



general
purpose
committee

3
section

organisation
and
resources

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Item: 1

ITEM: 1 Monthly Financial Report - November and December 2002**FILE NUMBER:** GF011/005/FNC/OGA28NAX.F08**REPORT:**

Summarised below, are particulars of both the income received and the expenditure incurred by Council for the months of November and December 2002. This information has been reconciled between the cashbook and the bank statement balance as at the end of November and December 2002. All expenditure is fully supported by vouchers and invoices which have been duly certified.

Cash Book (General Ledger) Reconciliation - November 2002

Opening Balance as at 1 November 2002	(\$315,848.12)
Add Receipts for the Month	\$10,434,492.90
Less Payments for the Month	(\$9,598,598.35)
Closing Balance as at end of November 2002	<u>\$520,046.43</u>

Bank Statement balance - November 2002

	\$468,883.99
Less Unpresented Cheques	(\$385,619.80)
Add Outstanding Deposits	<u>\$685,114.52</u>
	\$768,378.71
Adjustment: Statement entries not yet posted to GL	<u>(\$248,332.28)</u>
Equal balance as per Cash Book	<u>\$520,046.43</u>

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Cash Book (General Ledger) Reconciliation - December 2002

Opening Balances as at 1 December 2002	\$520,046.43
Add Receipts for the Month	\$8,325,759.07
Less Payments for the Month	(\$9,197,540.48)
Closing Balance as at end of December 2002	(\$351,734.98)

Bank Statement Balance - December 2002

Statement Balance as at end of December 2002	\$549,795.15
Less Unpresented Cheques	(\$3,349,002.27)
Add Outstanding Deposits	\$2,348,426.56
	(\$450,780.56)
Adjustment: Statement entries not yet posted to GL	\$99,045.58
Equals balance as per Cash Book	(\$351,734.98)

Commentary

The above reconciliations reflect the cashflow for November and December 2002. Essentially they are a summary of all of the receipts issued and the payments made during November and December 2002.

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

The bank account balance may vary significantly from the cashbook balance. The difference is made up of unpresented cheques, outstanding deposits and bank statement entries that have not yet been recorded in the general ledger.

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 entries not yet posted to the GL are mainly 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.

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Investments - November and December 2002

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 tables outline the investment portfolios held by Council as at the end of November and December 2002. All investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations and Council's Investment Policy.

November 2002

Investment Type	Balance Brought Forward	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest Added to Investment	Balance End of Month
Managed Funds	\$25,614,199.59			\$127,776.49	\$25,741,976.08
On Call Funds	\$2,500,000.00	\$2,800,000.00	(\$3,150,000.00)		\$2,150,000.00
Term Investments	\$2,073,780.00		(\$1,003,780.00)		\$1,070,000.00
Rolling Investments	\$4,039,714.41	\$1,514,475.00		\$19,341.30	\$5,573,530.71
TOTAL	\$34,227,694.00	\$4,314,475.00	(\$4,153,780.00)	\$147,117.79	\$34,535,506.79

December 2002

Investment Type	Balance Brought Forward	Deposits	Withdrawals	Interest Added to Investment	Balance End of Month
Managed Funds	\$25,741,976.08		(\$3,000,000.00)	\$109,966.17	\$22,851,942.25
On Call Funds	\$2,150,000.00	\$3,350,000.00	(\$2,100,000.00)		\$3,400,000.00
Term Investments	\$1,070,000.00				\$1,070,000.00
Rolling Investments	\$5,573,530.71			\$24,655.77	\$5,598,186.48
TOTAL	\$34,535,506.79	\$3,350,000.00	(\$5,100,000.00)	\$134,621.94	\$32,920,128.73

Investment Commentary

Managed Fund performance improved considerably in November and December. This improvement will offset the poor performance that had been achieved for the preceding 4 months.

