ORDINARY MEETING 29 OCTOBER 2025	5.8

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS CAIRNS CELEBRATES 150 YEARS GRANT

L&C | 63/18/1 | #7616836

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. **Approves $193,000 (ex GST) funding, $90,000 (ex GST) from 2025/2026 Community Partnerships Grant stream and $103,000 (ex GST) from 2026/2027 Community Partnerships Grant stream to the following applicants:**

   a) **Babinda District Community Association Inc for 150 Years of Farming in the Cairns Region to the value of $10,000 (ex GST).**

   b) **Cairns and District Family History Society Incorporated for Shadows from the Past to the value of $3,000 (ex GST).**

   c) **Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. for Cairns Churches Celebrate 150 Years to the value of $20,000 (ex GST).**

   d) **Cairns Multicultural Committee for the CARMA Multicultural Festival to the value of $20,000 (ex GST).**

   e) **Cairns Photographic Society for the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Official Program to the value of $25,000 (ex GST).**

   f) **Cairns Ukulele Club Inc. for the Cairns Ukulele Festival – Reunion Edition to the value of $25,000 (ex GST).**

   g) **Cairns Water Sports Incorporated for Wake of History: From Record-Breaking Ski to World-Class Wake – Honouring Our Waterski Heritage, Showcasing Today's Wakeboarding Elite, and the Future of Adventure Watersports to the value of $25,000 (ex GST).**

   h) **FNQ RL Ltd for the Foley Shield 2026 to the value of $15,000 (ex GST).**

   i) **Himalayan Organisation for Multicultural Communities Inc for the UNITY CUP 2026 - Multicultural Soccer Carnival to the value of $10,000 (ex GST).**

   j) **Of One Mind Limited for WOW – Women of the World Festival Cairns Celebrating 150 (000+) years of the women of Cairns to the value of $5,000 (ex GST).**

   k) **Returned and Services League of Australia (Qld Branch) Cairns Sub Branch Inc. for Cairns Cenotaph – 100 Years to the value of $5,000 (ex GST).**

l) **The Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc for the Three Moons 150 Years Cairns Chinese Celebration to the value of $20,000 (ex GST).**

m) **The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns for St Andrews Catholic College – 25th Anniversary Celebrations: Festival, Alumni Q & A, and Time Capsule to the value of $10,000 (ex GST).**

2. **Delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2009* to finalise any and all matters relating to the above funding agreements.**

INTERESTED PARTIES:

See Attachment 1.
Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2026, Cairns will mark an extraordinary milestone – 150 years since its official founding in 1876. The once-in-a-lifetime celebration is more than just a commemoration, it's a bold, city-wide opportunity to honour our past, embrace our present and shape the future of one of Australia's most vibrant and diverse regional centres.

Council has invited community groups to apply for support to deliver events and activities that specifically celebrate this important milestone and by doing so, participate in the Official Program.

Support for this opportunity has been provided through the Community Partnerships Grant stream, with 21 applications received and a total of $407,060 (ex GST) requested. Council officers recommend funding 13 applications to a total value of $193,000 (ex GST).

BACKGROUND:

The Cairns Celebrates 150 years Official Program will include a year-long calendar of events and initiatives to showcase the cultural richness, community spirit and enduring legacy of the people, places and industries that have shaped Cairns over a century and a half.

The Official Program will include a diverse selection of activities and events delivered by the whole community - from schools to local businesses and community organisations.

While many of the events to be included in the Official Program are not funded by council, community groups were encouraged to develop events and activities that would celebrate the milestone in relation to their organisation/cohort.

The following criteria was applied to the funding round:

- Describe your celebratory event in detail - including what celebratory activities will feature at the event, and if the event has been held before, what are the special celebratory components to be introduced. (20% weighting)

- How does your event celebrate Cairns turning 150 years, benefit the community overall and foster community pride. (60% weighting)
- Demonstrate your experience and ability to plan, manage and deliver your event (20% weighting)

The Cairns Celebrates Grant round is managed through the Community Partnerships Grant stream. This stream provides assistance through cash and the provision of Council venues and resources. The maximum amount per application is $25,000 (ex GST).

