

THE SHIRE COMMUNITY

Introduction

The Johnstone Shire is a culturally diverse community. The traditional owners include the Ma:mu people (Innisfail area) and the Djiru people from Mission Beach area. The Shire population includes immigrants from around 63 countries, speaking 48 languages. There are approximately 46 religions practiced within the Shire. Christianity in its various denominations is the most followed, others include Animism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Sikh.

The Council is committed to providing and ensuring support for community issues, and to enhancing the environment for recreation.

News

The Innisfail Community Support Centre has identified a lack of public spaces as a problem. The support centre organises monthly groups to provide a space for isolated persons to socialise. Unfortunately, it is difficult to manage these groups whilst ensuring the privacy of other persons requiring support for very personal and sensitive issues.

There is a need for a public space, ideally a Community Centre, where persons experiencing isolation or facing discrimination can gain social contact in an environment regulated by staff to ensure openness and acceptance.

Whilst there are many societies and clubs operating in Innisfail, many of these groups are comprised of well-established locals. This can make it difficult for new persons or persons with differences to find acceptance. A community centre can be an interim place for persons experiencing social isolation.

A complimentary approach would be a focus on anti-discrimination education to clubs and community groups, to ensure that members are more open, and make social groups available to a wider range of people.

Collaboration between the community services could be improved. The services in the Shire are used to working independently. Ideally, community development work and the promotion of social capital should be centrally organised.



Pressure

- Individuals comprise a population. It is the interactions between individuals that comprises a community.

A supportive and healthy community shares the burden of difficult times, and supports and raises individuals in need. This is known as social capital.

Goals for a community include establishing:

- Neighbourliness
- Shared emotional connection
- A sense of place
- A sense of history
- Openness and welcome
- Altruism
- Civic participation

Pressures exist when the community is disparate, where people or groups are alienated from the majority, and where private interests are pursued at the expense of the welfare of others.

It is then that more institutional services are required to fulfil these community roles.

However, staffs within the services are too busy meeting current service requirements to conduct such organisational work. Council should take on this role as a central facilitator, so that the development would be unbiased, and owned by the community. Funding should be sourced to staff a community development worker, to coordinate collaboration between services, and to work towards improving social capital in the Shire.

Implications

- The demand on the community services depends on the state of the community.

Where the people are cooperative and supportive of one another in times of trouble then individuals are less likely to pass thresholds into problem states. There will then be lessened demand on the services to provide support.

An open and friendly community will welcome outsiders and their ideas—thus allowing the town to develop in innovative ways.

Good social bonds and positive directions will encourage youth to put energy into the community, particularly where they can see and have access to causing change.

Outsiders such as tourists will be better inclined to stay, where encouraged by hospitality, and where a thriving town displays its face to the world—through its cultural activities and in its built environment.

Economically, where people work together the critical mass for new industries can be achieved.

Innovation in Rural Queensland

The DPI in conjunction with Queensland University produced the report “Innovation in Rural Queensland – Why some towns thrive while others Languish” (Plowman et al. 2003). The research conducted at eight rural Queensland towns analysed how successfully these communities could cope with pressures to adapt to contemporary circumstances and changes. The report looked at what level of community resources existed to respond innovatively to create successful ideas, and at how possible it was for the community to overcome problems affecting the town.

Key Findings for Innisfail, compared to the other towns, were as follows. This information was based on interviews.

- Less innovative than a number of other participating towns.
- Perceived lack of depth in professionalism.
- Perceived poorer in external communication and freshness of ideas coming in from outside the town.
- Perceived adequate spare capacity to help out, more than in other towns.
- Innisfail residents had resided significantly longer in the town than any other, and longer

than those in the innovative towns.

