

11.2 Community and Cultural Services Quarterly Report

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

TO 17 APRIL 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 January to March 2024 (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:

- The 2024 Seniors Festival was a great success with over 500 participants attending 30 activities across the region.
- Youth Services delivered a comprehensive summer school holiday program, with the highlight being a fishing competition attended by 74 participants.
- Club Mudgee has commenced providing a hot meal service for Meals on Wheels.
- Family Day Care was the subject of a three-day compliance spot check from the Department of Education, with initial feedback being very positive.
- The Mudgee Arts Precinct hosted the successful Wynne Prize touring exhibition from the Art Gallery of New South Wales between December and January with over 4,100 visits to the exhibition and held school holiday workshops to coincide with the exhibition. The Julian Meagher Triple Rainbow exhibition opened on 2 February and runs until 28 April, during February and March there have been over 3,000 visitors to the exhibition. The Culture Dose for Kids program for children with mild anxiety commenced in January and will finish in April and the Triple Rainbow exhibition was used as an introductory tour for the participating children and their parents. A Waste2Art professional development day was held in March as well as a workshop for students from Mudgee High School Learning Support Unit, and the NSW Seniors Festival took place in March with over 280 visitors.

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

2 April 2024

Attachments: 1. Community Services Quarterly Report to Council Q1 2024.
2. Mudgee Arts Precinct Quarterly Report January - March 2024.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER

Community Services Quarterly Report January - March 2024

Community Transport

Transport figures	
Commonwealth Home Support Program trips	850
Community Transport Program trips	144
National Disability Insurance Scheme trips	94
Department of Veterans Affairs trips	20
Health related transport trips	105
Full cost recovery trips	149
Non reportable trips	13
TOTAL	1375

Unmet requests for transport	
Requests made when service was already fully booked	6
Cancellations by clients and/or medical service	23
No drivers available for Sydney or long-distance trips	3
TOTAL	32

Volunteers – 20 registered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two new drivers have commenced as volunteers. One has registered but will commence at the end of April 2024.

Vehicles - 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 x Kia Carnivals 1 x Subaru 4WD 3 x Camry sedans

Community Transport ran two social outings for the Seniors Festival in March. Clients enjoyed a tour of Mudgee and a morning tea at Community Services. Due to the uptake and enjoyment of these outings more will be undertaken in the future.

Youth Services

Programs	18 activities	291 participants
The Summer school holiday program included mega games, coloured water battles, origami workshops, an excursion to Bathurst Aqua Park, VR Gaming van, animation and photography workshops and competitions. A fishing competition held at Lawson Park attracted 74 participants.		

The Youth Services Van, funded through ClubGrants and Council, was utilised for the first time during the holidays. A vehicle wrap is currently being designed in consultation with the Youth Council.

Meals on Wheels

	Main Meals (including, hot, frozen meals, chilled desserts, sandwiches & soups)
January	765
February	709
March	891
TOTAL	2365

Current number of clients for Meals on Wheels	
Active	51
New	8
Exited	5

Volunteers
110 Volunteers

A new supplier (Club Mudgee) commenced provision of hot meals. Meals on Wheels are working together with Club Mudgee to ensure the meals meet the requirements of the clients and service.

Family Day Care

Family Day Care Educators	
Mudgee	3
Gulgong	3 (1 on maternity leave)
Kandos	1
Wellington	3
TOTAL	10

The waiting list has increased to 102 children requiring care and we continue to take calls and emails from families seeking care within the region.

The Department of Education has approached Family Day Care to investigate the possibility of offering Before and After School care at Gulgong Public School under the Family Day Care banner of in-venue care. This is currently being considered.

Family Day Care had a three-day compliance spot check from the Department of Education, where they visited six Educators and the Coordination Unit. The feedback given on the day was that we have a Scheme to be proud of, the children were all settled and the Educators' interactions and partnerships with families are wonderful.

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

held in March giving the attendees the opportunity to meet face-to-face and network after the meeting. Homelessness and the housing shortage in the region has been an issue discussed at the most recent meetings. There have been several initiatives suggested and discussed to support those in the community facing homelessness and cost of living stressors (such as the ‘Bring Your Bills’ Day run by the Energy & Water Ombudsman), for implementation in the coming year.

Attendance	
January	No meeting
February	20
March	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

Attendance	
January	No meeting
February	7
March	2

Topics of discussion
Youth mental health services in Kandos/Rylstone, transport for education, training and employment.

Groups & Activities

The Wollemi Singers met weekly during the school term and has grown so much that a bigger venue has been sourced. The group sang at the recent Kandos Garden Fair.

In partnership with Lifeline, a Men’s Growth Room has been established in Rylstone where men can talk with other men about issues important to them.

The Wirimbili-yanhi Wirimbili walan Indigenous plants community garden is working with Kandos High on a weeding works program.

2024 Seniors Festival

Around 500 Seniors enjoyed attending 30 events held across the region from the 11-24 March. Events included exercise classes, story writing workshops, online scam information and 1:1 tech help sessions, a bus trip to Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Community Transport drive around the Mudgee region, and lunches and morning teas to celebrate the contribution of seniors to our community. There were also 87 art, craft, photography, poetry, and prose entries in the Seniors Festival Competition, with all entries exhibited at the Arts Precinct for the duration of the Festival.



Quarterly Report: Mudgee Arts Precinct January - March 2024

Mudgee Arts Precinct January – March 2024 Visitation:

Main Gallery: 7,864

Upstairs: 1,403.5

TOTAL VISITATION TO MAP: 9,267.5 instances of visitation to MAP over 91 days.

