



5<sup>th</sup> July, 2005

## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANDWICK WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, 90 AVOCA STREET, RANDWICK, ON TUESDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2005 AT 5:30 P.M.

Committee Members: His Worship, the Mayor, Cr M. Matson, Bastic, Kenny, Nash, Procopiadis, Tracey (Chairperson) & Woodsmith (Deputy Chairperson)

Quorum: Four (4) members.

**NOTE:** AT THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2004, THE COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE BE CONSTITUTED AS A COMMITTEE WITH FULL DELEGATION TO DETERMINE MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.

**1 Apologies**

**2 Minutes**

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 14<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2005.

**3 Declaration of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests**

**4 Addresses to Committee by the Public**

**5 Mayoral Minutes**

**6 Community Services**

6.1 ACTING DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING REPORT 41/2005 - 2  
LAWN MOVING FUNDING REQUEST.

**7 Library**

7.1 DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES' REPORT 66/2005 – BOOK SALE 7  
EXPENDITURE 2004-2005.

**8 General Business**

**9 Notice of Rescission Motions**

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GENERAL MANAGER

## ***Acting Director, City Planning Report 41/2005***



<b>SUBJECT:</b>	LAWN MOVING FUNDING REQUEST
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<b>DATE:</b>	29 June, 2005	<b>FILE NO:</b>	f2004/07646
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**REPORT BY:** ACTING DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

### **INTRODUCTION:**

In March 2005, Randwick Information and Community Services (RICC) informed Council of its decision to relinquish the recurrent grant provided through Randwick City Council's Community Development Grant Program of \$6636.00. This amount was expended annually to provide lawn mowing for residents who are frail, aged or have a disability in the Randwick City LGA.

Since this time, the South East Gardening Service has approached Council for a recurrent grant of \$9130.00 to provide lawn mowing services for residents who are frail, aged or have a disability, residing in Randwick City. The South East Gardening Service is a non-profit community organisation providing essential gardening and lawn mowing services to older people and people with a disability residing in South East Sydney, including the Randwick LGA.

### **ISSUES:**

The decision by RICC to relinquish their lawn mowing grant has resulted in over 100 residents who were regularly receiving a lawn mowing service no longer receiving this service. This has placed additional pressure on Council (to provide lawn mowing of nature strips) and on other locally based subsidised lawn mowing services. The residents who were receiving services from RICC, are arguably one of the most marginalised groups of residents of Randwick City (i.e. frail aged / disability).

Since receiving notification from RICC, Council's Aged and Disability Worker, Shane Lowe, has been co-ordinating an approach to assist residents to obtain a subsidised service by working with a range of locally based gardening services. This includes the Salvation Army, Silverwater Jail and other Gardening Services external to the Randwick LGA.

Unfortunately, the services that offer a subsidised rate are full to capacity and are unable to offer any service due to their books being closed. Silverwater Prison for example can offer a free service to those most in need, but due to the high number of referrals, they are now not able to take any further requests. Commercial gardening services can offer a

service but the cost of that service prohibits many local residents from accessing services due to affordability constraints.

Randwick City Council has recently received a request from the South East Sydney Gardening Service (SESGS) for a recurrent grant from Council to the amount of \$9310.00 to provide a gardening and lawn mowing service that focuses on health and safety and uses water saving methodology on lawns and gardens. Currently 161 Randwick City residents are receiving services from SESGS and;

- 49 eligible people holding medical certificates are waiting for lawn mowing; and
- 65 people are waiting for gardening services.

The amount requested by SESGS is \$9,130.00 on a recurrent basis. Currently there are sufficient funds available in Council's Community Development Grants Program budget 2005/06 to accommodate the request, however longer term funding beyond 2005/06 will need to be considered by Council following a review of its Community Development Grant Program, which is scheduled to take place later this year.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

In the event that Council accepts the report recommendations, the direct financial implication to Council will be a contribution of \$9,310.00 to the SESGS to fund the provision of lawn mowing and gardening services to 114 Randwick City residents currently waiting for service. Currently there are sufficient funds in the 2005/06 Community Development Grants Program budget to cover this contribution, as RICC and other recipients of recurrent funds have indicated that they are not in a position to accept funds for 2005 – 06.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Given the demand for local lawn mowing and gardening services to assist frail older people and people with a disability to remain within their own home, it is considered appropriate for Council to demonstrate its support by providing financial assistance to the SESGS for the 2005 – 06 period. Further requests for funding beyond this period will need to be considered by Council following a review of its Community Development Grants Program.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

1. Council agree to support the South East Gardening Service with the provision of lawn mowing and gardening services to frail, older people and people with a disability residing in Randwick City;
2. Council agree to fund the South East Gardening Service \$9310.00 from Council's Community Development Grants Program budget 05/06;

3. Council consider any further requests for funding beyond 05/06 following a review of its Community Development Grants Program; and
4. All promotional material relating to the South East Gardening Service acknowledge Council's support.

**ATTACHMENT/S:**

Request letter dated 3rd May, 2005 received from South East Gardening Service.

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KERRY KYRIACOU  
ACTING DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

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SHANE LOWE  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICER, AGED AND  
DISABILITY SERVICES

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PAGE 02

**SOUTH EAST SYDNEY  
GARDENING SERVICE**

9 Ogden Lane Redfern NSW 2016  
Phone: 9699 4257  
Fax: 9699 4176  
Email: ishmms@nsw.uca.org.au

The General Manager  
Att: Ray Brown Lee  
CC: Mayor Murray Matson  
30 Frances Street  
RANDWICK NSW 2031

May 3, 2005

Dear Sir,

Re: Application to Council for a recurrent grant of \$9,310.00 for lawn mowing services.