The following applications for Community Partnerships Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Grant Round have been received:

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)	Amount recommended (ex GST)
Babinda District Community Association Inc	150 Years of Farming in the Cairns Region	2026	$25,000	$10,000
Cairns and District Family History Society Incorporated	Shadows from the Past	25 Jul-23 Aug 2026	$3,000	$3,000
Cairns Art Society Inc	Cairns International Mokuhanga Exhibition	9 Sept-31 Oct 2026	$25,000	$0
Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc.	Cairns Churches Celebrate 150 Years	18 Apr 2026	$25,000	$20,000
Cairns City Kennel Club Inc	Cairns Dog Sports Spectacular Spring 2026	10-13 Sept 2026	$4,130	$0
Cairns Multicultural Committee	CARMA Multicultural Festival	26-27 Sept 2026	$25,000	$20,000
Cairns Photographic Society	Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Official Program	2026	$25,000	$25,000
Cairns Tennis Club Inc.	Tennis Carnival	30-31 May 2026	$11,000	$0
Cairns Ukulele Club Inc.	Cairns Ukulele Festival – Reunion Edition	26-31 Aug 2026	$25,000	$25,000
Cairns Water Sports Incorporated	Wake of History: From Record-Breaking Ski to World Class Wake – Honouring our Waterski Heritage, Showcasing Today's Wakeboarding Elite and the Future of Adventure Watersports.	1-4 Oct 2026	$25,000	$25,000
FNQ RL Ltd	Foley Shield 2026	2-4 May 2026	$15,000	$15,000
FNQ Thai Community Inc	Thai Multicultural for the Grand Parade Celebrates the Cairns 150th year anniversary in 2026	29 Aug 2026	$23,000	$0
GOPIO Cairns Inc	Cairns & India: 150 Years Together – Heritage Day & Future Forum	26 Jan 2026	$25,000	$0
Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club Inc.	2026 Hekili Great Barrier Reef Ocean Challenge	31 May-6 Jun 2026	$8,000	$0

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)	Amount recommended (ex GST)
	(GBROC) & Mini G – Celebrating 15 years			
Himalayan Organisation for Multicultural Communities Inc	UNITY CUP 2026 - Multicultural Soccer Carnival	10-11 Jul 2026	$25,000	$10,000
Just Us Theatre Ensemble	Theatre Season Celebration: The Accidental Bride	21-30 May 2026	$25,000	$0
Of One Mind Limited	WOW – Women of the World Festival Cairns Celebrating 150 years (000+) of the Women of Cairns	5 Jan-30 Aug 2026	$25,000	$5,000
Returned and Services League of Australia (Qld Branch) Cairns Sub Branch Inc.	Cairns Cenotaph – 100 Years	5 Jun 2026	$5,000	$5,000
Study Cairns Inc	Global Table: Sharing Cultures, Stories & Flavours	14 Feb 2026	$23,000	$0
The Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc	Three Moons 150 Years Cairns Chinese Celebration	25-27 Sept 2026	$25,000	$20,000
The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns	St Andrews Catholic College – 25th Anniversary Celebrations: Festival, Alumni Q & A, and Time Capsule	8-15 Aug 2026	$15,000	$10,000
Total			**$407,060**	**$193,000**

COMMENT:

Babinda District Community Association Inc for 150 Years of Farming in the Cairns Region to the value of $10,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 2026

The Babinda District Community Association Inc, in collaboration with the Babinda Museum is preparing an exhibition to honour the past 150 Years of Farming in the Cairns Region.

Held throughout 2026, the exhibition will celebrate the region's rich agricultural heritage and the diverse communities that helped shape it. Located behind the Babinda Museum, the exhibition will feature refurbished historical farming machinery, interactive displays, and storytelling panels that honour the pioneering spirit of early migrants and the evolution of farming practices across the Cairns region. From sugar cane and banana plantations to cattle grazing and tropical crop cultivation, the exhibition will highlight the resilience, innovation and community spirit that have defined the region's agricultural journey.

The exhibition will officially launch with a special community event on 5 May 2026, offering an opportunity for residents and visitors to come together in celebration. The launch will

include guest speakers, live entertainment, and light refreshments, with free entry for all attendees.

Over 2,000 residents and visitors are anticipated to visit the exhibition over the exhibition period.

Since 2018, Council resolved to support Babinda District Community Association Inc to a total value of $98,885 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (Ex GST)
2024/2025	Christmas in Babinda 2024	$3,500
2024/2025	Babinda Taskforce	$15,000
2023/2024	Business Plan for Babinda Museum	$5,000
2023/2024	Babinda Taskforce	$15,000
2023/2024	Christmas in Babinda 2023	$3,500
2022/2023	Destination Signage and Museum Walk Extension	$7,985
2022/2023	Babinda Taskforce	$15,000
2021/2022	Babinda Taskforce	$15,000
2021/2022	2021 NAIDOC Celebration & Cultural Awareness Training	$2,000
2019-2022	Christmas in Babinda 2019, 2021, 2022	$11,400
2018/ 2019	Christmas in Babinda 2018	$5,500

Babinda District Community Association Inc is requesting $25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $10,000 cash (ex GST).

Cairns and District Family History Society Incorporated for Shadows from the Past to the value of $3,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 25 July – 23 August 2026

Shadows from the Past is a dramatized evening walk through the McLeod Street Cemetery. Under the creative direction of a professional artistic director, local actors embody the voices of Cairns' earliest settlers, sharing stories of the individuals laid to rest in this historic site. The production honours the legacy of those who helped shape Cairns from pioneering families and migrants to notable figures whose contributions still echo through the community today.