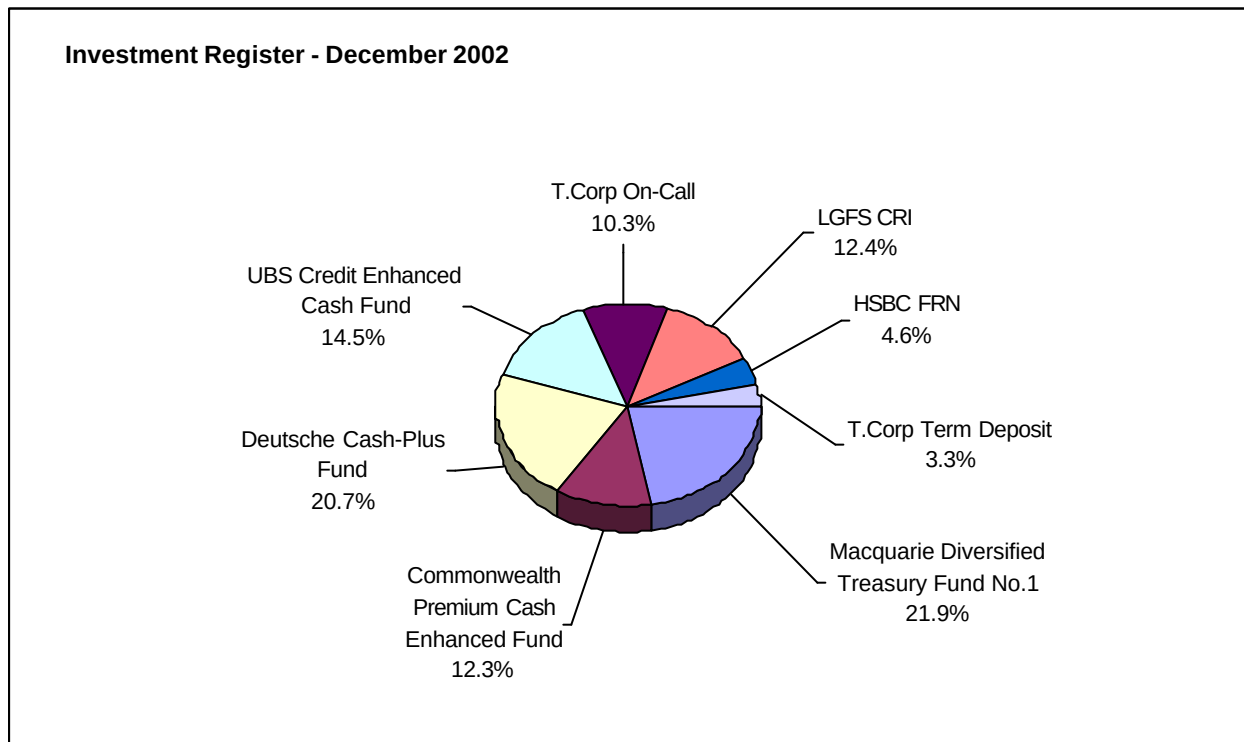
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Official cash interest rates continue to be on hold (Currently at 4.75%). The current rates on offer for term investments confirm the current market expectations that interest rates are expected to remain unchanged for the remainder of the current financial year.

The current mix of investments are reflected in the following graph.



Geoff Banting
Responsible Accounting Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 1 Oooo

ITEM: 2 Reforms Arising from Land and Environment Court Review**FILE NUMBER:** 79941/GMA/OGA28NAX.G03

REPORT:

The Attorney General's Department has written advising of the Attorney General's announcement commissioning of a CEO's Taskforce (PlanningNSW, Department of Local Government, Attorney General's Department) following the introduction of the Land & Environment Court Amendment Act 2002 which is expected to commence operation early this year.

The CEO's Taskforce has developed a range of reforms relating to Council's Development Assessment processes and requested that they be considered by the Council at the earliest opportunity. The Working Party's recommendations and some background comments (provided by them) are as follows:

1. Councils should be encouraged to provide additional information to prospective applicants. Information should be provided in plain English and as far as practicable in relevant community languages.

Comment: The Working Party took the view that better educating people who are considering developing their property about what the Development Assessment process involves and what it requires of them would be one simple way of streamlining the process and preventing unnecessary disputes. They indicate that brochures or fax sheets should indicate what types of development require consent, the various steps in the process, the Council's policies in relation to community consultation including notification and the complaint handling and dispute resolution processes which are available.

2. Where appropriate, Councils should encourage pre-lodgement discussions between prospective applicants and their neighbours and other local residents and between prospective applicants and representatives of the Council. However, participation in such discussions should not be mandatory. Where Council facilitates pre-lodgement discussions it should make sure that the process and any associated requirements are communicated accurately. Councils should ensure that pre-lodgement discussions facilitated by them, or in which their representatives participate, are transparent.

Comment: The Working Party considered this process could reduce the potential for disputes relating to Development Applications, however, Council staff were clearly not in a position to give firm indications of the likely outcome of an application at the early stages and pre-lodgement discussions should not pre-empt the formal assessment process. The CEO's Taskforce has especially drawn attention in this context to the Independent Commission Against Corruption's recent report which is also reported to this meeting.

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3. Wider use should be made of alternative dispute resolution at all stages of the Development Assessment process including pre-lodgement stage. Councils should consider making use of mediation and conflict management services offered by Government funded organisations such as the Community Justice Centres and the Australian Commercial Disputes Centre or similar services offered by reputable private organisations.

Comment: The Working Party was enthusiastic about the potential for greater use of alternative dispute resolution to reduce the incidence of appeals and thus legal costs relating to Development Applications.

4. Councils should consider independent hearing and assessment panels to provide a forum in which objectors and applicants may be heard in person independently assessed development applications and make recommendations as to how they should be determined. They should also consider establishing facilitation committee programs to provide facilitation services to objectors and applicants.

5. Local Councillors should continue to be offered training in relation to the planning system and how to discharge their responsibilities within it. More training opportunities should be provided.

Comment: The Working Party was supportive of appropriate training especially for newly elected Councillors who may have little or no previous experience in planning. The CEO's Taskforce is currently considering how training may be improved.

6. Councils should consider delegating the power to determine Development Applications for development.

- Which complies with all the applicable controls and policies.
- Where no objections have been received or these can be overcome by appropriate conditions of consent.

Comment: The Working Party called for Councils to permit more Development Applications to be determined by staff under Delegated Authority.

7. Councils are encouraged to make appropriate delegations including the power to negotiate and settle matters so as to enable representatives to participate effectively in alternative dispute resolution facilitated by the court.

