



Community & Environment Committee

Agenda: *Community & Environment Committee*

Date: *Monday 5 September 2005*

Time: *6.00pm*

Outline Of Meeting Protocol & Procedure:

The Chairperson will call the Meeting to order and ask the Committee/Staff to present apologies or late correspondence.

The Chairperson will commence the Order of Business as shown in the Index to the Agenda.

At the beginning of each item the Chairperson will ask whether a member(s) of the public wish to address the Committee.

If person(s) wish to address the Committee, they are allowed four (4) minutes in which to do so. Please direct comments to the issues at hand.

If there are persons representing both sides of a matter (eg applicant/objector), the person(s) against the recommendation speak first.

At the conclusion of the allotted four (4) minutes, the speaker resumes his/her seat and takes no further part in the debate unless specifically called to do so by the Chairperson.

If there is more than one (1) person wishing to address the Committee from the same side of the debate, the Chairperson will request that where possible a spokesperson be nominated to represent the parties.

The Chairperson has the discretion whether to continue to accept speakers from the floor.

After considering any submissions the Committee will debate the matter (if necessary), and arrive at a recommendation (R items which proceed to Full Council) or a resolution (D items for which the Committee has delegated authority).

Delegated Authority (“D” Items):

Community Services and Programmes.

Health.

Liquor Licences.

Fire Protection Orders.

Residential Parking Schemes (surveillance and administration).

Traffic Management (Traffic Committee Recommendations).

Waverley/Woollahra Process Plant.

To require such investigations, reports or actions as considered necessary in respect of matters contained within the Business Agendas (and as may be limited by specific Council resolution).

Confirmation of the Minutes of its Meeting.

Any other matter falling within the responsibility of the Community and Environment Committee and not restricted by the Local Government Act or required to be a Recommendation to Full Council as listed below.

Library Services

Licensing.

Regulatory.

Waste Minimisation

Recommendation only to the Full Council (“R” Items):

Such matters as are specified in Section 377 of the Local Government Act and within the ambit of the Committee considerations.

Matters which involve broad strategic or policy initiatives within responsibilities of the Committee.

Matters requiring the expenditure of moneys and in respect of which no Council vote has been made.

Matters delegated to the Council by the Traffic Authority of NSW.

Matters not within the specified functions of the Committee, or which are not the subject of a Business Agenda (current or past).

Matters reserved by individual Councillors, in accordance with any Council policy on "safeguards".

Parks and Reserve Plans of Management (Strategies, Policies and Objectives)

Residential Parking Schemes - Provision and Policies

Committee Membership:

7 Councillors

Quorum:

The quorum for a Committee meeting is 4 Councillors.

WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting

1 September 2005

To: The Mayor, Councillor Rundle, ex-officio
Councillors Marcus Ehrlich (Chair)
 Anthony Boskovitz
 Claudia Cullen
 Tanya Excell
 Wilhelmina Gardner
 Andrew Petrie
 John Walker

Dear Councillors

Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 5 September 2005

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, I request your attendance at a Meeting of the Council's **Community and Environment Committee** to be held in the **Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay, on Monday 5 September 2005 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James
General Manager

Meeting Agenda

Item	Subject	Pages
1	Leave of Absence and Apologies	
2	Late Correspondence	
3	Declarations of Interest	

Items to be Decided by this Committee using its Delegated Authority

D1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 22 August 2005	1
D2	Library Report for the twelve months 2004/2005 – 48.G	2
D3	Queen Street, Woollahra – Car park improvements – 131. & 373.109	21
D4	Excessive Street Signs	30

Items to be Submitted to the Council for Decision with Recommendations from this Committee

R1	24 hour dog off leash – Yarranabbe Park & northern end of Steyne Park – 271.G/23, 226.G/5 & 181.G/9	35
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Item No: D1 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 22 August 2005**
Author: Les Windle, Manager - Governance
File No: See Council Minutes
Reason for Report: The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 22 August 2005 were previously circulated. In accordance with the guidelines for Committees' operations it is now necessary that those Minutes be formally taken as read and confirmed.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Community and Environment Committee Meeting of 22 August 2005 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle
Manager - Governance

Item No: D2 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Library Report for the Twelve Months 2004/2005**
Author: Faye Lawrence - Manager - Library Services
File No: 48.G
Reason for Report: To review the Library operations for the full year 1 July, 2004 to 30 June, 2005.

Recommendation:

1. That the report of the Library Service for the year 2004/2005 be noted.

Summary of Contents:

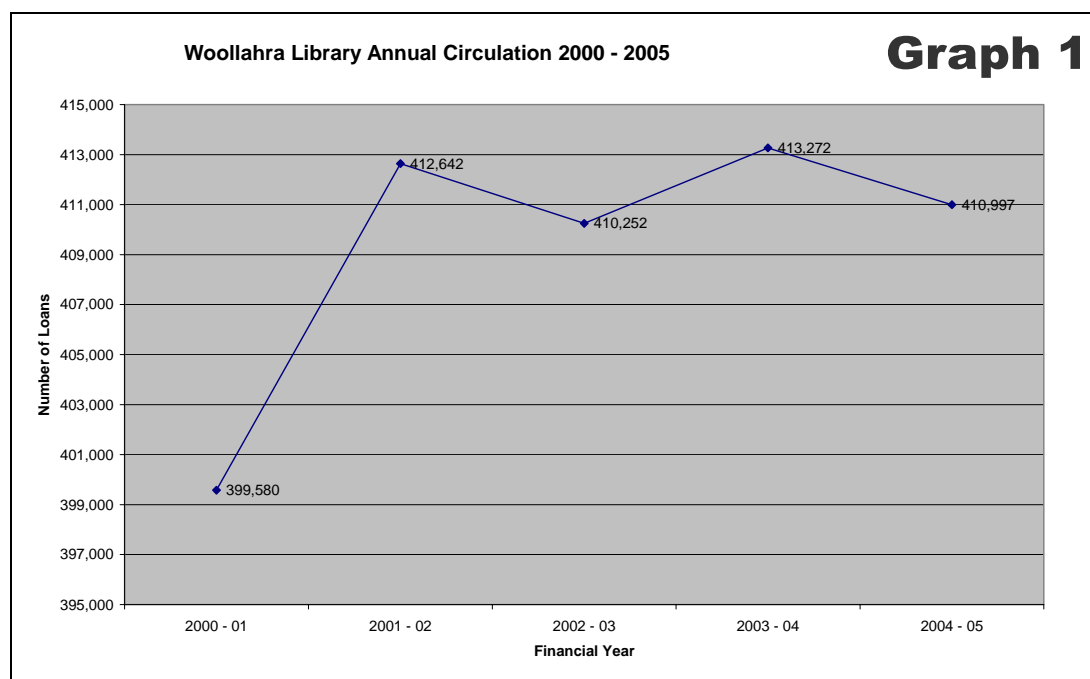
This report reviews the library activities and projects for the twelve months 1 July, 2004 to 30 June, 2005 with attached statistics compared with the previous year. Also included in the body of the report are five year trend line graphs for the library services and a range of statistics, graphs and discussion on many other library operations such as Local History, Database and on-line usage, Community Information usage, Inter-library loan requests, Children's activities and the Adult cultural programme.

1. Library Usage According to Lending Statistics:
A. Overall circulation and trend line information.

There was a very slight decrease of 0.5% in the total lending of items for the year 2004/05 compared with the previous year or 410,997 items lent in 2004/05 compared with 413,252 in 2003/04.

In the last library report for the March quarter it was observed that there was an anomaly in the way renewal loans were being counted via the on-line part of the new management system. This has now been corrected and what appeared to be a 6% decrease in circulation in fact was much less – with the overall result for the year being a small percentage decrease only for the twelve months of 0.5%

A graph of the circulation for the five year period 2000-01 to 2004-05 indicates that lending statistics have been very steady for the past four years following a sharp increase in 2000/2001 of 3.3%.



A summary of the information from Graph 1 is:

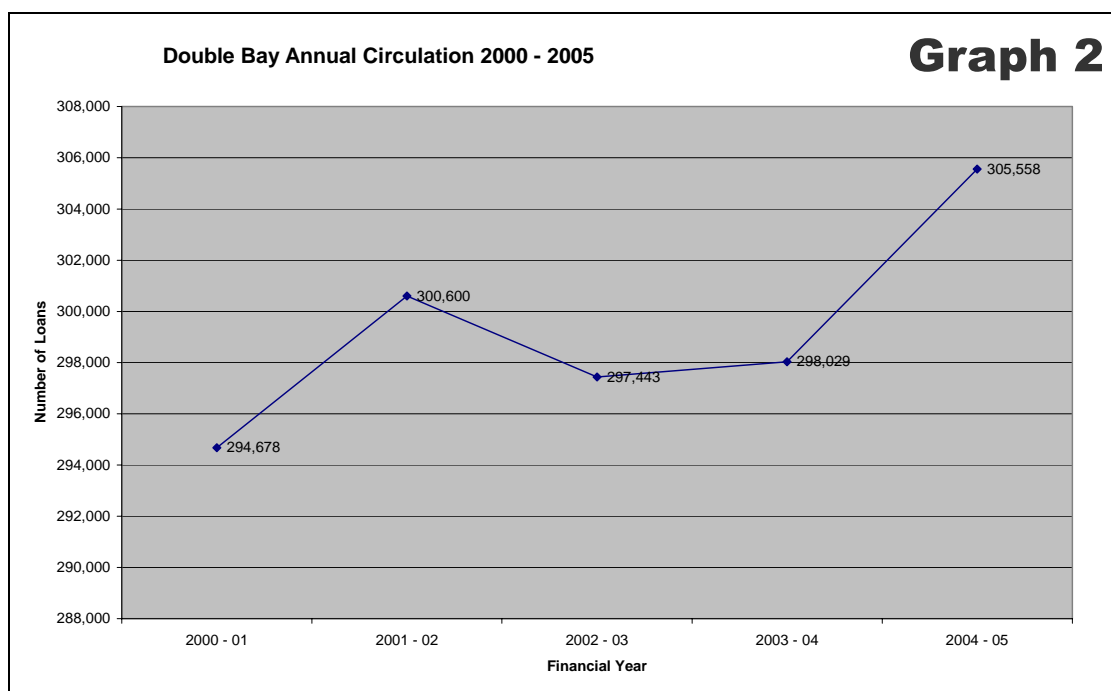
1. For the five years, 2000/01 to 2004/05, the difference between the highest circulation and the lowest was 2.9% or 11,417.
2. The lower circulation in 2000/01 can be attributed to a decrease for that year following the opening the large library facility at Waverley in 1999.
3. There was a sharp increase in Woollahra circulation in 2001/02 of 13,062 or 3.3% after the re-adjustment to the Waverley opening.
4. The difference between the circulation in 2001/02 and 2004/05 was 0.34% or 1,645 items lent. The trend line for these four years shows an overall circulation maintained at a steady level at Woollahra Library.