Council currently has a three-year Resource and Agreement (1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027) in place with the organisation to support their annual production of Shadows from the Past to the value of $12,500 (ex GST) per year. This agreement allows for eight performances.

The organisation is requesting additional support to expand the annual program for the celebratory year to 16 performances.

Since 2020, Council resolved to support the Cairns and District Family History Society Incorporated to a total value of $61,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	Shadows from the Past	$12,500
2023/2024	Shadows from the Past	$12,500
2020/2021	Shadows from the Past	$36,000

The Cairns and District Family History Society Incorporated is requesting $3,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the additional performances.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $3,000 cash (ex GST).

Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. for Cairns Churches Celebrate 150 Years to the value of $20,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 18 April 2026

The Cairns Churches Celebrate 150 Years event will honour the historical role of the church in Cairns, honouring its historical influence and ongoing mission of compassion, hope and community service. This celebration will reflect on the spiritual, social, and cultural contributions of faith communities across the region, from the earliest congregations to the network of churches and ministries active today.

Focusing on the theme 'Coming of the Light,' the event will highlight the vital role local churches, faith-based organisations, and community services such as Rosies and Cairns Street Chaplains play in supporting the vulnerable cohorts in the region.

Held at Fogarty Park, the free celebration will be an inclusive gathering for people of all ages and backgrounds to attend. The event will feature internationally renowned performers, talented local Cairns Christian bands, food stalls, children's entertainment, and a fireworks finale. It is expected that over 3,500 people will join in the celebrations.

Since 2020, Council resolved to support the Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. to the value of $81,200 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks 2025	$20,000
2024/2025	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks 2024	$18,200
2023/2024	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks 2023	$13,000
2022/2023	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks 2022	$11,000
2021/2022	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks 2021	$11,000
2020/2021	Christmas Carols and Fireworks 2020	$8,000

Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. is requesting $25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $20,000 (ex GST) consisting of $12,300 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of $7,700 (ex GST).

Cairns Multicultural Committee for the CARMA Multicultural Festival to the value of $20,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 26 - 27 September 2026

The CARMA Multicultural Festival will celebrate 25 years in 2026. Originating as the Tropical Wave Festival, the event aims to unite all community groups in celebrating, sharing, and preserving the rich cultural diversity of the Cairns region.

Held in Fogarty Park on Saturday 26 September 2026, the free festival will feature over 50 community and multicultural groups showcasing their culture through storytelling, history, food, performances, arts and crafts, music, and other activities. It is expected that over 10,000 people will join in the celebrations.

A new edition to the event will feature an International Village consisting of ten culturally themed huts constructed in collaboration with local businesses, the Cairns Botanical Gardens and cultural communities. Each hut will serve as a cultural display, showcasing heritage, history, and artefacts throughout the past 150 years.

The festival celebrations will conclude with a community mass on Sunday, all are welcome to attend.

Since 2021 Council resolved to support the Cairns Multicultural Committee to the value of $110,100 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	CARMA Multicultural Festival 2025	$20,000
2024/2025	CARMA Festival and Youth Peace Finale 2024	$20,000
2023/2024	Cairns Multicultural Festival 2023	$18,100
2022/2023	Cairns CARMA Youth Empowerment 'Cairns Youth Got Talent' 2023	$17,000
2022/2023	Cairns CARMA Multicultural Festival & Youth Empowerment & Peace Finale 2022	$25,000
2021/2022	Cairns CARMA Multicultural Festival & Youth Empowerment & Peace Finale	$10,000

Cairns Multicultural Committee is requesting $25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $20,000 (ex GST) consisting of $4,200 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of $15,800 (ex GST).

Cairns Photographic Society for Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Official Program to the value of $25,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 2026

The Cairns Photographic Society is a small photography club, made up of members who have a passionate interest in photography. The organisation does not charge, or usually provide, professional photography services, instead preferring to meet on a regular basis and share their photographic journeys.

Officers recognise the importance of recording the events and activities contained within the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Official Program and that an official record will provide an important legacy item for the city.

The organisation is proposing to record all events and activities that are not covered by existing Council budgets for photography or community events that do not usually pay for photographic services.

The funding requested will assist the Society to reimburse volunteer photographers for out-of-pocket expenses as well as supporting a Celebratory Photographic Exhibition at the Tanks in early 2027.

Since 2016 Council resolved to support the Cairns Photographic Society to the value of $6,169 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2017/2018	RADF Round 2	$1,556
2016/2017	Arts and Culture In-kind	$4,613

The Cairns Photographic Society is requesting $25,000 (ex GST).

