



Vincent Street
CESSNOCK 2325

30 April 2008

To All Councillors

You are hereby notified that the next Meeting of the Strategic & Community Services Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, on Wednesday, 7 May 2008, immediately following the conclusion of the Infrastructure & Services Committee Meeting, for the purpose of transacting the undermentioned business.

**B R MORTOMORE
GENERAL MANAGER**

AGENDA:

PAGE NO.

(1) APOLOGIES.

(2) CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

Minutes of the Strategic & Community Services Committee
Meeting held on 16 April 2008

(3) OFFICERS' REPORTS

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES

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(4) QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE.

OFFICER'S REPORTS

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT NO. 34/2008

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DONATION

Community Worker, Ms J Forbes, reports:-

On the 6 September 2006 Council resolved to adopt a Donations Policy. Since this time Council has funded various requests for donations. The Policy was amended at Council's meeting held on 16 April 2008.

Below are further donation requests that Council has received that meet the revised criteria set out in the Donations Policy.

SECOND BEYOND BLUE PROGRAM UPDATE

CYCOS staff are able to run another series of Beyond Blue Programs however this will occur in November 2008. Therefore the \$2,000 offered by Council will not be expended this financial year.

MATTHEW WALTERS MOTORCYCLE COMPETITOR

Correspondence received 26 March 2008 seeking sponsorship towards Matthew Walters competing in the 2008 Australian 125 GP National Championships.

Matthew Walters is a 15 year old Motorcycle Competitor who is eligible to compete in the Australian Championships, racing against a relatively older age group (18-28). The competition has seven rounds spread over six race meetings which commenced at Eastern Creek on the 14 March and will finish on the 19 October at the same venue. On the weekend of the 12 & 13 April 2008 Matthew competed in three races at Eastern Creek. He was successful in obtaining a 1st and 3rd place.

Matthew has won over 13 National and State championships and has more than 40 Junior Club titles to his credit. He started his career on a Pee Wee at age 4, climbing the circuits at the Kurri Kurri motorcycle Junior Dirt Track Club.

This request meets the Donations Policy in that Matthew is competing at a State level in his sport.

LIONS CLUB BARBEQUE CATERING TRAILER

Correspondence received 9 April 2008 seeking sponsorship towards the construction of a fully equipped barbeque catering trailer.

The Lions Club is hoping to utilise the trailer to assist the community with fundraising. A local business has been engaged to custom build the trailer which will include a barbeque, bain-marie, three insulated stainless steel ice boxes, stainless steel servery, sink and hot water system in addition to sundry lights, ventilation, first aid kit and tarpaulin.

This request meets the Donations Policy as it is charitable project that is directly focused on the Cessnock LGA.

COALFIELDS ROCK 2008

Correspondence received 17 April 2008 seeking a donation towards professional lighting and sound equipment for 'Coalfields Rock 2008'.

'Coalfields Rock 2008' will include the 12 local Cessnock public schools in two performances that are scheduled to be held in September 2008 with the theme for the event being 'The Olympics'. Performers in this event range from Kindergarten to Year 12. Costs associated with the event such as programs and tickets come out of individual school budgets and all costumes, props and items are organised by each school involved.

Sales of the tickets to 'Coalfields Rock 2008' are utilised for fundraising purposes, they do not go towards the costs associated with the event. This year it is proposed that funds raised will be donated to support the Cessnock PCYC and the Australian Paralympic team.

This request meets the Donations Policy as it is charitable project that is directly focused on the Cessnock LGA.

A copy of these requests have been included with the Enclosure Documents and there is presently \$3,959.88 remaining in the Donations Budget for Council's consideration (Note: this balance does not take into account the proposed allocation, which is currently under consideration by Council officers, of an additional \$2,000 for a second Beyond Blue youth program).

