



Community & Environment Committee

Agenda: *Community & Environment Committee*

Date: *Monday 28 May 2007*

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

24 May 2007

To: The Mayor, Councillor Keri Huxley, ex-officio
Councillors Anthony Boskovitz (Chair)
 Tanya Excell (Deputy Chair)
 Claudia Cullen
 Marcus Ehrlich
 Julian Martin
 Andrew Petrie
 Fiona Sinclair King

Dear Councillors

Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 28 May 2007

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 28 May 2007 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James
General Manager

Additional Information Relating to Committee Matters

Site Inspection

Other Matters

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 14 May 2007	1
D2	Community Services Principal Activity – 3 rd Quarter Management Plan Review – 827.G 05-08	2
D3	Natural Environment Principal Activity – 3 rd Quarter Management Plan Review – 827.G 05-08	37
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D6	Library Report for the Quarter, January to March 2007 – 48.G	79

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

Item No: D1 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 14 May 2007**
Author: Les Windle, Manager - Governance
File No: See Council Minutes
Reason for Report: The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 14 May 2007 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 14 May 2007 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle
Manager - Governance

Item No: D2 Delegated to Committee

Subject: **Community Services Principal Activity - 3rd Quarter Management Plan Review**

Author: Kylie Walshe - Director Community Services
Tim Tuxford – Manager Compliance

File No: 827.G 05-08

Reason for Report: To review the status of works, services, and Notices of Motion for the Management Plan principal activity of Community Services for the three months ending 31 March 2007.

Recommendation:

- A. That the status of projects for the Community Services Principal Activity be noted.
- B. That variations to projects be agreed subject to adoption of the relevant budget variations included in the separately reported quarterly financial review.

Background:

Section 407(1) of the Local Government Act requires that Council review the progress of the adopted management plan on a quarterly basis. Included with this report is the third quarterly review of Principal Activity No 5 of the Management Plan, which is "Community Services". This principal activity has the following sub-activities:

- 5.1 Community Services Management
- 5.2 Library Services
- 5.3 Community Development
- 5.4 Cultural Development
- 5.5 Environment & Public Health
- 5.6 Ranger Services

Included as Annexure 1. to this report is the Community Services Principal activity of the Management Plan, with detailed comments on the status of items in each sub activity.

The annexure includes all the details whereas set out in the following part of this report is a commentary on variations, changes, exception, completed work, achievements, etc. The purpose being to provide Councillors with a snapshot on the key influences or issues arising from this quarterly review.

Comments on budget variations where they are material or have an impact on the program of works or projects may be included in this report. However the budget review and confirmation of any changed forecast will be considered in a separate budget report which reviews the overall financial position of the Council at the end of the quarter.

Following is the commentary on each sub activity.

5.1 Community Services Management

This sub-activity covers the area of strategic planning and activities that impact on all operations of community services.

The financial report for Holdsworth Street Community Centre for the 2006/07 year was received, along with the July to September 2006 and October to December 2006 quarterly reports. These were reported and considered by the Corporate & Works Committee on 23 April 2007.

The social and community planning process commenced in January, with the community capacity survey finalised and commenced in late March 2007.

5.2 Library and Information Services

This sub-activity covers all library activities, including projects for library facilities and the library and information service as a whole. Progress has been made in many of the management plan projects with several being completed.

Some highlights of the library activities and projects for this quarter as reflected in the Management Plan are listed below. It should be noted that a detailed quarterly report on the Library and Information Service is also submitted in tonight's business papers.

Library Management

Council appointed AEC Group to conduct the Library Strategic Plan, "The Way Forward". An inception meeting was held with key staff and the consultants on 16 February 2007. The Library telephone survey has been formulated over the quarter with discussions on the consultation process also being undertaken. The Library survey of 200 Library users and 200 Library non-users will be conducted the week beginning 12 May 2007 for approximately two weeks, with the consultation focus groups commencing over the same time.

Lending Services

- The Library and Information Service has a membership of 20,337. There have been 933 new members this quarter.
- The quarterly circulation figure for all service points is 105,572. This represents a decrease of 1.7% on the same period in 2006.

Children's and Young Adult Library Service

- Story- time sessions continue to be well supported and enjoyed by children, parents and local community based preschools. During this quarter, 17 playgroup / storytelling sessions were held in Blackburn Gardens / Double Bay Central Library with a total of 163 children attending. At Paddington Library 27 storytelling sessions were held with 417 children present.
- The Library has been continuing with its trial extension of the Double Bay Children's Library opening hours from 6 to 8 pm, Monday to Friday which commenced on 25 September 2006. This pilot programme aims to encourage more young adults to use the library collection for both study and recreation. To date, uptake has been slow. A detailed report will be presented to Council in July 2007.

Information Services

- 7471 reference enquiries were answered at the reference desk of both Double Bay and Paddington Libraries for the quarter. 530 Local History enquiries were addressed by staff at the Local History Centre.
- The Library and Information Service, through funding from the State Library of NSW, has continued the indexing of Council's Archives. To date, ten years (1860 - 1870) of indexing has been completed.
- The "Women in Woollahra" project was launched at Council's International Women's Day event on 8 March, 2007. The project which aims to celebrate the achievement of women in Woollahra consists of oral histories and biographies of two Woollahra Council aldermen, Belle Miller and Brenda (Dutchie) Backhouse. Stage 2 involves the continuation of the project in 2007/08 with biographies on two business women.
- A collection of new books on sustainability resources has been developed with assistance from staff in Strategic Planning and Parks and Street Trees. The sustainability collection, as outlined in the current Management Plan, was an extension of the Council's Sustainability Plan, currently under development. The collection of approximately 80 titles adds to the library's existing collection of books on sustainability, energy, the environment etc.
- A new Multicultural Services directory was launched on Harmony Day on 21 March, 2007. This directory is aimed at both the local community and those who provide services to the multicultural community and gives current information on essential services such as, health, education, legal, support and advocacy. The directory lists contact and service details as well as website information. The directory is available online via the website and also in print format.

5.3 Community Development

This sub-activity covers the programs for children, youth, community safety, volunteering and community development.

Children's Services

- Transition to School Project. In collaboration with Waverley Council we are preparing for an Information Evening – Transition to School for Parents addressing a range of issues. The session has been scheduled earlier in the year as the preparation for transition to school for this age group should commence at the beginning of the year. Representatives from all schools in the region have been invited to set up a table providing information to parents during the evening. The event has been highly promoted so all parents are aware of this opportunity.
- Better Futures. A main focus for the Better Futures program in the region is the "Keeping Kids in School" project. The project is still deliberating the most effective strategy to foster better working relations with the schools.
- Woollahra Preschool continued to operate at full capacity. Harmony Day (March 20th) was celebrated at the Pre School with themes focusing on Harmony in the day curriculum content and the symbolic planting of an orange tree in the children's playground. Children were invited to dress in costumes depicting different nationalities.

Youth

A literature review has been completed which has provided up to date information on service provision and gaps in service in the region. This document will provide the framework for future consultation to ascertain the most appropriate role for Council to contribute to improve service provision and meeting the gaps in service delivery. The report will also contribute to the development of the Youth Policy and Strategy.

Youth Week

In collaboration with Waverly Action Youth Service (WAYS), Waverly and Randwick Council, Point Zero and Urban Arts we presented an innovative range of activities throughout the region.

- Bondi Blitz – Youth Concert – 24th March
- Basketball 3 on 3 – 26th March
- Trivia Night – 28th March
- Forum Crisis Management – 29th March
- EmBRACE Harmony Event – 31st March
- Film Festival – 2nd April
- BBQ - 10th April
- Urban Arts Art Exhibition – 11th-22nd April
- Pizza and Pages – 18th April
- Beat the Drum – 19th April

The first Youth Issues Forum was held in February and reviewed and established the format and themes for the coming year. All represented organisations were positive in their feedback about Council actively fostering working relations with youth services in the region.

