

a **cultural**
RANDWICK CITY





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Cultural Randwick City is Randwick City Council's inaugural Cultural Plan

The Plan has been prepared to provide Council with a strategic framework for guiding our City's cultural activities over a ten year period and to enhance funding opportunities for cultural development. *A Cultural Randwick City* is based on extensive community and in-house consultations and was also developed in accordance with the Arts NSW Cultural Planning Guidelines (2004).

Although Council is already directly involved in planning a range of cultural activities, *A Cultural Randwick City* ensures that these activities are addressed in an integrated and long term manner including our festivals and events, providing community grants, conserving heritage items, public domain improvements and facilitating public art.

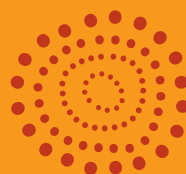
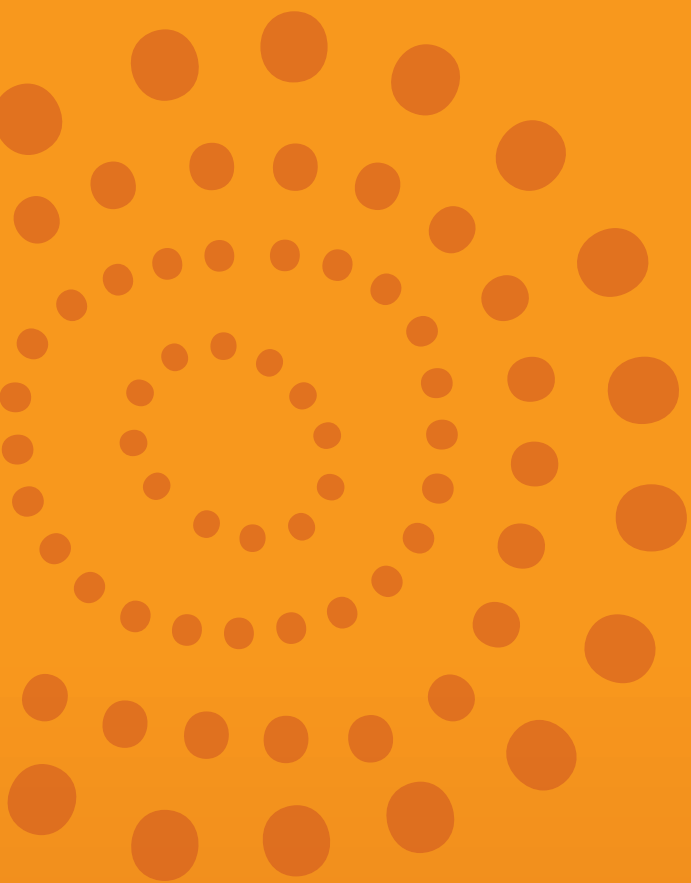
The Plan also describes our community's cultural assets and resources, identifies the unmet needs of local residents and suggests a list of actions and strategies for implementation. The attached Action Plan sets out in detail the full range of actions to be completed by Council.

Some of the key actions are:

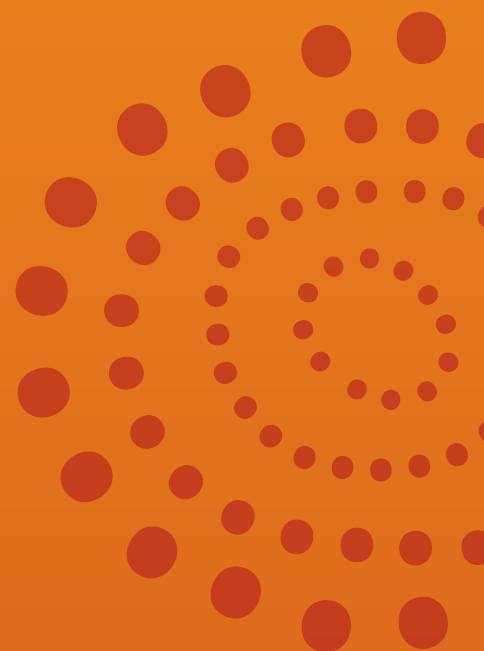
- Establish a Cultural Advisory Panel to guide our public art initiatives
- Develop strategic partnerships with major cultural institutions in the area to facilitate greater sharing of knowledge and facilities
- Develop a Public Art Policy to guide enhancement of our City's public domain
- Implement a more prominent performance and visual arts program within our City
- Recognise and preserve both our Indigenous and European heritage assets
- Prepare an Events Strategy to continue and enhance our current events program

Each year, a number of these new actions will be selected for implementation based on a priority ranking. The budgetary requirements to undertake these actions will be incorporated into Council's annual *Management Plan* and budget.

A Cultural Randwick City will provide the key platform from which Council can provide support for local initiatives to stimulate the arts and culture within our City. The challenge for Council is to ensure that the changing needs and aspirations of its diverse community are met in a sustainable and coordinated way.



1 INTRODUCTION



1.1 Why a cultural plan?

Randwick City Council recognises that undertaking cultural development is an essential part of creating dynamic, healthy and cohesive communities. A Cultural Plan provides Council with an opportunity to identify the unique character of our communities, and develop a strategic framework and direction to focus on those cultural activities and events that will help us to enrich our residents' lives.

The objectives of our Cultural Plan, *A Cultural Randwick City*, are to:

1. Identify the cultural characteristics of our communities
2. Review our existing cultural assets and identify our future needs
3. Develop strategies for improving and facilitating cultural diversity
4. Implement actions that celebrate and support our City's vibrant and diverse culture

While there is no statutory requirement for councils to prepare a Cultural Plan,¹ there are a number of reasons why we should prepare one:

- Council recognises that people's quality of life and sense of place are important issues that need to be addressed.
- Council is already involved in Cultural Planning for example libraries, festivals and events, providing community grants, protecting heritage buildings, public domain improvements and providing public art. However, there is a need for these activities to be addressed in an integrated manner.
- The development of a Cultural Plan will provide an improved understanding of the cultural needs of the community, and the role of the City's cultural assets in assisting our City's economic and social development.
- An endorsed Cultural Plan will enable Council to better meet the funding criteria of State and Commonwealth cultural grants programs.

1.2 Relationship to other council plans

A Cultural Randwick City will direct Council's cultural activities over the ten year period 2008–2018. The Plan documents our City's cultural assets and resources and articulates a range of cultural actions and strategies for implementation. It has been informed by a number of Council's existing plans and policies including *The Randwick City Plan*, our *Management Plan 2007-11* and our *Community Facilities Study and Plan 2003*. This integrated approach will ensure that Council's cultural activities are aligned with the overall strategic directions and outcomes for our City.

The Randwick City Plan is Council's major strategic planning document and outlines our vision for the City, which is to build 'a sense of community.' The *City Plan* also articulates ten outcomes, as well as three internally focused outcomes, that will help us to achieve our vision by the year 2025. The *City Plan* outcomes are the result of five years of research, extensive community consultation and preparation of background studies. The need for Council to prepare a Cultural Plan was identified as part of the development of the *City Plan*.

Council's *Management Plan* provides the framework for decision making and resource allocation within Council on an annual and medium term basis. It is the conduit for linking our day to day activities with Council's *City Plan* outcomes. The process of monitoring Council's performance is conducted through quarterly *Management Plan* and budget reviews, which are presented to Council for comment and adoption.

In the diagram on page 5 *A Cultural Randwick City* sits under the 'Other Plans/Strategies' category on the right hand side of the integrated planning model. Other Council plans that sit alongside *A Cultural Randwick City* include *A Safer Randwick City* and our *Affordable Housing Strategy*. These medium term strategic plans span a 5-10 year period and contain specific strategies and tasks to help us achieve our *City Plan* outcomes.

¹ Amendments to the Local Government Act in 2002 provided that a council may be required to include in its management plan a statement on matters not included in the original Act (including, for example, statements on social, community or cultural matters) and may prescribe additional principle activities to form a part of a council's management plan.

RANDWICK CITY INTEGRATED PLANNING MODEL



1.3 Implementation of a cultural Randwick City

A *Cultural Randwick City* is divided into two main parts:

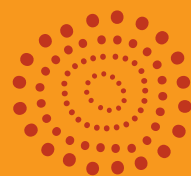
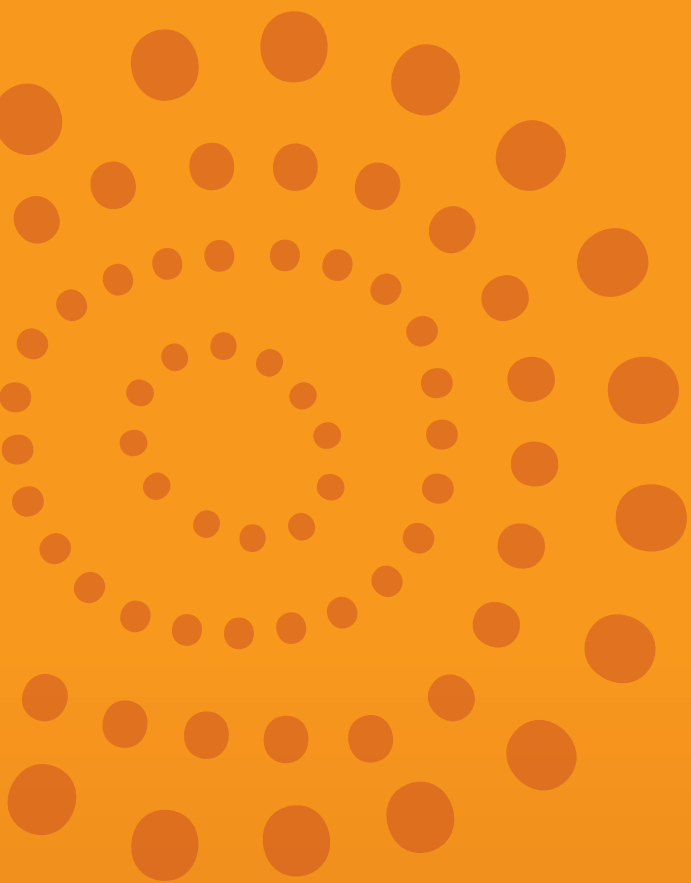
- **Cultural Framework**, which describes the cultural characteristics, cultural assets and resources of our community; and
- **Cultural Action Plan**, which describes ‘what’ Council will do to achieve the *City Plan’s* cultural outcomes

The Cultural Action Plan will be used by Council staff to build upon a range of existing cultural development activities including festivals, events, services and programs that both promote and celebrate the diversity of our City. The majority of these cultural development activities will be implemented within existing budgets and, where possible, through State and Federal Government funding such as the Arts NSW Cultural Grants Program. The Plan also contains a number of new actions proposed to be carried out within the ten year time frame. Each year, a number of these new actions will be selected for implementation based on a priority ranking. The budgetary requirements to undertake these actions will need to be incorporated into Council’s annual *Management Plan* and budget.

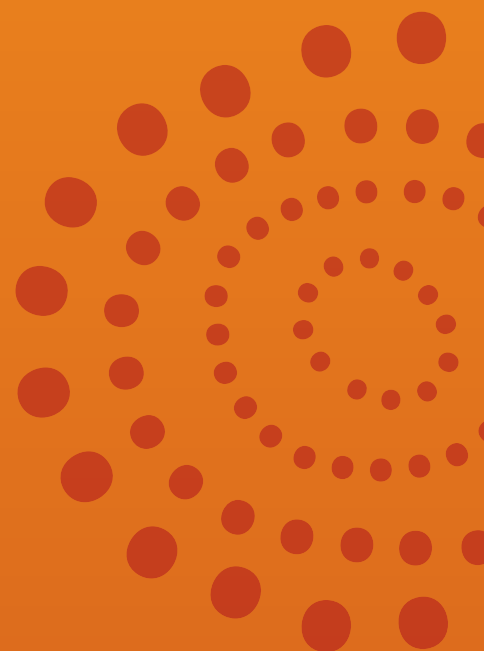
1.4 How our plan will be reviewed and evaluated

The achievements and progress of actions contained in *A Cultural Randwick City* will be reviewed quarterly, and reported to Council on an annual basis as part of our *State of Our City Report* which is produced at the end of each financial year. A major review of *A Cultural Randwick City* is planned for 2017.





2 WHAT IS CULTURE?



2.1 Defining culture

“Culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs.”²

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Universal Declaration of Cultural Diversity, 2002

Traditionally, culture has been defined as something relating mainly to the ‘high’ arts such as art, dance, drama and music. Today culture includes, but is not limited to, anything that contributes to an individual’s quality of life, values, sense of place, feeling of community or local identity, such as heritage, family traditions, education, religion or beliefs, environment, communication, entertainment, sporting and leisure activities, fine arts and drama, food and tourism.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has linked culture to the creation of sustainable cities as part its ten Principles for Sustainable Cities. Principle six states that cities should “Recognise and build on the distinctive characteristics of cities, including the human and cultural values, history and natural systems”.³

The NSW Cultural Planning Guidelines (2004), which have been developed by Arts NSW to assist councils in the preparation of cultural plans, promote councils to adopt a broad concept of culture, one that encompasses:

- Our sense of place, our values and our identity
- The material products of creative processes
- Our engagement with and participation in creative processes⁴

In Randwick City, culture can be seen as a reflection of the diverse backgrounds, customs and traditions of our residents. It is expressed through our connection to the beaches, public spaces, town centres, parks and gardens that make our area unique. It is represented in the area’s rich Indigenous heritage and more recent history, and it is celebrated through events, festivals, public art and other forms of expression within our City.

2.2 Our cultural vision

Randwick City Council’s cultural vision is:

Randwick City Council will foster an environment that recognises, supports and celebrates our community’s cultural diversity and heritage, social affiliations and the many forms of creative expression including dance, literature, music, theatre and visual arts.

Our cultural vision is a reflection of Council’s overarching vision for our City, which is to build ‘a sense of community.’ Creating a sense of community is about helping our residents feel included, involved and proud to be a part of the Randwick City community. It includes both developing the Randwick City community as a whole and supporting the smaller, distinct communities that have developed throughout the City.

² The UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by 185 Member States in 2001, represents the first international standard-setting instrument aimed at preserving and promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. It offers a broad definition of culture, one which encompasses art and literature as well as different lifestyles, values and systems of belief.

³ United Nations Environment Programme (2002) *Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities*, UNEP, Victoria.

⁴ NSW Ministry for the Arts and the Department of Local Government (2004) *Cultural Planning Guidelines for Local Government*, NSW Government, Sydney.

2.3

Our commitment to cultural diversity

Randwick City has a diverse community made up of people from many cultural backgrounds. Over one third of our residents were born overseas, coming from over 100 countries and speaking over 60 different languages. Our cultural services, activities, events and organisations are essential ingredients in making Randwick City a vibrant and culturally enriched community.

