

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS GRANT ROUND 18

L&C | 68/18/1-01 | #7822023

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Approves \$198,427 (ex GST) from the 2026/2027 Community Partnerships Grant Stream to the following applicants:
 - a) Babinda Harvest Fest Inc for the Babinda Harvest Festival up to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).
 - b) Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten Association Inc for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten to the value of \$3,000 (ex GST).
 - c) Cairns Bongo Group Inc. for Cairns Durga Puja 2026 to the value of \$7,500 (ex GST).
 - d) Cairns Chieftains GAA Inc. for the QGFHA Carpenter Cup 2026 – Festival of Gaelic Games to the value of \$7,000 (ex GST).
 - e) Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. for Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).
 - f) Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc for Ganeshotsav to the value of \$7,500 (ex GST).
 - g) Cairns Pride Inc for the Cairns Pride Festival 2026 up to the value of \$17,200 (ex GST).
 - h) Cancer Council Queensland for Far North QLD Relay for Life 2026 up to the value of \$17,000 (ex GST).
 - i) Fiji Community Association Far North Queensland for the Cairns 7s Rugby Tournament to the value of \$7,000 (ex GST).
 - j) Machans Beach Community Association for Moon Over Machans to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST).
 - k) Mission Australia for South Side Celebration (Child Protection Week event) to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST).

- l) Papua New Guinea & Wantoks Association Cairns Incorporated for PNG's Family & Cultural Day – 51st Independence Anniversary up to the value of \$17,700 (ex GST).
 - m) Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. for Tunnel of Terror to the value of \$1,527 (ex GST).
 - n) Stratford Dolphins Football Club Inc. for the Barron River Foodfest to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).
 - o) The Great Pyramid Race and Country Fair Association Incorporated for The Great Pyramid Race to the value of \$15,000 (ex GST).
 - p) The Japanese Society of Cairns Inc for Cairns Japan Bon Dance Festival 2026 up to the value of \$18,000 (ex GST).
 - q) The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns for St Rita's School Babinda Centenary Celebration to the value of \$3,000 (ex GST).
 - r) Young Animal Protection Society Inc for FNQ Dogs Day Out to the value of \$12,000 (ex GST).
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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 total, 25 applications were received for the Community Partnerships Grant Round 18, with \$432,655 (ex GST) requested. Council officers recommend funding 18 applications to a total value of \$198,427 (ex GST).

BACKGROUND:

The intent of the Community Partnerships Grant is to assist community groups and organisations with the delivery of events and activities that enhance the lives of local communities, celebrate important community occasions, and provide opportunities to develop social cohesion and connection in the Cairns region.

Council has also invited community groups to apply for support to deliver events and activities that specifically celebrate Cairns turning 150 years this year through this grant stream.

The Community Partnerships Grant 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 Grant Round 18 have been received:

Applicant	Event	Event Date	Amount Requested (ex GST)	Amount Recommended (ex GST)
Babinda Harvest Fest Inc	Babinda Harvest Festival	12 Sep 2026	\$25,000	\$25,000
Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten Association Inc	50 th Anniversary Celebration of Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten	15 Aug 2026	\$14,500	\$3,000
Cairns Bongo Group Inc.	Cairns Durga Puja 2026	17 Oct 2026	\$25,000	\$7,500
Cairns Chieftains GAA Inc.	QGFHA Carpenter Cup 2026 – Festival of Gaelic Games	29 Aug 2026	\$15,000	\$7,000
Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc.	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks	5 Dec 2026	\$22,000	\$20,000
Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc	Ganeshotsav	19 Sep 2026	\$7,500	\$7,500
Cairns Pride Inc	Cairns Pride Festival 2026	9-25 Oct 2026	\$25,000	\$17,200
Cairns Punjabi Cultural Association Inc	Cairns Teeyan	8 Aug 2026	\$7,000	\$0
Cancer Council Queensland	Far North QLD Relay for Life 2026	1-2 Aug 2026	\$24,827	\$17,000
Careflight Limited	Essential Training for Emergency First Responders in Cairns	1 Sep 2026 - 30 Jul 2027	\$19,933	\$0
Edge Hill State School P & C Association	Edge Hill State School STEAM Expo	21 Aug 2026	\$20,000	\$0
Fiji Community Association Far North Queensland	Cairns 7s Rugby Tournament	30-31 Oct 2026	\$25,000	\$7,000
Gondwana Choirs	Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir Junior Songfest	10 Oct 2026	\$7,000	\$0
GOPIO Cairns Inc	Cairns Indian Festival 2026	12 Sep 2026	\$19,597	\$0
Machans Beach Community Association	Moon Over Machans	12 Sep 2026	\$8,250	\$5,000
Malla Community Arts Aboriginal Corporation	Community Storytelling Events – Cairns	1 Aug 2026 – 31 Aug 2027	\$25,000	\$0

