
Cultural Plan

A Cultural Plan for Mid-Western Regional Council

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The development of a cultural plan is vital to the support and growth of cultural pursuits in the Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) area. In recognition of the importance of a strong basis from which to achieve this, a Cultural Plan Working Party was formed from a diverse sector of community interests to develop a proposal for cultural development in the Local Government area. Tribute is paid to the members of the Cultural Working Party who gave freely of their time to impart their knowledge and expertise to develop the Cultural Plan.

This Cultural Plan aims to ensure that achievable outcomes create equitable access to cultural services and facilities in the region as well as responding to the cultural priorities of the community. The definition of 'Culture' is one which often provided loud and long debate. Council recognises the need to ensure that 'culture' is inclusive rather than exclusive and encapsulates the broad range of arts, crafts and related industries. Key concepts such as:

- A sense of place,
 - Connectivity,
 - Importance of multiple communities – diversity of geography and identity, and
 - Recognition of other ethnic and indigenous groups
- are all important aspects of the broad concept of 'culture'

This Cultural Plan outlines a vision for culture in the region. It proposes a number of clearly targeted objectives and strategies to focus cultural development in the region by Council and strategic partnerships with the community, government and private sector bodies. This document does not review the sport and recreation alternatives for the region due to the production of the detailed Recreation and Cultural Strategy by GHD Pty Ltd in 2003.

The vision for culture in the MWRC area is:

To preserve and build on the strong cultural foundations in the region and foster diversity and creativity by:

- *Promoting centres and programmes of excellence,*
- *Encouraging maximum community participation and enjoyment,*
- *Seeking economic support from various sources to ensure sustainability of cultural activities, and*
- *Supporting optimum economic development.*

Of note in the vision is the emphasis on the economic role that cultural activities play in the region as well as the need for financial sustainability of services and facilities. Related to this is the focus on culture as a key drawcard or attractor for key skills and professions to the region. In many cases, a vibrant cultural life is an important consideration for people when they decide whether to relocate to an area for professional reasons or retirement. Of course, there are also valuable returns in providing quality lifestyle for existing residents.

The Cultural Plan focuses on three main areas:

- Community Culture/People,
- Facilities, and
- Networks.

The list of cultural needs for the region is long and diverse, and issues to be addressed are separated into short, medium and longer term achievable outcomes, subject to financial or human resource availability. The short term action plan identifies options for funding sources where appropriate, and offers opportunities for additional funding considerations pending the activity proposed. The plan is based on the work undertaken by the Cultural Plan Working Party in compiling the cultural issues, priorities and considerations contained in Section 10 in this plan.

This Plan is a starting point only and not an end in itself. It is proposed to be a living document and should be updated on a regular basis.

Equally important is the need for ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the plan. The success of plans such as these hinges on the implementation plan, the allocation of responsibility for success and the allocation/sourcing of funds.

Over many years the people of Mid-Western Regional Council, and its former incarnations Mudgee Shire Council and Rylstone Shire Council, have recognised the need to develop a consistent and enduring vision for cultural development in the region. This plan provides an opportunity for Council and the community to look at the larger 'cultural picture', incorporate the broader geographic community, and recognise the many and varied communities of interest within the region.

There have been a number of attempts at developing a comprehensive Cultural Plan for Mudgee and Gulgong in the past but none have reached the stage of adoption or implementation by Council. A draft Cultural Plan for the then Rylstone Local Government area was presented to the former Rylstone Shire Council in 1999.

A Cultural Plan Working Party (CPWP) was formed in 2005 (membership of the Cultural Plan Working Party is detailed in Appendix 1).

The CPWP represented a diverse range of culturally related interests and met monthly to develop a draft Plan. The current Plan is based on the information compiled by the CPWP, and has been modified to reflect Council's capacity to deliver amidst competing demands.

This document is a compilation of previous work and research in the Mid-Western Regional Council region with sources acknowledged in the Bibliography section. It is interesting to note that in the various cultural planning exercises over the years there have been consistent themes running through each of the documents. Among these are the constant request for permanent Cultural staff and the need for dedicated public gallery space or cultural centres.

Cultural Planning Guidelines from the NSW Ministry for the Arts drafted in consultation with the Department of Local Government (published in final form in July 2004) have been used in this draft of Mid-Western Regional Council Cultural Plan.

These guidelines identify specific Principles for inclusion in Council's Cultural Plan:

- Inclusion of all cultures and cultural expressions within the community,
- Knowledge, understanding and response to local communities' cultures,
- Encouraging self expression,
- A shared vision of culture within the community,
- Reinvestment and sustainability,
- Diversity,
- Encouragement of councils to be creative and innovative,
- Integrating access and equity within a "whole of Council" approach,
- Integrating Council's access and equity activities with activities of other councils and other government and non-government organisations, and
- Clarify the system for reporting on access and equity activities.

In determining a definition of 'Culture', three formal definitions have been embraced in the development of this Plan:

"Culture in its widest sense is about what matters to people and communities. It is about relationships, shared memories and experiences. It is about identity, history and a sense of place. It is about the different cultural and religious backgrounds found in most communities. It is about the things we consider valuable for passing on to future generations. It is our way of connecting the present with the past and the future". (Department of Local Government in its Cultural Planning Guidelines)

and

"Culture in its broadest term is about how people socialise, interact with their environment and each other, whether through activities and responsibilities associated with work, sports, leisure, common interests and other activities contributing to the well being of their society and family and to their quality of life. Culture is both tangible and intangible, it is the spirit of individuals and communities. Culture is how people determine their way of life". (Local Government Association of NSW in GHD Pty Ltd, 2003)

and

"All the things we do that connect us with a place" (Cultural Plan for Launceston).

These definitions contained the key elements of:

- Sense of place,
- Connectivity,
- Importance of multiple communities – diversity of geography and identity, and
- Recognition of other ethnic and indigenous groups.

Through developing and implementing the 2005 Cultural Plan, Council aims to take a strategic and sustainable approach to cultural development in the region. It will become a valuable resource for both Council and the community to focus on the needs of the community and direct its efforts over the long term.

Cultural Planning builds a Council's capacity to engage with its community. It aims to achieve a strategic alignment of a community's cultural assets, resources and services with its overall directions and priorities.

For cultural planning to be successful, Council and the community must commit to a vision for cultural development in the region and incorporate regular monitoring and review of activities in normal management planning practices.

Like all strategies, the cultural plan should be viewed not as something fixed, but as a dynamic process.

This section aims to discuss the issues proposed to be addressed in the next 3 years, with other equally valid issues included in Section 10.

A priority in the Cultural Plan is to facilitate cultural resources to the community in a variety of places

The goal is to ensure that participation in cultural activity is not dependant on economic status, age, ability, cultural background, geographical location and other points of difference. Generally it will assist in breaking down stereotypes, building a stronger sense of community and encouraging people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to share their cultural diversity and participate in local events.

One of the most important components of this project has been to develop a list of objectives and strategies for the cultural development of the region. Naturally this list is long and diverse with varying levels of importance and achievability.

To focus the work of the Cultural Plan Working Party (CPWP) and to narrow down the key activity areas, the working party, in conjunction with Council staff developed an Action Plan covering the issues proposed to be addressed in the next 2-3 years, which is listed in this section. The Action plan is derived from the initiatives considered by the CPWP as being of the highest priority, and was developed to ensure achievable outcomes within that period. The many other equally valid strategies are included in Section 10.

A priority of the CPWP has been to ensure an inclusive community. With the inception of Mid-Western Regional Council in 2004 it is even more important to strive for equitable participation and access to cultural facilities and services. The goal is to ensure that participation in cultural activity is not dependant on economic status, age, ability, cultural background, geographical location and other points of difference.

The CPWP sees that partnering and consulting with local organisations that cater for people with particular needs can bring many advantages in this area. Generally it will assist in breaking down stereotypes, building a stronger sense of community and encouraging people of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to share their cultural diversity and participate in local events.

ACTION PLAN

2006/07

ISSUE	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	COST ESTIMATE	FUNDING SOURCE
Community /Culture/ People: Regional Cultural Project	Determine Project Identify Funding source(s) Develop funding submission	Cultural Development Committee, Manager Community Services and Library	TBA	TBA
Community /Culture/ People: Cultural Development Personnel	Submit Budget Initiative for 2007/2008 Budget Submit funding application to external funding source	Manager Community Services and Library Manager Community Services and Library with Cultural Development Committee	Existing resources	MWRC/ Ministry for the Arts/ Australia Council and other
Facilities: designated Cultural Spaces	Advocate/ Lobby for permanent cultural spaces as part of development of new facilities, eg library	Cultural Development Committee, cultural groups	TBA	Ministry for the Arts, MWRC, Other?
Facilities: Develop Cultural Heritage Trail Map	Determine Project Identify Funding source(s) Develop funding submission	Cultural Development Committee in conjunction with MRTI?	TBA	Tourist funding bodies? Arts/Heritage funding sources?
Networks: Build , reinforce and encourage strong cultural networks	Encourage mutual attendance and support at cultural activities/events throughout the MWRC LGA (and beyond)	All stakeholders	Travel	Individual groups

2007/08

ISSUE	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	COST ESTIMATE	FUNDING SOURCE
Community /Culture/ People: Regional Project	Determine Project Identify Funding source(s) Develop funding submission	Cultural Development Committee, Council	TBA	TBA
Community /Culture/ People: Identify Economic Development Opportunities	Develop Strategies with Economic Development Worker	Cultural Development Committee, Council, MRTI, Business Community	Existing resources	Existing resources
Facilities: designated Cultural Spaces	Advocate/ Lobby for permanent cultural spaces as part of development of new facilities, eg library	Cultural Development Committee, cultural groups	TBA	Ministry for the Arts, MWRC, Other?
Networks: Build , reinforce and encourage strong cultural networks	Encourage mutual attendance and support at cultural activities/events throughout the MWRC LGA (and beyond)	All stakeholders	Travel	Individual groups

2008

Priorities for the ensuing years are to be determined following the successful implementation of the actions contained within the 2006 – 2008 cultural plan. Such priorities will be based on the objectives and strategies contained within the next section: "Objectives and Strategies".

The proposals in the action plan have been determined by the working party in accordance with the 'S.M.A.R.T principle, that is, they are **s**pecific, **m**easurable, **a**chievable, **r**ealistic and **t**imed. The following presents an overview of the action plan in that context:

Issue	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Realistic	Timed
Cultural Development Staff	Submit Budget Initiative for a Cultural Development Personnel in 2006/2007 Budget Submit funding application to external funding source to execute and implement the actions contained in the Cultural Action Plan	Actions in Plan resourced and outcomes documented.	Budget initiative funded and external funding achieved.	Cultural Development officer position needed to address action plan	06/07
Cultural Spaces / Hubs	List- Cultural register. Identify, develop, update known options. Identify/ assess/ existing hubs/spaces. Broad interpretation of 'space', public / private / indoor / outdoor, permanent / temporary, Identify range of uses, profile local identities. Create awareness of our cultural diversity to our community, new residents and visitors	Publication eg list, current and revived, Measure local awareness demand and supply, press coverage. Website hits, no of requests for the list and to be on the list, participation rates, visitation feedback, no of local events / exhibitions	Person (CDO), phone, time, fax, email, mail, internet, rate notice, promotion and marketing essential. Partnerships with educational institution, Businesses, churches, tourism, TAFE, Promotion inside and outside the region. Promotion locally and externally.	Publication and sponsorship. Cultural Development Officer or other. Info to be kept current Brand identification, already happening Needs more and ongoing focus	06/07
Cultural Heritage Trails	Identify and link existing trails Fund literature documentation. Identify and develop new trails	Publications, no of users, website hits.	Grant funding, cooperation, local knowledge, historical societies, sponsorship, in conjunction with MRTI	Current information If promoted/coordinated Need Cultural Development Officer	06/07
Networks	Skills/resource audit list, locally & external People/organisations Explore opportunities. Information sharing. Understand available resources: (public and private) events, skills, contact details, grant funding, in kind, partnerships, regional opportunities	Documented Participation – no of opportunities List of people / skills etc and ease of use. Consensus.	Facilitation / coordination Cultural Development officer Ease of use Facilitation/coordination Goodwill across region, approachability, professionalism.	Relevance.	06/07

Issue	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Realistic	Timed
Regional Project, with external funding	Project can be showcased across the MWRC region (ie festival / exhibition) External operational / coordination funding application	Success rate measured by participation rate across the region, no of people attending. External funding received	Coordinator position funded. Cooperation across the region/partnerships/ consensus	Involvement from groups throughout the MWRC area and project coordination necessary.	07/08
Economic development opportunities.	Promotion of cultural aspects of the region to employers for inclusion in information packages to prospective applicants and markets.	No of companies including info in package. Feedback from companies	Packages prepared and distributed to identified outlets. Info updated regularly to reflect current status.	Current information Needs marketing/economic development/tourism person to maintain.	07/08
Cultural spaces /hubs	Update known options. Identify/ assess / existing hubs / spaces. Broad interpretation of 'space', public / private / indoor / outdoor, permanent / temporary, Identify range of uses, profile local identities. Create awareness of our cultural diversity to our community, new residents and visitors. Focus on specific opportunities.	Publication eg list, current and revived, Measure local awareness demand and supply, press coverage. Website hits, no of requests for the list and to be on the list, participation rates, visitation feedback, no of local events / exhibitions	Person (CDO), phone, time, fax, email, mail, internet, rate notice, promotion and marketing essential. Partnerships with educational institution, Businesses, churches, tourism, TAFE, Promotion inside and outside the region. Promotion locally and externally.	Publication and sponsorship. Cultural Development Officer or other. Info to be kept current Ongoing focus on branding development	07/08
Networks	Identify new opportunities, locally and state wide. Focus on existing information media. Encourage cross regional attendance at functions / events / activities throughout the MWRC area and beyond.	No of opportunities linked into. No of media information options disseminated/distributed No of interregional participants at functions/ events / activities.	Coordination/dissemination function essential (worker) Information accuracy, promotion, follow up	Formal and informal networks as well as coordination function.	