The following statements, legislation and principles which are relevant to Council's provision of community development initiatives have been, and will continue to be, incorporated into the design and planning of all of our future cultural activities, events and programs:

- **NSW Local Government Act 2003 and Anti-Discrimination Act 1977**

Council has adopted a Diversity and Equity Policy (2001) to establish an equitable working environment where equal employment opportunities based on merit are provided in relation to:

- Access to services and information
- Transparent decision making
- Recruitment
- Development
- Advancement
- Conditions of employment

- **The Community Relations Commission for a Multi-Cultural NSW (CRC) and Principles of Multiculturalism Act 2000**

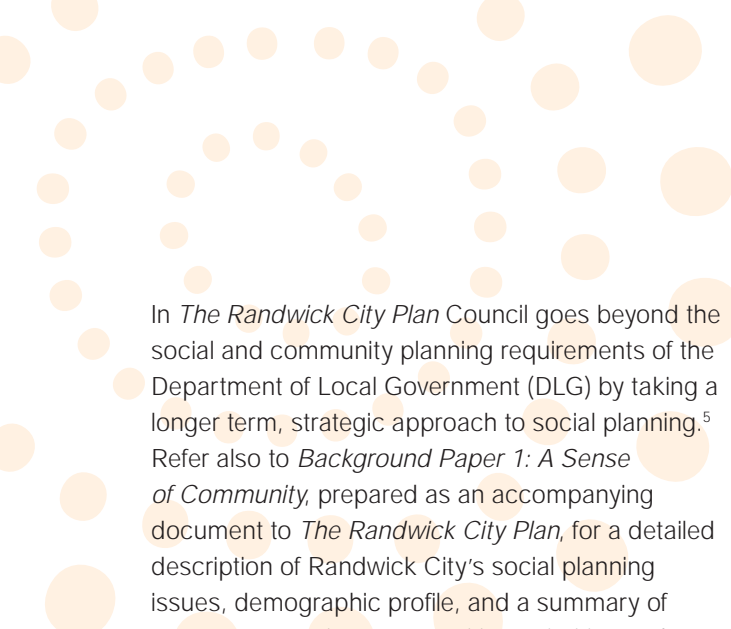
The CRC has created four principles to support multiculturalism which are adopted by Randwick City. Randwick City Council recognises these principles in its everyday operation, development of plans and policies and in its service provision. These principles can also inform our community and its attitude towards respecting and celebrating our City's cultural diversity.

- **Access and Equity Statements**

Council includes in its Management Plans a statement containing particulars of the access and equity activities it proposes to undertake during the period covered by the Management Plan.

Council consults with the Randwick City Council Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee (MAC) on multicultural issues and on how to improve access to services for people from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) background. The MAC comprises local community representatives who have a wealth of local knowledge and an understanding of the difficulties faced by new Australians. The Committee also initiates projects that celebrate the cultural diversity of Randwick City and contribute to harmony and understanding within the local community. The Committee meets on a bi-monthly basis.

The Randwick City Plan has identified the need to strengthen community understanding and respect for cultural difference through a range of Council run cultural activities and events such as Harmony Day, Refugee Week, Carnivale, and A Migrant's Story. A number of activities are also held throughout the year by our Libraries which specifically target the CALD community. In addition, our Libraries have an extensive collection of books in Languages Other Than English (LOTE) including Chinese, Russian, Greek, Spanish and Indonesian.

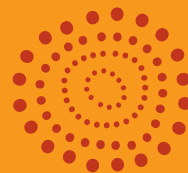
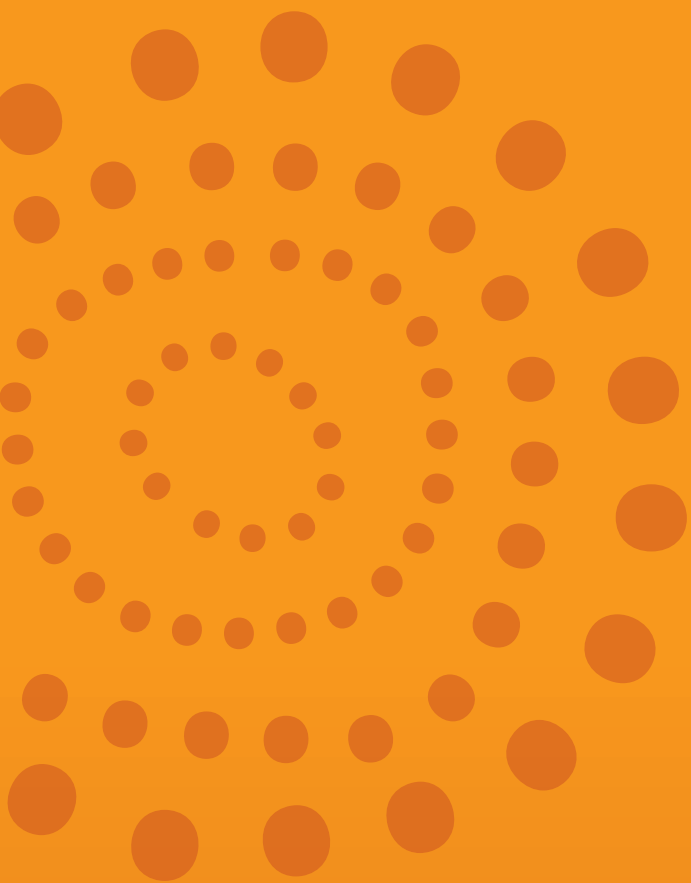


In *The Randwick City Plan* Council goes beyond the social and community planning requirements of the Department of Local Government (DLG) by taking a longer term, strategic approach to social planning.⁵ Refer also to *Background Paper 1: A Sense of Community*, prepared as an accompanying document to *The Randwick City Plan*, for a detailed description of Randwick City's social planning issues, demographic profile, and a summary of our current service opportunities, priorities and directions for the seven mandatory Target Groups identified by the DLG:

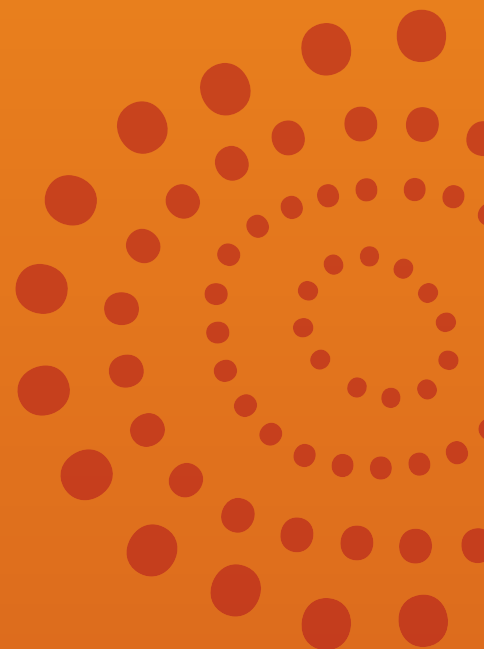
- Women
- Children
- Older People
- Young People
- People with Disabilities
- People of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Descent
- People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds

Other target groups that have been identified by the DLG for consideration in the social/community planning process include men, socially isolated people, low income earners, gay/lesbian and transgender people, families, people with a mental illness, people who are unemployed and volunteers.

⁵ The Local Government (General) Regulation 1999 requires all councils in NSW to develop a social/community plan and report on identified access and equity activities in their annual reports.



3 OUR PEOPLE, HERITAGE AND CULTURE



3.1 Our people

The following demographic profile is based on 2006 Census data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). Census data is released every five years to help us see how our nation is changing and provide statistical information to assist decision making for all aspects of society.

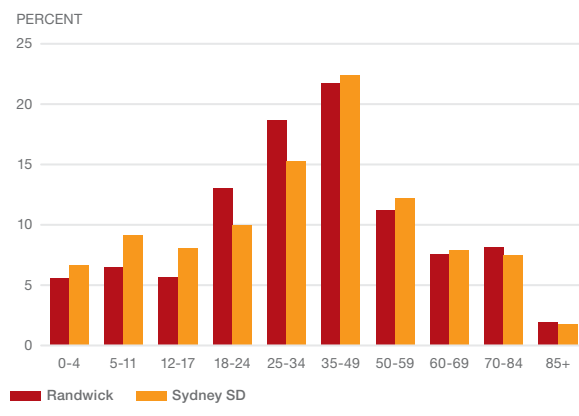
On the night of the 2006 Census (8 August) Randwick City had a population of 122,173 (including 2,489 overseas visitors). This represents less than a 1 per cent increase over the 5 years since the 2001 Census (121,497). This population increase was significantly less than that experienced in the Sydney Statistical Division (SD) which increased by approximately 4 per cent.

In general, our population has the same average age as the Sydney SD, although there are fewer young children and a higher proportion of young adults. We have slightly more females than males, a larger proportion of people living alone and a significantly higher proportion of people renting.

Age Groups

Randwick City's population consisted of a large proportion (13.1 per cent) of young adults (18-24 year olds) compared to the Sydney SD (9.9 per cent), which is a reflection of the number of major tertiary institutions in the area and the attraction of our City's location and coastline to young people. There were fewer children compared to adults, suggesting that birth rates in the area are relatively low and that many of the households are non-family. The most significant changes in age structure in Randwick City between 2001 and 2006 were in the following age groups: 50 to 59 (+975 persons); 35 to 49 (+761 persons); 60 to 69 (+674 persons), and; 25 to 34 (-640 persons).

Graph 1: Percentage Total Persons by Age – Randwick and Sydney SD 2006

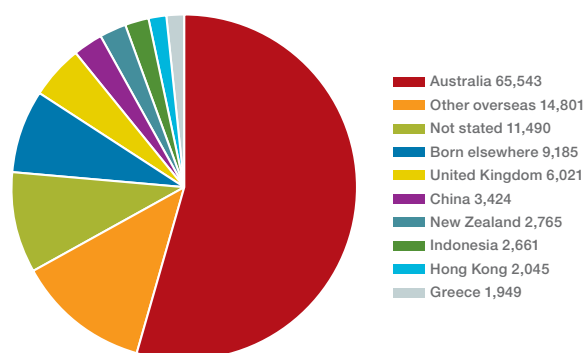


Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population & Housing

Country of Birth

While the majority (54.6 per cent) of people in Randwick City were born in Australia, over a third (35.8 per cent) were born overseas. This proportion is slightly higher than in the Sydney SD where 31.8 per cent of the population were born overseas and much higher than Australia wide (22.2 per cent). Of those born overseas (42,846 people), the main countries of birth were the United Kingdom (5.0 per cent), China (2.9 per cent), New Zealand (2.3 per cent), Indonesia (2.2 per cent) and Hong Kong (1.7 per cent).

Graph 2: Countries of birth in Randwick LGA 2006

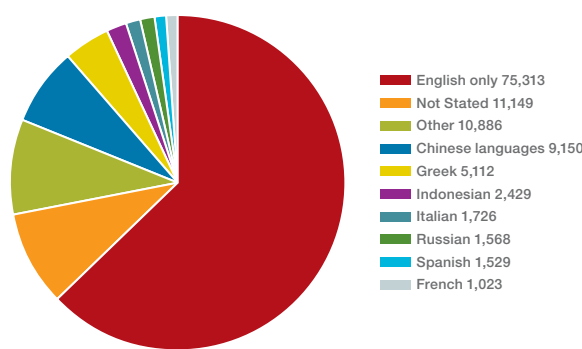


Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population & Housing

Language Spoken at Home

Over a quarter of people in Randwick City (27.9 per cent) spoke a language at home other than English. Since 1996, the number of people in Randwick City who speak a language at home other than English has increased by 2.1 per cent or 699 people. The most common languages spoken at home other than English in 2006 were Chinese (including Cantonese and Mandarin 7.6 per cent), Greek (4.3 per cent), Indonesian (2.0 per cent), Italian (1.4 per cent), Russian and Spanish (both 1.3 per cent).

Graph 3: Language spoken at home in Randwick LGA 2006

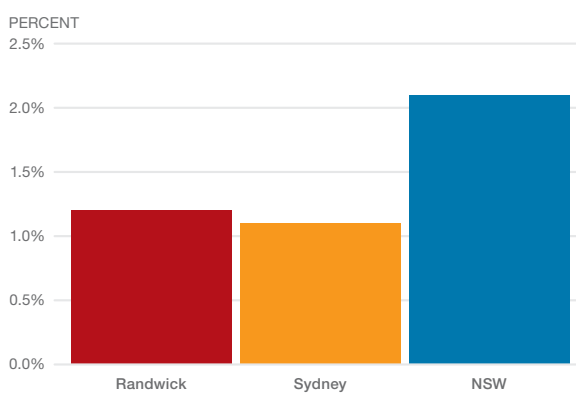


Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population & Housing

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population

At the 2006 Census there were 1,480 people in the Randwick LGA who identified as either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI). This represents an increase of 129 people or 8.7 per cent since 2001. Randwick has a higher proportion (1.2 per cent) of ATSI people compared to the Sydney SD (1.1 per cent) but lower than NSW (2.1 per cent).

Graph 4: Percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Population – Randwick, Sydney and NSW 2006



Source: ABS 2006 Census of Population and Housing

Visitors

There were 2,489 overseas visitors counted in Randwick City, making up approximately 2.0 per cent of the population. This proportion is slightly higher than in the Sydney SD where only 1.1 per cent (46,525 people) were overseas visitors. This reflects Randwick City's role as a significant tourist destination within the region. For further information about the key socio-demographic characteristics of Randwick City, please refer to the Community Profile and Atlas on our website: www.randwick.nsw.gov.au.

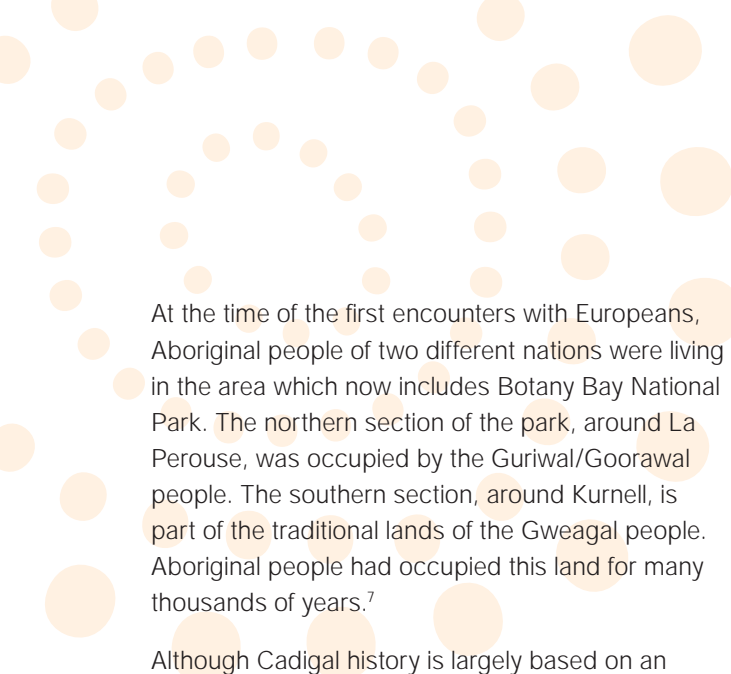
3.2 Our heritage

Randwick City has a rich history and is unique for its beaches and coastal outdoor lifestyle, close proximity to the Sydney Central Business District (CBD), accessibility to parklands and availability of facilities. The following 'snapshot' is intended to provide a brief description of the City's unique character. A more detailed history of Randwick City can be found on our website: www.randwick.nsw.gov.au.

Located in the eastern suburbs of the Sydney metropolitan area, the City of Randwick is the oldest municipality in NSW, having been incorporated in 1859 and proclaimed as a City in 1990. The area's character and function is strongly influenced by the 29.3 kilometres of coastline that make up the eastern and southern boundaries of the City.

The traditional owners of the Sydney City region are the Cadigal (Gadigal) people. The Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council places the Cadigal, the saltwater clans, in the Darug/Dharug language group.⁶ First nation people within Sydney belonged to several major language groups, often with coastal and inland dialects, including Dharug, Dharawal/Tharawal, Gundungurra and Kuringgai.

⁶ Lawrence, J. (2001) Pictorial History Randwick, McPherson's, Alexandria, Printing Group



At the time of the first encounters with Europeans, Aboriginal people of two different nations were living in the area which now includes Botany Bay National Park. The northern section of the park, around La Perouse, was occupied by the Guriwal/Goorawal people. The southern section, around Kurnell, is part of the traditional lands of the Gweagal people. Aboriginal people had occupied this land for many thousands of years.⁷

Although Cadigal history is largely based on an oral history that was handed down from generation to generation, there are a number of resources which explore our local Indigenous history including historian Maria Nugent's book *Botany Bay: Where histories meet* (2005).⁸ Aboriginal people have, and always will, believe in the dreaming. For Aboriginal people, this means that they believe that they have always existed in this land known as Australia.