Community Safety

- The Crime Prevention Plan was endorsed by Council on 29th January 2007. A copy of the report has been forwarded to the Attorney General Office for endorsement.
- The Alcohol Free Zone – Working Party was convened following complaints from residents about anti social behaviour by youth in local parks. The working party consisted of key organisations addressing youth anti social behaviour that included Police from the Local Area Command, Point Zero, representatives from the Neighbourhood Watch groups and Council representatives. Information on local crime statistics and powers under the Local Government Act was provided. The recommendation was “The working party does not recommend the application of Alcohol Free Zones for any public open space in the Woollahra Municipality and adopt a community education model to address anti social behaviour linked to alcohol consumption”. The recommendation was tabled at the April Community Safety Committee.

Healthy Ageing

- In response to the community survey the increased provision of locally based exercise activities has proven to be very successful. The exercise classes are popular and lead the way in the provision of activities for healthy ageing in the LGA. All new venues i.e. Canonbury Cottage, Vaucluse Bowling Club and the Gunyah are operating at optimal numbers and attract both male and female participants.

Community Information and Education Sessions

- In addition to the exercise classes, a request for information and education sessions was also highlighted as a popular preference. Councils Library and Information Services and the Community Development Department have worked in collaboration to provide an annual calendar of monthly information sessions being held at the Paddington Library, Redleaf and Vaucluse Bowling Club. The first information session is scheduled for April 2007.

5.4 Cultural Development

This sub-activity includes cultural events and cultural development activities.

Planning commenced for the 2007 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize including two meetings of the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Committee. 2007 judges were confirmed as Laura Back, Curator of Art, Australian War Memorial; Curator (temporary), Old Parliament House and John McPhee, Art Consultant. Promotional material, such as the entry form for artists and launch invitation was developed. Recruitment for the Small Sculpture Prize Volunteers Program was undertaken.

Expressions of Interest were called in February and March for local community representation on the Public Art Advisory Committee. Seven Expressions of Interest were received by the closing date of Friday 23 March.

The national Harmony Day, occurring on 21 March, was promoted to the community by Council through various activities including Woollahra Preschool's planting of an orange tree, Harmony Day themed story-time through the Woollahra Library, an afternoon tea for residents at Vaucluse Bowling Club, Woollahra Preschool art display in the Customer Services Centre at Redleaf and the distribution of orange ribbons to staff and the community via Customer Services and Library branches.

Council nominated the Eastern Suburbs Organisation for Reconciling Australia (ESORA) in the 2007 Sydney Harbour Week Awards for the hosting of their Council supported bush tucker walks. ESORA were announced as winners of the award in their nominated category.

Award winners for the Citizen of the Year Program were announced as part of Council's Australia Day celebrations on Friday 26 January 2007. Nine nominations were received with nominees as follows: Ms Maureen Clarke Mastellone of Rose Bay, Mr Ernesto Garafani of Paddington, Mr Barry Goldstiver of Paddington, Ms Kate Longden of Double Bay, Mr Bill Manning of Paddington, Mr Peter Sheldon of Rose Bay, Professor Ross Steele of Paddington, Ms Ann Whyte of Darling Point, Mr Terry Wolfe of Watsons Bay and Mr Jason Wells of Vaucluse for Young Citizen of the Year. All nominees were invited to attend the presentation to receive certificates, with Professor Ross Steele announced as the Woollahra Citizen of the Year and Jason Wells as the Young Citizen of the Year.

5.5 Environment and Public Health

The activities and projects listed under this sub-activity aim to protect the health and well being of residents and visitors to our area.

549 health premises are currently recorded for the area, with 356 of these handling, preparing and or selling food. Council's Environmental Health Officers endeavour to inspect premises that prepare and handle food twice a year, with low risk premises that only sell packaged food being inspected once a year.

The remaining 193 health premises include hairdressers, beauty saloons, businesses involved in skin penetration activities and premises with cooling towers. These premises are inspected at least once a year.

During the quarter;

- 135 food and health premises were inspected as part of our Food Safety and Public Health Program;
- 1 food related notice was issued;
- 51 babies were immunised under our Childhood Immunisation Program. This represented an increase of over 63% on the 2005/06 quarterly average;
- 68 pollution related matters were reported and investigated, as part of our Pollution Control Program. 77.95% related to noise, 13.2% related to water, 5.9% related to air and 2.95% related to land pollution issues;
- 30 notices/orders were issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and 13 were issued under the *Local Government Act 1993*; and
- Council's Environmental Health Officers completed 52 development application referrals for new food and health premises, acid sulphate soil and contaminated land assessments and noise assessments in an average of about 20 days per referral.

The NSW Food Regulation Partnership between local councils and the NSW Food Authority which was scheduled to commence in July 2007 has been delayed, with the draft Food Bill yet to be placed before the State Parliament. Under the partnership local councils will specify the food surveillance role they can provide and will enter into a formal agreement with the NSW Food Authority.

The Food Authority advises that a four (4) month lead time will apply once the legislation has been passed which is likely to be in either the May/June or September/October 2007 sitting of Parliament.

A full review of Council's Food Safety Program will be undertaken before Council enters the Food Regulation Partnership. This review will occur in conjunction with the scheduled review of Council's Environmental Services area. As advised in the December 2006 Management Plan review, the dates of the Environmental Services area review have been amended to align with the NSW Food Authority's likely timetable.

5.6 Ranger Services

Council's Rangers provide a variety of enforcement services to ensure the public safety and convenience of our community in relation to the use of public places.

During the quarter;

- 97 abandoned vehicle matters were reported and investigated, representing an increase of over 42% on the first and second quarter results and an increase of over 19% on the 2005/06 quarterly average;
- 28 road and footpath obstruction matters were reported and investigated, representing an increase of over 86% on the 2005/06 quarterly average;
- 6 private skip bin matters were reported and investigated;
- 1 littering fine was issued;
- 98 companion animals were registered on the New South Wales Companion Animals Register for our area, with 86.7% of these animals being de-sexed;

- 48 barking dog matters were reported and investigated, representing an increase of over 24% on the 2005/06 quarterly average;
- 2 nuisance/dangerous dog orders were issued; and
- 2 dog related fines were issued, both for dogs not being on a lead.

Since 13 January 2007, local councils have been required to be proactive in implementing and enforcing the restricted and dangerous dog provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. To fulfill these obligations, Council has written to all owners of known restricted and dangerous dogs and commenced inspecting the properties where these dogs are ordinarily kept to ensure the required dog enclosures and other control provisions comply fully with the Act.

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* identifies the following dogs as restricted dogs for the purpose of the Act;

- American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier
- Japanese tosa
- dogo Argentino
- fila Brasileiro
- Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario
- any other dog of a breed, kind or description whose importation into Australia is prohibited by or under the *Customs Act 1901* of the Commonwealth
- any dog declared by an authorised officer of a council under Division 6 of Part 5 of the Act to be a restricted dog.

Conclusion:

In summary, the projects detailed within the Community Services Principal Activity for 2006/07 were completed predominantly on time and within budget, except as otherwise noted.

Tim Tuxford
Manager Compliance

Kylie Walshe
Director Community Services

Annexures:

1. March 2007 Quarterly Review Report - Community Services Principal Activity of the Management Plan

Item No: D3 Delegated to Committee

Subject: **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY - 3rd QUARTER MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**

Author: Warwick Hatton - Director Technical Services
Allan Coker - Director Planning and Development

File No: 827.G 04-07

Reason for Report: To review the status of works, services and Notices of Motions for the Management Plan principal activity of Natural Environment for the 3 months ending 31 March 2007.

Recommendation

- A. That the status of projects for the Natural Environment principal activity be noted.
- B. That the variations to projects be agreed subject to adoption of the relevant budget variations included in the separately reported end of year financial review.

Background:

Section 407(1) of the Local Government Act requires that Council review the progress of the adopted management plan on a quarterly basis. Included with this report is the third quarterly review of Principal Activity No 2 of the Management Plan, which is "Natural Environment". This principal activity has the following sub- activities:

- 2.1 Environmental Protection
- 2.2 Stormwater Systems
- 2.3 Tree Management
- 2.4 Waste Services
- 2.5 Street Cleaning
- 2.6 Bush Regeneration
- 2.7 Harbour Facilities

Included as an Annexure to this report is:

1. The Natural Environment Principal Activity of the Management Plan with detailed comments on the status of items in each sub activity.
2. Any uncompleted adopted "Notices of Motion" related to the Natural Environment principal activity.

The Annexure includes all the details, whereas, set out in the following part of this report is a commentary on variations, changes, exception, completed work, achievements, etc. The purpose being to provide Councillors with a snapshot on the key influences or issues arising from this quarterly review.