- Little population fluctuation, innovative towns had an increasing population.
- Decline in the % of the pre-40 age group, and an increase in the post-40 age group. Innisfail was better than most in keeping its youth in the town.
- Over 40% of occupancies were rentals – highest of any of the towns.
- A high and stable percentage of the total population in the work force, and a declining % of unemployed.
- An increasing dependency on employment in agriculture, though this dependence was half that of the other towns.
- The retail trade equalled the number of people employed in agriculture.

Community Support

Innisfail Community Support Centre

The Support Centre continued to offer free counselling services and support programs, accessible to all in the community. The support centre has one fulltime community support worker and a part-time family support worker, as well as volunteers.

In 2003 the following programs were offered, in response to identified needs in the community.

- Parenting information sessions on various topics
- Stress Management program
- Tax help
- Grief and loss education for children who have experienced the death of someone close to them and/or whose parents have separated or divorced
- A program for women survivors of childhood sexual abuse
- Self esteem program for women
- Self esteem program for children

The support centre also coordinates a women’s group who meet monthly to socialise. Another group including men will be started in 2004.

Funding for the support centre is received from the Department of Families. Council provides the building the centre is housed within.

Most clients utilising the support centre are on social benefits, unemployed or under-employed. Despite recent economic tribulation in the

agricultural industries, there have been few visits from members of farming families, for support or to take advantage of the financial advice services offered. It is considered that this group of people have a reluctance to utilise the support facility, despite increasing dilemma.

The major problems identified through the persons requiring support services are those in the home - domestic violence and child abuse (mainly by family members). These problems are elevated in the Shire compared to other regions in Queensland.

Other issues affecting persons utilising the support centre are social isolation and severe depression. Availability of transport has been identified as an issue for disabled persons.

Innisfail Youth and Family Care

Innisfail Youth and Family Care provide services and facilities for youth and families. The youth shelter is a place for youth aged 12 to 21 who have nowhere else to go. Case management aims to increase their options, with job-seeking or further education. Where possible, family mediation attempts to restore homeless youth back to their families; however this is very seldom an option.

The service runs an emergency relief program with money available to provide food stamps or other aid.

Crisis accommodation for families is available in the form of a duplex with two separate units. This accommodation is short-term (3 months). There is unfortunately a huge demand for this housing. While the goal is accessible emergency housing, there can be a six month waiting period.

The service also provides 6 units, which are long-term accommodation for homeless youth. This allows youth to transition from the shelter when they have no other option. It remains difficult for staff to provide adequate support for the youth occupying this accommodation.

These accommodation facilities are funded by the Department of Housing.

Another facility provided is the Boiler Room, which provides a recreational venue for youth who would not normally engage in typical organised activities. The facility survives on Council funding, however due to costs the opening hours have been significantly cut.

The service's major work is with youth homelessness. Unfortunately there are no simple reasons for this problem in the Shire, and each individual case is different. There may be some tendency for modern families to give up on their children more easily, when faced with problems.

Council

The Council's Domestic Violence Officer offers support to men or women suffering domestic violence. The DVO was established as a permanent position in February 2003, so access to DV service has improved. The establishment of a DV worker in Tully has also helped with the demand for support.

The Council provides support information, referrals, help with DV applications, court support, and crisis accommodation (one 3 bedroom house, and two 2 bedroom units – all are fully furnished and low rent). The Council is also linked with the Tableland Women's Facility to offer further accommodation and support.

An identified need is that the demand for support is too great for the officers currently employed. Prevention of domestic violence was promoted by the Council during DV week in 2003.

Respite

Council

Council offers respite through for 164 clients, under the Health and Community Care (HACC) program. The Respite Care Centre offers social contact and support for older people and younger disabled. The service also operates in Kurrimine on Mondays.

A bus service is provided to transfer clients who have difficulty getting out of the home. The



respite involves clients in activities, outings and lunches for an average of 20 clients a day.

Other services include the home maintenance program – which provides lawn mowing for those incapable of heavy work. In-home respite is also provided, particularly to allow regular carers to take a break.