The first European to arrive in the area was Lieutenant James Cook in 1770. However, it wasn't until 1788 that a permanent European presence was established. Captain Arthur Phillip landed at Yarra Bay before moving on to Port Jackson. One week later, an expedition led by the French explorer La Perouse arrived in Botany Bay and set up a camp for several weeks in the area which now bears his name. On 1 January 1901, Centennial Park was the location for the birth of the nation when over 150,000 people gathered in Federation Valley to celebrate the union of six independent colonies into the Federal Commonwealth of Australia.

Randwick City has a rich artistic heritage with parts of the area providing a backdrop for the works of a number of world renowned artists. During the 1880s, Australian impressionists Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton both painted coastal views of the Coogee Bay area. Streeton's works *Sunlight Sweet, Coogee and The Blue Pacific*, which were painted on his first trip to Sydney in 1890, are among the most collectable by any Australian artist. In 1969, international artist Christo came to Australia and made the world's largest sculpture when he wrapped up the northern cliffs of Little Bay in 90,000 square metres of erosion control fabric. Although controversial at the time, the project is considered a triumph as it heralded a new era in Australian contemporary art.

Today, Randwick City has a strong artistic and cultural, educational, health and recreation focus, with numerous public and private schools and a number of large tertiary institutes including the University of New South Wales (UNSW), the National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA), the Randwick Technical and Further Education College (TAFE) and the Randwick Hospitals Complex. Randwick City is also home to a vibrant creative community with a broad cross section of arts and cultural practitioners including musicians, film makers, painters, sculptors, actors, performers, writers and composers.

In 2009, Randwick City Council will be holding a series of activities and events to celebrate the historic 150th Anniversary of its founding in 1859 including the publication of a comprehensive history of the city. Pauline Curby, professional historian, has been engaged to research and write this history. This project will provide a great opportunity to learn about Randwick's rich past and how it evolved into the thriving city it is today. In addition to the published history, the project will unearth further historical resources which will be housed at Bowen Library, Maroubra, for the benefit of the local community including an oral history program. This will document the memories of some of the areas long time residents.

⁷ NSW Department of Environment and Climate Change (2008) <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au>

⁸ Nugent, M. (2005) *Botany Bay: Where histories meet*, Crows Nest, Allen and Unwin

3.3

Our culture

Randwick City covers an area of 36.3 square kilometres and contains the suburbs of Centennial Park, Chifley, Clovelly, Coogee, Kensington, Kingsford, La Perouse, Little Bay, Malabar, Maroubra, Matraville, Phillip Bay, Randwick and South Coogee. Randwick City is located 5km south-east of Sydney's central business district and is home to a number of places of local, state, national and international significance which have contributed to the development of the character and cultural identity of our City today. The following 'snapshot' of Randwick City is sourced from the websites of Randwick City Council and Randwick City Tourism.

Artistic and Cultural Expression

Randwick City has a rich artistic and cultural landscape with a wide range of events, performances, exhibitions and competitions occurring throughout the City. The *NIDA Company* holds a number of performances throughout the year that showcase the work of emerging actors, writers, composers, directors and designers. Most of the top arts companies in New South Wales including the Sydney Festival, Sydney Theatre Company, Ensemble Theatre and Bell Shakespeare Company also make use of the four theatre spaces of NIDA.

Randwick City is home to a number of small private art galleries and a fine art auction house. The *Boomgate Gallery* is a facility operated by the Department of Corrective Services for the public exhibition and sale of art and craft produced by inmates at Long Bay. The Gallery is open to the public on weekends and by appointment.

Council also supports and encourages artistic and cultural expression by hosting a range of performances, talks, readings and exhibitions including performances by the *Actors' Forum*. The Actors' Forum is administered on a voluntary basis by professional actors and directors. The company is devoted to bringing professional theatre of a consistently high standard to the community and to raising the profile of the actor in the community.

The Women's Day Art Competition & Exhibition honours the invaluable contribution of women to the arts in our City. This is an annual event that coincides with International Women's Day and presents an opportunity for women to gather, share skills, make connections and build networks.

Places of Cultural Heritage

La Perouse and *Little Bay* are home to two of the largest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within Randwick City and the surrounding districts. Parts of the area are owned by the Aboriginal Land Council including Yarra Bay house and the headland between Frenchmans and Yarra Bay.

Snake men exhibitions have been a part of the cultural heritage of the La Perouse area since the early 1900s. The best known of these 'showmen' was George Cann (1897-1965) who moved to a house at Yarra Bay in 1941, where he constructed large pits in the yard to accommodate his collection.

Further south at La Perouse, the *Bare Island Fort* was built in 1885 by concerned British colonists who thought an invasion from Russia was imminent. In 1967, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) took control and the fort was declared a historic site. Other important sites located within the La Perouse Headland area of the Botany Bay National Park include the *Macquarie Watchtower*, *Cable station*, *Happy Valley Camp*, *Père Le Receveur Tomb*, *La Perouse Monument* and *La Perouse Museum*.

The Randwick Ritz is one of only two Art Deco cinemas left in Sydney. The Ritz was built in 1937 and was a popular entertainment venue through the 1940s and 50s. In 1984, the cinema was listed by the National Trust and underwent extensive restoration and expansion in the late 1990s.

Nature

The *Botany Bay National Park* is an important part of Aboriginal cultural heritage containing traditional sites and documented history. The Park conserves an amazing array of native plants and birds and magnificent coastline views. A small part of the surviving Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub in the Sydney Basin is located within the Botany Bay National Park.

Centennial Park covers more than 360 hectares and draws more than 5 million visitors annually. Its grounds include formal gardens, ponds, grand avenues, statues, heritage buildings and sporting fields. In 1888, Sir Henry Parkes dedicated Centennial Park as a public open space for the enjoyment of the people of NSW. Although located within Randwick City, the Park is managed by the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.

The *Clovelly to Maroubra Beach Coastal Walk* hugs the cliffs and rocky outcrops of the coastline crossing sandstone rocks offering spectacular views over the Pacific Ocean. *Malabar Headland* contains two significant bushland remnant areas - referred to as the coastal section and the western section. The two sections support at least seven distinct plant communities. This diversity of habitats is only matched in the Eastern Suburbs in Botany Bay National Park. The area also includes a World War Two coastal defence site of historic significance, the Boora Point Battery.

Sporting culture

Randwick City has a long and proud sporting history and is renowned for producing some of Australia's greatest sporting champions. Each year, the finest athletes from our area are honoured with the *Randwick City Council Sporting Awards*. Presentations include the Bradley Matthews Memorial Award for Sporting Excellence, the Randwick City Junior Sports Award and the latest inductees into The *Randwick City Hall of Sporting Champions*. The Randwick City Hall of Sporting Champions board is on display in the foyer of Bowen Library, Maroubra.

The first registered horse race took place on the site of the *Royal Randwick Racecourse* in 1883. In 1873, the Australian Jockey Club relocated to the Randwick course and improvements to the course and facilities were carried out. The racecourse continues to provide a huge drawcard for locals and visitors to the area.

The *Maroubra Beach Surfing Walk of Fame* (launched in 2006) recognises and celebrates the lives and outstanding achievements of Australia's leading surfers and surf lifesavers. Every year bronze plaques are laid in the Promenade to recognise and pay tribute to the outstanding achievements of Australia's world class surfers and surf lifesavers.

Beach Culture

The beaches and ocean pools of Randwick City are open spaces of great significance and provide visitors with a diversity of active and leisurely recreational pursuits. Randwick City Council employs professional lifeguards to patrol the beaches all year round. Volunteer members of the Surf Lifesaving Association help Council lifeguards to patrol the beaches on the weekend and public holidays during the summer months.

Maroubra Beach is a National Surfing Reserve, the first beach in New South Wales to be granted this honour (19 March 2006). Maroubra beach is considered the official home of surfing in NSW with Surfing NSW relocating to the Pavilion in 2003. The word Maroubra comes from the Aboriginal meaning "like thunder."

Coogee Beach, a popular beach for residents and visitors alike, is also a venue for activities and events throughout the year. The Coogee Christmas Carols organised by Council is held on nearby Goldstein reserve, as well as New Year's Eve and Australia Day celebrations. Coogee is also a popular entertainment and nightlife cluster including restaurants, cafes, bars and hotels. A number of Randwick City's ocean pools at Coogee and Maroubra are listed as heritage items in recognition of their social significance and scenic character, with Wylie's Baths being also listed on the State Heritage Register.

Clovelly Beach is small and tranquil and lies between Bronte Beach to the north, and Gordon's Bay to the south. The bay is a long and narrow enclosure that is set between two rocky ridges. A breakwater at the mouth of the bay provides protection and creates a calm swimming environment. Clovelly Bay is one of Sydney's most popular snorkelling locations and an aquatic reserve which is home to a variety of sea life including sea plants, star fish, coral, sponges, schools of colourful fish and the protected blue groper.

Academic and Student Culture

The *University of New South Wales (UNSW)* is considered one of Australia's premiere universities and is also one of the most diverse with over 8,000 international students from over 120 countries. UNSW has close to 40,000 students including over 7,000 international students from over 130 different countries and an additional 1,900 international students in pre-University programs. Study and research facilities are comprehensive, with a Library network housing more than two and a half million volumes and extensive electronic resources. There is an array of student services, sport and recreational clubs, social, political and religious clubs and societies, a vibrant café scene and an award-winning bookshop.

The *National Institute of Dramatic Arts (NIDA)* is located in Kensington. Established in 1958 in association with UNSW and the ABC, NIDA is Australia's premiere theatrical performance and production faculty. While NIDA's primary role is to select and train exceptionally gifted young people at a tertiary level, preparing them for careers in theatre, film and television, NIDA also offers training courses to the general public through its Open Program. NIDA continues to have a close association with UNSW and complements the university's cultural strengths.

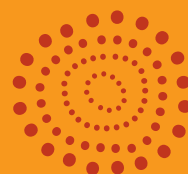
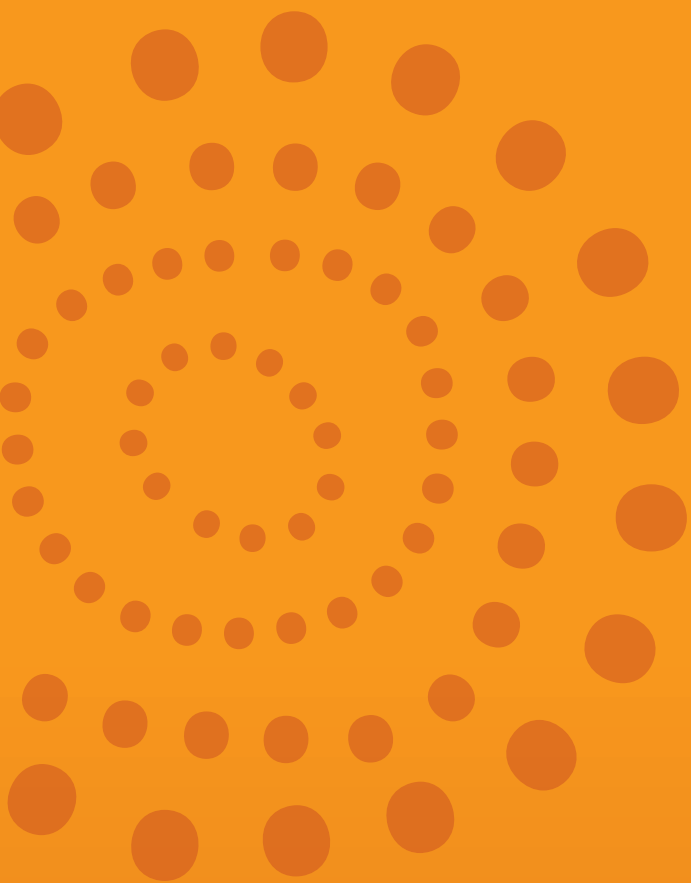
The *Randwick College of Technical and Further Education* opened in 1967. Today, the College provides a range of courses in business, accounting, multi-media studies and real estate, to name just a few.

Food culture

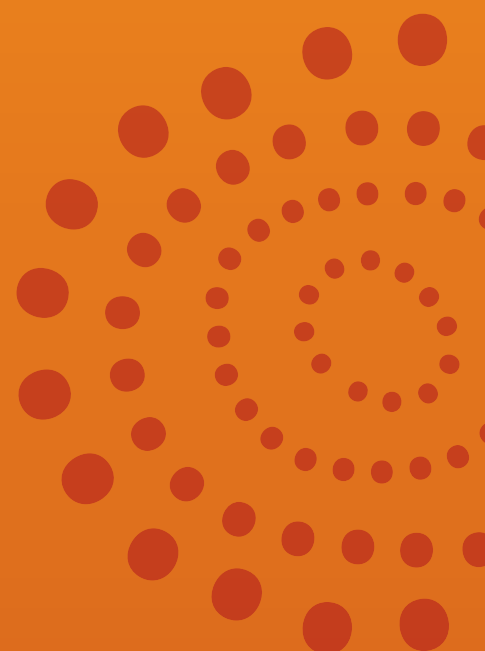
The town centres of *Kensington, Kingsford* and *Maroubra Junction* along Anzac Parade are dotted with a diverse array of eateries specialising in South East Asian cuisines. Authentic and affordable Indonesian restaurants and Hong Kong noodle and dumpling houses offer a variety of dishes catering to overseas and Sydney visitors, and locals.

Situated at the intersection of Perouse Road and St Paul 's Street in Randwick, *The Spot* is a local shopping strip offering a variety of shops, services, restaurants and the Ritz cinema. An inaugural *Film and Food festival* was held at The Spot in February 2008.





4 OUR CULTURAL ASSETS AND RESOURCES



The NSW Cultural Planning Guidelines define cultural assets and resources as

“Those places, buildings, facilities, knowledge, skills and works of art which provide a foundation on which people can draw for a community’s cultural development, for example art galleries, museums, local historians, artists.”

The following list provides a ‘snapshot’ of the wealth of cultural assets and resources located within Randwick City. The listing has been compiled using available local resources and databases, and by seeking input from the general community. A comprehensive list of our cultural assets and resources is available from Council.

4.1 Aboriginal heritage and culture

The local area has a rich and diverse Aboriginal heritage which predates by many thousands of the years the establishment of what is now known as the Randwick Local Government Area. While there are a number of significant Aboriginal sites found in Randwick City including items and remnants such as stone tools, weapons, midden deposits, scarred trees and sharpening grooves, there are concerns that, particularly compared with the significance accorded to local European heritage, Aboriginal heritage is poorly understood, recognised and protected.

Council, in its *Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Residents of the City*, has expressed a commitment to ‘promoting increased knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal culture in the wider community.’ While there are a range of opportunities to acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal culture in our City, such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Day activities, there is a recognised need to further incorporate Aboriginal heritage and culture into Council’s events, festivals and programs. *A Cultural Randwick City* outlines a number of strategies aimed at enhancing lifestyle and cultural opportunities for Aboriginal people in the local community.

4.2 Libraries

Our libraries, which are located at Maroubra Junction, known as Bowen Library and Community Centre, Malabar and Randwick, are acknowledged as some of Sydney’s best.⁹ Approximately 38 per cent of the population of Randwick City hold membership to our local libraries.¹⁰ The Libraries have large collections of books and audio visual resources and provide a range of cultural and educational activities, such as:

- Lionel Bowen Young Writers Award
- Storytelling in languages other than English
- Library and Information Week activities
- Lecture Programs and Talks

A full list of the services, activities and events that are organised by our libraries is available on our website or by visiting one of our libraries.

⁹ Meares, J. (2007) ‘High 5: Read all about it: Joel Meares on the best libraries’, Sydney Morning Herald, 26 July 2007.

¹⁰ Figure based upon 2006 count of library customers as a percentage of the total population of Randwick LGA from 2001 Census Data.