B. Circulation Branch by Branch Including Trend Line Information.

When looking at each branch location the following breakdown applied, for the full twelve month comparison:

- Double Bay Central Library increased by 1.5% (305,558 compared with 298,029 in 2003/04).
- Paddington Branch decreased by 4.1% (92,704 compared with 96,704 in 2003/04).
- Watsons Bay Branch decreased by 6.5% (15,705 compared with 16,803 in 2003/04).

The five year trend lines for the three libraries of Double Bay, Paddington and Watsons Bay are now being considered separately.



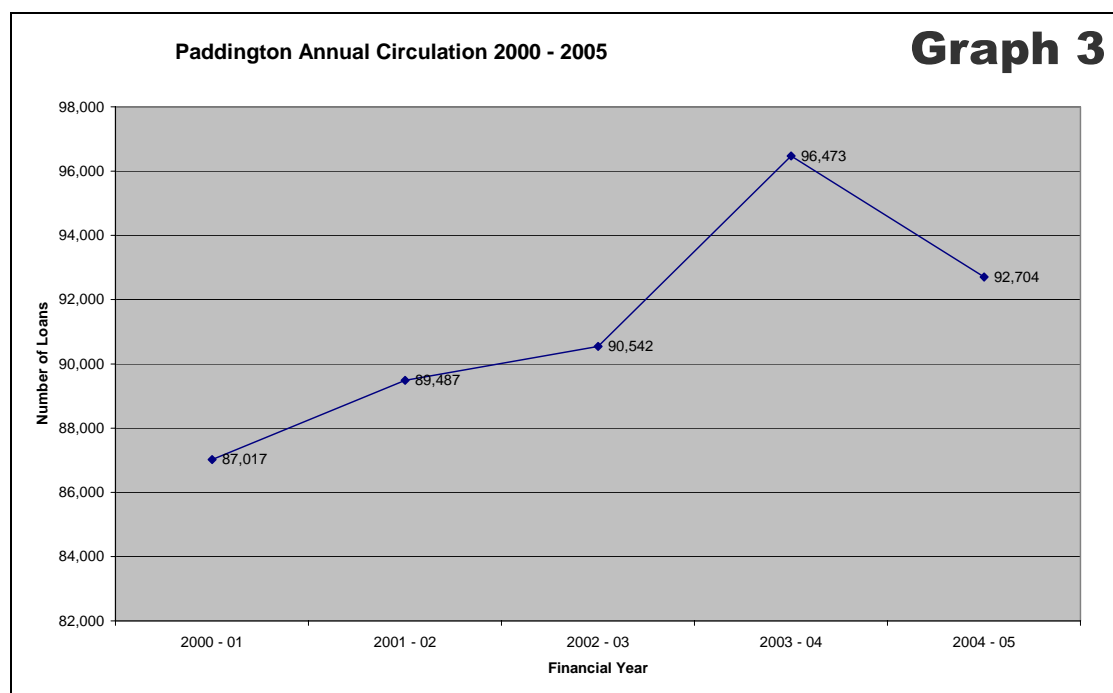
Double Bay Central Library - A summary of the information from Graph 2 is:

1. In the five years 2000/01 to 2004/05 there has been an increase in circulation of 10,880 items or 3.7%.
2. The four years of circulation 2001/02 to 2004/05 show minor fluctuations with 2004/05 being the highest and 2002/03 the lowest.
3. The variation for the four years is 4,958 or 1.6% - this lower range of change over the four year period is in line with the library's overall circulation as set in Graph 1 above.
4. There was a significant increase over the last twelve months from 2003/04 to 2004/05 of 7,529 or 2.5%.

Some points and factors relevant to this result for the Double Bay Central Library are:

The Children's section at Double Bay was renovated in 2004 with some additional facilities added. A couple of major attractive events and a targeted regular programme of activities and story sessions has resulted in a greater use of this part of the library. DVD formats were added to the Audio-visual collection in this period.

There has been a noticeable take up of the on-line service over the past twelve months which can translate into additional circulation as well because of greater awareness of the collections and self help, loan and reservation services.



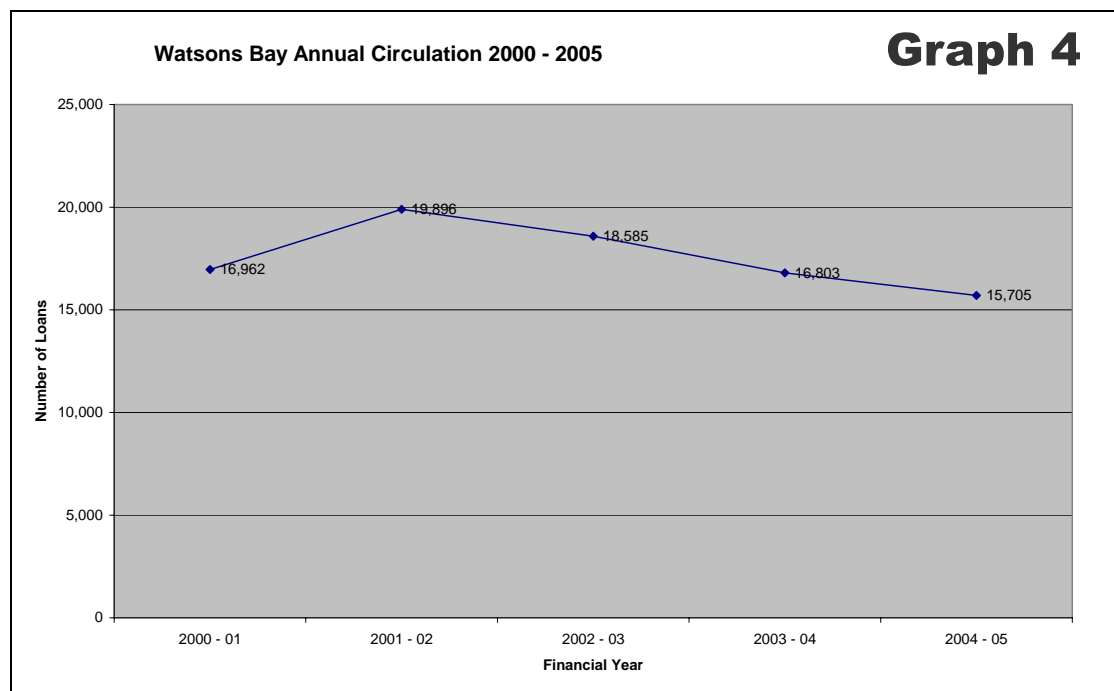
Paddington Branch Library - A summary of the information from Graph 3 is:

1. In the five years 2000/01 to 2004/05 there has been an increase in circulation of 5,687 or 6.5%.
2. There was a decrease in 2004/05 over the previous year of 3,769 or 3.9%. However 2004/05 is still the second highest circulation for the five year period.
3. Between 2001/01 and 2003/04 there was an increase each year in annual circulation.

Some points and factors relevant to this result for the Paddington Branch Library are:

Paddington Library has shown a regular increase in circulation for four of the five years except the last twelve months. Observations of the use of the library for this recent period since 2003/04 indicate that the closure of the nearby Kings Cross Branch Library on two occasions and for a considerable length of time overall, meant more users from the Darlinghurst and nearby areas came to Paddington Library. A new facility at Kings Cross has been opened in the last twelve month period which could account for the re-adjustment and the slight downturn in circulation in 2004/05.

The usage of all services in this Branch continues at a high level. With three staff it offers a full range of children's activities, good reference and computer services. There is much inter-change by library users between Double Bay and Paddington Libraries.



Watsons Bay Branch Library – A summary of the information in this graph is:

1. The decline in circulation over the five years from 2000/01 was 1,257 or 7.4%.
2. There was a sharp decline in circulation for the four years 2001/02 to 2004/05 of 4,191 or 21%.

Some points and factors relevant to this result for Watsons Bay Branch are:

Watsons Bay branch is a small village centred service – staffed part time and open to the public just 15 hours a week. It serves families with younger children and older residents with children’s books and popular recreational reading materials. At this stage it does not have the same level of computer services as at the other branches which may mean it is attracting fewer younger people and family groups than it had previously. A planned community survey of local residents could help with information about users requirements in this regard.

C. Specific Collections and Loans Information from the Current Attached Information for the Twelve Months, 1 July, 2004 to 30 June 2005, Compared with the Previous Year.

There was a 7.8% increase in children’s book lending for the twelve months despite the fact that the Holdsworth Street Community Centre library was closed within the last twelve months. The children’s book lending represents 23.4% of the total circulation.

The renovation of the children’s library at Double Bay along with a concerted outreach strategy of promotion and activities are factors which have contributed to this trend.

Adult book lending decreased by 5% or 11,773. The adult book lending accounts for 55% of the overall circulation. It is planned to conduct a user survey of clients on this collection usage in the six months. There is also a strong de-selection programme underway aimed at removing out-of-date stock.

Audio visual items were up by 6.3% on the previous year. The audio visual lending represents 6% of the total circulation. DVD formats were added for the Double Bay collection in the previous twelve months but not to the other branches.

Periodical lending decreased by 6% and represent 5% of the total circulation. This collection is currently under review with a user survey planned.

The Toy collection is for young children represent 0.5% of the total circulation. It is available only at the Double Bay Central Library. The aim of this collection is to complement the young child's experience of reading and learning.

