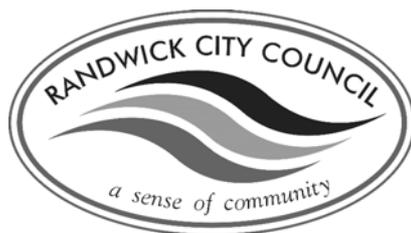


COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

BUSINESS PAPER

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2008

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4 November 2008

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Notice is hereby given that a Community Services Committee of the Council of the City of Randwick will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick, on Tuesday, 11 November 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Members: The Mayor, B Notley-Smith, Bowen, Matson, Matthews, Smith (Deputy Chairperson), Tracey, Woodsmith (Chairperson).

Quorum: Four (4) members.

NOTE: At the Extraordinary Meeting held on 28 September 2004, the Council resolved that the Community Services Committee be constituted as a committee with full delegation to determine matters on the agenda.

Apologies/Granting of Leave of Absences

Confirmation of the Minutes

Community Services Committee - 12 August 2008

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Committee by Members of the Public

Urgent Business

Community Services Reports

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Library Reports

Nil

Closed Session

Nil

Notices of Rescission Motions

Nil

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Ray Brownlee

GENERAL MANAGER

Community Services Report No. C7/08



Subject: Randwick Young Writers' Festival
Folder No: F2004/08385
Author: Barbara Todes, Manager Library Services

Introduction

The Library is considered and appreciated by the community as a cultural hub. Following the immense success of the Lionel Bowen Young Writers Awards in 2007, it was evident that children in Randwick City have the interest in and talent for creative expression. As a result, in the October school holidays, Bowen Library hosted the inaugural *Randwick Young Writers' Festival*.

Issues

Children aged between 7 and 18 were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops, each facilitated by local authors, artists, playwrights and songwriters. Two hour short story writing, illustration, playwriting, song writing and poetry workshops provided children with a sound introduction to these creative pursuits.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan was as follows:

Outcome 5: Excellence in recreation and lifestyle opportunities.
Direction 5d: Library programmes, resources and facilities provide innovative and inspirational opportunities for education and leisure.

Financial impact statement

There was no direct financial impact for this matter. The Festival was funded by a grant from the Sutherland Shire Council.

Conclusion

This is the first time that a young writers' festival has been held in the Eastern Suburbs. The Festival was oversubscribed with over 100 children attending the workshops. Feedback from parents and children was overwhelmingly positive with many asking the Council to offer the Festival again in 2009. It is anticipated that the Festival will have a positive impact on the number and calibre of entries received for the Lionel Bowen Young Writers' Award in 2009.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

C7/08

Community Services Report No. C8/08



Subject: 100 Views of Randwick
Folder No: F2004/08385
Author: Barbara Todes, Manager Library Services

Introduction

In early 2008, local award winning writer and philanthropist, Libby Hathorn, took her inspirational *100 views* art and poetry project to a school for disadvantaged children in Kathmandu, Nepal run by the Mitrataa Foundation. Children were encouraged to look at their heritage from 100 different points of view and provide a 'snapshot' of their lives in the 21st century, whilst celebrating their community. The children chose Mount Everest as their "icon".

Hathorn employed a local film maker to create a documentary of the *100 views in Kathmandu*, which will be screened at The Ritz cinema in November. In 2009, Randwick City Council will undertake *100 views of Randwick* with local primary school children. The project will also be run with a school in Randwick City's sister city, Temora.

Issues

100 views was inspired by Libby Hathorn in response to the work of historic Japanese artist Hokusai (1760-1849) whose major work was called *100 views of Mount Fuji*. The discipline of conceiving a hundred ideas or images on one subject, to find an 'inner meaning', as Hokusai put it, had great appeal.

On 5 November 2008, Hathorn's the documentary of *100 views of Kathmandu* will be launched at a special screening at The Ritz cinema in Randwick. This event will also serve as a fundraiser to collect money for the Mitrataa Foundation, which has seven educational projects for women and girls. It costs \$300 per year to feed, clothe, board and educate a child in Kathmandu and the aim is to raise \$9,000 - enough to send 30 girls to school.

Hathorn will run a mini *100 views* workshop with the guests before the film is shown. Tickets will be sold for \$25 each, with all money raised (minus minimal catering and raffle prize costs) being donated to the Mitrataa Foundation.

Randwick City's 100 views

In 2009, Randwick celebrates 150 years of local government. *100 views of Randwick* provides the perfect opportunity for local school children to celebrate, share and embrace a local icon - the sandstone coast of the Eastern Suburbs, stretching from Clovelly to La Perouse. The coast is integral to Randwick City's children and the community. Much of our culture and heritage can be sourced to our parks, beaches and walkways.

100 views of Kathmandu provides a platform to introduce *100 views of Randwick* to the community. The Mayor of Randwick will be making a speech at the event where this will be highlighted.

C8/08

Relationship to City Plan

Outcome 7: Heritage that is protected and celebrated.
Direction 7a: Our heritage is recognised, protected and celebrated.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter.

Conclusion

100 views of Kathmandu provides an excellent opportunity to introduce *100 views of Randwick* to the community. The support of the Kathmandu project and Mitrataa aligns Council with a project which aims to improve the lives of women in a third world country. It will also help highlight other cultures to our community.

100 views of Randwick will provide our young residents with an opportunity to celebrate Randwick's natural heritage in a creative way. Their resulting effort will leave a lasting body of work which will form part of Randwick's sesquicentenary celebrations. By running the project with a school in Randwick's sister city, Temora, children from both cities will be able to share their lives and heritage with each other.

Recommendation

That the report be received and noted.

