldest town in Queensland. Apparently, Gayndah was in the running as the capital of Queensland, however, the Burnett River wasn’t deep enough to allow cargo ships upriver to unload and Brisbane was deemed more appropriate. The town is located in Queensland’s largest citrus growing area and hosts the biennial Gayndah Orange Festival to celebrate the industry which began in 1957.

Gayndah Today

Gayndah is the second main citrus producer in the North Burnett. During the five month fruit season the population swells with itinerants arriving for casual work. Concerns have arisen because of inadequate accommodation which the Council is attempting to address. However, the transients bring a rich resource of skills and cultural experience from around the world, which could be further explored and utilised.

As the historic Centre of the Burnett Region, Gayndah has preserved its rich heritage, with four sites listed on the Queensland heritage register and most heritage buildings still in use. The museum is reputedly one of the finest historical museums in Queensland. There is extensive memorabilia, and a unique display of the Queensland Lungfish (*Ceratodus*), now only found in the Mary and Burnett rivers. However, a major drawcard is the still functional, steam powered sawmill, which is operated five times a year, an event that brings members from the coast and surrounding region.

In exchange for a ‘peppercorn rent’, the museum also functions as a tourist information service for council and is open 7 days a week, 9-4pm. Everything is done on a voluntary basis.

The Potters Group has been operating for over twenty years and meet regularly in the Pottery Hut, which could be expanded due to an increase in membership. There is scope for other art groups to use the building, as the potters group only meet once a week.

The St. Joseph’s Convent School, in partnership with Gaydah State School and the North Burnett Council, have secured, in principle, a \$2.4 million Federal ‘Funding for Schools Working Together’ grant. The funds will be used to redevelop a ninety year old convent building at St. Josephs into a Regional Cultural Centre. Primarily for the school children, the proposed complex will house a gallery space, performing and visual art spaces, large workshop/meeting venue and a kitchen and will be available to the community after school hours, except the gallery, which will have a separate access and be open during the day. It is estimated that the building work will be finished in 12-18 months. The Council have agreed to an annual commitment of \$10,000 to the Cultural Centre, once established.

The Gayndah community radio station, Burnett River Radio, service North Burnett and beyond. Community members can volunteer their time and learn skills in presenting on air and managing sound equipment. Volunteers keep the facility functioning, however, continued funding is required to maintain equipment and resources.

Gayndah Markets

These markets are held monthly and appear to be the most popular in the North Burnett attracting stallholders from outside the region.

Events: Orange Festival every second year, monthly market, two races per year, Gayndah Rodeo, Christmas Carnival, Annual Show, Australian Working Dog Trials, Fishing Competition, Annual Triathlon, St Matthew's Spring Fair, Convent Christmas Fair, St Joseph's Christmas Party, Ambulance Christmas Fair.

Cultural infrastructure and organisations

Gallery/Museum, Library, Historical Society, Community Halls, skate bowl and Art groups.

Summary of Students responses:

Favourite locations

	Total responses	%
Town / shops / IGA	34	57
Recreational locations: national parks	8	13
Recreational locations: within town	6	10
total	48 of 60	80%

What you like to do?

	Total responses	%
Recreational activities: passive - indoor - writing/texting, reading, tv, movies, music, computer,	17	30
Socialising, entertaining, talking, work	11	19
Sports activities:	8	14
Art and craft activities, draw	8	14
Travelling / Shopping	7	12
total	51 of 57	87%

What could be changed to make living in your community better?

	Total responses	%
Large shopping Centre (10) / more shops /specialty shops (5)	22	58
Cinema (3) / art gallery and art facilities (4) Auditorium (1) More books (1)	9	23
Better school / better sporting facilities (1) / ice rink / gym / bigger pool	4	10
total	35 of 38	91%

The Challenges

- Lack of accommodation during the fruit season.
- Transients camping on public land.
- Mixed feeling about transients.
- Heavy reliance on citrus, if they fail, devastating for community.
- Maintaining infrastructure and business and make sure they stay.
- Job opportunities, not enough for young people.
- Caravan park controlling seasonal employment; only two employment agencies.
- Drought.
- Not enough things for young people to do; not enough entertainment.
- Non-recognition of multiculturalism, attitude towards non-Australians, insidious segregation.
- Lack of time for volunteering.
- Division regarding hail canon.
- Lack of health services.
- Amalgamations – now longer to get things done.
- Drugs and alcohol abuse.
- Ageing population.
- Lack of public transport.
- Highway goes through middle of town.
- Museum storage space and security.

The Strengths

- Reasonably priced housing and land.
- Schools, TAFE and State College.
- A variety of industries.
- Citrus industry bringing in itinerants (who spend money in town).
- Good shopping facilities.
- Roads are better.
- Many good water recreation areas and national parks in the region.
- Close knit community, many strengths..
- Many different events; excellent recreation facilities.
- Good museum; town history.
- Sister city, Zonhoven.
- Great customer service, not closed town, welcoming.
- Resilient community, friendly, willing to help, good community spirit, safe.
- Diversity of people and new ideas.
- Orange Festival always well supported.
- Connections with other Centres (towns in closer proximity).
- Good resource sharing with a common interest in each town.
- Proactive quilting group.
- Good medical services.
- Rural lifestyle with close proximity to larger Centres, position is big positive.
- Highway goes through middle of town.
- History and heritage – including buildings.
- Individual negativity about change and \$ spent on anything except RRR.

The Needs

- Enlarge caravan park.
- Increase budget accommodation (long and short term).
- Camping area out of public view.
- More business, customer service training.

- More expertise.
- Longer business hours for existing business (takeaways and servos).
- A cinema.
- Cultural venue for weekend/after school use.
- Extend library – larger library and more books.
- More entertainment for 15-17 year olds.
- More activities for youth – particularly in cultural activities, musicals etc.
- Lack a band; can't keep teachers in Gayndah. They stay six months and leave, kids lose enthusiasm.
- More eating places.
- More health services.
- Better and more frequent public transport service.
- Better signage for visitors.
- Promotion of lifestyle/friendliness.
- Museum succession planning.
- Additional museum building for storage.

The Opportunities

- For business and work – guaranteed six months work during fruit season.
- Attract overflow of people from the coast to reach a critical mass that establishes more business here.
- Gravel extraction between Eidsvold and Mundubbera – 300,000 ton a year. Should happen via rail – otherwise 35-40 semi trailers per day. If rail, possibility of passenger carriage.
- For larger events to be held.



Monto Region

‘Three Moon Country’

Towns and localities: Bancroft, Bukali, Cania, Cannindah, Coomingleh, Coomingleh forest, Glenleigh, Harrami, Kalpowar, Kapaldo, Langley, Monal, Monto, Moonford, Mulgildie, Mungungo, Rawbelle, Selene, Splinter Creek, Three Moon, Tellebang and Ventnor

Monto is a rough translation of an Aboriginal word meaning ‘plains with ridges on them’.

Europeans first settled in the area in the late 1840’s maintaining large pastoral holdings. When gold was discovered in the 1870s along three Moon Creek more settlers arrived. Monto township was not formally established until 1924. As the gold reserves petered out, Monto turned to farming and logging. The Monto environs is home to Cania Gorge National Park.

Monto Region Today

Population: 2,509 (2008 census)

The current highest employment at 34.5% is agriculture, forestry and fishing. Deposits of thermal coal, limestone and minerals have recently been discovered in the region and it is envisaged that Monto Minerals will soon be operating commercially.

The main street is lined with Art Deco buildings, many currently unoccupied as businesses have closed down. A local group, Monto Magic, established to explore tourism opportunities in an attempt to reinvigorate the town, met with Monto artists who have agreed to paint empty shop windows, to bring the street back to life.

There is a strong historic presence in the town, with the Monto Historical Museum Reserve, the Cultural and Historic Complex, where the Art Gallery is also located; and the Monto History Centre, a private collection of historical documents, books and research material owned by Beryl Bleys, currently for sale. An Art Deco trail with poetry has been discussed to take advantage of and link Monto’s heritage buildings.

The Monto Historical Society are exploring developing a heritage event in September. Suggestions include a storytelling/re-enactment project and running blacksmithing workshops¹¹.

The art, history and heritage buildings are spread out and it has been suggested that this potentially hinders public accessibility and puts a strain on volunteer time and support. The central Lister Street Art Walk with stone and metal sculptures by local and regional artists provides another cultural experience and a small voluntary operated tourist information building is located along the path.

The potters and lapidary club share a crowded shed on the north side of town and it was suggested that the potters could do with their own space. The ‘space’ could be a centrally located ‘permanent display centre (gallery) with a workshop space’ where artists have their studios open to the public and tourists could connect with artists where they work. There is an art gallery located in the Heritage Centre, however, it is not in a central location, isn’t manned and remains closed most of the time, due to lack of volunteers. The Information Centre is in another location along the Art Walk and there is one good coffee shop in another location.

Markets are held once a month in one of four towns in the Monto region, selling handicrafts and local produce, however, it was argued there is not enough diversity and most markets in the region 'have the same stuff'.

There is an old movie theatre, which is now privately owned, which could be run as a theatre and art gallery; and a printing works building, belonging to a private buyer. All the printing equipment was donated to the Shire of Monto when the building was sold and although the equipment is still functional, it is not used.. The man who used to operate the printing equipment still resides in the town.

Cania Gorge is located 35kms from Monto and home to the Cania Gorge Caravan Park owned by Peter and Jill Rankin. Peter has marketed the caravan park widely attending Caravan and Camping Expos and does his own advertising, which has paid off, with approximately 75,000 people visiting in the past year. Peter has a policy of supporting Monto businesses by purchasing locally and although he has been in the community for five years, he still 'doesn't feel accepted by most of the community.' There are plans to build a conference centre on site this year.

