

November 13, 2013

## News Release > Record month for versatile MECC

The highly popular Eisteddfod and big name bands Hot Chocolate and Cat Empire have proved to be a winning formula for the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC).

More than 42,000 passed through the MECC doors during October, breaking previous October attendance records by 4000 people.

Festival, Events and The Arts portfolio councillor Chris Bonanno said the ten per cent jump in patrons showcases the versatility of the centre, which provided ballet to boxing.

“Our region’s entertainment centre was fully utilised during the month of October with an average of 1300 people visiting the centre each day,” Cr Bonanno said.

“The Convention Centre was also busy with corporate events and private hires including the Harvey World Travel Expo, Kickboxing Tournament and the Lend Lease Retail Awards Dinner.”

MECC and Events Manager Mark Fawcett said 1970s chart toppers Hot Chocolate staged their only Queensland performance at the MECC attracting over 650 people.

“The audience absolutely loved them with many donning 70s outfits.”

“We witnessed a fantastic young crowd of over 700 at the Cat Empire and seniors were delighted by the music of Nat King Cole in Martine Pavey’s ‘Stardust’ at morning melodies.”

Mr Fawcett said local entertainment also drew a big crowd.

“The Mackay Eisteddfod dominated the Centre’s booking calendar in October delighting audiences over 21 days.”

“We also hosted several local dance schools end of year concerts and a diverse range of professional entertainment such as comedian Arj Barker and the Imperial Russian Ballet Company.”

To top off the record breaking month, the MECC was named the ‘Best Government Department’ by the Mackay Spinal Injuries Association for installing automatic doors at its facility.

“Council has been working hard to break down obstacles and improve access for people with a disability their families and their carers,” Cr Bonanno said.

The year is far but over for the MECC with some of the biggest names in the entertainment industry performing in the coming weeks including Hollywood Walk of Fame star Belinda Carlisle, Jessica Mauboy, Charlie Pride and Anh Do.

The hugely popular Ice City II is due to open on Boxing Day.

To find out what’s on at the MECC visit [www.mackaytix.com.au](http://www.mackaytix.com.au). The MECC will unveil its 2014 entertainment calendar next week.

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