The two main activities undertaken to develop this plan were:

1. Analysis of existing documentation and a desk audit of existing plans (as outlined in the Bibliography), and
2. A review of this combined information in consultation with the Cultural Plan Working Party (CPWP).

These activities included:

- Desk research of existing facilities and programs,
- Analysis of the needs and priorities previously identified to determine their relevance and if new ones have arisen,
- Identification of any gaps in the information that require further research,
- Development of linkages to Council's Management Plan, and
- Development of linkages to tourism and other key economic development strategies.

The main tasks undertaken and work flow involved:

1. Consolidation of all previous documentation/research into one main document,
2. Review of this draft by the Cultural Plan Working Party to assess relevance and highlight gaps,
3. Focus on priority strategies and actions within the context of Council's capacity to deliver amidst competing demands
4. Report presented to Council for review,
5. Public Exhibition for 28 days for public comment,
6. Consideration of any comment and/or feedback, and
7. Adoption of report by Council.

The values and principles outlined below were developed by the CPWP as the most important and relevant to the regional community. They have the important role of driving the cultural vision. They also underpin the objectives and guide the implementation of this plan.

The most important principles or values highlighted by the Working Party include:

Value or Principle	Description
Community Participation	The widest possible involvement of people in the cultural life of their communities.
Creativity/Innovation	Originality, expressiveness and imagination. Value innovation whether it is in activity, technology or concept.
Respect/ Inclusiveness	The Cultural Plan should understand the need to include all sectors of the community, including the Indigenous communities and their cultural aspirations – this will ensure access and equity.
Sustainability/ Resource Sensitive	The plan should be aware of the current financial, facility, management and human resource base for cultural development and be conscious of meeting present and future needs. Sustainability involves ensuring that long-term social, cultural or economic impacts are not outweighed by short-term financial decisions.
Responsive Leadership	The actions of the cultural plan will provide a balance between a proactive leadership role and a reactive responsive role.
Education	Education underpins much individual and community development. Life-long learning and the obvious connection of learning to many aspects of culture is a value that supports many aspects of this plan. Many cultural organizations have a teaching and learning focus to their activities.

Building on these principles and values the vision for the cultural development in the Mid-Western Regional Council area is:

We will preserve and build on the strong cultural foundations in the region and will foster diversity and creativity by:

- Promoting the development of centres and programmes of excellence,
- Encouraging maximum community participation and enjoyment,
- Seeking economic support from various sources to ensure sustainability of cultural activities, and
- Supporting optimum economic development.

Mid-Western Regional Council covers over 9 000 sq km and is made up of four main population centres – Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone. The rest of the population is scattered throughout the region in villages and rural areas. The combined population of the former Mudgee Shire Council and Rylstone Shire is 22289.

The major contributors to the economy include open cut and underground coal mining, grape growing, wine making and related tourism, food production, superfine merino wool growing, sheep and cattle grazing, horse breeding and more recently, olive plantations, venison and alpaca breeding.

This diverse economy and picturesque environment has encouraged the population base to continue to grow. The importance of a rich cultural environment cannot be underestimated, including the heritage of the original residents - the Wiradjuri people. Culture should be considered to be a vital economic driver for attracting new residents to the region.

1. Mid-Western Regional Council in Profile

The Region

- The Mid-Western Regional Council area is located approximately 250km from Sydney in the Central West of NSW. The area covers over 9,000 square kilometres.
- The Mid-Western Regional Council area consists of 100% of the former Mudgee Shire Council, 70% of the former Rylstone Shire Council and 10% of the former Merriwa Shire Council.
- In 2001 the population of the Mid-Western Regional Council area was 21,356, which is an increase of 2% compared to 1996.
- The estimated population of the region in 2003 was 22,289 (ABS Estimated Resident Population Growth 2003).

Labour Force

- There are over 9,000 people in the Mid-Western Regional Council area labour force, of which 59.6% are employed full-time and 29.1% part time.
- The unemployment rate in the region has decreased from 11.5% in 1996 to 8.2% in 2001.
- The Median individual income level in the Mid-Western Regional Council area in 2001 was about \$300-\$399 per week compared to about \$200-\$299 per week in 1996.
- The Australian Taxation office shows the average annual individual taxable income in the region to be \$35,314.

Industry

- The two largest employees in the Mid-Western Regional Council area are the agriculture/forestry/fishing industry (16.3%) and the retail industry (14.5%).
- The largest increase in employment between 1996 and 2001 occurred in the wholesale trade industry (127 jobs).
- The industries in the Mid-Western Regional Council area that experienced growth above NSW and industry averages between 1996 and 2001 were wine manufacturing; sheep-beef cattle farming; and meat wholesaling.

Skills

- The main occupations in the Mid-Western Regional Council area are labourers and related workers (16.2%); managers and administrators (15.5%); and tradespersons and related workers (14.4%).
- The main form of post-school qualifications attained by residents of the Mid-Western Regional Council area is a certificate, which is held by 18.3% of the population.

Services and Facilities

- 4 high schools
- 11 primary schools
- TAFE college
- 3 hospitals
- 14 homes for the aged

Note: Data used in this profile includes 100% of the former Mudgee and Rylstone Shire Councils.

Information contained in this document, at the time of writing, was as current and correct as possible. It is obvious that documents of this nature with inherent objectives and strategies must be based on the most up-to-date information available. This has been done although the age of some data (2001 Census) is noted.

2. Demographics

The 2001 ABS Census figures record a population in the region 50.4% male and 49.6% female.

- Of these people 480 identified themselves as Indigenous, although it is estimated that there are many more indigenous people in the region who did not identify themselves as such in the Census survey.
- 29.3% is under 20 years of age.
- 28.5% is over 55 years of age.
- 2.7% of the population speaks a language other than English at home (see Appendix 2).
- The unemployment rate reported at June 2002 was 5.9% for the former Mudgee Shire area and 7.6% for the former Rylstone Shire area.
- In the 2000/2001 financial year the Australian Tax Office reported that the average individual annual taxable income for people in the Rylstone area was \$36 731 and only \$35 369 for the Mudgee area (ABS National Regional Profile). See Appendix 2 for further details.
- Both areas have over 25% of the population earning less than \$399 per week.

Over 85% of the population of the Region at the 2001 Census were born in Australia compared to 70% of the total NSW population registered as Australian born. The next highest birthplace for the region's residents was the United Kingdom (3.2% of the population) followed by the New Zealand (1%) and Germany (0.4%). Over 30 other countries were listed as the birthplaces for residents of the region.

In recent years the Region has undergone marked demographic changes. "Pepper pot" development now punctuates the rural landscape, smaller more diversified holdings are common and settlers from urban backgrounds have placed new demands on existing services and cultural and recreational resources. As a result, a new and a more diverse cultural milieu is evolving.

3. History

There is a strong sense of history and heritage in the Region and, on the whole, a tradition of preserving, protecting and appreciating built heritage, objects and sites. Each of the major communities has local history museums and well-preserved historic buildings. Organisations such as the National Trust, the Henry Lawson Society, Rylstone Historical Society, Eurunduree School and the numerous museums focus on preserving and promoting local history and knowledge. Council has a dedicated heritage committee (Section 355) to advise Council on heritage-based issues to assist with quality outcomes and solutions within the framework of Council's Management Plan.

In general the community is very conscious of the heritage of the areas and this has significant implications for town, village and rural development.

4. Economy

The region has a strong and diverse economy. This diversity has meant that the area is able to weather downturns in specific economic sectors without disastrous impact on the economy as a whole. The most significant contributor to the economy is coal mining with Ulan Coal at Ulan, Centennial Coal at Charbon and two additional coalmines to commence development in 2006 and 2007 in the north-east of the region.

In addition the grape growing industry supports a dynamic tourism sector with strong weekend visitation. It is estimated that there will be 40 individual cellar doors in operation by the end of 2005. Further significant contributors to the economy include super fine wool production, olive and olive oil production, stud cattle and horse breeding, cheese making, honey production, fish farming, goats, grains and fodders.

The area has a well-established cultural industry with a number of existing private sector galleries and arts and crafts businesses.

5. Education

The Region provides education facilities at primary and secondary level. Each major centre (except Rylstone) offers schooling to Year 12 level and there are a large number of small schools scattered throughout the rural areas.

While tertiary education is offered at TAFE, specific art education opportunities are limited to ceramic courses provided by the Western Institute of TAFE (in Mudgee), and classes delivered by private providers in music, photography, writing, drama, and dance. The Central West Community College offers a limited number of courses which are often more vocational in nature.

Common to many education providers, courses are provided on a full-cost recovery basis sometimes making them unaffordable to the many in the wider community.

Ad-hoc educational opportunities are provided at specific events such as the ceramic-event 'Fire Up Gulgong', a range of courses offered by the University of the Third Age (U3A) in Mudgee and the WEA.

Council has for some time noted a desire to seek an outreach campus from a regional university.

6. Arts & Interest Groups

Almost every artistic interest is represented in the region by a formal or informal group. These groups are often linked to the peak arts council in each area –the Gulgong and Mudgee Arts Councils covering their respective regions. These groups charge a nominal membership fee and organise and promote a wide range of arts events.

Organisations, both formal and informal, carry out specifically targeted programs funded by government bodies and by public donation as well as private ventures. These include the provision of educational opportunities, production of ceramics and sculptures, various works of art, crafts, music, voice and theatre experiences, dance, fine arts, literary pursuits, historical and genealogical research, maintenance of museums and private galleries and studios, cinema, radio, television, internet, news media, library and a wealth of religions. State and local government, local industry, charitable institutions, churches and private individuals provide facilities for the pursuit of these activities (Eales 2004).

The Recreation and Cultural Strategy (GHD Pty Ltd 2003) identified a wide variety of cultural and arts groups in the region:

- Central West Community College
- Gulgong Arts Council
- Gulgong Eisteddfod Committee
- Gulgong Historical Society and Museum
- Gulgong Musical and Dramatical Society
- Henry Lawson Society
- Young People’s Theatre – Gulgong
- Arts Out West
- Ceramics Focus Group
- Friends of Mudgee Library
- Mudgee Historical Society
- Reps School of Dance
- Australian Rural Education Centre (AREC)
- Dance Unlimited
- Mandurah Station Craft Co-operative
- Mudgee Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society
- Mudgee Gulgong Tourist Association
- Mudgee Performing Arts Society
- Mudgee Valley Writers Inc.
- Mudgee Wine & Grape Grower’s Association
- Red Hill Environment Education Centre
- Rotary Art Prize Committee
- Western Institute of TAFE

This list can be supplemented with:

- University of Third Age,
- NSW National Parks & wildlife Service,
- Youth – PCYC and Youth Café ,
- Bands – including cadets, rock, brass and Salvation Army,
- Rylstone Museum and Kandos Museum,
- Rylstone and District Historical Society,
- Rylstone and District Environment Society – does work on beautifying the district such as the Rylstone Hospital gardens,
- Wollemi Children’s Creative Arts Committee,
- Informal basket weaving workshops at the Badger Ground Nursery,
- Private spinning and weaving groups,
- Horticulture – open gardens programmes and gardening groups, and
- Schools – the schools of the area have a strong arts and culture focus and actively participate in arts and musical event such as the Gulgong Eisteddfod.

7. Events

The region has an extensive events calendar:

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicans Punters Challenge
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rylstone Show • Violins & Vines Concert
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudgee Show • Gulgong Show • Bylong Mouse Races • Mudfest Film Festival
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Violins & Vines Concert • Gooree Cup Races • Mudgee “Built Environment” Exhibition
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gulgong Eisteddfod • Ferntree Gully Bush Croquet – Rylstone • Rylstone Colonial Feast - Bridgeview Inn

June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Lawson Festival - Gulgong • Gulgong Gold Cup Races • Rylstone Beanie Day
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudgee Small Farm Field Days • Children's Art Workshops in Kandos
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characters of Mudgee Portrait exhibition • Violins & Vines Concert • Mudgee Wine & Food Fair, Balmoral Beach • Wollemi Creative Children's Arts Exhibition
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wine Celebration • AWB Wine Festival races • Mudgee Wine Celebration Stampede
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gemkhana • Long Weekend race meeting • Violins & Vines Concert • Cox Plate Race Day
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Day on the Green Concert, Poets Corner • Violins & Vines Concert • Huntington Music Festival Prelude weekend • Rylstone Street Feast • Huntington Music Festival
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemount Mudgee Cup Races • Christmas in Mudgee Street Carnival • Gulgong Folk Festival • Waste to Art Competition

In addition a myriad of art exhibitions, concerts, markets and other sources of entertainment are held on a one-off or irregular basis.

A more comprehensive events calendar is included in Appendix 5

8. Facilities

Of significance was the establishment of a Community Cultural Centre in Mudgee (popularly known as "The Stables" because of its history and original use) in 1995. This has provided a venue for more than 50 exhibitions of arts and crafts, as well as a meeting place for many cultural groups and premises to hold their indoor events.