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $25,000 cash (ex GST).

Cairns Ukulele Club Inc. for Cairns Ukulele Festival – Reunion Edition to the value of $25,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 26 – 31 August 2026

The Cairns Ukulele Festival is a much-loved, internationally recognised celebration of music, community, and creativity.

Last held in 2016, the six-day festival marks a highly anticipated return, bringing together a vibrant mix of community storytelling, exhibitions, and performances. With a rich multicultural program, the Festival will feature groups from Fiji, Samoa, the Cook Islands, Indonesia, and local cultural communities, creating a showcase of traditions and talent through a series of community workshops and concerts which will be held at various Cairns's venues.

Expected to attract over 4,500 attendees, the festival will reunite beloved artists from the festival's seven original years for a legacy showcase. Ukulele clubs from across Australia will return to the stage, inviting audiences both long-time fans and newcomers to come together once more in celebration of music, connection, and the enduring magic of the ukulele.

The Festival strongly aligns with the Cairns Celebrates Official Program. It celebrates Cairns past by reuniting original artists, clubs, audiences, and volunteers who shaped the event's legacy between 2010 and 2016. It celebrates the present by activating public spaces and connecting communities through participatory music-making and looks to the future through the expansion of programming to highlight Cairns' diverse multicultural communities – particularly the Pacific nation where the Ukulele has deep roots.

Since 2014, Council resolved to support Cairns Ukulele Club Inc. to the value of $25,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2016/2017	Cairns Ukulele Festival 2016	$15,000
2013/2014	Cairns Ukulele Festival 2014	$10,000

Cairns Ukulele Club Inc. is requesting $25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $25,000 cash (ex GST).

Cairns Water Sports Incorporated for Wake of History: From Record-Breaking Ski to World Class Wake – Honouring our Waterski Heritage, Showcasing Today's Wakeboarding Elite, and the Future of Adventure Watersports to the value of $25,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 1 – 4 October 2026

In October, the Cairns Wakeboard Club and Park will host a landmark event honouring the past, present and future of watersports in Cairns.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the 100-skier world record in Cairns, a "100 Rider Relay" on the wakeboarding lake where skiers will pass the handle from one rider to the next will occur. Original record-holders will be invited to participate in this activity which will symbolise connection between generations and from waterskiing to the new wave of wakeboarding.

Exhibitions will complement this activity and include the viewing the original footage of the world record attempt alongside displays of memorabilia.

To celebrate the present and future of watersports the Australian Wakeboarding Triple Crown Tour Stop will attract elite international athletes and supporters directly from the World Championships at the Gold Coast. Local wakeboarders will have the rare opportunity to compete alongside the best in the sport, providing a pathway for young talent and raising the standard of local competition.

It is anticipated that over 4,500 people will attend the wakeboarding competition. Visitors are projected to stay an average of six – eight nights, generating a total visitor spend of over $707,000 to the Cairns region.

Council has not previously supported Cairns Water Sports Incorporated.

Cairns Water Sports Incorporated is requesting $25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $25,000 cash (ex GST).

FNQ RL Ltd for the Foley Shield 2026 to the value of $15,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 2 – 4 May 2026

The Foley Shield is an inter-city representative rugby league match designed to crown the champion region of North Queensland. Born in 1948, the Shield is contested between Cairns, Townsville and Mackay and is held on a rotational basis.

Cairns is scheduled to host the Foley Shield in 2026.The three-day competition features two games per day and includes one men's team and one women's team from each city vying for the prestigious Foley Shield. Based on highest points, the winning team will progress to the 'XXXX Chairman's Challenge' in Southeast Queensland. It is anticipated that 500 visiting players, referees, supporters, and representatives from QRL and NRL will take part in the competition.

In addition to the Shield competition, the program also includes Masters, U17 Boys, U17 Girls, and All Abilities matches.

As part of the 150 Celebrations, next year's event will also include a reunion for all previous players, especially honouring the Foley Shield winning teams from 1966, 1976,1986 and 2006.

Held at Jones Park, it is anticipated that up to 3,000 spectators will attend the weekend activities.

Since 2023, Council resolved to support FNQ RL Ltd to the value of $92,239 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	2024 FNQ Rugby League Grand Finals	$18,600
2023/2024	2024 North Queensland Games	$5,000
2022/2023	FNQ Rugby League Grand final Series 2022	$16,900
2022/2023	2023 Foley Shield	$11,739
2022/2023	NRL Trial Cowboys Vs Dolphins 2023	$40,000

FNQ RL Ltd is requesting $15,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $15,000 cash (ex GST).

