



general
purpose
committee

3
section

organisation
and
resources

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Item: **48****ITEM: 48 Monthly Financial Report - May 2001****FILE NUMBER:** GF011/005/FNC/OGF26NAX.F14**REPORT:****May 2001**

Summarised below, are particulars of both the income received and the expenditure incurred by Council for the month of May 2001. This information is reconciled between the cashbook and the bank statement balance as at the end of May 2001. All expenditure is fully supported by vouchers and invoices which have been duly certified.

A. Cash Book Reconciliation - May 2001

Cash Book Balance as at 1 May 2001		(\$283,610.61)
Add: Receipts for month of May		<u>\$9,185,400.89</u>
		\$8,901,790.28
Less: Payments for month of May		
Cheque # 74151 - 74685	\$1,766,488.30	
EFT # 17829 - 18247	\$2,462,337.95	
Family Day Care Payments	\$44,180.77	
RTGS (Investment) Transactions	\$4,400,000.00	
Cancelled Cheques	(\$1,812.58)	
Miscellaneous (Bank Charges, Dishonours etc)	<u>\$10,104.42</u>	<u>\$8,681,298.86</u>
Cash Book Balance as at end of May 2001		\$220,491.42

Commentary

The cash book balance reflects the cashflow for the month. Essentially it is a summary of all of the receipts issued and the payments made for the month.

The fourth instalment of rates was due on 31 May 2001. This is reflected in the receipts for the month. Additionally, within the receipts for May 2001 a total of \$3,150,000 is represented by funds recalled from investments to meet expenditure commitments.

Expenditure for the month typically consists of payments to contractors, employee salaries, purchase of stores and materials and lease/loan repayments.

Family Day Care payments are processed every fortnight. On average, payments are made to 40 carers with a fortnightly value of approximately \$20,000.00

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B. Statement of Bank Balances - May 2001

Bank Statement Balance as at end of May 2001		\$708,215.22
Less: Unpresented Cheques		<u>(\$910,392.62)</u>
		(\$202,177.40)
Add: Outstanding Deposits	\$440,477.60	
Statement Credits not Receipted	<u>(\$17,808.78)</u>	<u>\$422,668.82</u>
Equals balance as per cashbook		\$220,491.42

Commentary

The bank account balance may vary significantly from the cashbook balance. The difference is made up of unpresented cheques, outstanding deposits and bank deposits not receipted, as indicated in the above reconciliation.

Unpresented cheques are cheques which have been drawn but have not yet been presented for payment by the payee. Outstanding deposits are monies which have been receipted at the council but have not yet been banked. Statement credits not receipted, are funds which have been directly deposited to Council's bank account which have not been receipted as at the end of the month.

Cash management procedures are in place that ensure adequate funds are available to meet daily expenditure obligations. Any surplus funds from receipts are invested so as to maximise interest earnings. Active cash management minimises the risk of Council's bank account going into an overdraft situation.

C. Investments - May 2001

The Local Government (Financial Management) Regulation requires that each month, details of all money that has been invested under section 625 of the Local Government Act, 1993 be reported to a meeting of Council.

The following table outlines the investment portfolio held by Council as at the end of May 2001. All investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

Investment Type	Balance Brought Forward	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest Paid	Balance End of Month
Managed Funds	\$28,831,284.10			\$106,480.67	\$28,937,764.77
On Call Funds	\$1,010,000.00	\$4,400,000.00	(\$1,150,000.00)		\$4,260,000.00
Term Investments	\$3,070,000.00		(\$2,000,000.00)		\$1,070,000.00
TOTAL	\$32,911,284.10	\$4,400,000.00	(\$3,150,000.00)	\$106,480.67	\$34,267,764.77

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Commentary

The official cash interest rate remained at 5.00% for the month of May. Financial institutions are mixed in their opinions as to whether there will be any further interest rate movements in the short term (1-6 months).

The investment portfolio increased during May 2001. The portfolio is expected to increase during the months when rates instalments are due.