"Notices of Motion", which have a major impact on approved Management Plan core activities and projects, have been included in the management plan as variations so as to facilitate the changing of priorities in an orderly and transparent manner.

Comments on budget variations, where they are material or have an impact on the program of works or projects, may be included in this report. However, the budget review and confirmation of any changed forecast will be considered in a separate budget report, which reviews the overall financial position of the Council at the end of the quarter.

Following is the commentary on each sub-activity

2.1 Environmental Protection

The preparation of the Woollahra Sustainability Plan continues. The literature review, Council review and community consultation stages of the project are complete. The draft plan is currently being prepared. Delays have been experienced with this project due to staff resignations.

The preparation of the draft Energy Savings Action Plan (ESAP) has commenced. The next stage of the process is for Council to enter into a Detailed Feasibility Study Agreement with the selected contractor. The results of the Detailed Feasibility Study will be used to complete the investigations required for the ESAP. Council received an extension to the ESAP deadline from the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability, with the plan now due 30 June 2007.

Council completed and finalised the Woollahra State of the Environment (SoE) Report 2005/2006, last November. The report has been reformatted and distributed to schools and community groups in the LGA and placed on Council's website.

Council received approval from the Minister for Utilities for the Woollahra Water Savings Action Plan in February 2007. Implementation of the remaining water saving actions has been included as an action in Council's Management Plan 2007 – 2010.

Council participated in the Sydney Coastal Councils Group, Summer Activities Program January 2007. Three events were conducted by Council for the January 2007 program:

- Christison to Gap Park Coastal Bushwalk,
- Coastal Care/Water Dragons story time and craft Double Bay Children's Library, and
- Science of the Surf Presentation at the Council Chambers.

Council participated in the Sydney Harbour Federation Authority, Sydney Harbour Week March 2007. Three events were conducted by Council for the March 2007 program:

- Christison to Gap Park Coastal Bushwalk,
- Seahorse craft and story time Double Bay Children's Library, and
- Rockpool Ramble Nielsen Park.

The environmental impacts and legal issues associated with bore water use and private desalination plants are currently being investigated. The investigation will also consider the development of policy controls.

2.2 Stormwater Systems

The DRAINS stormwater modelling has been completed. The model has been reviewed and currently being incorporated into Council's asset database. The CCTV data has been rated and incorporated into Council's asset database.

Boronia Road, Bellevue Hill drainage investigation completed. Design 90% complete.

Fisher Avenue, Vaocluse drainage investigation completed. Draft design is completed and currently being reviewed.

2.3 Tree Management

During this quarter we processed 176 applications for pruning or removal of trees protected by the Tree Preservation Order, serviced 361 applications for pruning or removal of street or park trees and assessed 126 development applications related to tree management issues. In this quarter we carried out new or replacement planting at 30 locations.

A draft Street Tree Masterplan and Noxious Weeds Strategy have been developed as part of the Vegetation Management Strategy (VMS). The Street Tree Masterplan is proposed to be presented to the VMS Working Party in June, and subsequently to the Community & Environment Committee. The Noxious Weed Strategy will be reported on shortly.

Data collection is well underway for the street and park tree asset management project. Asset inventory and condition surveys have been carried out on 8000 street trees. We expect to have surveyed all street trees by June 2007.

2.4 Waste Services

We continued to work with our recycling contractor to implement educational programs targeted at recycling initiatives for Multiple Unit Dwellings and other areas of poor recycling.

Early results of a recent survey of residents participating in the food organics collection trial show that residents are using the new service and are in favour of a permanent organics collection service. Further surveys will be carried out and information will be collected over the next 3 months to determine the feasibility of the service.

Audit results of the sample survey carried out in Paddington and West Woollahra showed that the majority of residents surveyed were in favour of changing the collection service to a 120lt, or two 55lt litre bins once a week. Further community consultation, by way of an internet survey and information placed in the local paper has taken place and a report is currently being prepared for Council.

2.5 Street Cleaning

Woollahra, in conjunction with Botany Bay and Randwick Council, have received a grant from the DECC that will allow us to target the problem of illegal dumping with advertising campaigns run in local cinemas and on local buses.

The spraying and removal of weeds throughout the municipality is an ongoing program.

2.6 Bush Regeneration

The new bush regeneration schedules were successfully completed for the third quarter of 2006-07.

The major Environmental Works funded bush regeneration project in Gap Park was completed this quarter, and the Parsley Bay project is nearing completion.

Successful Bushcare volunteer programs continued in Harbourview Park, Gap Park, Trumper Park and Cooper Park. Promotional material, training days, and the WMC website have helped us recruit to our current level of 40 volunteers.

2.7 Harbour Facilities

A developed design and cost estimate was submitted in a report to the Corporate and Works Committee and adopted in March 2007. Detailed design is under way, implementation will be subject to a decision on funding.

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Allan Coker
Director Planning & Development

Annexures:

1. March 2007 Quarterly Review of Principal Activity – Natural Environment
2. March 2007 Quarterly Review of Outstanding Notices of Motion – Natural Environment

Item No: D4 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Parks & Public Space PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY -
3rd Quarter MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW**
Author: Warwick Hatton - Director Technical Services
File No: 827.G 04-07
Reason for Report: To review the status of works, services and projects and Notices of Motion for the Management Plan principal activity of Parks and Public Space for the 3 months ending 31 March 2007. .

Recommendation:

- A. That the status of projects for the Parks and Public Space principal activity be noted.
- B. That the variations to projects be agreed subject to adoption of the relevant budget variations included in the separately reported end of year financial review.

Background:

Section 407(1) of the Local Government Act requires that Council review the progress of the adopted management plan on a quarterly basis. Included with this report is the third quarterly review of Principal Activity No 4 of the Management Plan, which is "Parks & Public Space". This principal activity has the following sub- activities:

- 4.1 Open Space Management
- 4.2 Open Space Asset Management
- 4.3 Open Space Maintenance & Construction
- 4.4 Park Facilities

Included as an Annexure to this report is:

3. The Parks & Public Space Principal activity of the Management Plan with detailed comments on the status of items in each sub activity.
4. Any uncompleted adopted "Notices of Motion" related to the Parks and Public Space principal activity.

The Annexure includes all the details, whereas, set out in the following part of this report is a commentary on variations, changes, exception, completed work, achievements, etc. The purpose being to provide Councillors with a snapshot on the key influences or issues arising from this quarterly review.

"Notices of Motion", which have a major impact on approved Management Plan core activities and projects, have been included in the management plan as variations so as to facilitate the changing of priorities in an orderly and transparent manner.

Comments on budget variations, where they are material or have an impact on the program of works or projects, may be included in this report. However, the budget review and confirmation of any changed forecast will be considered in a separate budget report, which reviews the overall financial position of the Council at the end of the quarter.

Following is the commentary on each sub activity:

4.1 Open Space Management

In this quarter we processed 563 park hire approvals and 31 filming and photography approvals.

Investigations have continued on issues arising from Notices of Motion including commercial dog walking, review of security lighting in parks and carparks and options for introducing community gardens. Reports regarding these items will be presented to Council next quarter.

A Commercial Fitness Policy was developed, publicly advertised and adopted by Council. This Policy will be implemented from the fourth quarter for a 12 month trial period.

4.2 Open Space Asset Management

Updating of Plans of Management for Trumper Park, Cooper Park and Foreshore Parks is under way.

We obtained a grant in Round 3 of the NSW Government's Water Savings Fund for a water-efficient irrigation and localized water re-use plan for Christison Park. The grant for \$270,200, is one of the largest Council has obtained for such a project, and will fund a new state of the art sub-surface irrigation system in four sportsfields at Christison Park. The project will save Council approximately 15,000kL per year, nearly half the water needed by the existing, conventional 'pop-up' irrigation system.

We were also informed by the NSW Department of Planning of our success in securing a \$31,000 grant under the Metropolitan Greenspace Program for the development of a Gap Park Landscape Master Plan. These funds supplement \$25,000 provided in this year's budget for the completion of a Landscape Master Plan. The aim of the Master Plan is to guide Council in undertaking necessary future improvements to the area and assist in seeking further grant funding for capital works.

