

4th October, 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, 11TH OCTOBER, 2005 AT 5:30 P.M.

Committee Members: His Worship, the Mayor, T. Seng, Andrews (Deputy Chairperson) Kenny, Matson, Procopiadis, Tracey (Chairperson) & Woodsmith

Quorum: Four (4) members.

NOTE: AT THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 28TH 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, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2005.

3 Declaration of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests

4 Addresses to Committee by the Public

5 Community Services

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GENERAL MANAGER

Director, City Planning Report 65/2005

SUBJECT:	Refugee Week 2005
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DATE:	28 September, 2005	FILE NO:	F2004/07704
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REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

INTRODUCTION:

Refugee Week will be acknowledged across NSW from 23 October to 29 October 2005. Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee has recommended that Council, as in past years, support Refugee Week by holding an activity as a commitment to and acknowledgement of Randwick City's culturally diverse community.

Refugee Week has been highlighted yearly in Australia since the 1980s. The Week aims to recognise the positive contribution refugees have made to Australia; help people understand the many challenges refugees face coming to Australia; focus on how the community can provide a safe and welcoming environment for refugees, and displaced persons, as well as educate the public about who refugees are and why they come to Australia.

This year Refugee Week is being auspiced by the Refugee Council of Australia.

ISSUES:

Last year Council held a successful public forum during Refugee Week with high profile speakers. This year the Multicultural Advisory Committee has recommended that Council to become a Refugee Welcome Zone, signing a declaration and displaying a street banner, during Refugee Week.

The Refugee Council of Australia has promoted the idea of councils throughout Australia becoming Refugee Welcome Zones and over fifty councils throughout Australia have already signed up. By becoming a Refugee Welcome Zone Council demonstrates a visible and symbolic gesture of supporting refugees, who live, work, study or visit Randwick City.

The Refugee Welcome Zone declaration, an initiative of the Refugee Council, provides a statement *that*:

“This declaration is a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into our community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in our community”.

This report recommends Council adopt the above statement, and a formal declaration in the form of a certificate be signed by the Mayor on behalf of Council. The certificate to be displayed in a prominent location in Council’s Customer Service Centre.

In the past years Randwick City Council has erected a street banner, displayed across Coogee Bay Road during Refugee Week. The banner reads “Randwick City Council supports Refugee Week.” It is planned to display this banner again this year, however due to occupational health and safety issues, it is proposed to place the banner on the Anzac Parade façade of the Bowen Library and Community Centre building at Maroubra.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The financial impact to Council for the implementation of the Refugee Welcome Zone and erection of a street banner is in the order of \$400. This amount is currently available within the 2005/6 Community Development budget. There is no cost incurred by Council in making Randwick City a Refugee Welcome Zone.

CONCLUSION:

By becoming a participant in the initiative put forward by the Refugee Council of Australia, Randwick City Council will demonstrate it’s commitment to refugee issues. Historically, Randwick City played a role in accommodating refugees in hostels in the 1950s and many former refugees have made Randwick City their home. The adoption of the Refugee Council of Australia’s Refugee Welcome Zone would be seen as an important symbolic gesture by Council in conjunction with the display of the street banner, on the Bowen Library and Community Centre building for a week.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that:

1. Council adopt the Refugee Council of Australia’s Refugee Welcome Zone initiative and sign a declaration to read:-

“This declaration is a commitment in spirit to welcoming refugees into our community, upholding the human rights of refugees, demonstrating compassion for refugees and enhancing cultural and religious diversity in our community”.
2. The declaration certificate to be displayed in Council’s Customer Service Centre.
3. Council display a street banner on the Bowen Library and Community Centre building during Refugee Week.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Nil

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SIMA TRUUVERT
DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

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COLIN ROSENFELD
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER MULTICULTURAL
SERVICES AND SPECIAL
PROJECTS

Director, City Planning Report 66/2005

SUBJECT:	Children's Week 2005
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DATE:	26 September, 2005	FILE NO:	F2004/07700
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REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

INTRODUCTION:

Children's Week is an annual week-long event held during the fourth week of October. This year Children's Week is scheduled to take place from 22 – 30 October. The week celebrates the entitlement of children to enjoy childhood and provides an opportunity to promote their abilities and achievements. The theme for this year is "Sport and Physical Education", which is the United Nations proclaimed theme for the year which encourages children aged 0 – 18 to become more active in physical activities.