The establishment of the Community Cultural Centre - The Stables involved a robust partnership between Council, TAFE and Community groups. Artists and cultural groups can rent the facility for their activities for a reduced rate.

Mudgee Arts Council, local artists and many non arts-oriented groups use the venue extensively. Demand for gallery space now outstrips resources offered by Community Cultural Centre - The Stables. Records show that, since 1991 over 10,000 school children have attended exhibitions held by the local Arts Councils (Eales, 2004).

GHD Pty Ltd (2003) found that various community and church halls located throughout the Shire represented a valuable asset base, and possibly the main cultural facilities of the region at the present time. These community meeting places vary from small local halls to more significant facilities.

The Community Cultural Centre (The Stables) in Mudgee, the Memorial Hall in Gulgong, the Rylstone and Kandos Halls are the larger community centres in the region. The Community Cultural Centre (The Stables) in particular, is well used. Cultural activities undertaken in these facilities include exhibitions, workshops, displays, art classes, band practice, dramatic performances and discussions.

Schools throughout the region offer opportunities for communities to use facilities (such as school halls and classrooms) to varying degrees.

The other main cultural facilities located within the region include:

- The Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos Libraries;
- Mudgee Town Hall Theatre and Prince of Wales Opera House; and
- Local history museums in Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone.

The Regent Theatre cinema in Mudgee is also a popular social venue.

Membership of local libraries continue to exhibit strong growth trends in membership numbers and borrowing trends:

- 411 new members joined the Library in the September quarter 2005, taking membership to 9,989
- Loans totalled 42,660 during the September quarter 2005, a 5% increase on the previous year.
- Visitation to the library also increased by 6% compared to the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

These figures include the Kandos branch which became a member of the Mid-Western Regional Council Library Service in July 2005.

More detailed library membership statistics are contained in Appendix 6.

Additionally, the region has a wide variety of cultural and artistic groups using the following facilities on a regular basis:

GROUP	FACILITY
Arts Council of Gulgong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorial Hall Annex • Memorial Hall • Uniting Church Hall • Saint & Sinners Café • The Pantry Café
Friends of the Mid-Western Regional Council Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudgee Library • The Stables • Council Office, Gulgong
Mudgee Arts Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Hall Theatre • Stables • Library • Uniting Church Hall • Settlers Antiques • Huntington House music room
Mandurah Studio Co-op Ltd	Studio in Mudgee Railway station
Mudgee Performing Arts Inc	Mudgee Town Hall Theatre
ADFAS	Cudgegong Valley Public School
Gulgong High Visual Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photography room at high school • Visual arts room at High school
Mudgee Historical Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonial Museum • Community Cultural Centre - The Stables
Rylstone & District Historical Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bridgeview Inn, Rylstone • Industrial Museum, Kandos
Gulgong Historical Society	Pioneers Museum, Gulgong
Gulgong Musical & Dramatic Society	Prince of Wales Opera House
Private Music Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private homes • Schools • Church halls • Gulgong Opera House

Private facilities offering venues for cultural activities (eg exhibition space, meeting rooms), include:

- Cafes and coffee shops in Mudgee, Gulgong and Rylstone providing exhibition space for sale of artists' products,
- Schools and church halls,
- Shop windows and retail outlets,
- Wineries providing exhibition space for sale of artists' products,
- Private artists studios and galleries,
- Clubs/motels with meeting/function rooms available,
- Cudgegong House Gallery, Gulgong and
- Poets Corner grounds for events such as Day On The Green.

The arts community can also access regional arts facilities such as the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Dubbo Regional Gallery, the Mitchell Conservatorium of Music, Orange Regional Gallery and Regional Music Conservatoria, and inter-library loans. Further a field, people can access a broad range of arts and cultural activities in metropolitan areas such as Sydney.

From the survey work carried out by GHD Pty Ltd in the compilation of the Recreation and Cultural Strategy they found that:

- There are a large number of community and church halls located throughout the region, particularly within the town of Mudgee. The most popular of these facilities is the Community Cultural Centre (The Stables), which, as a result of its flexibility, central location, high quality, newness, and the availability of supporting facilities (such as easy parking and a good kitchen), receives high levels of use,
- The theatres and libraries, in Mudgee in particular, are well used and popular. Young people in both Mudgee and Gulgong reported that the cinema in Mudgee is one of the most popular recreation destinations, and
- There is no permanent public/regional art gallery located within the region. The main facilities available for the display of local art are:
 - Those made available by private premises such as cafes and wineries;
 - At the Mandurah Arts and Crafts co-op;
 - A room in the Gulgong Town Hall (used for exhibition of local ceramic art);
 - No. 47 in Rylstone,
 - Booking one of the community halls (for example, one of the rooms at Community Cultural Centre (The Stables)), and
 - The Mudgee Club Ltd.

A summary of comments and key issues with respect to the supply of typical cultural facilities is outlined below:

General facility type	Name of facility	Comments/key issues
Libraries	Mudgee Library Gulgong Library Kandos Library	The libraries, in Mudgee in particular, are well used and popular. Visiting the library is one of the most popular cultural activities undertaken by the broader community (in terms of levels of participation). The existing facilities in Mudgee are considered inadequate in terms of the level of demand. Space available at the Mudgee library is inadequate for additional activities such as meeting rooms, exhibitions, expansion of the library collection etc. The library is considered to have outgrown its current facility. There is reasonably strong demand for expansion of the facility, either by extension/renovation, or by development of a new facility. The Gulgong Library is housed with the Council Office, the Regional Ceramics Gallery and

General facility type	Name of facility	Comments/key issues
		<p>the Small Towns Co-ordinator. Tourism services and Centrelink communication facilities are also delivered through this small building on Herbert Street. The current space occupied by the library collection is very limiting and there is little space for reading, studying or for the delivery of storytelling or other services.</p> <p>Building improvements at Kandos have recently been completed, and offer significantly enhanced services to the public. A recent review and replacement of obsolete stock has received very favourable comments from customers.</p>
Theatre/performance space	Town Hall Theatre, Mudgee Memorial Hall and Prince of Wales Opera House, Gulgong, Rylstone Town Hall and Kandos Town Hall	<p>Facilities providing space for theatre productions/performances are available in both Mudgee, Gulgong and Rylstone. Some issues were raised with regard to these facilities, including heating, air conditioning, raked auditoria floors, seating, flying, acoustics, a system to lift heavy equipment at the Mudgee Town Hall theatre. Some improvements to the quality of facilities at Memorial Hall in Gulgong were also identified.</p> <p>The Twin Town Players base themselves at the main halls in Rylstone and Kandos.</p>
Art galleries/exhibition areas	-	<p>There is no permanent public/regional art gallery located within the region. The only facilities available for the display of local art have been detailed previously.</p> <p>The demand for a permanent public gallery and collection together with temporary hanging, exhibition and storage space was identified. It was suggested that such a gallery could be either a stand-alone facility, or provided in conjunction with other community facilities including art/craft workrooms.</p>
Formal gardens	-	The parks in Mudgee and Gulgong could be considered to fulfil this role adequately.
Local history museums	Colonial Inn Museum Mudgee Gulgong Pioneer Museum The Henry Lawson Centre Kandos Industrial Museum Rylstone & District Historical Society Cottage Museum	The local history museums are important cultural facilities as well as visitor attractions in the Shire. The history and heritage of the LGA in general, and the two main towns in particular, is an important part of the cultural resources of the region. These resources exist not just in the museums, but also in the built heritage of the two main towns. Interpretation of the region's cultural heritage, beyond that provided by the museums is limited.

General facility type	Name of facility	Comments/key issues
Multi-purpose community facilities	Community Cultural centre - The Stables, Mudgee Memorial Hall, Gulgong	These are the only true multi-purpose community facilities in the region. The Community Cultural centre - The Stables in particular receives high levels of use. The demand for an additional multi-purpose facility in Mudgee, similar to the Community Cultural centre - The Stables, was identified during consultation. It was suggested that this facility could include meeting/workshop rooms and other community uses (such as a new library, art gallery or expanded visitor information centre).
Outdoor amphitheatres	-	None available.
Cinema	The Regent Theatre, Mudgee	
Band Rotundas	Robertson Park, Mudgee, Anzac Rotunda Gulgong and Bicentennial Park Kandos	
Markets	Gulgong Showground; CWA Hall, and Coronation Park. Mudgee Lawson Park and St Johns Church and Farmer's Market at St Mary's Mudgee. Rylstone Church Markets.	

9. Activities

The most popular activities undertaken by organised cultural groups (based on responses to the cultural groups survey) are:

- Arts (general);
- Lectures/education;
- Theatre/musicals/concerts;
- Historical research and celebration;
- Art and craft; and
- Library services (GHD Pty Ltd).

10. Council's Acquisition Policy

Council has a policy (developed by the former Mudgee Shire Council) outlining the procedures for the collection and maintenance of ceramic art purchased and managed by Council. This policy is to be reviewed by 31 March 2006.

Council also has a small collection of paintings and other artworks acquired from acquisitive art prizes and by donation in previous years.

Activities, in addition to direct financial support, during this period have included:

- Provision of sales support for artists selling their work through the Gulgong Ceramics Gallery,

- Development of a data base for cultural planning Administrative support for the Cultural Development Committee,
- Arts exhibitions for Seniors Week,
- Maintenance of Council owned Heritage facilities, and
- Distribution of Councillor's Discretionary funds to cultural programs/projects.
- Support for the Wollembi Children's Creative Arts Exhibition

Council provides infrastructure for the storage of exhibition equipment such as plinths, mountings and refreshment facilities. It also houses a publicly owned art collection in the Mudgee library and maintains a publicly owned ceramics collection (Eales, 2004).

In the past both the former Mudgee and Rylstone Councils had been financial contributors to the activities of Arts Out West. These relationships were severed a number of years ago.

11. Event Based Tourism

According to GHD Pty Ltd, Council has a role to play with respect to enhancing the popularity of the region in terms of large events and festivals. Important considerations include the need for a large multi purpose ('regional level') facility with adequate support facilities to cater for regional events/carnivals. The availability of other facilities for event participants and their families also needs to be considered to maximise the length of stay in the local area, and the potential for return visits.

Current proposals for a cultural precinct, improving access to the river, improving access to natural areas, potential for an indoor pool and art gallery all need to be considered with this in mind (GHD Pty Ltd, 2003).

Mudgee-Gulgong Tourism Inc gathers comprehensive data relating to visitation to the region. A selection of information is displayed in Appendix 8 outlining seasonal trends, raw numbers and visitor origin.

12. Cultural Industries

Regional businesses, retailers and educational institutions provide a significant range of services and employment associated with cultural activities:

- Printing;
- Picture framers and Conservation Services;
- Publishing and Design;
- Film and video services;
- Radio and television services;
- Video hire outlets;
- Photographic studios;
- Sound recording studios;
- Suppliers of products for use in art and craft;
- Retail outlets for art, craft, recorded music, photographic equipment, books, film;
- Venue operators (licensed pubs and clubs);
- Accommodation;
- Cafes;
- Restaurants;
- Media organisations;
- Photographic film processing;
- Computer services;
- Legal and financial services; and
- Equipment sales, hire and repair (technicians).

13. State & National Cultural Trends

The NSW Ministry of the Arts has identified a number of important cultural trends impacting museums, libraries, cultural funding, employment etc.

These has been summarised in Appendix 9.

There have been a number of cultural initiatives throughout the region. The emergence of small, private art galleries, an A Capella choir, skateboard competitions, graffiti workshops at the skatepark, and establishment of a skatepark in Gulgong are all contributing to expand the cultural fabric of the Region.

In addition the establishment of the Murong Gialinga Aboriginal Group and the Aboriginal Land Council as well as the Mudgee Aboriginal Community Cooperative has provided an important acknowledgement towards the recognition of Aboriginal peoples in the area.

Over the last 8 years local government bodies have made tangible commitments to improving the cultural life of its citizens (Eales, 2004).

Mudgee Recreation and Cultural Strategy

In order to continue the initiatives already set in motion in recent years and because of a proactive approach to planning, in 2002 the former Mudgee Shire Council commissioned a comprehensive study of recreation and cultural facilities, activities and community needs and the subsequent preparation of the *Mudgee Shire Recreation and Cultural Strategy*. The report made recommendations in the areas of management and maintenance, communication and co-ordination, equity of opportunity, and in facility development and improvement.

Council has subsequently provided administrative support to cultural planning activities, the formation of a Cultural Development Committee, a cultural database and has expanded the role of the Community Liaison officer to provide on-going monthly publicity (via e-mail and other media) regarding cultural events both local and external, information on available grants and general culturally orientated news (Eales, 2004).

Indigenous Community

As more people identify themselves as of Aboriginal origin, the area has been able to attract a more comprehensive range of services on a visiting basis as well as the establishment of a number of local Aboriginal organizations.

Visiting services include:

- An Indigenous Customer Service Officer from Centrelink,
- A Field Officer from the Birrang Enterprise Development Company - a regional Community Development Employment Programme, and
- Male and female Aboriginal Sexual Health Workers from the Greater Western Area Health Service based in Dubbo.

Local Aboriginal Organisations include the:

- Mudgee Aboriginal Community Co-operative Limited,
- Mudgee Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Group,
- Mudgee Local Aboriginal Land Council, and
- Murong Gialinga Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation

An Aboriginal Community Working Party is also being established which will work with the Indigenous Coordination Centre (formerly ATSIC).

Community consultation work has been carried out in 2000 and 2001 as part of the development of a Social Plan for the former Mudgee Shire and in 2003 as part of GHD's research for the Recreation and Cultural Strategy. An interim Social Plan was developed in 2005. This document will be finalised in 2006 and encompass the Mid-Western Regional Council LGA.