The inaugural 'Talent in the Gorge' was launched last year, attracting a hundred competitors, mostly from outside the region. There are plans for it to become an annual event. Movies are shown at the Caravan Park on Wednesday and Saturday throughout the year and every night of school holidays.

Monto Magic are currently exploring the potential for an 'Opera at Cania Gorge' Event. Funding is still to be sought and there is difficulty locating a project manager. (CRR)

Events: Dairy Festival, Annual Show, Spring Fair, Christmas Parish Fair, Annual All Breeds Bull Sale, Show Sale, Bancroft Campdraft, Mulgildy Sports, Dawes Campdraft, Easter Markets at Cania, Monthly Markets, Christmas Street Party, Monto Flower Show, Monto Cattle Drive, Monto Garden Expo, Cania Gorge Fresh Water Fishing Classic, The Gold Buckle Campdraft, Melan Dance Spectacular, High School Annual Play/Musical, Annual Heritage Day, and Monto Race Meeting

Cultural infrastructure and organisations

Gallery, Art Walk, Historical society, Library, Monto Arts Council, Monto Instrumental Community Ensemble, Monto Lapidary Club, Monto Quilters, Monto Magic Tourism Group, School Assembly Hall, Show Grounds, Rodeo Ring, and Skate Park

Summary of Students responses

Favourite locations

	Total responses	%
Recreational locations: within town: Parks/6 ; river/2; Kalpower forest/1; racecourse/1; Showgrounds/1; Pool/8	19	26
Home	12	17
Sports facilities	11	15
Recreational locations: national parks: Cania Gorge/7 ; Dam/1 Hurdle Gully/2	10	14
Cultural locations: Library/2; cultural Centre/1; Cultural&His Centre/3; The Shack/1; Public Art Walk/1; Dog Sculpture/1; Mulguldie Pub/1;	10	14
total	62 of 72	86%

What you like to do?

	Total responses	%
Recreational activities: active – walking/2; hiking/3, playing in park/2; horse riding/4 , swimming/2, motox 3; canoeing/1; rock climbing/1; skateboarding/3; Golf club/1' bowls club/1; climbing trees/1;	24	30
Recreational activities: passive – outdoor -fishing/6 , shooting/1, boating/2; 4WDDriving/1;	10	13
Recreational activities: passive - indoor - writing/texting/2, reading/4 , tv, movies/6 ; music/2; computer/3; sleep/1;	18	23
Socialising/7 , talking on phone/1, dancing/1 Eating/1; cooking/1; Going to café/1; picnics/1	13	16
total	65 of 79	82%

What could be changed to make living in your community better?

	Total responses	%
Better sporting facilities/10 ; more organised sports at Cania dam and better road access/2; Junior League Team funding/1; Gym/1; bigger pool/3;	18	21
Social – Youth club/space: 10 ; more town cooperation/3; young volunteers/1	14	16
Cinema/10 ; Art Gallery & Facilities/1; museum/1	12	14
Fast food/8 ; better food places/ 5; wine bar/1	14	16
Large shopping Centre / more shops/7 ; super stores/3; specialty shops/2;	12	14
total	70 of 87	81%

Wish list

	Total responses	%
Recreational: MotoX track/3; Sky diving/2; Base jumping/1; Rock climbing Centre/3; stunt plane rides/1; Parks: theme/2; water/2; Go Cart track/9	23	55
Cultural: Cinema/9 (also infrastructure)	9	21
total	32 of 42	76%

Summary of community responses:

The Challenges

- Lack of accommodation in peak season.
- Drain in skills and knowledge base (in the arts) as people have left the district.
- Trades people are overstretched.
- Mine closure; loss of two remaining sawmills.
- Primary production changed, through initial dairy amalgamations then deregulation.
- Impact of drought and rising costs of fuel, labour and fertiliser against grain cost.
- Isolation; phone coverage.
- Lack of town cohesion.

- Lack of industry diversity.
- Everyone tired, lack of volunteers – spread too thinly among too many groups.
- Dairy Festival under threat.
- Nothing for youth; only entertainment through local shows, camp drafting etc.
- Low socio-economic demographic.
- Decreased population due to lack of employment.
- Increased aged demographic.
- Lack of product development.
- Public transport.
- Better road access to Cania.
- Cultural activities can depend on who moves into community; if proactive things pick up and then die down when they leave.
- A lot of empty shop spaces.
- To empower people to assist in the development of their community.
- How to attract a young population to live and contribute to a new economy.

Strengths

- Arts walk – always a lot of tourists parked along there.
- Lifestyle – peace and quiet, natural beauty. Affordable.
- A lot of events in the region.
- Monto Magic strong force.
- Good sporting facilities.
- Talented artists in town.
- The Cultural and Historic Centre.
- Good hospital and doctors/dentist.
- People resilient, caring, help when needed.
- Low crime rate.
- Cania – main tourist attraction. Hurdle Gully, Great scenery. Pleasant environment.
- Close to coast.
- Close to Central Queensland Mines.
- Agricultural capacity.

Needs

- Trades people. Trade training centre.
- A strong and people focused Local government; take initiative.
- A Community Foundation to build an asset base from private and public sources to assist development.
- Relationships with other Centres with strategic links.
- Strong leadership, visionary people.
- To know where we are going and how best get there.
- Main street revitalisation.
- Increase sporting events and clubs – especially for youth.
- More fast food outlets.
- Encourage locals to shop locally.
- Workshops/training on marketing for artists / others.
- Cinema.
- Day care.
- Event management training.
- ‘To discover own back yard – for locals to discover what is here and be proud’.
- More activities at night for young people. Big following in the shows, camp drafting. Entertainment through these things.

Opportunities

- A lot of product development could happen locally.
- Expand on the Art walk, starting at the other end. More contribution by locals.
- More events – good events in region, tap into effective ones and build on them.
- New festivals and celebrations, new themes, new ideas, new people.
- Increase tourism and promotion – need to fix roads to allow better access.
- Advertise lifestyle to coastal areas (close to major Centres).
- Culinary tourism experiences, combining quality with experience.
- Eco tourism; tourism with a difference.
- National walking trail – Melbourne to Cooktown – goes close to Biggenden/ Paradise dam out of Cania Gorge to Mt. Perry. Weekender brochures produced.
- Community awareness /landholder awareness – skills and training.
- Improve signage.
- If mines reopen – potential rail freight – possible access to passenger carriage.
- Empty shop spaces.
- Education and how it may become a new economy.
- New types of farming – higher valued – water efficient.
- Don't lose values of the past yet build on past achievements.
- Identify young leaders.
- Monto artists don't see their work as a business. Pottery group good example. Develop business skills.
- More events, tapping into events that are most effective and building on them
- Capitalise more on tourists who stay at Cania.



Mount Perry

'Mountains of Gold'

Mount Perry was settled in 1849 as pastoralists moved into the area. Copper was discovered in 1869 by Henry Dingle and the town's population is reputed to have increased to 30,000 people - more than Bundaberg. As the copper deposits dwindled, so did the settlement, which by 1876 had reduced from twenty five hotels to six. Local timber was logged for the mines and for houses in the district.

Mt Perry Today

Population: 470 (2008)

The mining industry still supports Mt. Perry on a smaller scale. Mt. Perry is home to The Boolboonda Tunnel, the longest unsupported tunnel in the southern hemisphere, which is located just outside the township.

The Pat Augustine Cultural Centre is located on the main road and contains an art gallery, the public library and an historical section displaying photographs of the Perry district dating back to the late 1880s. The three venues housed in one location has meant that the building is open every day during the week.

Mt. Perry is rich in cultural history and heritage and the local historical group have produced a free glossy Heritage Walking Map detailing building locations and information. The Bicentennial Museum features a working blacksmith's shop, memorabilia and more.

Exhibitions at the Art Gallery change every six weeks and exhibit the work of local and regional artists and the annual Art Show brings entries from artists around Queensland. It was commented that the town had an amazingly skilled and creative group of women producing quality work.

The Community sports complex is accessible any time of the day or night for members. It's a large building that could be utilised more, particularly by young people, however, this requires volunteers to be available, which is an issue.

A local volunteer holds a monthly movie night for young people in the Community Hall, which is relatively well attended.

Events: Art Show, Wood Chopping Event, Truck Pull, Annual Races, Mt Perry Rodeo, Campdraft and Rodeo, Annual Show, Wide Bay Sandgreen Golf Championships, Mt Perry 6 Hours Mountain Bike Races, National Trail Ride

Cultural infrastructure and organisations

Gallery/Museum, Library, Community Hall, Community Sports Complex, Masons Lodge (empty), Smelter Museum; Historical Association, CWA, Art Groups:

Summary of Students responses:

Favourite locations

	Total responses	%
Recreational locations: national parks: Mingo Crossing 9;	9	23
Recreational locations: within town: Parks 3; town 1; community complex/5; Mt. Perry lookout/2; Smelter Site/8;	19	47
Home	3	7
Cultural: Library 1; museum 1; gallery 1;	3	7
total	34 of 40	84%

What you like to do?

	Total responses	%
Recreational activities: passive - indoor -, reading 1; tv, movies 13; computer 1;	15	34
Recreational activities: active – walking 1, water skiing 1, bike riding 3, MotoX 3; swimming-Weir/1; trampoline 2; climbing trees 1; ; dancing 2	14	32
Sports activities:: soccer 1; hockey/6	7	16
Girl guides 6	6	14
total	42 of 44	96%

What could be changed to make living in your community better

	Total responses	%
Sports facilities: swimming pool/13	13	35
Other: Fair 1; market 1; zoo 1; community garden 7 (19%); H-maze 1; jumping pillow 1.	12	32
Recreational facilities skate park/1; water park 6;	7	19
Cultural facilities: cinema/4;	4	11
Total responses	36 of 37	97%

Challenges

- Lack of cheap accommodation for larger groups (scout groups).
- Mine expectancy 9-12 years; lack of industry/business diversity.
- Youth leaving for work.
- No full time business opportunities.
- Lack of volunteers; current volunteers ageing with no-one to replace them.
- Distance.
- Loss of town identity due to amalgamations.
- Poor communication/poor advertising and promoting of events.
- No childcare or point of contact for young families with children; no playgroup.
- Not many miners live in town.
- No birthing facilities.
- Need better roads / sealed roads and other infrastructure to attract tourists to area.
- Transport is a big issue, the region need's regular service.
- Council and mine are the main employers in town.
- Not many miners live in the town.