Comment: The Land & Environment Court Act provides for the court to refer matters to mediation with the parties consent. The Ombudsman has suggested that court-assisted mediation sessions are hampered by a general reluctance amongst Councils to delegate sufficient authority to their representatives to allow them to participate effectively in mediation. Participation in the court's mediation program is relatively low, however, its success rate was 80% in 2001.

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Attorney General's Department be advised of the Council's extensive delegation, its mediation/conciliation processes, pre-lodgement discussions and extensive development control policies. In relation to hearing and assessment panels the Council will consider this during its Strategic Planning session later this year.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 2 Oooo

ITEM: 3 Proposed Development Reforms**FILE NUMBER:** 80928/GMA/OGA28NAX.G02

REPORT:

The Independent Commissioner Against Corruption has provided a copy of her report that contains recommendations for legislative change relating to Council involvement in development assessment.

The recommendations are part of the Commission's response to the Rockdale Council enquiry and also the flow-on from work that they have been undertaking in the Local Government Sector.

In brief, the changes proposed are:

- Non-pecuniary interest in respect of a Councillor exercising a responsibility pursuant to the Environment Planning & Assessment Act to be defined. The Commission believes that non-pecuniary interests should be treated slightly differently due to the absence of personal financial gain. They suggest that Councillors be required to disclose non-pecuniary interest prior to their involvement in the decision making process and that there be automatic exclusion of the Councillor. Similar to the management of pecuniary interest the jurisdiction of the Pecuniary Interest Tribunal be broadened to include substantial breaches of proposed non-pecuniary interest provisions and that the tribunal be renamed to reflect this broadened role.
- Receipt of a gift in the form of a political donation be defined as constituting a non-pecuniary interest in respect of the Environment Planning & Assessment Act. In this regard the receipt of a political donation is neither a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest.
- When Environment Planning & Assessment Act matters arise Councils be obliged to convene meetings specifically and exclusively to consider these matters.
- The role of a General Manager as outlined in the Local Government Act be extended to include the obligation to ensure that all advice and recommendation from the administration in respect of development matters is objective and impartial.
- The current prohibition on a Council directing staff as to the nature of advice or recommendation be extended to include the Mayor and individual Councillors.
- Where a Council approves a development matter contrary to a recommendation from its administration the Council be obliged to give reasons for its decision.
- A legislative based code of conduct relating to Environment Planning & Assessment Act matters be prepared covering matters such as caucusing, lobbying and relationships between Councillors and staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Independent Commission's recommendations for statutory reform in development matters be supported.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT-1 ICAC suggested amendments to legislation.

ICAC suggested amendments to legislation

ICAC suggested amendments for legislation

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ICAC suggested amendments to legislation

oooO END OF ITEM 3 Oooo

ITEM: 4 Regional Planning Strategy**FILE NUMBER:** 79326/GMA/OGA28NAX.G01

REPORT:

The Minister for Planning has announced that Regional Strategy work being part of planFIRST will commence in a number of regions during 2002/03 with Western Sydney being one of the first regions.

Regional Forums are being established as part of the work and recently expressions of interest were called for non-government members and for chairs in the regions.

The Regional Forum will comprise a chair, being a person appointed by the Minister, five non-government representatives from the region, appointed by the Minister to represent environmental, community, Aboriginal, business/industry, social/human services or natural resource management interests, five representatives from state agencies and five Councillors from the region. Initial appointments are for three years or such other term as determined by the Minister for Planning with remuneration to be in accordance with the Premier's Department Guidelines.

Members are to bring to the Forum experience/expertise in one or more of the following:

- Environmental Planning
- Land Management
- Business/economic development
- Service delivery planning
- Community consultation
- Leadership skills and capacity to provide sound and objective advice
- Ability to increase public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the purpose strategic integrated regional planning
- Ability to work with other Forum members

There will be a code of conduct and requirement for disclosures including potential conflicts of interest.

PlanningNSW has written to WSROC advising that five representatives have been sought for the WSROC/MACROC area. On the basis of population WSROC has been allocated four positions on the Regional Forum.

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WSROC has requested Council to put forward a nomination that will then be considered at their February meeting. PlanningNSW advised that nominations need to provide details of qualifications, skills and experience that would enable the person to contribute effectively to the work of the Planning Forum. In addition to this criteria WSROC indicate they are also likely to consider the geographic distribution of representatives across the region.

RECOMMENDATION:

That a Councillor be nominated for the Regional Planning Forum.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 4 Oooo

ITEM: 5 Community Cultural Grants Program - January Round**FILE NUMBER:** G021/218/CSV/OGA28NBX.C07

REPORT:

Seven applications were received under the January round of Council's Community Cultural Grants Program. A total of approximately \$24,510 has been requested.

The applications are summarised below.

Lucia Okumura on behalf of the Hawkesbury National Fiddle Festival applies for \$5,000 towards the staging of the 2003 event, which celebrates the fiddle in all genres of music from all cultures. This is a three-day event held at Hawkesbury showground with concerts, workshops, masterclasses and featuring musicians of world renown. There is a high degree of community involvement and skills development, and the event has the potential to become a major visitor attraction. Total budget \$60,735.