Applicant	Event	Event Date	Amount Requested (ex GST)	Amount Recommended (ex GST)
Mission Australia	South Side Celebration (Child Protection Week event)	4 Sep 2026	\$10,000	\$5,000
Papua New Guinea & Wantoks Association Cairns Incorporated	PNG's Family & Cultural Day – 51 st Independence Anniversary	27 Sep 2026	\$25,000	\$17,700
Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc.	Tunnel of Terror	31 Oct 2026	\$2,275	\$1,527
Second Act Arts Inc.	Chronicle: Cairns Stories	1 Oct 2026 – 27 Jan 2027	\$16,500	\$0
Stratford Dolphins Football Club Inc.	Barron River Foodfest	17 Oct 2026	\$14,000	\$10,000
The Great Pyramid Race and Country Fair Association Incorporated	The Great Pyramid Race	1 Aug 2026	\$20,000	\$15,000
The Japanese Society of Cairns Inc	Cairns Japan Bon Dance Festival 2026	15 Aug 2026	\$25,000	\$18,000
The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns	St Rita's School Babinda Centenary Celebration	24 Oct 2026	\$7,273	\$3,000
Young Animal Protection Society Inc	FNQ Dogs Day Out	5 Sep 2026	\$22,000	\$12,000
TOTAL			\$432,655	\$198,427

COMMENT:

Babinda Harvest Fest Inc for the Babinda Harvest Festival up to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 12 September 2026

The annual Babinda Harvest Festival is an event of significance for the township of Babinda and the surrounding region. With a strong focus on supporting the local community, the festival brings over 4,000 residents and visitors together to celebrate and enjoy activities, entertainment, food, arts, and culture.

This family friendly, affordable, and accessible festival is spread throughout the township. Bill Wakeham Park features the NQ Tractor Pull, vintage cars and farm equipment on display while the Grand Street Parade, market stalls and entertainment are highlights in the Main Street. Additionally, the week of the festival includes businesses in town decorating their premises, all vying for the prestigious Cane Knife Awards.

In alignment with the C150 celebrations, the 2026 Babinda Harvest Festival will feature the theme 'Pages Come to Life'. Organisers anticipate the theme will be brought to life through re-enactment of local farming almanacs and notable historical news events.

Since 2021/2022, Council resolved to support Babinda Harvest Fest Inc up to the total value of \$125,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	Babinda Harvest Festival 2025	\$25,000
2023/2024	Babinda Harvest Festival 2024	\$25,000
2023/2024	Babinda Harvest Festival 2023	\$25,000
2022/2023	Babinda Harvest Festival 2022	\$25,000
2021/2022	Babinda Harvest Festival 2021	\$25,000

Babinda Harvest Fest Inc is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application up to the value of \$25,000 (ex GST) consisting of \$19,500 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of \$5,500 (ex GST).

Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten Association Inc for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten to the value of \$3,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 15 August 2026

Established in 1976, Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten will celebrate its 50th anniversary at its Woree facility, inviting current and former students, families, and community members to attend. The event is expected to attract approximately 300 attendees.

The celebration will showcase the kindergarten's history through a curated display of class photographs spanning 1976 to 2026, along with historic canvas boards highlighting the evolution of its facilities, programs, and activities over the past 50 years.

As a volunteer-led service, the kindergarten has provided continuous early childhood care for the local community and has supported broader community engagement by hosting playgroups and early learning activities.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support the Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten Association Inc to the total value of \$17,976 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	Go Clubs Infrastructure Assistance	\$17,024
2020/2021	Community Sustainability	\$952

Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten Association Inc is requesting \$14,500 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

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

**Cairns Bongo Group Inc. for Cairns Durga Puja 2026 to the value of \$7,500 (ex GST).
Event Date: 17 October 2026**

Cairns Bongo Group Inc. is dedicated to celebrating, promoting, and preserving Bengali heritage in Cairns while providing a supportive and welcoming environment for newcomers to assist them in integrating into the community.

Durga Puja is an annual Hindu festival, celebrated by Bengalis from India and Bangladesh, that holds great cultural and religious importance. The festival honours Goddess Durga's victory over the demon Asura, symbolising triumph of good over evil and provides a means to promote and share the rich traditions and heritage associated with this festival.

First held in 2012, this free annual event now attracts over 400 attendees to the festival. The event will be held at Edge Hill State School and showcases cultural diversity through authentic Indian cuisine, children's competitions, a fashion show, and traditional dancing.

Since 2023/2024, Council resolved to support Cairns Bongo Group Inc. to the total value of \$20,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Cairns Durga Puja 2025	\$7,500
2024/2025	Cairns Durga Puja 2024	\$7,500
2023/2024	Cairns Durga Puja 2023	\$5,000

Cairns Bongo Group Inc. is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$7,500 cash (ex GST).

**Cairns Chieftains GAA Inc. for QGFHA Carpenter Cup – Festival of Gaelic Games to the value of \$7,000 (ex GST).
Event Date: 29 August 2026**

The Cairns Chieftains QGFHA Carpenter Cup will be a day for the Irish Community of Cairns to share their love of Gaelic games. The event will include Gaelic Football, Hurling and Camogie.

