MINUTES of the Environment and Recreation Committee of Leichhardt Municipal Council held in the Supper Room on 3 February 2010.

Present at the meeting: Cr Rochelle Porteous (Chair), Cr Daniel Kogoy, David Lawrence, Kosta Kontaxis, Paul Geraghty, Michael Roche, Bronwen Campbell, Bev Maunsell, Gillian Leahy.

Staff Present: Leisha Deguara, Gill Dawson, David Eckstein, Katie Bell, Heidi Webb.

Apologies Cr Vera Ann Hannaford, Cr Gordon Weiss, Kim Wheatley, Hugh Malfroy.

Meeting Commenced: 6.35pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

I acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose Country we are meeting today, and their elders past and present.

Cr Daniel Kogoy performed acknowledgement of country in the capacity as Acting Chairperson.

Cr Rochelle Porteous took the chair on arrival at the meeting.

BUSINESS:

ITEM 1
APOLOGIES

ERC01/10 RECOMMENDED

That apologies be accepted for the non attendance of Hugh Malfroy, Cr Vera Ann Hannaford, Kim Wheatley and Cr Gordon Weiss.

ITEM 2
MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 2 December 2009

ERC02/10 RECOMMENDED

1. That Council adopt the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee held on 2 December 2009 with the accompanying recommendations including the amendment per Council resolution (C602/09).
2. Request that a copy of the correspondence congratulating the Waste Projects Officer on her presentation be provided at the April 2010 meeting.

ITEM 3
SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

ERC03/10 RECOMMENDED

That the information in the Summary of Resolutions be received and noted with the following amendments to be included in the revised Summary of Resolutions.

1. ERC 16/08 Community Orchard Proposal, Whites Street

   Additional resolutions:
   - That a formal request be made to the Department of Planning to separate the issue of the Wisdom St nursery from that of the properties at 35, 37 and 39 White Street and that the Mayor seek a further meeting with the Minister for Planning and the State Member for Balmain on this matter. Members of the native nursery to also be invited to attend the meeting to assist in conveying that the native nursery is being unnecessarily delayed as a result of debate on the use of the White Street properties.
   - That a verbal report be brought back to the April 2010 meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee.

2. ERC 33/09 Potential Sporting Fields

   Additional resolution:
   - That a verbal update on progress with this item – STA land, Derbyshire Road – be provided at the April 2010 meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee.

3. ERC 47/09 Celtis Sinensis

   Additional resolutions:
   - That a Draft Brochure be provided for Committee consideration at the April 2010 meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee.
   - That a verbal report on the status of formal listing of Camphor Laurel as a Noxious Weed be provided at the April 2010 meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee.
ITEM 9.1  (Brought Forward)
GUEST SPEAKER MR MICHAEL ROCHE – RE FARMERS’ MARKET IN WHITES CREEK VALLEY PARK, LILYFIELD / ANNANDALE

Michael Roche advised that, through discussion with Council’s Property Manager and the Council Resolution (C599/09), Whites Creek is not seen as suitable venue and that alternative venue is being sought. Mr Roche outlined the intended focus of the local market concept: Boutique market (Circa 30 stalls max); less competition between stalls than occurs at other markets; aimed at local community with a sustainable transport focus (get there by foot or bike); entertainment / common area for socialising – enabling local residents to meet and chat.

Mr Roche advised that he would keep Council informed of progress in the search for venue options.

ITEM 4
CORRESPONDENCE – Nil

ITEM 5
REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY – Nil

ITEM 6.1
TRANSITION LEICHHARDT

ERC04/10  RECOMMENDED

That the information in this report be received and noted.

ITEM 6.2
COUNCIL FACILITATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AUDITS FOR SMALL/MEDIUM BUSINESSES IN LEICHHARDT

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report be received and noted.

ERC05/10  RECOMMENDED

1. That the report be received and noted.

2. That Council consider promotion of businesses that have been proactive and undertaken energy efficient retrofits as a result of the audit program through such avenues as the Council newsletter or Mayoral column.
ITEM 6.3
FOOTPRINTS ECO FESTIVAL

Gillian Leahy flagged the issue of the need to ensure that the festival does not create tensions through exclusive use or ‘lock out’ from the facility, with specific concern to youth activities around the skateboard area.

Cr Porteous flagged the need for the event to include the opportunity for environmental and community activists groups to be able to have stalls or participate in workshops at the event.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve all current expenditure and logistical plans for the Footprints Eco Festival.

ERC06/10 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council approve all current expenditure and logistical plans for the Footprints Eco Festival.