RECOMMENDATION that:-

1. \$2,000 be committed from the 2008/2009 Donations Budget for the next series of Beyond Blue Programs, thereby making available further funds for the current financial year.
2. In line with other donations for sporting endeavours Council consider a donation to Matthew Walters of \$450.
3. Council consider providing a donation towards the Lions Club Barbeque Catering Trailer.
4. Council consider providing a donation towards professional lighting and sound equipment for 'Coalfields Rock 2008'.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Committee – 7 May 2008

S EADE
ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
28 April 2008

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES
REPORT NO. 35/2008

**SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL ACCESS COMMITTEE
 HELD ON 7 APRIL 2008**

A meeting of the Cessnock City Council Access Committee was held on 7 April 2008 and reports as follows:-

Attendees at the meeting included Ms Nicole Benson (Recreation & Community Services Manager) in the chair, Cr James Ryan, Cr Bob Pynsent, Mr Dale Dickey (Transport & Road Safety Manager), Ms Natalie Drage (Social Planner), Ms Jessica Forbes (Trainee Community Worker), Ms Maureen Donnelly, Mr Nick Charters (ParaQuad), Mr Owen Partridge and Ms Ellena Morris (Special Olympics NSW).

GUEST SPEAKER

Ms Ellena Morris introduced herself to the committee and stated that she works for Special Olympics NSW. Special Olympics NSW is an organisation that works with people who have a disability. In the Hunter Valley the organisation has approximately 1,400 members across 17 different sports.

Special Olympics NSW is valuable in that it provides participants with positive self-esteem and self-confidence. Currently, Special Olympics NSW holds 8-10 carnivals per year in the Cessnock LGA in addition to taking athletes to compete in other areas. It was noted that all staff who participate in Special Olympics NSW are volunteers.

Special Olympics NSW recently held carnivals in Cessnock and Kurri Kurri with the Cessnock carnival being well attended. It was noted that Special Olympics NSW often has trouble gaining sponsorship. It was noted that Council provided in-kind support through allowing the group to use the two pools free of charge to hold the carnivals.

It was asked whether Special Olympics NSW seek out participants from facilities such as group homes. Ms Morris stated that the organisation does get some of its members from group homes in Newcastle in addition to day care centres. It was further noted that if the committee knows of anyone who would enjoy being part of Special Olympics NSW to notify Ellena Morris. (Special Olympics NSW's contact details can be found on the Community Directory on Council's website at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au).

It was asked what attributes Special Olympics NSW looks for in an athlete. Ms Morris answered that the skill level doesn't matter specifically it is the drive to put in hard work and have a go that are the preferred attributes of a potential athlete.

The committee questioned the difference between the Para Olympics and the Special Olympics. Ms Morris replied that the Para Olympics are extremely competitive and includes athletes that have been classified from 1-16 in terms of their level of disability. Special Olympics NSW allows all people with a disability of any skill level to participate. It was further noted that Special Olympics NSW and the Para Olympics are IOC recognised.

RECOMMENDED that the information be noted.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. UPDATE – DISH AT CORNER OF WOLLOMBI ROAD AND IVAN STREET

The committee were informed that works have commenced at the site today.

RECOMMENDED that the Access Advisory Committee be notified when these works have been completed.

2. UPDATE - LINE MARKING OF CAR PARK AT PEACE PARK (WESTON)

Ms Benson informed the committee that funds may have been secured to complete the line marking at Peace Park. However, the information is yet to be confirmed.

RECOMMENDED that the Access Advisory Committee be kept up to date with the completion of the line marking at Peace Park.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

RECOMMENDED that the information be noted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

1. MOBILITY MAPS

Ms Forbes tabled the Mobility Maps that are under review for the committee to peruse. It was noted that the Cessnock CBD area maps are 90% complete with the Kurri Kurri CBD area yet to be commenced. It is anticipated that the entire review of the mobility maps will be completed in the near future and will be presented at the next Access Advisory Committee meeting. The committee discussed alterations that could be included on the maps.

It was suggested that Council investigate providing the mobility maps in a brochure format that can be utilised easily by the community. It was noted that Council will look into this possibility as not all people have access to the internet and it would be a quick and easy resource for the community. It was also suggested that Council look into the possibility of setting up the maps so that the community could download them onto their GPS navigation system as a DL brochure.

It was noted that Council needs to look at the original rationale for the development of these maps in terms of toilets located in businesses/clubs. It was raised that colour dots in lieu of symbols might be easier for someone to distinguish. It was noted that there are standards in terms of height for automated teller machines and that Council should investigate this.

It was discussed that the maps be made more clear and concise by using the space that currently has no information on it for the legend. It was suggested to Council that a long-term goal of the Mobility Maps should be the whole LGA.

