PRESS RELEASE

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Calliope Shows Its Strength as Community Hub Moves Forward

The Calliope Community Hub is moving forward with its recovery following the vandalism that occurred while the Hub was undergoing renovations, with the young people responsible identified and their families coming forward to apologise and take accountability for the damage.

The incident, which occurred over the weekend, was reported to Queensland Police. Strong Communities would like to thank the Calliope Police officers and everyone involved for their swift response and the way they handled the matter.

The local response has also been incredibly encouraging and comforting for the Strong Communities team, with many people reaching out to offer help and support as we work to get the renovations back on track. The outpouring of support has highlighted just how important this project is to the region and the desire for a welcoming community hub in Calliope.

The young people involved, together with their parents, came forward to meet with representatives of Strong Communities, apologise for what had occurred and take responsibility for their actions.

Strong Communities CEO Crystal Robson said the meeting was an important moment for everyone involved.

“Of course, what happened was incredibly upsetting. A lot of people have poured their time, energy and care into bringing the Hub to life, and seeing that work damaged was heartbreaking,” Crystal said.

“But what has happened since has reminded us of something equally important: people can make mistakes, and they can choose to take responsibility for those mistakes and make things right.

“We genuinely appreciate and respect that these young people and their families came forward, faced the situation, apologised and took accountability. That takes courage, and we hope this experience becomes an opportunity for learning and growth.”

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The response from the families and the wider community has also reinforced the importance of creating spaces where young people and the community feel connected, supported and valued.

“We don't want this incident to define these young people, just as we don't want it to define our community,” Crystal said.

“What matters now is what we do from here.

“Our community has shown an incredible amount of kindness and support since the incident, and the actions of these families are another example of the good that exists within Calliope.

“We believe strongly in accountability, but we also believe in compassion and giving people the opportunity to learn from their actions.”

An assessment by Programmed, the company delivering the renovations project, is currently underway.

The damage has unfortunately pushed back the Hub’s reopening timeline, with a new opening date yet to be confirmed. The focus now is on assessing the necessary repairs and continuing the work to bring the Hub to the community.

“We are so grateful to Programmed and our trades for their ongoing commitment to the project,” Crystal said.

“And we are incredibly grateful to the people of Calliope for the way they have responded. The offers of help, the messages, the kindness and the willingness to look out for one another have been a beautiful reminder of why this Hub matters.

“We can’t wait to open the doors and welcome this community into the space they have been waiting for.”

The Calliope Community Hub will continue to provide updates as the renovation progresses and an opening date becomes clearer.

The community is encouraged to continue supporting one another, supporting local businesses and finding the good that exists throughout the Calliope community.

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The Calliope Community Hub
A LOCAL COMMUNITY SPACE
GATHER. GROW. THRIVE.