**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The last Breakfast with Santa?**

**December 4, 2017**

**COOKTOWN**

Breakfast with Santa, a beloved community event that has been running annual for more than 15 years, could be cancelled after only half the booked children attended.

The free event, held on Sunday, December 3 at the Cooktown Pool and organised by Cook Shire Council, was attended by 64 children and their families, while more than 100 had booked, Cook Shire Mayor Peter Scott said. “It is disappointing when so much time and effort is put into this event by our staff and volunteers, and the food is there, the presents are there but the children don’t show up,” Cr Scott said. “Those tickets could have been given to other children who wanted to attend, or we could have redirected those funds to other community events. We sincerely thank all the families who did come along and enjoyed a wonderful morning.”

Council would be considering the event’s future after the second year of poor turnouts despite heavy bookings, Cr Scott said. “Maybe we need to hold it on a different day or different time, or maybe the community is tired of the same thing, maybe we look at a completely different Christmas event for our residents?”

The event was started by Cooktown businesses and volunteers, and includes a breakfast for all attendees and a present for each child booked.

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