4.3

Education

Within our City there are 28 primary schools, 13 high schools, as well as a number of regionally significant institutions of learning including UNSW, NIDA and Randwick TAFE. The 40,000 students enrolled at UNSW are equivalent in number to around one-third of Randwick City's population. The Prince of Wales Hospital Complex is one of Australia's largest tertiary referral centres incorporating the Prince of Wales Hospital and the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick. The Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick is a specialist facility for children's health and is also one of Australia's leading specialist teaching hospitals. There are also a number of language schools operating in the area which provide a valuable social network for our CALD communities.

4.4

Cultural facilities

Community centres provide places for groups within our community to gather, meet and make use of cultural, educational and social programs, and activities. Council has a number of community centres, halls and rooms available for hire to the community including Burnie Park Community Centre, Clovelly Seniors, Coogee Eastward Seniors, South Matraville Memorial Hall, Matraville Youth and Cultural Hall, Randwick Community Centre, Totem Hall and the Randwick Town Hall. Bowen Library and Community Centre also has facilities for hire including the Vonnie Young Auditorium, purpose built meeting and function rooms, as well as computers for public use.

There are a range of theatre spaces within NIDA including the Parade Theatre, Parade Playhouse, Parade Studio and Parade Space. The facilities of the Parade Theatres are available for hire to the general public subject to availability. The school has initial preference and gets to make its bookings for the year. The remaining dates are then made available to external hirers.

UNSW also has a variety of rooms, halls and theatres available for hire to the community including the *Sir John Clancy Auditorium*, which is the eastern suburbs' largest public auditorium and hosts an annual program of lunchtime and evening concerts. The Australia Ensemble, resident at UNSW, is Australia's leading chamber music ensemble, and bases its six-concert subscription series at UNSW. The *Fig Tree Theatre* is also located at UNSW and is used by a wide range of professional, community and student groups and was the first home of NIDA.

In addition, there are a range of club, church and school halls in Randwick City which are owned and operated by community organisations available for use by the community.

4.5

Heritage items

Our heritage consists of the places and objects we have inherited from the past and want to pass on to future generations. It defines us as a community, who we are and where we have come from. There are over 400 heritage items listed in the Randwick Local Environmental Plan (LEP). The list of heritage items is available on Council's website, as well as information on each of the items and on each of Council's 17 heritage conservation areas.

Randwick City has heritage buildings from all major periods of Australian development including early buildings from the mid nineteenth century, Victorian buildings, houses in the Federation and Californian Bungalow styles, examples of medium density development such as Art Deco flats, and a number of post war buildings.

Of the heritage items listed in the Local Environment Plan, 24 are on the State Heritage Register. In addition, Randwick City Council has 72 sites listed on the Australian Heritage Database including items listed on the Commonwealth Heritage list and the Register of the National Estate. 155 items within Randwick City Council are listed on the National Trust (NSW) Register.

The majority of Randwick City's heritage items are privately owned. There are however 24 heritage items which are owned or under the care and control of Council. These comprise 4 buildings, 5 parks and reserves, 5 ocean pools, 8 fountains and monuments, a Federation bus shelter and a sandstone beach wall. In addition to the 8 fountains and monuments which are listed as heritage items, there are a further 18 outdoor public artworks and historic artefacts in the streets and parks of Randwick City Council. These historical monuments allow Randwick's history to be more widely understood and appreciated, enhancing the public realm and giving meaning to our urban environment.

For further information about the history of Randwick City, please visit Randwick City Library Service or contact *The Randwick and District Historical Society*. The Society is run by a group of volunteers dedicated to preserving our local history. Its resources cover social/political history and natural and built environment from pre-history to present day in text, images, plans and other artefacts. The Society is located at Bowen Library and research help is usually available during opening hours and at other times by appointment.

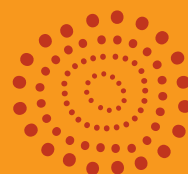
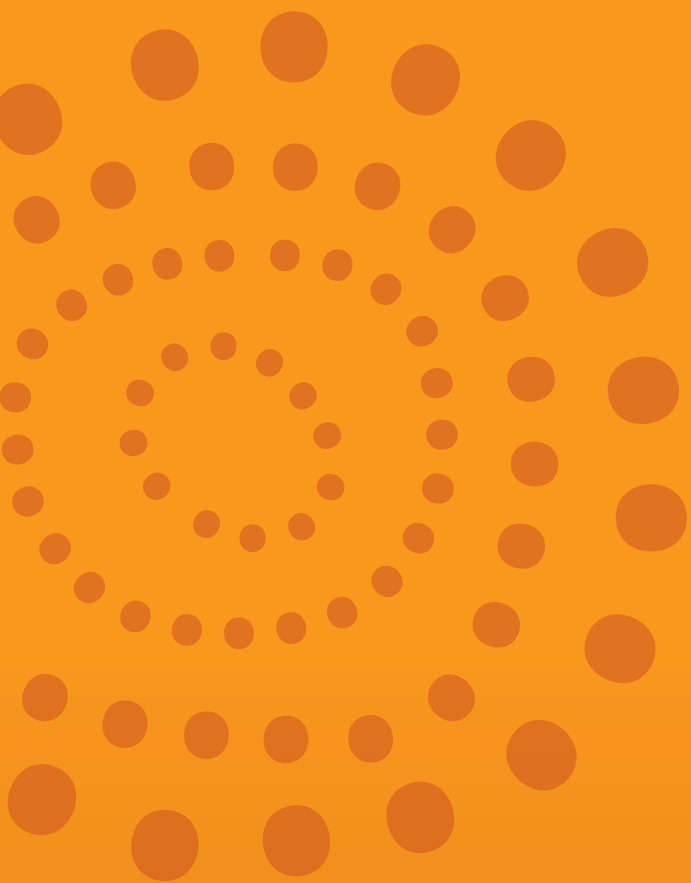
4.6 Parks and leisure facilities

Our City has extensive parkland and open space areas including Centennial Park, Heffron Park and Botany Bay National Park. These large open space areas provide opportunities for recreation, relaxation and community interaction. In addition, there are over 100 parks and playgrounds across the City. Also located within Randwick City are:

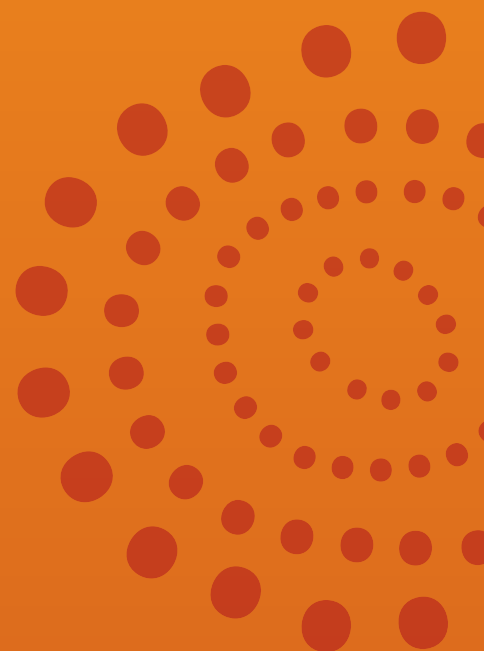
- The Des Renford Aquatic Centre which is situated in Heffron Park at Maroubra. Formerly known as Heffron Park Pool, the centre was renamed on 1 March 2000 in honour of the late Mr Des Renford MBE.
- Maroubra Skate Park which was developed in consultation with youth workers, local skaters, residents and Council's sport and recreation staff. The skate facility is located within Arthur Byrne Reserve, adjacent to Maroubra Beach.
- The Royal Randwick Racecourse which is a distinct cultural identity within our City and is the venue of Sydney's spring horse racing carnivals.
- Five golf clubs, four surf life saving clubs and four bowling clubs

Summary

Randwick City has a wide range of cultural assets and resources that contribute to the area's unique cultural character. Our City has a rich heritage, considerable education and medical facilities, parkland and open space, and a diverse community made up of many nationalities. Council is committed to supporting and maintaining our City's cultural assets and resources, as well as expanding the range of cultural activities and events that address the needs of our community.



5 OUR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



Our cultural activities and events contribute to the vibrancy of our town centres and are an important part of achieving our vision for Randwick City to build 'a sense of community.' The following is a list of some of the key activities and events held by Randwick City Council in a calendar year. For further information about 'what's on' in Randwick City, please go to www.randwick.nsw.gov.au.

Summer

Australia Day

Held on 26 January, Australia Day celebrates what's great about Australia and being Australian. It is a day to reflect on and to be proud of what we have achieved as a nation. Council celebrates Australia Day with a range of events including a Citizenship Ceremony.

Coogee Christmas Carols

Council holds this free annual family celebration in Goldstein Reserve at Coogee Beach. High profile performers sing carols and the evening has a strong family focus.

New Year's Eve Fireworks

Council presents the Coogee Sparkles family fireworks display on 31 December at Coogee Beach. Everyone is welcome to come along and count the year down in a relaxed, open and friendly atmosphere on one of Australia's premier beaches.

The Spot Film and Food Festival

The inaugural Spot Film and Food Festival was held in February 2008 in partnership with The Spot Chamber of Commerce. Activities included food, stalls and live bands with the day culminating in the inaugural dedication to the Film Walk of Fame.

Summer Activities Program

This program is held in January to provide residents, beachgoers and visitors the chance to experience a variety of marine and coastal activities including snorkelling, surfing, kayaking, rockpool rambles and guided coastal walks. This program aims to build community awareness and understanding of the fragile coast and local marine environments. A school holiday program is also held by the Libraries.

Spring

Carnivale Multicultural Week

Carnivale is a biennial event held by council and includes a great range of activities such as dance displays, face painting, multicultural story-time, games, crafts, sushi making, Chinese calligraphy and a photographic exhibition.

Lionel Bowen Young Writers Award

This competition is also held biennially and encourages and rewards young people to present their stories. The awards recognise local young peoples' writing talents.

Garden Awards

The Garden Awards event is held annually to recognise the work of residents and contribution to beautifying Randwick City. It allows local residents to showcase their gardens and to be involved in community gardens and environmentally sustainable initiatives.

History Week

History Week celebrates our local heritage. Events reflect a specific theme each year and are designed to inspire local residents to appreciate and explore aspects of local history. History Week is held in conjunction with the History Council of NSW.

A Migrant's Story Competition

A Migrant's Story project was devised to bring together personal memories, in the form of a short story/poetry and photographs, reflecting experiences of migrants who have made Australia their home.

Randwick City Council's Sporting Awards

The Randwick City Council Sporting Awards include the annual presentations for the Bradley Matthews Memorial Award for Sporting Excellence, the Randwick City Junior Sports Award and latest inductees into The Randwick City Hall of Sporting Champions.

Children's Week

Children's Week is an annual event celebrated in Australia prior to Universal Children's Day. A diverse range of activities are held with participation of local children's service providers and cultural groups to reinforce the message of caring for children.

Autumn

Eco Living Fair/ Harmony Day

In celebration of Earth Day, Randwick's Eco Living Fair provides free advice on making your home and garden more sustainable through practical workshops and demonstrations. Held in tandem with the Eco Living Fair, Harmony Day is an initiative held annually to promote our many cultures and to promote the importance of all Australians living in harmony and having a sense of belonging.

Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week offers people across Australia the opportunity to explore new and better ways of meeting the challenges facing Aboriginal communities.

Youth Week/ Film Festival

Supported by the NSW Government, Youth Week provides an opportunity for young people to participate in a range of sporting and cultural activities of interest to them. Council holds a youth film festival called "Urban Shorts" which encourages young people to produce and show short films on a range of topics.

Heritage Festival

Heritage Festival is a celebration of our natural, built and cultural heritage supported by the National Trust. Local events including exhibitions are held to highlight Randwick's historical and culturally significant features.

Seniors Week

Seniors Week is celebrated in NSW around April each year with a range of activities that promote positive messages of ageing and the continuing contribution of senior citizens. Council holds a range of activities during the week to recognise our large ageing population.

Women's Art Competition

This event is conducted to coincide with International Women's Day to enable local women of all ages to showcase their artistic talents with art work and sculpture. Professional judges assist with awarding of prizes and all works are put on display to celebrate the contribution that local women make to the cultural life of Randwick City.

Refugee Week

Refugee Week explores and shares the experiences of Randwick's refugees through various media including film, poetry, music and presentations.

Winter

Family History Week

National Family History Week is an initiative of the Australasian Federation of Family History and receives broad support from all levels of government. The Library coordinates a program of events for genealogists that reflect the theme of the celebrations.

Other activities and events supported by Council:

Council provides financial and in kind support for a wide range of community initiated activities and events throughout the year. Some of these key activities and events include:

Coogee Arts Festival

This local community based performing arts festival is held outdoors in Coogee to promote the performing arts. Events include Shakespeare under the Stars, Sunday Music Sessions, Theatresports and a 24 hour film festival.

Maroubra Art Show

Local Maroubra and surrounding suburbs' artists are encouraged to show their works at this community based event and compete for prizes and awards. The annual show is held on the Village Green adjacent to the South Maroubra Shopping Centre.

NAIDOC Week

NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia in the first week of July to celebrate the history and cultural achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The whole community is encouraged to celebrate the cultural contribution of Aboriginal culture to our society.

Coogee Family Fun Day

The Coogee Family Fun Day is held each year at Goldstein Reserve, Coogee, and features market stalls, face painting, children's rides and an all day concert.

Bastille Day

The French National Day is celebrated each year on the 14 July at La Perouse. In conjunction with the La Perouse Museum and the French Consulate, this event recalls the expedition of the famous French explorer La Perouse who landed in Australia in the 1780s.

Fun Run/Oktoberfest and Market Day

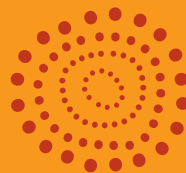
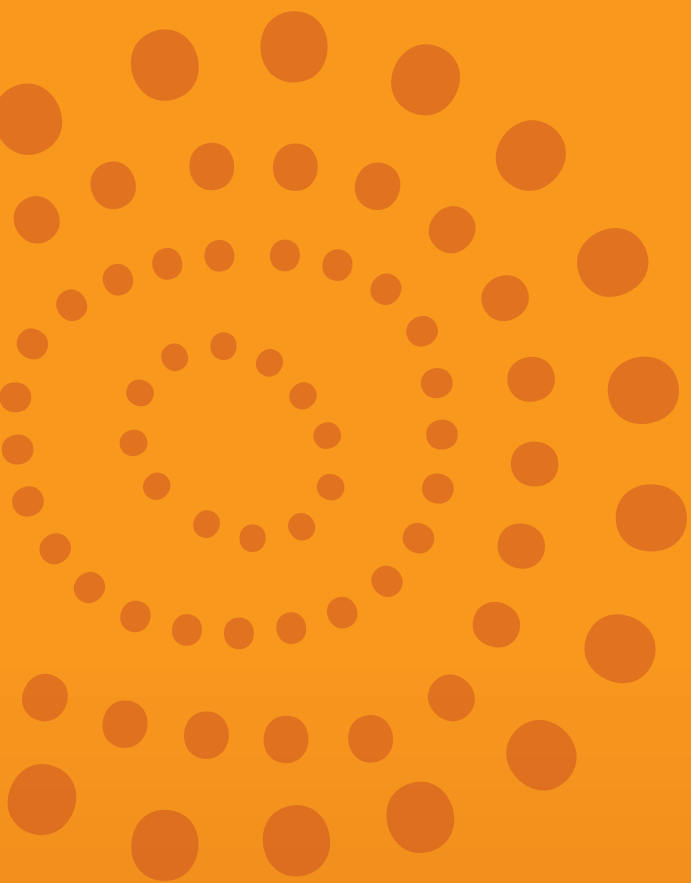
The Maroubra Fun Run, Oktoberfest and Market Day is held at Arthur Byrne Reserve, South Maroubra and features traditional German food and music as well as market and carnival stalls.

There are many more activities and events supported by Council throughout the year. A full list of the activities and events is available on the **'What's on'** section of our website: www.randwick.nsw.gov.au.

