



Sarina Tourist Arts and Crafts Centre

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Volunteers Helen Stewart and Helen Larcombe cuddle some soft toys at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre, where Christmas is the centre of attraction.

Santa is coming

CHRISTMAS has arrived at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre.

With less than eight weeks until Santa's arrival, the centre's crafters have put together their skills to offer a wide range of handcrafted presents to suit just about anyone.

There is plenty of variety to brighten up your place on Christmas Day, to find a unique present for your loved one, or even a memorable Secret Santa gift for your work party.

You can make your Christmas table special with festive table cloths, runners, table centres and fridge towels, and beautiful little angels to add the final touch.

SARINA ARTS AND CRAFTS NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2019

If you're looking for presents for your family or friends, the scope is virtually endless from babies' and children's clothes and toys, woodwork, needlework, jewellery, recycled baskets, a wide range of ladies' bags, wall signs and much more.

The centre is a co-operative of crafters from Sarina and the wider Mackay area, and is run by a group of more than 50 volunteers seven days a week. It is located at the Field of Dreams Parkland at Sarina's southern entrance, and is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 3pm, and on Sundays 10am to 1pm.



Jennifer Costello, centre, at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre AGM with attendees, from left Graham Jones, chairman Bob Neilsen, Rod Nunn, Judy Langdon, Jenny Price, Les Brown, Lilian Brown, Sandy McDonald, secretary Rhonda Payne, Owen Bromley, Dulcie Christensen, Veronica McFadzen, Lesley Stein, Janet Neale, Colleen Farry and Charlie Payne.

Thank-you to Jennifer

SARINA Arts and Crafts Centre has said 'thank you' for the hard work done by its treasurer, Jennifer Costello.

A honorarium was unanimously awarded to Jennifer at the Centre's annual general meeting, on a motion by secretary Rhonda Payne.

"Jennifer works tirelessly for the Arts and Crafts Centre, she puts in many hours organising things on a voluntary basis, and is always there to solve problems," Rhonda said.

Rhonda's thoughts were backed by chairman Bob Neilsen, who said in his annual report that Jennifer and her band of talented helpers had again this year made participation for volunteers a pleasurable experience.

This is a testament to their skill, dedication and commitment to the effective management of the Centre, he said.

The co-operative board which oversees the Centre was unchanged following the meeting.

It is made up of chairman Bob Neilsen, treasurer Jennifer Costello, secretary Rhonda Payne, and board members Lilian Brown, Judy Langdon, Rod Nunn, Charlie Payne, Colleen Farry, Margaret Schwarzrock and Dulcie Christensen.



Volunteers Mary Whitaker and Dulcie Christensen with new flags donated by Bendigo Bank at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre.

Summer is here

SUMMER time starts at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre from this Monday, November 4.

Not that we're putting our clocks forward for summer time, but we are changing the times that volunteers will open the centre.

We will now open from 10am to 3pm Monday to Saturday, and 10am to 1pm on Sundays. We do not open on public holidays.

Each shift will be manned by two volunteers.

A new schedule has been emailed to volunteers. If you are unable to attend a shift, please organise for a replacement to take your place.

Major changes for centre

THE following is the annual report to the annual general meeting of the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre, by chairman Bob Neilsen. The meeting was held on Monday, October 28.

Well, there is another year gone. This year saw some major changes at the Centre with the introduction of the summer roster and although there was an extra hour added to the shift length this meant that only one shift was required each day. This measure was favourably accepted by all volunteers and you would be aware that the 2019 summer roster will commence on November 3.



Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre chairman Bob Neilsen.

The centre is now closed for all public holidays and this is another popular move which was not possible when the VIC was in operation.

Visitor numbers were down from 10,020 last year to 6,820 this year. The reason for this is unclear but there was a very slow start to the tourist season this year. On the positive side this year income was \$58,588.00 compared to \$37,982.00 last year.