A podiatrist and an exercise physiologist regularly attend the respite clients. They help to keep clients mobile and active in life.

The Respite Centre was involved with the International Day of Disability. A concert was organised in Alan Maruff House, which was attended by 100 people.

The purpose of the respite is to get people who often have no regular social contact, or who live in remote areas, out from their homes and into a social environment. Demand on the service outstrips the supply. Significant waiting lists exist; of 16 persons for respite, 8 persons for in-home care, and 20 persons for the home maintenance.

Needs are likely to continue to increase in the future, as the proportion of aged people in the community increases. The Shire already has a disproportionate percentage of aged persons compared to the Queensland average. Continual increases in funding will be essential for services to cope with the growing demand.

Chjowai

Chjowai facilitate respite provision for mainly indigenous clients. The program operates on Tuesdays outside the centre, and on Thursday for indoor respite. This is a HACC program which includes domestic assistance, social support and visits to isolated persons, transport, shopping trips, and home maintenance. There is personal help at the centre with filling out forms, or with social welfare referrals. The Chjowai Hall is available for hire, or for conferences.

Emergency relief is another service provided; this is shared with organisations such as St. Vincent de Pauls.

Chjowai used to organise a playgroup for young children, unfortunately raised insurance costs forced the cancellation of this program.



Multiculturalism

Cross Cultural Awareness Training is regularly organised for Council staff. Approximately 63% of staff were trained during 2003. This brings training levels to 80%, even despite staff turnover. Multicultural Affairs Queensland conducts the free training. They have also conducted a few community training sessions in the Shire. Council's focus has been to organise in-house training first and then expand out to the wider community. The training will ensure that Council is approachable and that service provision is culturally sensitive.

Similar training on Council's Community Relationship Plan, and on Equal Opportunity Employment is carried out with all new staff.

The Kulture Karnivale, organised by Council, is the Shire's greatest annual celebration of cultural diversity. It has advantages also at the organisational level because it brings cultural groups together, introducing them to one another and to Council's departments.

The attendance at the Karnivale increased by another thousand people in 2003. The Karnivale gives community groups the opportunity to engage the public. It encourages the display of pride in culture, and in integration without conformity.

The Cultural Reference Group meets every second month. The group promotes networking between persons working in the multicultural sector. Information sharing at these meetings ensures that issues are identified so that service provision meets the needs of the community.

Arts Queensland conducted information sessions

in 2003 as the request of the Hmong Queensland Association. This led to a grant for workshops to pass on knowledge of the traditional Hmong musical instrument. The instrument is essential to rituals involving spirit knowledge, and is therefore an important part of Hmong spirituality. The workshops passed on the skills required to keep the cultural knowledge alive.

Promotion

Three separate promotions to increase awareness of the community services available were conducted. These occurred under the Kulture Karnivale banner, but included general services such as respite, counselling, etc.

Council's multicultural officer did presentations to students in TAFE language classes. Included was information on how Council works and the services provided. This was part of an objective to make Council accessible to persons new in the Shire, or to Australia.

Council's efforts towards multiculturalism under the State LAMP program were presented at the National Local Government Conference in Townsville. Promoting work in the Shire has given other Councils the opportunity to learn from our ideas.



It is important to the Djiru people, as development at Mission Beach expands, that they too benefit. It is important that future generations of the Djiru have a place and opportunity at Mission Beach.

There are places at Mission beach which are traditionally significant areas and are still in use today. However, other such places have become inaccessible to the Djiru.

Traditional Owners

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act was passed in 2003. It is yet to commence (2004), but thenceforth will affect all new projects and developments that occur in Queensland. Traditional owners will have to be consulted. How the Act will be interpreted, and how it will advantage the traditional owners is still to be seen.

The economic downturn in the agricultural industries will affect the Shire's aboriginal people, many of whom work in this capacity. There is hope that tourism will offer an alternative avenue for employment, but there is concern that much of this indigenous tourism will not be directly owned by the people.