GHD Pty Ltd (2003) found that culture as a whole is becoming an increasingly important part of the region as a whole. This is influenced by:

- The Region's history and heritage;
- Changing demographic patterns (for example people moving or retiring to the region for lifestyle reasons from Sydney and expecting cultural opportunities and activities);
- The number of artists who live in the area (including for example, the ceramic artists who live around Gulgong, and various painters who live in the Region); and
- The increasing number of tourists/visitors to the Region, including the weekend holiday market.

These factors are all leading to increases in the demand for recognition of the importance of culture in the life of the community. Other aspects include the Mudgee and Gulgong Arts Councils, with approximately 380 members.

The main community demands expressed during the study included:

- Council's role in the coordination and provision of cultural facilities, including the need for a cultural planning officer/coordinator to assist with grants, funding applications, coordination and promotion of activities, and the provision of facilities;
- Demands with respect to particular facilities – both new and/or upgraded facilities;
- Need for recognition of Aboriginal culture; and
- Provision of interpretation of the region's cultural heritage for both locals and visitors, in conjunction with the ongoing improvements to the town centre.

As part of the research for 2005 Social Plan a Community Survey was developed and distributed to agencies, organisations, businesses and individuals across the former Mudgee Shire Council area over a six-month period from November 2003 to April 2004.

The survey was designed to provide an indication of community attitudes to a range of identified social issues.

An estimated 1500 surveys were distributed. A total of 436 responses were received - this represents a 29% return rate.

Survey participants were asked to identify the three responses from a list of alternatives that best represented their answer to the question "What are the best things about living here?" This question was posed to provide an indication of what the former Mudgee Shire Council and community agencies are doing well.

The majority responses were:

- Quiet rural lifestyle – 292 responses
- A safe environment - 186 responses
- A sense of community – 186 responses
- Facilities ie good shops, restaurants, roads – 120 responses

The 2004 Recreation and Cultural Study identifies a number of cultural needs expressed by the community:

- Need for a comprehensive cultural infrastructure and appropriate management structure to implement practices and procedures concerning the arts and the region's heritage. This has involved provision and co-ordination of cultural opportunities, activities and facilities and has implications for research and development regarding libraries, theatres and galleries in particular.
- Need for better youth services, especially youth disadvantaged by poverty or distance. It was considered generally desirable that such initiatives be "owned" by youth itself rather than imposed by authority. Improvements to swimming pools, public transport between communities, bicycle tracks, coaching and facilities specifically for youth were emphasised. Social and cultural venues and activities involving youth should embody a substantial consultation component.
- Need to consider the recreation and cultural requirements of an ageing population. This has implications for policy development on issues such as public transport, walking tracks, library facilities and arts and crafts.
- The appointment of a Cultural Development staff has been raised by community groups and individuals as being an integral part of cultural planning initiatives in the region.
- The study highlighted the lack of suitable facilities for a broad range of cultural activities. These have been discussed in detail in the Facilities section of Section 6.

As noted previously, culture as a whole is becoming an increasingly important part of the community, reflected by increasing levels of demand for recognition of the importance of culture in the life of the community, as well as involvement in groups such as the Mudgee and Gulgong Arts Councils.

Many of the community demands expressed during the study related to Council's role in the coordination and provision of cultural opportunities, activities and facilities. The need for a cultural planning officer/coordinator to assist with grants, funding applications, coordination and promotion of activities, and the allocation of facilities should be considered in this regard. This would be a key step in Council responding to the increasing importance of culture within the Shire, and the need for it to take a strong lead role in this regard. The cultural planning officer could also guide the implementation of other priorities, identified below.

Other issues identified from document review/desk research and from the discussion with the Cultural Plan Working Party include:

- financial viability/sustainability,
- arts as an economic contributor,
- wide spread population base within the region – with definite communities. How to provide equitable access to services and facilities,
- Perceptions by Council, council staff and public in terms of the contribution of culture to social, economic and community fabric could be viewed as barriers to effective integration of cultural development with other planning processes.
- Visiting art exhibitions from organisations such as the Mitchell Library and Canberra have ceased due to insurance and limited facilities,
- The relationship between Council and existing arts bodies within the region and those significant arts bodies external to the region such as Arts Out West, the Australia Council and the NSW Ministry of the Arts,
- Focus on indigenous culture and needs,
- Focus on 'whole of the community' rather than the main urban centres and the Mid-Western Regional Council area as a whole,
- Access to cultural activities – transport, financial and physical access for an aging population. Need to be more inclusive, and
- Affirmative action for certain parts of the population eg indigenous and youth.

This section captures the issues and strategies that are also considered valuable however may not be achievable in the short-term. It is a compilation of the issues and strategies detailed in each of the documents reviewed in the desk audit as well as new strategies developed by the Cultural Plan Working Party.

As the implementation of the Cultural Plan progresses, or as the availability of funds improves, the issues and strategies in this section may move up the scale of importance.

The list is not exhaustive or exclusive.

A. COMMUNITY CULTURE/PEOPLE: CDC, ARTS COUNCILS?

Foster and encourage participation in cultural activity independent of age, ability, cultural background, geographic location or any other point of difference.

Strategy	Tasks
<p>1. Promote and raise awareness of the cultural life of the community.</p>	<p>Ensure the public is aware of cultural activities through wide promotion of activities. Commence a dialogue across the community and develop processes of inclusion to develop an open society. Co-ordinate cultural communication via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Newsletter b. Media – guest columnist in local newspapers c. Regular emails to opt-in mailing list. d. Website e. Tourist Office f. School newsletters and encourage school participation g. Workshops in PR h. Focus on artists etc in residence i. Radio interviews and articles in national media – cultural magazines j. Profiles of artists k. A brochure l. Cultural directory m. Helping artists to promote themselves n. Linkages to other events and programs o. Maintain a central database of cultural practitioners, projects, venues, funding and volunteer opportunities p. Use Tourist Office as a point of cultural contact. q. Organise a cultural forum on a 6-monthly or yearly basis to allow information exchange between various local and regional cultural groups.
<p>2. Harness community knowledge</p>	<p>Our changing society requires creative responses to opportunities and challenges. Being a small community unless we look outward we will become less aware of ideas and interested beyond our region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage development of networks and partnerships with local government, state and federal governments and the private sector. b. Develop a calendar of events for use by locals as well as visitors to the region. c. Create opportunities for regular community learning forums
<p>3. Encourage participation in cultural activities</p>	<p>Develop a range of activities to appeal to all sectors of the community, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Workshops b. Competitions c. Fireworks d. Significant art prizes and exhibitions e. Involve arts in Seniors, Youth, Heritage, NAIDOC Weeks f. Encourage representation from 'special needs' groups on the Cultural Development Committee. g. Provide subsidized places for cultural training for people with disabilities or economically disadvantaged.

Strategy	Tasks
4. Encourage the involvement and participation of the indigenous community in cultural events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Utilise community consultation and affirmative action process to involve indigenous people. b. Appoint a specific contact person in council for indigenous projects c. Ensure Indigenous cultural development aspiration in the Cultural plan. d. Acknowledge Indigenous cultures in consultation with Aboriginal people. e. Define the place or role of indigenous culture in our region. f. In consultation with the aboriginal people publicly support the local aboriginal art community g. Use cultural activities to promote reconciliation and coming together as one community. h. Facilitate the sharing of resources and knowledge of indigenous culture - Consult directly with the indigenous community on appropriate aspects of indigenous culture to be disseminated more widely (and those aspects and sites which should be preserved as secret/sacred) such as already underway in relation to roadworks. i. Link with MWRC Social Plan. j. Encourage and support indigenous art exhibitions. The above can be done by all groups!!
5. Encourage the involvement and participation of the youth community in cultural events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cultural activities/events be promoted as part of Council's Youth Services commitment, and built into the role of a potential youth worker. b. Support organizations who are providing/running youth cultural activities such as the Rylstone Children's Creative Arts Committee and assistance with grant applications. c. Identify the needs of Mid West Region youth and encourage and support establishment of cultural programs to meet their needs d. Support regional youth concerts and consider performance needs of youth. e. Link with MWRC Social Plan.
6. Identify the needs of Mid-Western Regional seniors and encourage and support establishment of cultural programs to meet their needs.	

B. FACILITIES

To enrich the Community with Improved Access to Cultural Assets and Resources.

Strategy	Tasks
1. Enrich the cultural environment of the region by providing a focus for the promotion and advancement of literary, visual and performing arts and lifestyle activities in ways which connect directly to the expressed needs of the community.	a. Co-ordination of existing public infrastructure and the design and development of new elements to produce a functional and dynamic cultural milieu.
2. Make cultural amenities and services more attractive and accessible to the general community.	a. Foster interaction and interface between individuals and groups so that citizens of all ages and lifestyles may continue to broaden their concepts of culture and increase their involvement in cultural activities. b. Undertake scheduled maintenance of public buildings to ensure their accessibility and appropriateness for cultural events. c. Consult with users to ensure the appropriateness of any new or proposed cultural infrastructure.
3. To continue to acquire and maintain a permanent collection of visual art that will enable any Gallery facility to showcase the skills of artists that interpret local themes and culture.	a. Investigate funding sources for purchase and maintenance. b. Foster a Gallery facility as a tourist attraction, capitalizing on the unique appeal of the site to provide stimulating interest and variety for visitors and to realize a greater direct financial gain through entry fees and shop sales. c. Maintain the traditional sources of funding and obtain additional funding for the provision of Gallery services. d. Increase value-added services on a user-pays basis. e. Develop and continue partnership activities with other like-minded institutions for mutual benefit.
4. To encourage a general appreciation of Australian visual art, and raise awareness of the impact of it on humanity.	a. Hold quality exhibitions, b. Promote informative workshops, c. Distribute publications and d. the provision of the highest quality interpretation and information as dictated by public demand.
5. To conduct and coordinate cultural and educational activities and temporary exhibitions associated with art for children, students and the general public.	
6. To provide access to the permanent Gallery collection archives as a study resource for arts students of all ages.	
7. Regular strong support for museums in the region.	a. Determine current and future needs of museums b. Direct funding from appropriate sources c. Make training available to museum curators and researchers d. Development and maintenance of museums
8. Translate space into place - Cultural projects can build a sense of community by involving artists, performers, designers, historians, architects and planners by telling the story of the place and the people. Projects can be involved in general public works and the development of urban precincts, streetscapes and developing community pride.	a. Encourage public and private sectors to develop place-making projects. b. Encourage a place-making concept into Council's developments and interpretation of sites in such areas as parks, gardens, streetscapes and heritage sites. c. Allocate a percentage of council capital expenditure into a cultural component. d. Investigate a cultural development levy on new commercial development in the region or a special levy on residential rates. Council can only do this within the rate pegging limits

Strategy	Tasks
9. Understand cultural impact and cultural aspects if the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Undertake cultural impact statements on development sites b. Conduct a cultural impact study on new buildings and preservation of old buildings. c. Assess the cultural impact on planning process. d. Include community of interest in cultural impact statements. e. Cultural and aesthetic aspects – building and conserving the environment and care for the land. f. Establish a register of Mid Western Region’s significant natural and built cultural assets g. Establish database such as North Sydney Council’s Register which includes important sites, buildings and trees/ rocks /watercourses etc h. Identify opportunities for environmental interpretation by artists of the region i. Develop a series of interpretive trails or sites which artist may prepare appropriate artworks
10. To establish a cultural heritage strategy to endorse the work of museums and heritage groups and encourage further development within the cultural tourism initiative.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The cultural heritage strategy will provide a focus for the listing, preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the region throughout the ages and will co-ordinate the resources of historians, researchers and custodians of collections and information bases. b. Seek input from heritage committee and Arts Councils. c. Develop a heritage database in support and in conjunction with LEP /development applications. d. Develop a linked program between Council’s Heritage Committee and local history and heritage groups to deliver a local heritage Plan Heritage study completed 2005, inc database
11. Develop a communications tool kit to educate and inform the community on local biodiversity Project funding through Red Hill?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with the Red Hill Centre to evaluate the current communication material available b. Work with local artists, schools and environment and conservation groups to identify and design a range of communication material. c. Develop a marketing strategy for land users, recreational participants and professional or trade services users on local environment protection, preservation and conservation of local biodiversity. d. Work together with National Parks and Wildlife and other key agencies to identify appropriate points of distribution and promotion

C. NETWORKS

To encourage the exploration, development and nurturing of relationships with the private and public sector regionally, nationally and internationally.