Change room facilities at Lyne Park have been refurbished and made available for use by winter sportsground hirers.

Data collection for the parks asset management project is underway with asset inventory and condition surveys on target for landscape and infrastructure assets in our parks and reserves.

4.3 Open Space Maintenance & Construction

See notes on capital works projects above.

All cyclic open space maintenance schedules were completed to standard this quarter. Garden bed renovations were undertaken at Royal Hospital for Women Park, Palmerston Street Reserve and Blackburn Gardens. All sportsground surfaces were renovated to standard for the upcoming winter sports season.

Following the identification of a defective electricity main line under the Rushcutters Bay median island, staff from Woollahra Council and Energy Australia worked together planning the removal of the existing trees and shrubs for installation of the new line, and on designing and installing a new park style landscape of Port Jackson figs and Washington palms in keeping with the adjacent Rushcutters Bay Park landscape. Optus also contributed to the project by fast-tracking the removal of their communications shed which completed the parkland avenue effect.

4.4 Park Facilities

A new playground was installed in Elms Reserve, Woollahra in February following community consultation. A Development Application has been prepared for a shade structure to be installed at Spring Street Playground, Paddington.

A design has been prepared for a shade structure to be installed at Yarranabee Park in readiness for public consultation in the fourth quarter.

New park name identification signage was installed at sportsgrounds.

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

ANNEXURES:

1. March 2007 Quarterly Review of Principal Activity: Parks and Public Space
2. March 2007 Quarterly Review of Outstanding Notices of Motion – Parks and Public Space

Item No: D5 Delegated to Committee
Subject: private water craft Storage on public land
Author: David Sheils - Manager Public Open Space
File No: 871.G
Reason for Report: To address the issues associated with the storage of private water craft on public land

Recommendation:

- A. That in preparation for installation of the boat storage rack in Rose Bay Park, all trailers and water craft over 3 metres in length requiring a trailer for transportation be removed; the removal process to include advertisements in the *Wentworth Courier* and notices placed directly on the water craft and be consistent with the requirements of the *Impounding Act 1993*.
- B. That a further report be provided in July 07 outlining a proposed policy dealing with:
- i. issues associated with water craft storage in public places;
 - ii. how it is proposed to manage the Rose Bay Park dinghy storage facility; and
 - iii options available to Council in providing other water craft storage facilities.

Background:

A review of Council's foreshore reserves indicates that there is a proliferation of water craft stored in public parks and on beaches, totalling over 190 dinghies, 66 kayaks and 23 boats (boats greater than 3 metres in length which would require to be transported by a RTA registered trailer). In some circumstances these craft:

- Physically and visually clutter the foreshore;
- Restrict access to a park, walkway, or harbour beach;
- Alienate public land;
- Appear unsightly; and
- Are derelict and may have been abandoned.

Typically, the demand for water craft storage on public land is generated by the need to access swing moorings, which are owned by NSW Maritime and leased to the general public. NSW Maritime data indicates that there are a total of 677 swing moorings located in bays off Woollahra foreshore areas, including Rushcutters Bay (74), Double Bay (196), Rose Bay (138), Hermit Bay (29), Vaucluse Bay (70), Parsley Bay (42) and Watsons Bay (128).

NSW Maritime charge a mooring fee which, for an average 10m long vessel, equates to \$622 / year. An annual boat registration fee is also charged.

Storing craft in public land at the Harbour's edge at no cost avoids the need by yacht owners to transport craft from home or from a storage facility, and avoids the cost associated with commercial water craft storage facilities.

The most common way for boat owners to gain access to swing moorings is by use of a dinghy, kayak or tender service. Means of access to the moorings includes:

- bringing a dinghy from home and launching the craft from an accessible public foreshore space (there is no charge);
- bringing a dinghy from a commercial storage place and launch the craft from an accessible public foreshore space (a water craft storage fee applies);
- storing a dinghy at a private marina or sailing club (a water craft storage fee applies);
- utilising a tender service provided by a marina, or water taxi (a service fee applies); or
- storing a dinghy or kayak on public foreshore land (there is currently no charge in Woollahra).

NSW Maritime records indicate that, of the 677 swing moorings in our local bays, 375 or 56% are licensed to Woollahra residents whilst the remaining 44% of moorings are licensed by people who reside beyond the Municipality.

Whilst we have a procedure for handling abandoned articles such as boats, trailers and cars, this process has infrequently been applied in foreshore reserves in the absence of an overall policy on how Council should manage private water craft stored on parkland.

There is no legislative requirement for Council to provide any water craft storage in public spaces, however, it is acknowledged that, in some locations, such as Marine Parade, Watsons Bay, dinghies have long contributed to the maritime character of the area.

How is the storing of water craft on public land managed in other local government areas ?

Several coastal councils in Sydney and the National Parks and Wildlife Service have installed dinghy storage facilities or 'racks', which provide the opportunity to stack dinghies vertically, therefore reducing the area required for craft storage. Where water craft storage facilities are installed, water craft are permitted only in the facilities provided. Any water craft not using the storage facilities are impounded by the councils. This helps reduce visual clutter and prevents alienation of beach and park space for users. In some other circumstances, the storage of water craft has been prohibited.

Pittwater Council provides dinghy storage facilities for 733 craft located across several reserves. These facilities are rented for an annual fee:

- Residents / ratepayers \$120 / yr (incl. GST)
- Non resident / rate payers \$184 / yr (incl. GST)

The fees collected by Pittwater Council are used to administer, maintain and improve the Council's water-based recreational facilities such as dinghy racks, boat ramps and jetties.

North Sydney Council maintains dinghy storage facilities and charges users between \$100 and \$380 (incl. GST) / yr depending on the location. Other dinghy storage facilities are provided by Ryde, Manly and Mosman Councils. City of Canada Bay and Leichhardt Councils have also recently received grant funding for the installation of dinghy storage facilities. Where an annual fee is charged, craft are provided with a storage bay number and the permit is displayed on the craft, similar to an annual resident parking permit.

Location:
Hermit Bay, Vacluse

Managed by NPWS



A 209 dinghy storage facility
located at Clareville Beach,
Avalon.

Managed by Pittwater Council



Very few councils appear to allow storage of trailer-sized water craft on public land. This may be attributed to the fact that these larger vessels:

- take up a larger area of public space as compared with smaller sized dinghies;
- are more visible; and
- are privately-owned leisure craft that shouldn't alienate public land.

However, it is noted that, in some areas where suitable space exist, some councils permit the storage of large dragon boats and outrigger canoes that are owned by community-based paddling clubs.

A brief overview is provided of each of Woollahra's harbour bays where dinghy storage occurs on, or adjacent to, Council-managed land. Each overview describes some of the existing issues and identifies proposed or potential responses available to Council.

1. Double Bay

NSW Maritime indicates that, of a total of 196 public moorings in Double Bay, 97 or 49% are leased by Woollahra residents. Approximately 60 dinghies are stored adjacent to the Double Bay Sailing Club in the inter-tidal zone, which is the responsibility of NSW Maritime.

1.1 Double Bay Beach

Existing situation: Eight dinghies are currently stored on Double Bay Beach at the end of Beach Street.

Proposal: The opportunity exists to install a small-scale dinghy storage facility to maintain these craft in an orderly manner. This would also help deter future incremental increases in dinghy numbers at this location.

1.2 Seven Shillings Beach

Currently, eleven dinghies are stored on or at Seven Shillings Beach, adjacent to Redleaf Pool. This area is not controlled by Council, so it is not open to Council to manage water craft storage here.

2. Rose Bay

Rose Bay currently contains three marinas and 138 swing moorings managed by NSW Maritime and leased to the general public. NSW Maritime indicates that 65 or 45% of public moorings in Rose Bay are used by Woollahra residents. Existing water-based boat storage in Rose Bay includes:

	Fixed berths	Swing Moorings	Total
Rose Bay Marina	29	72	101
Point Piper Marina	23	100	123
Royal Motor Yacht Club	90	18	108
NSW Maritime		138	138
Total	142	328	470

The current Rose Bay Marina proposal being considered by Council would, if approved, reduce the number of swing moorings by 157.