The Djiru People

The Djiru run a facility at Clump Mountain, Mission Beach. They attend to the needs of groups of 'at risk' youth, and offer camping and cultural education to private groups also.

The Ma:mu People

The development of bush tucker marketing programs is proving a successful avenue for the Ma:mu.

Women's business is attended to by the Ma:mu 'Grandmothers'. The Grandmothers are involved in issues affecting the Ma:mu people, and also provide support to young indigenous women. The Grandmothers conduct voluntary work with indigenous girls at the high school, teaching the stories and the culture, and also being there to provide emotional support. Many of the girls they work with do not have elders in their direct family to learn from.

The Ma:mu elders are concerned that they are not consulted often enough on local issues. A case in point is the proposed dredging of the Johnstone River. The flats at the river mouth sustain many yabbies and fish which the Ma:mu utilise. The Ma:mu have not been invited to contribute to discussions concerning the dredging.

Few changes occurred to the provision of general health in 2003.

Many of the specialists services are provided through outreach from Cairns. This includes gynaecology, obstetrics, psychiatry, additional surgeons. These specialists visit at regular intervals.

An ear, nose and throat specialist will soon be available at the Cairns base hospital. This was a service identified as an important need for the Shire, and the region.

The hospital will undertake redevelopment of two of its buildings in 2004. This will help to improve the current organisation of clinical services.

The redevelopment will impact on aged care. A national policy to reduce high-need long-term care provision from hospitals will mean Warrina Home will take on this role. The Home will receive the equivalent funding, ultimately however the total number of beds available for aged will be greatly reduced.

Mental Health

Mental Health services continued to improve in 2003. The services, based at the hospital, secured funding for a psychiatrist to work 2 ½ days per week in the district. Recruitment of this person will occur in 2004. Similarly, an early intervention project officer will start in 2004, who will work with the region’s hospitals and community service providers towards suicide prevention.

Pressure on the Shire’s mental health services has been reduced with new district facilities. A new service was opened in offices in Babinda, and another service will operate from the community health centre in Cardwell.

Support for the Mental Health service’s consumers and their carers continued. There is a monthly recreational group for consumers, this used to be fortnightly in previous years, but is still regular. A carer group provides advice and support for the carers. An annual consumer and carer forum is conducted, to improve service provision and to identify needs in the community. The mental health services worked towards establishing community connectedness through a series of promotions with the Healthy Communities project. Improving the social fabric

Innisfail Hospital		
2000/2001	2001/2002	2002/2003
Day Only admitted patient episodes of care		
1,720	1,677	1,656
Total admitted patient episodes of care		
5,564	5,443	5,552
% Day-only episodes of care		
30.9%	30.8%	29.8%
Total admitted patient accrued days		
35,192	33,425	31,361
Daily average occupied beds		
96	92	86
Chargeable episodes of care as a % of total episodes of care (excluding unqualified newborns)		
28.5%	24.9%	23.2%
Total non-admitted patient occasions of service		
80,015	83,709	85,189
Total number of babies born in the hospital		
303	276	244

Source: Qld Health Annual Report 2002-2003
– Acute public hospital activity data

of the community can help people to help each other avoid mental health problems. A whole of community approach was complemented with a series of small grants for projects and groups.

Projects conducted occurred:

- Promotion of mental health services in the district, at the Harvest festival
- A skate competition
- An indigenous mental health workshop – Jingili
- A media campaign
- Community connectedness work
- Revitalisation of Cowley beach
- Funding for a community services respite project.

The mental health services are hoping to continue this work, subject to an evaluation being done in 2004.

Additionally, there will hopefully be more staff enhancements over the next number of years, to increase the service provision for the district.

