

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## CityLibraries focus on continuation of popular services

CityLibraries will continue to focus on providing its popular learning services within library and community settings this year.

The highlight will be the May Month of Learning in 2010, which offers outreach programs through '31 Days of Discovery'.

Throughout the year children will benefit from regular services supported by council's partners in the Together Townsville program.

**Let's Read:** A four-step program designed to promote reading with young children from 0-5 years of age, helping them develop emergent literacy skills. The partnership with Lancini Group of Companies and the Lions Club enables provision of Let's Read resources to many families.

**Baby Rhyme Time:** A 30-minute rhyme and lap-sit session at CityLibraries and Castletown Shoppingworld. Baby Rhyme Time is about developing emergent literacy skills, including behaviours that encourage children to read, such as listening, learning and recognising sounds through rhyme and repetition. It also helps parents/carers bond with their babies and have fun together.

**Preps at Library:** A new program partnered with Clean It NQ. Preps at the Library aims to develop essential and productive partnerships with local schools as well as improve literacy levels through increased borrowing. Library staff will visit prep classes in participating schools and give each prep student a library membership card and information kit. Students will then be introduced to CityLibraries by visiting their closest branch.

**The BHP-Billiton Yabulu Learning Space:** This facility at CityLibraries Thuringowa provides a learning space fully equipped with nine computers, an overhead projector, Smart Board (electronic blackboard) and range of learning software for individual and group learning. The area is available for children's education as well as business and community groups.

Lifestyle and Community Development Committee chair Cr Jenny Lane said it was pleasing that so many organisations understood the importance of services offered by CityLibraries.

"These corporate partners are helping us to provide extra facilities that encourage a new generation of readers and library members," Cr Lane said.

"We're very grateful for this assistance. It also enables us to use other funds for vital community programs such as at the Mobile Neighbourhood Libraries, so it can service our house-bound patrons in urban and rural areas of Townsville."

Also in this year's Budget, CityLibraries will spend \$15,000 on digitising historical photographs so they are available via the internet and library catalogue. A total of \$700,000 will be spent on new library materials, which will be funded by a grant from the State Library of Queensland.

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