2. That relevant staff, councillors and community members meet regularly ahead of the event to assist with planning – commencing late February.

ITEM 7.1
URBAN FOREST STRATEGY REVISED SECTIONS 3 – BENEFITS OF URBAN TREES AND 10 – RISK MANAGEMENT OF TREES

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopt the next two sections of the Urban Forest Strategy, those being:

   • Section 3 – the Value of Urban Trees and
   • Section 10 – Risk Management of Trees

ERC07/10 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopt the next two sections of the Urban Forest Strategy, those being:

   • Section 3 – the Value of Urban Trees and
   • Section 10 – Risk Management of Trees

2. That the authors of the report be congratulated for the quality of its content.
3. That a proposal be brought to the Committee for signage highlighting the diverse values of trees, for display in parks / use when street tree planting consultations are scheduled.

4. That a summary of the key points from the report be produced in brochure format for community and staff education purposes.

ITEM 9
OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 9.2
VERBAL REPORT – FERAL/STRAY CAT CONTROL BY DAVID ECKSTEIN

David Eckstein advised of recent visit to Balmain Campus of Sydney Secondary College to inspect the extent of cat presence. A follow up letter has been prepared requesting that the school maintain consistent effort to control cats on its site. As this is a state government site it was considered appropriate that in future resident concerns be conveyed directly to the NSW Department of Education and Training.

ERC08/10 RECOMMENDED

That the verbal report by David Eckstein regarding Feral/Stray Cat Control be received and noted.

ITEM 9.3
VERBAL REPORT – MOSMAN LEP ZONING OF BUSHLAND AREAS BY GILL DAWSON

Gill Dawson updated the Committee on Mosman Council’s experience with the Department of Planning in seeking to have parts of their parkland formally zoned as conservation areas under their new LEP.

The Department’s view is that, Council, through its Parks Plans of Management process can specify bushland for protection status, albeit not having the same legal standing as Conservation Zone under Local Environmental Plans.

ERC09/10 RECOMMENDED

That the verbal report by Gill Dawson regarding Mosman LEP Zoning of Bushland areas be received and noted.

ITEM 9.4
CORNUCOPIA CAFÉ AND NATIVE NURSERY (GLADESVILLE HOSPITAL GROUNDS)

Bronwen Campbell brought to the Committee’s attention the current threat posed to operation of the Cornucopia Café and Native Nursery (Gladesville Hospital grounds)

This is page 5 of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee held on 3 February 2010.
as a result of recently issued NSW Government Tender issued by the Department of Health.

**ERC10/10 RECOMMENDED**

That Council write to the Department of Health, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) and Minister for Health emphasising the high value of services provided by Cornucopia Café and Native Nursery in terms of employment opportunity for persons suffering mental health conditions.

**ITEM 10**

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 April 2010 at 6:30pm.

*Meeting closed at 8:40pm*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financial Implications:</strong> $20,000 budgeted from Community Events</td>
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<td><strong>Policy Implications:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Strategic Plan Objective:</strong> Community Well-being</td>
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<td>Place Where We Live &amp; Work</td>
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<td>A Sustainable Environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Services &amp; Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staffing Implications:</strong> General Manager’s Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment and Community Management staff</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Notifications:</strong> Traffic Development Application</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Implications:</strong> Site Impact Traffic impact and management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Purpose of Report

To inform Council of the plans for the Footprints Eco Festival scheduled for June 2010.

2. Recommendations

That Council approve all current expenditure and logistical plans for the Footprints Eco Festival.

3. Background

At the 23rd June 2009 Ordinary Council meeting, the following motion was carried unanimously (C242/09):

4. That the following proposal be referred to the Community Services, Safety & Facilities Committee for consideration and recommendation to Council;

   (a) That Leichhardt Council support the proposed environmental sustainability focused festival at Whites Creek to be held in 2010 and include it in its community events and environmental education planning processes and budgets for 2009/10 and the Management Plan 2009/10.

   (b) This festival be jointly organised by council events staff, environment staff, the Community Services, Safety & Facilities Committee and the Environment and Recreation Committee in consultation with the community.

   (c) The Environment & Recreation Committee, environment staff and other interested environment/sustainability stakeholders will provide input on the environmental sustainability and recreation aspects of the festival.

   (d) The Community Services, Safety & Facilities Committee and Council events staff to be responsible for event organising activities and the participation of interested artistic and cultural stakeholders.

   (e) The Youth Council and Youth Focus community development team be invited to contribute to this festival.