Average of 101.84 instances of visitation per day.

Program m i n g :

***Wynne Prize* 1 December 2023 – 28 January 2024**

Mudgee Arts Precinct exhibited The Wynne Prize 2023 exhibition which was touring from the Art Gallery of New South Wales for the first time since it began over 125 years ago, giving our local community the chance to see the best of Australian contemporary landscape painting and sculpture 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.

The Wynne Prize is Australia's oldest art prize and was established following a bequest by Richard Wynne who died in 1895. It was first awarded in 1897 to mark the official opening of the Art Gallery at its present site.

The Wynne Prize regional tours are proudly supported by the NSW Government through the Create NSW Blockbusters Funding initiative.

TOTAL 4,182 instances of visitation to the exhibition. Average of 73 Instances of visitation per day (over 57 days – gallery was closed 25 and 26 December).

***Julian Meagher Triple Rainbow* 2 February – 28 April 2024**

Julian Meagher's exhibition *Triple Rainbow* is a series of hyper-romantic artworks by Australian painter Julian Meagher, focusing specifically on landscapes from around Mudgee. During his recent visit to the region, the artist became fascinated with the subliminal transition from the night cycle into day. As a result, the paintings emerge almost as 'dreamscapes', blurring the line between what is real and what is imagined. As the exhibition title suggests, Julian continues to use the rainbow as a symbol of extreme hope and unconditional love.

Julian's figurative works depict his children adrift in their own dreamscapes. All titled *Rapid Eye Movement*, these paintings also reflect on the subliminal space between day and night, waking reality and the deep subconscious journey between sleep cycles. They are deeply personal but also universal – existing as a loving record of a moment in time. Without any interaction from the subject matter, the paintings immerse us into a voyeuristic escape with the representation of peacefulness, compelling us to momentarily forget our daily mundanities.

A masterful manipulator of oil paint, Julian applies thin, translucent layers that are intensely blended and also removed with rags. He subsequently veils and gently drips over the initial layers, reacting to what is underneath, thereby creating fleeting opportunities to achieve his trademark pared-back effect. The final artworks breathe with a meditative quality and stillness.

The landscapes around Mudgee, particularly *Triple Rainbow over Mount Frome* will be instantly recognisable to local residents, capturing the ephemeral moment one's eyes adjust to the colour of the new morning light. The fleeting, fractured rainbow is mirrored throughout the series, breaking down the everyday into moments of divine poetry.

Julian Meagher: Triple Rainbow visitation numbers:

- 3,064 instances of visitation across the 59 days of February and March, making the average visitation 51 people per day, down from the average of 73 visitors per day for the Wynne Prize.

Education:

Wynne Prize Tours and workshops

The Wynne Prize exhibition occurred primarily within the school holidays. As a result, there were limited opportunities to schedule tours for school groups.

A number of school holiday workshops were held. A 'Sculpt your Australian Hero' workshop gave participants a chance to create a sculpture in the style of the style of Matthew Clarke's *King of the Ghost Wallabies*. In another school holiday workshop, participants looked at the patchwork elements present in a number of the works including Guido Maestri's *Wombarra*. These works served as guide and inspiration in the creation of mixed media landscapes.

Both workshops included tours of the exhibition and were well attended.

Culture Dose for Kids

An eight-week art appreciation and making program for children with mild anxiety commenced in January and will finish in April. The program is run in association with the Black Dog Institute and the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

15 children and their parents participated in the two-hour sessions looking at artworks from the gallery, as well as that of local artists. They have participated in a range of art making practices including printing, painting, mixed media and sculpture. Participants have expressed an interest in presenting some of their work in an exhibition in the community gallery.

Julian Meagher Triple Rainbow tours and workshops

The *Triple Rainbow* exhibition was used as an introductory tour for children and adults participating in the Culture Dose for Kids program.

A class from Mudgee High School's Leaner Support Unit toured the exhibition in order to explore the idea of 'livability'. The group then completed a workshop with MAP staff in which they created artworks that their vision for 'A more livable Mudgee'.

Waste2Art

A professional development day for 25 teachers, art educators, youth workers and support workers was held in March. The day was funded primarily by NetWaste and was designed to give participants inspiration and skills for the upcoming Waste2Art exhibition. Presenters included artists Aleshia Lonsdale, Shani Nottingham as well as Bill Tink from Netwaste and council's waste education officer Hamish Campbell.

In order to further encourage and support participation in the completion, MAP have worked with the Mudgee Waste Facility to create a bank of materials. Schools, community groups and individuals can make use of these materials.

MAP held a Waste2Art workshop with students from Mudgee High School Learning Support Unit. Other workshops have been scheduled for April. The exhibition will take place in June.

Seniors Festival: Conference/Seminar Room and Community Gallery 1–27 February 2024

The NSW Seniors Festival took place in the upstairs Conference/Seminar Room and Community Gallery space. It comprised entries in the categories of art, craft, photography, poetry and prose.

We had 288 instances of visitation to the Senior's Art Exhibition over 13 days. An average of 22 instances of visitation per day.

Mudgee Arts Precinct Bookings January – March 2024

During the period between 1 January 2024 and 31 March 2024 the Mudgee Arts Precinct including the Cultural Workshops had a total of 121 bookings. 16 external bookings and 105 internal bookings. The actual income taken from the external bookings was \$1,454. The total value of the 121 bookings including internal bookings during this period was \$25,890.