

## Tourism

The naturally beautiful North Burnett has an abundance of tourism hot spots that Council and community would like to see grow and develop over the term of government. Tourism has been identified as a growth industry with a number of key projects to provide a catalyst for visitor growth.

Currently, the North Burnett enjoys only 10% of visitors that visit the Fraser Coast/Wide Bay area, giving us a great opportunity to increase tourist numbers in the North Burnett.

The North Burnett region has a wealth of untold history of the First Australians and currently six percent (6%) of the North Burnett population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. We stand aligned with the Federal Government's commitment to 'Close the Gap' by seeking funding through current and future grants to safeguard our historic sites and to educate and celebrate the significance of First Australian's history within our community.

The RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre was presented the 2018 Queensland Information Centres Association (QICA) Visitor Information Centre Cultural Heritage Award. It provides the community with an educational and interactive experience of the area's cultural heritage. The centre is also ideally situated in the centre of our region and as such provides a valuable on sell opportunity.

The North Burnett is also home to Ban Ban Springs, the first cultural heritage site to be recognised in the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003. This site is not only significant to the local First Nations Peoples but is a site that was utilised by many different tribes as a meeting place while traveling to the Bunya Festivals. The North Burnett Regional Council's First Australian community wishes this site to be one that educates and attracts the community to the rich history of the area.

The North Burnett Regional Council is asking for \$300k in the first year of the new term and ongoing funding to develop a celebration of our indigenous history at the award winning RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre and cultural heritage site, Ban Ban Springs.

Council asks that these funding opportunities, including the **Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program** and the **Indigenous Languages and Arts Program**, are continued and expanded into the future.

