

Name of Library	Mackay Regional Council Library Service	
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Phone	4961 9387	
Contact person	Kate Balderson / Lara Clarke (Heritage Collection Coordinator- jobshare)	
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Title of project/innovation/initiative	“Digitising the Decades”
Date initiated	Launched May 2011
Date completed	December 2011

The issue/challenge

The Heritage Collection – photograph collection currently holds over 5000 images documenting the history of the Mackay region and dating back to the 1880's. The Heritage Collection team identified the need to further develop the Library's photograph collection to include images captured after 1950 through to the end of the century.

At the time we were also looking for an exciting new project in which our Heritage Collection volunteers could participate and contribute towards.

Project details

The project aims to further develop the HC Photograph collection through appealing to the community to contribute photographs which will be added to collection. The Library requires photographs depicting Mackay people, places and events of interest over the decades, 1950-2000. This will meet our goal of having a collection that consistently documents and describes the growth and development of the local community.

The project was launched to the Mackay community in May 2011, is regularly advertised widely and will conclude in December 2011. A photographic exhibition in each of the library branches is planned in February 2012 to showcase the new images. This exhibition will coincide with Mackay's 2012 Sesquicentenary celebrations.

Prior to launching the project, staff spent a great deal of time adjusting Donation and Copyright forms to suit the project, fine tuning the process of receiving and describing the images, clarifying the content of the images required, working with different formats (eg, printed photographs, slides, negatives and digital images), ensuring scanning and laptop equipment and software met the needs of the project as well as

ensuring images would be scanned and saved at the standard required for future upload to Picture QLD.

Training and trial runs were conducted over a month with the FOML volunteers until they became comfortable with the process. This included scanner and laptop training as well as some basic advice on how to interview customers for the descriptive information. Step by step scanning instructions on were also supplied. Guidelines were created to assist the FOML's in selecting images which will be of value to the collection.

Image sharing/ copying sessions have been advertised for twice a week (Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning) where either staff or FOML volunteers are available. The majority of customers are happy to wait whilst their images are scanned and this also allows time for the customer and a volunteer to fill in forms related to donation and copyright and to document the images descriptions. For customers who choose to share many photos (ie. 20-50 images), we will accept the photos on loan and make a future appointment with the customer to collect and describe the images once they are scanned and processed.

To date we have collected almost 200 valuable digital images as a result of this project. The images depict many areas, people and events within our region that we had limited resources on. We look forward to seeing what images we receive in the remaining few months and sharing them with the community in the new year.

DIGITISING THE DECADES

Make your precious images part of Mackay history....



Heritage Collection Staff at Mackay Regional Council Libraries are calling on members of the community to share historical images - depicting the region's history throughout the decades.

The library hosts an extensive collection of photographs and is looking to grow this wonderful resource by requesting your donation or lending of images for copying from ca. 1950 onward.

If you are interested in sharing your slice of history, dust off your old photographs, slides and albums from decades gone by and visit one of the Mackay City Library's image copying sessions.

Wednesdays - Mackay City Library 2pm > 4pm
Thursdays - Mackay City Library 10am > 12noon

- Some criteria apply
- Contact Library for further information

For further information
Mackay City Library 4961 9387
www.mackayqld.gov.au/libraries

 Mackay REGIONAL COUNCIL