Media release

Mayor: Richie Williamson
General Manager: Scott Greensill

LOCKED BAG 23 GRAFTON NSW 2460
Telephone: (02) 6643 0200
Fax: (02) 6642 7647

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Unique Australian stories attract hundreds of moviegoers

There has been a tremendous response to two free screenings of Australian films at Grafton's historic Saraton Theatre this week.

More than 600 moviegoers turned up on Wednesday to enjoy the Black Screen and School Screen events – put on jointly by the National Film and Sound Archive and Clarence Valley Council.

Black Screen was made up of three short indigenous films, which attracted 300 people to the evening session. Earlier, the same number of Clarence Valley students attended a screening of the Australian hit movie, *Red Dog.*

Mayor Richie Williamson said council was thrilled with attendance numbers for the Black Screen and School Screen events this year.

"The high attendance at Black Screen and School Screen on Wednesday shows there is a real desire for indigenous and other Australian movies in the Clarence Valley," he said. "Council will be looking to continue its association with the National Film and Sound Archive to hold these great events again.

"One Black Screen filmgoer told me it was excellent to have the chance to see the films based on uniquely Australian stories."

Black Screen provides communities access to movies that showcase the talents of indigenous actors and film-makers. School screen offers free screenings of Australian feature films, shorts and documentaries for schools nationwide.

Release ends.

Authorised by: Richie Williamson MAYOR 02 6643 0245 or 0427 457 382

For further information contact:

Anne D'Arcy **Manager Social Planning & Cultural Development** **(02) 6643 0200**

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