

# ILLAWARRA CULTURAL STATUS REPORT 2005 - 2008

INTRODUCTION .....	4
BACKGROUND .....	4
DEMOGRAPHICS .....	4
PROJECT OUTLINE.....	5
PROJECT OUTCOMES .....	5
PROJECT METHODOLOGY .....	6
WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES.....	7
VALUE TO COMMUNITIES.....	7
VALUE TO PROPONENTS.....	7
PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION.....	7
MAKE IT TIMELY .....	7
MAKE IT INCLUSIVE .....	8
MAKE IT COMMUNITY-FOCUSED.....	8
MAKE IT EFFECTIVE.....	8
MAKE IT MATTER.....	8
MAKE IT WELL-FACILITATED.....	8
MAKE IT OPEN, FAIR AND SUBJECT TO EVALUATION.....	8
MAKE IT COST EFFECTIVE.....	8
MAKE IT FLEXIBLE.....	8
THE CONSULTANCY.....	9
WORKSHOP FORMAT .....	10
SOCIAL TRENDS.....	10
TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS .....	10
ECONOMIC TRENDS .....	10
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT.....	10
POLITICAL CONTEXT .....	10
DESK BASED RESEARCH .....	11
THE ILLAWARRA REGION.....	11

CULTURAL PLANNING INITIATIVES .....	12
LOCAL GOVERNMENT .....	12
SUMMARY OF CULTURAL PLANS .....	12
WOLLONGONG CULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK & CULTURAL PLAN .....	
"POINT OF TAKE OFF" .....	12
WOLLONGONG CULTURAL INDUSTRIES AUDIT – MAY 2000 .....	13
SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL CULTURAL PLAN – 2000-2004 .....	13
SHOALHAVEN .....	14
KIAMA CULTURAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT STATEMENT – AUGUST 2000. ....	14
REGIONAL (SOUTHERN COUNCILS) .....	15
ILLAWARRA AND SOUTH COAST REGIONAL STRATEGY .....	15
ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE ILLAWARRA .....	16
ILLAWARRA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS .....	16
WOLLONGONG/KIAMA/SHELLHARBOUR .....	16
WOLLONGONG/KIAMA/SHELLHARBOUR/SHOALHAVEN.....	16
WOLLONGONG .....	16
KIAMA.....	21
SHELLHARBOUR.....	22
SHOALHAVEN .....	23
EUROBODALLA .....	25
WINGECARRIBEE .....	25
REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS.....	26
ILLAWARRA AREA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (IACC).....	26
SOUTH COAST WRITERS' CENTRE .....	27
ILLAWARRA CRAFT AND ARTS NETWORK (ICAN) .....	28
FILM ILLAWARRA .....	28
ILLAWARRA CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OUTCOMES.....	30
KEY ISSUES RAISED .....	30
IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS .....	30
TRAINING.....	30
CROSS CULTURAL WORKSHOP OUTCOMES .....	31

PARENTS UNPLUGGED .....	31
ARTFORM SPECIFIC RESOURCES .....	32
VISUAL ARTS .....	32
HERITAGE .....	32
PERFORMANCE .....	32
MUSIC .....	32
NEW MEDIA .....	33
OTHER .....	33
DEFINITIONS .....	34
ARTSWORKER .....	34
ACTION-RESEARCH .....	34
COMMUNITY .....	34
COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (CCD) .....	35
CULTURAL MAPPING .....	35
CULTURAL PLANNING .....	35

## **INTRODUCTION**

In 2003 the Southern Councils Group in partnership with CCDNSW identified the need to conduct research into the cultural development needs of the Illawarra and South Coast.

Following a successful application for funds from the Australia Council for the Arts, The Illawarra Cultural Partnership Project commenced in March 2004.