The highlight of the day will be the seven-a-side women's and men's Gaelic football and Hurling games. In addition to the games, the day will feature children's activities along with live music and Irish dancing to commence in the afternoon and lead into the evening.

It is estimated that over 1,800 people will attend the Festival of Gaelic Games at Watsons Oval with teams visiting from Port Douglas, Townsville, Gold Coast and Brisbane. It is estimated that visitors will stay in the region for two to five nights, generating a total visitor spend of over \$454,000 to the Cairns region.

Since 2024/2025 Council resolved to support Cairns Chieftains GAA Inc. to the total value of \$16,009 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Gaelic Football & Hurling Association of Australasia Regional Games	\$11,009
2024/2025	Chieftains 7s Festival of Irish Sport	\$5,000

Cairns Chieftains GAA Inc. is requesting \$15,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$7,000 cash (ex GST).

Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. for Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 5 December 2026

Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. presents Joy to the World Christmas Carols & Fireworks at the Cairns Showgrounds on 5 December 2026.

This family friendly event reaches out to the local community, volunteers, local schools, and choirs to celebrate the traditions of the festive season and will include performances by Far Northern Brass and local cultural groups with fireworks display to conclude the evening.

The event is managed by the Salvation Army on behalf of the Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. in collaboration with the Cairns West Rotary Club, Far Northern Brass, Cairns Safer Streets Chaplains, and other local community organisations.

Over 3,000 people are expected to attend the event with an emphasis on providing a Christmas activity for local vulnerable cohorts and will feature a live nativity scene and petting zoo.

Since 2021/2022, Council resolved to support the Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. to the total value of \$93,200 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Cairns Churches Celebrate 150 years	\$20,000
2024/2025	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks	\$20,000
2023/2024	Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks	\$18,200
2022/2023	Joy to the World – Christmas Carols & Fireworks 2023	\$13,000
2022/2023	Joy to the World – Carols & Fireworks	\$11,000
2021/2022	Joy to the World – Carols & Fireworks 2021	\$11,000

Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. is requesting \$22,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$20,000 cash (ex GST).

Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc for Ganeshotsav to the value of \$7,500 (ex GST).

Event Date: 19 September 2026

Ganeshotsav is a Hindu festival that commemorates the birth of the elephant-headed Hindu deity Ganesha, the god of wisdom, prosperity, and good fortune. The festival is an important Hindu celebration promoting unity, harmony, and cultural awareness.

Festival organisers, Cairns Hindu Samaj are a local Hindu community group with a goal to preserve, promote and share Hindu culture and faith among the Cairns community.

The event will return to Edge Hill State School this year, with three hundred people anticipated to attend this event, which commences with prayer offerings to Lord Ganesha followed by cultural performances, traditional food, and dancing.

The Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc dance group will perform at the event. Featuring performers of all ages, the group will showcase vibrant cultural dances in unique traditional attire throughout the event.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc to the total value of \$68,700 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Diwali Mela (Fair) 2026	\$16,600
2024/2025	Ganeshotsav 2025	\$7,500
2024/2025	Diwali Mela (Fair) 2025	\$14,600
2023/2024	Ganeshotsav 2024	\$5,000
2023/2024	Ganeshotsav 2023	\$5,000
2022/2023	Deepavali Mela (Diwali Festival Fair)	\$5,000
2021/2022	Ganeshotsav 2022	\$5,000
2020/2021	Ganeshotsav 2021	\$10,000

Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc is requesting \$7,500 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event. Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$7,500 cash (ex GST).

Cairns Pride Inc for the Cairns Pride Festival 2026 to the value of \$17,200 (ex GST).

Event Date: 9-25 October 2026

Cairns Pride Inc was established in 2025 to oversee and deliver the Cairns Pride Festival which was previously facilitated by Queensland Aids Council Inc.

The 2026 festival is anticipated to attract 2,700 participants and will span the month of October with a vibrant program of events showcasing the richness and diversity of the community and provide an array of events and activities suitable for all ages and abilities.

This year's festival will commence on Friday 9 October with the Fogarty Park Night of Entertainment, followed by the opening of the Pride Art Exhibition at Tank 4 on Saturday 10 October. Additional events will include the Pride Stride along the Cairns Esplanade, Pride Movie Night, Pride Family Picnic, and the Pride Fair Day at Tank 3 on 25 October, which will conclude the festival.

Since 2025/2026, Council resolved to support Cairns Pride Inc to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Arts and Cultural Partnerships	\$5,000

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

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application up to the value of \$17,200 (ex GST) towards venue hire and associated resources.

Cancer Council Queensland for Far North QLD Relay for Life 2026 up to the value of \$17,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 1 August 2026

Far North Qld Relay for Life is a major fundraising event for Cancer Council Queensland. The primary goal of Relay for Life is to raise awareness and reduce the impact of cancer in the community while celebrating, remembering, and honoring those affected by the disease.

Relay for Life has been held in Cairns for the past 25 years. An estimated 800 people are expected to participate in the event, with activities including a Cancer Carers and Survivors Walk, a Candlelight Ceremony, a multi-hour relay around Barlow Park, live music, performances, and food vans.

