

**MEDIA ALERT**

Monday, 9 September 2019



## FRIENDS RECYCLE FLAGS FOR FASHIONABLE CAUSE

The Friends of the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC) have stepped out of the theatre and into the sewing room for a new project.

The volunteer organisation are dedicating their time to the centre in a different way, stitching together recycled promotional flags into stylish tote bags to be sold to patrons, with proceeds going directly to the Friends of the MECC.

Coordinator of the sewing group and Friend of the MECC, Jan Gordon, said the bags were a great way to recycle materials which would have otherwise ended up in landfill.

“The flags and banners are made of great quality fabric and very colorful, so each bag we make is a one-of-a-kind and quite unique.” Mrs Gordon said.

“We wanted the bags to be excellent quality and a decent size. A lot of thought has gone into creating them – and they are perfect as a shopping bag or a library bag – they are very versatile.”

The bags have been fondly named ‘Anne Bags’ after the late Anne Laws, who was a dedicated MECC employee for over 30 years and an avid craft enthusiast.

President of the Friends of the MECC Committee Colleen Farry, said “It was Anne’s idea to create the bags from the flags, so we thought the name ‘Anne Bags’ would be a lovely way to commemorate her.”

The Friends of the MECC sewing group members are Jan Gordon, Margaret Brignone, Ailsa Hinchy, Marian Terwin, Maie Tonuma, Denise Hansen, Marcia Thorning and Kay Hodgson

Anne Bags will be available for purchase this weekend at the *Rock Paper Scissors Artist & Makers Market*, and after this will be available to purchase from the MECC Box Office for \$8 each. All money will be donated to directly to the Friends of the MECC. Stocks are limited.

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