Himalayan Organisation For Multicultural Communities Inc for UNITY CUP 2026 – Multicultural Soccer Carnival to the value of $10,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 10 – 11 July 2026

The UNITY CUP 2026 Multicultural Soccer Carnival is a region-wide initiative bringing the community together through sport, culture, and connection. Scheduled for July 2026, the event will mark Cairns 150th anniversary by celebrating the regions rich history, cultural diversity, and community spirit through sport.

Held at Leichardt Junior Soccer Club, the carnival will include approximately ten teams representing a wide range of cultural backgrounds, including Bhutanese, Nepalese, Indian, Burmese/ Arakanese, African, South American, Afghan and Australian communities, alongside a team from the Queensland Police Service, highlighting unity through friendly competition.

In addition, local businesses and community members will run a variety of market, information and food stalls offering authentic cuisines from different cultures.

Approximately 2,000 people will attend the Carnival which will also include a community information hub, with information stalls hosted by local health, education, employment, housing, and community services will provide the opportunity for new migrants, refugees, and community members to receive information regarding available community support.

Council has not previously supported Himalayan Organisation For Multicultural Communities Inc.

The Himalayan Organisation For Multicultural Communities Inc is requesting $25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $10,000 cash (ex GST).

Of One Mind Limited for WOW – Women of the World Festival Cairns Celebrating 150 (000+) years of the women of Cairns to the value of $5,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 5 January – 30 August 2026

WOW - Women of the World Festival Cairns Celebrating 150 (000+) years of the women of Cairns will be a celebration of over 150 years of achievements by women and girls from across the region. The Festival will shine a spotlight on the contributions, resilience, and leadership of women in shaping the cultural, social, and economic fabric of Cairns.

As the only festival of its kind in the region, WOW Cairns offers a unique platform for connection, inspiration, and empowerment. The dynamic event program will feature panel conversations, speed-mentoring sessions, hands on workshops and demonstrations, arts and cultural performances and exhibitions. A marketplace will showcase female-led artisans, businesses, and community service organisations, celebrating the diversity and creativity of local women.

The development and delivery of WOW Cairns Festival 2026 will be a 10-month process which includes comprehensive community consultations, the development of a local programming team, engagement of a local emerging producer and the delivery of 2-3 community creative projects as well as the two-day Festival.

Held at the Bulmba-ja Arts Centre, the Festival is expected to attract over 4,000 attendees, drawing participants from across the region and beyond.

Since 2021, Council resolved to support Of One Mind Limited to the value of $20,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2021/2022	WOW Cairns 2022	$5,000
2020/2021	WOW Cairns 2021	$15,000

Of One Mind Limited is requesting $25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $5,000 cash (ex GST).

Returned and Services League of Australia (Qld Branch) Cairns Sub Branch Inc. for Cairns Cenotaph – 100 Years to the value of $5,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 5 June 2026

The 100th anniversary of the Cairns Cenotaph will be honoured at a special commemoration in June next year. The event will commence with a re-enactment of the Cenotaph's 1926 consecration, followed by a Colours Ceremony at Sunset, a Remembrance Service at the Cenotaph and a joint Centenary and Sesquicentenary celebration, concluding with a cocktail-style gathering, either at the Cenotaph's grassed area or in the Kokoda Hall Museum.

More than 5,000 attendees are expected at this free public event, including veterans, current Defence Force personnel, school groups, historical societies, and local residents. The commemorative program aims to honour the sacrifices of the past while fostering a shared sense of pride and remembrance within the Cairns Community.

Since 2020, Council resolved to support Returned and Services League of Australia (Qld Branch) Cairns Sub Branch Inc. to the value of $4,614 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2023/2024	Vietnam Veterans Documentary 2024	$3,800
2020/2021	Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day 2021	$355
2020/2021	100th Anniversary RAAF 2021	$150
2020/2021	Remembrance Day 2020	$150
2020/2021	Vietnam Veterans Day 2020	$159

Returned and Services League of Australia (Qld Branch) Cairns Sub Branch Inc. is requesting $5,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $5,000 cash (ex GST).

The Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc for Three Moons 150 Years Cairns Chinese Celebration to the value of $20,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 25 – 27 September 2026

To celebrate 150 years of the Chinese community in Cairns, The Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc (CADCAI) will host a vibrant celebration of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival at the Esplanade Lagoon Plaza. This family-friendly event will honour the cultural heritage and historical significance of the Chinese community in the region over the past 150 years.

The festival will feature a static lighting display, storytelling sessions, poem recitals and traditional lantern displays. A dedicated lantern stall will offer crafted lanterns and moon cakes for sale, allowing visitors to take home a piece of the celebration.

The lighting display provides the opportunity for residents and visitors to have their photo taken whilst learning about Cairns Chinese history. The display features three symbolic moons, each illuminated with neon designs to represent the moon of the past (golden), present (red) and future (white). These are accompanied by visual elements from Chinese history and cultural items including the 12 Chinese Zodiac animals.