Strengths

- Caravan park has a great reputation and many people booked in (and extend their stay).
- Historic town – history in mining and community aspect.
- Community events many people get involved – annual races draw crowds throughout SEQ. Wood chopping – competitors from Australia and NZ.
- Good community heart; lots of fundraising during events.
- Old Mt. Perry news was great.
- Art group active. Art exhibition well organised – 300 entries from all over and outside NB.
- Mt Perry artists skilled and talented, magnificent with their craft. Need the confidence to step out of their comfort zone.
- Winery.
- Natural environment and history.
- Good lifestyle, quiet, scenic, not far from coast, good community spirit, own identity – good that this isn't lost.
- Community bus goes to Bundaberg once a week and can be hired.
- Good helipad.
- Mt Perry richest place in region, quite comfortable because of goldmine – good opportunities and wages. Example of how employment can bring the social fabric back to community.

Needs

- Diversity in the region to maintain employment and population levels.
- A mechanic.
- After school care provider.
- Consolidate all the organizations under one umbrella.
- More youth activities and structured sporting activities.
- Movie nights / cinema (currently only for youth).
- Larger community bus and drivers.
- More families.

Opportunities

- National walking trail – Melbourne to Cooktown – goes close to Biggenden/ Paradise Dam out of Cania Gorge to Mt. Perry.
- Part time business opportunities.
- The local Caravan Park is nearly always full with mostly grey nomads and there is potential to provide activities for tourists.
- Council could assist artists by getting grants and opportunities.

Mundubbera Region

‘Stepping Forward’

Towns and localities: Mundubbera

Aboriginal historical owners of the region: Djaku-nde and Jangerie Jangerie, Wakka Wakka and Gooreng Gooreng.

One interpretation for Mundubbera in the local Aboriginal language means ‘Meeting Place of the Waters’. referring to the Burnett, Auburn and Boyne rivers, which converge just upstream from the town.

Initially settled in the late 1840s, Mundubbera, later attracted many migrants from Germany, Britain and the Netherlands. Henry Zipf planted the first citrus orchards in 1933 and as the major producer of citrus, Mundubbera was established as the citrus capital of Queensland. Mundubbera is also the state’s largest producer of table grapes.

Mundubbera Region Today

Population: 2,187 (2008)

Mundubbera’s industry is based on agriculture: cattle grazing and fruit growing, as well as timber. Smaller industries include piggeries, dairying, fruit juice processing, and Bugs for Bugs, a pest management business.

Mundubbera is home to the Big Mandarin, the Auburn River National Park and the Black Stump, symbolising Mundubbera’s location on the edge of the outback.

As one of the main citrus growers, Mundubbera attracts a large itinerant population during the fruit season. The library has set up a notice board for people to post information and notes to each other and has provided a casual book swap service to allow transients to use its services.

Mundubbera’s heritage is mostly based on artefacts, there are not many historical buildings in the town. The Historical Society's Museum is open on request and houses historical machinery and buildings as well as many local collections; and the Heritage Information Centre contains several displays on early settlement and various local industries. The Bicentennial Park is home to a steam train, a Lone Pine tree (this is actually the Stone Pine, *Pinus pinea*) which has been grown from a seed gathered from the Lone Pine at Gallipoli.

The Mundubbera Regional Art Gallery opened in April 2008 and comprises two galleries and a foyer. Regular exhibitions are held showing works by local and regional artists. The gallery is connected to the library, allowing it to be accessed during library hours, independent of volunteers. No educational provision was identified as part of the gallery’s services.

The Video Shack is a dvd hire shop which has branched out to sell musical equipment. The owner highlighted that ‘business is doing well’ with many guitars being sold to customers predominantly from Gayndah and Eidsvold. The shop’s drawcard is that the nearest competitor is Bundaberg. They used to offer guitar lessons, but the tutor left town and no-one has replaced him.

A local mentioned the possibility of accessing the skills of itinerant workers when they are in town as they are a potential untapped resource.

A new event the ‘Taste of the Burnett’ was launched in 2009, its success has established it as an annual Mundubbera festivity.

Events: Taste of the Burnett/Multicultural Festival, Heritage Day, Bullarama, 7-a-side Cricket Carnival, Annual Show, Bats'n'Bulls Festival (every two years), Pet Show, Christmas Street Party, Monthly Markets, Rotary New Years Bash, Three Rivers Fishing Competition, Art Gallery Openings, Annual Art Gallery Wine & Cheese Night, High school Musical, High School Variety Night, School Fete, Jaycette's Garden Party,

Cultural infrastructure and organisations

Gallery, Library, Historical Association, Community Halls, Community Centre, Skate Park, Bicentennial Park, Heritage Information Centre, Indoor Sports Centre and Art Groups.

Summary of Students responses

Favourite locations

	Total responses	%
Sports facilities	10	10
Recreational locations: national parks	7	7.5
Recreational locations: within town: river 3; town 2; pool 5 ; skate park 1;; Martin Love Oval 7 ; Archer park 5 ; Manor Park 3; showgrounds 4 ; Bicentennial park; Arthur Dagg river walk 1	31	33
Recreational locations: other : MotoX track 5 ; ski area 5 ; river weir 3; Cracow 1	14	15
Cafes/Restaurants 4 ; IGA 1; Wayne's world 2;	7	7.5
Library 3; Shire hall 2; Gallery 4 ;	9	10
total	78 of 95	83%

What you like to do?

	Total responses	%
Recreational activities: active –, water skiing 1, horse riding 3 , swimming 2, motoX 4 , outdoor games 1; playing in park 1;	12	32
Recreational activities: passive - indoor - writing/texting 2, reading 1, tv, movies 2, music 2, computer 1	8	21
Local shows 2, mardi gras 1; youth festival 1; Bullarama 2	6	16
Sports activities:: footy 3 ; netball 1, soccer 1	5	13
total	31 of 38	82%

What could be changed to make living in your community better?

	Total responses	%
Large shopping Centre / more shops/19 ; super store: 3; specialty shops 2;	24	24
Better sporting facilities 14 ; gym 4;	18	18
Better school 9 ; Yr 11&12: 8 ;	17	17
Environment: more trees ; more industrial land; main street revitalisation (brighten for safety and security) 7 .	9	9
Fast food 6 ; better food places 1;	7	7
total	75 of 100	75%

Summary of community responses:

Challenges

- Accommodation, temporary – backpacker.
- No aged care or birthing facilities .
- Housing for sale or rental.
- Lack of interest from professional to move to Mundubbera and region.
- Limited access to childcare and education (no yr 11&12) less likely to attract skilled workers.
- No Yr 11 and 12; up to 30% of kids who go to Yr 10 never finish secondary schooling.
- Artists need marketing training.
- Lack of communication and promotion of local/regional activities.
- **Communication** a big issue – poor between community; and community and council.
- Work opportunities for school graduates and locals.
- Resentment when itinerants get agricultural work and locals don't, people ready to move away.
- Picking done on contract – issue for employing people on benefits, only want to work a few days a week.
- Drought – limited water supply (Eidsvold Dam serviced Mbra, no water for 4 years) rely on other water.
- Because self sufficient, insular and hard to be broader looking; also attitude – tried that – didn't work, won't try again.
- Lack of resources for arts and culture; artists don't recognise themselves as professionals or undervalue themselves as art is undervalued in community; local artists undervalued – gets work elsewhere but not in home town.
- Keeping volunteers; some are gatekeepers, stops others volunteering, particularly youth.
- Lack of youth engagement; apathy amongst youth; youth bored.
- Young people can feel devalued in community; misunderstanding of young people by older community.
- Gallery location an issue - need better signage – some people don't know where it is.
- Internet shopping an issue for local business.
- Some elders not willing to share information, not a strong cultural awareness or emphasis on cultural knowledge; Indigenous lack of willingness to learn about own culture and land; no traditional values.
- Better lighting in streets for safety.
- Racist remarks amongst some youth regarding foreigners 'stop Asians coming in'.
- Cultural norms misunderstood.
- How to manage change and move forward; speed of change.
- Things promised in past and not delivered, community distrust and
- Distance and lack of public transport.

Strengths

- Many skilled people in community – need to make use of them more.
- Increased building work in community.
- Appreciation of transients.
- Wide variety of art forms and artists.
- Volunteers.
- Youth innovation – raising \$40,000 for skate park.
- People have multi roles in community.
- Access to Biloela community organization who write grant applications and get 10% of funding if successful.
- Community resilience; accepting; community spirit.
- No hierarchy to control things that happen, so people have a go.
- Clean air, natural beauty and attractions..

- Small community can work together when it comes to events.
- Fruit season and plenty work available 10 months of the year.