John Grenenger on behalf of the St Albans Folk Festival applies for \$5,000 to assist with the staging of the 2003 event, to be held over the ANZAC weekend. Now in its ninth year, the event attracts folk performers from all over Australia, and provide a variety of entertainment/art forms including poetry, story-telling and dancing. There are concerts in three venues, and the festival has become the major event of the year in St Albans and as such is welcomed by residents and business people. A children's festival is held within the festival, with workshops, mural-painting, dancing and singing. The festival has a high skills development component, with workshops in voice and instruments, including bodhran, Celtic drum, tin whistle, guitar and fiddle. The total budget is \$28,850.

Janette Lennox on behalf of Kurrajong Small Business and Community Forum (Kurrajong Scarecrow Committee) applies for \$3,000 in cash and approximately \$1,000 in kind to assist with the staging of the 2003 Kurrajong Scarecrow Festival. The festival consists of a scarecrow-making competition and a display of scarecrows in Memorial Park with entertainment and stalls. The event boasts a high degree of family involvement and attracts large numbers of visitors. The total budget is \$10,050.

Ken Parsons on behalf of The Kurrajong Small Business and Community Forum applies for \$2,000 to hold regular music mornings in Kurrajong village. The aim of the program is to further young musical talent, provide an avenue of expression for local musicians and to enhance the atmosphere of Kurrajong village for residents and visitors. The public address system to be purchased with these funds would be available for other community events. The total budget is \$4,900.

Jenni-Mae Clissold on behalf of The Ferry Artists applies for \$5,010 for a two-day workshop and exhibition based on The Great North Road. The project will involve schools and community members. The total budget is \$5,590.

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Margaret Mackisack on behalf of the Bilpin Hall Committee applies for \$1,500 to help with the staging of the 2003 Bilpin Bite, a community festival now in its ninth year. Local chefs produce food for sale, orchardists and crafts people sell local produce and music is provided by the Hawkesbury Jazz Club. Over 800 attended in 2002. Total budget is \$4,190.

Michael Starkey on behalf of the Macquarie Towns Orchestra applies for \$2,000 to enable the orchestra to engage a professional musical director/conductor, and to purchase additional music.

Summary of Grant Applications Recommendations for Approval

Applicant	Activity/Project	Grant Requested	Recommendation	Comments
Kurrajong Small Business and Community Forum	2003 Scarecrow Festival	\$3,000 + in kind approx \$1,000 ¹	\$3,000 including in-kind	Well-established and well-supported previously. Funding to come from next financial year.
Kurrajong Small Business and Community Forum	Music mornings	\$2,000	Not recommended	Concerns re use of grant to purchase equipment requiring maintenance. Alternative funding sources available.
The Ferry Artists Inc	The great North Road workshop & exhibition	\$5,010	\$1,000	An ambitious project for a new group. Alternative sources of funding available.
Bilpin District Hall Committee	2003 Bilpin Bite	\$1,500	\$1,500	A very good event meeting all criteria, realistic budget and excellent organisation/attention to detail.
Hawkesbury National Fiddle Festival	2003 Fiddle Festival	\$5,000	\$1,000	Previous support provided. Concerns re venue, budget and need to generate large number of ticket sales.

¹ A3 newsletter (2000 x 3 times p.a.) + A3 programs (6000), alteration to dates on banners, use of Council stage + 6 street barriers + use of 10 garbage bins.

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Applicant	Activity/Project	Grant Requested	Recommendation	Comments
St Albans Folk Festival	2003 Folk Festival	\$5,000	\$3,000	A long-running event, well-supported.
Macquarie Towns Orchestra Inc.	Professional director, music	\$2,000	\$1,000	For director's fees.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. A total of \$10,500 (ten thousand, five hundred dollars) as recommended in the report be allocated as grants under the Community Cultural Grants Program - January Round.
2. Funding to be provided from the Community Cultural Grants Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 5 Oooo

ITEM: 6 Grant - Design Proposals for Public Art**FILE NUMBER:** 107/CSV/OGA28NBX.C04**REPORT:**

The Premier and Minister for the Arts, Bob Carr MP, has approved a grant of \$5,000.00 (five thousand) under the 2003 Visual Arts and Crafts Program towards the development of design proposals for public art/sculpture for the grounds of Hawkesbury City Gallery and Library.

In consultation with the Ministry, it is proposed that expressions of interest be invited with a view to compiling a short list of three artists, and that those three submit design concepts, maquettes, budgets and schedules for a work of art which refers to the following:

- The importance of Hawkesbury's history and heritage, including the history of the Darug people.
- The Hawkesbury River as a life-giving force.
- The use of the space as a focal point for a number of community groups/institutions as well as the wider community, visitors and tourists.
- The use of the space for rest and refreshment of body and spirit.
- The importance of attracting children and young people and of helping them to form positive associations between play, art, books, mental stimulation and relaxation.

Time Frame:

Closing date for expressions of interest:	31 January 2003
Artist interviews selection:	week of 17 February 2003
Artist briefing:	31 February 2003
Preliminary Presentation of Concepts:	April 2003
Final Concept Presentation:	May 2003

The selection committee is to comprise two Councillors; a representative of Pont Leroy + Williams, architects; Manager, Policy and Corporate Communications; Arts and Events Coordinator; Director of Penrith Regional Art Gallery; Edna Watson, artist and Indigenous leader; and Greg Hansell, artist and founding member of Friends of the Hawkesbury Art Collection Inc.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the offer of \$5,000.00 (five thousand) from the NSW Ministry for the Arts for design proposals for public art/sculpture for the grounds of Hawkesbury City Gallery and Library be accepted, and that two Councillors be appointed to sit on the selection panel.