Council

Affordable Housing for aged pensioners was improved with the replacement of two units in Ibis street. The Department of Housing funded this, with \$20K in-kind support from Council. Another grant like this has been applied for, to replace units in Martin Street, one of which has been deemed unliveable. Currently, 30 low cost housing spaces exist for the aged. A waiting list of 17 applicants existed at the end of 2003.

New State Housing legislation raised rent for affordable housing tenants. This increase was incremented in three stages over nine months. Fortunately for tenants, the greater part of the increase is counter-balanced by additional Rent Assistance from Centrelink.

The effect of the policy change has been to ensure long-term financial stability for affordable housing programs run by Councils. These programs will now run on rent revenue rather than depending on revenue from rates.

Council also runs the Lakes Residential Village, for independent retirees. 30 spaces exist here, with a waiting list of 14 applicants.

Wet Tropics Community Housing

Wet Tropics Community Housing Scheme provides transitional housing for low-income applicants waiting on the public housing list. Tenants must move out when public housing becomes available, unless there are extenuating circumstances. The scheme also offers the opportunity for tenants in debt to the Department of Housing to repay their debt and become re-eligible for public housing.

The service increased the number of available properties greatly during 2003 – to 50 houses and units. The service now extends regionally from Tully to Babinda.

5 groups are targeted by the scheme:

- Persons with disability
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- Youth
- Single persons
- Women escaping domestic violence

Where persons have specialised support needs, these are met by other service organisations. The scheme does offer a program of assistance with

the purchase of whitegoods.

Despite the number of properties available, there is a large waiting list – approximately 100 families or individuals are on the applicant waiting list.

Chjowai

Chjowai offers community housing mainly for indigenous persons. They have 43 properties under this scheme.

Rates are the major impact on Chjowai's generated funds. In order to expand their housing services, whilst maintaining supportive rent rates for the clients, Chjowai are interested in discussing avenues with Council to reduce the rate burden.

Department of Housing

Good provision of public housing is offered in Innisfail. 155 houses exist in total, with waiting periods for applicants of 6 months to 72 months (the waiting list details change every quarter). The number of properties remained the same during 2003. When last reviewed the following information was available.

Accommodation Type	No.	Av. Wait (months)
1 bdrm seniors units	19	72
1 bdrm apartments	6	60
2 bdrm townhouses	4	24
2 bdrm duplexes	22	36
3 bdrm houses	69	40
4 bdrm houses	19	24
5 bdrm houses	2	18

Department of Housing Accommodation

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Program provides 50 properties in Innisfail. Wait times vary from a minimum of 12 months to 60 months.



The situation for Youth in the Shire has improved greatly, mainly due to the increasing number of activities being organised. This will further improve, with new direction and funding happening at the PCYC and through Council.

PCYC

The goal at the PCYC is to create an environment where youth can interact and enjoy themselves, without drugs and alcohol.

In 2003 the PCYC organised:

- High school and junior dances.
- 2 sleepovers with movies, sport and activities; attended by ~100 teenagers each.
- 2 Skateboard competitions (with Council).

The PCYC was very successful in attracting grants and funding for projects expected to commence in 2004. Funding was gained for:

- New basketball facilities.
- Gym equipment.
- A weights room and seating in the main hall – local business sponsors contributed.
- Running 5 youth camps.
- An extra bus

Future plans involve gaining funding to set up a Pulse Café – where youth will have unstructured access to games, movies, a recording studio, a website, and where bands can play music. A mezzanine floor area is also planned – as a viewing area for sport events.

The PCYC also organises an after school care program for ~60 children, involving activities and some help with homework. During the holidays they care for ~100 children per day.

Council

Council contributed to the wellbeing of youth through a number of activities and plans. However, the main identified problem has been a lack of participation, rather than a lack of activities.

The Council organises the Youth Advisory Committee (Youth ALYV), made up of 8 youths in 2003. Unfortunately, membership of this committee is usually down by the end of each year, as the youth involved leave the Shire to go to university or to work. Addressing youth needs has been planned for 2004, with the Youth ALYV members applying for a grant to hold a Youth Forum - to 'get out and get involved' to



Graffiti art at the SK8 park

increase participation. The Forum will showcase organisations such as the PCYC, Interact, and the Youth ALYV.