We are a Home and Community Care Service partially funded by the State and Federal Governments to help frail aged people, people with a disability of any age and their carers to continue to live safely and independently in their homes by providing a gardening service that ensures their yards are safe and low maintenance. The Service focuses on health and safety and uses water saving methodology on lawns and gardens such as converting gardens to low maintenance by mulching, pruning and using drought resistant plants so that the client can more easily maintain their garden.

Recently the Randwick Information and Community Centre (RICC) have relinquished a recurrent grant from Council for lawn mowing. One hundred financially disadvantaged residents many frail aged have subsequently approached our Service to take on the work.

Unfortunately our books have been closed since the beginning of 2004 as we do not have adequate funds to meet the demand. Many of the requests we have received for lawn mowing have been to mow the nature strip, which is no longer mowed by Council staff and is now the responsibility of the resident.

Currently there are 161 residents living in the Randwick local government area that receive lawn mowing and gardening services from the South East Sydney Gardening Service.

On our waiting list we have 49 eligible people holding medical certificates waiting for a lawn mowing service, and 65 waiting for a gardening service just from the Randwick local government area. We are aware that there are many more.

In order to assist the 49 people waiting for lawn mowing in the Randwick local government area, we are seeking consideration of recurrent funding for the amount of \$9,310.00.

This has been based on each client receiving 14 mows per year. The cost of this service is \$19,600.00 we have taken out the fees that we expect to receive from the clients amounting

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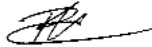
PAGE 03

to \$10,290.00 per year, which leaves us with \$9310.00 needed to provide the service. This works out to \$190.00 per person per year.

Our aim here is to ensure that the people who were receiving a lawn mowing service previously funded with recurrent funds from Randwick Council are left with no support.

We hope that you will consider this application and be assured that if successful we will make it known to the residents in your area that Council has provided such assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Poppy Lazaris  
Manager ISHMMS

**Director, City Services' Report 66/2005**

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	BOOK SALE EXPENDITURE 2004-2005
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<b>DATE:</b>	29 June, 2005	<b>FILE NO:</b>	F2004/08383
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**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES

**INTRODUCTION:**

Since 1991 the Library Service has conducted an annual book sale of discarded library items and unwanted donated material. The funds raised from the sale have been used to purchase additional resources and small furniture items for the library service. The library service is continually seeking to offer customers resources in new formats, additional services and special activities that in the past have not been a part of the traditional public library service. The introduction of these innovations has been made possible by library fundraising through book sale activities.

**ISSUES:****Background**

The annual book sale involved considerable effort by library staff in setting up more than one dozen tables on the footpath in front of the library, and then filling (and restocking) these tables with the unwanted material for sale. In 2003 the annual book sale was complemented with a series of smaller sales throughout the year in the library foyer.

This ongoing sale of material is of benefit to both customers and library staff as discarded stock items and unwanted donations can be immediately made available for sale, removing the need for staff to box and stockpile the material for up to 12 months.

**Resources**

In the 2004 – 2005 financial year the library service raised \$14,500.00 from the sale of discarded items and unwanted donations. This income has enabled the library service to fund a number of projects and pilot collections that otherwise were not budgeted for.

Some of these projects include:

- **Library Book Club** – UP to 20 members attend each month, pay an annual fee and receive a copy of a discussion book each month. That book is returned to the library's collection once the club has finished with it. These books have been purchased from book sale income. The success of the book club at the Bowen Library has led to the formation of another club at Randwick Branch.
- **Computer Games** – library surveys have repeatedly identified user demand for a lending computer game collection. Book sale funds in 2004/05 were used to purchase 51 children's PC games available for loan from the Bowen Library. At the time of this report 44 of the 51 games were on loan to library members, an indication of the popularity of the collection. Additional games for Bowen Library and similar collections for the library branches are planned utilising book sale income.
- **Graphic Novels** – the graphic novel format has been a recent success for the publishing industry, particularly with the teenage market. The library service is keen to promote itself to youth in the community, and the establishment of a graphic novel collection was a strategy to achieve this. Funds from the book sale were used to purchase 150 young adult graphic novels for Bowen and Randwick branch, and at the time of this report 96 of the 150 items were on loan to library members. The collection will be supported while it remains a format popular with the youth market.
- **In-house toys and games** – book sale income was used to purchase new in-house toys, games, and children's furniture for all library locations. The provision of floor puzzles, bead mazes, blocks, dolls houses, brightly coloured shaggy poufs and other in-house accessories complements the library experience for many parents with young children using the library. The new items have added colour and excitement for children visiting the library.
- **Other resources** – compact discs and DVD's continue to be one of the library's more popular items for loan. Book sale funds have been used to supplement the library's current budget for the purchase of these items in response to customer requests for more new items in these formats.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

Booksale income 2004/5 = \$16,936.10

Booksale expenditure 2004/5 = \$14,089.59

#### **CONCLUSION**

The library book sale of unwanted donations and discarded library items provides a valuable source of additional funding for the library service. It has enabled the establishment of a number of new collections in the library; new furniture and toys for children to use in the library have improved the physical environment and ambience of the play areas; and additional resources in popular collections have been purchased.



**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Director's Report on Book Sale funds expenditure be noted.

**ATTACHMENT/S:**

Nil

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JORDE FRANGOPLES  
DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES

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JULIE JARVIS  
MANAGER COMMUNITY  
SERVICES