Since 2021, Council resolved to support The Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc to the value of $163,200 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	2025 Cairns Chinese New Year Festival	$20,000
2023/2024	2024 Cairns Chinese New Year Festival	$20,000
2023/2024	The Chinese Zodiac Exhibition – Celebrating 20 years	$3,200
2022/2023	2023 Cairns Chinese New Year Festival	$20,000
2021/2022	2022 Cairns Chinese New Year Festival	$25,000
2020/2021	2021 Cairns Chinese New Year	$25,000
2019/2020	2020 Cairns Chinese New Year Festival	$25,000
2018/2019	2019 Great Barrier Reef Chinese New Year	$25,000

The Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc is requesting $25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $20,000 (ex GST) consisting of $14,200 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and its associated resources up to the value of $5,800 (ex GST).

The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns for St Andrews Catholic College – 25th Anniversary Celebrations: Festival, Alumni Q & A, and Time Capsule to the value of $10,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 8 – 15 August 2026

To commemorate 25 years of excellence in education, community spirit and faith, St Andrew's Catholic College will host a vibrant eight-day celebration in August 2026. Organised by the Family and Community Engagement Committee (FACE), the program is designed to honour the College's past, celebrate its present and inspire its future, while bringing together students, families, alumni and the wider community.

The program will launch with a community festival which will feature food stalls operated by local Redlynch businesses, live entertainment, family-friendly rides and a heritage exhibition. This exhibition will showcase archival photographs, original school uniforms, and treasured memorabilia that reflect the College's journey since founding.

The celebrations will also include a ceremonial morning tea whereby the FACE will host a Q&A session with notable alumni.

An important feature at this event will be the opening of a past time capsule and the burial of a new time capsule, planned to be opened in 2049.

The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns is requesting $15,000

(ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend that Council support this application to the value of $10,000 cash (ex GST).

Applications not recommended for funding.

The following applications are not recommended for funding:

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)
Cairns Art Society Inc.	Cairns International Mokuhanga Exhibition	9 Sept-31 Oct 2026	$25,000
Cairns City Kennel Club Inc	Cairns Dog Sports Spectacular Spring 2026	10-13 Sept 2026	$4,130
Cairns Tennis Club Inc.	Tennis Carnival	30-31 May 2026	$11,000
FNQ Thai Community Inc	Thai Multicultural Grand Parade Celebrates the Cairns 150th year anniversary in 2026	29 Aug 2026	$23,000
GOPIO Cairns Inc	Cairns & India: 150 Years Together – Heritage Day & Future Forum	26 Jan 2026	$25,000
Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club Inc.	2026 Hekili Great Barrier Reef Ocean Challenge (GBROC) & Mini G – Celebrating 15 years	31 May-6 Jun 2026	$8,0000
Just Us Theatre Ensemble	Theatre Season Celebration: The Accidental Bride	21-30 May 2026	$24,930
Study Cairns Inc	Global Table: Sharing Cultures, Stories & Flavours	14 Feb 2026	$23,000

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves $193,000 (ex GST) funding, $90,000 (ex GST) from 2025/2026 Community Partnerships Grant stream and $103,000 (ex GST) from 2026/2027 Community Partnerships Grant stream to the following applicants:

   a) Babinda District Community Association Inc for 150 Years of Farming in the Cairns Region to the value of $10,000 (ex GST).

   b) Cairns and District Family History Society Incorporated for Shadows from the Past to the value of $3,000 (ex GST).

   c) Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. for Cairns Churches Celebrate 150 Years to the value of $20,000 (ex GST).

d) Cairns Multicultural Committee for the CARMA Multicultural Festival to the value of $20,000 (ex GST).

e) Cairns Photographic Society for the Cairns Celebrates 150 Years Official Program to the value of $25,000 (ex GST).

f) Cairns Ukulele Club Inc for the Cairns Ukulele Festival – Reunion Edition to the value of $25,000 (ex GST).

g) Cairns Water Sports Incorporated for Wake of History: From Record-Breaking Ski to World-Class Wake – Honouring Our Waterski Heritage, Showcasing Today's Wakeboarding Elite, and the Future of Adventure Watersports to the value of $25,000 (ex GST).

h) FNQ RL Ltd for the Foley Shield 2026 to the value of $15,000 (ex GST).

i) Himalayan Organisation for Multicultural Communities Inc for the UNITY CUP 2026 - Multicultural Soccer Carnival to the value of $10,000 (ex GST).

j) Of One Mind Limited for WOW – Women of the World Festival Cairns Celebrating 150 (000+) years of the women of Cairns to the value of $5,000 (ex GST).

k) Returned and Services League of Australia (Qld Branch) Cairns Sub Branch Inc. for Cairns Cenotaph – 100 Years to the value of $5,000 (ex GST).

l) The Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc for the Three Moons 150 Years Cairns Chinese Celebration to the value of $20,000 (ex GST).

m) The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns for St Andrews Catholic College – 25th Anniversary Celebrations: Festival, Alumni Q & A, and Time Capsule to the value of $10,000 (ex GST).