## **BACKGROUND**

The beautiful Illawarra region extends north from the town of Helensburgh, nestled tight against the domineering coastal escarpment and gradually expands to include the regional centre of Wollongong, industrial (heritage) areas of Port Kembla, the expanding residential areas of Shellharbour and Kiama through to the magnificent coastal villages of the Shoalhaven and the heritage towns, broad agricultural areas and fishing ports of Eurobodalla and Bega Valley in the south. The western area of the Illawarra includes the historic Southern Highlands towns of Bowral, Moss Vale and Mittagong in Wingecarribee.

The Illawarra has a diverse and evolving economy which includes the key sectors of heavy industry, agriculture, tourism, fisheries, mining, forestry and ports. Information technology, education and associated industries are becoming increasingly important

The area encompasses large sections of the NSW South Coast, coastal lakes, estuaries, wetlands, rivers, agricultural lands, national parks, reserves, state forests and water catchments.

Draft Regional Plans for the area outline the State Government's vision for managing the impacts of population growth.

The natural richness of the escarpment, hinterland and prime coastal lands was important to large indigenous populations well before "white" settlement; while proximity to the first settlement of Sydney ensured a rich non-indigenous history from the earliest days of the colony. This was further reinforced with the arrival of influxes of migrants attracted to Port related industry growth.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

The Illawarra has a population approaching 400,000. Significant areas of the region experience, up to four fold, population increases during peak holiday periods.

Cultural diversity is recognised as a significant contributor with 16% of Wollongong and 12% of Shellharbour's population born in non English speaking countries.

Indigenous residents comprise 2% of the Illawarra population with over 41% of all Aboriginals in the Illawarra residing in Shoalhaven.

Shoalhaven also has high percentages of 65+ (19.7%) and 0-17 (26%).

The population drift of retirees to both Shoalhaven and Kiama contributes to an increasing sense of generational divide. This coupled with the geographical 'strip' nature of the region has resulted in 'feelings of isolation' being expressed as a major concern for the Illawarra region.

## **PROJECT OUTLINE**

The project aims to determine the cultural infrastructure and activity needs of people in the Illawarra on a Regional basis (ie servicing the region, not individual localities).

Desk based research included reviewing of the C. Sammers Report to the NSW Ministry (2001), Australia Street Consulting Report and existing cultural plans of Wollongong, Kiama, Shellharbour and Shoalhaven Councils.

Information from a more 'regionally oriented' needs perspective was needed to ensure that minority and marginalised groups and communities, particularly those not living in the town centres, are appropriately consulted and represented.

The project was not intended to be simply an information gathering exercise. People have been brought together to work as a group in such a way as to encourage ongoing collaboration.

The participatory action research process involved a number of key players working together in order to gathering and analysis information. The Cultural Partnerships Group, community members, artswokers and other interested people were brought together to be trained to plan, undertake and analyse research using advanced consultation methods.

Catherine Croll facilitated the skills development and managed the collaborative process of deciding what will be done, undertaking the research and analysing the data. The participants collaborated in determining and expressing their needs on a regional level.

Council staff provided vital expertise of what resources and facilities are available, how they can be managed and what has and has not previously worked at a regional and local level.

Qualitative information about 'needs' has been gathered using creative activities such as visual and performed expressions of ideas. Quantitative and statistical information has been utilised to support arguments about resource needs and prioritisation. The recommendations and rationale supporting them has been presented in a written form in order to gain the support of participating Councils.

## **PROJECT OUTCOMES**

Planning outcomes encompass:

Stakeholders identifying and developing priorities for regional activity, resource sharing and future activity including further skills development and joint participation on future ccd projects by the participating Councils and their staff in the Illawarra for the following three years.

Skills development outcomes:

Participants developed research, evaluation and planning skills, as well as skills in working cross culturally, with young people and with Indigenous people through the collegiate learning approach of the project.

Partnership outcomes:

Include a partnership between CCDNSW and the Local Government authorities and other key service organisations in the region and the establishment of networks by CCDNSW Indigenous, Cultural Diversity and Youth Program Managers.

Profiling outcomes:

The project report can be utilized to prepare publications which promote increased understanding and awareness of ccd activities and resource sharing.