Since 2021/2022, Council resolved to support Cancer Council Queensland up to the total value of \$70,150 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	Far North Queensland Relay for Life	\$23,200
2023/2024	Far North Queensland Relay for Life	\$20,400
2022/2023	Far North Queensland Relay for Life	\$16,900
2021/2022	Far North Queensland Relay for Life	\$9,650

Cancer Council Queensland is requesting \$24,827 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application up to the value of \$17,000 (ex GST) towards venue hire and associated resources.

Fiji Community Association Far North Queensland for Cairns 7s Rugby Tournament to the value of \$7,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 30-31 October 2026

Fiji Community Association Far North Queensland has successfully delivered Cairns Rugby 7s Tournaments since 2021. This multicultural family friendly sporting event brings communities, cultures, and visitors together and supports local youth engagement and development in sport and volunteering.

It is anticipated that over 1,900 people will attend the two-day tournament at Stan Williams Park with local, interstate, and international teams competing in men's and ladies' Rugby Sevens matches.

With participants and spectators from across Australia, the Pacific and Papua New Guinea providing an anticipated stay in the region of two to five nights, the event is estimated to generate a total visitor spend of over \$240,000 to the Cairns region.

Since 2021/2022, Council resolved to support the Fiji Community Association Far North Queensland to the total value of \$20,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2022/2023	Cairns Bula 7's Rugby Tournament	\$10,000
2021/2022	Cairns Bula 7's Tournament	\$10,000

Fiji Community Association Far North Queensland is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$7,000 cash (ex GST).

Machans Beach Community Association for Moon Over Machans to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 12 September 2026

Moon Over Machans is a family friendly community event held at Keith Edwick Park.

The Machans Beach Community Association deliver this event to provide connection and improve the wellbeing of residents in the Machans Beach area. It is anticipated that over 400 people will attend the free event.

The market-style event will feature live entertainment, drumming workshops, food stalls and children's activities including novelty races and a kids' talent quest. There will also be a licensed bar area run by the Machans Beach Sports & Recreation Group.

The event has previously been held bi-annually, however due to popular demand it now takes place annually.

Since 2022/2023, Council resolved to support the Machans Beach Community Association to the total value of \$39,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	Moon Over Machans	\$5,000
2024/2025	Community Hall Roof Repair	\$25,000
2024/2025	Moon Over Machans	\$5,000
2022/2023	Moon Over Machans 2022	\$4,000

Machans Beach Community Association is requesting \$8,250 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

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

Mission Australia for South Side Celebration (Child Protection Week event) to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 4 September 2026

South Side Celebration aims to bring the Cairns south community together in a positive and inclusive community space to acknowledge Child Protection Week. The 2026 celebrations will mark 20 years of raising awareness of children’s safety, belonging, and wellbeing.

Delivered by Mission Australia, up to 40 service providers are expected to participate in the celebration, connecting families to service providers and practical support.

It is anticipated that over 2,400 people will attend the free community event at Ravizza Park, Edmonton. There will be entertainment throughout the event featuring local community groups, roving children’s activities, amusements, and food vans.

Since 2023/2024, Council resolved to support Mission Australia to the total value of \$17,100 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2024/2025	South Side Celebration	\$5,000
2024/2025	Cairns Homeless Week 2025	\$3,000
2023/2024	South Side Celebration (Child Protection Week)	\$5,000
2023/2024	Homeless Week 2024	\$3,100
2023/2024	Disability Action Week and International Day of People with Disability	\$1,000

Mission Australia is requesting \$10,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

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

Papua New Guinea & Wantoks Association Cairns Incorporated for PNG’s Family & Cultural Day – 51st Independence Anniversary up to the value of \$17,700 (ex GST).

Event Date: 27 September 2026

Papua New Guinea & Wantoks Association Cairns Incorporated aims to support and celebrate Papua New Guinean culture while fostering unity, friendship, and community involvement among people of Papua New Guinea heritage and the local Cairns community.

Papua New Guinea achieved independence from Australia on 16 September 1975. The 51st anniversary of this occasion will be commemorated at Fogarty Park on Sunday 27 September. Celebrations will include cultural art and craft displays, traditional food, cultural performances, and music.

Held since 2016, the event has grown with an estimated 3,000 people expected to attend the 2026 celebration. As part of a special celebratory component, event organisers will look to introduce artists from Papua New Guinea.

Since 2023/2024, Council resolved to support the Papua New Guinea & Wantoks Association Cairns Incorporated to the total value of \$37,500 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Independence Family and Cultural Day	\$20,000
2024/2025	Independence Family and Cultural Day	\$13,400
2023/2024	Independence Family and Cultural Day	\$4,100

Papua New Guinea & Wantoks Association Cairns Incorporated is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application up to the value of \$17,700 (ex GST) consisting of \$5,000 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of \$12,700 (ex GST).

Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. for the Tunnel of Terror to the value of \$1,527 (ex GST).

Event Date: 31 October 2026

Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. will bring the neighbourhood and surrounding suburbs together for an evening of Halloween fun with the 'Tunnel of Terror.'

