

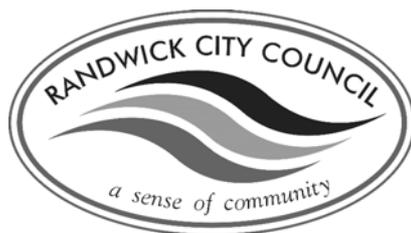
# **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

## **BUSINESS PAPER**

**TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2009**

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3 February 2009

## 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, 10 February 2009 at 6:00 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 - 2 December 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**

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# Community Services Report No. C1/09



**Subject:** International Women's Day Art Competition & Award Presentation

**Folder No:** F2006/00216

**Author:** Shane Lowe, Coordinator Community Programs and Partnerships

## Introduction

The very successful International Women's Day Art Competition, Exhibition and Award presentation will, for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running, once again be organised by Council to celebrate and highlight the achievements of women and their valuable contribution to our community in Randwick City.

## Issues

International Women's Day is on Sunday 8 March 2009 and Council will celebrate with a number of activities within Randwick City. The Art Competition and exhibition will be held again at the Randwick Community Centre in the week prior, from Monday 2 March through to Saturday 7 March. The centre will be open to the public where the artworks will be exhibited. The Award Ceremony and a celebratory morning tea will be held on Saturday 7 March at 10am and conclude at 12pm.

## Categories and Prizes

12 - 19 years Award	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$350	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$250	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$150
20 years & over Award	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize \$350	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize \$250	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize \$150
Councillor's Commendation Award	\$70.00 Voucher for Art Supplies		

In addition, Council will also be offering an Inspirational Women Writing Competition and a theatrical performance through our libraries.

These activities will be advertised through the Council website, Mayor's Column, Intranet and mail outs to local schools, the community, art and women's organisations.

## Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 2: A vibrant and diverse community.  
 Direction 2b: Enrich our range of community services that meet our community's needs.

## Financial impact statement

An amount of \$2,100.00 has been allocated for International Women's Day activities in the 2008/09 Community Programs & Partnerships budget. In addition, Randwick City Council has been successful in receiving a \$1,000.00 grant from the NSW Government Office for Women International Women's Day Grants.

## Conclusion

This event to celebrate International Women's Day will highlight the invaluable contribution by women in our community.

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**Recommendation**

That Council endorse the International Women's Day Art Competition and Award Ceremony.

**Attachment/s:**

Nil

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## Community Services Report No. C2/09



**Subject:** International Women's Day  
**Folder No:** F2004/08385  
**Author:** Barbara Todes, Manager Library Services

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### Introduction

Randwick City Library Service was approached by Cr Margaret Woodsmith and Nadia Arrage, member of Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee and of Rotary Randwick. Both women are keen to acknowledge the important role women play in our society and to encourage young women to consider the positive effect that female role models have had on their lives.

### Issues

Few women hold high status positions in society, despite ongoing campaigning to recognise the importance of equal representation. The *EOWA 2008 Australian Census of Women in Leadership* revealed that the number of women on boards and in executive management positions has declined since 2006 and in some cases reverted to pre-2004 levels. Australia now trails the USA, UK, South Africa and New Zealand.

Measuring Australia's top 200 ASX companies, the study found that only 2% of chairperson positions are held by women (4/200) and the same number of CEOs. Although all of the top 200 ASX companies had at least one female board director, this accounted for only 8.3% of the total number of positions (125 women/1504 positions).

Women's progress seems to be melting away, with the number of companies with no women executive managers increasing to 45.5% from 39.5% in 2006.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the fact that there are almost equal numbers of male and female voters in Randwick, only one woman has a seat on the Council.

Female role models play a key role in developing behaviours and attitudes in formative years by providing an opportunity for young women to imitate behaviour.

Role models include celebrities and other famous people, family members, adult community members, teachers and peers. Many times we read in autobiographical accounts, hear on the radio or see on TV that someone was strongly influenced by another individual when growing up. The media often highlights people who have achieved notoriety as being good (or bad) role models for young people today. The influence of a role model can significantly affect the life choices that a person makes.

### Inspirational Women 2009

To coincide with International Women's Day, Randwick City Council and Rotary Randwick will launch the *Inspirational Women Writing Competition*. The project is targeted at girls aged 12 – 18 who will be encouraged to write about a woman who has inspired them and acted as a positive role model.

Entries of up to 1,000 words can be in any form of creative writing including a letter, poem, short story, article or short plays. There will be two age groups to cater for those aged 12 – 14 and 15 – 18 years. A total prize pool of \$2,000 will be offered for

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first, second and third prize. Up to five commendations will be included. A prize will be given to the school which submits the most entries.