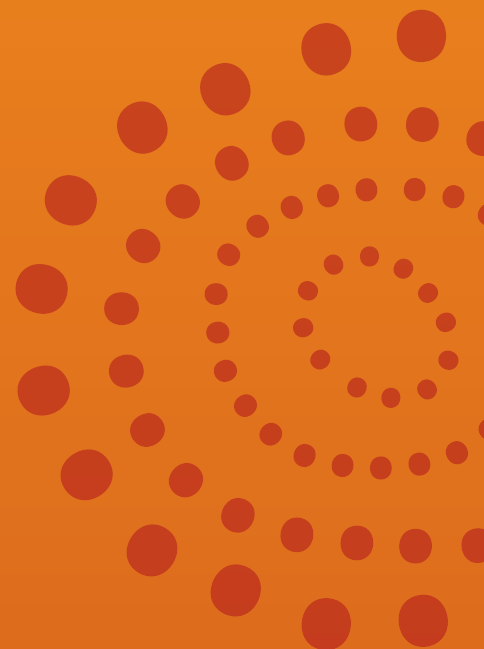
Summary

A wide variety of cultural activities and events are held and celebrated on a regular basis within the City. Not surprisingly, our beaches provide a spectacular back drop for many of these activities and events especially in the summer months. Traditionally, fewer activities and events are held in the winter months due to cooler outdoor temperatures and the lack of large capacity venues such as concert halls and exhibition spaces in our town centres.

Therefore, there is an opportunity to work with members of the community to help facilitate a more vibrant mix of cultural events throughout our geographic area, especially within our town centres and our community centres during the winter months. It is envisaged that this will be facilitated by the preparation of an Events Strategy that will provide Council with a strategic framework for initiating, developing, coordinating and supporting community and regional events.



6 CULTURAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT



In preparing *A Cultural Randwick City*, Council has taken into account the findings of an extensive consultation process with our community and key participants in the cultural life of our City. The following consultations were conducted in 2004 and 2005 as part of the preparation of the *Randwick City Plan* and in 2008 as part of the preparation of our draft Cultural Plan.

6.1 Community workshops

Over 50 consultation workshops and focus groups were conducted with individuals, community organisations and Council staff in 2004 and 2005. At the community workshops, participants expressed a strong need for additional and/or improved cultural activities and infrastructure such as:

- A purpose built cultural facility
- Council organised cultural services, societies and events
- Public and indigenous art and craft
- Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander programs
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) programs and resources for cultural groups and individual initiatives to be developed
- A Cultural Plan to provide a strategic direction for Council's cultural development activities

6.2 Community survey

In March 2005, a Cultural Plan Survey was designed and distributed to the community in accordance with the NSW Cultural Planning Guidelines (2004). Copies of the survey were forwarded to various community, cultural, environmental, recreational, religious, and sporting organisations. Surveys were also made available to the public via Council's website and local libraries.

The survey findings highlighted that the respondents placed a high value on the outdoor open space and green lifestyle offered by living in Randwick City. Respondents identified that they participated in a variety of activities ranging from outdoor recreational hobbies to indoor social and artistic pursuits. Respondents also identified that the provision of regular cultural events (arts shows and exhibitions) and physical (sporting) activities, and the establishment of a permanent venue/location for cultural activities would significantly contribute to the cultural development of the City.

6.3 Cultural audit

The Cultural Audit Report provided an indication of the wealth of cultural resources in Randwick City. The Report was compiled using local resources and databases, and by seeking input from the general community.

The Report identified desired cultural resources that will enrich our community's cultural experience and heritage but are not located within Randwick City, such as

- A purpose built performing arts centre
- A cultural space to showcase local Indigenous history, culture and related activities
- A city gallery/contemporary arts space
- A writers centre
- A cooperative arts space
- A citywide local history museum/space

6.4

Public exhibition of the draft plan

In December 2007, the draft Cultural Plan entitled *A Cultural Randwick City* was prepared and released for public exhibition. The purpose of the public exhibition period was to invite feedback on the draft Plan from the local community, cultural and arts professionals and those interested in the City's cultural and artistic life.

Sixteen (16) written submissions were received by Council at the close of the exhibition period. Submissions were received from a range of stakeholders including residents, peak arts bodies, Precinct Committees, local artists and schools. In general, submissions were supportive of the draft Plan and where possible their ideas and comments have been incorporated into the final Plan. A summary of the submissions received has been included as an appendix to the Plan.

A cultural focus group was also held on 18 March 2008 at the Bowen Library to seek further feedback on the Plan from a range of local cultural and arts practitioners. Twenty five (25) people attended the focus group, including a number of local artists as well as representatives from NIDA and Randwick TAFE. The focus group was facilitated by Catherine Croll, an expert in community cultural development issues. Drumming activities were used to review and confirm the outcomes of the earlier community consultation workshops and focus groups conducted in 2004 and 2005.

Participants showed strong support for, and agreement with, the need to construct a purpose built cultural facility and opportunity to expand cultural activities to include a greater number of events conducted in collaboration with Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander people, those from CALD backgrounds and young people. A summary of the proceedings of the cultural focus group has been included as an appendix to the Plan.

6.5

Leisure and recreation needs

Our community facilities are an important part of providing for the leisure, health, wellbeing and cultural development needs of our community. Parks, sporting venues and recreation facilities, in particular, help to promote social development and personal health. Council has prepared specific studies and plans to address these needs including a *Community Facilities Study & Plan (2003)* which provides immediate, short term and long term strategic directions for the provision of appropriate community facilities in Randwick City. The Study reviewed the provision of community facilities for each of the key Target Groups by both Council and other service providers. It concluded that there was a high level of community interest in the provision of additional spaces and venues to hold cultural activities and events. It also recommended a strategy of building multipurpose facilities to cater to the wide ranging requirements of our diverse resident population, a strategy that has been incorporated into *the Randwick City Plan*.

In 2008, Council also adopted a City-wide Recreation Needs Study for the specific purpose of updating Council's understanding of community needs in terms of active and passive recreation. The outcomes of the Study provide Council and stakeholders with a framework for recreation policy development, strategic recreation planning, and effective recreation facilities development. The following emerging trends for the City were identified in the *Recreation Needs Study*:

- High cultural diversity will see strong demand for active competitive recreation opportunities
- Demand for regional and sub-regional sports facilities will continue to grow as the area attracts younger households
- A trend towards high density residential living will result in increased demand for open space that allows both passive and active recreation open space
- There is an increased demand for informal activities such as walking, cycling and running
- There is an increased demand for indoor recreation activities such as aerobics/fitness and swimming

6.6 Tourism

Tourism is a major local industry and contributor to the prosperity of Randwick City. Thousands of overseas visitors and day trippers visit our City each year. Much of the employment in Randwick City today is related to the hospitality and services industry. Cultural tourism also provides an opportunity to showcase cultural experiences unique to Randwick City including events, festivals, arts, craft, historic or heritage buildings and monuments. Located in our City are four major cultural focal points which attract thousands of visitors: our magnificent beaches, Centennial Park, Botany Bay National Park and the Royal Randwick Racecourse.

Council has identified the need to develop a tourism strategy as part of the development of a citywide economic strategy. This economic study commenced in 2007, the outcomes of which will provide strategic directions for strengthening our City's economy. In working with local business and organisation stakeholders, the Council is conscious of the need to support sustainable tourism opportunities, which are responsive to environmental and social issues.

Conclusion

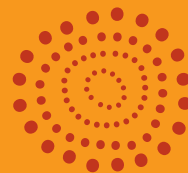
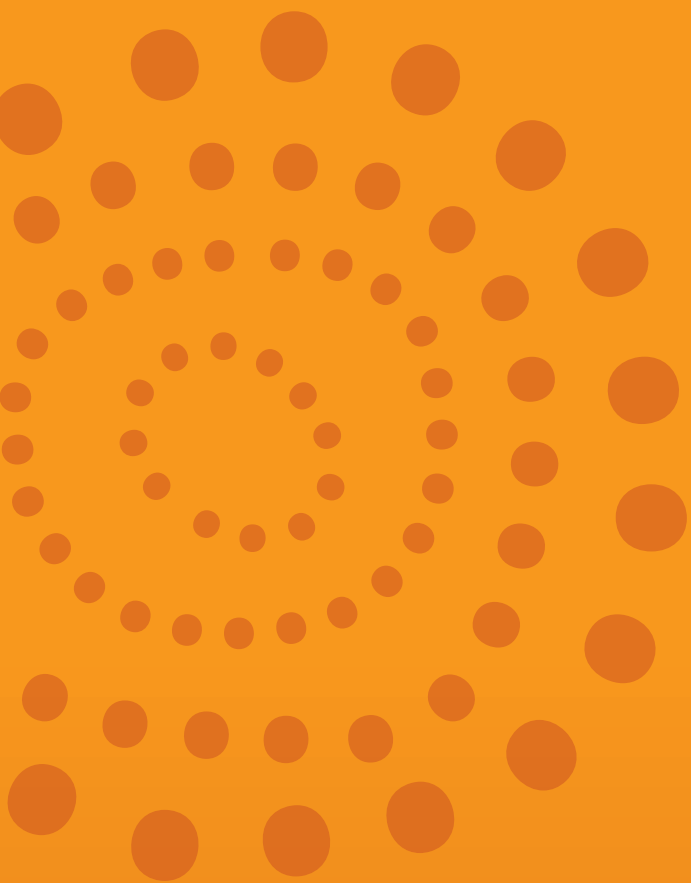
Our community has raised a range of issues and opportunities in relation to the City's artistic, cultural, leisure and recreation needs. Some of the major issues include the need for a greater number of cultural facilities, especially for young people, and for a greater number of public artworks and cultural events, and improvements to the public domain. Although Council is already involved in facility planning, including the development of a new cultural centre at the Prince Henry site, Council could also explore the opportunity for community groups to make better use of existing facilities such as the Town Hall, Bowen Library and Community Centres as well as facilities located at NIDA and UNSW.

People living in Randwick City have traditionally been very active and involved in a wide range of outdoor activities. As a result, there will always be a strong community demand for sports and recreation facilities and open space for leisure activities. Council is committed to supporting and building on this interest by maintaining and improving existing areas. We are progressively updating Plans of Management for our open space areas focusing on sustainable design and multi use facilities. The *Recreation Needs Study* will primarily address the future actions for recreation opportunities across the City.

It is important that we maintain our City's heritage as it keeps us connected with our past and communities retain a sense of identity, pride and history. Council will establish an ongoing review process for recognising, protecting and celebrating our City's built heritage. We will also continue to research and document areas of our heritage that have not yet been fully investigated, such as our cultural heritage.

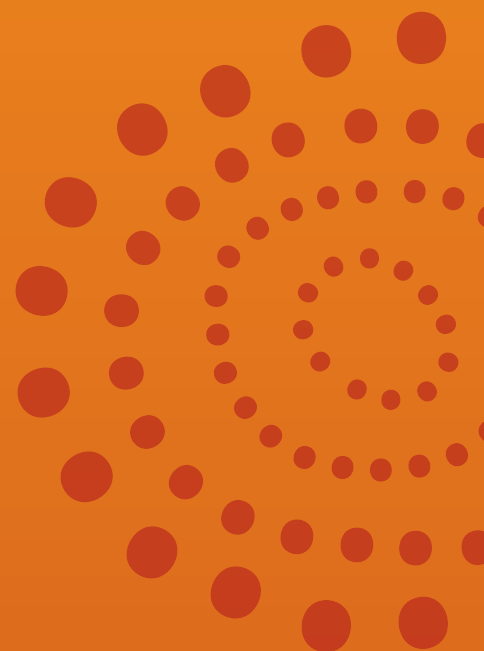
Although there are a range of educational institutions within Randwick City, not all are affordable and accessible to the community. There is a role for Council to advocate for a more equitable provision of education facilities and courses across Randwick City, and to support partnerships between a range of existing education and training providers. There is also a capacity for Council's libraries to be better resourced and expanded to build on the education and learning role it plays in the community.


We also recognise the need to introduce a more prominent performance and visual arts program within the City. As this area was identified as a significant shortfall in our City's cultural landscape, the Cultural Action Plan contains a range of strategies and actions aimed at this need. This includes increasing public art, performance spaces and opportunities for creative expression across our City.



7

OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES FOR ADDRESSING GAPS





While Council has a long standing involvement in the provision of a wide range of cultural activities and events, it is clear that there are some key issues that need to be addressed if we are to build upon the cultural capital of our City. Key issues for Council include:

Cultural facilities and venues

Vibrant and sustainable communities require venues where groups can meet to share, appreciate and indulge in art, music, dance and other creative activities. Although the City has a variety of multi purpose community centres and facilities, none of these have the capacity to host full scale musical or theatrical performances. They also provide limited opportunities for other artistic pursuits such as painting, sculpture, photography and film making at a community level.

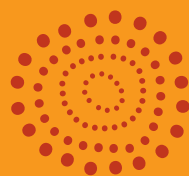
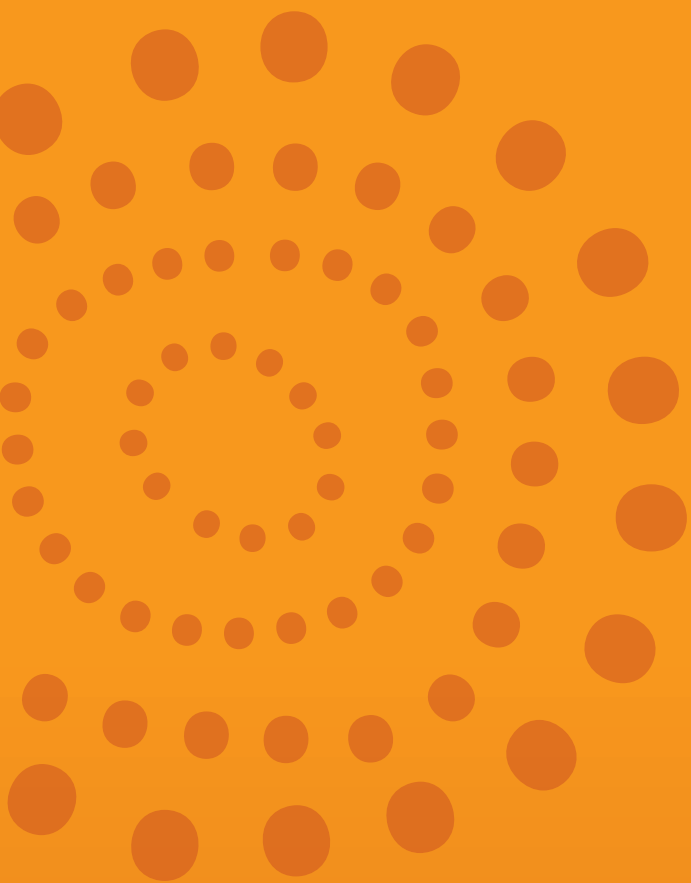
Notwithstanding the above, a community cultural facility is being built as part of the Prince Henry residential precinct at Little Bay and dedicated to Randwick City Council in 2009. An auditorium with staging facilities and a seating capacity for 250 people will be provided as part of this development. When completed, we will then have a quality facility for Council to support and encourage a range of performing and visual arts activities and other community cultural development initiatives.