Running from 4:30pm – 7:30pm, the highlight of the event is the 'Tunnel of Terror,' which is located on the bike path under the Mary Parker Bridge in Redlynch Valley. The free event will also include a sausage sizzle and face painting.

To ensure the safety of all attendees, a traffic management company has once again been engaged, and ample parking will be available for families. More than 3,000 people are expected to attend this popular family-friendly event.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support the Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. to the total value of \$52,982 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Redlynch Community Twilight Markets	\$6,200
2025/2026	Christmas Movie and Food Night	\$1,520
2025/2026	Tunnel of Terror	\$2,517
2023/2024	Redlynch Community Twilight Markets	\$12,395
2023/2024	Redlynch Halloween Tunnel of Terror	\$2,108
2022/2023	Redlynch Community Twilight Markets	\$11,270
2021/2022	Redlynch Halloween Tunnel of Terror	\$2,422
2021/2022	Redlynch Community Twilight Markets	\$10,000
2021/2022	Redlynch Community Markets 2022	\$3,150
2020/2021	Halloween "Tunnel of Terror" 2021	\$1,400

Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. is requesting \$2,275 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$1,527 cash (ex GST).

Stratford Dolphins Football Club Inc. for the Barron River Foodfest to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 17 October 2026

The Barron River Foodfest will return to the Stratford Dolphins Soccer Club in 2026.

Held for the third consecutive year, the event aims to bring together the food loving community of Cairns with 15 food vendors providing tasting plates including Greek, Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Spanish, African and more.

An estimated 1,900 people are expected to attend the Foodfest, which will feature children’s activities, facepainting, a live DJ, petting zoo and a licensed bar operated by the Stratford Dolphins. The bar will also offer a range of locally crafted cocktails by Narrow Tracks Distilling.

Since 2024/2025, Council resolved to support Stratford Dolphins Football Club Inc. to the total value of \$20,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Barron River Foodfest	\$10,000
2024/2025	Barron River Foodfest	\$10,000

Stratford Dolphins Football Club Inc. is requesting \$14,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

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

The Great Pyramid Race and Country Fair Association Incorporated for The Great Pyramid Race to the value of \$15,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 1 August 2026

The Great Pyramid Race is an annual event that has taken place in Gordonvale since 1959. This year the event will celebrate 67 years and is expected to attract up to 3,000 spectators and over 500 runners.

The event includes a 12 km race from Norman Park to the top of Walsh’s Pyramid, a Half Pyramid Race, Race to the Base, 3km Cross Country, 1800m Junior Race, 3km Charity Race supporting FNQ Legacy and 4 Dash for Cash races making participation suitable for all ages and fitness levels.

With demonstrated growth in the last 5 years this event has become one of the largest on the south side of Cairns. Attracting participants from across the region, The Great Pyramid Race will again be held on the same day as the August Gordonvale Cottage

Markets providing an enhanced spectator experience and an economic boost to the market and local traders.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support The Great Pyramid Race and Country Fair Association Incorporated to the total value of \$79,500 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	The Great Pyramid Race	\$19,000
2024/2025	Great Pyramid Race 2024	\$13,500
2023/2024	Great Pyramid Race 2023	\$13,500
2022/2023	Great Pyramid Race 2022	\$13,500
2021/2022	Great Pyramid Race 2021	\$20,000

The Great Pyramid Race and Country Fair Association Incorporated is requesting \$20,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

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

The Japanese Society of Cairns Inc for the Cairns Japan Bon Dance Festival 2026 up to the value of \$18,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 15 August 2026

The Cairns Japan Bon Dance Festival is a celebration of Japanese culture and is centred on Bon Odori dancing, a traditional style of Japanese dancing in which everybody is welcome to participate. Now in its 15th year, the festival is one of the largest events delivered by the local Japanese community.

Held during Multicultural Month on 15 August, the festival features a variety of performances by local community groups, Japanese food and drinks, children's activities and more. It is anticipated that 3,000 people will attend this free event held at Fogarty Park.

The festival fosters friendship and unity between the Japanese and local Cairns community and is hosted by The Japanese Society of Cairns.

Since 2020/2021, Council resolved to support The Japanese Society of Cairns Inc to the total value of \$84,114 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	Japan Bon Dance Festival 2025	\$20,000
2024/2025	Japan Bon Dance Festival 2024	\$23,300
2023/2024	Japan Bon Dance Festival 2023	\$18,000
2022/2023	Japan Bon Dance Festival 2022	\$16,689
2020/2021	Japan Bon Dance Festival 2021	\$6,125

The Japanese Society of Cairns Inc is requesting \$25,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$18,000 (ex GST) consisting of \$8,800 cash (ex GST) and the provision of venue hire and associated resources up to the value of \$9,200 (ex GST).

The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns for St Rita's School Babinda Centenary Celebration to the value of \$3,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 24 October 2026

St Rita's School Babinda 100-Year Committee will bring together past and present students, families, educators, and local residents for the St Rita's School Babinda Centenary Celebration to be held in October.