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ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 6 Oooo

ITEM: 7 Exemption from Rating - The Valley Centre for Environmental Education & Research Inc. - 623 Greens Road, Lower Portland**FILE NUMBER:** P717/193/FNC/OGA28NBX.F05

REPORT:

An application has been received from The Valley Centre for Environmental Education & Research Inc requesting exemption from rating for the property known as 623 Greens Road, Lower Portland. (Lot 1 DP 864185 - Property Number 30063)

The application for rate exemption has been made under the section 556 provisions of the *Local Government Act, 1993*:

"S.556 (1) The following land is exempt from all rates;

(h) land that belongs to a public or benevolent institution or public charity and is used or occupied by the institution or charity for the purposes of the institution or charity;

The Valley Centre for Environmental Education and Research Incorporated is registered as an Environmental Organisation. The Valley Centre has also been granted Charitable Status under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991.

The Valley Centre have made previous applications for rate exemption which have been rejected on the basis that although the land belonged to a public charity, it was not being used or occupied by the charity for the purpose of the charity. During 2002, The Valley Centre received Council approval for the construction of a temporary lecture room which has since been constructed and is now being utilised. Accordingly, it is now deemed appropriate that The Valley Centre be granted rate exemption under the provisions of Section 556 (1) (h) of the Local Government Act, 1993.

It is proposed that the rate exemption apply from 1 July 2002 for the current 2002/2003 rating year.

The 2002/2003 rates for the subject property are \$1,623.05 (one thousand, six hundred and twenty three dollars and five cents) in ordinary rates and \$36.55 (thirty six dollars and fifty five cents) in special rates. It is recommended that the combined total of \$1,659.60 (one thousand and six hundred and fifty nine dollars and sixty cents) be abandoned for 2002/2003.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The Valley Centre for Environmental Education & Research Inc be granted exemption from rating

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for the property known as 623 Greens Road, Lower Portland (Lot 1 DP 864185 - Property Number 30063) from 1 July 2002.

2. The amount of \$1,659.60 (one thousand and six hundred and fifty nine dollars and sixty cents) be written off in respect of the rates for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 7 Oooo

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ITEM: 8**Report: Fruits of the Hawkesbury Festival 2002****FILE NUMBER:** GC030/007/CSV/OGA28NCX.C06**REPORT:**

Feedback from the local event organisers sponsored by Council to create the 2002 Fruits of the Hawkesbury annual Spring festival has now been received and is outlined in this report. The festival aims to showcase local talent, develop skills, provide access to high quality cultural activities and attract visitors.

Expressions of interest were invited early in 2002, and twenty local groups shared funds totalling \$8,690.00 to assist with the presentation of an event.

The following groups were assisted under this program:

Group Name	Amount	Event
Arkadian Bilpin Performers	\$500-\$700	Phantom of the Music Hall
Bilpin Garden Club Inc.	\$360	Bilpin Spring Flower Show
Friends of the Hawkesbury Art Collection Inc.	\$554	"Top Crop" from Hawkesbury Artists
Fruits of the Hawkesbury Patchwork Group	\$500	Fruits of the Hawkesbury Indoor/Outdoor Quilt Show
Hawkesbury Creative Art Centre	\$420	Young Artist in the making
Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre Fair Committee	\$500	Earthcare's "Celebrating Sustainability Fair"
Hawkesbury Family History Group	\$210	Tracing Your Irish Ancestors
Hawkesbury Jazz Club Inc.	\$500	Jazz Afloat
Hawkesbury Valley Baptist Church	\$250	Sacred Moments Arts Festival
Kurrajong Small Business & Community Forum Inc.	\$500 (plus HCC assistance via Cultural Grants)	Kurrajong District Scarecrow Festival
Life Drawing Group (of the Community Arts Workshop UWS)	\$500	Fruits of the Figure
Macquarie Towns Orchestra	\$460	Fruits of the Hawkesbury Spring Arts Festival

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Group Name	Amount	Event
Macquarie Towns Art Society Inc.	\$100	Watercolour Workshop with Helen Goldsmith
Macquarie Towns Art Society Inc.	\$150	Budding Junior Artists' Exhibition
South Windsor Mainstreet	\$350	Spring Flower Plantings on South Windsor Mainstreet
St Matthews Anglican Church Restoration & Repair Committee	\$500	The Ragged Band Concert
The Song Company Pty Ltd	\$500	Royal Fireworks
Bowen Mountain Association	\$386	Scarecrow Music Festival
St Albans Gallery	\$200	"Recycled" Exhibition
St Albans Gallery	\$200	"Putting Down Roots" Carol Gill (Solo Exhibition)

The festival was promoted by advertising and a brochure distributed through direct mail, tourism outlets, libraries and the participating groups' own networks. In partnership with Tourism Hawkesbury and the Hawkesbury Mainstreet Program, a number of street banners promoting the festival were also installed throughout the main town centres.