Geoff Banting
Responsible Accounting Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 48 Oooo

ITEM: 49 **Project for Reconciliation Inc, Richmond - Request for Community Support Fund**

FILE NUMBER: GE030/002/CSV/OGF26NBX.C01

REPORT:

A submission has been received from Projects for Reconciliation Inc, Richmond, for assistance with the establishment of a Community Support Fund to encourage the acknowledgement of Aboriginal land and culture.

Indigenous artists, speakers and performers are increasingly being asked to do Welcome To Country celebrations, dance and other cultural presentations, and it is consistent with strategies for creating employment opportunities for indigenous people that those providing their time, talent, knowledge and skills should be remunerated.

However, the groups requesting such services are often schools, community groups and non-profit organisations, with limited funds at their disposal.

Projects for Reconciliation Inc, Richmond therefore proposes a fund to subsidise or cover the costs for groups and organisations based in the Hawkesbury, or Hawkesbury indigenous residents travelling outside the Hawkesbury. This is an important step on the journey to reconciliation, and will encourage the practice of acknowledging Aboriginal culture at a wide range of religious, educational and community events.

This proposal is consistent with Council's aims under the Festival of Cultures program and the Awareness and Understanding program, whose combined residual funds could be used, without further budget allocation.

RECOMMENDATION:

That \$5,000 (five thousand dollars) be provided to Projects for Reconciliation Inc, Richmond for the establishment of a Community Support Fund, to be administered and promoted by that organisation for the purpose of raising awareness and understanding of Aboriginal culture in the Hawkesbury.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 49 Oooo

ITEM: 50 **Demolition of Council Owned Dwelling for Road Widening - 921 Grose Vale Road, Grose Vale**

FILE NUMBER: P722/839/CSV/OGF26NBX.C03

REPORT:

Council purchased Lot 4 in Deposited Plan 620902, 921 Grose Vale Road, Grose Vale in 1986 for the purposes of future road widening. The lot is located on the western side of Grose Vale Road at its intersection with Pattersons Lane, Grose Vale and contains a dilapidated cottage, which encroaches on the road reserve (see the attached plan).

The cottage had been tenanted from the time of purchase until they vacated last year and due to the dilapidated condition of the cottage, it has not been relet.

The intersection of Pattersons Lane and Grose Vale Road has been identified as being sub-standard for some time and it has a traffic accident history. The intersection is a T-junction on grade with Pattersons Lane terminating and is located on a bend in Grose Vale Road. There is vegetation restricting sight distance and a power pole is located at the apex of the corner close to the edge of the carriageway.

A development application for subdivision of land off Greggs Road and Pattersons Lane has been lodged and as a part of the application, a Traffic Impact Assessment by Christopher Hallam and Associates has also identified the intersection of the corner as sub-standard. It also suggests the improvement of the intersection be undertaken by the developer as a condition of consent. It is noted that the upgrade of the intersection may require acquisition of additional land adjoining Lot 4.

Given that the cottage cannot be tenanted again, without undertaking significant and costly repairs, and the traffic issues at the intersection, it is proposed that the cottage be demolished. Whilst it is considered that the intersection will still require upgrading, the removal of the cottage and appropriate vegetation will provide immediate relief in relation to the sight distance problem.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council owned cottage located on Lot 4 in Deposited Plan 620902, (921 Grose Vale Road, Grose Vale) be demolished.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT-1 Location Plan

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Location Plan

oooO END OF ITEM 50 Oooo

ITEM: 51 Expression of Interest - Early Childhood Intervention Project**FILE NUMBER:** GC160/001/CSV/OGF26NBX.C12**REPORT:**

In November 2000, Council staff established the Hawkesbury Early Intervention Steering Committee. The Committee is made up of representatives of community agencies who provide services for children with disabilities, parent representatives and representatives of relevant funding bodies (who sit on the Committee in an ex-officio advisory capacity). The Committee is currently chaired by the Branch Manager Community Services & Social Planning.

One of the roles of the Steering Committee was to review the current provision of early intervention services for children with disabilities aged between 0 and 6 who reside in the Hawkesbury. The review process has identified a number of critical service and funding shortfalls in relation to the provision of early childhood intervention services. The Steering Committee subsequently identified a need to expand and improve the provision of these services in the Hawkesbury.