	Fixed berths	Swing Moorings	Total
Rose Bay Marina	124	10	134
Point Piper Marina	35	5	40
Royal Motor Yacht Club	90	18	108
NSW Maritime		138	138
Total	249	171	420

If the marina development is approved as proposed, there will be a near 48% reduction in swing moorings in Rose Bay which may result in a decrease in the demand for dinghy storage in publicly accessible foreshore sites such as Rose Bay Park and the Rose Bay Promenade.

2.1 Rose Bay Park

Existing situation: Rose Bay Park is located at the corner of Wunulla Road and New South Head Road, below Rose Bay Police Station. The park is used for picnicking, dog walking, exercising, sunbaking and as a launching site for various water sports including windsurfing, kayaking and sailing. The park is currently overrun with a plethora of water craft with approximately 53 kayaks, 30 dinghies and 23 trailer boats including a high number of large sized catamarans.

These craft give the park an unsightly appearance and restrict access along the foreshore at high tide (see photograph below). They occupy and alienate a large area which would otherwise be available for general public use.



In 2006, Council granted development approval for a 40 kayak storage facility and kayak hire operations in the northern section of the park. The works are currently on hold, subject to a Section 96 Application by the applicant seeking to correct plans which are stated in the application to have been incorrectly rotated 90 degrees in the original plans. This facility would assist in meeting some of the apparent demand for kayak storage.

Proposal:

In December 2006, we were informed of our success in securing \$19,966 grant funding under the NSW Government's Sharing Sydney Harbour Access Program for the installation of a 53 dinghy storage facility. These funds contribute to \$20,000 provided in Council's Capital Works Budget. The installation of formalised dinghy storage at Rose Bay Park aims to improve:

- access and security of dinghies for boat users;
- public access to Rose Bay Park and the beach area, with the removal of haphazard dinghy storage; and
- aesthetics of the foreshore reserve by removing watercraft clutter from the park.

The rationalisation of the watercraft storage will permit the installation of picnic tables and seating which have also been included as part of these works. A plan of the proposed works is contained in Annexure 1. This work is supported by NSW Maritime's *Rose Bay West Framework Plan 2006* which states:

“Rose Bay Park improvements should include dinghy storage racks that enable the prime beach front locations to be cleared of vessels and available for local residents.”

We have obtained quotations for the installation of the facility and works are scheduled to commence in June this year. Details of how this facility may be managed are proposed to be provided in a further report.

We consider it is not appropriate for trailer-sized water craft, such as the catamarans, to be stored on Council land as they reduce the area of beach available for public use and restrict beach access. Therefore, in order to proceed with the installation, we propose to inform water craft owners of the need to remove their craft. This will be done by advertisements placed in the Wentworth Courier and notices placed directly on the craft. Any craft not removed will be transported to Council's O'Dea Avenue Depot for secure storage and to await claiming. Any unclaimed craft will be sold, in accordance with the Impounding Act 1993.

The applicant for the Rose Bay Marina has also proposed to construct dinghy racks in Rose Bay Park catering for 25 vessels, as a public amenity to be managed by Council, and subject to the final design and location being determined in consultation with Council. Details of how this facility might be managed if the DA is approved, are proposed to be provided in the further report.

2.2 Rose Bay Promenade

Existing situation: There are currently 39 dinghies secured to the concrete balustrade, or the hand rails associated with stair access from the Promenade to the waters edge. The existing situation is not acceptable as:

- the storage of dinghies is unauthorised and unsightly;
- dinghies protrude above the balustrade and impinge on views of the Harbour from New South Head Road;
- the installation of fixing points, by the public, in the balustrade has caused damage to the wall and concrete light posts;
- during high tide and wind events, the craft strike the balustrade and seawall causing damage;
- the public use of this type of boat storage is potentially hazardous to people handling craft associated with awkward lowering of boats to the water; and
- dinghies towed on the stairs impede access to the water.

It is apparent that the use of the balustrade for dinghy storage has increased over time and may be attributed, in part, to Council's failure in the past to have the craft removed.

Proposal: Council has recently awarded a contract for Eco Civil Construction Pty Ltd to undertake the works. As part of these works, Eco Civil Construction will renew the stair accessways to the Harbour and repair the balustrade. Therefore, it will be necessary for Council to ensure that dinghies are removed to allow for the works to proceed.

We will be informing water craft owners of the need to remove their craft. This will be done by advertisements placed in the Wentworth Courier and notices placed directly on the craft. Any craft not removed will be transported to Council's O'Dea Avenue Depot for secure storage and to await claiming. Any unclaimed craft will be sold, in accordance with the Impounding Act 1993.

Once Rose Bay Promenade works are completed, water craft will not be permitted to be re-attached to the seawall, balustrade, accessways and light poles. This will ensure the repaired concrete balustrade and restored light poles are protected.

Comment: It is noted that the design prepared for the Development Application for the Rose Bay Promenade works included a marine deck that caters for 40 dinghies as well as improved access to the water. The marine deck was designed to provide an alternative to the practice of hanging water craft from the balustrade. The deck will be the subject of a new Development Application to be lodged in the near future. This component of the Rose Bay Promenade project has not been funded to date. Future decisions of funding and timing of this project will need to take into account:

- the potential reduction by 48% of swing moorings in the Bay associated with the proposed Marina;
- dinghy storage facilities available at Woollahra Sailing Club in Lyne Park (see below);

- Council dinghy storage facility soon to be installed in Rose Bay Park; and
- a dinghy storage facility is proposed in Tingira Memorial Park (see below).

2.3 Lyne Park

Existing situation: There are currently, no water craft stored in the public open space area of Lyne Park with the exception of the public car parks, where some trailer boats exist.

The Woollahra Sailing Club currently provides water craft storage for its members. The Club charges members \$265 / yr for kayaks and \$375 / yr for dinghies. An adult membership fee is \$175 / yr.

Proposal: A Council report is currently being prepared regarding the Lyne Park car park. In the interim, it is proposed to introduce parking restrictions to prevent the overnight and long-term storage of trailer boats in the public car park behind the tennis courts.

An opportunity may also exist, subject to public demand at a later stage, to install a Council managed publicly accessible dinghy and / or kayak storage facility in the park.

2.4 Tingira Memorial Park

Existing situation: Currently, there are 25 dinghies and eleven kayaks stored in Tingira Memorial Park (photograph overleaf). This number has increased from 6 dinghies in 2003, when we undertook to construct the Tingira Memorial.

Proposal: We have prepared a design for a dinghy storage facility in Tingira Memorial Park, provided in Annexure 2, which caters for 22 water craft. A budget estimate of \$10,000 has been provided in the 2007/08 draft Capital Works Budget and we have applied for a grant to supplement Council funding.

The installation of a dinghy storage facility would assist in returning sections of beach to general public use, which are currently alienated by boat storage.

Tingira Memorial Park and the adjoining beach is cluttered with dinghies.



3. Parsley Bay

Parsley Bay currently contains 42 swing moorings managed by NSW Maritime and leased to the general public. NSW Maritime indicates that in Parsley Bay, 37 or 88 % of public moorings are used by Woollahra residents. It is possible that many of these moorings are leased by adjacent waterfront owners.

3.1 Parsley Bay Reserve

Existing situation: Currently there are three dinghies and two kayaks stored in Parsley Bay Reserve.

Proposal: This is a small number; the situation should be monitored and action considered if a growing number of craft begin to create visual clutter or restrict use of the park.

4. Watsons Bay

Watsons Bay currently contains 128 swing moorings managed by NSW Maritime and leased to the general public. NSW Maritime indicates that in Watsons Bay, 86 or 67 % of public moorings are leased by Woollahra residents.

4.1 Marine Parade

Existing situation: The Watsons Bay Heritage Conservation Area DCP states (page 88):

“Beach dinghies are permitted against the promenade edge provided these do not impede public access.”

A recent inspection indicates up to 60 dinghies are stored along the Marine Parade. These dinghies, generally, do not impinge unduly upon public access, however, it is noted that many dinghies are secured in a haphazard manner with various chains, ropes, cables and locks. Many of these are secured to the decorative iron bollards installed along the edge of the Parade. A small number of craft do not appear to be seaworthy and may have been abandoned.

Dinghy owners also leave loose items such as vests, ropes, paddles and the like under the craft, which are often displaced and spread along the foreshore.