Attachment/s:

Nil

C8/08

Community Services Report No. C9/08



Subject: Length of service recognition program
Folder No: F2004/08413
Author: Fiona Calabrese, Manager - Organisational Staff Service

Introduction

Randwick City Council wishes to formally acknowledge the loyalty, commitment and dedication of our staff by celebrating certain employment milestones with an award and recognition program.

Issues

In March 2008 the Council resolved to adopt 'Our People Our Outcomes', a strategic plan for human resources 2008 – 2012. This plan acknowledges that staff are essential to the success of Council and integral to the ongoing sustainability of the workplace.

The plan targets building workforce capability and outlines the actions for implementing systems and programs to motivate staff, attract and retain the best staff and to achieve recognition as an employer of choice.

One proposed program is recognition of length of service. This program is designed to motivate and award loyal and dedicated staff and will recognise the following Council service milestones:

- 10 years of service - Service certificate
- 20 years of service - Cheque (\$250.00)
- 30 years of service - Randwick City Council engraved watch (\$700.00)
- 40 years of service - Employee selected gift presented on retirement (\$1000.00)

The length of service awards will be presented to staff by the Mayor and General Manager at the annual staff Christmas Party. In 2008, 20 employees will be recognised with more than 30 years of service and 51 employees will be recognised with more than 20 years of service.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

- Outcome 11: Excellence in staff management.
- Direction 11a: A working environment that is safe and supportive, promotes effective partnerships, encourages productivity, recognises achievement and allows staff to contribute to the best of their ability.

Financial impact statement

The length of service program for the next five years will cost \$48,000. This includes a commencement cost of \$27,000 in 2008 to recognise service milestones of 71 employees.

C9/08

Conclusion

The length of service program supports the goal of the human resources strategic plan by motivating and rewarding staff and provides cost efficiencies through employee retention. The implementation of the program will contribute to achieving recognition as an employer of choice.

Recommendation

That Council to endorse the commencement of the length of service recognition program.

Attachment/s:

Nil

80/08

Community Services Report No. C10/08



Subject: Vacation Care Partnership
Folder No: F2004/07695
Author: Shane Lowe, Coordinator Community Programs and Partnerships

Introduction

Council, as part of a partnership agreement with Malabar After School Kare (MASK) and Kooloora Community centre conducts 9 weeks of Vacation Care during the school holiday periods. In 2007, Council entered into an agreement with MASK to conduct the program and Kooloora Community Centre to provide the venue. The program targets children from areas in the South Ward whose families are experiencing difficulty in accessing affordable and appropriate care during school holidays.

Council at its Community Services Committee meeting on 13 June 2007 resolved:

that Council:

- (a) *enter into a funding agreement with MASK as the recipient of \$42,000 to implement in conjunction with Kooloora Community Centre, Vacation Care Programs during the school holidays for a period of 12 months, with a review process being conducted at the end of this period;*
- (b) *enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between MASK, Kooloora Community Centre and Randwick City Council to reflect the proposed program delivery roles and responsibilities of the three signatories;*
- (c) *redirect to MASK the \$42,000 which has been allocated in Council's 2007/8 budget to fund the Vacation Care Program; and*
- (d) *the partnership with MASK to operate from the July 2007 school holiday period.*

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the outcome of the review that was conducted at the end of the previous 12 months period and to seek approval to enter into a new agreement for 2 years.

Issues

A review of the current partnership and vacation care program has been completed and resulted in a very high level of satisfaction from parents, children, Kooloora Community Centre, Council and MASK. Some of the positives outcomes were:

- A policy and procedure manual has been completed and the program can now receive accreditation in its own right
- The children are happy, settled and excited about the program
- Only positive feedback has been received
- The program has been successful in applying for the Child Care Benefit Scheme for many eligible children
- MASK and Kooloora have met all regulatory requirements, responsibilities and operational stipulations as set out in the current memorandum of understanding
- A high level of satisfaction and enthusiasm is reported from the staff

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- The program has been able to offer an extra 10 places to families in the south ward who are experiencing financial difficulties.
- MASK is now fully managing the process of advertising, application, program planning, implementation and evaluation with support from Kooloora and Council.
- All partners would like the agreement to extend to 2 years, with a review at this time, to ensure continuity and a commitment to provide and quality program

The program is consistently booked out prior to the vacation care period and any additional children requiring care is referred to the additional MASK program which is a great outcome for families in the South Ward. Vacation Care and After School Care are core business for MASK and this is shown through the team's professionalism, knowledge and skill.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome: A vibrant and diverse community.

Direction: Enrich our range of community services that meet our community's needs.

Financial Impact Statement

Council provides a grant of \$42,000 to MASK to provide the Vacation Care program and \$6,200 to Kooloora to assist with cleaning of the centre during Vacation Care periods. The total cost to Council in 2008 is \$48,200 and this amount has been approved in the 2008/09 Community Programs and Partnerships budget.

Conclusion

The Vacation Care Program offered by the partnership provides a much needed service to residents in the South Ward, many who identify as coming from low socio-economic backgrounds that have difficulty in accessing affordable and appropriate activities and care for their children during holiday periods.

The current program is using best practice principles, is providing care to more families and meets all of Council requirements within the City Plan.

Recommendation

That Council:

- a) Continue funding the Vacation Care program by providing \$42,000 MASK to implement the program at the Kooloora Community Centre;
- b) Provide \$6,184 to Kooloora Community Centre for cleaning; and
- c) Authorise the General Manager to enter into a 2 year Memorandum of Understanding between MASK, Kooloora Community Centre and Randwick City Council to provide nine weeks of Vacation Care programs;

Attachment/s:

Nil