In May 2001, the Ageing and Disability Department (ADD) called for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from organisations which would be in a position to provide and operate early childhood intervention services in the Nepean Local Planning Area which consists of the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Penrith Local Government Areas, and a portion of the Blacktown LGA. The funding available for these services is \$250,000 (two hundred and fifty thousand dollars).

The Steering Committee has lodged an EOI to tender for these funds prior to the 13 June 2001 closing date. To facilitate the drafting of an EOI tender, the Steering Committee has established a Consortium made up of the following agencies:

- Blue Mountains City Council
- Lapstone Preschool Kindergarten Association Inc
- Hawkesbury Early Childhood Advisory Service Inc
- Hawkesbury City Council
- Possum Children's Support Service Inc

The Consortium represents key children's disability service providers in the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Penrith Local Government Areas as well as the two local councils. The Consortium partners have identified Hawkesbury City Council as the most appropriate lead agency.

The Consortium partners have developed a proposal to establish an Early Childhood Intervention Brokerage Service to provide funds to resource early intervention case plans for individual children. The project will establish cooperative working arrangements between services, supported by a regional structure, to enable parents and service providers to access a pool of brokerage funds. The Project is intended to be located at the Stewart Street Early Intervention Centre, South Windsor. If successful, the Project will provide a substantial boost to the capacity of existing services to meet the needs of children with disabilities and their parents and carers.

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The call for an EOI provides an opportunity for Council (on behalf of the Consortium partners) to tender for funds to establish an Early Childhood Intervention Brokerage Project to be located in the Hawkesbury. This will enable the Consortium to respond to the identified need for early childhood disability services across the region and more importantly, will enable Council to ensure that the proposed service is responsive to the needs of Hawkesbury residents.

If funded, the project will have no recurrent financial implications for Council (apart from Council's Community Service Branch providing project management services - as is currently the case with the Forgotten Valley Mobile Resource Unit and the Hawkesbury Community Transport Service). Should the EOI be successful, the offer of funding will be reported to Council to seek Council's approval to accept the funds for the purpose of establishing the proposed Early Childhood Intervention Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 51 Oooo

ITEM: 52**Replacement of Library Computer System****FILE NUMBER:**

GC230/035/CSV/OGF26NBX.C16

REPORT:

The Library purchased its existing command based computer system in 1989. Over the past decade, the Library has regularly updated the system to maintain its functionality. In 1995, the Library was advised by its US based supplier (Virginia Tech Library System - VTLS) that the existing command based system would be phased out by 2003 and replaced by a windows based system. Public libraries in Australia have been migrating to windows based systems as these systems are far more user friendly than command based systems and incorporate improved interactive features for patrons. The new generation of library computer systems are also capable of generating statistical information to enable library staff to evaluate lending patterns to assist in the planning and review of library services and programs.

In view of the need to replace the existing library computer system, in 2000 the Library was successful in securing a State Library Development Grant of \$37,514 (thirty seven thousand five hundred and fourteen dollars) as a contribution to the costs of purchasing a windows based computer system. In applying for this grant, the Library had approached its current supplier, Altarama (the Australian agent for VTLS), on the basis that the parent company had indicated that a windows based computer system (VIRTUA) would be provided to its existing clients at a reduced cost. The costings that were included in the State Library grant application reflected the costs of the windows based product as quoted by the supplier.

In early 2001, the contract between the US based parent company and its Australian agent was terminated. Consequently, there is currently no Australian based supplier or support service for the VIRTUA product. This situation raises obvious concerns regarding the future viability and reliability of the product and suggests that it may not be feasible or prudent for the Library to migrate to this windows based system.

The withdrawal of an Australian agent for the existing computer system has also meant that the Library may not be able to access the support services required to maintain the system. Fortunately, the current library system is a stable system which has not experienced major problems for some time.

These events, in conjunction with the 2003 phase out of the existing command based library computer system, reinforces the need for the Library to migrate to a new windows based library system as soon as possible. The installation of a replacement windows based system will also enable library staff to develop the skills and experience required to ensure that a 'state of the art' library computer system can be made available to library patrons in the new library building.