Practice Outcomes:

The project has been documented and promoted as a method for including capacity building and skills development into regional cultural mapping/planning.

## **PROJECT METHODOLOGY**

The methodology employed to facilitate PAR (Participatory Action Research) in the Illawarra Region was based upon the following principles:

- Information regarding community needs, lies in the community
- People can be encouraged to express needs through negotiated, culturally appropriate projects encompassing visual, oral or written art forms
- Research methods are developed in consultation with the community to encourage participation by representatives of the target audience
- Practitioners of action research facilitate the process utilizing their technical skills to assist the community to tell their own story in their own way
- Participatory action research involves the community in facilitated analysis of the identified needs and issues in order to draw conclusions from the findings.
- The process then invites community participants to look for strategies that they could implement, to deal with the identified needs and issues in order to move from where they are to where they want to be.
- The type and variety of research techniques chosen maximise the validity of the research through the provision of qualitative data demonstrating community need

The Illawarra Cultural Partnerships project specifically focussed upon the development of stakeholder identified and developed priorities for regional activity, resource sharing and future activity including further skills development and joint participation on future ccd projects by the Councils and their staff in the Illawarra.

The participatory action research methods of consultation and facilitation assisted in the development of material which is suitable for the advocacy and promotion of the ccd activity and the cultural distinctiveness of the Illawarra both within the Illawarra region, throughout Australia and internationally.

Efforts have been made to ensure that the resulting recommendations conform to the Iplan NSW Mission to improve economic performance, environmental sustainability and quality of life for the NSW community through better land use and natural resource management supported by well timed, quality infrastructure.

## **WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES**

Working closely with communities, is becoming more integrated into the day to day management of government and private sector organisations.

Increasingly there is an expectation and recognition that the community SHOULD have greater involvement in the decision making process.

'Governments' recent emphasis on community 'engagement' is partly in response to the communities apparent apathy and cynicism, which has arisen from a perceived lack of opportunity to influence the decision making process.

Healthy democracies must continually promote opportunities for people to be INVOLVED in decision making in all matters of public interest.

iplan Handbook - [www.iplan.nsw.gov.au](http://www.iplan.nsw.gov.au)

### **VALUE TO COMMUNITIES**

- Increased access and accessibility needs to be considered in the broadest sense; including physical access to meetings and access to information.
- Better information and understanding - opportunities are created for members of the community to gather information and make informed input into plans, policies and proposals.
- Sense of involvement - the 'mutual' sense of 'ownership' for all parties, can be enhanced through shared responsibility re: decision making.
- Richer outcomes - outcomes may more fully reflect the aspirations of the community.

### **VALUE TO PROPONENTS**

- Innovative ideas are brought to the project.
- Conflict and delay are minimized.
- Relationships are established with the local community.
- Priorities are tested in the market place.
- More efficient use of resources.
- Reputation within the community is enhanced.

## **PRINCIPLES OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

The project employed the following principles for community consultation to ensure the consultation was involving, meaningful, useful and effective.

### **MAKE IT TIMELY**

- Participation should not be so late in the life of an issue that it is tokenistic, or merely confirms decisions already made. The timing should occur when citizens have the best chance of influencing outcomes. Give people enough time to express their views.

## **MAKE IT INCLUSIVE**

- Participants should be selected in a way that is not open to manipulation, and should include a cross-section of the population — as individuals and as groups. Random selection offers the best chance of achieving this.

## **MAKE IT COMMUNITY-FOCUSED**

- Ask participants not what they want personally or what is in their self-interest, but what they consider appropriate in their role as citizens.
- Make it interactive and deliberative
- Avoid reducing questions to a simplistic either/or response. Allow consideration of the big picture, so people can really become engaged.

## **MAKE IT EFFECTIVE**

- Although decision-making can strive for consensus, complete agreement need not be the outcome. Be clear on how the decisions will be made so that participants know and understand the impact of their involvement.
- Make sure all participants have time to become well-informed about and to understand material they are unlikely to have a prior familiarity with.