The activities proposed for this year are focussed on children from disadvantaged socio-economic background residing within La Perouse and surrounding areas. A number of activities will also be provided for the wider Randwick City community. The proposed program includes:

- Mouse Tales, a musical theatre for 18 months to 6 year olds
- Cartooning workshop for 7 to 10 year olds
- Games afternoon with Maroubra PCYC Games Bus, face painting and BBQ
- Sports themed afternoon with local Indigenous sporting role models, book reading, sport skills activities, BBQ
- Sports themed colouring-in competition

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the planned Children's Week activities.

ISSUES:

Children's Week is an opportunity for Council to provide fun, children focused activities for families and children within the Randwick LGA as well as reinforce Council's commitment to providing activities which benefit all members of the community.

The following is a summary of the proposed activities planned for Children's Week 2005:

Mouse Tales

A musical theatre performance called "Mouse Tales" performed by the "Tell Tales" entertainment group has been planned for Monday 24 October 2005. The activity will be held at La Perouse Public School Hall (venue provided to Council free of charge by La Perouse Public School) from 3:30pm. The performance is suitable for children aged 18 months – 6 years and is aimed at providing preschool aged children in the community with a fun and energetic activity. Snacks for the children will be provided.

Games Afternoon

This afternoon activity will be held on Tuesday 25 October 2005 and will include the Maroubra Police and Community Youth Club (PCYC) Games Truck, outdoor sports activities, face painting and a BBQ. These activities will take place at La Perouse Public School Grounds (venue provided free of charge by La Perouse Public School), commencing at 3pm.

The event will be run in partnership with Maroubra PCYC, University of New South Wales (UNSW) Community Development Project and Randwick Information and Community Centre (RICC). These organisations will provide workers to assist with activities and supervision.

The aim of the event is to provide local primary school aged children with a fun activity that incorporates sport and physical education in keeping with this year's Children's Week theme. The event also aims to promote an opportunity for local community service providers and Council Officers to engage with children and families within the area.

Cartooning Workshop

Two cartooning workshops are planned to take place as part of the Children's Week program. The cartoon workshops are a fun, skill developing exercise that aims to give children 6-12 years a new tool for creative visual communication and expression. It is also an opportunity to identify artistic talent.

The first workshop will be run at La Perouse Public School on Wednesday 26 October at 1:30 pm. A second workshop will be run at Bowen Library also on Wednesday 26 October at 4:30 pm.

Sports Afternoon

A sports afternoon will be held on Thursday 27 October at La Perouse Primary School grounds (venue provided free of charge by La Perouse Public School). Local Indigenous sporting heroes will be invited to the afternoon to facilitate activities. The proposed program for the afternoon will include book reading, followed by sports skills activities facilitated by the local sporting heroes and a BBQ.

The afternoon program will be run in partnership with South Sydney Youth Services, and Blake Champion the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer (ACLO) NSW Police. South Sydney Youth Services have made a bus available to take children home after the event.

The aim of the sports afternoon is to encourage children to identify with local Indigenous sporting icons, promote a healthy lifestyle, build self esteem and inspire the children to participate in local sports. The event will be promoted to local primary schools.

Colouring-in Competition

A Colouring-in Competition will be provided for all children of primary school age within the Randwick LGA.

An illustration which is in keeping with this years Children's Week theme of "Sport and Physical Education" has been donated by artist Kenneth King for the Colouring-in competition (illustration valued at \$500).

The competition aims to promote community participation to primary school aged children in the Randwick LGA and to provide a fun and creative activity.

Competition entry forms will be distributed to local primary schools and made available through Council libraries and administration centre. A presentation of prizes will be held on Friday 28 October at Bowen Library Auditorium at 4pm. There will also be an exhibition of entries at the library.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The financial impact to Council for the above activities will be approximately \$2000 which has been allocated within the 2005/2006 Community Development Budget. An application for \$500 has also been made to NSW Department of Community Services through their NSW Children's Week Grants Program.