Proposal: It is proposed to allow seaworthy dinghies to remain along Marine Parade and ensure that a more appropriate fixing system is available to secure craft. This may include providing discrete locking points for each dinghy, thereby eliminating the agglomeration of extended ropes, chains and locks that currently exists.

4.2 Gibsons Beach Reserve

Existing situation: On Gibsons Beach Reserve, located at the rear of the Watsons Bay Pilot Station, a number of dinghies are currently stored. Council's records indicate that the number of dinghies have increased from 7 in 1988 to 26 in November 2006. The increase in dinghies may also be attributed to the relocation of dinghies from nearby Marine Parade.

The dinghies visually detract from the area and screen a natural sandstone overhang. Some of the dinghies do not appear seaworthy and are likely to have been abandoned. Some boat parts are also secured in the park, which is unsightly.

Some water craft and boat parts in **Gibsons Beach Reserve** are secured haphazardly and create an eyesore.



Proposal: We have prepared a design for a dinghy storage facility at Gibsons Beach Reserve, provided in Annexure 3, which caters for 15 water craft. A budget estimate of \$10,000 has been provided in the 2007/08 draft Capital Works Budget and we have applied for a grant to supplement Council funding. A dinghy storage facility would provide for orderly storage of dinghies and improve the visual appearance of the area. It would also provide partial views of the natural sandstone overhang.

Conclusion:

NSW Maritime leases 677 swing moorings located in Woollahra's bays and inlets, which generates a demand for the stowing of dinghies and other water craft around our beaches, foreshore parks and promenades.

The foreshore public open space areas are limited and under high demand for a wide variety of passive and active recreational pastimes. The absence of a policy or facilities to manage the storage of water craft has resulted in unsightly visual clutter, alienation of foreshore land, the restricted public access to, and enjoyment of, foreshore areas.

It is, therefore, recommended that a further report be prepared for Council's consideration which identifies a number of management policy options concerning water craft storage and addresses these concerns. Council's preferred options would then be exhibited for public comment.

David Sheils
Manager Public Open Space

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

ANNEXURES:

1. Rose Bay Park dinghy storage
 2. Tingira Memorial Park dinghy storage
 3. Gibsons Beach Reserve dinghy storage
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Item No: D6 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **LIBRARY REPORT FOR THE QUARTER, JANUARY TO MARCH 2007**
Author: Vicki Munro, Manager, Library and Information Services
File No: 48.G
Reason for Report: To review the library operation for the quarter, 1 January to 31 March 2007.

Recommendation:

1. That the report of the library service for the quarter 1 January to 31 March 2007 be received and noted.

This report reviews activities and projects for the quarter January to March 2007 compared with the same quarter for the previous year, 2006.

1. Circulation Statistics

The following statistics show the circulation of the total library service for the period 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007 as well as providing a comparison for the same periods in 2006. In particular, it covers the most recent reporting quarter, Quarter 3 – 1 January to 31 March 2007.

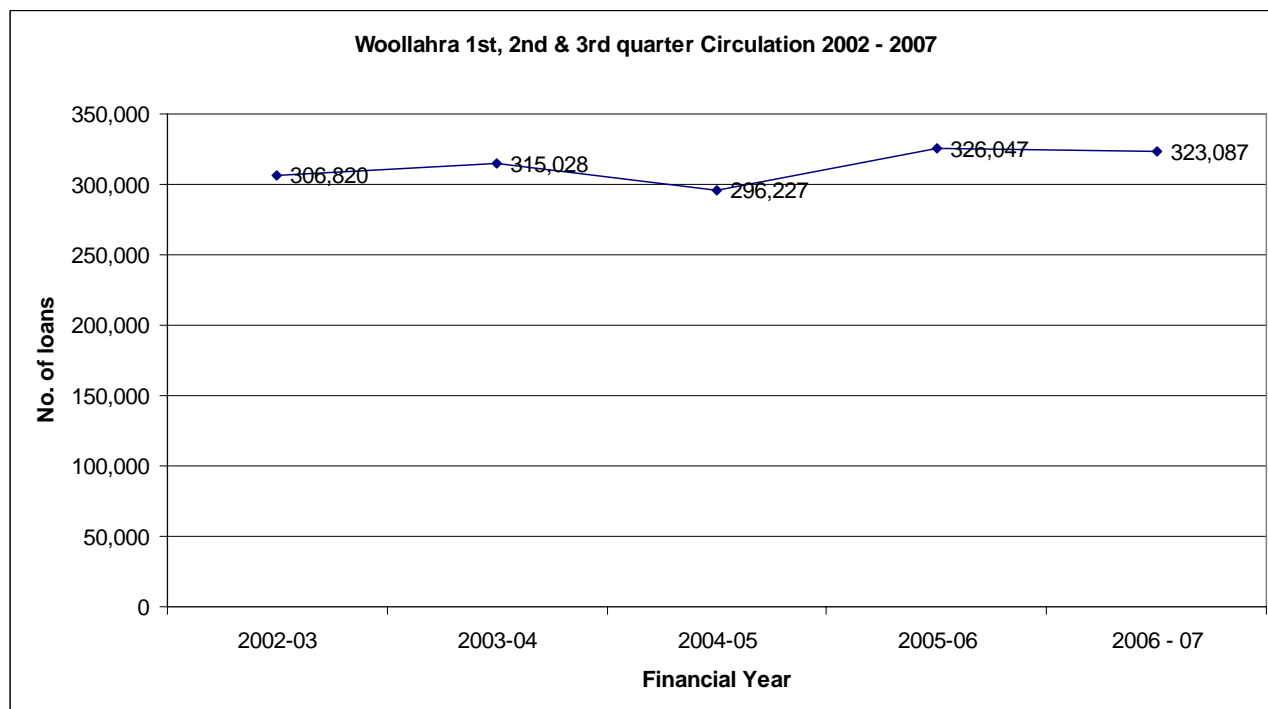
Totals									
	Quarter 1 July-Sept 05/06	Quarter 1 July-Sept 06/07	% Change	Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 05/06	Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 06/07	% Change	Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 05/06	Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 06/07	% Change
Adult Books	60,982	53,230	-13%	55,927	52,814	-6%	58,640	51,126	-13%
Children's Books	29,358	31,632	8%	23,445	26,996	15%	24,749	27,502	11%
Periodicals	5,347	4,837	-10%	4,824	4,764	-1%	5,047	4,909	-3%
Toys	826	855	4%	627	724	15%	656	755	15%
Audio Visual	18,813	22,857	21%	18,498	21,806	18%	18,308	21,280	16%
Total	115,326	113,411	-2%	103,321	107,104	4%	107,400	105,572	-2%

Double Bay Central									
	Quarter 1 July-Sept 05/06	Quarter 1 July-Sept 06/07	% Change	Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 05/06	Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 06/07	% Change	Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 05/06	Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 06/07	% Change
Adult Books	43,584	37,949	-13%	40,553	37,746	-7%	41,770	35,846	-14%
Children's Books	21,307	23,516	10%	16,903	19,960	18%	17,725	19,932	12%
Periodicals	3,462	3,175	-8%	3,154	3,126	-1%	3,383	3,176	-6%
Toys	812	840	3%	619	719	16%	651	752	16%
Audio Visual	15,627	17,960	15%	15,083	16,753	11%	14,845	15,543	5%
Total	84,792	83,440	-2%	76,312	78,304	3%	78,374	75,249	-4%

Paddington									
	Quarter 1 July-Sept 05/06	Quarter 1 July-Sept 06/07	% Change	Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 05/06	Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 06/07	% Change	Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 05/06	Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 06/07	% Change
Adult Books	14,909	13,120	-12%	13,162	12,732	-3%	14,313	12,819	-10%
Children's Books	6,241	6,292	1%	5,043	5,042	0%	5,718	5,716	0%
Periodicals	1,672	1,525	-9%	1,532	1,502	-2%	1,518	1,596	5%
Toys	2	11	450%	2	5	150%	4	2	-50%
Audio Visual	2,733	4,088	50%	3,023	4,060	34%	3,222	4,738	47%
Total	25,557	25,036	-2%	22,762	23,341	3%	24,775	24,871	0%

Watsons Bay									
	Quarter 1 July-Sept 05/06	Quarter 1 July-Sept 06/07	% Change	Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 05/06	Quarter 2 Oct-Dec 06/07	% Change	Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 05/06	Quarter 3 Jan-Mar 06/07	% Change
Adult Books	2,489	2,161	-13%	2,212	2,336	6%	2,557	2,461	-4%
Children's Books	1,810	1,824	1%	1,499	1,994	33%	1,306	1,854	42%
Periodicals	213	137	-36%	138	136	-1%	146	137	-6%
Toys	12	4	-67%	6	0	-100%	1	1	0%
Audio Visual	453	809	79%	392	993	153%	241	999	315%
Total	4,977	4,935	-1%	4,247	5,459	29%	4,251	5,452	28%

A five year trend line of circulation for the library service for the year to date is outlined below.