In view of the developments identified above, the purchase of a replacement library computer system will not be finalised in the 2000/2001 financial year. A condition of the State Library Development Grant required that the funds provided to Hawkesbury City Council should have been

spent by 30 June 2001. The State Library has indicated that Council will need to write to the State Library of NSW to seek approval for the grant monies to be carried forward into the next financial year.

These funds can then be made available in 2001/2002, together with funds allocated in the Information Services Budget, to meet the start-up and annual support costs of a windows based library computer system.

Advice received from alternate suppliers of windows-based library computer systems has also indicated that the costs of a replacement system (including start-up and annual support costs) is likely to exceed \$100,000. In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, the purchase of a replacement library computer system will therefore need to be tendered.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The information be received.
2. Hawkesbury City Council draft and issue a tender for the purchase of a new Library Computer System.
3. Hawkesbury City Council to prepare correspondence to the State Library of NSW seeking approval to extend the period in which the State Library Development Grant of \$37,514 (thirty seven thousand five hundred and fourteen) can be expended.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 52 Oooo

ITEM: 53 **Prohibiting Consumption of Alcohol in Thompson Square, Windsor**

FILE NUMBER: GP070/001/CSV/OGF26NBX.C06

PREVIOUS ITEM: 31, GPC Section 3 - Organisation & Resources (24.04.2001)

REPORT:

Council at its meeting of 8 May 2001 considered a report in relation to prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public places including McLeod Park at South Windsor and Thompson Square at Windsor.

It was subsequently resolved to prohibit the consumption of alcohol in McLeod Park and that additional information and a further report be prepared in relation to the possible impact of the restriction of alcohol in Thompson Square. Accordingly, public notice was given of the proposal prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in the grassed area of Thompson Square between the hours of 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday. Notification was by way of correspondence to all businesses operating in the Thompson Square precinct, notice to the Chamber of Commerce and an advertisement placed in the local newspapers. As a result, four submissions were received including a petition signed by most of the owners of businesses located within the Thompson Square precinct and they indicated their support for the proposal, subject to provisions that allow alcohol to be consumed on both public holidays and during special events, as well as the weekend. The other submissions also supported the proposal, with two of them being tabled at the Ordinary Meeting held on 12 June 2001.

As noted in the previous report, Council may restrict or prohibit the consumption of alcohol in a public place including parks and reserves, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act. Accordingly, as there is public support and in particular from the businesses located within the Thompson Square precinct, the proposal to restrict the consumption of alcohol in the park in Thompson Square between the hours of 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday (except public holidays and during special events) is supported.

RECOMMENDATION:

That in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act, the consumption of alcohol in the park in Thompson Square, Windsor be prohibited between the hours of 8am and 6pm on Monday to Friday except public holidays and during special events. Further, public notification including the erection of appropriate signage on the site, be given of the restriction.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 53 Oooo

ITEM: 54 Proposed Changes to Library Loan Period**FILE NUMBER:** GL020/012/CSV/OGF26NBX.C09**REPORT:**

The Library's current loan policy provides for a four-week loan period with provision for an additional one-week extension. A recent review of overdue library items and book reservations has identified the following trends which may be linked to the existing loan arrangements:

- there has been an increase in overdue items (2000 items are long overdue)
- patrons are experiencing difficulties in reserving items

A review of loan arrangements in other comparable libraries suggests that the industry standard for loan periods is three weeks with provision for an additional three week extension (Hawkesbury is unique in having an initial four week loan period). On this basis, it is proposed to change the loan period to permit patrons to borrow ten items for three weeks with a three week extension (providing the item is not on reserve or overdue). The proposed change to the initial loan period to three weeks should:

- enable greater control over the stock on loan
- make it less likely for patrons to forget items they have borrowed
- improve the clearance of items requested on reserve
- provide for an overall longer loan period
- provide a greater choice of material to borrow at any one time