CONCLUSION:

The proposed program for Children's Week is an opportunity for children to participate in local community events, gain new skills, be inspired and to showcase their own abilities.

The activities will provide continued visibility of Council's commitment to servicing all people in the community including children and families.

The delivery of Children's Week activities in the La Perouse and surrounding areas will reinforce Council's commitment to Community Development within the area and help foster positive relationships between Council and the local community.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the proposed activities planned for Children's Week 2005 in Randwick City.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Nil

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SIMA TRUUVERT
DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING

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NICOLE HAMMOND
GENERALIST COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
LA PEROUSE AND
SURROUNDING AREAS

Director, City Services' Report 114/2005

SUBJECT:	LOCAL HISTORY INDEX CONVERSION
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DATE:	28 September, 2005	FILE NO:	F2004/08383
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REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES

INTRODUCTION:

Since 1983 library staff have been systematically and selectively indexing local newspapers, council business papers, the vertical clippings file, and building application books onto subject-sequenced index cards located in the Local History Room at the central library. The card index provided the only subject access to the contents of these resources for staff, students, and researchers. The development of information technologies and the Internet during the later nineteen nineties precipitated the move to develop an online database version of the index. The proposed online index would enhance user access (for example via the Internet), facilitate more efficient indexing processes for staff, and consolidate various printed lists and indexes into one resource.

ISSUES:**Background**

In the 2002/03 round of State Library/Library Development Grants the Library Service applied for a grant to convert the existing Local History card index to an online index. The application was successful and \$15960 received to facilitate data entry into a database to be developed by IT services.

Database Development and Content

In 2003 IT Services developed a MS Access database to enable data entry to commence – at the time this was viewed as the best solution when taking into account the limitations of the existing library management system (GEAC LibsPlus), the need for web access, and related compatibility issues. The MS Access database was designed to permit the addition of information relating to local newspapers, clippings, business papers, maps, press cuttings, building application records and other items in the local studies archive. Contract staff were employed on a casual basis using grant funding to commence the data entry process.

