

# BUSINESS\$ WEEKLY

## MOVING FORWARD



Mackay Cutters player Anthony Caulton helped out the staff at Amart All Sports when they were inundated after the February flooding. The store officially reopened on Saturday.

PHOTO: JENNIFER TRELOAR 170208/122

# Doors are open wide

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AMART All Sports finally had their grand re-opening last Saturday, a relief after being shut up for about six weeks since being inundated by Mackay's February flood.

The staff of the sporting giant, including sales manager Belinda Buckley, worked to get the store back on track with the initial struggle being a

case of "where do we start?"

"Things went from one end of the store to the other and weighed 100kg plus. We had to gut it and start from scratch," Ms Buckley said.

"We're pretty much back to normal now."

The store had been trading for about a week before their official re-opening, but they kept their advertising low until the big day rolled around.

"We're now looking forward to moving on, getting our good customers back and picking up where we left off," she said.

Inventory manager Daniel Walker added that staff morale suffered during the ordeal but had picked up since the doors had opened again.

"A lot of the moving things around was a hassle," Mr Walker said.

"We've given the casual

staff the hours that they usually did and the full time staff definitely had their hands full with the clean-up."

Store manager Jenny Smith said despite being closed longer than other flood-affected retailers, it was so customers would have a "comfortable shopping experience".

"It makes it better for the customer," Ms Smith said, "You either do it properly from the word go,

or you just get the doors open as soon as possible."

The flood damage was made worse by the fact the store was relatively new, having moved from beside Super A-Mart to Northpoint Retail about two years ago.

Ms Buckley said she sympathised with other Mackay businesses, such as material giant Spotlight, which is still waiting to restart trading.

"We know how much we

went through to open," she said. "Our heart goes out to them."

For their part, Spotlight public affairs officer Steven Carey described their clean-up as a "slow process".

"We're redoing the store in a new format," he said, "But the clean-up is still occurring; it's full steam ahead. We're certainly looking at getting up and trading as soon as possible."

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