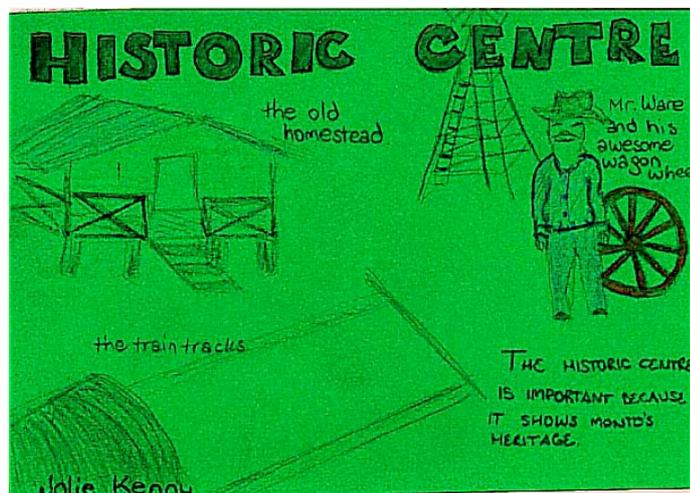
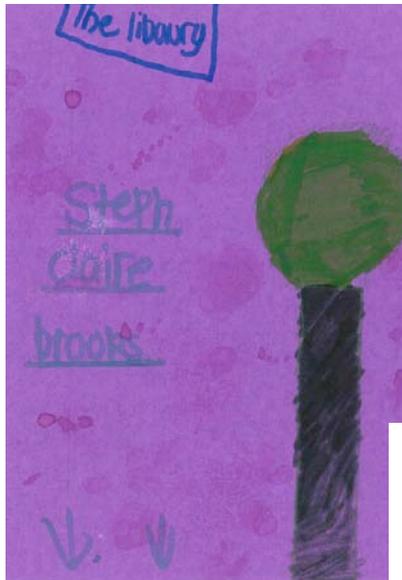
Needs

- Marketing training for artists.
- Make more use of people with skills who come into the community.
- Need year 11 & 12.
- Need increased Childcare.
- No market local artists better; profiling them.
- More regional networking and connecting.
- Touring cinema/theatre.

Opportunities

- Cheap property prices for accommodation.
- Cheap land prices and availability for industries to relocate from coastal areas.
- Value add to current industries, i.e. similar to current juice processing industry.
- Increase other industries with incentives,
- Show innovative programs. Primary producers to survive – capitalise on opportunities and go with trends.
- Regional change management – needs to happen with mentoring process. If some do it and others see it is working they will pick up the ideas.
- Promote buying local, but local shops need to diversity, e.g. Monto IGA and Cania Caravan park tracks customers, so they know what customers want and market it.
- Open acquisitive exhibition, more competitions in Art Gallery; Gallery open to more diversity to bring other people in to exhibit.
- Need to see how other galleries function, make it more friendly, educational – ours feels like a museum. Perhaps outdoor table in courtyard area, people more relaxed about time, flexible, laid back.
- NAIDOC celebrations could improve through education and cultural awareness. Kids don't currently gain anything from NAIDOC.
- Jena Boran currently trying to set up mens, womens and Elders groups to pass on knowledge.
- New event established by John Sharp, Taste of the Burnett, extend, link in with other events.
- Markets could go further; Mundubbera markets are poor compared to Gayndah – make bigger, better produce, better located (a big factor) – would be more supported.
- Jam sessions on weekends etc will encourage people to connect.
- Potential for carbon trading, using land as carbon sink.
- Signage for tourists – signs of interest, stories of community – how to make tourists stop and take an interest in the town.
- Support and highlight cottage industries: four ingredient cook book; people making horse rugs; bloke making canvas picket bags for the mines.
- Youth Space – library is a good place because of accessibility. Vacant buildings in some Centres.
- Amphitheatre – has the space to accommodate bigger productions and can be used in a multipurpose way.
- More public art – controversial art to raise questions and thought and
- Have a heritage trail around the region. Mt. Perry has a local one; Monto has Art Deco Trail.

Section 3: Regional Profile



Themes

1. Education and training
2. Employment and industry (including Council and small businesses)
3. Health and community services (including transport and recreational activities)
4. Regional lifestyle and Diverse Communities (including demographic)
5. Communication and Technology
6. Community and cultural activities (including social life)
7. Diverse communities
8. Tourism, Heritage and History

“..there should be an effort made to understand why we haven’t been able to stem this decline (in population) and I would hazard to say that it is our reluctance to accept change and not seeking the opportunity that such change may have to offer. We often lose sight of what our aspirations are, in view of what we are losing.”
(monto resident)

Consolidated Results of Students' Feedback

Below are the key results for each question. If an activity appears overly dominant within the theme headings, the activity has been identified. This information is expanded in each Centre's data.

Favourite Places broad headings: Recreational locations (RecLoc) within Town or National Parks; home; sports facilities; cultural locations.

What you like to do? Recreational activities: active; passive-outdoor; passive-indoor; socialising

What could be changed? Better sports facilities; social activities; arts & entertainment; food; shops.

	Favourite Place	What you like to do	What could be changed
Biggenden	RecLoc in NP: 34% Home: 19%	RecActivities Active: 54% Sports Activities: 17%	Have a Skate Park: 30% More Shops: 17% More Parks: 17% (see note 1).
Eidsvold	RecLoc in town: 45% Sports facilities: 40%	Sports activities: 40% RecActivities Active: 36%	A Cinema: 16%
Gayndah	Town/shops/IGA: 57% RecLoc in NP: 13%	RecActiv Passive-ind 30% Socialising: 19%	More shops: 58% More cult.facilities: 23%
Monto	RecLoc in town: 26% Home: 17%	RecActiv. Active 30% RecActiv. Passive-ind 23%	Better sports fac: 12% Youth club/space: 12% Cinema: 12%
Mt. Perry	Rec Loc:Mingo Cr 22.5% RecLoc /T: Smelter 20%	RecActiv: Pas: movies 30% Sports: Hockey : 14% Clubs: Girl Guides: 14%	Swimming Pool: 35% Community Garden 19% Water park: 16%
Mundubbera	Sportsfacilities: 10% RecLoc NP: 7.5% RecLoc/T: MartOval 7.5% RecLoc/T: ArchPark 7.5% RecLoc/T: Pool: 7.5% RecLoc/MotoXtrack 7.5% RecLoc/water ski: 7.5%	RecActiv. Active: 32% RecActiv Pas-indoor: 21% (see note 2)	More shops: 24% Better sports fac: 14% Better school: 9%

Notes: 1 – there was a 50% reduction in the response rate to this question

2 – there was a 62% reduction in the response rate to this question

Profile summary

The following tables can only provide an approximate picture as the ABS figures are not current.

Low socio-economic groups in the North Burnett Region.

In 2006, 59.5 % of the population of North Burnett Region were in the most disadvantaged compared with the 20% average across Queensland.

TABLE 2: Socio-Economic Index of disadvantage: 2006

Centre	Most disadvantaged (1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	Least disadvantaged (5)
Biggenden	63.3	36.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Eidsvold	53.5	18.5	28.0	0.0	0.0
Gaydah	62.7	12.1	23.4	1.8	0.0
Monto	62.8	13.3	12.5	11.5	0.0
Mundubbera	55.2	37.7	7.1	0.0	0.0
Perry	39.7	60.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
NB Region	59.5	24.9	13.3	3.2	0.0
Queensland	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0

Technology internet connection

At the time of the 2006 Census, 1,755 occupied private dwellings in the North Burnett Region with an internet connection. These dwellings represented 44.1% of all occupied private dwellings in the region (compared with 62.8% for Queensland). The North Burnett Region made up 0.2% of the total internet connections in Queensland.

Within the region, Gaydah had the highest proportion of occupied private dwellings with internet connections (45.7%) followed by Mundubbera (45.4%). Within the region The highest number of dwellings with no internet connection was in Gaydah (532).

TABLE 3: Internet connections in dwellings in North Burnett Region 2006

Centre	No internet connection	With internet connection	Proportion with internet	Total
Biggenden	341	260	41.9	620
Eidsvold	178	124	38.3	324
Gaydah	532	485	45.7	1,061
Monto	504	436	44.8	974
Mundubbera	408	308	45.4	811
Perry	99	82	44.1	186
NB Region	2,062	1,755	44.1	3,976
Queensland	475,307	873,492	62.8	1,391,633
	0.4	0.2		0.3

ABS Census of Population and Housing, 2006

Volunteers

At the time of the 2006 Census, there were 2,367 volunteers in the North Burnett Region. This represented 29.3% of the population aged 15 years and over. In comparison, Queensland recorded 568,230 volunteers or 18.3% of the population aged 15 years and over. The North Burnett Region represented 0.4 per cent of the total volunteers in Queensland.

Within the region, Eidsvold had the highest proportion of volunteers (33.2%) and Gayndah had the lowest proportion of volunteers (26.8%).

TABLE 4: Volunteers (a) by statistical local area, North Burnett Region.

Local Area	Population 2006	Volunteers		Not Vol. number	Total (b)
		number	%		
Biggenden	1,616	369	29.5	793	1,249
Eidsvold	907	227	33.2	365	684
Gayndah	2915	590	26.8	1418	2,199
Monto	2494	606	31.4	1516	1,930
Mundubbera	2330	463	27.8	1031	1,664
Perry	444	112	32.6	208	344
NB Region	10,679	2,367	29.3	4971	8,070
Queensland	3,809,214	568,230	18.3	2,233,197	3,097,996
Region as % of Qld	0.3	0.4	..	0.2	0.3

.. = not applicable

(a) Persons aged 15 years and over.

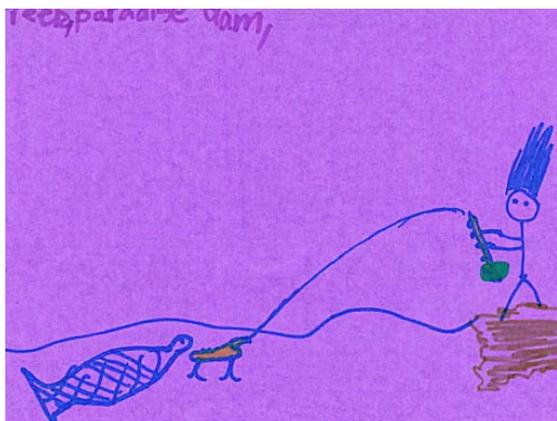
(b) Includes voluntary work not stated.