Home Library Service

The home library service lent 14,695 items to people in their homes and accounted for 3.6% of annual loans. People are visited on a fortnightly basis – several volunteers assist in the delivery of this small but vital service for the community.

2. Summary Comments on a Range of Activities and Projects Undertaken Throughout the Year in Reference and Information Services:

Reference Enquiries:

The total number of reference enquiries answered for the year was about the same as the previous year or 30,307 compared with 30,443 in the 2003/04.

Reference enquiries are those requests for library based information received at the various service points of the library face to face, and via the telephone or email. The main service points are two at Double Bay for Adult and Children service areas; Paddington Library, phone and Email.

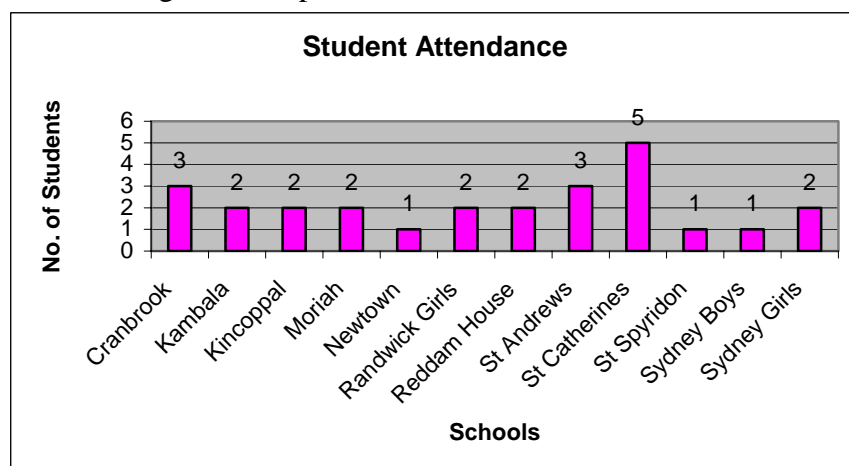
The reference librarian notes that enquiries cover a wide range including complex art and literature enquiries, law enquiries using the special Legal and Information Access Centre materials, senior high school and undergraduate level student needs, along with a range of general enquiries from adult education users on every conceivable subject.

It has been noted that most general enquiries can be satisfied more quickly, given the mix of resources - on-line and print which the library now holds.

A *Standards of Service* has been developed for enquiries received by email, in order to ensure regular and quick responses for enquiries from this source.

HSC Program:

Three HSC lectures for the *Ride the HSC programme* were organised. This is a co-operative programme run by the Eastern Suburbs Libraries – Waverley, Randwick, Botany and Woollahra who each conduct part of the programme. The programme is aimed at complementing the school curriculum, and attracts students from a wide range of schools. The attendances at Woollahra's lectures brings out this point:



Electronic Information Services:

Three new on-line databases were added to the library's resources throughout the year. There are now twelve databases available for remote use. The subject coverage is quite wide and includes public affairs, science, literature, health and general knowledge.

There was a high 148.3% increase in the number of remote (outside the library) searches undertaken in 2004/05 compared with 2003/04 or 2727 compared with 1098.

The highest level of database usage by remote users was for Kinetica (The National Library of Australia bibliographies database of Australia's library holdings). The following table summaries this usage for 2004/05.

	Library Access		Remote Access	
	Logins	Searches	Logins	Searches
ANZRC *	344	801	40	128
APAFT *	62	357	31	357
Austlit	0	69	0	0
GBIP.com	569	3196	0	0
Health and Wellness	112	810	36	294
Kinetica	0	390	0	1290
Science Resource Centre	26	280	24	209
Literature Resource Centre	91	504	130	542
SAGE	33	104	0	0
Standards Australia	0	138	0	0
What do I read next?	74	137	90	87
Britannica Online	0	333	0	23
* Current Affairs databases				

Library Website:

In 2004/05 a number of pages were developed using designated templates.

Four main areas were developed for the adult section of the website:

- Library Catalogue including member services
- Reference and other services – which included Local history, Community Information, HSC and Reference Information
- Membership and Library locations
- News and Events – including information on the Poets' Picnic, Library bookfair and Redleaf book club

Local History:

Local History staff provide an information service at the Local History Centre, Sherbrooke Hall which is open to the public twenty three hours per week.

Local History staff also provide ongoing support to Heritage, Planning and other Council Staff. Examples include: research and reports provided on properties, collation of Local History materials for display, research of history of various locations.

The table below indicates the range of research and enquiries undertaken in 2004/05.

Inquiry Type	Number
Council/consultants	336
Property Inquiries	740
Commissioned Property Reports	23
Local History	611
Family History	207
Assistance with equipment/catalogue	52
Directional	37
Other	136
Total	2142

Oral History Project:

The Local History Librarians coordinate the Oral history Project undertaken by volunteers. The Curator of Oral History from the State Library of New South Wales has trained the volunteers. Five Oral Histories have been completed in 2004/05. Possible themes for this ongoing project include:

- The Rose Bay Shopping Centre
- Architects whose work has shaped the area
- War time memories of Woollahra
- Immigration and Woollahra
- History of Woollahra Council's operations

Publications and Exhibitions

Two booklets were published by the staff in 2004 - Paddington Heritage and St Brigids. Two photographic exhibitions were prepared for the first half of 2005 – on Watsons Bay Baths and the Royal Hospital for Women site in Paddington.

Copying Project:

The original Valuation Lists of the New South Wales Valuer General, for Vaucluse Council -1923, Edgecliff Ward – 1919-1926, Piper Ward – 1919-1926, Double Bay Ward – 1924-1926 and Bellevue Ward 1919-1926 were all copied onto microfiche. These valuation lists represent some of the earliest records of the Department of the Valuer General, which was formed in 1917 (following the Land Valuation Act 1916) and authorised to issue valuations to Councils. These valuable records are now readily available for use in the Local History Centre and the copying has ensured their preservation.

Image Scanning:

A procedural guide has been developed by the Systems Librarian to be used both in Local History and Double Bay Central Library. Training was undertaken in 2004/2005 in readiness for the scanning to re-commence in Local History, with some scanning taking place at Double Bay Central Library.

Donations/Collection additions:

A significant number of donations have been added to the Woollahra Local history in 2004/05 collection. The additions included:

- Original early photographs of Carrara, Rose Bay, Watsons Bay Baths and rowers off Kutti Beach from Bruce Crosson.

- A large collection relating to World War II and Woollahra – particularly the shelling of harbour suburbs Bellevue Hill and Rose Bay by a Japanese submarine in 1942. The collection includes photographs and newspaper articles, and items including helmet, signalling equipment, stirrup pump and gas.

- A descendant of the Lassetter family donated a large body of research on the Lassetter family history.

Photographs and negatives of Parsley Bay, St Killians, Rose Bay, Bellevue Hill were acquired from the collection of Beryl Cubis.

Community Information:

There were 6,895 searches undertaken in 2004/05 on the LINCS database of Community Information which is maintained on the Council's web-site.

Searches made on LINCS by the Public 2004/05.

Total Public Searches July 2004 – June 2005	
Jul-04	675
Aug-04	1010
Sep-04	976
Oct-04	1267
Nov-04	640
Dec-04	236
Jan-05	501
Feb-05	413
Mar-05	413
Apr-05	260
May-05	282
Jun-05	222
	6895

The following table sets out the searches undertaken on the LINCS database with three or more specific subject searches.

Subject Search 2004/05	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Annual Totals
Accommodation				20	10	7	15		7	8		4	71
Arts and Culture	12	14					7		7		4		44
Child care		29	16	42	9	4					4		104
Communication							8						8
Community Centres	15		14	24		8		7				5	73
Community Facilities	29	35	35	78	17	11	14	11	13	13	7	10	273
Community Organisation	10	18	21	20	8	12		8	18	13	7	4	139
Computer classes								6	6	4			16
Conservation and Environment	10	12											22
Day care					11								11
Drama								7					7
Education	24	25	34	46	19	4	14		8	7	7		188
Emergency accommodation							9						9
Employment			13			5							18
Family Day Care	13	16				7				5			41
Halls & Meeting Rooms				25	18				8				51
Health Services						8							8
Income											4		4
Law & justice										4			4
Leisure								8	7	5	5		25
Leisure Activities		15	16	20									51
Leisure Facilities	29	17	20	23	12		8						109
Long Day Care	11	30	26	32	12	4	9		8		7		139
Performing arts												4	4
Picnic areas												3	3
Population groups												5	5
Preschools			15						10	5			30
Preschool Woollahra								12					12
Preschools Woollahra								6					6
School holiday activities												4	4
Refuges							11						11
Schools							7	7					14
Utilities	10				9								19
Vacation care											4	7	11
Wills												4	4
Monthly Totals	163	211	210	330	125	70	102	72	92	64	49	50	1538
Total =	1538												

A further analysis of these headings indicates that whilst there is a wide ranging number of subjects from which information is searched – there seems to be two main types of local community information most in demand namely,

1. Education and childcare including Family day care, Vacation care, Schools and Pre-schools, and,
2. Community and leisure facilities and activities including Community organisations, Halls-for-hire, Arts and Culture, and Computer classes.

Five community services directories were updated – Children’s, Youth, Schools, Seniors and Seniors Accommodation. These directories are available on the web-site and in printed form.