Strategy	Tasks
1. Export of our art and culture	a. Network everywhere to exchange ideas and encourage visitation to region and from region b. Rejoin Arts out West and similar cultural facilitative associations c. Invite State and Federal cultural funding officers to visit and experience the region's cultural offerings, programs and facilities with a view to tapping support, advice, expertise. d. Establish cultural exchanges and relationships with participants in MWRC's Sister City programme.
2. Use arts resource bodies for the development of workshops and general cultural development eg NPWS, National Trust, Museums Australia, RGA, Museums and Galleries Foundation NSW, NSW Ministry of the Arts, Australia Council, RAHS	
3. Further support the concept of mounting art and cultural displays in shop windows.	
4. Marketing opportunities for cultural activities be explored in conjunction with tourism opportunities.	a. Develop and collate materials interpreting/promoting MWR cultural heritage (both in terms of its people and its built heritage). b. Install interpretative plaques on historic buildings in Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone. c. Design Cultural Heritage and Tourism Trail' involving a printed map with numbered references to significant cultural and tourist sites in region including natural, indigenous and built historic/cultural sites, individual buildings, and commercial tourist attractions all linked to interpretative information. Information on Aboriginal culture, signage etc, provided in consultation with the Aboriginal community. d. An 'arts trail' involving a printed map with references to artists' studios where visitors can buy arts/craft/products – similar to a wine trail. e. Information the local wine industry, including a display with historic information, information on individual wineries, types of wine, grape growing and wine production etc. f. Explore ways of leveraging off the recognised high class local ceramics industry to promote culture and the arts in the region and in its marketing efforts. g. Capitalise on the region's natural and artificially created features to further promote the lucrative tourist trade. The region's geographic location, lakes, mountains, views, climate and facilities should be exploited further e.g. promotion of the village atmosphere of various districts so as to present what is unique and will enhance local pride and prosperity at the macro level. h. Marketing of visual and performing arts events i. Marketing heritage events, features and programs. Advertising in all available media j. Link all the Region's saleable characteristics (geographic location, lakes, mountains, historic village atmosphere various districts, cultural and rural products and industries) into coordinated and focused marketing tools , k. Ensure currency of materials and information in Visitor Information Centre and especially on its website and interactive info tools Project funding?

Strategy	Tasks
5. Celebrate our arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Promote activities that allow participants and audiences to participate and celebrate our arts. This may be as small as buskers in the streets to major productions. b. Promote cultural development in literature, architecture, design and information technology as well as the traditional art and performing arts. c. Market and promote an annual program of cultural activities. All groups
6. Support emerging industries and optimum economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tap the great variety of talents on offer eg indigenous art, music and dance/drama, concerts, theme exhibitions etc b. Search for what is culturally diverse and saleable eg. Waste-to-art c. Link such talents to industry wherever possible eg. Film and television d. Encourage industries to see themselves as stakeholders in the arts. (Huntington Estate is a prime example of such success) e. Develop an awards program that recognises all areas of economic diversity including cultural heritage

D. GENERAL

A key driver of cultural development in the region is to ensure the financial sustainability of the region whilst supporting and developing creativity. The Cultural Plan Working Party is mindful of the need for a strong private sector role in the cultural industry whether by way of direct financial investment or leadership, but all strengthening the natural evolution of the cultural community.

No specific objective was defined for this section. The strategies below did not fit neatly into the above three objectives but were deemed important and relevant enough to capture here.

Strategy	Tasks
1. Support local talent through policies and promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Facilitate an initial planning forum with key groups including relevant Societies (eg, Historical/Dramatic), representatives of the artistic community, and key leaders. b. Cultural Development Committee (CDC) help guide the activities and priorities of any future Cultural Development Personnel (proposed that CDC meet quarterly) c. Council institute a small grants program to support cultural groups – with decisions being informed by consultation with a representative CDC. Comes under existing financial assistance program d. Explore distribution of information about cultural activities/opportunities concurrently with initiatives to improve information about community services. Can be done via monthly email, providing info is received e. Identify funding opportunities relating to the arts, tourism and culture, and develop proposals in response. f. Provide the community with timely and effective communications which delivers the information the community needs and wants to know g. Identify/appoint a Council staff member and/or Councillor to champion the development of arts and culture in the region and influence internal Council operation in support of the arts. Needs to come from community
2. Develop a comprehensive Public Art policy and procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Council to investigate public art policies of other Councils in NSW and adapt for MWRC. b. Use existing policy models eg. Ceramics to develop other relevant cultural policies.
3. Clarify Council's role in cultural development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase the awareness of the structure and responsibilities of Council in the cultural process. b. Clarify points of entry for citizens into council process in relation to cultural matters. c. Council to develop innovative ways to encourage citizens to understand the workings of council and its role in cultural development c. Encourage Council's future objectives to include support of local talent through provision of Capital Works, material resources, policies encouraging participation in cultural activities; and initiating Cultural Programs of Excellence. d. Develop a programme of financial support and promotion of cultural activities. e. MWRC to develop a cultural budget and include in annual planning process.

It is important that this Cultural Plan is linked with the Mid-Western Regional Council Management Plan and Social Plan.

The key to success is to identify:

- who will do it?
- who will fund it?
- who has the ultimate responsibility for success?

It is proposed that the implementation of the Cultural Plan will be overseen by the Cultural Development Committee (CDC), which will continue to provide policy advice to Council's project management team and assist with the implementation of the plan.

The implementation of the Plan will always be subject to resources and priorities identified in relation to Council functions. This Plan aims to set out on a path of achievable steps, in order to proceed to future developments. The role of the Cultural Development Committee can be to promote and participate in a coordinated approach to cultural development throughout the Shire.

The CDC appointed by Council may comprise of up to three (3) representatives of each of the art/cultural communities in Gulgong, Rylstone/Kandos and Mudgee together with two (2) delegates from the Council.

The appointment of Cultural Development personnel is considered to be an essential element in the long term implementation and achievement of the proposals in the Cultural Plan. A copy of the Terms of Reference for the CDC is included in Appendix 10.

The role of Cultural Development personnel will include the development of policies relating to cultural development, and provide advice to groups and individuals on draft funding submissions to assist the development of new cultural initiatives throughout the Shire (Eales, 2004).

The Cultural Plan will be reviewed annually, in line with the Management Plan in order that appropriate budgetary commitments and accountabilities can be considered.

Any changes to the directions contained within the Cultural Plan will be determined within the context of Council's overall operations, and the implications on Council's budget.

Annual objectives from the Cultural Plan will be contained within the Management Plan and be reported on as part of the mandatory quarterly review of the Management Plan.

It is proposed that the Cultural Development Committee play an active role in the monitoring and evaluation of the Plan.

It is anticipated that further consultation be carried out in the future after implementation of this plan and the community has observed the results/implementation of the outcomes from previous consultation processes.

APPENDIX 1**CULTURAL PLAN WORKING PARTY MEMBERSHIP**

Mr Dan Power
Ms Connie Eales
Mr James Loneragan
Ms Ida Bateman
Ms Kate Williams
Mrs Lee Paine
Mrs Joan Tamburini
Ms Sandy Smith
Mr Colin Jones
Mr Mike Williams
Mrs Lyn Cole
Ms Aleshia Lonsdale
Mrs Sue Pridmore
Ms Virginia Handmer
Mrs Tracey Evans

Groups represented include:

- Mudgee Arts Council
- Gulgong community
- Gulgong Historical Society
- Aboriginal Community
- Rylstone/Kandos community
- Mudgee community
- Mudgee Historical Society
- Henry Lawson Society
- Ex-Councillors
- Artists and craftspeople
- Cudgegong Gallery

APPENDIX 2

ABS DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

Median Weekly Incomes 2001

Location	Individual	Family	Household
Rylstone	\$200-299	\$600-699	\$400-499
Mudgee	\$300-399	\$700-799	\$600-699
NSW	\$300-599	\$1 000 – 1 499	-

Source: ABS Regional Profile 2002 & 2001 Community Profile

Languages Spoken At Home (Other than English)

Language	Mudgee	Rylstone	Total	%
Arabic	13	0	13	0.06
Cantonese	28	9	37	0.17
Croatian	17	3	20	0.09
French	20	0	20	0.09
German	50	13	63	0.29
Greek	18	0	18	0.08
Hungarian	10	0	10	0.05
Italian	30	17	47	0.22
Japanese	0	3	3	0.01
Korean	3	0	3	0.01
Maltese	20	3	23	0.11
Mandarin	6	0	6	0.03
Dutch	15	6	21	0.10
Persian	3	0	3	0.01
Polish	6	12	18	0.08
Portuguese	3	0	3	0.01
Russian	12	6	18	0.08
Serbian	6	0	6	0.03
Sinhalese	0	8	8	0.04
South Slavic	5	0	5	0.02
Spanish	39	0	39	0.18
Tagalog (Filipino)	20	0	20	0.09
Turkish	7	0	7	0.03
Vietnamese	6	0	6	0.03

Source: ABS 2001 Census

Recently the Mudgee Aboriginal Cooperative have commenced a language project to reintroduce indigenous languages to local school children of all nationalities.

APPENDIX 3

CULTURAL WORKING PARTY PRIORITY STRATEGIES

The Strategy/Action Plan contained below was proposed by the Cultural Plan Working Party and formed the basis for the final Action Plan listed in Section 3 of this Cultural Plan.

A. COMMUNITY CULTURE/PEOPLE:

Foster and encourage participation in cultural activity independent of age, ability, cultural background, geographic location or any other point of difference

Strategy	Tasks	Timing	Groups Responsible:	Funding Sources	Cost	Priority
(a) Employ Cultural Development personnel.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define specific needs for cultural personnel eg Cultural Projects personnel, Museum Curator, and/or Gallery Director. 2. Review financial implications. 3. Investigate funding from all sources. 4. Draft statement of duties for Cultural Development Personnel 5. Decide on employment structure - part-time or full-time, contract or staff. 6. Adjust organizational/reporting structure. Consult with arts and crafts groups for appropriate structure. 7. Consider location - opportunity to be based in smaller centres eg Rylstone, Gulgong, Kandos 8. Develop links with all cultural and craft groups and stakeholders. 9. Advertise - How to attract qualified staff/expertise? 10. Interview 11. Contract /appoint 12. Implement a regional focus – cover all of the region and work towards inclusivity. 	Appointed by 1 Jan 2007	Suggestions include: Cultural Development Committee (CDC), Council, Arts Councils, Gulgong Pioneers Museum.	NSW Ministry of the Arts, Council, Australia Council for the Arts, Museums & Galleries Foundation, Gulgong Historical Society, DEWR, Arts Out West, Royal Australian Historical Society, Professional Fundraisers, and Corporate Sponsorship.	1.5 full-time equivalents	A
(b) Cultural Development Committee to charged with the prioritising and monitoring of the Cultural Plan.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm membership of Cultural Development Committee. 2. Cultural Plan Working Party to brief CDC on development of Cultural Plan and prioritization process. 3. Regular review and monitoring schedule to be developed by CDC. 4. Engage Community groups in assessing levels of satisfaction with initiatives undertaken 5. Assess return on assets 	In operation from 1 Jan 2006	Cultural Development Committee (CDC), Council, community representatives	Council	Nominal Council admin support and facilities	A

B. FACILITIES

To Enrich the Community with Improved Access to Cultural Assets and Resources

Strategy	Tasks	Timing	Groups Responsible	Funding Sources	Cost	Priority
(a) Develop a range of Cultural Hubs or Cultural Centres of Excellence that may include library facilities, community meeting facilities, café, exhibition space, workshop space, craft centres, museums and keeping places.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a Cultural Hubs Working Party to develop the concept in detail. Include strong representation of the private sector. 2. Carry out feasibility study for cultural options taking into consideration the needs of the community. 3. Review the financial implications of the options and potential funding sources. 4. Focus on specialization of staff/skills for each section of the multi-use centre 5. Preparation of development control plans for specific cultural precincts. Relevant controls associated with such a precinct could indicate Council's preference for related private business, such as private galleries/sale of local artists products, up-market cafes/restaurants, bookshops etc. 6. Provide services to all – a regional focus, including a regional gallery. 7. Develop structure of centres of excellence (hierarchy/main centres and outreach). 	Working party in place by 31/03/06	Manager of Library & Community Services, CDC, secondment of private sector and interested community members.	Council	Nominal Council support and facilities	A
(b) Audit of facilities and needs. Already done Rec/Cult Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a database of venues. 2. Include private buildings that may be used or acquired for community use. 3. Carry out a cost/benefit analysis or feasibility study of refurbishment of existing buildings. 4. Establish and/or refurbish community meeting spaces as required. 5. Ensure equitable usage of available infrastructure. 6. Provide support and maintenance to museums. 7. Encourage private sector involvement. 	Commence 1 Jan 2007	Cultural Development Personnel (CDP), CDC	Included in CDC tasks and CDP position description.	Nominal Council support and facilities	A

C. NETWORKS:

To encourage the exploration, development and nurturing of relationships with the private and public sector regionally, nationally and internationally.

