

OFFICIAL OPENING SPEECH - TUESDAY 16TH MAY 2006
SHELL WORLD YEPPON!

Acknowledge Dignatories:

Senator Ron Boswell

Member for Keppel Paul Hoolihan

Mayor Bill Ludwig, Deputy Mayor Brian Dorey, Cr. Vicki-Bastin-Byrne

CQACC Chairman, Mr. Kym Mobbs

Chairman of the CCTO, Kylie Wilson

President of the KBShell Club, Alan Davidson

Patron of the KBShell Club, Ena Coucom

It was just over 18 months ago in **September 2004** that Senator Boswell stood here to officially announce a Federal Government grant of \$255,000 (including GST) for this project – and it's wonderful to have you back Senator.

To get to that announcement of funding, was a journey which commenced some 6 or 7 years ago when the Keppel Bay Shell Club were searching for a new home.

A number of us were involved in that journey which involved a bit of lateral thinking and partnerships between the Shell Club, Livingstone Shire Council (in particular the Mayor), the State Government Department of Housing (in particular David Jackson) and our Community Members. The result was fantastic – a Council owned Community Park in Power Street, State govt. public housing in Whitman Street with the Shell Club gaining the funds to provide the cash component for our funding application.

So the KBShellC with \$200,000 in the bank, in **December 2003**, the CCTO submitted a funding application to the Regional Partnerships Program through the Area Consultative Committee based on a partnership between two non-profit community organisations – the CCTO and KBSC, and three levels of government - Local, State and Federal.

I must acknowledge the wonderful support received from the ACC, the then sub-Committee Chairman John Lever and fellow committee Member, the then CCTO Chairman Jean McRuvie and of course the CQACC Chairman Kym Mobbs. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the fantastic help provided by Phil Casey who assisted me in completing a successful funding application.

We were encouraged to 'think big', so our original concept included an internet café and large meeting rooms, in addition to what you will see here today, with the original drawings extending into the neighbouring Unallocated State Land.

It was at this point, we saw an unforeseen challenge with our plans, so we reverted to our existing lease with a redesign of the building. I must acknowledge the great support I received from the Regional Director of Department of Natural Resources & Mines, Mr. Athol Backhouse (who couldn't be with us today) who played his part in ensuring our project could go ahead with no further challenges. LSC Senior Staff also played a major role in this process, for which I am grateful.

I must also acknowledge the wonderful support received from the Regional Director of Main Roads, Mr. Terry Hill (who is also away), who supported our project from day one.

So, our Partnership created:

1. **Capricorn Coast Tourist Organisation Inc.** – owner of the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and Project Leader.
2. **Keppel Bay Shell Club Inc.** –\$200,000 cash contribution.
3. **Federal Government** - \$255,000 cash contribution
4. **State Government** – Department of Natural Resources & Mines (DNRM) custodian of the land with a joint trustee lease with Livingstone Shire Council
5. **Local Government** – Livingstone Shire Council will be beautifying the surrounding Merv Anderson Park and Markets area with new ring-road, fencing, irrigation and carparking as their major in-kind contribution to the project. This is due for completion within the next financial year.

Construction of this project commenced in October last year (2005) with our building designed by Bauhinia Architects and constructed by Marathon Homes. Gaven designed a functional, yet wonderful extension to ensure the theme of the original building continued. Chris and his team of merry men (Dave, Dale) had their fair share of challenges during construction, but rose to the task and have created a building we can be proud of.

Lee Chaney from the Federal Department of Transport & Regional Services has been great to work with and I sincerely thank LSC Management and staff (CEO, Dan Toon, Rob Crowe, Phil, Graham, Kevin) for their support and assistance to ensure things went smoothly for us.

Every one involved in this project, from the Committee Members of the CCTO and the KBSC to all of the workers, and the voluntary support along the way can be proud.

During construction, the Federal Government have shown a keen interest in our project, with inspections by Senator Barnaby Joyce and Federal Minister for Transport & Regional Services Warren Truss, and today we again welcome Senator Boswell who has become a fond supporter of the Capricorn Coast region.

I, along with everyone here today is proud of our Partnerships between community groups and all levels of government. Our community spirit is evident particularly during the last couple of weeks, where anyone and everyone pitched in to ensure today's launch ran smoothly – shovels, paint brushes, rakes, cleaners, a few 'superlatives' but all in good humour! And those Shell Club Members – hours upon hours of cataloging!

We are proud of the fact that our local community and visitors alike can share in the marvel of 20,000 amazing shells.

We are proud that this facility is the only one of its kind from Brisbane to Townsville which will provide educational opportunities to a much larger region than the Capricorn Coast.

We are proud that expansions like this create jobs, the CCTO now employing 2 full-time staff and a new Trainee commencing next week. And we are proud of our wonderful volunteers at the CCTO and KShellC who each year devote thousands of man hours to ensure information centres and unique displays such as this one are manned 7 days a week. In this **National Volunteer Week**, I pay tribute to all of our wonderful volunteers, without whom, we would not be able to operate this wonderful centre for all to enjoy.

Thank you.

Mary Carroll

General Manager

Capricorn Coast Tourist Organisation

KEPPEL BAY SHELL CLUB &
CAPRICORN COAST TOURIST ORGANISATION

SHELL WORLD YEPPOON

This project was jointly funded by
The Australian Government
and the
Keppel Bay Shell Club Incorporated
with project partners Capricorn Coast Tourist Organisation Incorporated
Department of Natural Resources & Mines and Livingstone Shire Council

Officially opened by

SENATOR THE HON. RON BOSWELL

Leader of The Nationals in the Senate
and

COUNCILLOR MARY CARROLL

Project Manager and Livingstone Shire Councillor
and

MRS. ENA COUCOM

Patron of the Keppel Bay Shell Club Incorporated

on

Tuesday 16th May 2006

Designed by Bauhinia Architects, Rockhampton

Constructed by Marathon Homes, Yeppoon