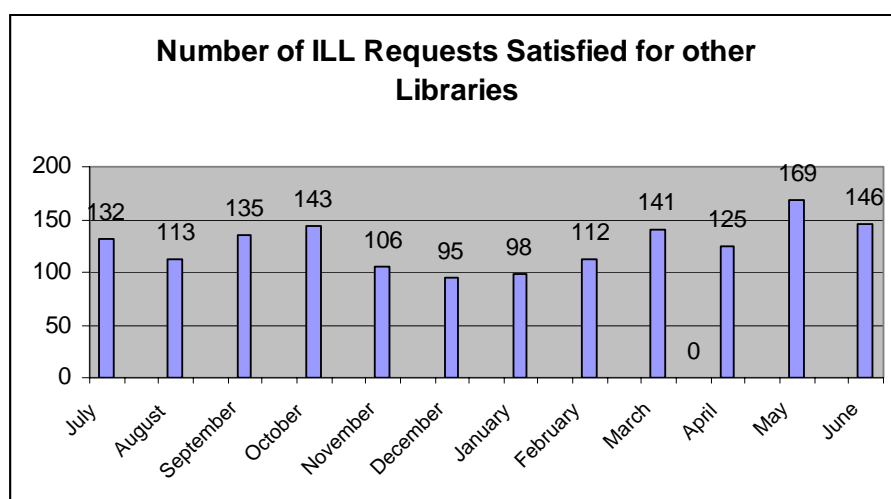
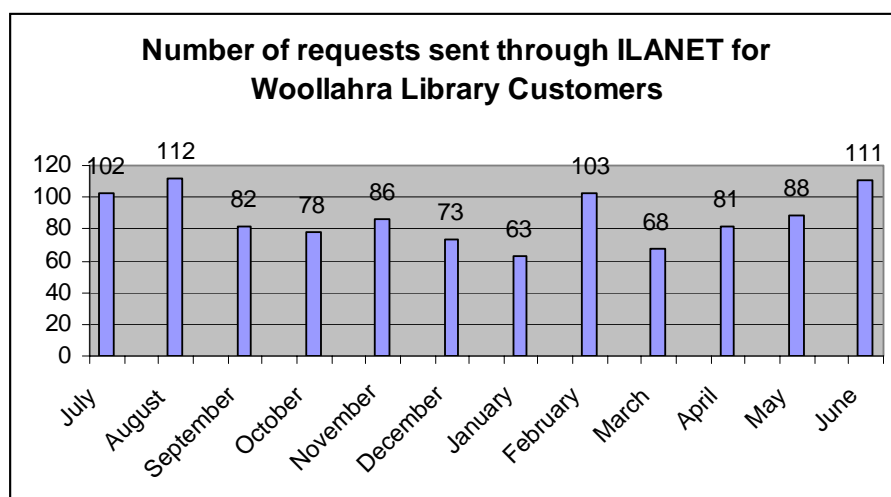
Twelve editions of the *What’s On* calendar were produced. These are widely distributed in printed form to community organisations and published monthly on the Council’s web-site.

Inter-Library Loans

Inter-Library loans continued to be busy throughout 2004/2005. Woollahra is one of the three larger users of the inter-library loan services of the thirty three metropolitan Sydney libraries. This is so from perspectives of both borrowing from other services and lending to other services.

An inter-library loan van is co-operatively funded by all the metropolitan Councils for their library services with each library visited four times per week to deliver and pick-up returns of items.

The following charts outline the number of requests to and from Woollahra over the different months of the year – these requests are circulated electronically through a programme called ILANET which is maintained by the State Library.



3. Library Management System

The new Library Management System, Libero, was implemented throughout 2004/05. The system provides Library staff with more information on usage patterns with the main benefit for the end-user being the provision of a fully searchable catalogue, on-line, available via any dial-in location.

There has been a strong take up of the on-line catalogue services via the web as this selected summary of usage statistics below indicate.

On-Line Catalogue Use 2004/05	
Total hits on all functions	370,584
Member log-ins (remotely)	14,493
Reservation log-ins (remotely)	4,706

In order to understand more about how we can improve these services, a customer survey was conducted by the library in June 2005. The information from this survey is set out in the section below.

4. Customer Service Survey – On-line Services.

This survey was carried out to collect information on possible ways to improve the design of the catalogue and website and to market the use of the library catalogue and website.

Methodology

The Survey was available to fill out at Double Bay Adult Library, Double Bay Junior Library, Sherbrooke Hall – Local History Centre and Paddington Library. Survey boxes were in the exit areas of the 4 main service points. The survey was conducted over a period of 3 weeks, from 23rd May to 12th June 2005. Customers who booked in to use the email/word processing service were asked to fill in a form when coming in for their booking; staff members also alerted users using the reference computers to the survey. Any customer who came into the library could fill in the survey.

Results

Surveys captured at service points

Double Bay Adult Library - 115

Double Bay Junior Library - 21

Sherbrooke Hall – Local History Centre - 5

Paddington Library – 49

60% of the 190 surveys filled in were female and 40% male.

The distribution of age groups (compared to Woollahra Library membership age group categories) for the 190 surveys were as follows:

12-17 – 9% - (10.81% of members in this age group)

18-24 – 8% - (11.4% of members in this age group)

25-54 – 51%- (44.8% of members in this age group)

55-74 – 26%- (17% of members in this age group)

75+ - 7% - (15.9% of members in this age group)

The results are detailed below:

69% of respondents use the library web-catalogue

62% of respondents use the Woollahra Library website

37% use the webpage for the Woollahra Library catalogue

14% use the webpage for access to Woollahra library online databases

14% use the websute for general information (i.e. library hours, how to join the library etc)

13% use the webpage for links to other Internet sites

The majority of respondents accessed the Woollahra Library webpage from the library or from home. (40% from the library, 43% from Home, 12% from work, 3% from School, 2% from somewhereelse)

Most respondents accessed the library webpage once or week – to several times a month. (4% - Daily, 13% - A few times a week, 21% - Once a week, 27% - Several times a month, 17% - Once a month, 18% - Less than once a month)

60% of participants rated the usefulness of the library website satisfactory or above.

64% rated the clarity of the website satisfactory or above.

67% of participants rated the ease of use of the library catalogue satisfactory or above.

Summary of the Information in the Survey

This survey had a large number of respondents with varying age ranges.

Several customers would like further instruction on how to use the on-line facilities. The majority of people found these services fair to good. There is sufficient information gathered from this survey which highlights that clients wish to participate in on-line services. This is encouraging in seeking to improve the services and planning for additional improvements to the website and on-line catalogue. The new content management software being assessed by Woollahra Council will help in this, as well as undertaking improvements to the Libero Library management system by our vendor.

It is planned to conduct a similar survey this time next year to assess improvements and compare results.

5. Children's Services

There has been a high success rate for all children's services for each library in 2004/05. Emphasis on children's services has been an important strategy for the library over the past eighteen months and the evidence is there that the programme and the projects are working.

The strategy has been simple – namely, to examine each of the programmes and projects the library is regularly involved in for children and to plan to make them more attractive, relevant and enjoyable. Another part of the strategy has been to improve communication throughout the community and to all the local schools.

A Kids Day Out on Sunday August 2004 for children's bookweek started the year. About 500 children and their families enjoyed the day with live entertainment, book week presentation and author talks. It was also a key celebration marking the newly renovated children's library section at Double Bay.

Story Time

The regular story time and playgroup sessions at Double Bay and Paddington attracted many children.

Session – Double Bay	Number of Children
Wednesday Story Time (weekly)	417
Holdsworth Street Story Time (weekly)	243
Friday Playgroup (fortnightly)	402
Total	1062
Session - Paddington	Number of Children
Toddler Story Time (weekly)	429
Story Time (weekly)	205
Total	634

The Children's Library at Double Bay held additional theme days featuring story telling and other events which enhanced the library experience. Some of these special theme days were for:

- Naidoc Week – 70 children and parents attended the dreamtime story telling sessions.
- Harbour week, craft and stories related to the Council's Harbour Week events.
- World Environment Day worm farm demonstrations and outdoor craft.
- NSW Simultaneous Story Time session.
- Easter egg hunt in Blackburn Gardens and Easter craft.
- Seniors Week Art Display in Junior Library Double Bay, featuring "Draw your favourite older person" and/or "Write about your favourite older person". Library staff participated in final judging of competition.
- Library week story time and craft.
- Christmas party, storytime and craft.

Holiday Activities

The activities programme also attracted many children to both the Double Bay and Paddington during the School Holidays.

The Summer reading programme in December and January aimed at encouraging children to read, 150 children participated. Writing workshops were conducted in January with children's author Duncan Ball at both Paddington and Double Bay Libraries – attended by 40 children.

Child Care Centre Visits

Paddington Library staff have specially targeted child care centres around the Library with the following centres visiting and joining up the children.

Childcare Centres	Number of Sessions	Number of Children
Eastside Childcare	11	181
Kira Childcare	4	43
Peter Pan	1	20
St Vincents Childcare	1	16
SDN Paddington	1	12
Total	18	272

Children's Web-site

The Woollahra Library's Children's Web-site has been designed and built throughout this year. The site is designed to help children and their parents access the library's collections, events information, competitions and on-line databases.

A second major function of the site is to help children and parents who are not confident on searching the Internet, find appropriate information. The site is regularly updated. Fifteen new reading lists (such as 'What to read while you are waiting for the next Harry Potter' and 'Groovy Grans & Grouse Grandads') have been added to it this year to help children and their parents find new books to read.

Teen Web-site

The Woollahra Teen web-site was designed and launched as part of the library's contribution to National Youth Week 2005. The site was designed to be teen friendly but also useful for teens who are studying and who would benefit from our various collections such as the HSC and on-line databases. Other collections highlighted by the site include our new anime, manga and graphic novels collections. During Youth Week the site was displayed at the Ways Youth Week activities. Workshops and focus groups were held to determine what the teens thought were the site's strong points and what needed fine-tuning.

6. Cultural Events

There have been a range of activities organised and promoted throughout the year including:

- Library Bookfair – 11 September 2004
- Woollahra Council Photographic Award – 15 September 2004
- Poets Picnic – *All Creatures Great and Small* – 22 February 2005

There were nine presentations in the popular Writers and Readers Series held in the Council Chambers:

- 15 July 2004 – Rachel Kohn – *The New Believers*
- 5 August 2004 – Peter Hill – *Stargazing*
- 9 September 2004 – Robert Dessaix – *Twilights of Love*
- 29 September 2004 – Michael Duffy – *Latham and Abbott*
- 18 November 2004 – Local Writers Night
- 8 December 2004 – Kathryn Fox – *Malicious Intent*
- 3 March 2005 – Gerard Windsor – *I have Kissed Your Lips*
- 7 April 2005 – Diane Armstrong – *Winter Journey*
- 16 June 2005 – Mandy Sayer – *Velocity*

There were around 500 people attending the Writers and Readers series throughout the year. A survey was conducted at the April and June 2005 events. There was as expected a very high satisfaction rate, however further questions brought out useful data on how people got their information about the series and how often they attended.