Having played a longstanding and central role in the social, educational, and cultural life of Babinda for generations, organisers anticipate that many former students and families will travel back to Babinda specifically to take part in the centenary celebrations.

With 175 attendees expected to attend, the free family-friendly celebration will include a roll call of past students, displays of historical memorabilia and a range of children's activities, including a jumping castle and facepainting, providing an inclusive event for all ages.

Since 2023/2024, Council resolved to support The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns to the total value of \$18,480 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	St Andrew's Catholic College 25 th Anniversary Celebration Alumni Q & A	\$10,000
2025/2026	School Savvy Cairns	\$3,080
2023/2024	School Savvy Cairns	\$5,400

The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns is requesting \$7,273 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

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

Young Animal Protection Society Inc (YAPS) for FNQ Dogs Day Out to the value of \$12,000 (ex GST).

Event Date: 5 September 2026

Now in its fifth year, the FNQ Dogs Day Out is a community event celebrating our beloved canine friends. Held in Barron Waters Park, Caravonica, the event includes education on responsible dog and pet ownership and adoption, as well as obedience demonstrations and training.

The event, delivered by YAPS, is expected to attract 1,500 dog owners and feature live music, dog workshops, food stalls, market stalls, and the opportunity for people to learn from various local pet organisations including the RSPCA, Cairns City Kennel Club,

Cairns Animal Rescue, Guide Dog association and more.

Cairns Regional Council's Animal Management Team will be in attendance, providing education on pet management to the community.

Since 2024/2025, Council resolved to support the Young Animal Protection Society Inc to the total value of \$24,000 (ex GST). This is detailed in the table below:

Funding Year	Event, Activity or Project	Amount (ex GST)
2025/2026	FNQ Dogs Day Out 2025	\$13,000
2024/2025	FNQ Dogs Day Out 2024	\$11,000

Young Animal Protection Society Inc is requesting \$22,000 (ex GST) towards the delivery of the event.

Officers are supportive of this request and recommend supporting this application to the value of \$12,000 cash (ex GST).

Applications not recommended for funding.

Following a thorough assessment process undertaken by Council Officers, the following applications are not recommended for funding:

Applicant	Event	Event date	Amount requested (ex GST)
Cairns Punjabi Cultural Association Inc	Cairns Teeyan	8 Aug 2026	\$7,000
Careflight Limited	Essential Training for Emergency First Responders in Cairns	1 Sep 2026-30 Jul 2027	\$19,933
Edge Hill State School P & C Association	Edge Hill State School STEAM Expo	21 Aug 2026	\$20,000
Gondwana Choirs	Gondwana Indigenous Children's Choir Junior Songfest	10 Oct 2026	\$7,000
GOPIO Cairns Inc	Cairns Indian Festival 2026	12 Sep 2026	\$19,597
Malla Community Arts Aboriginal Corporation	Community Storytelling Events – Cairns	1 Aug 2026 – 31 Aug 2027	\$25,000
Second Act Arts Inc.	Chronicle: Cairns Stories	1 Oct 2026 – 27 Jan 2027	\$16,500

OPTIONS:

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

1. Approves \$198,427 (ex GST) funding from the 2026/2027 Community Partnerships Grant stream to the following applicants:
 - a) Babinda Harvest Fest Inc for the Babinda Harvest Festival up to value of \$25,000 (ex GST).
 - b) Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten Association Inc for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten to the value of \$3,000 (ex GST).
 - c) Cairns Bongo Group Inc. for Cairns Durga Puja 2026 to the value of \$7,500 (ex GST).
 - d) Cairns Chieftains GAA Inc. for the QGFHA Carpenter Cup 2026 – Festival of Gaelic Games to the value of \$7,000 (ex GST).
 - e) Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc. for Joy to the World Carols & Fireworks to the value of \$20,000 (ex GST).
 - f) Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc for Ganeshotsav to the value of \$7,500 (ex GST).
 - g) Cairns Pride Inc for the Cairns Pride Festival 2026 up to the value of \$17,200 (ex GST).
 - h) Cancer Council Queensland for the Far North QLD Relay for Life 2026 up to the value of \$17,000 (ex GST).
 - i) Fiji Community Association Far North Queensland for the Cairns 7s Rugby Tournament to the value of \$7,000 (ex GST).
 - j) Machans Beach Community Association for Moon Over Machans to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST).
 - k) Mission Australia for the South Side Celebration (Child Protection Week event) to the value of \$5,000 (ex GST).
 - l) Papua New Guinea & Wantoks Association Cairns Incorporated for PNG's Family & Cultural Day – 51st Independence Anniversary up to the value of \$17,700 (ex GST).
 - m) Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc. for the Tunnel of Terror to the value of \$1,527 (ex GST).
 - n) Stratford Dolphins Football Club Inc. for the Barron River Foodfest to the value of \$10,000 (ex GST).