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2006,

Arts and Recreations Services

North Burnett Employment figures 2006 census

Only 7 people registered as working in arts and recreation services or 0.1% (aged 15 years and over) compared to 24,625 or 1.3% for Qld.



1. Education and Training

Challenges

- Lack of training opportunities.
- Limited traineeships.
- Community perception if traineeships are offered to candidates outside the community.
- No Years 11 and 12 (in Mundubbera, Biggenden).
- Lack of childcare services and support services for young families.

Strengths

- Regional skills - locals and temporary residents (important to make use of the skills whilst people are in the community).
- Good schools (Eidsvold High School was in the top 10 in Queensland in 2008 (ranked 9th in Queensland) – check date with Trisha). Progressive and inclusive teaching (Eidsvold) (not enough data about other schools to include here).
- Good student/teacher relationship in some schools.
- Field Study Centre Building (Not established yet was suggestion as a possibility for the future), Degilbo, Paradise Dam.
- R M Williams Centre, Eidsvold.
- Gayndah has schools (Public & Private), TAFE, State College, Monto also has Public & Private Schools.
- Many skilled artists, Indigenous and non-Indigenous.
- Monto State High School received \$1.7M over 4 years for further training development in trade skills areas (Trade Training Centre).

Needs

- Training for rural workers, cattle, horse riding, bush riding.
- Pastoral college, including equestrian Centre.
- Music/piano teacher in school.
- More business training.
- Customer service training.
- Marketing and event management training for artists / others.
- Childcare/Early Childhood Learning Centres.

Opportunities

- Field Study Centre, Paradise Dam.
- R M Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre, Eidsvold.
- Trade training Centre.
- Skill development for tourists.
- School based traineeships.
- Virtual Teachers to deliver classes in skills not available in the community. Eg Ballet Classes via online link to Mt Perry, Eidsvold etc, and also for Yr 11 and 12 classrooms.

Training provision has been identified as a requirement from the current consultations and prior findings³. The value of training and education is important for any community as relevant training tailored for identified needs, will raise self esteem and build confidence. Education and training should be part of a lifelong learning strategy to value add to existing knowledge and develop new skills.

There was an identified need for Aboriginal training in business and marketing skills, however, using trainers who were familiar with Aboriginal styles of learning; and reciprocally a need to deliver cross-cultural training to non-Indigenous people to provide an understanding about Aboriginal culture and protocols.

The following training was identified as a need, Marketing, Event Management and Business Development for artists and small businesses; locals providing workshops in arts, craft and horsemanship. However, conducting a regional Training Needs Assessment would provide a more thorough assessment across a larger demographic. Education and training programs could also be linked to tourist activities, such as cultural and conservation tourism.

Recent discussions have centred on virtual technology to support Years 11 and 12 students harness East Coast education in regional classrooms. Virtual technology could be explored for other areas of learning.

Mentoring opportunities could be explored to involve more young people in community activities and events to broaden their skills and experience and provide new insights.

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 A Training Needs Assessment Strategy for North Burnett is developed.
- 1.2 Train the Trainer courses for artists and businesses wishing to offer unaccredited workshops or 'learning experiences'.
- 1.3 Small business assistance provided to explore potential for (1) local tourist activities/training; and (2) marketing their products locally, nationally and globally, i.e. website development, branding, product development.
- 1.4 RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre, rural training arm – accredited and unaccredited training; and short courses for tourists; Indigenous cultural studies.
- 1.5 Business and marketing training for artists.
- 1.6 Explore the potential for an Artist in Residence program. There is current Federal / State Arts funding for Artists in Schools and Artist in Residence programs.
- 1.7 Provide training and mentoring opportunities for local youths, and if relevant, emerging artists, included in all program of activities.
- 1.8 Tailored training provided for Aboriginal groups.
- 1.9 Cross-cultural training developed in collaboration with Wakka Wakka Elders.

2. Employment and industry (including Council and small business)

Challenges

- Equity with seasonal /casual employment. How casual employment is currently managed. Community tension when outsiders access casual work over locals. (Mundubbera).
- Increased unemployment, particularly for youth with career aspirations, with youth leaving the community or is staying, on Centrelink.
- Limited opportunities for youth to progress career regionally.
- Not enough industry diversity .
- Limited ability to attract professionals to the Centres, lack of skilled workers – mostly through limited access to childcare and higher education (Yr 11&12).
- Lack of service and trades people, and skilled rural workers.
- Staff morale is low in council – job security; hours worked by higher level staff
- Divisions between business community and business boycotting (Eidsvold).
- Limited opening times of some retailers (petrol stations, some stores).
- Poor customer service.
- Heavily reliant on major industries (citrus, mining, cattle) vulnerable in downturn.
- Economic development in light of drought, closures and rising costs.
- Dairy industry plummeted after deregulation, how to diversity?
- Lack of available industrial areas with access to roads, water and power (Biggenden, Eidsvold, Mt. Perry).
- Lack of available rural residential/low density housing allocations (lifestyle blocks) especially in Biggenden & Mundubbera – State Planning authority legislation commenced on 18th Dec 2009 “Regional Plan” which does not allocate further rural residential allocations in Biggenden & Mundubbera.

Strengths

- Only Siltstone Quarry in Queensland (Eidsvold).
- Council good employers for the region.
- R M Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre.
- Citrus industry (Gayndah, Mundubbera) with casual employment for approximately 1000 workers over 4-5 months, spending money locally.
- Current mining operations and future opportunities in region.
- Proximity to the international port of Gladstone will allow expansion of business and mining industry.
- Innovative small businesses; Plumber selling items around Australia online; Bugs for Bugs – now global; Canvas Pick bags; Four ingredient cookbook; Horse rugs; and more.
- Savvy local businesses - ...IGA surveyed customers needs brought in products; Cania Caravan Park surveyed tourists regarding their requirements.
- Streamlined council processes.
- Council has just adopted a new Economic Development Strategy to assist with planning direction for Council.
- Business Advisory Group Meetings established – one in each of the six Centres.

Needs

- Small business growth; small business skill development.
- More jobs, especially for youth.
- Longer business hours for existing businesses (takeaways and servos).
- Explore alternative water supplies to attract major industries, so not heavily reliant on Weir. One supply located 10-12 kms west of Mundubbera.

Opportunities

- Potential overflow of people from the coast (Biggenden, Gayndah, Mt. Perry) - critical mass will generate new businesses and services and extended business hours.
- Gravel extraction between Eidsvold and Mundubbera of 300,000 tons a year. Implications for re-establishing rail freight provision / passenger services.
- More businesses value adding to established industries, i.e. Juice processing business in Mundubbera.
- Highlight good local business practise and share information and other best practise ideas, recent innovations at bi-monthly business breakfasts in each Centre; and annual one day expos to network and share ideas across the region.

Youth unemployment was a recurring topic with angst about youths leaving communities to locate work on the coast and not returning. New mining operations are imminent with the potential for more exploration; and there are many opportunities for tourism, industry and business development which are currently being pursued by the new council.

Needs and opportunities have been identified that are beyond the scope of this document.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council employs a Grants and Project Officer to seek funding to implement relevant projects and programs identified in the Economic Development Plan, the Tourism Strategy and the Arts and Cultural Strategy.
- 2.2 Council employs a Marketing and Promotions Officer to implement Marketing Plan, and liaise with relevant staff to promote the Arts and Cultural Strategy, and Tourism and Events Strategies when available.
- 2.3 Potential community cultural development (ccd) activities in the region. The Council Arts and Cultural Officer liaises across community and identifies opportunities. If the QT rail line is reopened in North Burnett through mining and/or other industry activities, discussions ensue about employing regional artists in community arts activities, (QT have an arts budget).
- 2.4 Produce tailored sponsorship packages (Grants & Project Officer brief) to target major industries throughout North Burnett.

3. Health and community services (including transport and recreational activities)

Challenges

- Lack of public transport – internally and to the major Centres – a big issue.
- Heavy traffic through main street (Gayndah).
- Distance of Mundubbera and Eidsvold from main Centres.
- Time to travel anywhere between Centres for meetings / functions.
- No pedestrian crossing (Gayndah).
- High turnover in services/programs leads to cynical communities and ‘broken promise fatigue’.
- Important not to lose services.
- Lack of aged care facilities; specialist healthcare.
- No birthing facilities.
- Gambling, lack of funds, inadequate parenting skills.
- Social issues a concern – highlighted by 3 youths suicide (Eidsvold 2009).
- Alcohol consumption. Prevalent with 15-16 yr olds and adults in some Centres.
- Dental Clinic (Monto, very limited and must be a low-income earner to be able to access; it also has a long waiting list).

Strengths

- Depending on Centre location, relatively close to full medical care on coast.
- Some Centres have aged care facilities (all towns have independent living units, but limited, Mundubbera & Eidsvold have multi-purpose beds at the hospital. All Centres need more facilities); Blue Care (Blue Care in all Centres).
- Youth Worker (Eidsvold serviced from Monto and is only allocated limited service).
- ^a Each town except for Mt. Perry has a hospital/medical Centre, Mt Perry has a Health Centre with two job-share Nurses – is open everyday.
- Good hospitals and doctors in region.
- Health services and aged care (Gayndah).
- Location to the main Centres (Mt Perry & Biggenden only).
- Mt. Perry Community Bus – goes to Bundaberg once a week – can be hired. Serviced Mt Perry Community Support Services.
- Good helipad in all Centres.
- Social transporters in communities (happens ad hoc and usually voluntary based).

Needs

- Aged nursing facilities / accommodation – most Centres.
- Larger hospital – to take the load of base hospitals and help rural families.
- Increased health service (all Centres).
- Better transport especially for accessing medical treatment between towns and also intra-town eg taxi with wheelchair access.
- Public Transport in general is urgently required and has been identified as one of the NB’s biggest problems which affects all aspects.