## **MAKE IT MATTER**

- It is important that there is a strong likelihood that any recommendations which emerge from the consultative process will be adopted. If they are not,
- it is important that a public explanation is provided. Faith in the process is important by both the power holders and the participants.

## **MAKE IT WELL-FACILITATED**

- It is important that all participants control the agenda and content because this will give the process more credibility. An independent, skilled and flexible facilitator with no vested interest is essential in order to achieve this.

## **MAKE IT OPEN, FAIR AND SUBJECT TO EVALUATION**

- The consultation method should be appropriate to the target group. Evaluation questions should be formulated in advance. Decide how the 'success' of the consultation will be measured. Include factors beyond the adoption of recommendations. Feedback to the community is essential.

## **MAKE IT COST EFFECTIVE**

- It is difficult to measure community satisfaction, however, factors can be considered including how many and which types of community members should be consulted on a given issue. Some questions will require broader consultation, others more targeted consultation. Costs will vary and are adaptable, but the process selected must be properly resourced.

## **MAKE IT FLEXIBLE**

- A variety of consultation mechanisms exist. Choose the one which best suits the circumstances. Try a variety of mechanisms over time. Think how to reach all your users, including those with special needs (e.g. language, disabilities, the elderly and the young). Different communities and different questions will produce better responses with different forms of consultation. Mix qualitative and quantitative research methods.

## THE CONSULTANCY

The project had two components; Skills and Activity Development based activity, (including team and capacity building) and a written Research Report.

The consultant was responsible for the delivery of:

- A program of skills development workshops for a range of attendees in the Illawarra (completed 04)
- A Participatory Action Research Program for selected attendees, which included the training of the Key workers in Participatory Action Research, and the undertaking of research activities (completed 04)
- A written research report that incorporates existing material and the material developed through the Participatory Action Research Program (completed 05)

The report includes material gathered through desk based research, action research and consultation with stakeholders. The structure of the report has been determined by the SCG Cultural Planning Group.

On Jun 15 an Advanced Research Skills Training workshop was held at Kiama Council Chambers This workshop was for the principal members of the Illawarra Cultural Project team. (Appendix 1)

Two further Advanced Research Skills Training workshops were conducted by principal members of the Cultural Project team for representatives of their organisations, clients, constituents, staff and volunteers.

The aim of this second series of workshops was to:

- Increase the research skills being practiced across the Illawarra region;
- Establish a common 'language' when it comes to identifying community needs;
- Assist in the development of a common purpose for cultural practitioners;
- Develop closer links across and between organisations and their clients;
- Provide the framework for researching the cultural needs of the Illawarra.

The first workshop was held at Nowra Council Chambers on Jul 2 and the second at Wollongong Youth Centre on Jul 22.

This second one day intensive workshop attracted 25 participants (Appendix 2), who explored the issues affecting the Illawarra Region and engaged in lively debate re: identifying relevant stakeholders and creative solutions to prioritized concerns.

The workshop was hosted and facilitated by 10 participants from the PAR Workshop conducted in Kiama on Tuesday June 15<sup>th</sup> 2004.

An 'Arts in Culturally Diverse Communities' Forum was held at Wollongong Regional Art Gallery on October 28<sup>th</sup>. (Appendix 3)

## **WORKSHOP FORMAT**

As a part of the workshop, participants were asked to conduct an analysis of the external influences which would impact upon the Illawarra's cultural community during the next one (1) to three (3) years.

To assist participants the facilitators introduced the concept of an S.T.E.E.P. analysis which encourages close examination of the influences upon the environment in which they operate:

### **SOCIAL TRENDS**

While linked to economic factors these trends can influence how people respond to cultural practices. Addressing current social issues through cultural activities can directly increase participation by your organisation in community affairs.

### **TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS**

Rapid changes in technology have changed the marketing and sales activities of many organisations with the introduction of group distribution lists via email and computer designed ticketing systems.