To gauge patron responses to the proposed changes, a survey was conducted in the library from Sunday 20 May to Saturday 2 June. Of the 490 responses received (a credible 2% sample of library members), 309 (63%) were in favour of the three-week loan period with a three-week extension and 181 (37%) supported the retention of the current loan period. These results suggest that the proposed changes were supported by library patrons. Changing the loan period will also bring the library in line with other local public libraries including Penrith and the Blue Mountains.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The information be received.
2. The loan policy of the Hawkesbury City Council Library Service be amended to provide for an initial three week loan period with provision for an additional three week extension as from 16 July 2001. The change to the loan policy to be advertised in Council Notices.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 54 Oooo

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Item: **55****ITEM: 55 Mainstreet Program Funding and Strategies****FILE NUMBER:** GT070/024 PT02, GC155/001 PT03/CSV/OGF26NBX.C15**PREVIOUS ITEM:** 28, GPC Section 3 - Organisation & Resources (24.04.2001)**REPORT:**

Council at the Ordinary Meeting on 8 May, 2001 when considering the Mainstreet Special Rate resolved as followings:

- "1. Council acknowledge the benefits of Mainstreet Program which provides a vibrant sense of community through economic, social, physical and cultural revitalisation.
2. Council continue to support the Mainstreet Program within the 2001/2002 estimates.
3. A special rate for the Mainstreet Program not be pursued for 2001/2002.
4. A further report be brought to Council on the Mainstreet Program, funding and strategies."

It is noted that the original Mainstreet Special Rate proposal was for a levy of \$250,000 over a period of five years.

In relation to Item 4 of Council's resolution calling for a further report on the Mainstreet Program and funding strategies, discussions have been held with Mr Allan Eagle of the Hawkesbury City Chamber of Commerce and Mainstreet Program, a revised program and strategy has been put forward. This strategy is in line with Council's advertised Management Plan in which an allocation of up to \$80,000 was proposed for the Mainstreet Program.

With the reduction in funding for the 2001/2002 financial year the Mainstreet Committee have developed a program and strategy which would focus on assistance from the individual Mainstreet committees being Windsor, Richmond, North Richmond and South Windsor, to drive the process forward. The revised Mainstreet Program is provided in the table below:

Activity	Amount
Strategic Planning and Consultation	\$8,000
Business Development	\$2,000
Signage	\$2,000
Streetscape	\$2,000
Projects to be identified from strategic planning and consultation	\$17,500
Banner Strategy	\$5,000

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Activity	Amount
Lighting	\$4,000
Labour	\$36,000
Overheads	\$3,500
Total	\$80,000

The reduction in administrative funding will place an increased burden on volunteers through a committee process to ensure that the Mainstreet Program is fulfilled. For funding at this level the Hawkesbury City Chamber of Commerce is committed to an acquittal process of reporting quarterly to Council that currently exists for external organisations.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 55 Oooo

ITEM: 56 Section 94 Contributions Plan**FILE NUMBER:** GT200/001/FNC/OGF26NBX.F08

REPORT:

Council's current Section 94 (S94) Contributions Plan has been reviewed and is provided as an attachment to this report.

The review of the plan includes reassessed population growth estimates and a revision of the proposed S94 Works Program. As a consequence of these changes, the contribution rates have also been recalculated and included in the Plan. In accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, it is required that the Section 94 Contributions Plan be advertised and placed on public exhibition for not less than 28 days for comment. Any submissions received during the period of public exhibition will be reported to Council before the Plan is recommended for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council's "Section 94 Development Contribution Plan", as revised, be placed on public exhibition for comment for a period of not less than 28 days.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT-1 Section 94 Development Contribution Plan (separate document).

oooO END OF ITEM 56 Oooo

ITEM: 57 **Improving Communication Between Council and the Community****FILE NUMBER:** GE020/029/EVD/OGF26NBX.V07

REPORT:**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to present to Council two draft brochures which are intended to assist in improving communication. The first brochure provides advice to residents and property owners about the notification of development proposals. The second brochure outlines the General Purpose Committee process.