Graffiti workshops were a well-attended activity for youth in 2003. This was a joint project funded under the Graffiti Solutions Program and organised between Council, the Rotary club of Fitzgerald, Innisfail Police, and the Boiler Room. Workshops were carried out over 8 weekends, with the finale being the decoration of the Innisfail Skate Park. The project provided a creative outlet for youth, helped bridge the generation gap, and also educated about the dangers of inhalant abuse.

The SK8 competition in August was a successful follow up. This was funded under a Healthy Communities grant. Skaters from around the region attended the competition.

Council has reintroduced the Sports Star of the Year awards, after a gap of 18 years. The Innisfail Advocate and the Rotary Club of Innisfail have helped in this promotion of sports.

Students enjoyed playing professionals and councillors during Junior Council Week as part of Local Government Week. Another activity organised was a colouring competition for younger students. As a result a local girl won at both regional and state levels.



Johnstone SK8 Park

An identified need in the 2000 SoS benchmark was the need for adequate provision of facilities for unstructured activity by Youth. With the provision of the Skate Park, and local bikeways underway there are no plans for provision of further facilities. The Council will instead concentrate on promoting participation.

Innisfail Youth Shelter

The Innisfail Youth Shelter received funding and have been able to provide an extra part-time youth worker.

Education

School enrolment did not change greatly from 2002 to 2003.

PRIMARY			
Public		Private	
El Arish	70	Innisfail	373
Silkwood	124	Silkwood	48
Moresby	32	South Johnstone	120
Mourilyan	179		
Mena Creek	50		
South Johnstone	54		
Mundoo	87		
Flying Fish Point	85		
Innisfail SS	310		
Innisfail East SS	270		
Palmerston East	25		
Innisfail Inclusive Education Centre	17		
Goondi	402		
TOTAL	1705	TOTAL	541
SECONDARY			
Public		Private	
Innisfail State High School	795	Good Counsel	548
TERTIARY			
Innisfail TAFE	711		

In 2003 the TAFE institute reintroduced visual arts, and a conservation and land management course.



Art Deco trim at the new Target

JSCA

The Johnstone Shire Cultural Association is a not-for-profit association in receipt of operational funding from the Council. The JSCA in 2003 was involved in the following programs:

- International Women's Day Breakfast
- Council's Centenary Celebrations
- Disability Week arts workshops & forum
- Kulture Karnivale
- Innisfail Harvest Festival

Australian Sugar Industry Museum

In March 2003 the Australian Sugar Industry Museum identified the need for \$100,000 support to continue operations. The Queensland Sugar Industry (QSI) was requested to continue this financial support. The QSI decided that, given the state of the industry, it could no longer provide financial support for the Museum. This has meant that the long-term future of the sugar museum and regional art gallery space is now uncertain.

Biennial Art Exhibition

Innisfail's Biennial Art Exhibition occurred again in 2003. The number of entries increased from previous years, and the opening night saw an excellent crowd. Prize moneys offered were larger and non-acquisitive—this encouraged a number of well-recognised artists to participate. The community has become more involved in the recognition of visual art. This may be due to exposure to art and local artists at the gallery in the Central Arcade.

Council Library

The Innisfail Council Library has an active membership of ~41% of the Shire's community. 1083 people joined during the year, and 104,846 people visited. The Library offers programs such as Internet training, talks by authors, and activities for children.