Strategy	Tasks	Timing	Groups Responsible	Funding Sources	Cost	Priority
(a) Build, reinforce and encourage development of strong cultural networks within and extending beyond Region's boundaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Utilise, support and promote knowledge and expertise of existing government arts groups. b. Utilise monthly email to disseminate grant-funding information. c. Develop a process/system to assist community groups with fund raising activities. d. Organise events for profit and user-pays and fee-for-service activities. See responsible groups e. Attract or broker and participate in sponsorship arrangements and promote entrepreneurial activities. f. Manage a coordinated Cultural/heritage and tourism promotion seed-funding programme. g. Seek and support a general cultural sponsorship ethos in the Region – local bodies supporting the arts. h. Proactively support creation of links between Tourism, and cultural events and other appropriate industry activities. i. Connect with Cowra, Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo art galleries re: exchanging exhibitions. j. Link with regional groups eg. Arts Out West, Government organizations, Community groups and develop an inter-regional focus - Kandos, Rylstone, Gulgong and Mudgee. k. Create formal relationship with all other local cultural bodies and complete up to date database. Include the schools and PCYC. l. Promote (with a view of educating) the community about the cultural objectives and policies of the Council, Committee and community. m. Pitch for Guardian and all regional news media to cover cultural stories or column (once a week). n. Encourage mutual attendance and support at cultural activities/functions and help one another know what each group is doing. Enhance communication between interested groups via email, newsletter or chat groups. o. Establish a cultural website as a link to Council's website or independent. p. Develop a regional cultural newsletter & newsletter coordination q. Establish regional Cultural Festivals 	Commence 1 Jan 2006	CDC, Cultural Development Personnel Events initially to be done by arts/cultural groups. Can work with CDC to obtain funding (100%) for event coordinator as part of event funding application	Possible seed funding from Council, partnerships with the private sector and other government grants such as Festivals Australia.	Strive for cost neutral position.	A

Strategy	Tasks	Timing	Groups Responsible	Funding Sources	Cost	Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> r. Establish a cultural space within the libraries and other community buildings with high pedestrian use. s. Link with schools to promote school and holiday workshops and summer schools. t. Encourage the funding and employment of one-off paid project workers linked to specific projects. u. Develop a cluster focus of volunteer networks. Identify cultural volunteers within the region, institute a skills and knowledge audit to assess skill levels, strengths and weaknesses and address training implications through the development of a training programme for volunteer cultural workers in the region. v. Develop a financial programme of seed funding to assist the establishment and promotion of cultural events. 					
(b) Link work of cultural community to Economic Development Strategy.	Vibrant cultural life is vital to attract key skills and professions. Culture and the economy have been perceived to being at opposite ends of the spectrum. With the demise of agriculture from its dominant position and the inability of this region to turn to manufacturing the future of our economy is with the creative class of people. As an example for this region to attract a young professional, spouse and family cultural activities are shown to be a very important part of this process of recruiting and retaining “creative people”.	Commence 1 Jan 2006	CDC, links to business and industry groups, Economic Development Strategy Group	Council	Nominal Council admin support and facilities	A

APPENDIX 4

CULTURAL WISH LIST

In the 2001 Mudgee Shire Council Social Plan, about two thirds (64%) of all respondents made additional comments, reflecting their strong interest. Comments have been grouped as follows:

CATEGORY	COMMENT
The Survey	We are cynical, 4th survey – nothing is ever done Survey is a good idea - good luck
Mudgee Area	Mudgee for centre of excellence Shire is full of cultural life/energy Mudgee is a quiet place - bigger is not better - let Dubbo be a Sydney clone. We have our own unique landscape to preserve People return to Mudgee so it must have something to offer
Gaps	Post school education & university 3rd age, libraries, literature, art classes
The Focus	Too much attention on sport, fed by papers More musical events Local bands/young talent not exploited by arts council – wine & painting not the only art form Need more for youth oriented events Develop back packer tourism - not just wine and food – vast resources under utilised Support craft industries Theatre group/drama performances Culture is more than art, more attention to non-art necessary
The People	Active people interested in developing the arts are getting older People don't make their own entertainment now Parochial attitudes toward blow ins and change Arts/cultural groups could be more vocal
Information/Publicity	Poor advertising Mail outs to all residents essential Simple brochure needed about history of Mudgee & heritage Listing of all cultural activities would be good Published list of accessible arts/crafts/events from tourist info Tourist centre needs to advertise to the Mudgee shire about exhibits/arts/crafts.
Opportunities	Potential for building community and promoting tourism Regional gallery, showcase local talent, provide arts employment/training
Partnerships	Cultural planning person should work in tandem with tourism structure Collaboration needed, tourism/culture/liaison
Other Suggestions	Museum or gallery for housing collection of quality arts Need visiting artists to enhance diversity, promotion of youth art, develop existing talent, promotion of events Performing arts could do with a boost, facility could be more user friendly, visiting groups expect more Improve appreciation of art Use existing facilities, eateries/accommodation - see Hunter Valley Town Hall not ideal Cultural centres/gallery, arts council poorly funded only commitment of council Art gallery could be used for chamber music/piano music, build new library for gallery space Persuade Councillors to attend events / 1 free ticket per year to events Streetscaping to encourage tourist dollar

Although gaps and needs were identified the most pressing issues relate to lack of planning, promotion, information and coordination. Respondents can easily identify opportunities to develop the cultural life of the region, but several responses suggest that some who have been committed in the past are tiring and growing old. Fragmentation of cultural expressions and perceived parochialism were also identified as barriers to development. A number of respondents also expressed the hope that Council might take a more active role in culture/arts. No other single organisation or body was apparent to follow through on the opportunities and issues identified.

The Recreation & Cultural Strategy (2003) identified requests for additional facilities:

Many groups identified a need for a regional art gallery and space for exhibitions and workshops. The suggestions varied from a single combined venue to a number of combinations of facilities, and included:

- A combined library/art gallery/theatre complex;
- A centrally located 'Arts and Cultural centres' (potentially on the TAFE site once it relocates) with facilities/space for:
 - exhibitions (indoor and outdoor exhibition space, space for both permanent and temporary exhibitions);
 - student/youth practical and performing arts;
 - workshops, meetings, rehearsals, performances, (including musical concerts & tuition);
 - storage; and
 - retail (could include a café).
- A centrally located art gallery with:
 - space for permanent and travelling exhibitions (paintings and ceramics);
 - adequate storage space;
 - social and event areas;
 - all weather loading dock;
 - workshop space;
 - workroom for conservation and curatorial work; and
 - additional rooms for staff, volunteer guides etc.
- Larger venue in between the size of Community Cultural centres - The Stables and The Town Hall Theatre, with street level access.

Other facility needs identified included:

- A new library in Mudgee;
- Cheap meeting facility for small organisations;
- Space for ceramics (production)/workshops;
- More dance and drama activities;
- Drop in centre in the CBD for company or rest;
- Replacement of pianos at Gulgong Memorial Hall and Mudgee Town Hall;
- Pulley equipment in the Town Hall Theatre to lift stage sets;
- Repairs and restoration of heritage properties; and
- Space for larger exhibits, such as vehicular and agricultural exhibits at the Colonial Museum

Needs identified in terms of services to assist cultural groups included:

- A trained youth artist/tutor over a 5-10 year period;
- A cultural staff to continue to update and drive the region's cultural planning. The role could include marketing, and assistance in accessing grants;
- Expand Arts in Residence Program at the tip;
- Promotion of local artists and artwork;
- Council needs to recognise that there are talented artists in the region and help develop these talents by providing space and organising/advising of grants available; and
- More effective liaison between the Heritage Committee within Council, other decision making bodies and groups such as National Trust and Mudgee Historical Society.

Other needs identified included:

- Signage giving information on Aboriginal origins and connections;
- Availability of bus transport for outlying groups; and
- Aboriginal cultural centres.

Analysis of supply versus demand (gap analysis)

Cultural facilities

- Appropriate and secure permanent public gallery/exhibition space for the display of art, including locally significant artists, and travelling exhibitions.
- Additional meeting rooms/workshop spaces with supporting facilities.
- Library – expansion of the existing library facilities in Mudgee.

APPENDIX 5

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL EVENTS CALENDAR

A number of events are held on a regular basis throughout the year including:

- monthly markets,
- Local shows at Rylstone, Mudgee and Gulgong,
- Violins in the Vines concerts, and
- Operation of the miniature railway near Mudgee.

<u>MARCH 2005</u>	
REGIONAL WASTE TO ART	You are invited to attend a very special exhibition: The SIMSMETAL Waste to Art & Design Community Art Exhibition and Competition 2004 - 2005 Regional Exhibition. Featuring 61 works from local competitions from 14 local government councils. Opened and winners announced on Friday 4 March by Anthony Bond - Director Curatorial, Art Gallery of NSW, 2pm. Exhibition venue: Community Cultural centres - The Stables, Market St, Mudgee. Open Monday to Saturday 10am - 3pm.
NALAN "NEW WORK" EXHIBITION AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN, RYLSTONE	Opening Saturday, 5 March 2005 from 4pm-6pm. For further information please contact Number Forty Seven, 47 Louee St, Rylstone Ph (02) 6979 1345 or (02) 6379 1338. Number Forty Seven is open from Thursday to Sunday between 10am and 4pm each week.
"DINING IN THE GALLERY" - AUTUMN EXHIBITION AT CUDGEGONG GALLERY	This exhibition features new works by artists Jane Barrow, Sandra Black, Paul Davis, Lex Dickson, Ian Jones, Sandy Lockwood, Janet Mansfield, Susie McMeekin, Chester Nealie, Simon Reece, Peter Rushforth, Mitsuo Shoji and Penny Smith. Exhibition will be open Thursday to Monday between 10am and 5.30pm.
"A DAY ON THE GREEN" AT POET'S CORNER WINES FEATURING BRYAN ADAMS	A "special edition" of this summer outdoor concert event - featuring Bryan Adams, who is touring Australia in February/March 2005, and Vanessa Amorosi, as well as Casey Barnes.
NETS 4WD CHALLENGE	A three-day 4WD event, travelling St Marys to Mudgee, Mudgee to Gloucester, Gloucester to Hawks Nest. Friday overnight stop in Mudgee with dinner at a winery. This is a fundraising event for NETS, the NSW newborn and paediatric Emergency Transport Service located at Westmead Hospital. Those interested in entering the challenge will require a 4WD fitted with a 40 channel UHF radio, a first aid kit and a "snatch em" strap. The event is fully catered and entrants are charged a set meal money fee. Motel style accommodation is pre-booked by the organisers. Entry fee is \$550 and entrants are also required to raise a further minimum donation of \$2,000 payable to NETS. Entry forms and further details can be obtained from Peter Longhurst at Aardvark Events, PO Box 10, Concord NSW 2137 or email ardvark@bigpond.net.au , website http://www.aardvarkevents.com.au/
FELTING AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	A workshop with Helen Doble and Ginny Handmer, 9.30am - 3.30pm. Wool, notes, coffee and teas provided. Assorted extra wools and equipment also for sale. Please bring lunch to share. \$50 per person.

<u>MARCH 2005</u>	
MUDGEES SHORT FILM FESTIVAL - "MUDFEST"	Following the tradition of Sydney's famous "Tropfest", Mudfest will be held at the Butcher Shop Cafe, where the ten best entries will be screened. Entries will be judged by the viewers - "People's Choice" - as well as a special guest judge. The winning entrant/s will receive a total of \$500 in prizes and cash. Entries will be accepted until 1 March 2005.
MUDGEES ANTIQUE MOTOR CLUB CAR DISPLAY	Come along and view this display at the Gulgong Showground, Grevillea & Bunderra Sts, Gulgong, between the hours of 1pm and 3pm. For further details please contact Kevin Dickson Ph (02) 6372 0693.
17 TH ANNUAL BYLONG MOUSE RACES - "STRICTLY NO CATS ALLOWED"!	To be held at the Bylong sporting ground. Mouse Race Day consists of an 11 race program, which includes 10 heats followed by the prestigious "Bylong Cup" to decide the champion mouse of the day. There will be entertainment for all the family, raffles, chocolate wheels, jumping castle, mechanical bull rides as well as a performance by Circus Solaris.
A NIGHT OF BLUES UNDER THE STARS AT WILDWOOD GUESTHOUSE	Wildwood Guesthouse, Lowe Family Wines and Mudgee Growers present Nessa Morgan for a night of blues under the stars. BYO picnic, rug and wine – the organisers supply the blues along with some wines, which will be available for sale throughout the evening.
MUDGEES ANTIQUE MOTOR CLUB CAR DISPLAY	Come along and view this display at the Mudgee Showground, Douro & Nicholson Sts, Mudgee, between the hours of 11am and 1pm. For further details please contact Kevin Dickson - Phone (02) 6372 0693.
AN EASTER EXHIBITION AT SECRET GARDEN WINES	Come along to one of Mudgee's newer cellar doors and view the textile art by Marilyn Dear, Rory Meyer, Marilyn Nicholls and Bronwyn Sams. The exhibition will open at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 23 March 2005.
PAINTERS @ MUDGEES 2005	This is a plein air painting event organised by the Pastel Societies of Australia. Artists using all mediums are invited to attend this annual event. Areas to be visited this year include Mudgee and surrounding wine growing district, areas to the south such as the Capertee Valley, historic Rylstone and the Dunn's Swamp area.

<u>APRIL 2005</u>	
JOKERS ART COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION "BE AN APRIL FOOL"	Held at the CWA Hall, Herbert St, Gulgong. Entry in this competition is open to all artists, there is no age limit. All those wishing to enter should deliver their art works to the CWA Hall by Friday, 1 April 2005, 11am.
CRICKETERS' CLUB OF NSW VS THE CRAIGMOOR PORTWINERS	An annual event held at Poet's Corner Wines cricket ground.
"WOMEN'S WORK" EXHIBITION AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	An exhibition of fibre featuring the work of Katelyn Aslett, Dinah Coxedge, Helen Doble, Bronwen Gradden, Tjenka Murray, Nalan and Liz Riley. Opening Saturday, 2 April 2005 from 4pm-6pm.