Option 2:

That Council does not endorse the recommendations and adopts an alternative funding allocation.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Council Finance and the Local Economy:

The recommendations contained within this report will be funded in Council's 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 proposed operating budget within the Community Partnerships Grant funding allocation.

Budget considerations:

2025/2026 Budget:

- The Community Partnerships Grant has an allocation of $742,000 (ex GST) for the 2025/2026 financial year.
- $433,681 (ex GST) of funds have already been allocated.

- Recommended in this report is $90,000 (ex GST).
- $60,100 (ex GST) has also been recommended in the Grant Round 16 report today.
- The remaining balance available for distribution is $158,219 (ex GST).

2025/2026	
2025/2026 Budget	$742,000
Currently allocated	$433,681
Recommended in this report	$90,000
Recommended in Grant Round 16 report	$60,100
Total Remaining 2025/2026 Budget	**$158,219**

2026/2027 Budget:

- The Community Partnerships Grant has an allocation yet to be approved for the 2026/2027 financial year.
- $0 (ex GST) of funds have already been allocated.
- Recommended funding amounts to $103,000 (ex GST). This is a combination of $21,600 in-kind assistance and $81,400 cash to be funded in the 2026/2027 financial year.
- The current proposed committed amount is $103,000 (ex GST).

2026/2027	
2026/2027 Budget	TBC
Currently allocated	$0
Recommended in this report	$103,000
Total Remaining 2026/2027 Budget	**TBC**

Further reports tabled at this meeting may affect the final remaining balance of the Community Partnerships budget.

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The events contained in this report celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Cairns Region. These events and activities strengthen community pride, celebrate cultural diversity and shared heritage, encourage connection across generations and neighbourhoods, support local business and industries and help preserve Cairns's history for future generations.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The application recommended in this report aligns with Council's Corporate Plan 2025 - 2030; specifically

- Focus One – Robust Economy
  Strategy: Optimise visitation and tourism opportunities.

- Focus Four – Community Culture
  Strategy: Support diverse sport, cultural and community groups that contribute to wellbeing.

Statutory:

The Community Grant Policy and associated schedules are compliant with the specific community grant requirements of the *Local Government Regulation 2012.*

Policy:

Council's Community Grant Policy has been applied in the assessment of these applications.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Interested Parties



Andrew Moore
Executive Manager Community Life



Destry Puia
Director Lifestyle and Community

ATTACHMENT 1: INTERESTED PARTIES

Organisation Name: Babinda District Community Association Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Dalitta Wright
Vice President	Christine Norman
Secretary	Joanne Nucifora
Treasurer	Stuart Lawson

Organisation Name: Cairns and District Family History Society Incorporated

Committee Position	Name
President	Jon Fearon
Vice President	Deborah Jolley
Secretary	Rosemary Holroyd
Treasurer	Pam Leeming
Committee Member	Shannon Burns
Committee Member	Shirley Arrowsmith
Committee Member	Joan Taylor

Organisation Name: Cairns Art Society Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Lorna Epps
Secretary	Mark Willems
Minute Secretary	Martita D'Arcy
Treasurer	Erna Zells
Grants	Tarsh Lions
Grants	Sue Shannon
Social media	Jodi Lewis
CAS Galleries Representative	Jenni Bullock
Tourism and Public Relations	Dorte Colja
Tourism and Public Relations	Jo Bingham

Organisation Name: Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Ben Johnson
Secretary & Treasurer	Kathy Snook
Committee Member	Jeff Coop
Committee Member	Anna Giles
Committee Member	Roxanne Rea

Organisation Name: Cairns City Kennel Club Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Meade Oswald
Vice President Dog Sports	Tricia Williams
Vice President Dog Shows	Alana Johnstone
Vice President Dog Shows & Show Secretary	Maddi Goldberg
Club Secretary	Alana Johnstone
Club Treasurer	Roslyn Jordan
Show Manager	Kerry Frame
Show Treasurer	Nerida O'Neill
Head Instructor	Andrea Wohlhuter
Trial Secretary	Jessica Gillies
Dog Sports Treasurer	Emma Mulligan

Organisation Name: Cairns Multicultural Committee

Committee Position	Name
President	Cicilia Halaholo
Vice President	Alison Geno
Secretary	Geraldine Vasquez
Treasurer	Viji Venkatraman
Youth Ambassador	Peta Kumar
Committee Member	Christy Gelviro
Committee Member	Celestin Gasake
Committee Member	Sonya Therese
Committee Member	Ulu Tautu