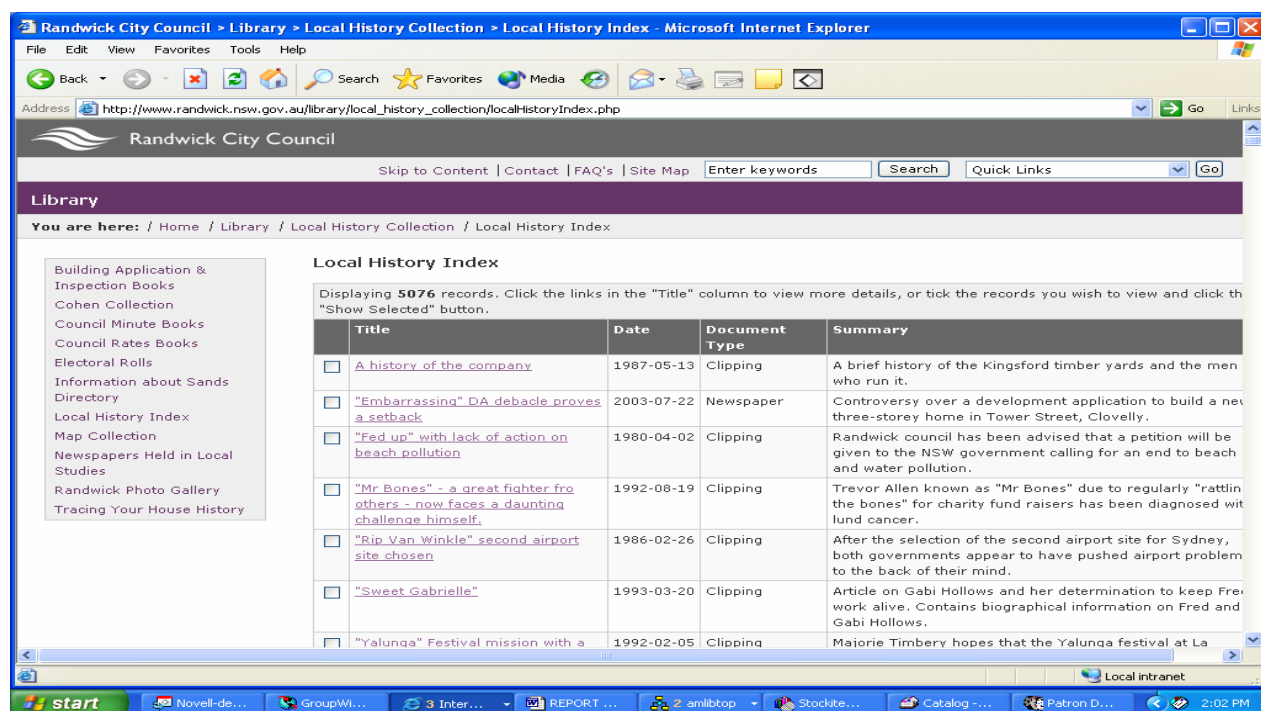


Fig: 1 Version 1 of the web accessible Local History database

Web Accessibility

Changes to Council's web structure impacted significantly on the future of the MS Access version of the Local History database. 5076 entries had been made to the database prior to the web moving from ASP to PHP pages. The MS Access product was no longer compatible with Council's PHP web – IT Services were no longer able to convert the data into a web accessible format, and as accessibility was one of the goals of the project another solution for the database had to be found. While the Internet version of the database contained only 5076 records work continued on the indexing of materials into the MS Access database and there are currently 12000 entries in that database.

The Amlib Solution

The implementation of the Council's Online project saw the rollout of the Amlib library management system in August 2004. The Amlib system features a web catalogue, allowing anyone with Internet access to search the library catalogue. This web accessibility provided the solution to the problem of user access to the Local History database.

Library staff contacted Infovision (suppliers of the Amlib product) in June 2005 to investigate the feasibility of utilising the Amlib catalogue to support the local history database, and were pleased to learn that the process could be quite readily achieved. Staff identified the necessary marc tags, form and statistical codes required for the conversion to correlate with the various formats of newspapers, photographs, maps, microfilm etc. The 12000 data items and associated database of over 3000 subject headings were zipped and sent to Infovision for conversion into catalogue records, and the resulting files were then uploaded overnight into the library catalogue.

