

Report for Cooloola Human Services Network Annual General Meeting

Monday 31st March 2008

Cooloola Access Advisory Committee

Throughout 2007 the Cooloola Access Advisory Committee continued its hard work in:

- promoting the importance of access issues within the Cooloola community.
- providing an independent forum for discussing and investigating issues related to access and inclusion for all members of the Cooloola community.
- encouraging strong community involvement in identifying and resolving access related issues.
- making recommendations to council, business and community agencies on how best to improve access within the Shire for all members of the community, in order to enable better planning of new facilities and develop appropriate modifications to existing facilities.

2007 was the biggest year so far for the Committee. Highlights included:

- Providing seventeen submissions to Council on Development Applications across the Shire as a Third Party Advice Agency in Council's Planning Scheme.
- Presenting papers at two major events:
 - Community Resource Unit's biannual Conference in Brisbane
 - Disability Services Queensland's Shared Visions Regional Forum on the Sunshine Coast
- Presenting at Cooloola Shire Council's Growth & Economic Development Committee
- Auditing a number of public facilities and providing Access Reports with recommendations for improving access including the Sunshine Coast Airport, Centro Gympie, Dagon and Amamoor Stations and the Mary Valley Heritage Rattler, Member for Gympie's Electoral Office, Australia Post, Kenilworth, Gympie Landcare, Rainbow Shores and Cooloola's Visitor Information Centres.
- Assisting Tin Can Bay residents form a Scooter Club and lobbying Council and Department of Main Roads for improvements to Tin Can Bay Road safety for scooter users and pedestrians.
- Participating as a key player in the Sunshine Coast Regional Access and Equity Committee
- Ongoing collaboration with our partners, particularly:
 - Cooloola Regional Development Bureau – assisting in the production of 'Accessible Cooloola' sections in CRDB's website, in street maps of Gympie, Tin Can Bay, Rainbow Beach and Mary Valley and a feature in the 2007 Cooloola Holiday Guide.

- Cooloola Shire Council where staff have greatly assisted the Committee in its role, especially staff from Planning & Development, Design, Works and Parks & Gardens Departments.

I would specifically like to thank ALL our members who have made great personal contribution to the work of the Committee. In addition, I acknowledge:

- Cr Bill McIntyre for his fantastic contribution to the Committee over the past several years, as he now steps down from his Council representative role.
- Brian Arnold and Beryl Spencer who remain inspiring people to work alongside and shows us anything is possible
- Donna Smith, our consultant Occupational Therapist who has contributed countless hours, particularly in leading our audit and Development Application teams.
- Dianne Hughes who has continued to assist the Committee in a secretarial role, with funding generously provided to CHSN by Cooloola Shire Council.

We look forward to another successful year. Thank you to the Cooloola Human Services Network for your ongoing support.

Fiona Green
Chairperson