Brothers Leagues Club Innisfail

Brother Leagues Club is a major social centre for many people in the Shire, and comprises ~4000 members. The Club provides for a range of age groups—the average membership age is 46. The club offers bingo and fun mornings for the aged during the week, as well as affordable lunches

Events – Calendar 2003

Australia Day celebration
International Women's Day
Youth Express
Lest We Forget run
Festival of the Three Saints
Innisfail Ballet and Dance Competition
Council Centenary Celebrations
Innisfail Annual Show
Outrigger Regatta
Kulture Karnival
Drag Racing
Ulysses Bike Run
Innisfail Bill Fish Tournament
Brothers Football Club Rodeo
Innisfail Art Society Biennial Art Exhibition
Flying Fish Fishing Competition
Innisfail Annual Races
Innisfail Art Deco Harvest Festival
Opera at Paronella Park
Innisfail Eisteddfod
Art Deco Ball
Exhibitions and Workshops at Sugarama



Innisfail Fire Station

It is also hoped that promotion of the town in this manner will help attract tourism. Town walks and interpretive signs are planned to make art deco more accessible to tourists.

A Street Scape Plan may be introduced in the future to further ensure the preservation of art deco in the town centre.

and food.

The club supports the local football team, and sponsors the Innisfail netball. Other community sporting clubs are supported through the facilities available; on Saturday mornings the club is open for raffles and other fund raising.

An average of 200 people attend lunches at the club on weekdays. Friday and Saturday nights, as well as Saturday lunches experience an average of 350 in the club building.

Art Deco

2003 saw further promotion of Art Deco culture in the Shire, particularly Innisfail. Council included an Art Deco Policy to the Shire Plan – facades on new building work may have to match the art deco character of the town before Council passes approval. The best example of this is the new Country Target, which has excelled in complying with this condition.

The other major push has been to repaint the building facades on Innisfail's main streets with art deco colours. A number of businesses in Edith Street have followed this lead, also repainted was the Innisfail Fire Station. Council's Shire Hall and Brother's leagues club are also planning to follow suit, as are many other buildings in the town. The aim has been to preserve the buildings and to give the town a pride of character, and to inspire a 'sense of place' in residents.

The Art Deco Society held a number of events including:

- The Inaugural Art DecoBall
- A cocktail party
- Jazz and Croquet at Paronella Park
- The Art Deco theme at the Harvest Festival
- The Council Centenary Celebrations which involved a number of actions including – art deco costumes and the dress up of shop fronts, a market in the park, a band, the performance of "Find me at the Federal", and a football match.

It is considered that the creative push in a unified direction has resulted in a general increase in creative inspiration. Some examples include books that have been written about the art deco period in Innisfail, a photographic workshop on interiors, costuming and crafts, as well as the adoption of the art deco style by a local winery. The society is funded under Regional Arts Development Funding (RADF).



Art Deco at Target Country

Crime

Statistics for crime are summarised in the table opposite. There may be some problems in comparing the data to the rest of Queensland, due to the success and focus of the local police force.

From these statistics it is noticeable that the rate of assaults are somewhat higher than the State average. Disturbingly, sexual offences are significantly higher. The category of crimes against the person has risen since 1998-1999.

Drug offences and good order offences are also noticeable higher than the State average, though this category declined.

Johnstone Shire is well below the State average for Offences against Property. There are far fewer of these types of crimes – at 2/5 of the rate over the entirety of Queensland. This also was lower over time.

The police force has been looking at crime prevention through partnerships with the support services. Crime incidents are frequently related to income, family or substance abuse problems, often incorporating a number of these issues.

Consent to conduct family conferencing is established with a household experiencing such problems. This allows support agencies to take the affected family through the options available towards solutions. It is an innovative program, and may achieve success through its focus on the causes. The process also takes power away from the perpetrator and returns it to the family.

