

11.4 Community and Cultural Services Quarterly Report

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY
TO 21 FEBRUARY 2024 ORDINARY MEETING
GOV400105, COS300010

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Director Community on the Community and Cultural Services Quarterly Report; and**
2. **note the recent services provided and activities coordinated by Council's Community & Cultural Services Team.**

Executive summary

This report aims to familiarise Council with services and activities provided by its Community & Cultural Services Department and to inform it of issues and events of note that arose during the period October to December 2023 (inclusive).

Disclosure of Interest

Nil

Detailed report

Details of Community & Cultural Services quarterly activities, events, milestones, and points of note are contained in the attachment to this report. Of particular interest:

- Youth Services secured a \$30 000 Youth Opportunities grant to deliver a youth story telling program and exhibition in 2024/25;
- The Community Development team coordinated a successful community Christmas concert in Rylstone;
- \$7000 in grant funding has been secured for the 2024 Seniors Festival;
- Meals on Wheels is in negotiations with Club Mudgee to provide hot meals for the service; and
- Mudgee Arts Precinct hosted a successful Messages in The Sky exhibition between September and November with over 7,500 visits to the exhibition as well as opening the Wynne Prize touring exhibition from the Art Gallery of New South Wales in December which ran through to the end of January.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Looking After Our Community
Goal	Effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure
Strategy	Provide infrastructure and services to cater for the current and future needs of our community

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Cultural Plan

Council Policies

Not Applicable

Legislation

Not Applicable

Financial implications

Not Applicable

Associated Risks

Not Applicable

SIMON JONES
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

22 January 2024

Attachments: 1. Community Services Quarterly Report Oct-Dec 2023.
2. Mudgee Arts Precinct Quarterly Report Oct-Dec 2023.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER

Community Services Quarterly Report October-December 2023

Community Development

Mudgee & Gulgong Interagency

Monthly meetings for Mudgee & Gulgong Interagency members have continued to be consistently attended over the past quarter. Meetings have been held mostly via MS-teams with a hybrid meeting planned quarterly to provide attendees the choice of meeting remotely or face-to-face. Common themes and discussion from the group are regarding homelessness and housing shortage in the region, domestic & family violence issues and mental health services available in particular to younger people in the community. We have had several discussions regarding disaster and risk preparation in the lead up to the Bush Fire Season.

Attendance	
October	19
November	15
December	21

Some types of services attending meetings
Health NSW, Transport NSW, Services NSW (Centrelink), Housing and Homelessness (Housing Plus), Mental Health (Marathon Health, TAFE NSW, Disability, Family Support) etc. Plus lobbying members to complete the Registration of their organisations to Interagency and complete relevant surveys.

Kandos & Rylstone Interagency

Meetings have been held every 6 weeks via MS-teams. Common themes and discussion from the group include youth mental health services in Kandos/Rylstone, transport for education, training and employment, preparation for the oncoming Bush Fire Season.

Attendance	
October	No meeting
November	10
December	5

Some types of services attending meetings
Health, TAFE, Mental Health services, preschool

Wollemi Voices (Kandos Singing Group)

Wollemi Voices members participated in the Rylstone Christmas Concert and Carols evening; 6-8pm Saturday 9th of December. This event was attended by 200 community members from all over the MWRC area performing with the Mudgee Concert Band and the Llewellyn Choir from Canberra. Rylstone CWA provided refreshments as a fund raiser.

Rylstone Family Fun Day Wed 4th October

The working party met regularly to arrange this popular community event at the Rylstone Showground with the theme “Let’s Get Outside”, with outdoor games and activities intended to be the focus. With rainstorms arriving in the early morning of the event it was moved inside, and planned activities and attendance numbers were affected by the cold and windy weather. Around 200 people attend compared to upwards of 400 in past years.

2024 Seniors Festival Planning

The Seniors Festival Committee met several times to plan events and activities for the festival being held across the region from 11-24 March. Grant funding from the NSW Government (\$4500) and Moolarben Coal (\$2500) has been successfully secured for this event.

Youth Services

School holiday programs	15 activities	179 participants
Spring school holiday programs included a digital effects workshop, Laser Tag, a songwriting workshop and African drumming and active games at the Rylstone Family Fun Day.		
Pre-Christmas crafting activities were held in the December school holidays in Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone.		

Other Programs

Monthly programs, Crafternoon and Level Up were held outside school holiday periods with regular attendance.

69 youth participated in the International Games Day Competition that was run in conjunction with the library.

Council-supported programs in Kandos (the Uncooperative Youth social arts program delivered by Cementa, and The Loft after-school program delivered by Barnardos) have also had consistent engagement from young people at their Term 4 activities.

Youth Services were successful in obtaining a \$30 000 Youth Opportunities grant to deliver a youth story telling program and exhibition in 2024/25.

Youth Council

The Youth Council met in November and discussed a number of issues including school holiday event planning, recruiting new Youth Council members and ideas on creating meaningful engagement for youth in our region.

The Youth Council sponsored three movies as part of Town Hall Cinema’s monthly movie weekends. Overall, these sessions were well attended with 270 tickets sold across the three weekends.

Meals on Wheels

	Main Meals (including frozen meals, chilled desserts, sandwiches & soups)
October	663
November	685
December	688
TOTAL	2036

Current number of clients for Meals on Wheels	
Active	39
New	11
Exited	9

Volunteers – 111
Volunteers are meeting demand for delivery.