Significant points to note from both the statistics and graph are:

- The Library circulation for the third quarter, 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007 has shown a decrease of 2% on the same quarter in 2006. In examining the year to date, there has been a 0.01% increase over the same period in 2006.
- In looking at each service point for the third quarter against the 2006 statistics, there has been an increase in usage at the Library branches with a decrease in usage at the Central Library.
 - Double Bay Central : 4% decrease
 - Paddington Branch : 0.39% increase
 - Watsons Bay Branch : 28 % increase
- The general trend, as shown in previous quarters, has been a decrease in the use of adult non-fiction as more people access the internet both as a supplementary and alternate source of information. Children's non-fiction has remained steady. Adult fiction loans have remained constant at Paddington and Watsons Bay, though have decreased over the last quarter for the Double Bay Central Library. Periodical loans are consistent across the service, whilst loans of audiovisual material fluctuate at each Library service point, yet represent a total increase of 16% in comparison to same period in 2005/06.
- The Library's weeding program will soon recommence, with a stocktake of library material to be undertaken in the second half of 2007. It is anticipated that thorough weeding of the collection will lessen overcrowding of the bookshelves and increase the circulation statistics.
- In September 2006, the Library introduced people counters at the Double Bay Central Library. For the quarter, there were 23,231 visits by the public to the Adult Library and 19,871 visits to the Junior Library. This represents an average of 479 library visits per day.

2. Membership

Quarter 3 - January to March 2007

Members who have borrowed over the past three years		
	This year	Last year
Double Bay Adult	10,802	11,622
Double Bay Junior	3,575	3,701
Paddington Adult	4,702	5,029
Paddington Junior	791	708
Watsons Bay Adult	320	314
Watsons Bay Junior	147	143
TOTAL	20,337	21,517

- In the borrower profile for the quarter, there has been a decrease of 5.5% of active members (members who have borrowed over the last three year period). The exception to this trend has been Watsons Bay and Paddington Junior members.
- 933 new members registered during this quarter. In the current financial year, a total of 2,556 new members have joined the Library and Information Service.

Services Other Than Circulation

3A. Reference and Information Services

The Reference enquiries statistics cover three distinct areas, namely:

- General reference enquiries represent requests for Library based information, face to face enquiries and telephone and email at both Double Bay Central and Paddington Libraries;
- Local History enquiries which have been received either in person, telephone and email at the Local History Centre and at the Double Bay Central and Paddington Libraries;
- Community Information enquiries consisting of requests for information on community facilities, services and activities received either in person, by telephone or email at Double Bay Central and Paddington Libraries and the Local History Centre.

	2006/07			2005/06		
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Reference Enquiries	6,514	5,119	6,717	5,619	5,957	6343
Local History	709	539	559	628	562	741
Community Information	121	236	195	663	1,064	146
Total	7,344	5,894	7,471	6,910	7,583	7,230

- The above figure shows that the total number of Reference enquiries have increased by 3.3 % this quarter in comparison to the same time last year. There has been a decrease in Local History enquiries from the same quarter in 2005/06 and an increase in Community Information enquiries.

- The Reference enquiries statistics are in keeping with the Public Libraries Evaluation Group measures (PLEG), established by the State Library of NSW. The information request completion rate of 73 %, as determined by PLEG is higher than the same time last year, which was 69%. This means that 73 % of all reference enquiries were completed on the day that they were received. The remainder of enquiries were satisfied by delivery of items from Stack or Branches or by Inter-Library loan request.

Inter-Library Loans

	2006/07			2005/06		
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Items lent to other Libraries	872	818	1,254	437	386	496
Items borrowed from other Libraries	265	254	263	206	208	257

- Statistics for Quarter 3, 1 January – 31 March 2007, in comparison to the same period in 2006 show 152% increase in the number of items lent to other libraries.
- As reported in previous quarters, the number of Inter Library loan (ILL) requests received from other libraries (items lent to other libraries) has grown significantly since the Library moved to the Libraries Australia Document Delivery (LADD) system in July 2006. The Woollahra Library and Information Service is now much more accessible to other libraries including University and Special Libraries.
- The Inter Library loan requests for Woollahra members (items borrowed from other Libraries) has remained steady with a slight increase of 2.3% over the same quarter in 2006.
- To assist in managing such a significant increase in workload, there have been some alterations to the duties of staff within the Information Services team and the Information Services Librarian will be undertaking a review of the Inter Library Loan operations over the next quarter.

Electronic Information Service:

	2006/07			2005/06		
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Library Access						
Logins	620	556	387	693	402	678
Searches	1,469	1,169	1,491	2,548	1,502	2,114
Remote / Home Access						
Logins	229	103	117	165	92	253
Searches	516	645	822	850	494	706

- Online database statistics were down in Quarter 2, 2006/07 but have made some recovery this quarter. Both logins and searches from home (remote) have increased over the last quarter. So too searches within the Library Service.
- It is not always easy to conclude reasons for the fluctuations in electronic database statistics. Possible reasons for decreases include internet and database problems which restrict access and periodic maintenance. It should also be noted that as the community improve the efficiency of their searches, it will represent decreases in the number of searches per login.

- A monthly staff training program in online databases has now been developed and further promotion of the databases is being planned. Better presence through the revised Council website should also increase use of the service.

Local History Centre

The following table summarises enquiries at the Centre by broad category:

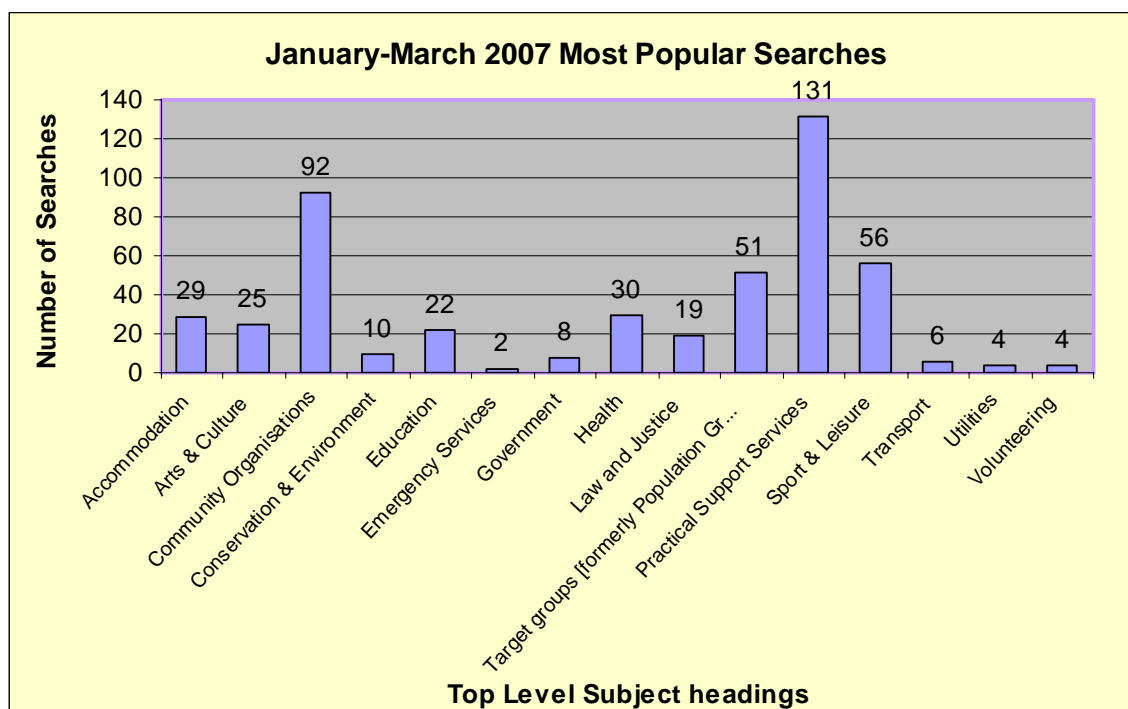
	2006/07			2005/06		
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Council	43	81	41	54	58	62
Property	251	163	205	240	205	217
Local History	201	121	109	136	104	215
Family History	52	42	64	70	54	58
Assistance with equipment	54	35	58	42	33	42
Directional	32	36	20	29	31	52
Other	45	37	28	15	36	51
Commissioned property histories	7	7	5	8	5	5
Total at Centre	685	522	530	594	526	702
Double Bay Enquiries	15	16	24	17	17	13
Paddington	9	1	5	17	19	13
Total Enquiries	709	539	559	628	562	728