The official launch of the festival took place at a special performance of "Royal Fireworks" by the internationally acclaimed Song Company on Sunday 8 September. As resolved by the Cultural Committee, complimentary tickets were issued to a number of people with disabilities to enable them to enjoy this world class performance in the Murray Wing of the Richmond School of Arts.

As usual, the festival included a great variety of events, including larger, well established events, like the Indoor/Outdoor Quilt Show, the Bilpin Flower Show and the Kurrajong Scarecrow Festival, as well as smaller events run as one-offs or aiming to build over time. These include Young Artist in the Making and Fruits of the Figure, a life drawing exhibition held in the foyer of Maximum Fitness Gym in Richmond. This exhibition was sold out, with approximately 120 people attending the opening and a steady flow of visitors thereafter. Easels acquired via Council sponsorship have been retained for future use by the Community Arts Workshop.

Young Artist in the Making featured 110 paintings by young people and attracted a full house on opening night when special guests John Shields, a prominent local artist; Fiona Steel, Exhibition Officer for the Arts unit at the Department of Education; Sandra Vella representing sponsor Matisse Derivan; and Karen Conte, Principal of Cattai Public School, awarded prizes to 18 winners.

The organisers of the 'Celebrating Sustainability' Fair, also presented for the first time in 2002, were very pleased with the response to their event, which aimed to promote alternative energy technology.

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Fundraising on the day resulted in one thousand dollars being made available to continue work at the Hawkesbury Earthcare Centre.

The Macquarie Towns Orchestra reported that their concert was the most successful ever, including the playing of a full length Mozart symphony. They credit their director, John Buckley, with this improvement, and acknowledge Council's support (Mr Buckley is the Musical Director of the RAAF band and was engaged by the orchestra with the help of a Community Cultural Grant.)

Top Crop art exhibition provided forty local artists with an opportunity to show their work to an audience of nearly three hundred visitors, and four new members attended the watercolour workshop presented by the Macquarie Towns Arts Society.

As a further special "drawcard event" and unique opportunity for skills development, arrangements were made with Roger Woodward and the Performance and Exhibitions Committee of UWS-Hawkesbury for Mr Woodward to perform a piano recital and masterclass at the Memorial Hall on Friday 15 November. The recital was oversubscribed and very well received by those who attended. As a result, the partnership with this organisation has been significantly strengthened, and discussions are being held with a view to staging more combined events in 2003.

Also popular was the Hawkesbury Wine Food & Music Affair Race Day, which was promoted as part of the Fruits of the Hawkesbury but funded by a separate budget allocation. Stalls featuring local products reported an excellent response to the day with crowd numbers growing from the previous year. The event offered residents and visitors a great variety of free entertainment and stalls in addition to a full race program.

Together with other events staged throughout the year, Fruits of the Hawkesbury offers many opportunities for participation and capacity-building. It also assists with tourism initiatives by supporting an image of Hawkesbury as an exciting place, where there are many things to see and do.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF ITEM 8 Oooo

ITEM: 9 Mainstreet DCP Program and Urban Improvement Program**FILE NUMBER:** 79337/CSV/OGA28NCX.C09

REPORT:

A presentation will be provided at this GPC by Ms Libby Ozinga Director, Special Projects at Planning NSW and Ms Julie Edwards also from Planning NSW on the Mainstreet DCP program and Urban Improvement Program.

Ms. Ozinga established the Urban Improvement Program in 1999 and since then has also established Metropolitan Living Centres. Both of these programs are demonstrating exciting new ways of planning in urban areas, working with communities to manage change in a positive way and achieve tangible outcomes. In a previous life, Ms Ozinga worked across NSW on the Mainstreet Program.

Ms. Edwards has been working on the Urban Improvement Program since 2000 and is currently overseeing 16 place-based projects across Sydney which have been funded through the Program.

The Richmond Mainstreet DCP program is now well underway. Public meetings were held at Richmond on 28 August and 13 November 2002. Following feedback from the first meeting a vision for Richmond was presented at the second meeting. This was generally well received, with positive comments being made. A draft development control plan is now being prepared for presentation to Council and the community.

Preparations are also well underway for the North Richmond Village DCP process, with the first public meeting to be held on Wednesday 5 February 2003.

Linking Richmond Project

The Urban Improvement Community Partnership Grant program came to the attention of the Richmond Mainstreet Committee in September 2002. This program is administered by NSW Planning. Although no firm proposals had come from the DCP process at that time, a project was devised which would provide significant benefits for the Richmond Town Centre, without compromising any future vision.

The project, "Linking Richmond" was formulated and an application was made for a grant totalling \$70,000. Linking Richmond comprises three separate projects or links, which share the common thread of community partnership. Funding was sought on the basis that each project can be delivered independently if necessary.

Although the grants are generally on a matched funding basis, there are no implications for the current budget as funds have already been allocated for a pathway in Richmond Park and the other projects could be incorporated into the 2003/04 budget with little impact. At the time of preparing this report, no decision has been announced.

