



Midweek (Mackay & Sarina)

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Lagoon handed to Council

IT WAS a surprisingly low-key affair in contrast to the massive celebration planned for Sunday's Splashtacular opening when Mackay Regional Council this week took ownership of the keys to the Bluewater Lagoon site.

Woollams Constructions director Craig Percival made the symbolic presentation last Friday to the general manager of community programs Erica Nagle.

"It's one of the more satisfying moments of this project," she said.

Ms Nagle was one of the architects of the lagoon concept, having been involved from 2002 when the idea of a lagoon was first

mooted. On Sunday, she and several other Council staff will cherish the moment, as thousands will enjoy the facility.

Several contractors remain on site adding the finishing touches to the \$12.7m facility, which has been funded by Council, the Queensland Government and Australian Government.

Woollams had about 25 of its own staff working on the project and during the 12 month construction process almost 500 workers have been through the site.

Project manager Robert Tisdell said the development has been a refreshing challenge for many of the staff.

"Much of the work has

been fairly new to a lot of the trades here so it's been a unique experience to each and every one of them," Mr Tisdell said.

"I think it's this level of craftsmanship and pride that has really brought it all together and the region will be left in awe when they experience the facility," he said.

□ The Family Splashtacular opening of the Bluewater Lagoon will be held this Sunday at the new lagoon, from 3-7pm. The afternoon will include live music, giveaways and a spectacular Ergon Energy fireworks display at 7pm.



A job well done for, from left, Robert Tisdell (Woollams Constructions), Craig Percival (director), Erica Nagle (community programs general manager) and Onno Van Es (aquatic facilities supervisor).

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