Organisation Name: Cairns Photographic Society Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Richard Foord
Vice President	Tim Warnock
Secretary	Bev Lynn
Treasurer	Corinne Bramwell

Organisation Name: Cairns Tennis Club Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	John Magoffin
Vice President	Roger Glover
Vice President	Tony Potter
Secretary & Treasurer	Karen Hales

Organisation Name: Cairns Ukulele Club Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Gabrielle Thomasz
Vice President & Treasurer	Gerry Mier
Secretary	Ric Montgomery
Committee Member	Katrina Humphrey
Committee Member	Verena Mier

Organisation Name: Cairns Water Sports Incorporated

Committee Position	Name
President	Gary Drake
Secretary	Michaela Mueller
Treasurer	Kristy Innes

Organisation Name: FNQ RL Ltd

Committee Position	Name
Chairperson	Chey Bird
Committee Member	Kym McPhee-Smith
Committee Member	James Gaustad
Committee Member	Noel Slade
Committee Member	Nathan Findlay
Committee Member	Rebecca Mason
Committee Member	Barry Beswick
Committee Member	Michael White
Committee Member	Patrick McCarthy

Organisation Name: FNQ Thai Community Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Thanapan Kulsant
Secretary	Gontiwa Ryan
Treasurer	Nuchchanath Hatthaprasert
Committee Member	Thongbai Thammajack
Committee Member	Nattha Stinson
Committee Member	Arisa Keawwangsan
Committee Member	Pancheewab Keawwangsan
Committee Member	Suchada Mam
Committee Member	Pomim Chooprayon
Committee Member	Nita Caruso
Committee Member	Anthony Robinson
Committee Member	Supachok Hatthaprasert

Organisation Name: GOPIO Cairns Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Subash Chetry
Secretary	Aju J Mathew
Treasurer	Manish Mathew
Assistant Secretary	Harman Kaur
Assistant Treasurer	Frey Dsouza

Organisation Name: Hekili Outrigger Canoe Club Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Rangi Waitoa-Drewniak
Vice President	Mr Ivan Ridley
Secretary	Ms Jude Kennedy
Treasurer	Ms Nora Pennefather
Club Head Coach & Committee Member	Mrs Emma Finney
Club Head Coach	Mr Thomas Vogal Beal
Club Captain	Mr Peter Harris
Club Captain	Mr Rhys Morgan
Committee Member	Ms Jill Matthews
Committee Member	Ms Sarah Kistle
Committee Member	Ms Shona Smith

Organisation Name: Himalayan Organisation for Multicultural Communities Inc

Committee Position	Name
Chairperson	Meelan Rana
Secretary	Saroj Pradhan
Treasurer	Rajesh Bade
Committee Member	Emille Muhimire
Committee Member	Quang Tran
Committee Member	Maria Baddeley
Committee Member	Noel Ndhlebe
Committee Member	Jessica Morel

Organisation Name: Just Us Theatre Ensemble

Committee Position	Name
Executive Artistic Director	Christopher Kohn
Chair	Gillian Townsend
Director	David Layt
Director	John Paul Fischbach
Director	Leon Yeatman
Director	Madhu Nair
Director	Nikki Huddy
Director	Saurav Kataria
Director	Sangeetha Badya

Organisation Name: Of One Mind Limited

Committee Position	Name
Chair	Cathy Hunt
Board Member	Brian Tucker
Board Member	Faiza ElHigzi
Board Member	Renai Grace

Organisation Name: Returned and Services League of Australia (QLD Branch) Cairns Sub Branch Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Nathan Shingles
Vice President	Gillian Bryant
Treasurer	Paul Walker
Director	Graeme Kelly
Director	Martin Keating
Director	Rob Lee
Director	John McDonough

Organisation Name: Study Cairns Inc

Committee Position	Name
Vice President	Taka Kasahara
Treasurer	Shelley Lewis
Committee Member	Janine Bowmaker
Committee Member	Ariane Carvalho
Committee Member	Mateja Rautner

Organisation Name: The Cairns and District Chinese Association Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Mrs Lai Chu Chan
Vice President	Mr James Sing
Hon Secretary	Mrs Ann Kreger
Hon Treasurer	Mr Peter Weatherley
Committee Member	Mr Jim Turnour
Committee Member	Mrs Maggie Zhao
Committee Member	Mr Nathan Lee Long
Committee Member	Mrs Jacqui Heideke

Organisation Name: The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns - St Andrew's Catholic College Family and Community Engagement

Committee Position	Name
President	Chrystal Neeve
Vice President	Michelle Gralow
Secretary	Lana Hutchings
Treasurer	Maree Millar
CSPQ Rep	Tamara Graham
CSPQ Rep	Elouise Hutchings