

Residents welcome opening of new hall

By RYAN EVANS

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AFTER more than a year without a hall, Normanby residents turned out on Saturday to celebrate the opening of a new one.

The community has been hall-less since an arsonist's fire gutted its old hall in August 2008 and an estimated 200 people showed up to have a nosey at the official opening.

Normanby Community Board member Fred Kumeroa said having a hall was vitally important to a sense of community, especially for the younger children of the town.

"It's been something that's really regenerated everything and everyone's come on board," he said.

"The input from the various sporting bodies has been huge and the whole of the community as well."

While the community was opening its hall it also took the opportunity to open two other new facilities – a BMX track and a skate park.



Hall and all: Normanby Community Board members, from left, Fred Kumeroa, Lynne Wilson, Peter Johnson and Gerard Karalus at the opening of the town's new hall on Saturday.

Photo: CHRIS HILLOCK

Saturday's proceedings began with a blessing for the new hall at dawn.

At 4pm, local MP Chester Borrows officially opened the hall, followed by speeches and a BMX demonstration on the new track.

Later in the evening, a hot meal was provided by the Save the Community group.