   (f) That Leichhardt Council further investigate green branding and a level of environmental information for existing community events.

   (g) Leichhardt Council will continue to expedite the completion of the community native nursery on the Nissen Hut site in Wisdom Street, Annandale.
At the 2\textsuperscript{nd} July 2009 Community Services, Safety & Facilities Committee, it was recommended (CSSFC64/09):

- “That Council allocate a budget of up to $20,000 for an Eco Festival to be held in 2009/2010, with the location, content and details of the Festival being deferred to a further Community Services Safety Facilities Committee meeting, based on the proposed model options as detailed in the original report (Community Events Program 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 - Item 15A from June 2009 Ordinary Council meeting), further research and suggestions. Funding for the Eco Festival to be taken from projected roll overs of the 2008/09 “Active Funday” and “A Good Idea” accounts.”

This recommendation was then carried unanimously at the 28\textsuperscript{th} July 2009 Ordinary Council meeting (C303/09).

At the 3\textsuperscript{rd} September 2009 Community Services, Safety & Facilities Committee, it was recommended (CSSFC89/09):

1. That Council note that the preferred venue for the Eco Festival be the White’s Creek area, subject to Council’s risk management assessment.

2. Subject to Whites Creek satisfying Council’s risk management assessment, that the Community Events Coordinator:
   1. Develops the concept plan for the Eco Festival;
   2. Organises a meeting with interested Councillors and key stakeholders; and
   3. Reports to Council.

The above recommendation was then adopted at the 22\textsuperscript{nd} September 2009 Ordinary Council meeting (C449/09).

This report provides this concept plan for the Eco Festival as required by this decision.

4. \textbf{Report}

Plans for the Footprints Eco Festival have been developed in consultation with Council’s Environment and Community Management staff (including Social Planning and Environmental Planning teams), Cr Daniel Kogoy, Cr Lyndal Howison and the Community Events Coordinator.

\textbf{Festival Details}

The festival will be titled the ‘Footprints Eco Festival’ or as an abbreviation ‘Footprints’. This name came about from the concept of enabling the Leichhardt community to reduce their ecological footprint.
The festival will be held on Sunday 6th June 2010 to coincide with World Environment Day (5th June). The festival will be held between 11am and 3pm based on sunrise (7am) and sunset times (5pm) and logistical requirements for natural light.

The festival will be held at Whites Creek Valley, Lilyfield; predominantly at William Stuart Playground, Whites Creek Cottage, the Dairy and Smith Street between Piper and Young Streets. Refer to Attachment 1 for the proposed site plan and layout.

It is estimated, based upon Dogs’ Day Out attendance and budget, that up to 1,000 people are likely attend the festival. The target audience is the general public, especially local residents, and the intent is to provide information that enables the community to make more informed decisions that help reduce the environmental impact of their lifestyles.

Festival Features

Footprints will focus on demonstrating and showcasing environmentally sustainable practices suitable for implementation by the community, as well as showcasing key projects and programs currently available through Leichhardt Council.

Activities will include stalls, light entertainment, walking tours, talks and workshops. Food stalls will sell ‘slow’ and organic foods, market stalls will sell environmentally friendly products, and information stands will promote programs, projects, businesses and community groups who have an environmental program or product available. Stalls will be erected on Smith Street adjacent to the park area, or alternately on the Basketball Court area within the park.

Light entertainment will potentially include acoustic music and children’s entertainment throughout the day within the parks area. It is also proposed that roaming entertainers deliver environmental themes to participants. Leichhardt Youth Council will be consulted in choosing appropriate youth-based activities to take place throughout the day.

Walking tours of the wetlands area will take place at regular intervals. Community gardens talks and tours are currently being investigated. Native vegetation planting will be conducted on the Annandale side of Whites Creek in an allocated space, facilitated by Council’s Biodiversity Officer, subject to the local notification process.

The following list of topics are currently being investigated for potential talk and workshop topics:

- Climate change
- Energy efficiency
- Renewable energy
- Sustainable transport
• Sustainable consumption
• Worm farming and composting
• Materials/product reuse and upcycling
• Recycling
• Organic gardening
• Water conservation
• Chemical-free living
• Local history and Indigenous significance

It is anticipated that the variety of activities available on the day will provide a day full of entertainment and learning for sustainability at three key locations, as well as stalls on site. The following timetable for Footprints shows an indicative plan for the day’s activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Main Stage</th>
<th>Cottage/ Dairy</th>
<th>Wetlands Tour/ Planting Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11.00am</td>
<td>Welcome to Country</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Kids Show</td>
<td>Talk</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12.00pm</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Tree Planting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12.30pm</td>
<td>Indigenous Story Time</td>
<td>Talk</td>
<td>Wetlands Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00pm</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Tree Planting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>Music Performance</td>
<td>Talk</td>
<td>Wetlands Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00pm</td>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Tree Planting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Talk/ Clothes Swap</td>
<td>Wetlands Tour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00pm</td>
<td>Close</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Transport
A “No Cars/ Don’t Drive” policy will be implemented in all promotions for the event in order to minimise carbon emissions, and parking impacts upon local residents. Promotions will be restricted to the Annandale and Lilyfield areas as a first priority in order to attract local residents for this reason.