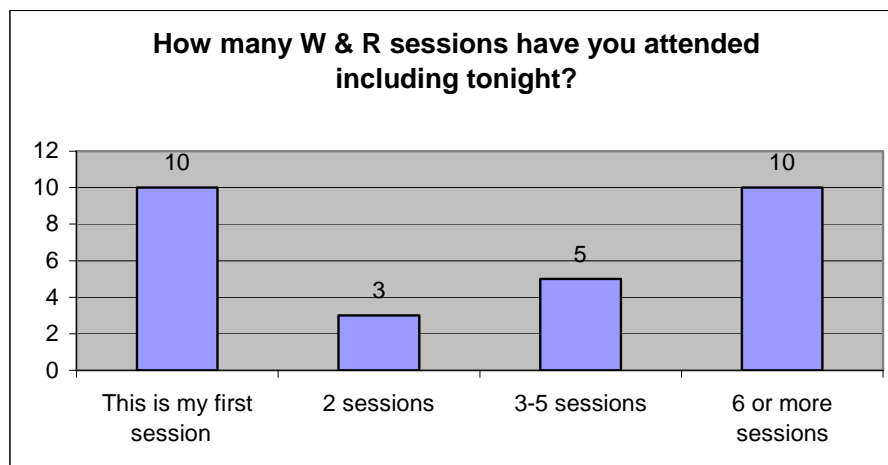
Most people found out about the events from the library but there was a good spread of ways from which people got their information.

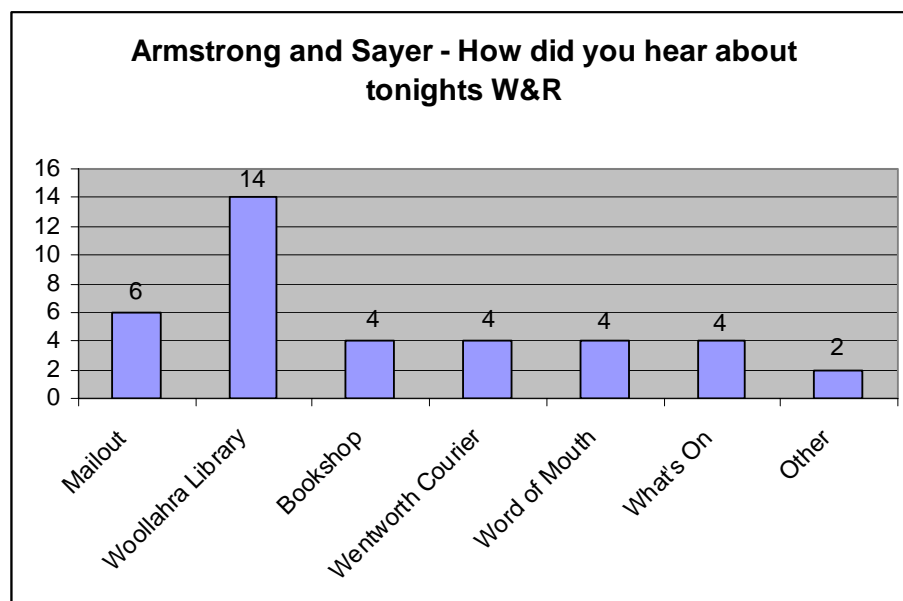
There were as many first session attendees as there were regulars, who had attended six or more sessions.

The conclusions drawn were that:

1. It is worthwhile to continue to publicise such events in the usual sources and centres but aim to target new sources such as clubs and special interest groups as appropriate.
2. The aim to attract a variety of interests and speakers within the overall format should be continued.

The survey results are set out in the tables below:





Conclusion:

Trend line information over five years shows that the overall circulation of items for this period has been fairly steady following a significant increase at the beginning of the period in 2000/01.

Circulation from the three branches compared with the previous twelve months shows an increase at Double Bay, a relatively small decrease at Paddington and a larger percentage decrease at Watsons Bay. The reason for the decrease at Paddington 2004/05 following four years of increases, can be attributed to the closure and then re-opening of the King's Cross Branch Library of the City of Sydney.

The Watsons Bay decrease may be attributed to the lesser development of its services compared with the other branches. It is a relatively small service and aims to meet a limited locality need. A planned survey and consultation with local residents regarding this and other community based facilities will assist in planning for this service.

The specific collections and loans information brings out the increased usage of the children's services. There has been a noticeable take-up of the on-line services available in the library and from home bases.

Two specific aims of the library services of the last year 2004/05, have been improvement of children services and on-line services. There is evidence in the usage patterns that both of these aims are being met.

The short term strategic aims of the library service for the next twelve months are to build on these successes and to assess and improve the collection services for adults. User surveys will provide some basic data for informing these strategies.

For the longer term a Library and Information service strategy is planned with work commencing in 2006. This has been set out as a major project for the library in the current Management Plan.

Faye Lawrence
Manager – Library Services

Kylie Walshe
Director – Community Services

Annexures:

1. Woollahra Library Statistical Information, 1 July 2004 - 30 June 2005.

Item No: D3 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Queen Street, Woollahra, Car Park Improvements**
Author: Zubin Marolia, Manager Property & Projects
File No: 131. and 373.109
Reason for Report: To report on the advertising process in relation to the proposed improvements of Council's car park in Dorhauer Lane.

Recommendation:

That the design, detailed in Drawing No.14880, be approved in principle for implementation when funding is made available.

BACKGROUND:

The Assets Working Party met on 1 December 2003 to consider a number of items including the proposed Queen Street car park redesign and resolved:

“That the report to the Community and Environment Committee be submitted acknowledging that there is opportunity to develop the site as a joint venture.”

The Community and Environment Committee at its meeting held on 15 December 2003 considered a report on the proposed redesign of the Queen Street Carpark and resolved as follows:

“1. That consideration of the matter be deferred and a site inspection be conducted in February 2004.”

An on-site inspection was held on 9 February 2004 with sixteen affected members of the community, Councillors Rundle and Watson, Council's Director of Technical Services and Council's Team Leader – Traffic & Transport.

The property owners and tenants present at the meeting expressed their concern with the car park redesign proposal as it would increase traffic along Dorhauer Lane between the carpark and John Street and detrimentally affect access to their properties and businesses. The community also advised that pedestrians, including elderly residents, often walk along the lane and any increase in traffic would be dangerous. The narrow width of Dorhauer Lane at the intersection of Queen Street was identified as a problem when vehicles attempt to enter and exit the lane and carpark at the same time.

Following the on-site inspection, the Community and Environment Committee on 9 February 2004, resolved:

“THAT a report be brought to the next meeting of the Community and Environment Committee identifying ways in which the carpark can be made more attractive without altering the configuration of and access to the existing carpark.”

The car park layout was then reviewed and the design shown in Drawing No 14880 was submitted for consideration. The Community and Environment Committee, at its meeting on 23 February 2004, resolved the following:

“THAT Drawing No.14880 detailing the proposed parking and landscaping design of the Queen Street carpark be approved in principle, exhibited for three weeks and a report including the community’s comments be brought back to the Committee for consideration.”

Subsequently, the proposal was advertised in the Wentworth Courier, March 2004. One response was received.

Proposal:

The plan attached as **Annexure 1** details the proposed parking layout and landscaping design of the carpark. The layout has been designed in accordance with Australian Standards and will provide parking for fourteen vehicles, including a disabled parking space in the northern bay closest to Queen Street. Although the existing carpark provides parking for seventeen cars, the parking layout does not comply with the Australian Standard and does not provide for disabled parking.

The proposed design includes:

- retaining the existing one-way access from Queen Street and one-way exit to Moncur Street, removing the existing garden and constructing a footpath (2.1m wide) adjacent to the side boundary of No 107 Queen Street (Zigolini’s Restaurant) with ramps at either end to assist pedestrian and mobility impaired access through the carpark. This width will enable cars to park front to kerb with an overhang of 0.6m allowing 1.5m for pedestrians.
- retaining the garden planter, which is on Council property adjacent to the southern boundary, constructing a new landscaped area between the carpark and Queen Street,
- installing interlocking pavers at the entrances and exits to the carpark at Queen Street and Moncur Street to provide gateway treatments,
- resurfacing the carpark, and
- linemarking the carpark to comply to Australian Standard.

It is not proposed to widen Dorhauer Lane at Queen Street as, in the opinion of Council’s traffic engineers, it would expose pedestrians crossing the lane more to vehicular traffic. This lane width is not uncommon in other areas of the Municipality and is suitable for one-way traffic.

The footpath on the eastern boundary, adjacent to Dorhauer Lane, is largely on private land and is obstructed by columns. Therefore, the provision of a footpath on the western boundary is preferred to provide safe pedestrian access into the carpark. Widening of the eastern footpath would entail expensive alteration of kerb and gutter and drainage and would not improve pedestrian access to the parked cars.

Title Search

The land on which the carpark is located has no encumbrances noted on the Certificate of Title. A detailed survey of the land has noted a number of unauthorised encroachments, which affect the functioning of the carpark. Council’s Compliance Department has been informed and action is being taken to request the respective owners to have these encroachments removed.

Submissions

One letter was received from Ms A Yared -109 Queen Street, Woollahra (**Annexure 4**).

The main objection is to the alleged obstruction to the visibility of her business premises from Queen Street.

Comment:

The premises do not have frontage to Queen Street and apart from the introduction of planting at Queen Street, the sight lines remain as existing.

A second objection is that there will be loss of three carparking spaces.

Comment:

This is a consequence of providing parking in accordance with the Australian Standard and providing one accessible disabled car space.

A third objection is that the reduction of the landscaping is not considered suitable as it will have a detrimental effect on the amenity of the streetscape and the street frontage of the carpark.

Comment:

It is considered the upgrading work, including resurfacing and planting, will improve amenity.

Conclusion:

The proposed works will improve the pedestrian and vehicular safety of the carpark and the associated landscaping works will improve the overall appearance of the streetscape. If the works do not proceed, the carpark spaces will remain in the current substandard condition, the pedestrian safety issues will not be resolved and the overall appearance of the streetscape will not be enhanced. However, as a consequence of the upgrading works, there will be a loss of three car spaces. The estimated cost of undertaking the proposed works has been included in the streetscape works budget which is currently on hold, pending discussion with the Minister regarding the Infrastructure Levy.

