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## Sarina Tourist Art and Craft Centre Newsletter June 7, 2018



*Sandy Macdonald displays some of her crochet creations including a vest, beanie and wall hanging.*

## Artist lives her dream of creating beauty

SARINA'S Sandy Macdonald is an artist living her dream of creating her own beautiful things and sharing them with others.

Sandy lives on a 15-acre property near Sarina where she grows her own organic fruit and vegetables, and works in a range of artforms including crochet, doll dress making, wall hangings, watercolours and recycled paper.

Her work is currently on display at the Sarina Tourist, Art and Craft Centre at the Field of Dreams parkland where she is Artist of the Month for June.

She used to live in the Sydney beachside suburb Avalon but came to Sarina in the 90s and has been a member of the Art and Craft Centre for 21 years.

“When I started Veronica McFadzen was a director of the craft centre and I was her ‘elf’, helping out where I could,” she said.

“I got the job of organising the displays which I thought was only going to be a few months but it looks like I’m stuck with it.

“Veronica taught me all she knows about the displays.”



*Front and back views of a crocheted vest crafted by Sandy Macdonald.*

Sandy said the prices charged at the craft centre for a wide range of hand-made creations by local artists were very cheap compared to what they would fetch at a Sydney market.

She started crocheting almost 40 years ago was accredited as a teacher of the artform in 1990 and has won awards at competitions and the Royal Easter Show.

“I don’t expect to make money from it, I just do it for the pleasure of it.”

Some of her featured work includes fairy dolls dressed up in elaborate outfits and gourds which she grows in her garden and makes into musical instruments, pots and ornaments.

The craft centre is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm.



### *Smoko’s ready*

*Preparing for a morning tea visit by members of the Mackay Parkinsons Support Group are Sarina Tourist Art and Craft Centre volunteers*

*Lilian Brown, Colleen Farry, Jennifer Costello, Marg Schwarzrock, Dulcie Christensen and Sue Smith.*

# Sneak preview of new Visitor Information Centre

MEMBERS of Sarina Tourist Art and Craft Centre were given an early look at the new Mackay Region Visitor Information Centre at the Field of Dreams parkland.

Tours of the new centre, in the refurbished Sarina Railway Station next to the STAC, were given ahead of its opening for business on July 1. A 'soft launch' of the centre will be held in early July, with the official opening of the redeveloped Field of Dreams parkland and the Visitor Information Centre expected in September.

Mackay Tourism Limited will continue to run the current VIC at Nebo Road while they transition to the new Mackay Region VIC at Sarina. In the longer term, MTL will maintain a presence in Mackay City to offer visitor information services and they are working closely with Mackay Regional Council to review possible locations. The current information centres at Eungella and Melba House will also continue to operate.



*One of the groups which toured to new Mackay Region Tourist Information Centre.*



*Visiting the new Information Centre are, front Helen Stewart, Rachel Belthouser from Mackay Regional Council, Rhonda Payne, Lia Keating, Jennifer Costello; back centre manager Felicity Holder, Sue Smith and Dulcie Christensen.*



A view of the new Mackay District Visitor Information Centre which will open for business on July 1. The centre is in the old Sarina Railway Station, which has been refurbished as part of the redevelopment of the Field of Dreams parkland over the past 12 months.

**CHANNEL 7 FIMING:** Channel 7 outdoors program Creek to Coast will be filming at the Field of Dreams this Monday and Tuesday, June 11-12, so hopefully the Sarina Tourist Art and Craft Centre will be part of the show.

On Tuesday Creek to Coast will be filming at the new Visitor Information Centre at the railway station.

**DONATIONS SOUGHT:** Donations are still being sought for the upcoming cent sale, which will be held in December. Jennifer Costello has asked that if donations are of food items please check that the expiry will not be before the cent sale. It is hoped that crafters will each donate a piece of their craft as a prize as well.

## Visitor numbers on the rise

Visitor numbers at the Sarina Tourist Art and Craft Centre for June were on the rise, with 839 visiting compared with 631 the previous month. The figures and chart below show the monthly visitors.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
January		535	598	467	474
February		326	464	373	358
March		582	596	414	426
April		687	798	571	631
May		1001	1015	954	839
June		1500	1270	1317	1
July	1511	1501	2168	2026	1
August	1414	1565	1614	1483	1
Sept	1005	1115	1283	751	1
Oct	745	817	918	558	1
Nov	688	623	754	416	1
Dec	656	638	626	570	1
Totals		10890	12104	9900	2735

