

Worinda childcare centre celebrates 20 years' service

Precious memories of hours playing with paint, playdough and bucket loads of sand came flooding back to former families and staff of the Worinda Occasional Care Centre who gathered to celebrate the facility's 20th anniversary in October.

As one of only two occasional care centres in the city, the facility is owned and operated by the Townsville City Council with funding contributions from the Australian Government.

Since opening its doors in October 1988, the centre has aimed to ensure local families have had access to flexible and low cost occasional care for their children.

Lifestyle and Community Development Committee chair, Cr Jenny Lane, said over the past two decades, Worinda staff had taken care of 4000 children under the age of five.

"The centre has played a special role in the community, particularly around Vincent, and it was fantastic to see so many families who used Worinda's services nearly 20 years ago come together to celebrate the milestone," Cr Lane said.

"It's testament to the fact that Worinda holds many fond memories for those who attended the centre and for those who have worked there.

"Securing quality childcare at an affordable price can be a struggle, and without Worinda

many families would miss out."

The 20 year celebration also took on special meaning with the commemoration of Amanda Nutley who worked as a volunteer at Worinda on a daily basis for 16 years prior to her death in December 2007.

Worinda Occasional Care Centre Director, Robyn Sillis, said a park bench had been placed in the children's playground and dedicated to the memory of Amanda who passed away at the age of 36.

"Mandy had spina bifida and was restricted to a wheelchair, yet that never dampened her enthusiasm. She loved being here and lending a hand, and only ever missed a day if she was unwell," Robyn said.

"Mandy had a very caring nature and a fantastic connection with the children. She was an active member of the Neptune Swims Club and always encouraged the children to try new things and be adventurous.

"She set a great example for the children and showed them you can overcome the hurdles that life sometimes throws at you."



Cr Jenny Lane cuts the cake at birthday celebrations for Worinda childcare centre and (inset) missed volunteer Amanda Nutley.

Celebrating 70 years of CityLibraries

CityLibraries Townsville are celebrating their 70th birthday with a week of free community events and activities.

Opened in 1938, the Townsville Library was the first free municipal library opened in Queensland. Whilst the official birthday was in July, celebrations have been delayed until the first week of December due to amalgamation.

The celebrations include puppet shows, special story time sessions, displays, a guest speaker and book launch. Visit the CityLibraries or council's website for dates, times and details of these exciting events.

Trade in your old Library Card!

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To make borrowing easier the new



library cards also come with a key tag. So free up your wallet and keep your library card near your computer for easier access to CityLibraries online databases, and the tag on your keys so it's always with you!



GET YOUR FREE GIFT!*

To celebrate CityLibraries 70th Birthday, during December the presents are on us when you borrow or become a member! To grab your free gift*, either a library bag or flexlight key ring, simply visit your nearest CityLibraries branch and join or borrow an item. If you are joining, remember to bring ID and if under 18 the permission of a parent or guardian will be required.

*While stocks last. Limit 1 gift per person/membership.

Recognition for Early Years Information Service

Gulliver's Early Years Information Service took out the Family and Community Friendly Award at the second annual MIX 106.3 Child Friendly Awards as part of Child Protection Week.

The service, funded by Communities for Children Townsville West and supported by Townsville City Council, was rewarded for its safe, friendly and inclusive business practices with a trophy and \$1,000 worth of advertising.

Nominations for the awards were made by members of the public who felt businesses were worthy of the prestigious honour.

Communities for Children Project Manager, Vicki Johnson said the Child Friendly Awards was an ambitious initiative that aimed to encourage all businesses and organisations to value practices

that make a difference to families.

"At The Early Years Information Service we aim to deliver these differences to every family; we don't do it for the awards but at the end of the day the recognition is truly gratifying," said Ms Johnson.

Community Safety and Health Committee chairman, Cr Dale Last, said the Child Friendly Awards highlighted the Townsville community's family values.

"Learning to raise children is quite likely the most important and challenging task anyone will ever undertake," Cr Last said.

"All too often parents are left to rely on trial and error or a lucky break to get them through those tricky patches; the Child Friendly Awards encourage the community to seek and provide help as needed."