- o) The Great Pyramid Race and Country Fair Association Incorporated for The Great Pyramid Race to the value of \$15,000 (ex GST).
- p) The Japanese Society of Cairns Inc for Cairns Japan Bon Dance Festival 2026 up to the value of \$18,000 (ex GST).
- q) The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns for St Rita's School Babinda Centenary Celebration to the value of \$3,000 (ex GST).
- r) Young Animal Protection Society Inc for FNQ Dogs Day Out to the value of \$12,000 (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 2026/2027 proposed operating budget within the Community Partnerships Grant funding allocation.

Budget considerations:

2026/2027 Budget:

- The Community Partnerships Grant has a yet to be approved allocation of \$723,500 for the 2026/2027 financial year.
- \$235,292 (ex GST) of funds have already been allocated.
- Recommended in this report for Grant Round 18 is \$198,427 (ex GST).
- Should the recommendations within this report be supported, the remaining balance available for distribution will be \$289,781 (ex GST).

2026/2027	
2026/2027 Budget	\$723,500 (TBC)
Currently allocated	\$235,292
Recommended in this report	\$198,427
Total Remaining 2026/2027 Budget	\$289,781 (TBC)

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

Community and Cultural Heritage:

The events and activities recommended in this report celebrate community life, foster community pride, and enhance the profile of Cairns. Through funding community-led initiatives, Council provides:

- Support to community organisations to build social cohesion and resilience by connecting people with each other and with institutions and services in the community, creating a sense of belonging.
- Activation and promotion of local organisations, businesses, and industries.
- Local volunteering opportunities through the facilitations of programs and events.
- Capacity building for local clubs, organisations, and volunteer networks.

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The applications recommended in this report align with Council's Corporate Plan 2025 – 2030:

- Focus One – Robust Economy
Strategy: Optimise visitation and tourism opportunities
- Focus Four – Community & Culture
Strategy: Support diverse sport, cultural and community groups

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

Name of Organisation: Babinda Harvest Fest Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Jim Speelmon
Secretary	Tahlia West
Vice President	Tricia Wiles
Treasurer	Peter Carnsew

Name of Organisation: Bayview Heights Community Kindergarten Association Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Danielle White
Secretary	Rebecca Paterson
Vice President	Shannon Thwaites
Treasurer	Kathryn Fletcher

Name of Organisation: Cairns Bongo Group Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Dr Nirjhar Nandi
General Secretary	Dr Suchandan Sikder
Secretary	Mrs Ivy Roy
Joint Cultural Secretary	Mrs Priyanka Biswas
Media Secretary	Mrs Eri Sarkar
Treasurer	Mr Amitava Biswas

Name of Organisation: Cairns Chieftains GAA Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Thomas Burke
Secretary	Sean Garvey
Vice President	Glenn Carpenter
Vice/Youth Secretary	Chloe Helbert
PRO	Michael McBride
Treasurer	Andrea Lordan
Registrar	Emer Burke
Vice Treasurer	Shania Duffy
Vice PRO	Andrea Lordan
Commercial Sponsorship Officer	Sean Garvey
Children' Officer	Louise Richards

Name of Organisation: Cairns Christian Ministers Network Inc.

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

Name of Organisation: Cairns Hindu Samaj Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Mrs Chaitali Nayak
Secretary	Mrs Kumi Bishan
Treasurer	Dr Manjiri Vidyarthi
Committee Member	Dr Raj Goud
Committee Member	Mr Anil Goyal
Committee Member	Mr Narayankumar Addanki
Committee Member	Mr Jatin Mehta
Committee Member	Mrs Anu Chandel

Name of Organisation: Cairns Pride Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Thomas Mallett
Secretary	Melinda Johnston
Deputy Secretary	Arkie Rowe
Treasurer	Daniel Farrell
Deputy Treasurer	Mavis O'Meara

Name of Organisation: Cairns Punjabi Cultural Association Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Prabhjot Kaur
Secretary	Harneet Kaur
Treasurer	Rajdeep Kaur

Name of Organisation: Cancer Council Queensland

Committee Position	Name
Chair	Christina George
Secretary	Robin Piccolo
Ceremonies	Kath Johnston
Logistics	Peter George
Entertainment	Dori Jean Danes
Activities	Kayla
Catering	Robin
Marketing	Chameera
Sponsorship	Karen

Name of Organisation: Careflight Limited

Committee Position	Name
Independent Non-Executive Director, Chairperson of the Board	The Hon Brad Hazzard
Chief Executive Officer (Executive Director)	Mick Frewen
Independent Non-Executive Director	Sue Bailey
Independent Non-Executive Director	Dr Robert Turner

Committee Position	Name
Independent Non-Executive Director	Jodie Baker
Independent Non-Executive Director	Edward Mallan
Independent Non-Executive Director	Sarah Dewar
Independent Non-Executive Director	Dr Anthony Stanton
Company Secretary	Erin McMullen

Name of Organisation: Edge Hill State School P & C Association

Committee Position	Name
President	Nathan Lee Long
Vice President	Alice Michelenko
Vice President	Tanya Reedman
Vice President	Simon Atkinson
Secretary	Mette Shaw
Treasurer	Kellie Lock

