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For immediate release

## **Community comes together for Guwarri Town Beach Christmas Party**



The Shire of Broome's Guwarri Town Beach Christmas Party lit up Guwarri Town Beach on Sunday evening, drawing hundreds of community members for an afternoon of entertainment, creative showcases and festive celebration.

The event commenced at 4:30pm with markets and food trucks trading along the foreshore. Local stallholders, handmade crafts and festive treats created a lively atmosphere, offering families a chance to shop, eat and enjoy the lead-up to Christmas.

A Welcome to Country and a special performance of "Bush Pearls" by Tara Gower followed, celebrating Broome's youth and the natural wonders of the region.

The Market Stage came alive with youth talent, featuring performances by Broome Senior High School students, acoustic duo Ziggy & Tricky, and the Instrumental Music School Services Brass Band, which

showcased more than 30 young musicians. Broome Performing Arts Co-Op dancers also delighted the crowd with a surprise flash-mob performance on the main stage ahead of the Carols.

One of the standout features of this year's program was the Artists in Residence Community Arts Project with students from St Mary's College, guided by artist Elise Fenn and arts educator Sarah McPhearson. Throughout Term 4, students explored sewing, embroidery and storytelling through textiles, creating artworks inspired by the people and places they love about Broome. Their pieces were proudly displayed at the event as part of a collaborative installation.

The creative program also included the Mangala Lantern Project and Twilight Art Trail, adding a warm, glowing ambience to the foreshore as families moved between activities.

A wide range of entertainment started from 4:30pm, including cookie decorating, face painting, the Lions Train, bubble play, chalk art, laser tag and a giant water slide — ensuring there was something for community members of all ages.

As the sun set, crowds gathered at the main stage for Carols by Candlelight at 6:00pm, where the community joined voices in a series of festive classics performed by local choirs and musicians. This year, attendees were encouraged to use a digital candle to reduce waste and create a safer, more sustainable event experience.

Shire President Chris Mitchell said the event showcased the spirit, talent and togetherness of the Broome community.

"The Guwarri Town Beach Christmas Party continues to be one of Broome's most treasured community events," Cr Mitchell said.

"It brings together families, local artists, musicians, markets and volunteers for an afternoon that truly reflects the heart of our town."

"The artwork created by St Mary's students under the guidance of our Artists in Residence was a remarkable highlight. Their creativity and connection to place was on full display, and it was inspiring to see the community engaging with their work."

Cr Mitchell also acknowledged the importance of local partnerships in delivering the event.

"We're grateful to the Broome Markets, our food vendors, Rio Tinto, INPEX, community groups and Shire staff for helping create such a vibrant celebration," he said.

"Carols by Candlelight once again brought everyone together in a wonderful moment of unity to close the evening."

The event concluded at 8:00pm, with the final free shuttle bus departing Town Beach at 8:40pm, supporting accessibility and reducing congestion for attendees.

The Shire of Broome looks forward to welcoming the community back for next year's Town Beach Christmas Party.

**ENDS.**

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