- There has been a decrease of 24.5% in the number of enquiries to the Local History Centre this quarter, over the same period in the previous year. Looking at trends over previous years, this appears to reflect normal fluctuations in use.
- The Local History staff have actioned the following this quarter :
 - The launch of the “Women in Woollahra” project at Council’s International Women’s Day event, held on 8 March 2007. The project involved the preparation of oral histories and biographies of two Woollahra Council Aldermen, Belle Miller and Brenda (Dutchie) Backhouse.
 - Progressing the indexing of Council’s archives. To date, ten years (1860- 1870) has been completed.
- Significant donations to the Centre this quarter include:
 - Colour photograph album of Edgecliff, 1966 – donated by Ms Gaby Bernhard, which was compiled by her father who worked at Jarman’s Wine and Spirit Shop (New South Head Road, Edgecliff), in the late 1950s and 60s.
 - Photograph of Farmers’ staff Childrens Christmas at Rose Bay Baths, c1930 donated by Colleen Bennett Milbourne.
 - Waverley Library Local Studies section donated a collection of photographs and ephemera, as well as laminated copies of subdivision maps of Rose Bay.

Community Information

	2006/07	2005/06
Quarter 1 - July to Sept		
July	132	210
August	363	179
September	299	266
Total for Quarter	794	655
Quarter 2 - Oct to Dec		
October	233	451
November	367	294
December	253	228
Total for Quarter	853	973
Quarter 3 - Jan to Mar		
January	144	163
February	132	140
March	213	219
Total for Quarter	489	522
TOTAL YEAR TO DATE	2136	2150

- A total of 489 searches were made on the LINCS Community Information database this quarter. This represents a decrease in usage in comparison to Quarters 1 and 2 this financial year (38.4% and 42.6% respectively), however it is noted that a similar trend occurred in Quarter 3 of 2005 /06. Statistics for Community Information over recent years have shown fluctuations which cannot be attributed to any particular cause.
- The most popular searches were Practical Support Services, Community Organisations and Sport and Leisure.



3B. Home Library Service

	2006/07			2005/06		
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3
	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
Items lent to HLS Members	3,803	3,712	3,258	4,006	3,863	3,734
Items lent to HLS Institutions	408	310	370	551	299	478

- As at 31 March 2007, there were 147 individual members and 9 institutional members of the Home Library Service. There are 6 registered volunteers who assist Library staff in delivering items on a fortnightly / monthly basis.
- There has been a decrease of 9.8% in loans to Home Library members this quarter in comparison to Quarter 2 October - December 2006 and a decrease of 13.8% in comparison to the same in 2006. The reason for the decrease in the loan of materials is due to the introduction of the Audio Reader Navigators in November 2006. These electronic devices allow books to be downloaded from a database and can be played just as if CD or tape. The number of loans of electronic books during this quarter was 274. These figures will be included in the Home Library Service statistics in the next quarter.

3C. Cultural Events

Poets Picnic - Tuesday 20 February, 2007

The annual Poets Picnic event was held from 6 -8 pm on Tuesday 20 February 2007 in Blackburn Gardens. The theme was "Fathers, Mothers and Others". The Mayor, Cllr Keri Huxley welcomed all to the event which hosted poets Stephen Edgar, Catherine Jinks, Jamie Grant, Kate Fagan, Adrian Robinson, Jill Jones and Peter Coleman. School students representing Moriah College, Scots College, Rose Bay Secondary College and Cranbrook College also read poetry supporting this year's theme. One of the highlights of the evening was Michael Atherton's musical interludes.

Attendance for the event was down on previous years with approximately 200 attending. It is believed that this was due to the visit of the liners, Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Mary.

Writers and Readers Series - Thursday 29 March 2007- Bryce Courtenay - Sylvia

Only one Writers and Readers evening was held this quarter. On the 29 March, 2007 Bryce Courtenay spoke about his new book, "Sylvia" with Andrea Stretton. The evening was a sellout with requests for a return visit by Mr Courtenay. Attendance : 105.

3D. Children's Services

Extended Hours in the Children's Area of Double Bay Central Library

The following table represents the number of members in the Children's area of the Central Library between the hours of 6.00pm and 8.00pm.

Month	Total clients	Average no. clients per night
Quarter 2 - October to December 2005/06		
October	205	10
November	207	9
December	206	11
Quarter 3 - January to March 2006/07		
January	301	16
February	125	7
March	189	8

- Figures have remained constant but low in the use of the extended hours of the Children's area of the Double Bay Central Library. A detailed report will be presented to Council in July 2007.

Story time sessions

The story time programme is a core part of the Library and Information Service's activities.

	2006/07						2005/06					
	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3	
	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children	Sessions/Children
Double Bay Central												
Wednesday Story Time and Craft	11	149	10	111	13	102	10	104	11	111	7	115
Friday Play Group	5	98	7	147	4	61	13	70	3	46	5	52
Total	16	247	17	258	17	163	23	174	14	157	12	167
Paddington Branch												
Storytime (Thursday)	12	125	11	84	12	142	11	81	11	107	13	258
Toddler Story time (Friday)	13	252	11	229	11	166	13	183	12	194	12	141
Total	25	377	22	313	27	417	24	264	23	301	25	399
Watsons Bay Branch												
Special Events					1	15						
Total					1	15						
Holdsworth Street Community Centre												
Pre School Children (Tuesday)	9	80	10	129	8	123	10	215	10	149	9	138
Grand Total	50	704	49	700	53	718	57	653	47	607	46	704

- Story time figures have increased by 2% in comparison to the same period in 2005.
- A number of special activities have been organised this quarter by the Children's and Young Adult Team and branch staff with 393 children and 100 adults attending in total. These activities included:
 - Summer Reading programme.
 - Tropical Party at Double Bay with 28 children and 21 adults attending
 - Dragonquest at Paddington with 19 children and 11 adults attending
 - School holiday activities were held at all Library Service points.
 - Illustrator, Gaye Chapman entertained 15 children and 2 adults at the Central library while 15 children and 7 adults listened to her discussion at Paddington Library
 - During the quarter, the Library and Information Service staff worked with Cultural Development and Environmental Services to host activities namely
 - Harmony Week held on 21 March 2007 at Double Bay Central Library with 10 children and 8 adults in attendance.
 - During Harbour Week held on 3-11 March 2007, 52 children and 39 adults attended 2 storytime and craft sessions at Paddington Branch, while 25 children and 12 adults attended similar themed sessions at Double Bay Central Library.

- The Central Library hosted six pre-school visits during March with 142 children attending and three classes from Rose Bay Primary school also visited totalling 87 children.

4. Conclusion

The Woollahra Library and Information Service continues to offer a wide range of programmes to the local community. Acknowledging that there have been some decreases in the circulation of library material at the Double Bay Central library, loans have increased at Paddington and Watsons Bay branches and reference enquiries have increased overall.

The Library Service has commenced to offer a new series of daytime talks, “Tea Topics” which commenced in April 2007; offers a full programme of speakers for the Writers and Readers series for 2007 and has commenced advertising the annual “Ride the HSC Wave” series to be held in June 2007.

The Library Strategic plan is now well underway and it is anticipated that the outcomes of this strategy will ensure that the Library and Information Service remains relevant and continues to meet the needs of the local Woollahra community.

Vicki Munro
Manager – Library and Information Services

Kylie Walshe
Director Community Services