Strategic partnerships

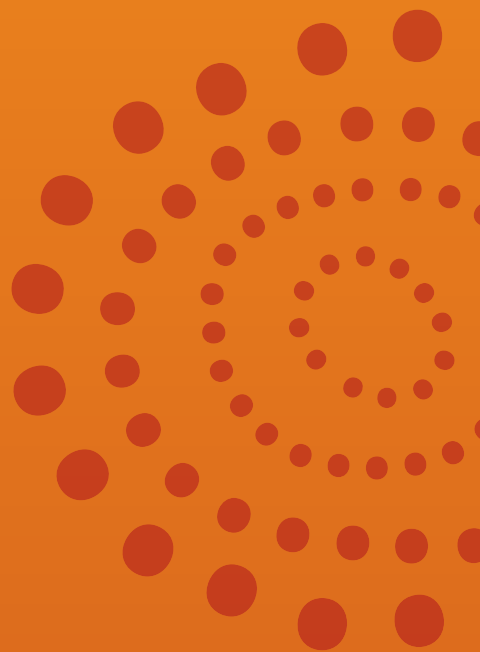
Although UNSW has an auditorium and performance space on its campus, and a theatrical facility within NIDA, these venues are not easily accessible or affordable for community use. As such, there is a need to investigate and/or broker opportunities for increased public use of these facilities at reduced cost. Council could also investigate new development opportunities with public, private and corporate enterprises to develop facilities that in addition to the Prince Henry community centre will address the cultural interests of our community. Such initiatives require a longer term process and may rely to a great extent on opportunities such as availability of government grant funding, and/or philanthropic arts sponsorship.

Facilitation and support

While *A Cultural Randwick City* is an integrated document with cultural actions assigned across Council divisions, the appointment of a Cultural Development and/ or Arts Officer would greatly enhance our capacity to support partnerships and collaboration as well as fundraising and marketing in arts and cultural practice across our City. Although Council does not currently have this position, there may be an opportunity to seek cultural grant funding for a cultural development position from the State or Commonwealth Government. The completion of *A Cultural Randwick City* is the first step towards fulfilling the requirements for these cultural grants programs.



CULTURAL ACTION PLAN 2008-2018



In developing the following Cultural Action Plan, the actions to be implemented by Council over the next ten years have been grouped under four key roles. The majority of these are in addition to the cultural activities and events that Council currently funds and/or sponsors as described in the previous sections. Each action has been allocated a priority ranking based upon the following timeframes:

- Short term Priority (years 1-2)
- Medium term Priority (years 3-4)
- Long term Priority (years 5-10)
- Ongoing

The four key roles in cultural development for Council are:

- **Leadership, co-ordination and partnerships** – provide direction to facilitate the development and co-ordination of cultural services, information and activities. Council can also assist with the collaboration between organisations with joint projects and partnerships.
- **Policy and planning** – identify and respond to the cultural needs of our community by regularly reviewing and prioritising our cultural planning direction.
- **Advocacy and support** – act as an effective supporter for individuals and communities who provide cultural activities, services and events that need the assistance of organisations and agencies. Council can also directly assist individuals, cultural groups and organisations in organising cultural activities.
- **Service provision** – providing specific cultural programs, facilities, resources and infrastructure for cultural development and expression. For example, implement a range of activities and events at our public places, community centres and libraries.

The following abbreviations have been used within the Action Plan to indicate the different sections of Council listed as being responsible for ensuring each of the various actions are completed:

AS	Administration Services
CS	City Services
C	City Planning
LIB	Library
CCP	Cross Council Project
ES	Environmental Sustainability
COMMS	Communications
OSS	Organisational Staff Services
CP	Community Planning
SP	Strategic Planning
CP&P	Community Programs & Partnerships

Role 1: Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships

Actions	City Plan Id No.	Key Responsibility	Timeframe
A Cultural Advisory Panel be established within Council that includes representatives of the vvara's arts and cultural institutions, practitioners and Council staff to enable greater sharing of resources, knowledge, facilities, ideas and opportunities as well as guiding Council's public art initiatives	2a	CP, CP&P	Short term
Seek opportunities to collaborate with private/institutional facilities for cultural activities for instance NIDA, UNSW, TAFE Randwick, Sydney Children's Hospital, Eastern Suburbs Community College, Clubs and public and private schools	2c	CP&P	Ongoing
Liaise with adjoining councils on regional and local cultural and educational programs	2c	CP, CP&P	Ongoing
Continue to host a range of activities and events in partnership with community members and/or local organisations that showcase our City's unique character and heritage (e.g. Coogee Arts Festival, Maroubra Art Show, The Actors' Forum)	2f	CP, CP&P, COMMS, LIB	Ongoing
Promote local cultural activities and resources in Council publications, including our website, and seek increased coverage of cultural events in the local media	3a	CP&P, COMMS	Ongoing
Ensure suitable management arrangements for the operation of the new Prince Henry Community Centre as our City's key community cultural centre, providing a visual and performing arts venue from 2009	2d	CCP	Short term
Council's multi purpose venues to facilitate cultural expression including changing exhibitions celebrating our social history and local peoples, workshops, meetings and performance space (e.g. libraries & community centres)	5d	AS	Medium – Long term

Actions	City Plan Id No.	Key Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>Increase community involvement and promote cultural diversity through creative arts projects by implementing the following actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote activities and events for writers in our City (e.g. Lionel Bowen Young Writers Award) 2. Investigate the hosting of an annual writer's award open to all residents 3. Implement a Traffic Signal Boxes Art Program (i.e. invite community artists to develop designs and apply specific artwork that enhances the location) 4. Investigate the hosting of an annual art competition open to all residents in partnership with the College of Fine Arts 5. Identify at least one new cultural development project or event in partnership with Randwick City's youth to develop new skills and encourage engagement with the greater community 6. Investigate the feasibility of introducing and supporting a community based drama theatre project in collaboration with the Actors' Forum 	<p>2b</p> <p>2b</p> <p>5b</p> <p>2b</p> <p>2b</p> <p>2b</p>	<p>LIB</p> <p>CP&P, COMMS</p> <p>CP&P</p> <p>CP&P</p> <p>CP&P</p> <p>CP&P</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>Short term</p> <p>Short – Medium term</p> <p>Short – Medium term</p> <p>Short – Medium term</p>
<p>Work with professional artists on a regular program of temporary and permanent public art and activities that contributes to a sense of community in Randwick City (e.g. encourage artists to work 'en plein air' at beachside locations)</p>	<p>2d</p>	<p>CP&P, CS, LIB</p>	<p>Medium term</p>

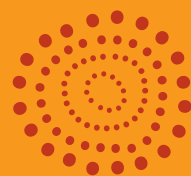
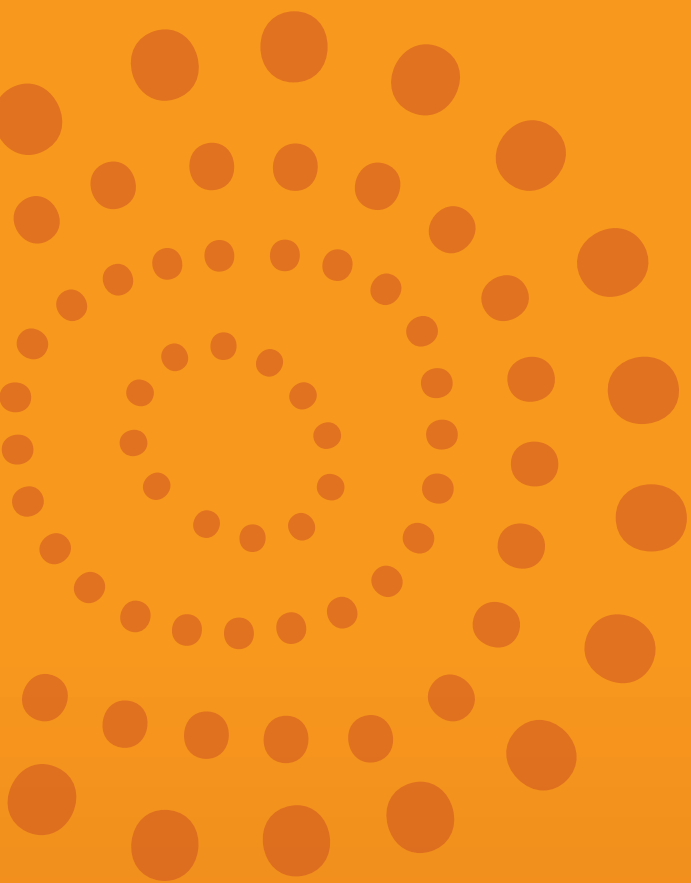
Role 2: Policy and Planning			
Actions	City Plan Id No.	Key Responsibility	Timeframe
Prepare and submit funding applications to relevant funding bodies including the NSW Ministry of Arts and Australia Council for identified cultural development initiatives and cultural development project officer funding	2c	CP, CP&P, LIB, COMMS	Ongoing (annual)
Develop a Public Art Policy to guide enhancement of areas in public domain	5b	CP	Short term
Prepare an Events Strategy that provides Council with a strategic framework for initiating, developing, coordinating and supporting community and regional events	2b	CP&P	Short term
Investigate opportunities for provision of low-cost artist studios for local artists that are accessible and flexible to adapt to the needs of artists with a disability	6e	CP, CP&P	Long term
Investigate the potential of establishing an “artist in residence” program in our City in collaboration with UNSW, NIDA, TAFE and other providers of cultural and arts services	3c	CP, CP&P	Long term
Continue to identify and develop cultural activities and events that will engage young people’s interest, and also ensure that in the planning of mainstream events, the needs of this target group are also catered for. Actions to include:			
Preparation of a Youth Culture Policy and Strategy	2a	CP, CP&P, LIB	Short term
Explore the feasibility for establishing an advisory panel to advise Council on youth cultural programs and issues	3a	CP, CP&P, LIB	Short – Medium term
Consider within these actions a greater focus on music, dance, film and photographic opportunities for young people	2b	CP, CP&P, LIB	Short – Medium term

Actions	City Plan Id No.	Key Responsibility	Timeframe
Examine the cultural identity of each town centre, including cultural attributes and experiences of residents and visitors alike to assist with the implementation of a City wide Economic Strategy, town centre identity work and events	2a	CCP	Medium – Long term
Provide cultural input and ideas into the tourism strategy for the City being prepared as part of a City wide Economic Strategy	8e	SP	Short term
Identify opportunities to enhance existing and provide new civic space as casual meeting places such as formal gardens and plazas etc	5a	CS	Long term
Ensure that fetes, events and markets are permissible within planning instruments for our local schools to promote community activities	8b	SP	Short term
Continue to ensure Council's facilities are designed in accordance with barrier free access best practice	2e	CCP	Ongoing
Continue to develop and promote awareness of Randwick City Council's online heritage register and other heritage resources held by Council	7a	SP, LIB	Ongoing
Set aside funding for conservation works and maintenance of Council owned heritage assets including buildings, sculptures and monuments	7a	CS	Ongoing
Implement best practice conservation management of Council owned heritage properties and assets including preparation and implementation of conservation management plans and plans of management	7a	C, CS	Ongoing
Establish criteria and guidelines for interpretation of key privately owned heritage places in conjunction with their development (e.g. plaques, oral histories)	7a	SP	Short term
Research and document areas of our heritage that have not been fully investigated, such as our cultural heritage (e.g. ATSI oral history project, 150 years of local government in the area in 2009)	7a	LIB, SP	Ongoing
Promote and celebrate heritage through continuation of Council's bi-centennial plaques program	7a	CS, COMMS, SP	Ongoing

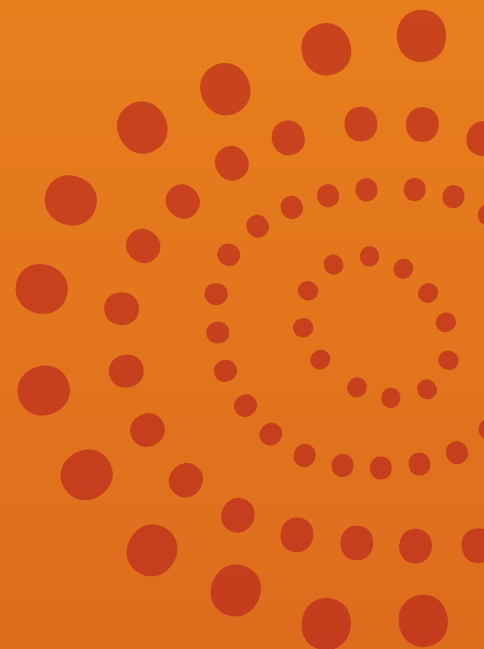
Role 3: Support and Advocacy			
Actions	City Plan Id No.	Key Responsibility	Timeframe
Collaborate with private institutions such as UNSW and NIDA to provide greater access to facilities at reduced rates (e.g. NIDA student performances, gym facilities and education courses)	2c	CP&P	Short Term
Develop a joint arts marketing program with artistic groups which includes a database of local arts practitioners and providers, existing galleries, performance spaces and meeting facilities, cultural activities and events	3a	CP&P, LIB, COMMS	Short Term
Support cultural projects that encourage a range of participants to explore a variety of cultural pursuits such as music, dance, film and photography	5b	CP&P, LIB	Ongoing
Promote grants available to arts and cultural groups within our community including Council's Community Partnerships Funding Program	2b	CP, CP&P, COMMS	Ongoing
Work in partnership with The Spot Chamber of Commerce to support and expand the gourmet Food and Film festival at The Spot	8d	CP&P, COMMS	Ongoing
Continue and foster the working relationship with the Randwick and District Historical Society and other key agencies to promote the City's heritage	7a	LIB, SP	Ongoing
Provide cross cultural and disability awareness training for all staff who have direct public contact as part of Council's employee learning program	11d	OSS	Ongoing

Role 4: Service Provision

Actions	City Plan Id No.	Key Responsibility	Timeframe
Council to continue to provide a range of cultural programs and initiatives to highlight the City's history, sense of identity, as well as the built and natural environment	5d	CCP	Ongoing
Continue to promote local cultural activities and events on the 'what's on in Randwick City' link on Council's website (e.g. events from other agencies and organisations including Royal Randwick Racecourse, UNSW, NIDA and Centennial Park)	2c	CP&P, COMMS, LIB	Ongoing
Develop and implement an effective marketing framework to share information and knowledge and promote cultural events using appropriate communications technology, such as:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of an ethnic media strategy to ensure CALD groups receive information on Council activities and events 	13b	COMMS	Short term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop information hubs as central areas for information on community and Council initiatives (e.g. local libraries and community centres) 	3b	CCP	Medium – Long term
Include cultural information about the environment and places of interest where relevant along the coastal walkway	8e	CCP	Medium term
Continue to provide education, information and opportunities for community groups to participate in gardening and bush care pursuits	10a	ES	Ongoing
Promote community garden beds in appropriately located community accessible spaces (e.g. Council parks and Department of Housing Estates)	10a	ES, CP&P	Medium term

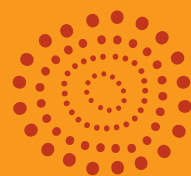
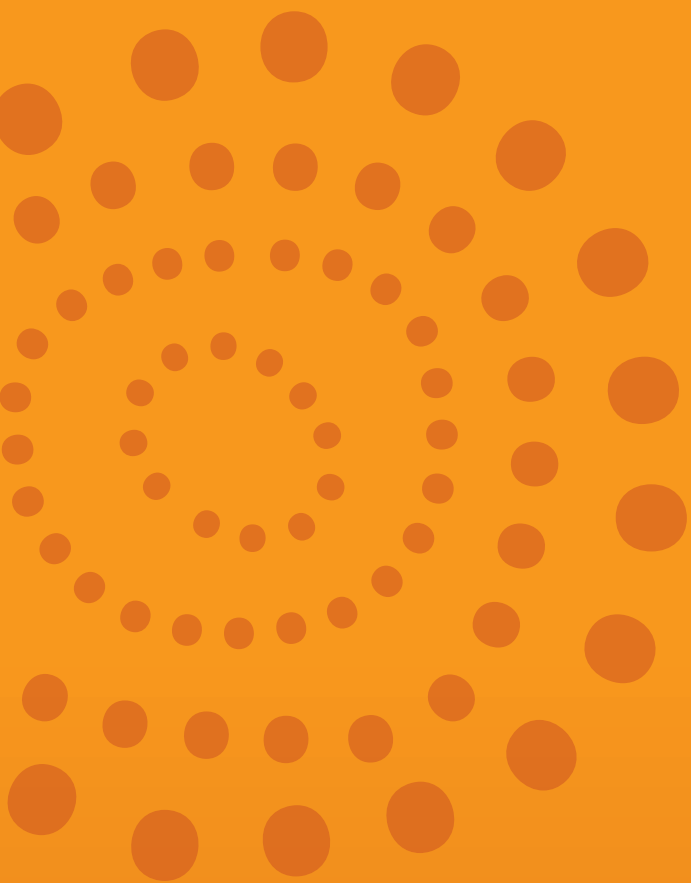