Background

The brochures have been prepared in response to community needs, conveyed by various means including:

- The February Strategic Planning Workshop held by Council.
- Comments from various community members, including the most recent concerns of Ms Turner.
- Recent publications released by the Ombudsman's Office.

Notification of Development Proposals

The current notification letter, although containing all relevant information about the proposal, may be interpreted as being rather officious. A copy of a proposed revised letter and brochure has been distributed with the Business Paper. The brochure provides advice on how to make enquiries, how to write a submission and how the decision-making process works. The brochure and letter have been written in terms to encourage people to view plans and ask questions either in person or by telephone prior to writing a submission. It is also intended to provide an A4 copy of the site plan with the notification letter where practical.

It should be noted that the brochure talks about mediation or facilitated meetings depending upon the circumstances. Whilst this is to be the subject of a separate report to Council in the near future, mediation and facilitated meetings can be provided at this time, where circumstances are appropriate.

There has been previous criticism that individual submissions, particularly those which raise questions, are not acknowledged or replied to until after the application is determined. Although simple questions are sometimes asked in submissions, on the whole, the questions generally relate to policy issues, and interpretation of the LEP or Development Control Plans. Although answering simple questions or explaining policy issues would lead to a better understanding by the objector during the assessment process, there is a danger that staff may pre-empt Council's consideration of an application if an opinion is provided as to interpretation of policy, LEP or DCP. Often the

questions are really part of the overall assessment of the application and may not be addressed individually. Attached is a recent example of a letter from a neighbouring resident in response to an application for a rural shed.

This is a difficult issue, as although objectors may feel that they have not been answered when an immediate response is not received, there are considerable resources required in answering detailed letters, particularly when at the time of receipt of the letter, full assessment of the application may not be complete. The brochure and notification letter encourage people to take the time to gather the facts and talk to the officer handling the application. This would be preferable to written questions and answers, particularly when answers may pre-empt Council's consideration.

Meeting Procedures

It is intended that the meeting procedures brochure would be mailed to objectors when they are invited to attend a General Purpose Committee Meeting. The brochure would also be available in the foyer outside the Council Chambers.

The brochure outlines the procedures and other relevant information about the General Purpose Committee and Ordinary Meetings in a user-friendly form.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Development Proposal Notification Brochure and the Council Meeting Procedures Brochure be endorsed by Council and implemented immediately.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT-1 Recent example of objector's letter.

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Objector's letter

oooO END OF ITEM 57 Oooo

ITEM: 58 **Library Week 2001****FILE NUMBER:** GL020/017/CSV/OGF26NCX.C11

REPORT:

Library Week is an annual, national event promoting the role and contribution of public libraries to community life. In 2001, it was held between 14 - 18 May.

To coincide with Library Week, the Hawkesbury City Council Library Service coordinated a program of Library Week activities including:

- Library Week Storytimes which were held at both Windsor and Richmond and included face painting and craft activities - the sessions were attended by 46 children and 33 accompanying adults.
- Celebrity guest speaker - Liz Ellis (Vice Captain of Australia's netball team) visited the Windsor Library and gave a talk which was attended by 60+ people. Her talk was followed by morning tea and autographs - this visit was a highlight of Library Week.
- Windsor Library participated in the first ever national simultaneous storytime which was held at every public library in Australia.
- Family History Lecture - the library was fortunate to engage Lady Teviot (who is currently on tour from the UK) to give a lecture on family history which was attended by 48 enthusiastic family historians.

A range of other activities including trivia quest and lucky door prizes were also implemented as part of the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 58 Oooo

ITEM: 59 Youth Transport Project - Update**FILE NUMBER:** GC200/002/CSV/OGF26NCX.C10

REPORT:

In February 2001, following discussions with the Department of Transport and the Hawkesbury Youth Transport Project Inc, the funding auspice of the Youth Transport Project was formally transferred to the Hawkesbury Community Transport Service (HCTS). The Youth Transport Project was initially funded in 1997 under the Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme (WSAAS) as a six year project - it was intended that after this period the Project would be self-sustaining.

Funding responsibility for the project has been transferred to the Department of Transport. Over the next two years, HCTS will receive \$70,116 per year to operate the youth transport service. This period will provide an opportunity to review the service to identify options (if any) for maintaining a service beyond the life of the current funding grant.

