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| Name of Library | Fraser Coast Libraries |  |
| Address | 161 Old Maryborough Road, Pialba Q 4655 | |
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| Title of project/innovation/initiative | Community Partnerships |
| The issue/challenge | |
| <p>To actively engage in productive partnerships and networking opportunities with many groups to achieve its mission to creatively link our community to lifestyles, knowledge and place.</p> | |

Project Details

An important community development objective of the Fraser Coast Regional Council's is to 'encourage and promote healthy lifestyle choices for the wellbeing of the community and to foster connections and networks between people, communities, facilities and services.' In line with this objective the Fraser Coast Libraries actively engages in productive partnerships and networking opportunities with many groups "to achieve its mission to creatively link our community to lifestyles, knowledge and place."

Some partnerships have been actively sort to fulfil a perceived need in the library or community. Some of the partnerships, on the other hand, are the result of serendipitous encounters. All are organic in nature in that they evolve over time, often changing to satisfy the needs of the various parties concerned and in response to community feedback.

Fraser Coast Libraries Existing Partnerships:

Reach for Reading (Literacy in Foster Care) Project

The Fraser Coast Libraries was successful in its Expanding Horizons Grants for Family Literacy grant application in late 2010. The project approved and now being developed, involves partnering with The Pyjama Foundation to deliver the dynamic,

Reach for Reading Project to improve literacy skills for foster families in the Fraser Coast region.

The Pyjama Foundation supports foster children in the community by recruiting, training and supporting volunteers (Pyjama Angels) to deliver a literacy based mentoring program which creates positive, life long change for children in care. Pyjama Angels undertake to visit their assigned child in care once a week to read aloud, play educational games and assist with homework.

The Reach for Reading project centres on the creation and utilisation of eighty, specialist family literacy resource kits which are themed and culturally sensitive. The project also involves the development and delivery of a training package to the Angels, library staff, foster parents and other community groups, in the appropriate use of these specialist resource kits.

Transition Towns Fraser Coast

Transition Towns Fraser Coast, incorporating Transition Town Hervey Bay and Transition Town Maryborough, part of the international movement which supports community-led responses to climate change and shrinking supplies of cheap energy, is the driving force behind a sustainable Fraser Coast Region.

In 2009 The Fraser Coast Libraries partnered with Transition Town Hervey Bay to develop the first Transition Town specific, public library collection in Australia. The collection is; housed separately in a prominent location, identified with Transition Town Fraser Coast stickers and is promoted by a Transition Town banner and book display. This initiative has now been extended to the Maryborough Library in partnership with the newly formed Transition Town Maryborough group.

Library meeting rooms are made available to the groups free of charge and the cross promotion of activities is actively encouraged.

10,000 Steps

The Wide Bay Public Health Unit, a division of Queensland Health has partnered with the Fraser Coast Libraries to promote the “10,000 Steps” program. All branch libraries across the region have been provided with pedometers and tally sheets that have been catalogued and have now been made available for interested library members to borrow. A launch of the program is being funded by the Public Health Unit and coordinated by the Fraser Coast Libraries to promote the program to other prominent organisations, such as the local RSL, Boat Club, Chamber of Commerce

and Department of Communities in the hope of expanding the project across the community.

Mental Health Services

The Fraser Coast Integrated Mental Health Service and the Fraser Coast Libraries have been working together over the last twelve months to bring mental health issues into the public arena. Subject specific resources have been purchased for the library collection on recommendations from the Customer Consultant at the Mental Health Service. The library is now working closely with the Mental Health Workers Network to host guest speakers, launch the mental health collection and participate in a Mental Health Expo during Mental Health Week 2011.

Rotary Clubs

For many years local Rotary Clubs and the Fraser Coast Libraries have cooperatively engaged in the "Book N Bubs" program that promotes family literacy at the monthly antenatal classes hosted by the Hervey Bay and Maryborough Hospitals for expectant mothers and their partners. Speakers, from Rotary and the library, jointly promote the importance of reading to young children, its direct correlation to literacy and numeracy development, successful life-long learning and the role public libraries can play in their family. This talk is complemented by the provision of library promotional material and a gift board book for each family attending the presentation.