Crimes 2003	Public Breach				Drink Motor		
	Person	Pty.	Order	DVO	Drugs	Drive	Vcl.
Innisfail	162	557	268	47	183	143	33
El Arish	2	5	3	0	23	9	0
M. Beach	25	133	19	3	80	49	10
Mourilyan	2	19	6	6	33	19	5
Silkwood	9	27	5	1	32	20	6
S. Johnst.	19	46	9	3	30	15	2
Total	219	787	310	60	381	255	56

Summarised small area crime profiles 2001-2002

(Rates per 10000 persons)

Johnstone LGA
(estimated population 19,383 at 2001 census)

Offences against the person

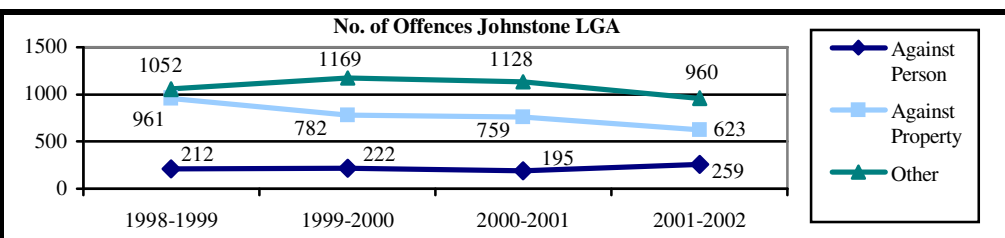
	No.	LGA Rate	Qld Rate
Homicide	2	10	7
Serious assault	75	387	316
Other assault	54	279	208
Sexual offences	64	330	178
Armed robbery	1	5	45
Unarmed robbery	2	10	16
Extortion	0	0	2
Kidnapping etc	0	0	9
Other	61	315	304
Total	259	1336	1085

Offences against property

Unlawful entry with intent			
Dwelling	54	279	1091
Shop	27	139	237
Other	48	248	600
Arson	5	26	73
Other property damage	153	789	1414
Motor vehicle theft	74	382	1592
Stealing from			
Dwelling	26	134	241
Shop	42	217	392
Other	145	748	1600
Fraud	30	155	689
Handling stolen goods	19	98	164
Total	623	3214	8094

Other Offences

Drug offences	354	1826	889
Prostitution offences	0	0	22
Liquor (excluding drunkenness)	11	57	47
Good order offences	153	789	412
Stock related offences	0	0	6
Total	960	4953	2866



Conclusion

Social Capital in the Shire was promoted by the community service agencies during 2003. Of success has been the community's response to festivals and events that were organised.

However there is still a great demand on the service provision. Staff are not able to deal with all clients, and where infrastructure services are available there are long waiting lists.

This is despite there being some increase in staff and facilities available in 2003. Clearly, where possible more funding for workers and projects should be sourced.

Future Direction

Recently, there has been a change in the approach to problems in the community. Rather than solely attempt to meet the needs of client who are experiencing difficulty, there has been direction to heal the community as a whole.

The goal is that where the community has healthy interrelationships, individuals will be less likely to develop troubles. There will also be a support network of neighbours where friends and family are not available.

Ideally, this building of social capital through actions and programs by the community services will in time decrease the need for community service provision.

Report Card for the Shire Community

OVERALL GRADE

B-

Criteria	Grade	Recommendation Group	Explanation
Action on recommendations 12 of 14 recommendations actioned to date	A	Community Services Education Health Public transport	-Community services addressed almost every need identified in the benchmark. -Alternate pathways are available. -Health specialists out reach from Cairns. -Low level public transport is available.
Filling deficiencies in data	C+	All	-DPI Innovation report helped identify some challenges for leaders and the attitudes of the community. -No further work since Needs Analysis required.
State of the Shire	C	Community Community Services Health Recreation	-Participation by the community in events and culture is increasing. Demands on services are remain high. -Provision of services remains at threshold levels. Networking between service providers is increasing. -Additional outreach from Cairns. -Provision has improved but participation by youth is still low.
Goal Achievement	C	All	-Low levels of goal achievement continued in 2003. Most effort was expended coping with current community needs.
Community Awareness	B	All	-Promotion of the community services was conducted, by Council and by Mental Health.