9 REFERENCES

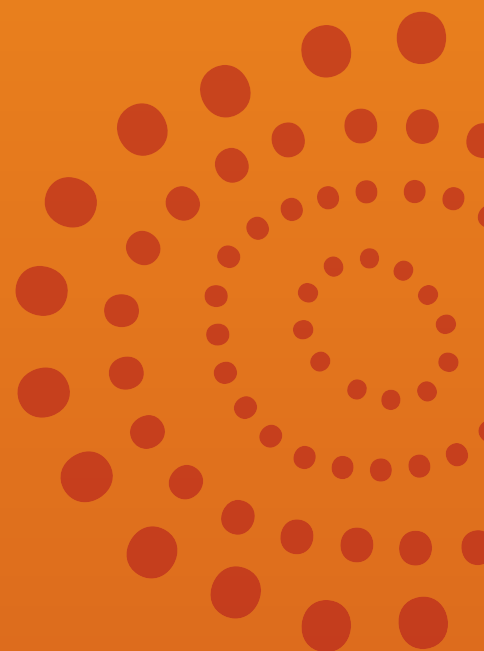


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10 APPENDICES



Appendix A: Summary of submissions received on draft plan

Organisation	Involvement	Suggestions	Council's Response
Coogee Precinct Committee	Precinct Committee	<p>Offer general support for the Plan including the provision of artists' studio space, creation of a staff position within Council responsible for fostering the arts and a focus on the preservation of the artistic and cultural heritage of the area. Other specific comments about the draft Plan include:</p> <p>UNESCO Declaration of Cultural Diversity is not a statement about culture per se and serves to limit the role of the cultural plan (cultural diversity is just one aspect of cultural expression). Suggests that culture should be regarded as being individual human and social creativity that inspires the soul and opens the mind to new possibilities.</p> <p>Replace at least two photographs on cover of the draft Plan with ones that are more reflective of our local cultural and artistic life and heritage such as local artists painting the Coogee landscape or actors engaging in a play at NIDA.</p> <p>Council should support free or inexpensive classical music concerts at UNSW (John Clancy Auditorium) featuring local artists, conductors or composers.</p> <p>Seek funds so that Randwick Girls High School can show off their Eisteddfod for local residents.</p> <p>Fund a biennial prize open Australia-wide for works featuring figures in the Australian landscape to celebrate Coogee's place in the development of the work of Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton (to be called Coogee Landscape Prize).</p> <p>Cultural Plan to have more emphasis on artistic and cultural expression.</p>	<p>Support noted.</p> <p>The UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity was adopted universally by member states in 2002. It offers a broad definition of culture which encompasses art and literature as well as different lifestyles, values and systems of belief.</p> <p>The photographs used on the cover of the draft Plan will not appear on the final document. A new cover and graphic design will be completed following adoption of the Plan.</p> <p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to seek opportunities to collaborate with private/institutional facilities for cultural activities such as NIDA and UNSW.</p> <p>Noted. R.G.H.S can apply for funding through Council's Community Partnerships Funding Program.</p> <p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to investigate the hosting of an annual art competition to be held in partnership with COFA.</p> <p>The Action Plan has been strengthened with a number of additional actions and less emphasis on sport and recreation.</p>

Randwick Precinct Committee	Precinct Committee	<p>Acknowledge a sense of place and its impact on cultural expression e.g. recognise the City's natural assets including flora, fauna, landscapes and vistas.</p> <p>Would like to see the following items included in the Plan:</p> <p>A central website of cultural activities.</p> <p>Blenheim House, when available, could be used to set up a writer in residence program in conjunction with UNSW. Could run writing classes there as well.</p> <p>Sydney Children's Hospital has an Arts curator and in-house exhibitions.</p> <p>A greater local presence and shared advertising for the arts community.</p> <p>There is a gallery at Long Bay called Boomgate Gallery.</p> <p>Piggyback on Eastern Suburbs Community College Programs.</p> <p>Greater utilisation of the Town Hall and Literary Institute.</p> <p>Strongly support the establishment of a permanent Cultural Officer position and the establishment of a structure to allow applications for State and Federal Arts funding.</p>	<p>Reference is made to the City's natural assets on pages 15 and 16 of the Plan which have been elaborated on.</p>
			<p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to promote local cultural activities and resources on its website.</p>
			<p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to investigate opportunities for provision of low-cost artists' studio space.</p>
			<p>Noted.</p>
			<p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to develop a joint arts marketing program in conjunction with local arts groups.</p>
			<p>Reference has been made to the Gallery on page 14 of the Plan.</p>
			<p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to collaborate with private/ institutional facilities for cultural activities.</p>
			<p>The Town Hall is available and well used. Refer to Council's policy on hall hire. Discounts are available to non profit charitable groups.</p>
			<p>Support noted. Council is already involved in cultural planning such as its libraries, festivals and events. However, there is a need for these activities to be addressed in an integrated manner.</p>

Organisation	Involvement	Suggestions	Council's Response
		Would like Randwick to host at least one sculpture exhibition a year.	An action has been included in the Plan for Council to investigate the hosting of an annual art competition to be held in partnership with COFA.
		Support the provision of artists' space like "the Sheds" at Glebe.	An action has been included in the Plan for Council to investigate opportunities for provision of low-cost artists' studio space.
		Women shouldn't be the last target group listed on page eight of the draft Plan and men should also be included.	Comment noted and Plan amended.
		Potential for local clubs to contribute space for an artist in residence scheme.	An action has been included in the Plan for Council to investigate the potential of establishing a local artist in residence scheme.
The Spot Precinct Committee	Precinct Committee	Agree with the need for a Cultural Plan for the City and endorse the presentation and content of the Plan. Recommendations include:	Support noted.
		Recognition of the diversity of economic circumstances among residents should be made more explicit.	Information on Randwick City's demographics is available on Council's website including income data. All programs within the Cultural Plan will aim to be accessible and affordable to the whole community.
		Support the concept of more effective sharing of existing facilities and services e.g. more consideration of the actual present and potential contributions of Clubs in the City.	Support noted. An action has been included in the Plan for Council to establish a Cultural Advisory Panel to enable a greater sharing of resources.
		Encourage more restaurants to participate with details of the culture and food of their country of origin.	Council is looking to build upon the success of the inaugural The Spot Film and Food Festival. Comment referred to Council's Events Coordinator and Communications.

		<p>Need for a separate City art gallery may be premature but Council could encourage the spread of tiny galleries which appear in mini exhibitions in some coffee shops.</p> <p>Support the artist in residence concept, could begin by encouraging one or two local artists to work 'en plein air' on the beaches and/or the parks.</p> <p>Encourage ATSI artists to work in the public domain and provide an opportunity for people to learn about their work through classes.</p> <p>Welcome the development of the Prince Henry Cultural Centre in tandem with better use of existing facilities at UNSW and TAFE and public and private schools.</p> <p>Randwick library should be able to keep up with further provision of information services which residents can access from their own homes or places of work or study.</p> <p>Need to address problems associated with alcohol consumption in Coogee e.g. local hotels are giving the suburb a bad name. A Cultural Plan may offer an opportunity for licensees to offer patrons something other than alcohol and poker machines.</p>	<p>There are a number of small 'galleries' operating in the area that Council could collaborate with. While not an art gallery, the Prince Henry cultural centre will provide space for community cultural and arts events.</p> <p>There is nothing to stop local artists from working 'en plein air' now. Local artists can apply for funding through Council's Community Partnerships Funding Program.</p> <p>Comment will be referred to Council's Community Programs and Partnership Unit who could explore possible links with Aboriginal Arts Cooperatives.</p> <p>Noted. An action has been included in the Plan for Council to establish a Cultural Advisory Panel with representatives from UNSW and TAFE to enable greater sharing of ideas, resources and facilities.</p> <p>There are a number of excellent libraries located within Randwick LGA including the Bowen Library and UNSW. Information about Council's Library Services, including our library catalogue, is available on our website.</p> <p>Council is looking to support additional cultural activities within Coogee such as 'Shakespeare by the Sea.' Council's Crime Prevention and Community Safety Plan will also address this matter.</p>
Kensington Precinct Committee	Precinct Committee	<p>Suggest that the four key roles in cultural development for Council be expanded to a fifth role called "Infrastructure provision/support."</p> <p>Recommend that the proposed actions are identified in the first instance by their timeframes as opposed to key roles currently proposed.</p>	<p>Council has prepared a Community Facilities Study and Plan to provide strategic directions for the appropriate provision of community facilities.</p> <p>The Action Plan has been written to include timeframes that are consistent with Council's other plans such as the S94 Plan and Management Plan.</p>

Organisation	Involvement	Suggestions	Council's Response
		<p>Recommend more specific timeframes be provided. Too many 'nebulous' and sweeping statements without any achievement stakes.</p> <p>Offer study sponsorship programs for Aboriginal youth in the local community to attend major learning institutions such as UNSW, POW and NIDA.</p> <p>A community cultural facility for the Kensington Precinct that could be used to conduct activities such as dance classes, pre literacy classes, craft classes and exhibitions. Suggest use of the Masonic Building at Kingsford as it is situated in an accessible location.</p>	<p>The Plan has been written taking into account that many of the suggested actions will require external grant funding. The short and medium term actions are to be detailed each year in the Management Plan.</p> <p>Council is looking to explore possible links with Nuragjili at UNSW who already offer programs designed to encourage more Aboriginal youths to attend university.</p> <p>The need for a community/ cultural centre located within Kensington has been identified in the City Plan, S94 Plan and Community Facilities Study, and is listed as a long term goal. The Masonic building remains a privately owned facility which is available for hire to community groups and for functions.</p>
		<p>Collaborate with private institutions such as NIDA and UNSW to provide local residents with greater access to facilities at greatly reduced rates e.g. affordable rates to view NIDA student performances, use of gym facilities and access to community education courses.</p>	<p>This has been included as an action for Council in the Plan.</p>
		<p>Local parks could used to hold Family Fun Days to encourage a sense of community. Involve local business community and schools in this initiative. Also, reintroduce a local street based concept of 'looking out for your neighbour' e.g. 'Get to Know' campaign being trialled overseas and Neighbourhood Watch.</p>	<p>Community groups can apply for grant funding for community development projects such as these e.g. Council's Community Partnerships Funding Program.</p>

Ms Marie McMahan	Local artist and resident	<p>Use of pumpkin bus concept to transport seniors or other local groups on local community shopping explorations to factory outlets in proximity to our area.</p> <p>Promote a 'learn from your seniors' project to pass on skills to our young people and encourage engagement between old and young people in the greater community.</p> <p>An item of public art to welcome entry into Randwick City from one of its major arterial roads e.g. Anzac Parade (one of the world's oldest known continuously operating roads).</p> <p>Offer greater support for practitioners using Council's existing resources including administration staff, existing facilities and services and the Mayor's column.</p> <p>Not Council's role to make cultural activities happen, rather it is to foster an environment for artists to do what they do.</p> <p>In section 3.3 there is no mention of local artists and too much emphasis on sport.</p> <p>Council's vision statement does not reflect the creative areas and focuses too much on sport and commerce.</p>	<p>The Pumpkin bus is a late night transport scheme which is funded by the Eastern Beaches Liquor Accord and the RTA, and is aimed at reducing alcohol related crime incidents in the Coogee area. Council supports a community transport scheme although this is not available for shopping excursions and would also contradict Council's shop locally initiatives.</p> <p>Good idea but resource intensive. Comment will be referred to Council's Community Programs and Partnership Unit for further investigation.</p> <p>To be investigated as part of the development of a Public Art Strategy and/or Anzac Pde Boulevard Project.</p> <p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to develop a joint arts marketing program with arts groups.</p> <p>Council's cultural vision has been amended accordingly.</p> <p>Sport and recreation are acknowledged as part of Randwick's culture however there are no specific actions or strategies relating to sport/recreation in the Cultural Action Plan.</p> <p>Council's cultural vision has been amended to include a reference to visual arts, sculpture, music and literature.</p>
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Organisation	Involvement	Suggestions	Council's Response
		<p>UNESCO Definition of Culture is broad but does not include commercial activity so why is section 6.5 regarding tourism included this draft? - "cultural tourism is not culture." Many sports groups also receive commercial support.</p> <p>There should be more focus on cultural activities including visual art, theatre, literature, dance and music.</p> <p>There should be a separation between cultural and commercial activities e.g. Coogee Family Fun Day is run by the Chamber of Commerce and is a commercial event. Coogee Christmas Carols is also a commercial event sponsored by local hotels and clubs.</p>	<p>The Arts NSW Cultural Planning Guidelines encourage Councils to undertake a wide-ranging strategic overview of all the significant environmental, economic and social issues on which culture may have a bearing.</p> <p>The Cultural Plan seeks to focus on arts and cultural activities in Randwick. The Action Plan has been strengthened with a number of additional actions and less emphasis on sport and recreation.</p> <p>Sponsorship is a part of many cultural events organised by Councils due to the high costs involved in putting them on and the benefits of local organisations supporting their communities. Many arts/cultural organisations also accept sponsorship e.g. Sydney Theatre Company and Belvoir Street Theatre.</p>
Mr Jim Harvey	Curator for Council's Women's Art Competition	<p>Would like Council to take a more reflective approach to the visual arts component. Council should have a more inclusive art competition (Randwick City Art Prize) open to all artists regardless of gender or address e.g. like the Mosman, Waverley, Campbelltown and Sutherland art competitions. Competition to include a number of strands such as painting, work on paper, photography and sculpture.</p> <p>The current International Women's Art Day Competition is in decline and local artists are hesitant to get involved because of poor quality of entries and prizes. The current IWD competition does not adhere to strict entry and presentation requirements.</p>	<p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to investigate the hosting of an annual art competition to be held in partnership with COFA.</p> <p>Comment will be referred to Council's Community Programs and Partnership Unit for consideration.</p>

		RCC does not need more public art. Residents and visitors value Randwick for its historic architecture, public art, restaurants, pubs, cinema, racecourse, beaches, coastal scenery and parks. There are too many examples of poor quality public art such as the "Poo on Sticks" in Darlinghurst.		An action has been included in the Plan for Council to develop a Public Art Policy which will identify appropriate forms and locations for public art within Randwick City.
Ms Mary Haire	Coogee History Walk	More attention should be paid to our historic monuments in Coogee that have been vandalised and/ or neglected for up to a decade e.g. Coogee's oldest monument the Robertson Fountain was last restored in 1988. Restoring the Sam Sundial should also be a priority. There should be a park or street dedicated to the Wylie family and their contribution to Australian swimming.		An action has been included in the Plan to set aside funding for conservation works and maintenance of Council owned heritage assets including buildings, sculptures and monuments. The Sam Sundial was restored by Council in 2006. Noted.
Ms Kate Mackay	Local artist and resident	Would like a Randwick professional artists award similar to Woolahra's Small Sculpture Prize and Sutherland's Hazlehurst Art on Paper Award based at a dedicated space at the Little Bay Cultural Centre.		An action has been included in the Plan for Council to investigate the hosting of an annual art competition to be held in partnership with COFA.
Accessible Arts	Peak Arts and Disability Body	Suggest that Council make mention of its Access Strategy/Action Plan and identify how 'A Cultural Randwick City' links with it through its planning model. Address the issue of heritage legislation and accessible design i.e. accessible design can be incorporated into some heritage buildings. All cultural facilities and venues should be accessible to people of all abilities and provide thorough access information, accessible websites and accessible transport linking with City and village centres.		Reference is made to Council's commitment to Access and Equity issues on page 9 of the Plan. Noted.
				Council's City Plan identifies the need to provide barrier free access to community facilities and public domain.