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

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ITEM: 10 **Clarendon Skatepark - Update****FILE NUMBER:** 107/CSV/OGA28NCX.C10

REPORT:

Following the official opening of the Clarendon Skatepark in November 2002, Councillors have raised a number of questions without notice regarding the status of the skatepark. These questions have concerned matters relating to the safety of skaters, the installation of signage, the provision of seating, and the establishment of a skatepark management committee.

In response to these matters, Council staff facilitated two meetings of stakeholders to review the status and impact of the skatepark. These were held on 5 December 2002 and 12 December 2002. The meetings were attended by representatives from the Richmond Youth Streetbeat Project, North Richmond Youth Project, Youth Advisory Committee, City Rail, Hawkesbury Chamber of Commerce, Hawkesbury Area Local Command, Council Staff and business owners adjoining the skatepark facility including, Carewash Clarendon, Plane Tree Café, and Lynne's Pottery and Paint Gallery. In addition, Mr. Wayne Jones from the Plane Tree Café spoke on behalf of the operators of the Hawkesbury Valley Inn.

In general participants acknowledged the need for skatepark facilities and noted that the majority of the users of the skatepark behaved appropriately. However, the representatives of business adjoining the skatepark (including City Rail) expressed some strong concerns regarding the behaviour of some skatepark users which was having an adverse impact on their businesses. These behaviours included vandalism, littering, theft, truancy, illegal parking, and anti-social activities. Adjoining business owners were also very critical of what they perceived to be a lack of consultation prior to the construction of the skatepark, and the failure to ensure that the appropriate infrastructure was in place prior to the opening of the skatepark. There was some very vigorous discussion about these issues.

In working through the identification of concerns which would need to be addressed in a plan of management for the skatepark, it became apparent that the key issue raised by adjoining owners was the location of the skatepark. In this context, it was difficult for participants to agree on an acceptable plan of management for the skatepark without first seeking a resolution to the concerns raised by adjoining owners regarding the location of the skatepark. Consequently, it was agreed that the concerns of adjoining owners would be reported to Council together with the recommendations put forward by them.

In total 25 provisional strategies were identified (or have been actioned) to reduce the adverse impacts of the skatepark and to promote the positive benefits of this facility. Of the 25 recommendations/actions taken;

- 5 (five) recommendations - 1 (one), 2 (two), 3 (three), 5 (five) and 8 (eight) - have been put forward by adjoining business owners and will entail additional expenditures which have not been included in Council's 2002/2003 estimates. It should be noted that these recommendations were not supported by all participants.

- 11 (eleven) recommendations - 6 (six), 9 (nine), 10 (ten), 11 (eleven), 12 (twelve), 13 (thirteen), 16 (sixteen), 17 (seventeen), 18 (eighteen), 19 (nineteen) and 25 (twenty-five) would require implementation by Council (in conjunction with the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and the Youth Advisory Committee). Of these, 5 (five) have been actioned and the remaining 6 (six) can be funded from within existing allocations.
- 4 (four) recommendations - 7 (seven), 20 (twenty), 21 (twenty-one), 22 (twenty two) - would require the co-operation of the Hawkesbury Area Local Command. A verbal commitment has been provided by the Local Command to assist in the implementation of these 4 (four) strategies.
- 1 one recommendation - 23 (twenty-three) would require the co-operation of the Richmond Youth Streetbeat Project. A verbal commitment has been provided by the Project to implement this strategy.
- 3 (three) recommendations - 14 (fourteen), 15 (fifteen) and 24 (twenty four) would require the co-operation of City Rail and the Transit Police.

It is proposed, that those recommendations which are endorsed and adopted by Council, the Hawkesbury Area Local Command, Richmond Youth Streetbeat Project, Hawkesbury Youth Interagency, the Youth Advisory Committee, City Rail and adjoining business owners would form the core of a 'Community Safety Management Plan' for the Clarendon Skatepark. This Management Plan would then be reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that as issues arise in relation to the operation of the skatepark they can be satisfactorily addressed.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT-1 Summary of Recommendations and Actions Taken in Relation to the Operation of the Clarendon Skatepark.

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Issue	Discussion	Recommendation/ Action Taken
Skatepark Location	Concern was expressed by business owners (including City Rail) as to the location of the skatepark. Council staff advised that the skatepark was constructed in its current location to maximise natural surveillance and the accessibility of the facility to patrons. 'Best practice' in skatepark design suggests that these are the important considerations. Adjoining business owners recommended that the skatepark be relocated further west in Ham Common (towards the tourist information centre). The representative of City Rail advised that experience had demonstrated that skateparks should not be located in close proximity to railway stations. The City Rail representative cited the skatepark built at Narara on the Central Coast as an example of an appropriate site for a skatepark - while still on the railway line it was situated about one kilometre from the station. Adjoining business owners also noted that an alternate location further west in Ham Common would place the skatepark closer to amenities and would reduce the adverse impact of the skatepark on their businesses.	1. Adjoining business owners recommended that the Clarendon Skatepark be relocated further west along Ham Common.
Skatepark Access	Concern was expressed that the skatepark has attracted an undesirable element and that Council should take steps to monitor access to the skatepark to ensure that the facility was only used by persons who would abide by the rules established for the facility.	2. If the skatepark was to remain in its current location, adjoining business owners recommended that it be fenced to prohibit after hours access to the facility.