It is recommended that the design detailed in Drawing No. 14880 be approved in principle as an element of streetscape improvements in Queen Street, Woollahra for implementation when funding is made available.

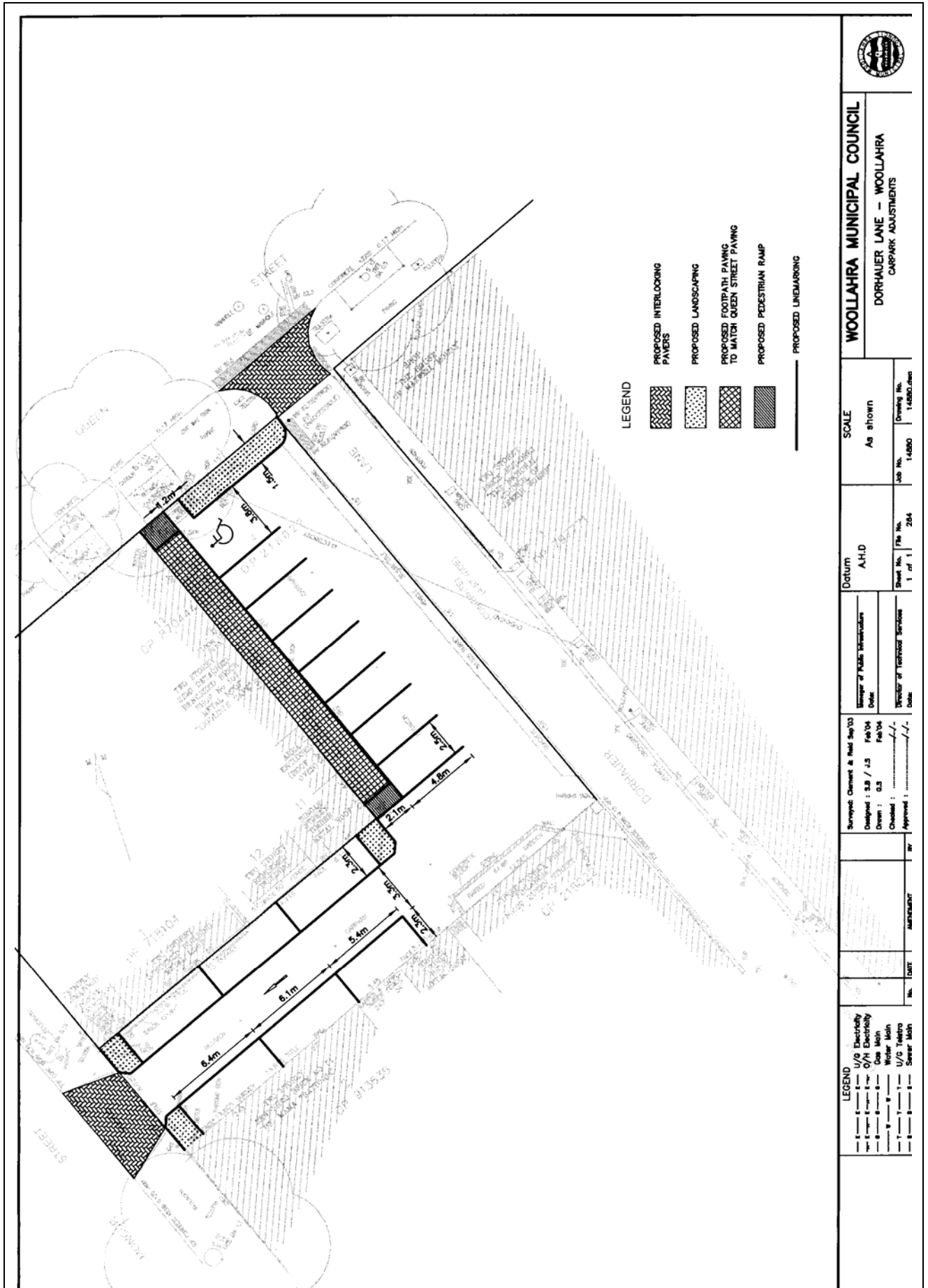
Zubin Marolia
Manager Property & Projects

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Annexures:

1. Drawing No.14880.
2. Copy of property search of Council's carpark.
3. Photo montage of carpark.
4. Copies of correspondence.

Annexure 1



LEGEND

- PROPOSED INTERLOCKING PAVERS
- PROPOSED LANDSCAPING
- PROPOSED FOOTPATH PAVING TO MATCH QUEEN STREET PAVING
- PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN RAMP
- PROPOSED LINEDARKING

		WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL DORHAIER LANE - WOOLLAHRA CARPARK ADJUSTMENTS	
		SCALE As shown	Drawing No. 14890.dwg
Surveyed: 2003 Designed: S.B. / J.S. Feb'04 Drawn: G.S. Feb'04 Checked: / / / Approved: / / /		Datum A.H.D.	Job No. 14890
Manager of Public Administration Date: / /		Sheet No. 1 of 1	File No. 264
Director of Technical Services Date: / /		No. DATE APPROVAL	
U/G Electricity O/A Electricity Gas Main Water Main U/G Teleco Sewer Main		No. DATE APPROVAL	

Annexure 2

LEGALCO MANAGEMENT PTY LTD

ABN 42 089 586 872
Level 19, 55 Market Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone: +612 9283 5111
Fax: +612 9283 5333

Postal: P.O. Box A2151
Sydney South NSW 1235
Internet: <http://www.legalco.com.au>
E-mail: legalco@legalco.com.au

21st. October, 2003.

Mr. Anthony Sheedy
Property Officer
Woollahra Municipal Council
DX 3607
Double Bay

Dear Anthony,

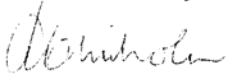
**Re: Property Search – Council Carpark, 109 Queen Street,
Woollahra.**

In response to your instructions in this matter we have obtained a copy of cancelled Certificate of Title Volume: 10218 Folio: 200 to ascertain any evidence of encumbrances which may have been endorsed on that title prior to its conversion to the current Certificate of Title, Folio Identifier 4/218022.

The attached copy of Certificate of Title Volume: 10218 Folio: 200 reveals that except for the exclusion of mines and deposits specified in Section 536AA Local Government Act, 1919, there were no encumbrances affecting the subject Land whatsoever.

Please contact us should you require any further assistance in this matter.

Yours Faithfully,



Dennis Chisholm,
Operations Manager.

NEW SOUTH WALES
Application No. 44688

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
PROPERTY ACT, 1900, as amended.

Vol. 10218 Fol. 200
Edition Issued 27-1-1966

MA

I certify that the person described in the First Schedule is the registered proprietor of the undermentioned estate in the land within described subject nevertheless to such exceptions encumbrances and interests as are shown in the Second Schedule.

Witness *M. J. Hoopell*

CANCELLED
Registrar General.

PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF LAND
SEE AUTO FOLIO

ESTATE AND LAND REFERRED TO
Estate in Fee Simple in Lot 4 in Deposited Plan 213022 in the Municipality of Woollahra Parish of Alexandria and County of Cumberland being part of 1130 acres granted to Daniel Cooper and Solomon Levy on 22-3-1830 excepting thereout the mine and deposits specified in Section 536AA Local Government Act, 1919.

FIRST SCHEDULE (continued overleaf)
THE COUNCIL OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF WOOLLAHRA.

Jankson
Registrar General.

SECOND SCHEDULE (continued overleaf)

NOTE: ENTRIES RULED THROUGH AND AUTHENTICATED BY THE SEAL OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL ARE CANCELLED

10218 Fol. 200
(Page 1) Vol. 10218

PERSONS ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST ALLEGEDLY USING THIS CERTIFICATE OR ANY NOTIFICATION THEREON

GRN
XD

Annexure 3

Photograph of carpark



Proposed
interlocking pavers

Proposed
landscaped garden

Proposed footpath
next to Zigolini's

Annexure 4

FINLANDIA PTY LTD

109 QUEEN STREET,
WOOLLAHRA , NSW 2025
TEL 93632583. FAX 93286500

Woollahra Council
General Manager
536 New South Head Rd
Double Bay
NSW 2028
30 th March 2004

E-MAILED
[Handwritten signature]

REF- 14880 Queen St , Woollahra Car Park

We would like to address the concerns we have over the new car park design proposed for the Queen St , Car Park. We were of the understanding that the design was to not" alter the design and configuration of the Queen St Car Park" I have been sent a design that changes the configuration and design in a manner that not only reduces the parking by 3 spaces but causes a substantial impact on our property . I have found that not only does it include alterations that clearly alters the design and configuration but does not address any of the concerns and recommendations requested by the residents and businesses as voices at the meeting 9/2/04 .

The proposed relocation of the cars imposes a great obstruction to our street visibility as they will be situated some 2.1 meters further across our façade than the existing configuration. The loss of exposure to our premises would be great and the impact on the commercial value of the site is of great concern. The proposed walk way adjacent to 107 Queen st ,seems excessively wide at 2.10 meters and only provides access to the cars parked in the car park .

We understand the council had viewed the alterations with the current DP requirements for parking spaces in mind ,and am concerned however that such a proposal has resulted in a loss of three spaces. As council has not taken the DP into account on the spaces as marked in the area leading to Moncur St , we would like to see the spaces remain as existing as we feel that the loss of so much parking is of great concern to all.

We would like to propose the following on the basis that the following issues were voiced concerns by all present at the meeting held in the carpark 9/2/04.

The council leave all spaces as existing , meaning in the same position ,size and number as currently present. Not moved or changed.

The council make the walkway on the side of Dorhauer Lane next to 111 Queen St ,as it is already not within the required code and could be made safe for pedestrian access to the car park , and all the way up Dorhauer Lane to John St as was requested by the members present at the meeting 9/2/04.

The landscaping of 1-5 meters wide at Queen St is very generous and would be very attractive provided that it is not at the expense of a parking space.

The proposal include the widening of Dorhauer lane at the Queen St Junction, as to allow for two cars to pass to reduce the traffic conflict present on Queen St .

DORHAUER
LANE

131.