RECOMMENDED that the Mobility Maps be completed and presented to the committee on the 2 June 2008; that the committee's alterations be included on the maps; that a brochure format for the maps be investigated; that Council discuss the possibility of having the maps available for download to GPS system's as a DL brochure; that Council investigate the original rationale for the development of the maps in terms of toilet facilities; that Council research the standards of heights of ATM's; that the maps use the space better; that Council investigate the possibility of having a long-term goal of the whole LGA being reflected in Mobility Maps.

2. MOBILITY DAY

The committee were informed that the Ministry of Transport are in the process of planning a Mobility Day for the Cessnock LGA. It is anticipated that the day will be held in the near future. The event will offer an opportunity for people to look at a wheelchair accessible taxi and bus. Cessnock Community Transport will also be in attendance to show the community what they do and there will be talks on road safety.

Currently the date is not confirmed but Council will send information to the committee once known.

RECOMMENDED that Council send information in regards to the Mobility Day to the Access Advisory Committee when more information comes to light.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

1. EX-SERVICEMANS CLUB EXTENTSIONS

It was discussed that the entrance to the Cessnock Ex-Serviceman's club is difficult to access for people who require a wheelchair.

RECOMMENDED that Council investigate this with the Ex-Serviceman's Club and report back to the next meeting.

RECOMMENDATION that Council endorse the report of the Cessnock City Council Access Committee meeting held on 7 April 2008.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Committee – 7 May 2008

S EADE
ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
28 April 2008

**ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES
REPORT NO. 36/2008**

**SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO COUNCIL TO SUPPORT AN ACQUISITIVE AWARD AT
THE WOLLOMBI VALLEY ARTS COUNCIL EMERGING ARTISTS
EXHIBITION 2008**

PURPOSE

A proposal has been received from the Wollombi Valley Arts Council (WVAC) whereby Cessnock City Council considers supporting an acquisitive award at the annual Emerging Artists Exhibition held at Wollombi.

BACKGROUND

As part of its 2008 application for funding through Council's Community Cultural Development \$ for \$ Grant Program, the WVAC suggested that in return for Cessnock City Council's support for the Emerging Artists Award, WVAC "would like to make the prize an acquisitive award for Cessnock Council. The result would be for Council to start a collection of art gained by the first place winner of the award each year. The winner would forgo their sale price for award monies and their work would become included in council's collection". A copy of the letter is in the Enclosure documents.

It should be noted that Council has supported the Emerging Artists Exhibition at the Wollombi Cultural Centre for three years through the Community Cultural Development \$ for \$ Grant Program.

REPORT

Since the 1970s, Council has supported local art shows, particularly those at Cessnock and Weston, through the donation of an acquisitive art prize. It is by this means that Council's art collection has developed into one now exceeding 70 art works.

Whilst the Weston Art Show is still thriving, and is held on an annual basis, the Cessnock Art Show is no longer held due to the dissolution of the Cessnock Art Society. The last art work acquired from the Cessnock Art Show was in 2004.

If Council were to support the WVAC Emerging Artists Award, the principal prize winning work would be acquired by Council, and thus help to continue to expand the city's art collection. It would also be an additional way for Council to support art and culture in the LGA, with a focus on encouraging new artists to develop their skills.

CONCLUSION

With the demise of the Cessnock Art Society, the only art show currently supported independently of any project funded through the Community Cultural Development \$ for \$ Grant Program is the Weston Art Show. This show is of long standing, and the art works displayed are a mixture of works by established and emerging artists.

By supporting an art exhibition which is specifically targeted towards emerging artists, Council will be broadening its support, and establishing a new source of art works for its collection.

RECOMMENDATION that Council:-

1. Agree that its support for the 2008 Emerging Artists Award serve as the means to acquire this year's winning work.
2. Consider supporting the exhibition in future years, based on an annual application from the organising body for a donation, as per the current process adopted for the Weston Art Show and the previously supported Cessnock Art Show.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Committee - 7 May 2008

S EADE
ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC &
COMMUNITY SERVICES
29 April 2008

ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC & COMMUNITY SERVICES

REPORT NO. 37/2008

SUBJECT: CONCEPT PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A CESSNOCK REGIONAL ART GALLERY

PURPOSE

Two members of the Cessnock community have recently briefed the Mayor and Council officers on a proposal to establish a Cessnock Regional Art Gallery in Cessnock. This report provides details of the proposal and outlines its current status.