Meals on Wheels has been in negotiations with Club Mudgee to be the new supplier of hot meals, with plans to begin this service in February 2024.

Clients have been receptive to the frozen meals that have been provided since the withdrawal of the previous service provider, however many are keen to return to hot meals.

Family Day Care

Family Day Care Educators	
Mudgee	3
Gulgong	2
Kandos	1
Wellington	3
TOTAL	9

The waiting list remains consistent at 85 children requiring care in 2024 and we continue to take calls regarding families seeking care.

Family Day Care continues to work with Barnardos to support families requiring care for children in out of home care.

Family Day Care was successful in securing a grant of \$70 000 under the Community Childcare Fund (CCCF) Stronger Regional Futures Package to establish new early childhood services within Mudgee and Surrounds – West SA2 (this area takes in Gulgong and surrounds - see map). The grant will support new educators with some initial start-up costs such as first aid qualifications, criminal checks, and resources. The funding cannot be used for works to the Educator’s premises. Family Day Care is promoting this opportunity through Community News and social media.



Community Transport

Transport figures	
Commonwealth Home Support Program trips	743
Community Transport Program trips	146
National Disability Insurance Scheme trips	99
Department of Veterans Affairs trips	23
Health related transport trips	88
Full cost recovery trips	147
Non reportable trips	4
TOTAL	1250

Unmet requests for transport	
Requests made when service was already fully booked	0
Cancellations by clients and/or medical service	0
No drivers available for Sydney or long distance trips	6
TOTAL	6

Volunteers – 18 registered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver availability was reduced as some volunteers were unavailable. • Recruitment continues for new drivers

Vehicles - 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Kia Carnivals • 1 x Subaru 4WD • 3 x Camry sedans <p>All vehicles detailed during this period.</p>

A Christmas Lights tour was held as a social outing and thoroughly enjoyed by clients.

Transport for NSW will no longer be providing a free Transport Management System from July 2024. Options and costings for alternative systems are currently being investigated.



Quarterly Report: Mudgee Arts Precinct October - December 2023

Programming:

MESSAGES IN THE SKY 1 September – 26 November 2023

Claire Healy and Sean Cordeiro are a duo of Australian contemporary artists known for their large-scale immersive installations, sculptures, and mixed-media artworks that often incorporate found objects and repurposed materials. Working collaboratively since 2001, they have gained international recognition for their thought-provoking pieces that explore themes of consumerism, the human impact on the environment and the philosophies of flight.

The exhibition proved very successful with school-aged children but was found to be a little challenging for older visitors who didn't necessarily think large scale artworks created from planes and helicopters as valid art.

Around 90 people attended the opening of the exhibition which included speeches.

Messages in the Sky visitation numbers

- 7,559 instances of visitation across the 87 days, making the average visitation 87 people per day (down slightly from previous exhibition *ARTEXPRESS*).
- Instances of visitation during this period to the upstairs galleries was 5,139 - 68% of visitors to the main gallery also visited the upstairs galleries.

Messages in the Sky Tours

We had 136 students attend organised tours of the exhibition and completed exhibition learning activities with MAP staff. This included the following:

St Matthews Catholic School Mudgee – 26 students Year 3
St Matthews Catholic School Mudgee – 90 students for exhibition tour and Kite making workshops.
Happy Days Childcare Gulgong – 20 children exhibition tour and kite making.

Youth Services Holiday activities Monday 25 – 26 September

Mudgee Arts & Craft Pop-Up Exhibition 19 September – 2 October 2023

615 instances of visitation

The Wynne Prize 1 December 2023 – 28 January 2024

Mudgee Arts Precinct hosted The Wynne Prize 2023 exhibition touring from the Art Gallery of New South Wales for the first time since it began over 125 years ago. It gives our local community the chance to see the best of Australian contemporary landscape painting and sculpture much closer to home.



The \$50,000 Wynne Prize is an open competition judged by the trustees of the Art Gallery of New South Wales and awarded annually to the best landscape painting of Australian scenery or figure sculpture, alongside the Archibald and Sulman Prizes.

Triple Rainbow: Julian Meagher 2 February – 28 April 2024

Renowned Australian contemporary artist Julian Meagher will be featuring an exhibition titled *Triple Rainbow* at Mudgee Arts Precinct from 2 February. The mostly new work will focus on landscapes from around the Mudgee region, including Mount Frome, Lake Windamere, Strikes Lane, and Pipeclay Lane.

Funding

MAP was successful in its application for additional program funding included:

- Regional Arts Fund \$ 31,326.79 for *Legacy* exhibition from 3 May – 28 July 2024
- CASP Funding \$3,000 for school holiday workshops.

Unsuccessful:

- Create NSW Annual Funding
- Dobell Exhibition Grant (administered by Museums & Galleries NSW).

Mudgee Arts Precinct Bookings July – December 2023

During the period between 1 July 2023 and 31 December 2023 the Mudgee Arts Precinct including the Cultural Workshops had a total of 232 bookings. 71 external bookings and 161 internal bookings. The actual income taken from the external bookings was \$10,428. The total value of the 232 bookings including internal bookings during this period was \$37,569.