Name of Organisation: Fiji Community Association Far North Queensland

Committee Position	Name
President	Ili Cava
Secretary	Kevin Waqa
Vice President	Waisake Radrodro
Treasurer	Suli Ducia
Committee Member	Paulo Butusomo
Committee Member	Jainoor Mallam
Committee Member	Fereti Cama
Committee Member	Sakiusa Regu
Committee Member	Salaciel Naivilawasa

Name of Organisation: Gondwana Choirs

Committee Position	Name
Chair	Tessa Boyd-Cain
Artistic Director	Lyn Williams AM
Board Director	Alan Watt
Board Director	Tom Frith
Board Director	Mathisha Panagoda
Board Director	C'Zarke Maza
Board Director	Kate Clark
Board Director	Alison Deitz
Executive Director	Louisa O'Toole

Name of Organisation: GOPIO Cairns Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Subash Chetry
Secretary	Aju J Mathew
Vice President	Dr Suresh Kesavan
Treasurer	Manish Mathew

Committee Position	Name
Asst Secretary	Harman Kaur
Asst Treasurer	Frey Dsouza
Women Rep	Rojian Banskota

Name of Organisation: Machans Beach Community Association

Committee Position	Name
President	Letitia Choppy
Secretary	Morag Gane
Vice President/Treasurer	Brett Hitchens
Coordinator – Moon Over Machans Event	Mark Herridge

Name of Organisation: Malla Community Arts Aboriginal Corporation

Committee Position	Name
Director	Jordan Oliver
Secretary	Elizabeth Oliver
Board Member	Dale Oliver

Name of Organisation: Mission Australia

Committee Position	Name
Hambledon House Community Centre	Janelle Sim
The Benevolent Society	Shelley Turner
Connected Beginnings	Keith Elaisa
CREATE Foundation	Rebecca Godfrey
ACT for Kids	Sandi Gane
Edmonton Child Safety	Arya Prasannan
Mission Australia	Robyn Gray
Mission Australia	Casey Stuchbery

Name of Organisation: Papua New Guinea & Wantoks Association Cairns Incorporated

Committee Position	Name
President	Dianne Austrai-Ombiga
Secretary	Leilani Karo
Vice President	Karen Ray
Treasurer	Edna Natusch
Committee Member	Marcia Muir
Committee Member	Elly Lacey
Committee Member	Millie Kerr
Committee Member	Miriam Ngangan
Committee Member	Mary Ireeuw
Committee Member	Joyce Segeyaro

Name of Organisation: Redlynch Valley Community Group Inc.

Committee Position	Name
Chairperson	Jim Shean
Secretary/Acting Treasurer	Vicki Shean
Marketing Officer	Shane Trimby
Committee Member	Oliver Voss
Committee member	Loann Robinson

Name of Organisation: Second Act Arts Inc.

Committee Position	Name
Chair/Artistic Director	Emma Humphreys
Secretary	Elizabeth Willow
Treasurer	Danny Fletcher
Board Member	Rachael Knight
Board Member	Paul Goddard
Board Member	James Fletcher
Board Member	Andrew Snelling
Board Member	Dan Tyrrell

Name of Organisation: Stratford Dolphins Football Club Inc.

Committee Position	Name
President	Angelo Serafin
Secretary	Melissa Browne
Treasurer	Morgan Jackson
Senior Vice President	Mr Kiley Drake
Grants Officer	Fred Fabris
Stratford Juniors VP	Melissa Browne
Registrar	Chloe Cassar

Name of Organisation: The Great Pyramid Race and Country Fair Association Incorporated

Committee Position	Name
President	Renee Edwards
Secretary	Sarah Campbell
Vice President	Graham Camp
Treasurer	Damien O'Mara
Committee Member	Ann Smith
Committee Member	Clive Murray
Committee Member	Colleen Murray
Committee Member	Bri Hardy
Committee Member	Mitch Hardy
Committee Member	Rebecca Jones
Committee Member	Faith McDonald
Committee Member	Andrea Evans
Committee Member	Matty Romano

Name of Organisation: The Japanese Society of Cairns Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Takuya Sakaguchi
Secretary	Shunsuke Koriyama
Vice President	Manabu Asai
Treasurer	Yusei Kodama

Name of Organisation: The Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Cairns

Committee Position	Name
President - St Rita's Babinda P & F Committee	Matt Owens
Secretary - Babinda P & F Committee	Samantha Benvenuti
Vice - President Babinda P & F Committee	Angela Owens
Treasurer - Babinda P & F Committee	Debbie Kurucz
President - St Rita's Babinda 100 Year Committee	Matt Owens
Secretary - St Rita's Babinda 100 Year Committee	Samantha McCarthy
Treasurer - St Rita's Babinda 100 Year Committee	Debbie Kurucz

Name of Organisation: Young Animal Protection Society Inc

Committee Position	Name
President	Martyn Reed
Vice President	Richard Chesson
Treasurer	Carol Clifton
Secretary	Annabelle Symes
Committee Member	Margaret Cochrane
Committee Member	Kaye Birch
Committee Member	Owen Scotts
Committee Member	Christine Vanderburgh
Committee Member	Sheridan Heaton