BACKGROUND

Mr John Reid AO and Ms Patricia Marsland, residents of the Cessnock Local Government Area, have held meetings with Council representatives to outline their proposal to establish a Cessnock Regional Art Gallery. Ms Marsland, a community member of Council's Cultural Planning and Development Committee, also provided an outline of the proposal to that Committee at its March 2008 meeting, as recorded in its minutes.

There has been a long standing view among many members of the community that there should be an art gallery in Cessnock, and the benefits of such a facility to the broader community and to visitors of the area are apparent. A gallery as a public art space would provide a community focus for visual arts education, enrich the cultural infrastructure of the area and represent a significant new attraction for visitors to the area, and to the town of Cessnock in particular.

The proposal as outlined seeks to establish a gallery through the auspices of a not for profit incorporated association with tax exemptions for donations, a management committee, members, a foundation council and an advisory group.

REPORT

Council has a long history of supporting local and regional artists through its support of the Weston and Cessnock Art Shows. It now has a collection of at least 70 art works, developed over more than thirty years. Council does not have a gallery space of its own, and the works are stored at Cessnock Library and have been exhibited from time to time at various locations in the LGA.

There have been frequent calls for a gallery to be established, but Council has not been in a position to undertake such a project given the competing demands for other infrastructure and facilities.

In recent times, however, the vision and enthusiasm of Mr John Reid AO and Ms Patricia Marsland, has enabled them to formulate a proposal to commence a project which has the potential to deliver a public art gallery to the Cessnock region.

The Enclosure documents include a discussion paper entitled *Designing the Future – Cessnock Regional Art Gallery*. This document describes the aims and objectives of a Cessnock Regional Art Gallery, and details the mechanism by which this can be achieved.

The gallery would “showcase the many well known and emerging artists in the Hunter to local residents, and, importantly, to Wine Country visitors and bring exhibitions, new media and cutting edge art and design to Cessnock and central Hunter residents and visitors”.

Cessnock Regional Art Gallery would “inspire and promote Hunter artists with a program of exhibitions and events that included both known and respected Hunter artists, emerging artists, specific group exhibitions, an education program and (imported) touring exhibitions”.

It would be subsidised by government and community, with a commercial arm for retail purposes.

The proposal will seek to gather support, both financial and in community terms, from a range of business people, funding bodies and individuals who will steer the project through its formative stages and then in an ongoing capacity once the concept becomes a reality.

At present, the drivers of the project are in the process of creating an inaugural membership group with the aim of quickly constituting a body to be known as the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery Incorporated. Once the incorporated association has been formed, a concerted effort will begin to raise funds to lease/purchase suitable premises in Cessnock, develop the initial operational budget/program and expand the membership base of the organisation.

At this stage, Council is not being requested to provide any financial commitment to the project. However, its in principle support for the concept would provide considerable status to the proposal, and be of significant assistance in lobbying for funding from the relevant state and federal government cultural programs and from other potential non government funding sources.

It is proposed to keep Council informed of the progress of the proposal in coming months. If the establishment of a gallery looks like becoming a reality, Council may be approached to provide representation on the gallery’s management committee, and also to consider a funding commitment. It has been made clear, however, by Council staff, that such a commitment would be a matter for Council to determine, and would be unlikely to be a substantial amount in the immediate future.

CONCLUSION

The proposal to establish a Cessnock Regional Art Gallery is exciting, and has the potential to deliver a new cultural facility for the area which has significant financial support from business and benefactors within the community. Such a development will be of great benefit to all sectors of our community.

Council is not in a position at present to drive such a proposal, but it can lend important support and encouragement to the proponents of the project. The meetings held to date with the proponents have been positive, and there would appear to be a real prospect of a gallery being established in Cessnock in the not to distant future.

RECOMMENDATIONS that Council:-

1. Express its in principle support for the proposal to establish a Cessnock Regional Art Gallery.
2. Receive regular updates on the proposal.

To: **The General Manager**
Strategic & Community Services
Committee - 7 May 2008

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ACTING DIRECTOR STRATEGIC &
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29 April 2008