

Success of holiday program prompts Easter offerings

The council's Summer Holiday Program was such a raging success that a similar program is being organised for Easter.

Under-12s and Young Adults Hot Pocket activity guides were offered in conjunction with the Department of Communities, Department of Housing, community organisations and local businesses.

More than 5,000 young people took part in 130 activities, very few of which were cancelled due to wet weather.

Highlights included the opening of Peggy Banfield Skate Park at Bushland Beach, the launch of the Townsville City Council's newly

refurbished UFO (Urban Fun Object), and the Felix Children's Science Program at JCU.

Owner of Willows on Wheels skating rink, Mick Stocks, said he was happy to be involved.

"It was great to be a part of the program and it certainly helped with our promotions in the local community," he said.

Even the Strand Beach Party, which had to be relocated to the PCYC in Aitkenvale, drew 600 patrons keen to see local bands and Melbourne talent Behind Crimson Eyes.

The next holiday program will kick off with National Youth Week (28

March to 5 April) and lead into the Easter break (10-19 April). It will include events and activities from the arts and sport, parties and fun days at various venues and parks throughout Townsville.

Due to the success of the summer school holiday program, discount vouchers to Townsville's best entertainment and food outlets will be included in the program.

The April Antics Holiday Program will run from April 10 to 19. Keep an eye out at your school for a guide or visit council's website at www.townsville.qld.gov.au for full program details.



Magnus (jumping) and Felix Kuttainen of Kirwan try out the new hopscotch game at the Aplin's Weir Rotary Park.

Eat Well Be Active achieves great results for community

Townsville City Council is championing community programs to help keep Townsville families healthy and active.

The Townsville City Council project, funded under the Queensland Government's Eat Well Be Active - Healthy Kids for Life initiative, aims to offer simple, no cost activities for families using the city's parks and open spaces.

Community Safety and Health Committee chair Cr Dale Last, said the project had achieved great community benefits.

"The Eat Well be Active project has placed hopscotch stencils at five parks in Townsville, established five 10,000 Steps walking paths; developed a low cost/no cost physical activity flipchart, installed two beach volleyball courts on The Strand and participates in nationally-recognised events such as Walk to Work Day," Cr Last said.

"It's important to provide 'low, or

no cost' programs and activities to families across the city in these difficult economic times.

"This project has achieved great benefits for the community and provides a fantastic opportunity to get children active and provide education about healthy eating."

Another major achievement of the Eat Well Be Active project was its support of local community events including the Townsville Bulletin Kite Festival, Wellness Health and More Festival, Neighbourhood Fun Days, Oral Health Week and tree planting events.

Health and nutrition were another key focus of the program, with participation in activities such as the School Breakfast Program and National Nutrition Week.

Cr Last said the community could look forward to using these programs and facilities for years to come.

Behind Crimson Eyes played to a crowd of over 600 during the Summer School Holiday Program.



Cattle, archaeology and pioneers

What do cattle, archaeology and a mysterious Townsville pioneer all have in common? They are all topics covered in the last three lectures in the CityLibraries Sir Robert Philp Lecture Series.

Dr Claire Brennan's lecture on 9 March will focus on the history of the settlement of Queensland by cattle.

Livestock are integral to European attempts to settle the Australian continent, but the introduction of sheep and cattle has not been a straightforward or easy process.

The First Fleet arrived with animals picked up from the Cape Colony on the way to Australia, but these animals did not populate the continent with their offspring. Instead a far more complex process of introduction and adaptation took place, complicated by the emergence of registered breeds and ideas about how their presence reflected on their local landscape.

Dr Brennan teaches history at James Cook University. She is an environmental historian with

research interests in the field of animal history. Her PhD, completed at the University of Melbourne in 2005, examined the history of sport hunting in New Zealand and Victoria in the nineteenth century. She is now extending her interests in introduced species from sporting to economic species. She has published on the history of the rabbit in New Zealand, of sport hunting in Melbourne, and on the environmental history of New Zealand's national parks.

On 6 April Dr Nigel Chang and Dr Shelley Greer will present a lecture on Archaeology & the Historic Past in Townsville. The lecture will explore the potential of archaeology to extend our understanding of the historic past in North Queensland.

The final lecture in the series will be presented by well known historian Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde, on 11 May. Dr Gibson-Wilde's lecture: *Townsville's neglected founder: the mysterious Mr Black* examines the career of John Melton Black and reinforces his status as the founder of Townsville.

The Sir Robert Philp Lecture Series has been running at CityLibraries since June last year, with the assistance of a Q150 Community Funding Grant.

Lectures are FREE to attend. Book by phoning 4773 8811.

