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## Sarina Tourist Art and Craft Centre Newsletter December 2017



*Above: Ron Ailwood and his wife Janice with Mackay Regional Councillor Karen May.*

*Left: Retiring secretary Lesley Ward with treasurer Jennifer Costello.*

### Farewell to craft stalwarts

THE Sarina Tourist Art and Craft Centre has said farewell to two of its keenest long-term volunteers.

Long-term director Ron Ailwood and his wife Janice are moving to NSW and super-efficient secretary Lesley Ward has retired due to the pressure of work in her jewellery business.

Ron and Lesley were among the originals when the Sarina Community Arts and Crafts Cooperative was formed some 20 years ago. Ron was one of those instrumental in acquiring the Mt Pelion School House which houses the display, and the old jailhouse.

We'd like to thank them for their efforts over the years and wish them well for the future.

Rhonda Payne has taken over as secretary from Lesley, and has dragged out of retirement her husband Charlie who is doing our newsletters and some publicity on Facebook and in the Daily Mercury, so go to our Facebook page and look in the paper for occasional articles.

The new board of directors for 2018 is: Bob Neilsen (chair), Jennifer Costello (treasurer), Rhonda Payne (secretary), Lillian Brown (quality control), Rodney Nunn (grants), Charlie Payne (publicity), Cindy Ellis, Colleen Farry, Judy Langdon, Dulcie Christensen. The board would like to thank all the volunteers for the great effort they have put in over the past 12 months and wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.



*Lillian Brown, Dulcie Christensen, Rhonda Payne and Jennifer Costello are ready to serve up the sausages and chips.*

### Group serves up the snags

A GROUP of eight volunteers raised some much-needed funds with a sausage sizzle at the Turning On of the Christmas Tree Lights at the Bob Wood Cultural Centre on Saturday.

Many thanks to Lillian and Les Brown, Jennifer and Len Costello, Rhonda and Charlie Payne, Dulcie Christensen and Owen Bromley for their efforts, which have raised \$337.55.

Our sausages and chips didn't seem to attract much interest early on, but by 6pm we got busy and Rhonda and Charlie were churning out hot chips, even if they might not have been quite cooked. The caterers got it just right, because we used every sausage and chip we had.



*Volunteers Rhonda Payne and Gloria McFadzen show off some of the Christmas gear at the Sarina Tourist, Art and Craft Centre.*

### Christmas is here

IT'S looking a lot like Christmas at the Sarina Tourist, Art and Craft Centre.

The centre at the Field of Dreams on the southern entrance to Sarina is decked out in local hand-made Christmas goodies, thanks to the efforts of volunteer artists and craftspeople who keep it open seven days a week.



Austrian visitors Jenny Pressler and Andreas Finke, pictured left, called into the centre on their way south, after spending time at Cairns and Townsville.

“The weather’s not at all what it is at home, it’s freezing over there now,” Jenny said.

“But this is nice.”

With a new tourism information centre under construction at the old Sarina Railway Station,

club members are planning to further enhance the arts and crafts on display, secretary Rhonda Payne said.

“Next year when the tourism centre opens next door to us in the railway station, we’ll be able to concentrate solely on our arts and crafts,” she said.

Members were last week given an update on the new tourism centre construction schedule by representatives of the contractors and Mackay Regional Council.

## Volunteers celebrate end of year

The annual volunteers’ Christmas party is being held this Monday, December 18, at 10am at the Sarina Tourist, Art and Craft Centre. We hope to see a big turnout to celebrate the end of the year and plan for an even bigger 2018. Please tell Jennifer Costello (0414 735 787) or Rhonda Payne (0438 177 294) if you can come.



*Work is moving ahead on the new tourist information centre at the Field of Dreams.*

## Works update

The next two weeks for the Vassallo Construction team will primarily revolve around the completion of civil construction work (retaining wall, light pole footings and new park lights, ongoing garden bed edging) and finalising landscaping and irrigation installation across the Parkland. Turf is also expected to be laid next Monday, December 18. Completion of work before Christmas will be subject to weather.

The countdown to Christmas for WHF Group at the Sarina Railway Station will include ongoing restoration of the Railway Station internally, completion of upgrades to infrastructure services and pouring of concrete. This concrete will form the new car park at the front of the Railway Station, new footpaths connecting pedestrians to the external amenities and across to the Arts & Crafts, and further new disability access to the railway platform. Subject to weather, it is anticipated a large concrete pour will occur Wednesday, December 13.