<u>APRIL 2005</u>	
OLIVE PICKLING WORKSHOP	This is a hands-on lecture/workshop to be held in the teaching kitchen at Mudgee High School. Hosted by the Mudgee Olive Association the workshop will be conducted by Professor Stan Kailis of the University of Western Australia. Professor Kailis is regarded as a foremost authority in the field of table olive and olive product processing.
"RADIAL SWANS" AT THE GLOBE HOTEL BEER GARDEN, RYLSTONE	Bring the family to celebrate a great Australian icon, the tyre swan. There will be a contest with various categories judged by well-known Swan artist/historian Ken Searle. .
COOKING CLASS WITH RYLSTONE FOOD STORE	A cooking class for 8-12 year olds, with Kim Currie, 10am - 12.30pm. .
SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOP AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN - FELT MAKING	A workshop for 8-12 year olds, with Ginny Handmer, 9.30am - 12pm.
FUND RAISER FOR "OUR HOME IRAQ"	Come along to Mudgee Town Hall Theatre, Market St, Mudgee, for an evening of entertainment. Mark Shelley and John Robertson (The Big Night Out Band) are Roy Orbison and Willie Nelson in their show "On the Road Again". Proceeds are to go to the "Our Home Iraq" initiative, which is helping orphaned and street kids in Baghdad.
GOOREE CUP RACE DAY	Country racing day. Full TAB. First race starts 12.30pm.
SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOP AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN - HAND BUILDING IN CLAY	A workshop for 8-12 year olds, 9.30am - 12pm.
"BUILT ENVIRONMENTS OF THE MID WEST"	Exhibition to be held at Community Cultural centres - The Stables Complex, Market St, Mudgee.
HENRY LAWSON DRIVE LONG LUNCH	Local wineries, chefs, produce providers and accommodation providers get together to present this special annual event showcasing the 'Henry Lawson Drive.' Held at The Mudgee Racecourse.
DOLL MAKING AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	A workshop with Carla de Jong, 9.30am - 3.30pm. Make a soft European style doll (such as the classic Steiner doll). All materials, coffee and teas included in cost of workshop.

<u>MAY 2005</u>	
ANNUAL ANTIQUE AUCTION	Held at the Australian Rural Education Centre (AREC), Cassilis Rd, Mudgee. Sale will commence at 11am, with over 500 lots up for auction including Victorian and Colonial cedar and pine furniture, glassware, porcelain, china, and collectables including "farmenalia".
FERN TREE GULLY ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST BUSH CROQUET DAY	First Saturday in May
"NEW WORK" BY CHRISTINE MCMILLAN EXHIBITION AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	Opening Saturday, 7 May 2005 from 4pm-6pm.

SCULPTING WITH CLAY AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	A workshop with Tim Johnman, 9.30am - 3.30pm. Tim specialises in huge creatures for zoos and gardens. Here is an opportunity to create a self-portrait or bust in clay. Materials, firing, notes, coffee and teas provided.
"THE LAST FIVE YEARS"	Railway Street Theatre Company and Echelon Productions present the smash hit musical love story "The Last Five Years" by Tony Award winning composer and lyricist Jason Robert Brown. Cast for this fabulous uplifting musical will be Amanda Levy as Kathy and Anthony Harkin as Jamie. Starting time is 8.00pm at the Mudgee Town Hall Theatre, Market St, Mudgee.

JUNE 2005

WORKS ON PAPER AND CANVAS BY MELANIE PEGG - EXHIBITION AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	Opening Saturday, 4 June 2005 from 4pm-6pm.
AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA RECITAL	To be held at the Regent Theatre, Church St, Mudgee. The Orchestra will perform Vivaldi's "Four Seasons".
HENRY LAWSON HERITAGE FESTIVAL, GULGONG	Weekend festival featuring literature awards and heritage style celebrations in Gulgong town centre. Further details to be announced.
GABBEH WEAVING AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	A workshop with Dinah Coxsedg, 9.30am - 3.30pm. This is the traditional method of hand knotted and woven carpet making from Persia. Materials, coffee and teas provided.

JULY 2005

COOKING CLASS WITH RYLSTONE FOOD STORE	
MUDGEES SMALL FARM FIELD DAYS	With over 550 exhibitors this is the largest Farm Field day in the Central West. Rural education stands, farm machinery displays, government department stands and craft, horses, farm animals, poultry are all exhibited.
CHILDREN'S CREATIVE WORKSHOPS	Kandos
FELT MAKING AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	A workshop with Helen Doble and Ginny Handmer, 9.30am - 3.30pm. Wool, notes, coffee and teas provided. Assorted extra wools and equipment also for sale.

AUGUST 2005

"LAND" - A COOPERATIVE EXHIBITION LOOKING AT CONNECTION WITH LAND - AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	Opening Saturday, 6 August 2005 from 4pm-6pm. One work per artist, covering a variety of mediums.
WOLLEMI CHILDREN'S CREATIVE ART EXHIBITION	
POETRY AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	A workshop with Liz Allen, 9.30am - 3.30pm. Spend a day workshopping poems. Bring writing materials and lunch to share.

<u>SEPTEMBER 2005</u>	
MUDGEE WINE CELEBRATION 2005	Dates to be announced. Annual event, usually running for three to four weeks in September. Opportunities to taste medal winning wines from the Mudgee Wine Show, sample regional food, enjoy musical entertainment, etc.
"SMALL WORKS FROM THE CENTRAL WEST" - JEFF RIGBY EXHIBITION AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	Opening Saturday, 3 September 2005 from 4pm-6pm.
MUDGEE OLIVE OIL SHOW	To be held at Creeks Edge Vineyard, Lue Road, Mudgee. Judging of olive oils and other olive products.
DRAWING AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	A workshop with Graham Smith, 9.30am - 3.30pm. Bring favorite medium, paper and tools. Coffee and teas provided. Please bring lunch to share.
MUDGEE OLIVE OIL SHOW PUBLIC TASTING	Venue not yet announced, further details to follow.
INAUGURAL MUDGEE OLIVE PRODUCTS SHOW	This event will showcase table olives and products from the region. Judging will be by a panel of expert "foodies" and the class winners will be available for public tasting at the Olive Trophy Dinner at Blue Wren on 1 October (see entry below).

<u>OCTOBER 2005</u>	
GEMKHANA 2005	The annual Gem & Mineral Show and Competition of lapidaries from all over the state - hailed as the largest gem and mineral show in NSW. Experienced club members will demonstrate arts such as faceting, carving and jewellery making over the weekend. Bring the family and see for yourself the wonderful work amateurs do. Dealers from throughout Australia will be displaying and selling the best in lapidary requirements, such as machinery, tools, books, minerals, fossils, findings and jewellery as well as metaphysical crystals.
REG BUCKLAND PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS - EXHIBITION AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	Opening Saturday, 1 October 2005 from 4pm-6pm.
MUDGEE OLIVE ASSOCIATION TROPHY DINNER	The Mudgee Olive Association will hold its fifth annual olive harvest dinner tonight at Blue Wren Restaurant, Cassilis Rd, Mudgee. The evening will begin with a tasting of this year's extra virgin olive oils, followed by a sumptuous three-course dinner matched with Blue Wren wines. This will be rounded off by the presentation of the annual awards.
COOKING CLASS WITH RYLSTONE FOOD STORE	
SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOP AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN - FELT MAKING	A workshop for 8-12 year olds, with Ginny Handmer, 9.30am - 12pm.
SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOP AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN - HAND BUILDING IN CLAY	A workshop for 8-12 year olds, 9.30am - 12pm.
BASKET WEAVING AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	A workshop with Dinah Coxsedg, 9.30am - 3.30pm. Materials, coffee and teas provided. Please bring lunch to share.

<u>OCTOBER 2005</u>	
FESTIVAL OF THE WINDS	Gulgong People's Park – 23 October
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE	Mudgee is hosting the 2005 Local Government Association Conference. This is attended by delegates from NSW Local Government Areas, as well as sponsoring company representatives.
50 TH ANNIVERSARY OF GULGONG MEMORIAL HALL	Mayoral Reception – 30 October

<u>NOVEMBER 2005</u>	
RYLSTONE STREET FEAST	
EXHIBITION AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	
FELTING AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	A workshop with Helen Doble and Ginny Handmer, 9.30am - 3.30pm. Wool, notes, coffee and teas provided. Assorted extra wools and equipment also for sale. Please bring lunch to share.
CAREFLIGHT BALL	This will be Mudgee's third Careflight Ball and so far over \$70,000 in profit has been raised by the previous fundraisers. The ball is to be held at AREC, Cassilis Rd, Mudgee.
ZONE LITTLE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL	To be held at Walkers Oval, Mudgee
HUNTINGTON MUSIC PRELUDE	Very popular event featuring overseas and local classical soloists and orchestras.

<u>DECEMBER 2005</u>	
HUNTINGTON MUSIC FESTIVAL	Very popular event featuring overseas and local classical soloists and orchestras. Taste the delightful food prepared by famous chefs – truly a feast for the ears, eyes and palate.
"LOOK AT WHERE WE LIVE - CELEBRATING OUR REGION - EXHIBITION AT NUMBER FORTY SEVEN	Open show, submissions welcome. Contact Number Forty Seven by mid-November to submit works for this exhibition. Opening Saturday, 3 December 2005 from 4pm-6pm.
MUDGEE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL	

YOUTH

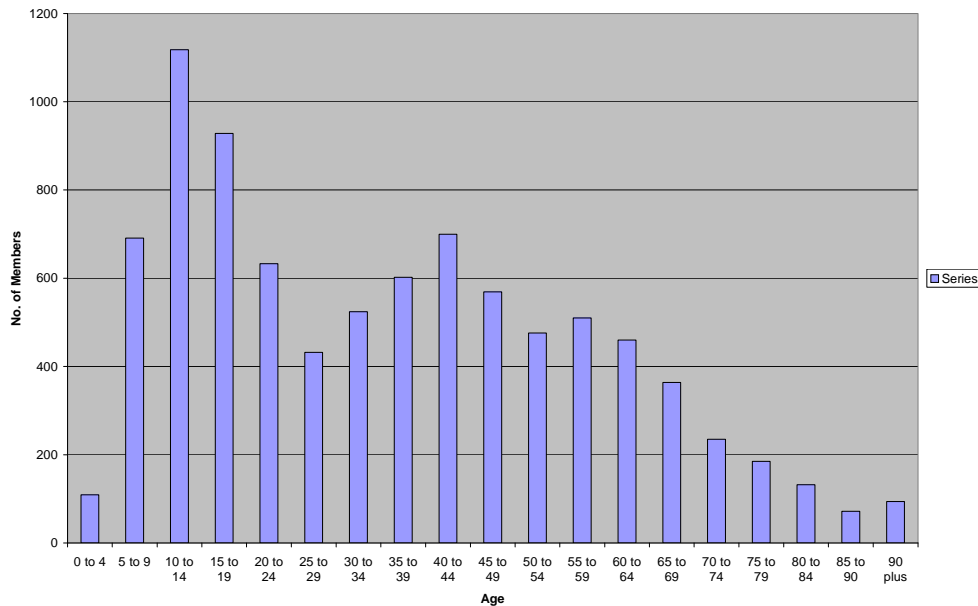
Council encourages and supports Youth oriented programs. In recent years youth related arts and cultural activities have included:

- A youth mentoring scheme,
- Development of a Skate Park,
- Spray Paint workshops at the Skate Park,
- Sponsorship of Mudgee Drug Action Team related arts activities,
- Youth Week arts related activities, including applications for art start funding,
- Sponsorship of youth theatre,
- Sponsorship of young people taking part in cultural events in and outside the region, and
- Skate fest (Eales, 2004).