- To address social issues in Centres, particularly regarding youth.
- More Youth Officers required.

Opportunities

- Railway line still operational. If one of the major industries gets up, i.e. Macarthur Coal, Gravel, other – potentially used for freight / passenger services.
- Provide an innovative strategy and/or incentive to entice medical students to come out to NB regional Centres.

A recurrent issue in all the Centres was lack of public transport, health services, including mental health, and dental care. Most funded services are being delivered from Regional Centres on the coast, however it is argued this is insufficient and not frequent enough to maintain optimal wellbeing for some residents. Social issues identified were youth alcohol consumption and suicide.

The Arts have an important place in health and wellbeing and recognised by government departments to have direct benefit with increased mental well being, community capacity, self esteem and confidence.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Most recommendations fall out of the scope of this report. However, community cultural development (ccd) activities could be developed in consultation with local communities to engage with youth around specific issues; mental health clients and the broader community to develop stronger community relations. These activities develop new skills and knowledge and allow participants to discuss and explore issues of concern, and build confidence and capacity.

4. Regional lifestyle (including demographic)

Challenges

- Ageing population; Biggenden oldest average age population in Queensland.
- Decreasing population.
- Limited social life.
- Limited developed residential land in all centres except Gayndah and Monto.
- Lack of public housing and affordable housing in all Centres.

Strengths

- Resilience of community to cope with setbacks.
- Band together, caring, community spirit, embracing, welcoming.
- Easy lifestyle, people know each other, sociable.
- Adaptability to try new things – to have more than one source of income.
- Safe, no / low crime; quiet.
- Beautiful environment, open space and clean.
- Cheap residential land and accommodation.

Opportunities

- More small acreage available for people to buy.
- Potential to promote the region as an ideal location to attract young people and young families to move here.

The region has an ageing population of locals, which could be further increased with an influx of retirees, due to its close proximity to the coast (and medical services) together with cheaper housing and land. How to attract Creatives to the region could be explored. Access to cheaper housing, relatively close proximity to major centres, broadband access and beautiful environs could be a strong incentive.

There was a strong emphasis on community spirit. Respondents also felt safe in their homes, that there was very little crime and their community was welcoming and inclusive. However, in some towns newcomers felt the opposite, feeling excluded even though they had resided in the Centre or environs for many years.

Also mentioned was community resilience, particularly in times of adversity and the need to be adaptable and try new things.

Recommendations

- 4.1 Community cultural development (ccd) activities developed to engage broader community and youth.
- 4.2 Explore strategies to attract more creatives and creative industries to the region.

5. Communication and IT

Challenges

- Communication issues between council and community.
- Communication issues within community.
- Outside Council there are not many IT professionals or businesses in NB.
- Gate keeping.
- Attitudes - “We’ve always done it this way”, “We did it that way and it didn’t work”.
- Clash of events.
- Communication systems failing to provide information to community.
- Negativity of local newspaper.

Strengths

- New council – new thinking - new systems.
- New Council has revamped new Monthly Council Newsletter and has improved Council Website.
- Council open to new ideas and innovative thinking.
- Proactive community leaders in Centres.

Needs

- Facilitated community workshops to build community relations.
- Identify more community drivers/motivators.
- Better inter and intra communication systems throughout the region.
- Better IT, mobile network coverage.

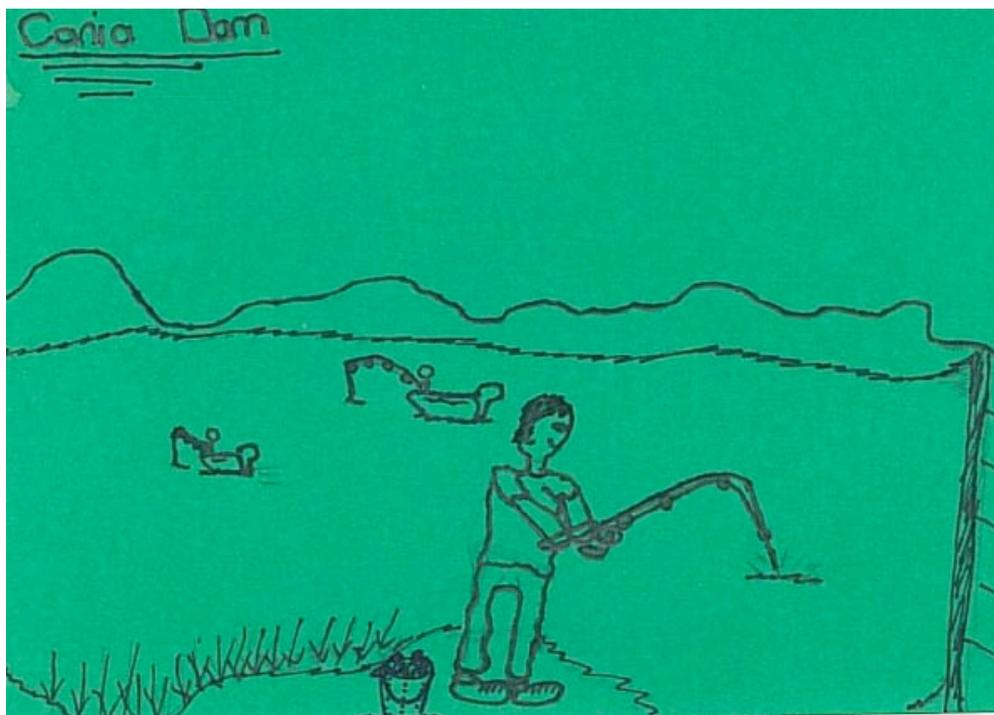
Opportunities

- Council provides opportunities to facilitate cross community collaborations.
- Skill development for council staff, community leaders and volunteers in leadership skills, communication and facilitation skills, conflict resolution, change processes, team building, etc.

Communication issues were a problem across all the Centres, not only between community organisations, but council and community; and with new and established locals. This issue could underpin how well any new community initiatives and strategies are implemented. It was apparent during the consultations that many community participants did not access circulated information and communication between Centres were at times fragmented and ad hoc resulting in a clash of events and programs.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 Conduct a regional Training Needs Assessment, see 1.1 and implement.
- 5.2 See 3.1.
- 5.3 Review council's current communication strategies for broadcasting information to the community throughout North Burnett.
- 5.4 Council (Arts and Cultural) Officer liaises with local service agencies to develop and build community capacity through local activities.
- 5.5 Recognition & valuing of local volunteers – could be done via Council awards/recognition, a Volunteer Grants fund and skill development opportunities.



6. Community and cultural activities (including social life)

Challenges

- Reduction in volunteers resulting in less community activities.
- Loss of events.
- Narrow thinking inhibiting progress (Gate keeping).
- Reduced social life.
- There are too many community organizations with the same committee members across the Region.
- Locals losing culture – loss of traditional events and Elders/seniors local knowledge/stories.
- Insurance cost increase has meant decrease in volunteers for school activities.
- Local Markets not strategically driven for success.
- Limited cultural opportunities eg difficult to get touring exhibits and performances out to our region, difficult to get professional artists and the funding to afford them.

Strengths

- Strong art group (Biggenden, Monto, Mundubbera, Mt Perry).
- Local historical societies proactive.
- A large number of community and sports facilities (Biggenden, Gayndah).
- Sale Yard – sale every fortnight – to sell/buy cattle, network Biggenden, Monto, Eidsvold.
- Art Walk in Monto.
- Heritage walk in Mt Perry.
- Arthur Dagg Walk in Mundubbera.
- Beier's Park Walk in Biggenden.
- Many events throughout the region.
- Regular camp drafts.
- Community support.
- Locals who are the drivers, motivators and talent.
- Eidsvold Spirit Magazine – Driven by community member.
- Regular markets in most of the Centres.

Needs

- Art Gallery – Biggenden (old hospital suggested).
- More night time entertainment and social events.
- More community motivators and drivers.
- Identifying and locating hidden community talents.
- Cultural precincts.
- Cinema – all Centres showed great demand.
- Swimming pool – Mt. Perry,
- Indoor Equestrian Stadium in Eidsvold.
- Mundubbera showgrounds refurbished.

- A facility to be built in Monto to house the old printing press which is being donated to the community (Monto currently does not have anywhere to house this significant donation).
- A swimming pool for Mt. Perry has been spoken about but is not progressing.

Opportunities

- Low cost venue for regional events in all Centres.
- CWA women come to town during Cattle Sale - opportunity to be involved in creative activities.
- Effective partnerships and collaborations (artist-artist; artist-community organizations; organization-organisation; organization-business, council-organisation; council-artist, etc.).
- Promotion of community and assets.
- Council works with each Centre to develop a regional event strategy.
- Markets assessed as part of an Events Strategy.
- Strategically develop markets for success.
- Training in strategic planning, marketing etc for artists and entrepreneurs.
- Regular networking opportunities both in Centres and between Centres for local Drivers, Motivators.
- For arts and cultural projects to attract grant \$\$\$ into the region (from State, Federal and philanthropic).
- To capture Elders' and Seniors' memories and stories.
- Development of Volunteer Strategy including skills development and incentives for events and arts and cultural projects.
- Development of a range of social and community activities, e.g. film club, book clubs, cooking classes, etc.
- To expand and promote the Artists' Database.
- To incorporate local Indi films as a pre-film viewing. NB has had many RADF funded "in-the-bin" workshops with youth.
- Develop a catalogue of locally made films.

Many needs were identified including different cultural venues and more cinemas. Cinemas can be an important way to provide social opportunities for communities, particularly for young people. The current film viewing options are ad hoc and heavily dependent on individuals in the community. Eidsvold has used the local pool, park and Munjooram Hall as cinema venues; and Mt Perry use their community hall for a monthly film offered only to youths.