31-Mar-04 04:23P

We would like to propose that the plan include paving the entire car park and section of Dorhauer Lane making the entire area level to the current pavement height. Paving to match the existing footpath. Such a design would be safest alternative to the traffic and pedestrian problem council raised as a major issue in redesigning the area. A shared pedestrian and vehicle access area, would provide safe pedestrian access to the car park, and adjacent premises, and safe passage to John St as requested by the residents present at the meeting 9/2/04.

We would be interested in working with council to discussing a possible design that does not impose such major problems with our building. As we are the back drop of the car park, we could also look at a possible upgrade of our garden beds and façade of our premises at the same time so as to upgrade the entire area.

I am available to discuss the matter at your convenience, and look forward to hearing from you.

Amy Yared

31-Mar-04 04:23P

Item No: D4 Delegated to Committee
Subject: Excessive Street Signs
Author: Alan Opera
File No:
Reason for Report: To report back to Council on a question without notice calling for a report.

Recommendation:

That in-house guidelines for regulatory signposting be developed along the lines outlined in this report and referred to a future meeting of the Community and Environment Committee.

Background:

At the Council meeting held on 11 April 2005 Councillor Petrie submitted the following question without notice:

“I refer to my Notice of Motion regarding excessive street signs and the explanation that the report was going to be forthcoming. When will it be forthcoming?”

The Director – Technical Services on notice responded that:

“A report was provided specifically about street signs associated with driveways but we have not done another report on street signs.”

The number of street signs throughout the municipality, both traffic signs and parking signs, has increased significantly in recent years. This report addresses the broader question of all street signs throughout the municipality rather than just street signs associated with driveways.

Issues:

The proliferation of traffic and parking signs is a national trend which has arisen in recent decades and which stems from several factors:

- i. Traffic signs have proliferated as a result of:
 - Changes to legislation (e.g. area speed restrictions, school zones, peak hour transit lanes/clearways, etc.).
 - The advent of new local traffic facilities (e.g. roundabouts, thresholds, wombat crossings, etc.) and new regional facilities (e.g. expressways, tunnels, etc.).
 - An increased public awareness of speeding traffic and death/injury rates and therefore an increased response by Council and the RTA.
 - General increase in traffic volumes.
- ii. Parking signs have proliferated as a result of:
 - Legislative changes (e.g. residents permit parking, transit lanes, statutory restrictions at intersections/crossings etc.)
 - An increased user awareness and demand based on safety and/or utility grounds (e.g. access rights to driveways, pedestrian/traffic hazards, demand for permit schemes, etc.)
 - Increased parking demand due to increased vehicle ownership.

Council's responsibility and also its capacity to control traffic and parking signage is defined by the Australian Road Rules and the RTA's Delegation of Authority to Council. In general terms, and with some exceptions, Council through its Traffic Committee authorises the introduction, alteration and/or removal of traffic and parking signs on local roads. Whilst Council is involved in these same processes for state roads, the RTA is responsible for the management of these roads and ultimately dictates signage on state roads.

Historically signage throughout the Municipality has been considered on an individual needs basis and not on a whole street or area basis (exception to this is found in large scale signage changes such as has occurred when new resident permit schemes have been introduced to an area). Although every effort has been made in the past to synchronise sign posting to avoid unnecessary signs and/or posts, in normal circumstances new signage is introduced to address individual parking/traffic issues and understandably with time, the number and variety of street signs has become both an eye-sore and a matter of confusion for motorists.

Council has not previously adopted a general policy for street signposting as all signposting has been introduced in accordance with the RTA's guidelines and in many instances signage was introduced for statutory or safety reasons. As demand and the proliferation of signage has increased however, the need for a Council policy has become evident. This is highlighted by Council adopting its policy in 2000 to use painted lines in lieu of "No Parking" signs across driveways.

It is considered appropriate for Council to now adopt in-house guidelines in relation to street signs. These guidelines should define Council's strategy for future signposting as well as long-term remedial action throughout the Municipality. It should be kept in mind that these guidelines clearly should not transgress existing road regulations. Issues to be considered include:

PARKING SIGNS

Standard Signposting within a Precinct.

Signposting should be area-specific and wherever possible standard hours of operation should be applied to period restrictions within an area or precinct. Throughout the Municipality period parking restrictions apply to a large variety of time periods with no apparent consistency within a local area. This is not only confusing for motorists but also leads to an unnecessary excess of street signposting.

In the past period parking restrictions generally followed the proclaimed RTA standard period of operation of 8.30am-6.00pm Monday-Friday and 8.30am-12.30pm Saturday. This standard is no longer demanded by the RTA and neither is it representative of parking demand within Woollahra Municipality. With the advent of 7-day shopping in the eighties it has become common practice within urban areas to no longer discriminate between weekday and weekend parking. Additionally, with the general increase in parking demand resulting from increased population and vehicle ownership and the increased use of recreational and community venues it has become common practice to provide restrictions beyond the 8.30am-6.00pm period.

It is proposed that standard operating hours be established for homogeneous precincts within the Municipality. Signposting therefore would become a reflection of the demand, character and availability of public parking of each individual precinct.

Standard Signposting - General.

A standard should also be developed for other regulatory parking signage (e.g. school bus zones, part time 'No Parking' and 'No Stopping', Work Zones, etc.). Whilst these particular facilities address parking problems which are specific to an individual site, these facilities should wherever possible be standardised to reduce confusion. For example, a Work Zone in Edgecliff should cover the same time period as other Work Zones in Edgecliff, and ideally should cover the same time period as other Work Zones throughout the Municipality, except where there are overriding local considerations.

Consistent Signposting.

Signs within a street or area/precinct should be consistent and logical in progression. In general, it is normal engineering practice for parking restrictions to radiate along the major roads from the centre of a parking attractor. At present there are numerous locations where ½P, 1P, 2P and 4P restrictions are intermixed resulting in an unnecessary duplication of signposting.

The adoption of a radiating pattern approach to an area's parking will result in a considerable reduction in the number of signs and stems required in a locale, and will provide greater effectiveness and efficiency in the enforcement of parking restrictions.

Statutory versus Non-Statutory Parking Signs.

Statutory parking restrictions may be enforced even if there is no signposting. Council as the Parking Authority, however, is obliged to install signposting in conjunction with other works. For example, if Council intends to install 1P parking adjacent to an un-signposted statutory 10m No Stopping zone at a corner, then the Council should also install the No Stopping restrictions. Similarly, if Council is replacing damaged signs/stems then it should signpost these statutory restrictions at the same time.

The installation of non-statutory parking restrictions (e.g. No Parking across driveways or in narrow lanes) is discretionary and Council may adopt its own guidelines. This is reflected in the policy which Council adopted in 2000 which excludes the introduction of parking restrictions across driveways based solely on the grounds of access being impeded by parked vehicles.

The proposed guidelines should reinforce current procedure which is to assess the parking, traffic and safety consequences of not signposting individual locations.

Long-Term Remedial Action.

The proposed guidelines should specify a methodology to effect change. For example, should Council remove redundant or superfluous signs now or should standard signposting be introduced when the maintenance of signs becomes necessary?

TRAFFIC SIGNS

Generally traffic signs are installed on prescriptive guidelines as set by the RTA. Little scope exists for these signs to be altered/rearranged and therefore the development of in-house guidelines for traffic signs is not appropriate.

The Traffic Section has commissioned and has recently received a street sign survey of the Paddington/Woollahra area and is currently assessing this data (See attached map for extent of survey). From this data it is proposed to develop some to the aforementioned strategic principles for this precinct, namely, the standard hours of operation, the consistency of existing signposting and the location of superfluous signage. Additionally this survey will assist in the assessment of existing resident parking schemes within this precinct and in updating Council's asset database. It is envisaged that this study will be expanded in the future to cover the entire Municipality.

Identification of Income & Expenditure:

In-House preparation of Guidelines Nil Cost.

Conclusion:

It is considered that a significant reduction in street signposting may be achieved in the long-term by the adoption of area-specific guidelines throughout the Municipality. It is therefore proposed that in-house guidelines for street signposting now be developed along the lines outlined in this report for consideration by Council.

It is also proposed that these guidelines, once adopted, would be incorporated in the review of Council's Traffic & Transport Strategy which it is proposed to review this year.

Alan Opera
Traffic Team Leader

Warwick Hatton
Director – Technical Services

Attachments:

1. Map of Signs Survey Area
-



Signs Survey Area

Item No: R1 Recommendation to Council
Subject: **24 Hour Dog Off Leash - Yarranabbe Park & northern end of Steyne Park**
Author: Greg Radford, Ranger Supervisor
Tim Tuxford, Manager - Compliance
File No: 271.G/23; 226.G/5; & 181.G/9
Reason for Report: To consider the formal adoption of the current 24 hour dog off leash provisions that apply at Yarranabbe Park & the northern section of Steyne Park, which were initially introduced for a trial period of six (6) months in May 2002.

Recommendation:

THAT Council, pursuant to Section 13(6) of the *Companion Animals Act* 1998, resolve to declare the following areas Type D – Unleashed dogs allowed at all times;

Yarranabbe Park, Darling Point (as illustrated in “Annexure 1”), excluding the children’s playground area and the area within 10 metres of any playing apparatus.

Note: Pursuant to Section 14(1)(a) of the *Companion Animals Act* 1998, dogs are prohibited from the area within 10 metres of any playing apparatus.

The northern end of Steyne Park, north of the pathway and the area of Double Bay Beach adjacent to Steyne Park north of the seawall and west of Double Bay Sailing Club (as illustrated in “Annexure 2”), except during organised sailing events when dogs are required to be held on leash at all times.

Reason for report:

To consider the formal adoption of the current 24 hour dog off leash provisions that apply at the following locations and which were initially introduced for a trial period of six (6) months in May 2002;

1. Yarranabbe Park Darling Point, as illustrated in “Annexure 1”; and
2. Northern end of Steyne Park, as illustrated in “Annexure 2”, being the area of Steyne Park north of the pathway and the area of Double Bay Beach adjacent to Steyne Park north of the pathway and west of Double Bay Sailing Club, except during organised sailing events.