APPENDIX 6

LIBRARY USAGE STATISTICS

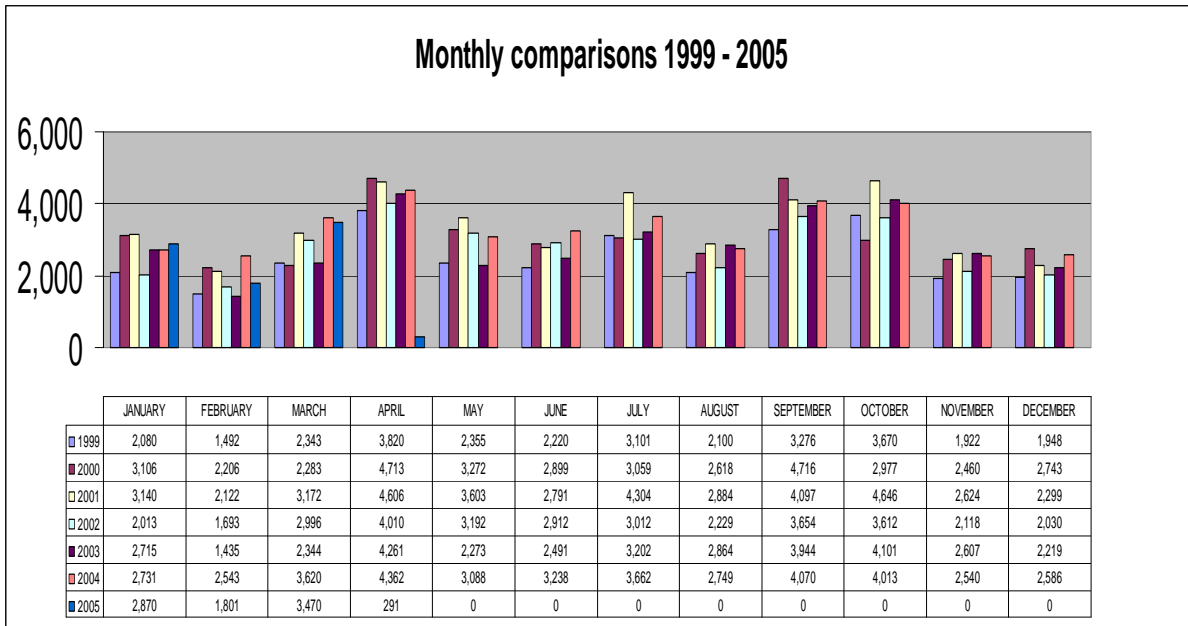
Library Members by Age Brackets



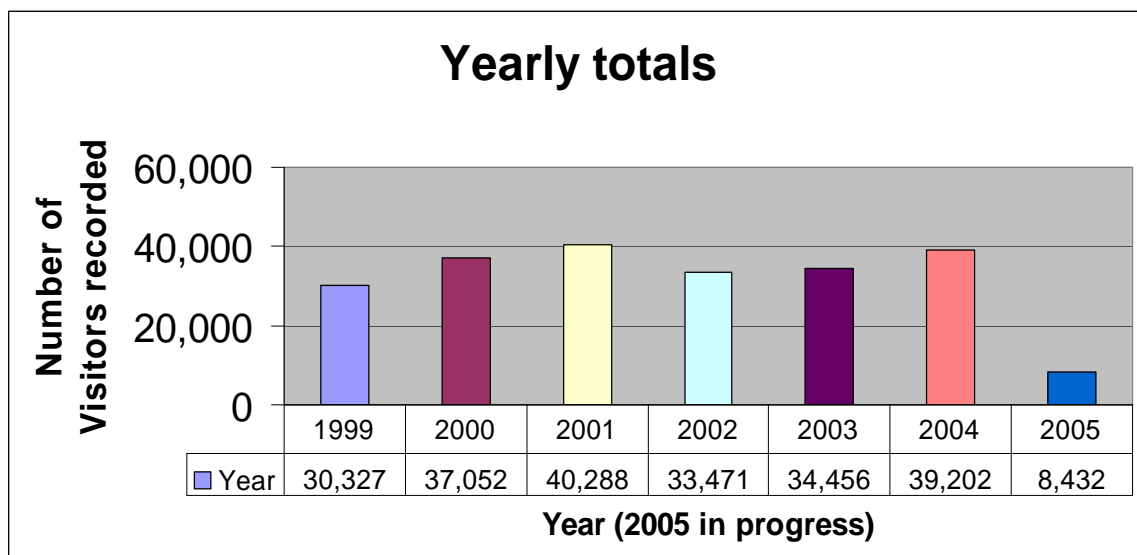
Age Group	No. of Members	Items Borrowed last Quarter
0 to 4	109	1 053
5 to 9	691	2 995
10 to 14	1 118	2 416
15 to 19	928	1 006
20 to 24	633	561
25 to 29	432	880
30 to 34	524	1 698
35 to 39	602	2 408
40 to 44	700	2 139
45 to 49	569	2 140
50 to 54	476	2 271
55 to 59	510	2 088
60 to 64	460	2 679
65 to 69	364	2 333
70 to 74	235	2 229
75 to 79	185	1 407
80 to 84	132	1 266
85 to 90	72	668
90 plus	94	585
Sub Total	8 834	32 822
No birth date	1 895	1 707
Total	10 729	34 529

APPENDIX 7

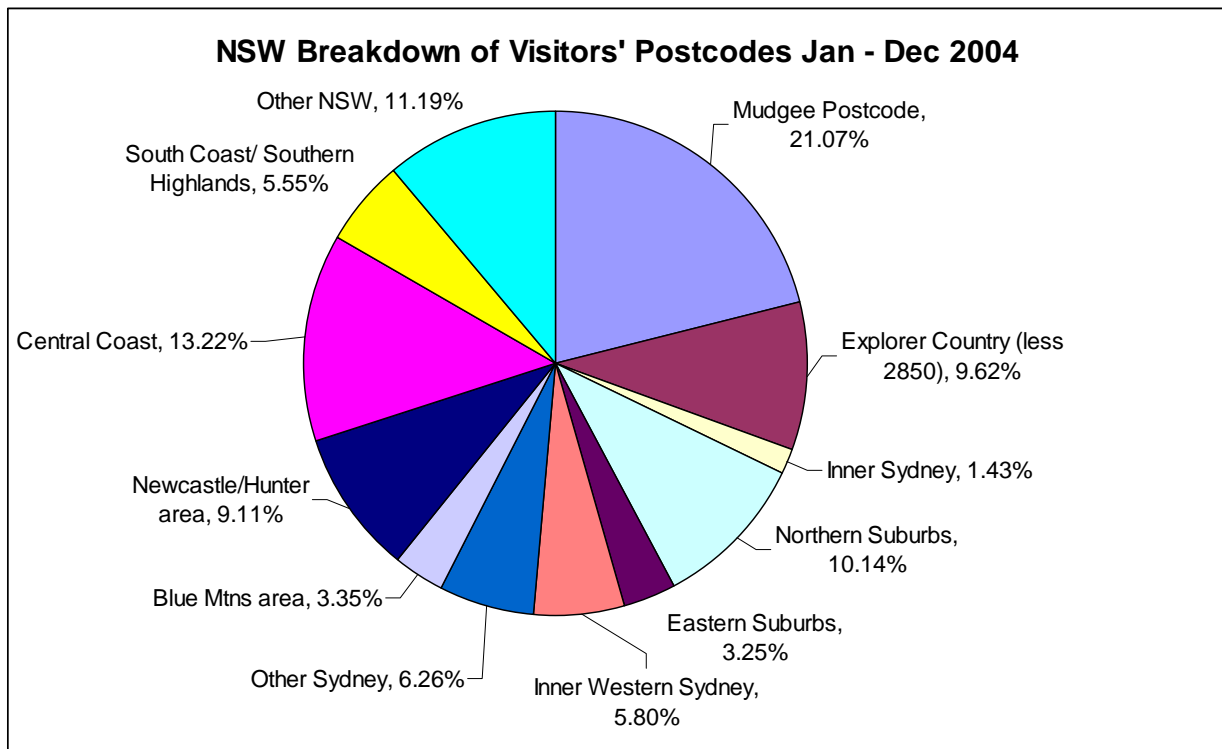
REGIONAL TOURISM STATISTICS



The above numbers are visitors counted at the Mudgee and Gulgong Visitor Information Centres. As not all visitors to an area call into a Visitor Information Centre, tourism authorities assume total visitation to be up to 10 times the number of people counted (meaning only one in ten visitors call into a Visitor Information Centre).



This table shows a comparison of total visitor numbers for each year from 1999 onwards (with 2005 still in progress) – numbers are obtained again by counting people in the Visitor Information Centres (as explained on sheet 1).



This document shows percentages of visitor origin within NSW (from total visitation, they make up the largest percentage overall – about 85% of all visitors come from within NSW). The above pie chart shows where exactly they came from within the state.

NB: “Explorer Country” refers to the region now re-named Central NSW (Mudgee, Dubbo, Orange, Cowra).

APPENDIX 8

STATE & NATIONAL CULTURAL TRENDS

The NSW Ministry of the Arts have conducted comprehensive research into cultural trends in the state (Dept of Local Government NSW/NSW Ministry for the Arts, Cultural Data Snapshots, 2004).

They found that:

Museums

A total of 1 224 500 people aged 18 years and over living in NSW (25% of the population) visited public art galleries in the 12 months before interview in 2002 while 1 200 500 visited other types of museums. Many of those people who had visited museums in the 12-month period had been only once during that time.

Data from the 1998-99 Household Expenditure Survey showed that households in NSW spent an average of \$0.09 per week (\$4.68 per year) on public art gallery and other museum fees.

The 1999-2000 Museums Survey showed that the 504 museum establishments in NSW employed a total of 2 042 people at the end of June 2000. In addition, there were 8 353 people worked as volunteers in these museums in the month of June 2000.

Libraries

In the 12 months before interview in 2002, a total of 1 907 700 people in NSW aged 18 years and over (39% of the population) had visited a National, State or local library. Of those who visited a library, 23% had gone there more than 20 times in the previous year.

In 1999-2000, the total number of visits to local government libraries in NSW was 30.4 million. Memberships with local government libraries in NSW in June 2000 totalled 4.2 million, which was about 64% of the population of NSW at the time (6.5 million).

NSW local government libraries lent a total of 37 million books during 1999-2000. NSW libraries lent 28% of the Australian total.

In 2001, the Census recorded 7 410 people whose main job was in library-related occupations in NSW.

Cultural Tourism

The most popular cultural attractions for international visitors visiting Sydney in 2001-02 were the Sydney Opera House (69%) and special events and festivals (5%).

Expenditure on Culture

At the Australian level, of the money spent on cultural goods and services, about three-quarters is by private households, about 10% is by the Commonwealth Government, 10% by the State and Territory Governments, 5% by local government and less than 1% by the corporate sector.

The latest available data relates to the 1998-99 financial year. Households in NSW spent an average of \$28.38 per week on culture. This equates to \$3 498 million for 1998-99. This included over \$7 per week on literature and over \$9 per week on items such as television, video and photographic equipment. The national average expenditure on culture was \$27.19.

Nationwide, the Commonwealth Government provided funding of over \$1 600 million on culture in 2000-01 which equates to approx. \$85 per person in Australia. This compares to \$665 million provided by the NSW Government.

The categories accounting for the largest funding in NSW were nature parks and reserves, museums, and libraries and archives.

Overall, the NSW government funding of culture between 1998-99 and 2000-02 increased by 22%. Cultural funding by local governments in NSW totalled \$249 million in 2000-01. 54% went to libraries and archives, with public halls and civic centre accounting for a further 15%. Local government funding of culture was \$38.25 per head of population in NSW, which was lower than the national average of \$45.26.

Over the period from 1998-99 to 2000-01, local government funding of culture in NSW fell from \$43.17 per head to \$38.25 per head.

Of the \$1 447 million given by business to organizations and individuals in 2000-01, \$70 million (5%) was provided for arts and cultural activities. Of this, \$40 million was in the form of sponsorship, \$23 million was donations, and \$6 million was for business to community projects.

Employment and Work in Culture

NSW accounted for almost 37% of people in Australia who had a cultural occupation as their main job at the time of the 2001 Census. There were 756 800 people in NSW aged 15 years and over who had a work involvement in selected culture and leisure activities in the 12 months ending April 2001. About 62% of these people received no payment for their involvement.

Some of the more common cultural work activities undertaken in NSW included writing, festival organising, fete organising, design, photography, drawing, and music. Cultural activities for which people were most likely to receive payment included publishing, design and cultural teaching.

According to the April 2001 ABS survey most persons involved in culture and leisure activities had only a short-term or part-time involvement over the 12-month period, with many undertaking the activities for less than 10 hours per week and less than 13 weeks in the year.

In 2000 volunteers spent a total of 31 million hours working for cultural organizations – equivalent to about 18 000 full-time positions. The main types of work performed by cultural volunteer were management and committee duties (37%) and administration and clerical duties (32%). Of all the States, NSW recorded the lowest percentage of cultural volunteers (1.4% of the adult population).

Output and Production of the Cultural Industries

The Australian production of cultural goods and services totalled \$22 040 million in 1996-97. This makes Cultural Industries approximately the same size as the Road Transport Industry (\$21 910m), the Banking Industry (\$18 136m) and the Communications Services Industry (\$25 460m).

38% of the cultural goods and services were for publishing and recorded media.

In 1999-2000 over half of the economic activity in Australia in film and video production (62%) and film and video distribution (61%) occurred in NSW.

APPENDIX 9

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Preamble

Mid-Western Regional Council appreciates the advice, voluntary time, commitment, interest and dedication demonstrated by members of its advisory committees. Council will give serious consideration to recommendations stated in minutes of Advisory Committees. Such recommendations are considered in the context of Council's Management Plan and budgetary considerations at an operational and strategic level.

SCOPE OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

What has the Committee been Appointed to do?

The Mid-Western Regional Council Cultural Development Committee will:

- Utilise and implement the findings and recommendations contained within the cultural plan as applicable to the organisations members represent.
- Consider and implement the recommendations in the Cultural Plan for cultural and arts based groups and individuals to best use existing cultural and arts resources in the Mid Western Regional communities.
- Consider and implement the recommendations in the Cultural Plan for sharing of existing cultural and arts resources amongst Mid Western Regional residents.
- Identify the appropriate community based services or organisations to deliver resources or activities that would enable identified voids in the Mid-Western Regional Council's cultural and arts infrastructure to be addressed.
- Consider and implement the recommendations in the Cultural Plan for the delivery of activities and resources by agencies and groups as part of a coordinated community cultural development approach .

COMPOSITION OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Cultural Development Committee shall comprise of 3 representatives of the arts / cultural communities in Gulgong, Rylstone, Kandos and Mudgee plus 2 elected representatives.

MEETINGS

The future directions of the Cultural Development Committee will be determined following an analysis of the Cultural Plan in terms of the strategic and financial implications for Council's Management Plan. This will also determine the most effective way for members to act as a communication channel between their organisations and Council.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Committee members shall abide by Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice during all meetings of the committee and in all matters relating to their representation of the Committee.

- Arts Out West, Suggested Outline - Notes from Meeting with A Strietman, 26 June 2003
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Community Profile, 2001
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Measuring Wellbeing, 2001
- Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Profile, 2002
- Cowra Shire Council, Cowra Shire Cultural Plan
- Dept of Local Government NSW/NSW Ministry For The Arts, Cultural Data Snapshots, 2004
- Dept of Local Government NSW/NSW Ministry For The Arts, Cultural Planning Guidelines for Local Government, 2004
- Dubbo City Council, Dubbo Cultural Plan, November 2001
- Eales C, Draft Mid-Western Regional Council Cultural Plan, May 2004
- GHD Pty Ltd, Mid-Western Regional Council – Mudgee Recreation & Cultural Strategy, March 2003
- Orange City Council, Orange City Cultural Plan 2003-2006, Work in progress
- Tamworth City Council, Cultural Plan 2003
- Twyford Consulting, Mudgee Shire Council Social Plan – Cultural Appendix, 2001