



Sarina Tourist Arts and Crafts Centre

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Denim, lace look good



Lilian Brown and Dulcie Christensen with this month's Denim and Lace display.

THE elves have been busy with Denim and Lace at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre.

Dulcie Christensen and Lilian Brown are among a group of volunteers who perform the work of the 'elves', setting up a new display each month and ensuring that the overall quality of the crafts is of the highest standard.

Both agreed that Denim and Lace was an appropriate theme, as the centre's crafters have a wide array of high-quality hand-made bags and knitted or crocheted items on display.

Both are long-time crafters, having been involved with the Craft Centre since its inception in 1995-96 and as members of the Sarina Fibre Arts Group,

many of which supply crafts at the centre.

"I'm proud of what we have here," Lilian said. "It's fair to say that what we have is all locally hand-made, and it's very good."

Other members of the elves group include Sandy McDonald, Jennifer Costello, Margaret Schwarzrock and Veronica McFadzen.

SARINA ARTS AND CRAFTS NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2020

Lilian has been making crafts for more than 40 years, and says there is a good reason for her interest apart from creating beautiful things.

“I just feel that when you start sewing you can forget the cares of the world,” she said.

“I like doing a variety of things. About 20 years ago I started making quilts with machine embroidering. I also like making bags and things you can use like decorated table centres.”

Dulcie’s love of crafting dates back to her home economics classes at school when she learnt to sew her own clothes and she now creates a variety of crafts, including applique tea towels and patchwork runners, denim and material handbags, painted bread boards and paintings.

“I’ve been here since day one in 1995-96, and I’ve been an elf from the start,” she said.

“There is a very good standard of crafts here and we try to maintain that standard. The people who supply the crafts and who keep the centre open are all volunteers.

“Lots of us enjoy doing what we do, but you can’t be at home all the time and you need to have an outlet.

“I think we have the biggest variety of crafts here in the Mackay district.”

The Craft Centre is at the Sarina Field of Dreams Parkland across from the Mackay Tourist Information Centre, and is open seven days a week.



The Sarina Arts and Crafts board is, back from left Charlie Payne, Judy Langdon, Colleen Farry, Margaret Schwarzrock, Rod Nunn, Dulcie Christensen; front secretary Rhonda Payne, Lilian Brown, treasurer Jennifer Costello, chairman Bob Neilsen.

Board looks to raise centre’s profile

THE Sarina Arts and Craft board is looking to raise the profile of the centre, as we have an outstanding collection of hand-made local arts and crafts.

To this end we ask all our members and supporters to help in whatever way they can. This could include spreading the word on your Facebook pages, or in conversations with your friends and family. Contact a board member if you can help or with your suggestions.

SARINA ARTS AND CRAFTS NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2020

We are a cooperative and are run entirely by volunteers who give their time to open our centre seven days a week, apart from public holidays.

Recent visitations to the centre have dropped considerably, which was expected following the opening of the new Mackay District Visitor Information Centre and the ending of the tourism role for our centre.

The challenge now is to build a greater awareness of the quality and variety of crafts at our centre, to attract both tourists and locals to view our offerings.



Jennifer Costello and Marg Hinrichs with a prize from last year's cent sale.

Mega sale June 21

THE Sarina Arts and Crafts mega cent sale Mk2 will be held on Sunday, June 21.

The sale follows on the success of last year's event, and again will be held at the Bob Wood Community Hall in conjunction with The Variety Club, the children's charity. Last year's sale was a huge success, and Arts and Crafts treasurer Jennifer Costello is calling on crafters and other supporters to

get behind this year's event.

Jennifer would like crafters to consider donating a quality piece of work, or goods which can be made up into prizes for the cent sale. The sale will have hundreds of prizes along with various lucky door prizes and raffles.

She said Jenny Miotto from the Variety Club would again be involved in the cent sale.

"Everyone knows that Jenny organises great cent sales with a huge range of prizes."

A graphic for a sign. At the top, it says "SARINA SUGAR SHED IN 9.5KM" in white text on a black background. Below this, on a black background, are four white arrows pointing right, each followed by text: "VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE", "ARTS & CRAFTS", "MUSEUM", and "ART GALLERY". At the bottom left are icons for parking (P), a bus, a person with a backpack, a Wi-Fi symbol, and a location pin. To the right of these icons is the Mackay logo. On the right side of the graphic is a photograph of two young women smiling and holding white cotton candy.