Organisation	Involvement	Suggestions	Council's Response
		The Cultural Development/Arts Officer to work closely with the Disability Officer to enable complementary planning and consideration of access issues in all arts and cultural projects.	This will depend upon funding for the Cultural Development Officer position becoming available. Cultural planning and activities are already undertaken by a range of Council staff.
		Embrace new forms of art in public space that explores new media, hybrid art and sound works.	This will be considered as part of the preparation of the Public Art Policy.
		Refer to Accessible Arts for expert advice regarding access to arts, cultural and creative projects.	Council will consult with Accessible Arts on issues where appropriate.
		Public Art Policy for Randwick to incorporate guidelines for sensory exploration of art in public space. Principles to enable access for people with a disability to public art would be valuable.	The Public Art Policy will be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines and best practice in the area.
		Support opportunities for provision of low cost artist studio space which links to the Metropolitan Strategy.	An action has been included in the Plan for Council to investigate opportunities for provision of low-cost artists' studio space.
		Ensure that artist residency spaces are accessible (and flexible) to adapt to the needs of artists with a disability.	Comment has been included in the Action Plan.
		Existing and new cultural spaces should be accessible to artists, arts workers, audiences and professionals with a disability including venues and office space.	Noted.
		Include a rating level for historical monuments as part of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) so that less significant elements can be altered to improve access and use of space.	Any CMPs are prepared in accordance with the State Government's CMP guidelines.
		Provision of disability awareness training to all Council staff.	Training is already provided as part of Council's employee learning program.

Ms Trudy Wiedeman	Local resident	<p>Ensure that marketing and communications templates are accessible in design and include promotion of access information to relevant venues and events.</p> <p>Would like to see Randwick's cultural diversity highlighted and suggests a number of ways to achieve this through music, recreation, art, theatre and gardens.</p> <p>Local school bands should be encouraged to give concerts, perhaps movie-themes would be a good start.</p> <p>The oldest parks in each suburb should be used as a venue for outdoor concerts in autumn and spring with food stalls offering delicacies that resonate the music on offer.</p> <p>Recognise our indigenous artists including Clifford Possum and Queenie as well as classical artists Streeton and Condor who have used Coogee beach/ headlands as their theme.</p> <p>Approach Deutscher-Menzies with a view to exhibiting local artists as well as organising auction viewings for local school children.</p> <p>Make use of Council owned cottage near Wylies bath as a live-in artist studio.</p> <p>Approach local schools to see if assembly halls or gyms could be used for small theatrical rehearsals.</p>	<p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to prepare a joint arts marketing program with arts groups.</p> <p>Reference is made to Council's commitment to cultural diversity on pages 8 and 9 of the Plan. The Plan contains a number of actions aimed at enhancing artistic and cultural life within the City.</p> <p>Comment will be considered as part of the preparation of a Youth Culture Policy and Strategy.</p> <p>Comment will be considered as part of the preparation of an Events Strategy.</p> <p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to research and fully document areas of our heritage that have not been fully investigated.</p> <p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to seek opportunities to collaborate with private/institutional facilities for cultural activities.</p> <p>The Cottage near Wylie's bath is not Council owned; it is owned by a Trust. An action has been included in the Plan for Council to explore options to secure artists' studio space.</p> <p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to seek opportunities to collaborate with private/institutional facilities for cultural activities.</p>
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Organisation	Involvement	Suggestions	Council's Response
Mr Albert Vella	NSW Federation of Community Languages School	<p>Randwick lacks formal gardens in which to sit and enjoy apart from Centennial Park and the native coastal walk. Parks are the natural venue for gardens and Council should think of developing more.</p> <p>In clause 4.3 there is no mention of the after hours community language schools in Randwick. There are a number of schools operating in Randwick, Coogee and Maroubra teaching Polish, Russian and Chinese etc.</p> <p>There is no mention of the Saturday School of Languages operating in the Open High School (adjacent to Council Chambers).</p>	<p>This issue is addressed in Council's Recreation Needs Study.</p> <p>A Reference to the number of community language schools in the local area has been included on page 19 of the Plan.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
Randwick Girls Technology High School	Local high school	<p>Would like to see the creation of a major artwork within the school grounds representing the cultural diversity and integration of our community. Envisage the involvement of students and staff in the project.</p> <p>Request that young people have an opportunity through the school to contribute to the development of cultural resources and venues such as the performing arts centre at Little Bay.</p> <p>Development of a cultural forum to provide a channel for expression of cultural issues and views within our community e.g. public speaking events for young people, debates, stories, poetry (could be run in conjunction with existing events such as Harmony Day or Carnivale Multicultural Week).</p>	<p>R.G.H.S can apply for funding through Council's Community Partnership Program Funding. Comment will also be considered as part of the preparation of the Public Art Policy.</p> <p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to prepare a Youth Culture Policy and Strategy that will address this issue.</p> <p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to explore the feasibility of establishing an Advisory Panel to advise Council on youth cultural issues.</p>

Ms Jo Jansyn	Woolahra Council	<p>Offered support for the strategic direction of the draft plan as it recognises the diverse cultures within Randwick City and the importance of cultural activity to community life. Specific comments included:</p> <p>There are elements common to both Councils' draft Cultural Plans including support for local artists, establishing an artist in residence program and increasing both permanent and temporary public art exhibits throughout the LGA.</p> <p>Recognise opportunities for future collaboration and partnerships regionally.</p> <p>Show greater recognition of current partnerships and collaborations with neighbouring councils including the Eastern Region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum and Regional Youth Week activities.</p>	Support noted.
Mr Brendan Smith	Waverley Council	<p>Broadly supports the ongoing development of partnerships with Randwick and other adjoining councils and the potential benefits to be achieved through continuing liaison and collaboration. Specific comments included:</p> <p>There are elements common to both Councils' draft Cultural Plans such as providing affordable, accessible spaces for local artists, establishing artist-in-residence programs and increasing both permanent and temporary public art exhibits throughout the LGA.</p>	<p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to liaise with adjoining councils on regional and local cultural educational programs.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Support noted.</p> <p>An action has been included in the Plan for Council to liaise with adjoining councils on regional and local cultural educational programs.</p>

Organisation	Involvement	Suggestions	Council's Response
Mr Dirk Hertford	Randwick City Tourism	Encouraged by ongoing support for tourism as indicated in the draft Plan. Specific comments included: Visitors bring vibrancy to an area and they allow an area to showcase and celebrate regional identity. Visitors have played an important cultural role in our City's history for example the nineteenth century visiting artists' paintings of Coogee. Hopes that Randwick City's rich architectural heritage and its multicultural heritage will become more recognised widely.	Support noted. Noted. An action has been included in the Plan for Council to seek opportunities to better facilitate community knowledge of and access to heritage resources held by Council.
		Encourage the Plan to enhance work by Randwick City Tourism to celebrate the area's coastline, open spaces and parklands and range of sports and physical activities.	Noted.

Appendix B: Summary of focus group meeting

Arts and Cultural Focus Group Workshop
Tuesday 18 March 2008 – Bowen Library

The Facilitator

Catherine Croll has been working in the areas of community cultural development, cultural planning and education and training for over 25 years and has extensive experience in the initiation, facilitation and management of multi faceted social research projects and major celebratory events. Her ability to ask questions, listen and assist in the development of innovative responses to organisational, business and customer requirements is widely recognised.

Activity 1 – Welcome

Council's Community Project Officer, Avril Jeans, welcomed the 25 participants and introduced the facilitator, Catherine Croll, who then invited participants to 'introduce' themselves to a member of the group who they had not yet met and explain 'How they came to be at the workshop' tonight. Each participant then introduced their 'New Friend' to the group as a whole.

An African 'drumming' activity was conducted, teaching participants a range of basic rhythms.

Activity 2 – Review of Cultural Plan Assumptions

Catherine then used the 'drumming activity' to review and confirm the outcomes of community consultation workshops and focus groups conducted with individuals, community organisations and Council staff in 2004 and 2005, where participants had expressed a strong need for additional and/or improved cultural activities and infrastructure such as:

- Purpose built cultural facility
- Council organised cultural services, societies and events
- Public and indigenous art and craft
- Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander programs
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) programs and resources for cultural groups and individual initiatives to be developed

- A Cultural Plan to provide strategic direction to Council's cultural development activities

Participants were asked to 'place' themselves along an imaginary line which indicated strong agreement at one end and strong disagreement at the other.

Prompt questions included:

- Do you enjoy living in the Randwick City Council (RCC) area?
- Are you aware of the range of Council organised cultural services, activities and events?
- Have you participated in cultural activities in the RCC area?
- Have you made a contribution to cultural activity in the RCC area?
- Do you feel your contribution to cultural activities has been recognised?
- Do you feel that the Randwick City Council area has potential for greater cultural activity?
- Do you feel you have a contribution to make to the growth in cultural activity?
- Do you believe the RCC should have a purpose built cultural facility?
- Are you aware of Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander programs in RCC area?
- Do you believe there is a need for more Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander programs?
- Are you aware of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) programs in RCC area?
- Is there a need for more Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) programs?
- Are you aware of programs for young people being conducted in RCC area?
- Is there a need for more programs for young people to be conducted in RCC area?

Results of Activity 2

Participants represented a broad cross section of arts practices and cultural industries. They all enjoyed living in RCC and most were aware of and participated in and contributed to a wide range of Council organised cultural activities and events. Some felt there was an opportunity to show greater appreciation of the contribution made to cultural activities and events.

Participants showed strong support for and agreement with the need to construct a purpose built cultural facility and opportunity to expand cultural activities to include a greater number of events conducted in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, those from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds and young people. All agreed that this would improve the rich culturally experiences available to residents of and visitors to the area.

Activity 3 – Review of Cultural Audit

The participants confirmed results of the Cultural Audit which identified cultural resources that would enrich the community's cultural experience and heritage but are not located within Randwick City, such as:

- A purpose built performing arts centre
- A cultural space to showcase local Indigenous history, culture and related activities
- A city gallery/contemporary arts space
- A writers centre
- A cooperative arts space
- A citywide local history museum/space

It was generally agreed that provision of new cultural facilities as listed above would greatly enhance the level of art form specific activities providing a focus for specialist sub groups involved in the creation of, support for and appreciation of creativity and arts practice.

These facilities could be attained through the acquisition and adaptive reuse of existing facilities or in the case of the performing arts centre, through the construction of a purpose built centre.

Activity 4 – Review of Cultural Action Plan

The participants discussed and agreed that the four key roles to be undertaken by Council over the next ten years when implementing the Cultural Action Plan should be:

Leadership, co-ordination and partnerships

– provide direction to facilitate the development and co-ordination of cultural services, information and activities. Council can also assist with the collaboration between organisations with joint projects and partnerships.

Policy and planning

– identify and respond to the cultural needs of our community by regularly reviewing and prioritising our cultural planning direction.

Advocacy and support

– act as an effective supporter for individuals and communities who provide cultural activities, services and events that need the assistance of organisations and agencies. Council can also directly assist individuals, cultural groups and organisations in organising cultural activities.

Service provision

– providing specific cultural services, programs, facilities, resources and infrastructure for cultural development and expression. The Cultural Audit Report provided an indication of the wealth of cultural resources in Randwick City. The Report was compiled using local resources and databases, and by seeking input from the general community.

Activity 5 – STEEP Analysis

The participants then broke into four groups to identify and prioritise the external trends which would influence the successful implementation of the Cultural Action Plan. Each group was asked to focus upon **S**ocial, **T**echnological, **E**conomic, **E**nvironmental and **P**olitical (STEER) trends.

At the end of the ½ hour discussion period all participants were given '3' little red dots and asked to prioritise the issues raised by placing a dot next to the '3' issues they felt were the most important.

The results of this exercise are detailed below:

Social Trends	Priority
Need for dedicated cultural centre and/or regional gallery	19
Binge Drinking, Loitering, Vandalism	5
Disengaged Youth, need for youth venues	3
More engaged seniors, aging population, integration of those with disabilities	2
Participation in existing events (free stuff, marketing)	2
Isolation, mental health issues, care givers	2
Need for small live theatre and rehearsal space	1

Technological Trends	Priority
Increase in 'soloism', social/technological isolation	3
Need to ensure access is equitable (especially for seniors)	2
Use of technology for communication, SMS, Email, internet, mobiles, blogs	2
Opportunities to learn/train people	2
New ways of positively interacting, publishing, community radio/TV	2
Need to educate re: good manners in theatres, meetings, restaurants	2

Economic Trends	Priority
Use of the arts (music/theatre etc) to bring people together (rich/poor)	14
Increase in cultural philanthropy	1
Rate rises (reduced disposable income)	1
Redundancy, unemployment	1
Disparity – greater rich/poor divide (no disposable income)	1
Immigrants bringing money from wealthy countries (and visa versa)	1
High density development	1

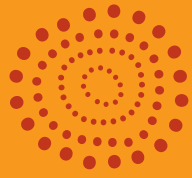
Environmental Trends	Priority
Increased awareness of environmental issues (earth hour, climate change)	3
Opportunity to use 'art' as a medium for dialogue (waste as art competitions)	3
Need to encourage 're-use' – repair through using incentives	3
Increased use of water tanks and solar energy	2
No swimming place for dogs and owners (dog beach Newcastle)	2
'Relaxed' attitude to 'little' littering, graffiti	1

Political Trends	Priority
Increased community engagement (Getup, Earth Hour, Clean Up Aust)	7
Opportunity to expand the profound wisdom of 'speech, pen and painting'	7
Need to address mental health issues	5
Council commitment to develop and sustain space/ venues (Little Bay)	4
Opportunity for Council to acquire original art works	3
Quick fix vs. long term planning	2
New Mayor provides new opportunities – More receptive councillors	1
Improved marketing of library services	1

Recommendations from Catherine Croll about the draft Cultural Plan:

1. Little Bay Cultural Facility to include: exhibition space, wet/dry workshop area, community meeting rooms, small performance spaces (including an outdoor amphitheatre) IT access areas, casual access areas, community festival office facilities (for short term hire), an artist residence and community radio / podcast production and broadcast facilities
2. A dedicated Youth Venue to be established which includes drop in centre, meeting facilities, multimedia access areas and production facilities, performance spaces, small theatre for screening of youth orientated multimedia, sound/music production studios
3. An Artist in Residence (AIR) program to be established in collaboration with NSW University, NIDA, TAFE and other providers of cultural services. This program to include: writers, visual artists and performance artists with stipends to be paid by the tertiary institutions. The artist residence to be incorporated into the Little Bay Cultural facility and/or as a stand alone facility located in the council owned cottage near Wylies Bath
4. A program of experiential cultural activities to be established to enable greater interaction between residents and provide opportunities to share cultural knowledge and learn about a diverse range of cultural activities including local Aboriginal and youth culture. This program could include cultural showcasing forums funded by 'Living in Harmony' grants
5. A major annual Acquisitive Art Prize to be held in partnership with the College of Fine Art
6. A 'Waste as Art' type competition be established to showcase innovation in recycling and creative reuse of 'waste', this competition to include children's and youth sections to be held in conjunction with 'Clean Up Australia' Day or 'Earth Hour'
7. A 'Joint Arts Marketing' program be developed which includes: databases of local producers and providers, existing galleries, performance spaces and meeting facilities, cultural activities and events and a regular 'E-letter' or newsletter be distributed
8. A 'Men's Shed' type project to be established to address issues associated with the growing 'soloism' and generational divide cause by technological isolation. This would include older men 'sharing' trade skills with younger men who in term provide IT skills
9. A Cultural Advisory Panel to be established with representatives of the major providers and producers to enable greater 'sharing' of resources, facilities and opportunities
10. Existing events and facilities be reviewed to ensure they provide suitable access and incentives for access for those with disabilities (physical and mental) and activities are cultural inclusive and meet the needs of the changing demographic





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