Following recommendations made by the Youth Transport Advisory Committee, from 30 March 2001, HCTS has been operating scheduled youth transport runs on Friday and Saturday nights on a 3 month trial basis. The purpose of the trial was to gauge patronage levels and to establish if the service was effectively meeting the needs of young people. Although the service was heavily promoted by the Youth Transport Advisory Committee and a large number of young people registered to use the service, to date the usage figures have been disappointing. The number of young people who have used the service has hardly justified the cost of operating it.

To explore the reasons for the low level of use and to canvass possible options for re-shaping and improving the service, a youth transport survey has been developed. The survey will be sent to young people who have registered with the service and will also seek responses from the parents of these young people. The survey identifies a range of possible approaches to meeting the needs of young people from maintaining the current service, to implementing a more flexible approach where buses and drivers would be provided to accredited youth groups and agencies at no cost to support their recreational and social programs.

It is hoped that the outcome of the survey will assist HCTS and the Youth Transport Advisory Committee to identify more effective approaches to meeting the transport needs of young people. The survey findings may also assist HCTS to identify options for maintaining a youth transport service over the longer term.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

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ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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Item: **60****ITEM: 60****Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme Applications 2000/2001****FILE NUMBER:**

GG021/005/CSV/OGF26NCX.C13

REPORT:

The Western Sydney Area Assistance Scheme (WSAAS) is a funding program administered by the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP). To facilitate the administration of the Scheme, DUAP provides a salary subsidy to Hawkesbury City Council to subsidise the employment of the Community Planner/Youth Projects Officer who is responsible for coordinating the program within the Hawkesbury.

The role of the Community Planner/Youth Projects Officer is to assist organisations in the development of their funding applications, and to coordinate the working of a Local Ranking Committee. The Committee is responsible for considering all applications and prioritising these applications based on the funding criteria established by DUAP. The prioritised applications are then forwarded to DUAP for consideration by a Regional Ranking Committee which makes recommendations to the relevant Minister.

Thirteen applications were received for the 2000/2001 funding round, seeking total funding of \$586,475.00. The Local Ranking Committee for the Hawkesbury has met to consider these applications - the high-ranked priorities identified by the Committee include:

Project Name	Project Sponsor	Project Description
Lining of Supper Room	East Kurrajong School of Arts	Line supper room ceiling \$5,049.00
Yarramundi Community Centre Playground Equipment	Hawkesbury Council	Provide playground equipment in Yarramundi \$30,000.00
"Parked, Pickin', Pluckin' & Playin'"	Hawkesbury Chamber of Commerce	Remuneration for young music students to perform in public \$6,240.00
Equity & Disability Access to Childcare Centre	UWS Hawkesbury Childcare Centre Inc.	Ensure facilities are accessible & safe to the community \$32,500.00
Penrith/Hawkesbury Rural Development Worker	Tri Community Exchange	Employ a rural development worker with brokerage funds \$103,073.00

Advice was received on 15 June of successful projects, they were:

ORGANISATION AND RESOURCES

Meeting Date: 26 June, 2001

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Project Name	Project Sponsor	Project Description
Lining of Supper Room	East Kurrajong School of Arts	Lining of Supper room ceiling \$5,049.00
"Parked, Pickin'. Pluckin' & Playin'"	Hawkesbury Chamber of Commerce	Remuneration for young music students to perform in public - \$6,240

There are also a number of current projects continuing to receive WSAAS funding, they are:

Project Name	Project Sponsor	Project Description
ATSI Community Development Worker	Hawkesbury City Council	Employ a community access worker to improve access to services \$ 33,325.00
Aboriginal Legal Access Worker	Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre	Employ a worker to provide access to legal services and support \$ 66,420.00
"Dig It"	Hawkesbury Skills	Employ a worker to provide horticultural activities for people with disabilities \$50,980.00
Women's Accommodation and Information service	Hawkesbury Women's Housing & Information Service	Women and children's crisis accommodation and support service - \$65,000

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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