

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 28 August 2015

'MECC takes prestigious national award'

THE Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) has taken home the 2015 Australian Performing Arts Centre's Association's (APACA) Drover's Award for Performing Arts Centre of the year.

The Award recognises achievements across a broad spectrum of services, including technical, marketing and management services.

In addition, the award is presented to the facility that has achieved exceptional success in audience development and community engagement.

Festival, Events & The Arts portfolio councillor Chris Bonanno said the award was testament to the dedicated staff and volunteers that work at the MECC.

"The MECC team is always striving for better results," Cr Bonanno said.

"From headline music, comedy and dance to community favourites, such as Morning Melodies and Eisteddfod, the MECC brings laughter, music, and the thrill of live performance to the community," he said.

"The premium entertainment and conference venue also attracts many visitors and business to our region.

"Council is proud to play a major role in the provision of facilities such as the MECC, which both residents and visitors to the Mackay region can enjoy".

MECC and Events acting manager Andrew Bobeldyk accepted the award on behalf of Mackay Regional Council while attending the APACA Conference in Sydney.

"Our staff and Friends of the MECC were over the moon to hear that we'd finally won after coming runner-up for this award in 2012," Mr Bobeldyk said.

"We're proud of our achievements," he said.

"Our team works hard to provide excellence in customer service. We don't rest on our laurels; we keep striving for bigger and better.

"We're particularly proud of our achievements in community engagement.

"Recently we've had knitters knitting beanies for charity, and the BMC Pathways to Performance program is seeing more than 3000 young people enjoying live performance annually."

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Photo caption: [Some of the MECC team celebrating the award win are \(front from left\) Leah Edwards, Dean Mullamphy, Ellen Young, Ae Marnoo and \(back from left\) Corby Stuart, Jamie Dixon, Kat Ross, Dan Grace, James Loveless, Leticia McKenzie, Roo Jansen, Jemma Carey and Anne Laws.](#)

MECC would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the other finalists:

Finalists for Tour of the Year

1984 – Shake and Stir & Artour

Pete the Sheep – Monkey Baa Theatre Company & Arts on Tour

The Magic Hour – Deckchair Theatre Company & Performing Lines WA

Finalists for Presenter of the Year

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre

Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre

Mackay Entertainment & Convention Centre

Merrigong Theatre Company

NORPA

Whitehorse Performing Arts Centre

Please join us in congratulating all the finalists.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Festival, Events & The Arts portfolio councillor, Chris Bonanno

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