Background:

A report on the general dog control requirements within the Woollahra local government area was presented to the Community and Environment meeting of 11 February 2002, where it was resolved, in part, as follows;

“B. THAT Council, pursuant to Section 13 (6) of the *Companion Animals Act* 1998, resolve to declare the following areas Type D – Unleashed Dogs Allowed at all Times for a trial period of six months:

That area of Steyne Park north of the pathway and the area of Double Bay Beach adjacent to Steyne Park north of the pathway and west of Double Bay Sailing Club, subject to weekend restrictions when sailing activities are taking place (as illustrated in Annexure E).

Yarranabbe Park, Darling Point (as illustrated in Annexure F).

- C. *THAT Council resolve to declare the following area as Type B – Dogs Permitted if Leashed:*

Marine Parade, Double Bay (as illustrated in Annexure D)."

A copy of the above report is attached as "Annexure 3".

The 24 hour dog off leash trial commenced at Yarranabbe Park and the northern end of Steyne Park on or about May 2002.

The trial was initially reviewed by the Council's Animal Advisory Committee at its meeting of 21 May 2003, where it was resolved, in part, as follows;

"Greg McMahon submitted a report to the committee recommending that the trial be resolved and the area to be resolved as a 24-hour leash-free area.

Colin De Costa to draft a report to go to the Community & Environment Committee recommending that the trial be resolved."

A recent search of Council's records revealed that this matter was not reported back to Council for consideration and final determination.

On 17 August 2005, the Animal Advisory Committee again considered the matter and resolved as follows;

"That the Animal Advisory Committee reiterates that the 24 hour dog off leash trial at Yarranabbe Park and the northern end of Steyne Park have been successful and recommends to Council that both areas should now be formally declared 24 hour dog off leash areas, pursuant to the restrictions of the trial and the provisions of Section 13(6) of the Companion Animals Act 1998."

Statutory requirements of the Companion Animals Act 1998

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* specifies the level of controls that should apply within public places or that can be declared by the local authority. Of relevance to the current matter are the following provisions of the Act;

Section 13 - Responsibilities while dog in a public place

"(1) A dog that is in a public place must be under the effective control of some competent person by means of an adequate chain, cord or leash."

"(6) A local authority can by order declare a public place to be an off-leash area. Such a declaration can be limited so as to apply during a particular period or periods of the day or to different periods of different days. However, there must at all times be at least one public place in the area of a local authority that is an off-leash area."

Section 14 – Dogs prohibited in some public places

“(1) Dogs are prohibited in the following places (whether or not they are leashed or otherwise controlled):

*(a) **Children’s play areas** (meaning any public place, or part of a public place, that is within 10 metres of any playing apparatus provided in that public place or part for the use of children).”*

*“(c) **Recreation areas where dogs are prohibited** (meaning any public place, or part of a public place, provided or set apart by a local authority for public recreation or the playing of organised games and in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited and in which, or near the boundaries of which, there are conspicuously exhibited by the local authority at reasonable intervals notices to the effect that dogs are prohibited in or on that public place or part).”*

*“(d) **Public bathing areas where dogs are prohibited** (meaning any public place or any part of a public place that is used for or in conjunction with public bathing or public recreation (including a beach), in which the local authority has ordered that dogs are prohibited and in which, or near the boundaries of which, there are conspicuously exhibited by the local authority at reasonable intervals notices to the effect that dogs are prohibited in or on that public place).”*

“(7) A local authority is authorised to make the orders contemplated by this section.”

Current dog controls in the Darling Point & Double Bay area

Council currently operates four (4) categories of dog control throughout the Municipality and in the suburbs of Darling Point and Double Bay the following apply;

Type A areas – dogs prohibited

Blackburn Gardens, Double Bay
Foster Park, Double Bay
Guilfoyle Park, Double Bay
Loftus Road Reserve, Darling Point
McKell Park, Darling Point
Redleaf Pool, Double Bay
Double Bay Beach, Double Bay (excluding Marine Parade walkway – refer below)

Type B areas – dogs held on leash permitted at all times

Darling Point Road Reserve, Darling Point
Steyne Park, Double Bay (excluding the northern end – refer below)
Marine Parade Double Bay
Any other ‘public place’ not otherwise prohibited by the *Companion Animals Act 1998* or declared by Council

Type C areas – dogs on leash permitted at all times and unleashed between 4.30pm to 8.30am

Lough Playing Fields, Double Bay
Rushcutters Bay Park, Darling Point

Type D areas – unleashed dogs permitted at all times

Northern end of Steyne Park, being the area of Steyne Park Double Bay, north of the pathway and the area of Double Bay Beach adjacent to Steyne Park north of the pathway and west of Double Bay Sailing Club - on a trial basis since May 2002

Yarranabbe Park, Darling Point – on a trial basis since May 2002

Comments of Manager – Public Open Space

The proposed continued use of Yarranabbe Park and the northern end of Steyne Park as 24 hour dog off leash areas has been discussed with David Sheils, Council's Manager – Public Open, who raises no objections to the proposal. In discussing the matter with David he made the following comments;

The 'Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Draft Plan of Management' identifies Yarranabbe Park as a 24 hour dog off leash area;

During the recent public exhibition of the 'Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Draft Plan of Management', no objections were received to Yarranabbe Park being used as a 24 hour dog off leash area; and

The existing playground in Yarranabbe Park is scheduled to be upgraded this financial year and the upgrade works include fencing the playground off from the remainder of the park, thereby minimising any conflict between users of the park.

A separate report will be submitted to the Community & Environment Committee in September 2005 on the 'Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Plan of Management'.

Consideration:

The 24 hour dog off leash trial has been operating at both Yarranabbe Park and the northern end of Steyne Park for more than three (3) years and there are no recorded complaints or incidents. Comments on each of the areas are provided below;

Yarranabbe Park

Yarranabbe Park is a large well defined area that is frequently used by dog owners exercising their dogs off leash. The only possible concern with declaring Yarranabbe Park a 24 hour dog off leash area, is the unfenced children's playground area that is positioned towards the middle of the park.

In this regard it is noted that the playground has been in its current location for the entire period of the trial. Signage is erected around the playground to indicate that dogs are prohibited from being within 10 metres of the play equipment, in accordance with Section 14(1)(a) of the *Companion Animals Act*, 1998. During the trial period there has been no recorded incident or complaint identifying a conflict between users of the playground equipment and dogs exercising in Yarranabbe Park.

Council's Manager – Public Open Space advises that the children's playground area will be upgraded this financial year and a fence will be installed around the playground.

Research undertaken for the preparation of the 'Rushcutters Bay Park, Yarranabbe Park and Plantation Reserve Draft Plan of Management' did not identify any major concerns with Yarranabbe Park remaining a 24 hour dog off leash area.

As part of the draft Plan of Management preparation, a survey of visitors to Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park was undertaken in March 2005. Of the 300 people surveyed, 220 (73%) were interviewed in Rushcutters Bay Park and 80 (27%) were interviewed in Yarranabbe Park. 130 (43%) of the people interviewed stated they used Yarranabbe Park on the day of the interview. A summary of the survey results, of relevance to the current matter, is as follows;

20% stated their main activity undertaken in the parks was walking the dog, with children's play at 19%;

66% did not dislike any aspect of both parks;

12% raised concern with the dog management in both parks, with less than 3% (8 people) stating they disliked off leash dogs. The other issues listed under dog management included dog waste (3%), dogs around the kiosk (1%), dog off leash hours too limited (<1%) and dog regulations too strict (1%);

Of the 80 people interviewed in Yarranabbe Park, 63 improvements were suggested. 14 of these improvements related to dog management issues, including 10 for improved dog facilities; 3 for more regulation in regards to dog owners being required to pick up after their dogs; and 1 for improved signs.

The draft Plan of Management has recently been on public exhibition and no objections have been received from the community in relation to the continued use of Yarranabbe Park as a 24 hour dog off leash area.

Northern end of Steyne Park

The northern end of Steyne Park is clearly separated from the remainder of the park by a concrete pathway and low level post and rail fence. The grassed area available between the concrete pathway and sandstone seawall is approximately 20 metres wide, with Bay Street and Ocean Avenue delineating the eastern and western extremities.

The area provides direct access to a portion of Double Bay Beach west of the Double Bay Sailing Club. This provides an opportunity for dog owners to allow their dogs to access the beach and water in an area that is not generally used for swimming by the public. Generally any swimming activities occur on the section of Double Bay Beach adjoining the Marine Parade walkway, east of Bay Street and west of Beach Street. Dogs are prohibited from this section of Double Bay Beach, while being permitted on leash on the Marine Parade walkway.

A children's playground is located in the north-eastern corner of Steyne Park. The playground is fully fenced and separated from the proposed 24 hour dog off leash area. It is not considered the 24 hour dog off leash area impacts in anyway on the fenced playground area.

At the time of considering the 24 hour dog off leash trial it was noted in the report to the Community and Environment Committee meeting of 11 February 2002 that the northern end of Steyne Park was also used for the rigging of sailing craft on Saturdays and Sundays. It was suggested in that report that when craft are in the area, dogs should be required to remain on leash. Having regard to these comments the Community and Environment Committee qualified the trial use of the area by including the words "*subject to weekend restrictions when sailing activities are taking place.*"

The signage that was erected during the trial stated the following;

“Controlled dog exercising off leash permitted between pathway and seawall, except during organised sailing events.”

Since the trial commenced, there have been no recorded concerns from sailors using the northern section of Steyne Park or from the Double Bay Sailing Club in relation to dogs being off leash and creating a nuisance. Therefore it is considered the above restriction has generally been adhered to during the trial.

Conclusion:

As both Yarranabbe Park and the northern end of Steyne Park have been operating since May 2002 as 24 hour dog off leash areas, it is considered that both areas should now be formally declared, in accordance with the trial requirements and the provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

Greg Radford
Ranger Supervisor

Tim Tuxford
Manager – Compliance

Annexures:

1. Aerial photograph of Yarranabbe Park, illustrating the area where the 24 hour dog off leash trial has been operating since May 2002.
2. Aerial photograph of Steyne Park, illustrating where the 24 hour dog off leash trial has been operating at the northern end of the Park, since May 2002.
3. Copy of the report presented to the Community and Environment Committee meeting of 11 February 2002.