Walking and cycling will be encouraged and bike parking will be available on site. Bike route usage will also be encouraged and an investigation into walking buses from local public transport stops will be carried out to discern whether ample volunteers will be available to run such a program.

Risk management
A preliminary site and risk assessment has been carried out in order to identify foreseeable risks for the event. The following is a list of these risks and the proposed method of risk avoidance:

a) Skate ramp – Although a popular activity, high volumes of skateboarders of mixed skill levels significantly increases the risk of injury especially to inexperienced users. A youth activity or demonstration could limit the number of users during the event.

b) Overcrowding – Given the likely crowd numbers are only estimates, potential overcrowding could occur especially within narrow or environmentally sensitive areas within the event site. Restricting
numbers in certain areas may be necessary, including adhering to the 30 maximum capacities of the Whites Creek Cottage and Dairy areas. Foot traffic over site bridges may need to be managed with visible ‘lane markings’ being applied to the path. Potential closure to the Booth Street end of the Walkway along Whites Creek may also be necessary to control volume of foot traffic into the Wetlands area and to the event site.

c) **Basketball court** – The basketball court area suffers the same potential crowding and injury risks as the Skate Ramp. As basketball is a high energy contact sport, a significant injury risk is apparent. It is proposed that the basketball court is not used for sporting purposes, but for meeting event infrastructure and/or staging needs.

d) **Bike parking** – Given the potential volume of bicycles with sustainable transport being strongly encouraged, sufficient parking space and infrastructure needs to be supplied with minimum impact on the environmental surroundings, bicycles and cyclists. Bike parking on a sealed, closed road is likely to avoid this risk most effectively.

e) **Dog off-leash area** – An off-leash area is located on the Annandale side of Whites Creek, and is an area likely to experience high foot traffic from tours and plantings during the event. It is proposed that the area is converted to an on-leash area for the duration of the event, as well as for set up and pack down. Significant notification and signage will be required prior to and on the day.

f) **Stalls** – The total number of stalls for the event is currently unclear as applications have not yet been made. An environmental risk exists during installation and access to stalls during the festival on the grassed areas of William Stuart Playground and Reserve. Placing stalls on sealed surfaces such as the Basketball court or Smith Street will significantly reduce the risk of environmental impact.

g) **Staging music and entertainment** – Entertainment areas are likely to face similar risks as the stalls, with the added requirement for power and heavy use of the area immediately surrounding the stage. Locating a stage on or near the Basketball Court would be preferred to mitigate environmental damage. An alternative is to focus on entertainment that does not require a stage or heavy stage use.

h) **Hill to Whites Creek Cottage from wetlands** – This hill is steep and unsafe in places. Some fencing is in disrepair, freestanding structures are potentially unstable and uneven surfaces exist. High use of this area is a potential risk. It may be possible to fencing off the majority of the space in order to mitigate this risk.

i) **Community garden** – Increased volume of foot traffic inside the gardens poses risks including trip hazards and environmental disturbance of the gardens themselves. The use of this space for tours
and talks is currently being considered with the aim of avoiding these risks.

j) Tree House and ropes – Although a popular feature of the Whites Creek Cottage location, the same issues as with the Skate Ramp and Basketball Court apply along with likelihood of decreased parental supervision while attending talks and demonstrations in the area. Making the tree house and rope swings inaccessible with signage and physical barriers to their use would be the ideal solution.

Planning & Coordination

In order to proceed with the event, prior planning and coordination is required around two key elements. The first being a requirement for a development application for the event, and the second being an application for road closures. To meet the timing requirements for the festival, the development application will be submitted based on advice from the assessments section. The road closure application has already been submitted to the February 2010 Traffic Committee.

All other event planning will be taking place in a staged fashion prior to the event. Further planning includes appointment of performers, speakers, volunteers and stall holders, hiring of plant and equipment for the day, promotion, temporal and personnel planning.