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Issue	Discussion	Recommendation/ Action Taken
Liability for injuries to skateboarders skating on business premises.	Concern was expressed at the dangers of skateboarders skating on driveways and colliding with vehicles entering or exiting the petrol station or car wash. Business owners expressed concern as to who would be held liable for any injuries sustained that might be sustained. Council staff provided advice that erection of signage warning of the risk of injury and prohibiting skateboarding on driveways and other traffic areas would minimise the risk of personal injury claims. In view of this information, business recommended that Council should fund the purchase and installation of the required signage.	3. Council to fund the purchase and installation of signage on business premises warning skateboarders of the risk of injury and prohibiting skateboarding on driveways and other traffic areas.
Skateboarders congregating on business premises particularly in prohibited areas.	Business owners expressed concern that some skateboarders were congregating on business premises without 'reasonable cause'. This was considered to be a policing matter. The Hawkesbury Area Local Command advised that this type of activity could be considered as trespass and business owners were encouraged to contact the local police if they were concerned at the behaviour of young people on their premises.	4. Business owners to contact the local police to report incidents of inappropriate behaviour. 5. Council to fund the purchase and installation of signage on business premises to clearly indicate 'no go' areas so that skateboarders could be advised that they may be reported to the police if they did not move away from these areas.
Seating	Concerns expressed at the lack of seating at the skatepark and the resultant practice of some skateboarders 'pilfering' the seating from outside the café for use at the skatepark. Advice from Hawkesbury Area Local Command suggests that the unauthorised removal of private property could be considered as theft.	6. Two bench-seats have been installed on the skatepark site. 7. Business owners to contact the local police to report incidents of theft and unauthorised removal of property.

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Issue	Discussion	Recommendation/ Action Taken
Provision of amenities	Concerns were expressed about the failure to provide drinking and toileting facilities causing skateboarders to rely on toilets at Clarendon Railway Station and other commercial sites. It was noted that railway ticket holders and business patrons were entitled to use toilet facilities provided for the convenience of patrons. Business owners recommended that a toilet block be erected on the site. Council staff advised that there were no plans to construct a toilet facility adjacent to the skatepark and that the construction of a public toilet facility at the site would itself create problems.	8. Business owners recommended the construction of a toilet block adjacent to the skatepark. 9. A water bubbler has been installed adjacent to the site. 10. Council to erect a sign advising of the availability of public amenities near the Tourist Information Centre.
Litter & Rubbish	Concerns were expressed that the skatepark has become 'unsightly'. Council staff advised that currently the site is cleaned on a weekly basis.	11. Two litter bins have been installed. 12. Manager Parks & Recreation to arrange additional cleaning services should the site become unsightly between the weekly scheduled clean-up.
Parking	Concerns were expressed that the private parking provided for businesses was being used by skateboard patrons.	13. Council has constructed a 10 space car-park for use by skatepark patrons.
Dangerous use of level crossing	Concerns were expressed that skateboarders were using the level crossing inappropriately and exposing themselves to the risk of serious injury. It was noted that level crossings (unfortunately) attract a degree of dangerous behaviour by some persons.	14. Incidents involving the dangerous use of level crossing to be reported to the transit police. 15. City Rail to provide advice on strategies that have been successfully implemented in other areas to reduce this type of behaviour.

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Issue	Discussion	Recommendation/ Action Taken
promoting appropriate use of facility	Concerns were expressed that the facility had ceased to be 'family friendly' and seemed to be attracting a core group of patrons who were misusing the facility.	16. Council to work in conjunction with the Hawkesbury Youth Interagency and the Youth Advisory Committee to plan, fund and promote 'family friendly' events to promote responsible and safe behaviour by users of the Skatepark

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Issue	Discussion	Recommendation/ Action Taken
inappropriate behaviour.	Concern was expressed that the skatepark has become associated with inappropriate behaviour. (incidents of vandalism and malicious damage etc). City rail expressed particular concern at damage sustained at Clarendon Railway Station. Business owners recommended that Council employ a security guard to patrol the skatepark.	17. Council to adopt a 'zero tolerance' approach to the removal of graffiti from the skatepark and its surrounds. 18. Council to stage and promote anti-graffiti initiatives. 19. Signage has been installed outlining a 'code of conduct' to support the appropriate use of the skatepark. 20. Incidents of inappropriate behaviour be reported to police and/or transit police. 21. The Hawkesbury Local Area Command to include skatepark on after hours patrol schedule. 22. The Hawkesbury Local Area Command to complete a Safety Audit skatepark and surrounds to identify opportunities for improving community safety. 23. The skatepark to be included in the rounds of the Youth Streetbeat Project on Friday and Saturday nights. Streetbeat Project and youth workers to encourage appropriate use of facilities. 24. Council to write to City Rail to request that City Rail investigate the staffing of Clarendon Railway station at peak times.

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Issue	Discussion	Recommendation/ Action Taken
Proximity to licensed premises	Concern was expressed as to the location of the skatepark - in particular its proximity to a licensed facility and a level crossing. Advice from the Hawkesbury Area Local Command suggests that there are not necessarily any particular issues relating to the proximity of licensed premises to recreational facilities used by children and young people.	25. Council to consider designating the skatepark as an alcohol free zone to enable the site to be patrolled by police.

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