The winning entries and commendations will be included in a book which will be launched at a ceremony to recognise the young writers and their inspirations in the latter half of 2009.

The competition will be marketed to young girls through high schools, in the media and through Council's recreational venues such as the Libraries and Des Renford Aquatic Centre.

### **Relationship to City Plan**

The relationship with the City Plan is 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.  
Outcome 7: Heritage that is protected and celebrated.  
Direction 7a: Our heritage is recognised, protected and celebrated.

### **Financial Impact Statement**

Randwick City Council will provide event management, design, publicity, venues and other organisational assistance for the competition, within the current budget.

Rotary Randwick will provide \$2,000 for prizes and up to \$1,000 to assist with publicity.

### **Conclusion**

*Inspirational Women* provides an opportunity to highlight the immense contribution that women have made to our community. It will encourage the positive development of attitudes and behaviour of the future generations of politicians, teachers, board directors, doctors and parents, to name a few.

Publicity from the project will help put women on the radar as businesses and community organisations become increasingly aware of the need for more women to be included in positions of power and influence in our community.

Through their contribution and research, young women will become increasingly aware of their importance in the community and the role they will be playing as role models as they get older and make live choices based on the advice from the inspirational women in their lives.

### **Recommendation**

That the report be received and noted.

### **Attachment/s:**

Nil

## Community Services Report No. C3/09



**Subject:** A Migrant's Story  
**Folder No:** F2004/08385  
**Author:** Barbara Todes, Manager Library Services

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### Introduction

*A Migrant's Story*, now in its fourth year, aims to promote harmony, respect, understanding and empathy within the community. 2008 was the first year that an intergenerational aspect was added to the program. Project partners, the Junction Neighbourhood Centre and Sydney Multicultural Community Services, provided advice and resources. The project was jointly managed by Randwick City Library Service and Community Programs and Partnerships.

### Issues

Almost 36% of the population of Randwick City has made the life changing decision to move to our country from other regions around the world. Around 25% of Library patrons speak a language other than English at home. The Library caters for these families with a strong Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) collection and a series of activities and events across the year such as weekly *Spanish Babies Love Books* lapsit program, Chinese and Russian story time, opportunities for resource selection input and eight English classes a week. *A Migrant's Story*, which is held every two years, targets older CALD patrons who are willing to share their migration journey.

26 children aged between 11 and 15 from 15 different schools took part in the project, along with the 26 migrants.

The children attended an initial workshop where they explored what life would be like as a migrant. They had to answer questions such as, "If you were told you had five minutes to pack all your possessions and leave your home, what would you take with you? How would you feel?" They were then taught interviewing skills and how to write a basic biography.

The migrants and children were paired up and met for a face to face interview that lasted up to two hours in some cases. The children then had the opportunity to write the stories through their younger eyes. They subsequently attended an editing workshop which gave them the skills to edit and revise their own work.

Many of the migrant participants have experienced horrific atrocities, survived wars, torture, upheaval and abandonment. They have shown immense courage in sharing their often painful memories with a young stranger. From all accounts, the children showed empathy and dedication. In preparation for their meeting, each child researched the political and socioeconomic backgrounds of their migrants.

The resulting uplifting stories were collated into a book which was launched at a celebration held at Bowen Library and Community Centre on Thursday 11 December. Peter Garrett AM, Member for Kingsford Smith and Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Arts, officially launched the book. Cr Bradley Hughes, Peter Schick and Nadia Arrage, members of Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee, participated in the moving ceremony. Two young participants, Matthew Friedman (11) and Indra Saledi (13), shared their migrant's story with the 160-strong crowd.

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The migrant stories really show their appreciation of living in Australia and in particular Randwick and many have contributed to community life of Randwick City Council. The booklet of 26 stories is available for purchase for \$5 at Council and the Randwick libraries.

### **Relationship to City Plan**

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 7: Heritage that is protected and celebrated.

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

### **Financial impact statement**

A Migrant's Story was funded through existing Council resources.

### **Conclusion**

A Migrant's Story provides a unique opportunity for children and older migrants to interact, form lasting relationships and experience life from another's point of view. By adding an intergenerational aspect to the already successful program, we have ensured that the project continues to interest and engage all sectors of the community. The resulting book is a testament to the hard work of the young writers and the trials and tribulations of the migrants who so willingly shared their experiences.

### **Recommendation**

That the report be received and noted.

### **Attachment/s:**

Nil

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