Sign of the times

This sign is to be erected on the Bruce Highway south of Sarina, directing traffic to the Field of Dreams.

The Sarina Arts and Crafts board welcomed the initiative, which aims to increase the number of tourists stopping off at the centre.

Stop off for a cuppa and bikkies

VISITORS to the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre are welcome to relax on the verandah with a free cuppa and bikkies.

The verandah area will soon be enhanced with the addition of vertical blinds, thanks to a grant from the Gaming Fund. The grant will also allow the installation of security screens, and the centre's board meeting decided to add extra security screening and a glass panel for a door at the Mt Pelion schoolhouse building.

The board also decided to seek a grant from the Bendigo Bank for a defibrillator, to enhance safety for visitors to the centre.



Great printer – make an offer

THIS printer is available at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre, Field of Dreams, Sarina.

It is a Fuji Xerox Apeosport Model VC2275 modern high-speed printer, in excellent condition

The printer comes with three brand new drum cartridges and five new toners.

\$1500 ono.

For information and to arrange an inspection contact Jennifer Costello, 0414 735 787 or email sarinainfo@easynet.net.au.

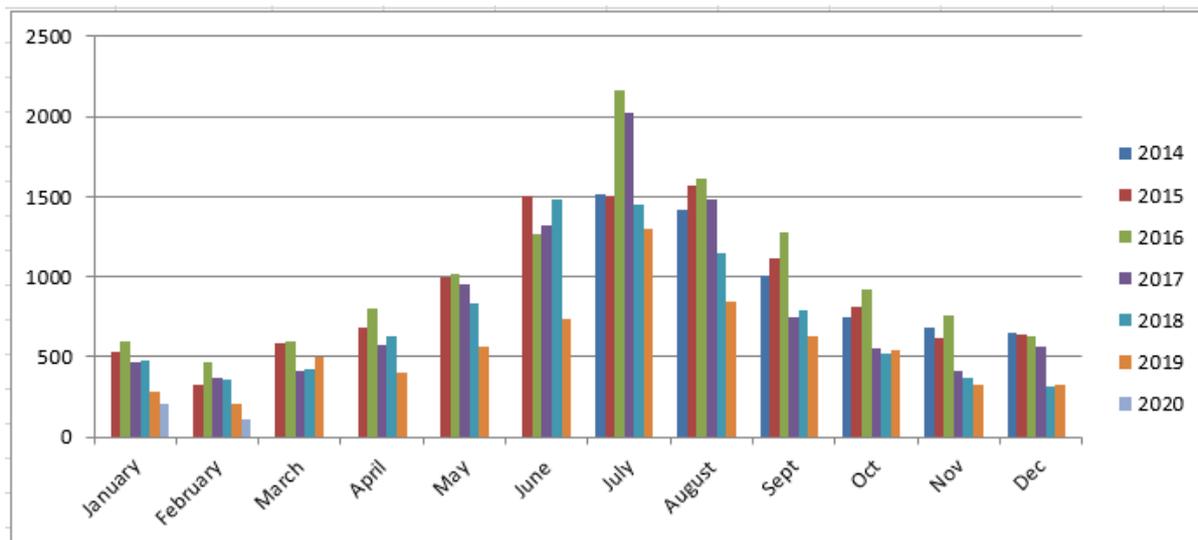


Winter brings change of guard at Craft Centre

SUMMER is over, believe it or not, and with the approach of winter there will be a changing of the guard at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre.

A new winter roster will start in April, with changes in the times that volunteers man the centre. There will be two shifts a day, from 9am-1pm and 1pm-5pm Monday to Saturday, and 9am-1pm Sundays. The centre will close on public holidays.

A new roster will be sent out to volunteers ahead of the change.



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January		535	598	467	474	283	213
February		326	464	373	358	211	116
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	330	
Dec	656	638	626	570	318	323	
Totals		10890	12104	9900	8803	6672	

Rebuilding challenge

THE new year brings a challenge to rebuild visitor numbers at the Sarina Arts and Crafts Centre.

Figures for the first two months of the year are shown in the graph above and at left.