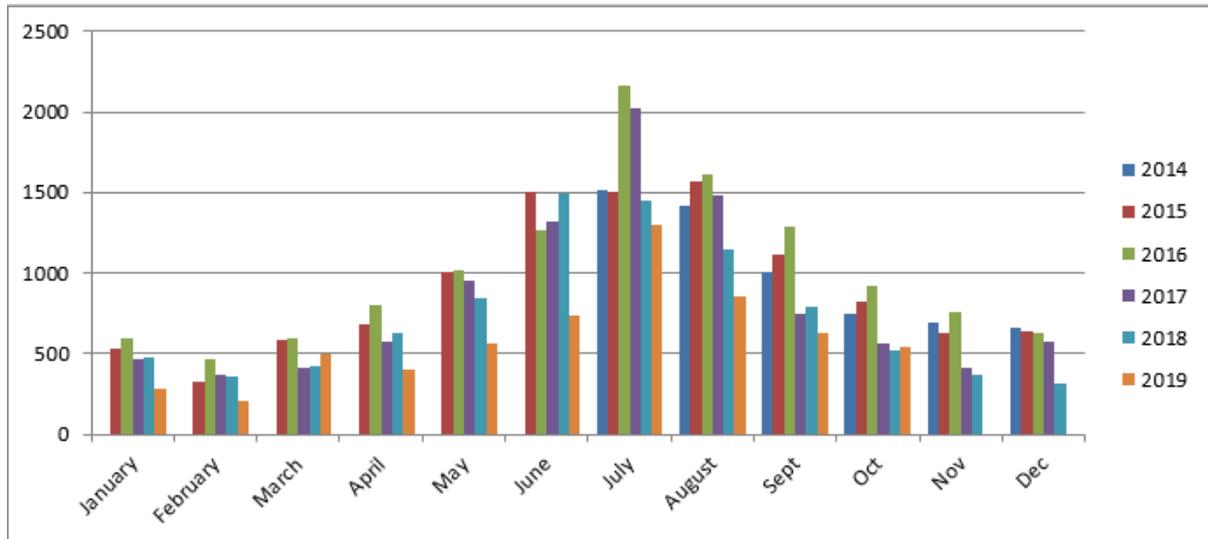
The quantity and quality of crafter material in the Centre is impressive and it is a credit to those volunteers who control the quality and display of this merchandise that makes the Centre a great place to visit and procure unique hand crafted items.

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Jennifer Costello and her band of talented helpers have again this year made participation for volunteers a pleasurable experience which is a testament to their skill, dedication and commitment to the effective management of the Centre.

Twilight markets have had a mixed reception this year and they have been postponed until further notice due to a lack of interest from the public.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself we would like to thank all volunteers and members for their time and effort this past year, your dedication and commitment is invaluable and it is these values that make the Centre a great place to volunteer.



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
January		535	598	467	474	283
February		326	464	373	358	211
March		582	596	414	426	495
April		687	798	571	631	404
May		1001	1015	954	839	564
June		1500	1270	1317	1488	738
July	1511	1501	2168	2026	1446	1301
August	1414	1565	1614	1483	1145	850
Sept	1005	1115	1283	751	793	630
Oct	745	817	918	558	517	543
Nov	688	623	754	416	368	
Dec	656	638	626	570	318	
Totals		10890	12104	9900	8803	6019

A TOTAL of 543 visitors were welcomed at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre during October.

The figures since 2014 are shown here.



Judy Langdon and partner Graham Jones with their gold award, with Mackay Tourism general manager Tas Webber, left.

Judy wins tourism gold award

HAY Point Country Bed and Breakfast has won a Mackay Tourism gold award.

The award recognizes the outstanding contribution by Judy Langdon and Graham Jones to the accommodation and hospitality industries in 2019.

Judy and Graham are members of the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre, and supply home-made

jams and relishes as well as supporting the twilight markets.

Judy serves on the Craft Centre board of directors, and on the board of Mackay Tourism, where she regularly highlights the needs of the Sarina community.

Judy and Graham have operated Hay point Country Bed and Breakfast since October 2013. In that time, they have collected two bronze and one silver medal at the local awards ceremonies.



During 2019, as well as providing accommodation, the Hay Point team hosted several morning teas and lunches, as well as attending both the STAC and Greater Whitsunday Twilight markets where they prepared and served their popular Spanish Paella.

Judy said “This was such a wonderful surprise for both of us.

“We love the tourism industry so much, as we get to meet so many people from all over the world. Last week we hosted couples from Utah, Switzerland and Arizona. Our guests are so impressed with the friendliness of our local community and rave about the natural beauty of our region.”