There is a huge dependence on the free service provision provided by community volunteers, which may not be sustainable in the long term, as volunteer numbers are declining through age, health and burn out, and are not being replaced by younger peers. Duplication of services is currently being explored, which could be extended to all the Centres as part of a Volunteer Strategy.

Skill development and mentoring is one pay-back strategy for volunteers and a possible way of obtaining and retaining younger recruits.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Develop a regional Arts and Cultural Marketing Plan. All documents should be linked with the Corporate Plan, Arts and Cultural Strategy, Tourism Strategy and Economic & Development Plan.
- 6.2 Develop a Regional Movie Program (e.g after the style of Brisbane City Council's 'Movies in the Parks') using existing various venues as an asset and attraction for audiences.
- 6.3 Offer Oral history skills development to capture Elders' and seniors' memories and stories.
- 6.4 Secure funds for a North Burnett Venue and Facilities Feasibility Report, to assess current facilities, their use and ascertain if additional venues are required.
- 6.5 Investigate the potential to amalgamate some of the local groups where there is duplication of activities.
- 6.6 Develop a Volunteer Strategy, including skills development and other incentives for events and other arts and cultural projects.
- 6.7 Promote and encourage more creatives (hobbyists and professionals) to include their details on the Artists' Database.
- 6.8 Develop a comprehensive and strategic Events Plan for the region, including a funding plan and negotiated calendar of events.
- 6.9 Develop a local activities program in each Centre, eg: activities around Film Club, Book Club, Digital Video and Photography training, Community Choir, Drama workshops, etc.
- 6.10 Develop an Oral history project, including local training around "Hidden Treasures" – to locate and identify hidden community talents, assets and stories.

7. Diverse communities

Challenges

- Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Eidsvold don't usually connect unless through a local event.
- Transient population influx during fruit season – accommodation, minor community issues.
- Tension between some Indigenous groups and individuals in Mundubbera.
- Non-recognition of multiculturalism and potential racism among some young people.

Strengths

- High Indigenous population in Eidsvold and Gayndah.
- Many cultural groups in Mundubbera and Gayndah during the fruit season.
- Three Indigenous groups in Eidsvold, good relations and tolerance of boundary claims.
- Talented Indigenous creatives producing work (Eidsvold, Mundubbera).
- Cohesive Tongan community in Mundubbera.
- Community acceptance of other cultures.

Needs

- Youth employment – see 2. Employment.
- Capacity building (see glossary).
- Proactive Strategy to promote the benefits of cultural diversity and how individuals, communities etc. can interrelate.
- Cross cultural training to develop an understanding about Aboriginal culture and protocols.

Opportunities

- Community relations development in Council.
- Council pro-active support of NAIDOC celebrations.
- Creative skills assessment and register of NB Indigenous communities.
- Aboriginal Cultural Keeping Place in Eidsvold.
- Conduct a Needs Assessment of Aboriginal communities and individuals.
- Employ an Aboriginal Park Ranger for Cania Gorge, to conduct tours and interpret Aboriginal sites.

There is a rich cultural diversity in the North Burnett and a genuine acceptance of other cultures residing in the regional Centres. Multicultural activities have happened ad hoc in Mundubbera, recently with the Tongan community, through NAIDOC and the inaugural Taste of the Burnett Event.

Aboriginal creatives have been identified in Mundubbera and Eidsvold, most of whom are not adequately promoting and marketing their work for sale. A Needs Assessment of Aboriginal communities and individuals in the North Burnett would identify all the creatives and, in consultation, resolve the best way individuals can be supported locally and regionally.

Arts Queensland is providing a four year funding commitment of \$3.43m and has identified four key actions of support provision:

- 1) Raise cultural awareness and knowledge
- 2) Support arts development and promotion
- 3) Support Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to protect and strengthen culture
- 4) Increase employment and training in the arts and cultural sector

Arts Queensland, *Backing Indigenous Arts*, (online)

Also of note is the rich Aboriginal heritage in the region. Reports have been written by Archaeologists and Anthropologists for mining and government bodies as a legislative requirement; and researchers at Bundaberg's Central Queensland University (CQU) have been uncovering data in Cania Gorge, placing Aboriginal people there over 18,000 years ago. Other information is held with landowners, who have historical documentation relevant to local tribal groups, handed down through the generations. An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy would identify and collate this rich resource and provide recommendations regarding the maintenance and sustainability of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage.

The Strategy should identify the possibility of a North Burnett Aboriginal Cultural Keeping Place to house artefacts, documents and historical data.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Include NAIDOC week celebrations as part of the Festival and Events Plan.
- 7.2 Include cultural diversity as part of the Arts and Cultural Strategy and ensure consultation with people who are culturally and linguistically diverse.
- 7.3 Encourage and support the Tongan Community's arts and cultural knowledge by celebrating their national day and supporting other activities.
- 7.4 Develop a Needs Assessment of Aboriginal communities and individuals in North Burnett working closely with Aboriginal Elders.
- 7.5 Work with the Aboriginal communities to develop an Indigenous Cultural Strategy. Research and collate existing historical data, capture undocumented stories, identify Cultural Assets, Places of Significance, particularly Ban Ban Springs; and locate Indigenous artists who currently use traditional skills and contemporary practice.
- 7.6 Seek Arts Queensland, Federal and philanthropic funding to support and implement the Strategy.

8. Tourism, History and Heritage

Challenges

- Infrastructure cost: roads, accommodation, camping area locations.

Strengths

- Strong Indigenous cultural presence.
- Blacksmith Shop /museum – open when required for tourists (Biggenden).
- Proactive historical societies in all the Centres.
- Private collections (Stephenson collection in Biggenden; Beryl Blys in Monto).
- Heritage buildings; heritage walks.
- Aboriginal cultural heritage; Ban Ban Springs, Cania Gorge.
- National Trail (Biggenden, Mt. Perry, Monto).
- Art Walks (Biggenden, Monto, Mundubbera).
- Unique areas, national parks, gorges, largest area of evergreen picket/vine.
- Great caravan parks – Parks well used.
- Paradise Dam Turtle Hatchery.

Needs

- Risk Management and succession planning for regional museums.
- Cultural tourism product development explored to encourage people to stay longer.
- Additional infrastructure/extensions for museum collections.
- Accommodation and Facilities to support tourist coaches.

Opportunities

- PD Turtle hatchery houses the [*Elseya Albagula*](#) (commonly known as the Southern Snapping Turtle). The turtle is rare and unique and the hatchery is possibly the only one in the world.⁽¹⁵⁾
- Promote heritage, history and historical sites.
- Develop creative components of walk up to Mt. Walsh.
- Partnerships across neighbouring councils linking cross council activities.
- Magnificent national parks, currently not enough infrastructure provision.
- Partner across relevant councils for National Trail walking /horse riding tours
- Workshops for locals and tourists: one day/weekend residential – arts and craft; Indigenous culture; National Trail walking tour; cottage industries; tour of mines.
- Aboriginal Park Ranger for Cania Gorge.
- RM William Australian Bush Learning Centre activities.
- Refurbish old Monto movie theatre (currently privately owned).
- Scope to set up Monto printing workshop; council donated printing equipment.



The unique **white throated snapping turtle**, scientifically known as *Elseya albigula*.

courtesy of the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency

There is enormous potential for arts, cultural and heritage activities to link in with tourism development across the region. However, with many groups working in isolation more groundwork may need to happen to resolve how this will be achieved. Historical Societies are a strong presence in North Burnett supported by a dedicated volunteer network, with key players in each Centre who market their local museum, buildings and collections. With many of the key volunteers ageing, a key issue is the lack of risk management, succession planning and availability of younger volunteers to step into the key roles when required.

With many creatives in the region arts and cultural activities can provide an economically sustainable contribution using local artists to deliver skills workshops, and develop products for sale as well as gallery work. Regional artists are typically self-effacing and may not promote their work as still deemed ‘good enough yet’. The challenge is changing mindsets, to provide effective business and marketing skills and knowledge which will build confidence and allow local creatives to blossom and be recompensed for their work.

Central locations besides a gallery are important for displaying and selling artefacts. This could include an arts precinct, as well as local shops and cafes. Monto artists are painting empty shop windows in their main street to rejuvenate a bleak street-scape. Other towns have used their empty shop windows to show case artworks and other creative endeavours. Central buildings in regional towns have been reclaimed if council owned, or purchased if privately owned, to reinvigorate community activity, such as theatres, performing arts spaces, artist workshops and more.

In collaboration with regional creatives, Artists’ studio trails could be promoted (with artists’ studios open to tourists at certain times of the week); Aboriginal cultural tours and workshops offered and Cottage industries supported.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 Consultation of arts and cultural organizations and individuals to identify creative activity opportunities and funding as part of the implementation of the Arts and Cultural Strategy.
- 8.2 Council’s (Arts and Cultural) Officer liaises with Tourism Officer to identify arts opportunities for Tourism.
- 8.3 Explore arts opportunities such as interpretive signage and sculptures in different locations in national parks across North Burnett.
- 8.4 Support local artists and businesses to develop, market and promote art and cultural workshop packages for tourists.
- 8.5 Support an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Strategy.
- 8.6 Support a Venue Feasibility Study for arts, cultural and heritage activities
- 8.7 Explore transport potential for bus hire/ passenger rail carriage transport to bring tourists to the North Burnett during events, Market days and for other creative and cultural opportunities.
- 8.8 Develop a History and Heritage Plan for the Region in consultation with the communities in each Centre.