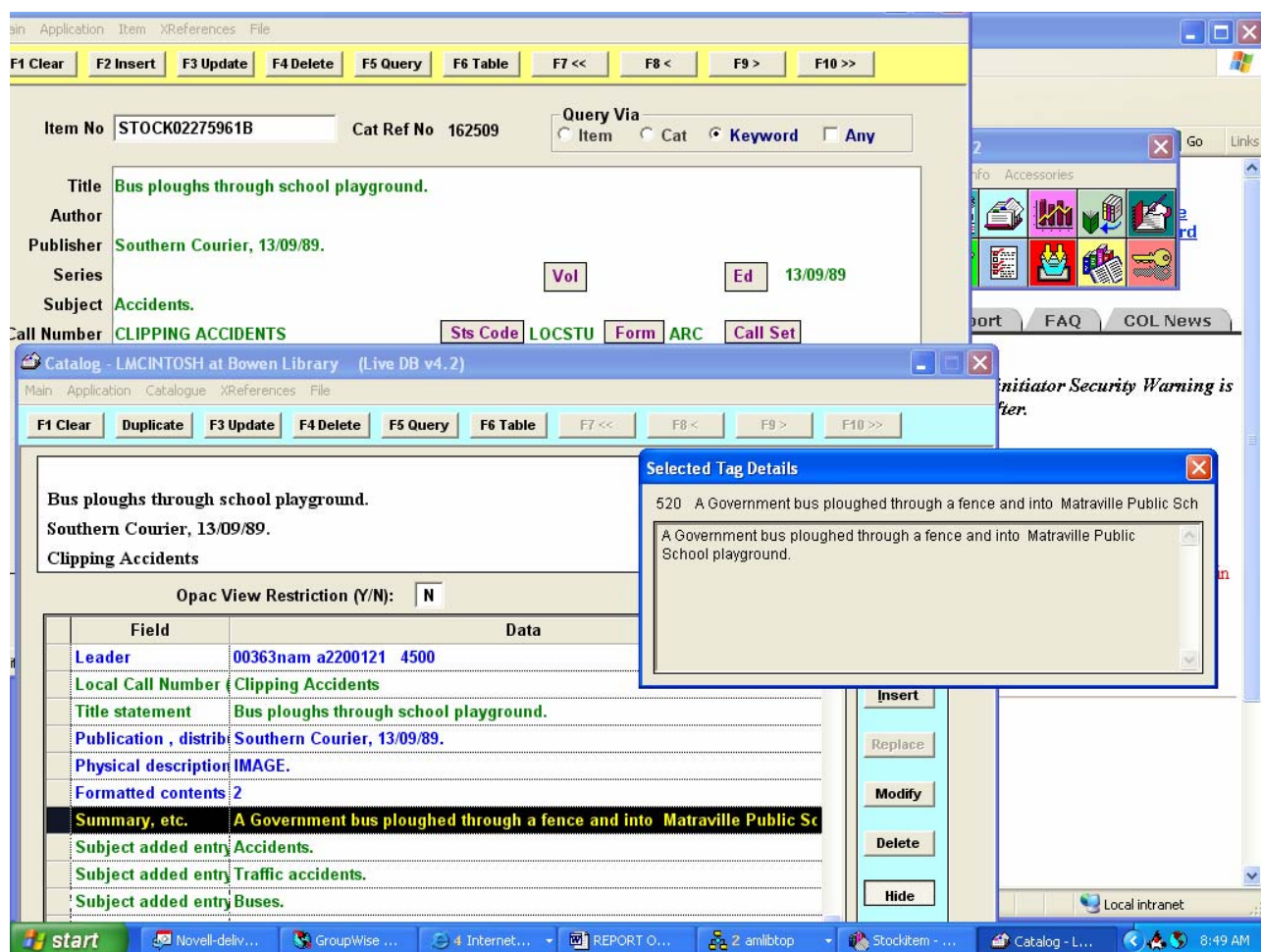


Fig. 2 Screen shots of local history index item in Amlib

Benefits

The incorporation of the local history database into the library catalogue has resolved a number of issues that had restricted user access to the index.

- The **entire** database is now available to any user with Internet access.
- The database may be searched as a separate resource **or** as part of a general search of the library catalogue.
- Users are utilising only one search interface to access a range of library resources.
- Library staff engaged in the ongoing indexing of newspapers, council business papers, building application books and other resources will be using the Amlib interface for data entry, and the interface is more user friendly than the previous MS Access product.
- Improved subject access is provided to a range of local history resources.
- Users are able to utilise all the search functionality of purpose built library search software to undertake research using local history resources.
- Local newspapers including the Southern Courier are not available on any full text or abstracted databases, therefore the indexing being undertaken by library staff provides the only subject access to these resources.

Future Developments

Indexing of current local newspapers and council business papers is undertaken on a weekly basis by library staff. A small amount of grant funding remains to undertake some retrospective indexing of the newspaper clipping file, and will be expended by December 2005. Additional staff time, when available, will be directed to further retrospective newspaper, council meeting and building application indexing, the inclusion of maps and plans details, archival resources, and other local history resources.

Currently under investigation is the feasibility of scanning items into the database so that users can access the actual resource online once they have identified it in the catalogue, thus achieving the ultimate goal of the project – optimal access to unique Randwick resources – in a manner not previously possible.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

CONCLUSION

The conversion of the local history card index has been an active Library project since a successful grant application in 2002/3. Technology issues, web policy changes and the Councils Online project have impacted on the completion of the project. The creation of the MS Access database was seen as a solution in the early stages of the project; however, a number of issues stalled the project. Conversion of the Local History MS Access database records (in mid 2005) into Amlib Library catalogue records has seen the project reach a better than anticipated conclusion. All that remains is the ongoing addition of records to the database, and the application of other technologies (eg scanned images) to supplement the resource.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the Local History index conversion be noted.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Nil

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JORDE FRANGOPLES
DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES

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JULIE JARVIS
MANAGER LIBRARY &
COMMUNITY SERVICES