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Community Consultation Contributions

	Participant numbers						
	Big'den	Eidsvold	Gayndah	Monto	Mt.Perry	Mund'bra	Total
Schools	27	15	34	60	20	48	204
Com'ty Mtgs	6	4	8	12	14	7	51
Online Surveys	7	2	9	4	4	8	34
Individual interviews	3	8	5	7	5	11	39
Total Com'ty	16	14	22	23	23	26	124
Cncl Staff	Personal interviews with 16 Councillors and Council staff						16

Contributions received from: 344 participants

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MT PERRY

Mount Perry State School (5/6/7) students and teachers
Lucy Connolly, Beppie Stanley, Wendy Castle, Anita Ward, Pat Worsley, June Dixon, Linda
Williams, Geoff Brandon, Amanda Dingle and Shelly Kelly .

MUNDUBBERA

Mundubbera State School (5/6) and Mundubbera State High School (9) students and
teachers
Grenice Robertson, Lata Kolo, Trisha Hansen, Colleen Whelan, Jim Robertson, Loris
Doessel, Billie-Jean Jacobs, Jodie Brown, Anne Carrige, Sue Lederhose, Roslyn Berthelson,
Clayton Paulson, Nancy and Stan Beasley, Gilbert Webb, Bev Kippen, Victor and Hilda
West, Lata and Sifa Kolo, Sue Lederhose, John Sharp, Mrs. Eriksen and Bruce Serisier.

And thanks to all the participants who completed the surveys anonymously.

Image and Artwork acknowledgements

Front cover: Mt Walsh, Orange Grove, Gayndah, Cattle Sale Yards, Monto; Cania Gorge
(courtesy of: Historic Centre, Eidsvold; Children at Paradise Dam; images courtesy of North
Burnett Regional Council.

P10 – Mundubbera Water Tower and mural, courtesy of North Burnett Regional Council.

‘Swimming Pool’, artist: Lucy Thompson, Eidsvold; library, artist unknown,
Mundubbera, (Cultural Mapping Consult); ‘Horse and girl’. Artist unknown,
Biggenden. (Cultural Mapping Consult)

P19 - Bark Painting, artist: H.Clarry, Eidsvold. Courtesy of North Burnett Regional Council.

P22 ‘Footprints’, artist unknown, Mudubbera; Gayndah Orange Parade; Eidsvoldf Bank
building and mural; Gayndah Museum Vintage Cars – all images courtesy of North
Burnett Regional Council.

P32 ‘Gayndah’ photographer: Eric Sturgess, courtesy of North Burnett Regional Council.

P37 Monto library, courtesy of North Burnett Regional Council

P45 ‘The Library’ artist: Steph Claire Brooks, Mt. Perry; ‘IGA’ artist: unknown,
Mundubbera; ‘Historic Centre’ artist: Jolie Kenny, Monto. Cultural Mapping Consult.

P48 ‘Paradise Dam’, artist: Nadia, Eidsvold; ‘Paradise Dam’, artist unknown, Biggenden.
(Cultural Mapping Consult).

P57 Lake Cania, courtesy of North Burnett Regional Council. ‘Cania Dam’, artist
unknown, Monto. (Cultural Mapping Consult)

P63 White throated snapping turtle, courtesy of the Queensland Environmental Protection
Agency.

P66 ‘Write Poetry’, artist: Terri-anne, Biggenden. (Cultural Mapping Consult)

P74 ‘Kalpowar Forest’ artist unknown, Monto. (Cultural Mapping Consult)

Glossary

Aboriginal Keeping Place is a place to experience the diversity of Aboriginal culture, housing items of historical, cultural and spiritual importance to Aboriginal people.

Arts (the) is a broad term encompassing creative endeavours such as visual arts; writing and literature; the performing arts, i.e. music, drama, dance; and multi media, such as video, digital imagery, film and sound, etc.

Artsworker tends to be used instead of artist for two reasons. (1) Community cultural development (ccd) workers can be involved in project design, management and evaluation rather than actual art making; and (2) to acknowledge the additional range of skills CCD artists need to employ. In addition to the art form expertise required to ensure excellent artistic outcomes, CCD artsworkers must apply project management and planning skills, negotiation, communication and collaborative skills. They need the ability to lead, challenge, motivate and facilitate communities in their activities without dominating or directing them. CCD artsworkers are also aware of social justice issues and are sensitive and responsive to the needs of the many different communities within which they work.

Capacity building is a term used for the process of community empowerment, which should be the aim of all community work. It refers to the process of excellent community practice in which the community artsworker encourages community members to act and speak for themselves, gain new skills, branch out, and resist dependence on the community worker. This process is essential to the long-term sustainability of the benefits of community projects and without capacity building and empowerment, communities are sometimes no better off than they were pre-project.

Community Cultural Development (ccd) describes a range of initiatives undertaken by an artsworker in collaboration with other community members to express identity, concerns and aspirations through the arts and communications media, while building cultural capacity and contributing to social change.

Creatives has been used as an inclusive term to encompass artists, artsworkers (see above definition), artists working in craft media such as quilters and potters; artists working in creative industries such as screen printers, designers, graphic artists and more.

Culture, includes our lifestyle, history, values, language, society, how we live, work and play together.

Cultural Mapping is two-fold: (1) an audit of local cultural resources such as galleries, craft industries, distinctive landmarks, local events and industries and creatives; and (2) qualitative information such as personal histories, attitudes, values, challenges, strengths, needs, and vision for the future.

Interpretative signage provides useful information about a location, building, object or display. It concentrates on one topic, is clear, easy to read and accurate.

Professional Development is to acquire additional knowledge and/or skills through attending training, workshops, seminars, conferences or more that is relevant to work practice.

APPENDIX 1

North Burnett Online Survey 2009

This survey is one part of North Burnett Regional Council's series of consultations to connect with residents regarding the development of a cultural audit and arts and cultural strategy. This information will assist Council to prioritise and plan arts and cultural activities and support regional artists and arts workers over the next three years.

The following survey should take approximately ten minutes to complete. Once completed, your name will be put into a draw to win a prize. (..... of prizes to be won.

- Which town or region do you live?
- Where are your favourite locations where you live?
- Where are your favourite locations in North Burnett?
- What makes where you live unique and different from other places?
- In the areas of Arts and Culture, are there things that could be changed to make living in your town or region better? *This may include the places you visit, socialise, practice Arts, attend cultural events, people you interact with etc.*
- What are the strengths of your community?
- What are the weaknesses?
- Is there anything specific in the area of Arts and Culture that your community needs? *This may include the places you visit, etc...*
- Are there opportunities that could be explored for your community?
- Are there perceived threats? If yes, what are they>
- What is your vision for your community in the next 12 months?
- What is your vision for your community within the next three years?

Are you happy for us to connect with you for more information? Yes / No

Please include your first name and phone number to be placed in this week's draw.

Thank you for completing the survey.

APPENDIX 2

North Burnett Online Survey for Artist Database

This survey is one part of North Burnett Regional Council's series of consultations to connect with residents who are artists, arts workers, cultural workers or have creative skills, but do not identify themselves as an artist.

This information will be collated to build a North Burnett database to promote regional artists and artswomen and to regularly connect regarding event, training and funding opportunities.

Some of the information provided may also be accessed by **Creative Regions (CR)** as part of a region wide database.

The following survey should take approximately ten minutes to complete.

CR (linked to Creative regions artist database)

Name	
Business/ Organisation (if applicable)	
Street Address	
Postal Address (if different)	
City/Town	
State	
Post Code	
Daytime Phone Number	
After Hours Phone Number	
Email Address	
Web Address	

Are you: a full time artist/artswoman paid / unpaid – link to artswoman definition
a part time artist/artswoman paid / unpaid
an emerging artist / artswoman paid / unpaid - link to emerging artist definition
a hobbyist - link to hobbyist definition

(CR) Do you identify with any of the following roles? (tick all that apply)

- Agent
- Artist
- Community Cultural Development
- Conservator
- Council Officer
- Curator/ Exhibition Designer
- Event Coordinator/ Manager
- Project Manager

- Venue Manager
- other

What is/are your art form/s? Tick all that apply.

- Painting
- Sculpture: wood / clay / metal / soft media
- Ceramics: functional
- Mosaic work
- Stained glass
- Silver smithing / Jewellery
- Patchwork / sewing
- Tapestry
- Woodwork
- Leatherwork
- Multi media
- Photography
- Video / film: Filming / editing / script writing / directing / producing / sound
- Performance: acting / singing / directing / producing / sound
- Writing : poetry / fiction / non-fiction
- Oral History
- History and Heritage: researcher / writer
- Other

How long have you been working in this area?

Are there additional skills that you need to develop your practise? Yes / no

If yes, what are they?

CR

1. Your artistic practice/ business/ organisation/ venue offers the following (tick as many as are applicable):

- Art Valuer
- Arts related trades services
- ATSI Arts
- Audience Development
- Community Arts
- Crafts
- Dance
- Events
- Financial /Legal/Insurance services
- Fundraising and grants

- Galleries/Museums/Libraries
- Graphic Design
- Human Resource Management
- Information Technology, Interactive Media, Web services
- Marketing/ Public Relations
- Museum and Heritage Services
- Music
- New media and film, video, multimedia
- Oral history and Digital Storytelling
- Photographers
- Planning, Policy, Project Management
- Printing (commercial)
- Public Art
- Publishing/ Editing
- Research/Evaluation
- Sound/ Audio Production
- Theatre
- Tourism/Hospitality
- Visual Artists/
- Training
- Writing
- Other

Do you have an arts related resume? Yes / No

If you wish to have this available online? Click here (add link with instructions on how to upload CV)

If you wish to be included on **Creative Regions Central West Region Database?** (link to information about the database) Yes / No

Notes and Links

CR – Information requested by Creative Regions

NB to collate participants online data in the first instance and put into online database. Once the information is online, participants can be sent the link to check their details. If participants are to manage their own data, they should be provided the information to log on to update their details.

Links:

Creative Regions – to add

Creative Regions Central West Region Database – to add information about this service

Art definition

Please note that our definition of arts encompasses all art forms and media and also includes craft work, writing, photography, video, multi media and performance.

Instructions on uploading Artist Resume online.