The dramatic improvement in home office equipment has also influenced the photographic and printing industries, while home entertainment units are now competing with the live performance

### **ECONOMIC TRENDS**

The recent downturn in the economic climate has resulted in reduced consumer confidence and in many areas, declining business sponsorship of cultural activities.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT**

The location of your venue or organization's office can dramatically influence issues including, access, location, transport, safety, lighting etc.

Signage and presentation will also influence access to your organisation.

Changes in land zoning can influence how your organisation is positioned.

### **POLITICAL CONTEXT**

Changes in legislation and government policy can have a major impact upon your organisations activities, whether it is the introduction of the GST by the federal government or changes to council policy regarding the usage of public areas and public liability. Each participant was then asked to identify the three (3) issues which they considered to be most critical to the Illawarra's future cultural development.

Tables of six participants then selected one (1) of the key issues (4 to 5 stars) and set about identifying all of the organisations and individuals that had a 'stake' in the issue, how they could best consult with each and what possible creative solutions could be implemented to address each key issue.

# DESK BASED RESEARCH

## THE ILLAWARRA REGION

A regions culture and cultural life reflect its history, geography, tradition, technology, imagination and skill. Financial and in – kind support of arts organisations, cultural facilities, celebrations, events and the area’s social and cultural capital, assists in encouraging a greater understanding of local history and a recognition and appreciation of local identity and sense of place.

While traditionally ‘culture’ has focused on the arts (opera, theatre, art, craft, music and literature) more recently ‘culture’ increasingly refers to the ‘way of life’ in a place and to the broad traditions, habits, rituals and the tangible and intangible aspects of community life that are distinctive.

As a consequence local councils are becoming engaged in planning to provide the assets and resources, which add to the cultural experiences, attractiveness and quality of the amenity in a particular community.

These assets and resources include the arts but also extend to multicultural traditions, indigenous culture, youth arts, heritage conservation and preservation, open space management, events coordination, leisure and recreation, landscape and urban design, development planning, and information technology infrastructure and support.

Councils increasingly recognise the tangible, social and community development benefits of cultural development such as social inclusion, community cohesion and local identity and are moving to embrace a more integrated approach to the planning and implementation of community development programs, urban design projects, tourism initiatives, local identity appreciation, technology awareness projects and general quality of life enhancement.

Population growth in the region has highlighted the need to incorporate cultural institutions, structures and activities into urban development programs and to ensure communities are encouraged to play an active role in shaping their own futures.

# CULTURAL PLANNING INITIATIVES

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wollongong Cultural Plan “Point of Take Off” – 1998-2003  
Wollongong Cultural Industries Audit – May 2000  
Wollongong Museum Report – 2002  
Wollongong Public Art Policy – 2002  
Public Art Conservation Report – 2002  
Feasibility Study on Creative Energy Centre – 2004  
Draft Cultural Facilities Study – 2005  
Shellharbour Cultural Resources Study - 1999  
Shellharbour City Council Cultural Plan – 2000-2004  
Shellharbour Social Plan 1999-2002  
Shoalhaven Arts Board – Strategic Plan – 2001-2004  
Cultural Tourism and the Arts in the Kiama District – 1999  
Kiama Cultural Needs Assessment Statement – August 2000  
Eurobodalla Social Plan - 1999-2004  
Eurobodalla Cultural Map – 2001  
Wingecarribee LGA Website - Community Services - 2004

## SUMMARY OF CULTURAL PLANS

### **WOLLONGONG CULTURAL POLICY FRAMEWORK AND CULTURAL PLAN** “POINT OF TAKE OFF” – *Australia Street Company 1998-2003*

The planning framework identifies key issues, presents principles and visions and lists six major goals. These goals are organised around the City’s Strategic Plan 1997-2006.

- Culture Builds Communities  
Work in partnership with the community, other organisations and governments to enhance the quality of Wollongong’s community cultural experience.
- In From the Margins  
The Wollongong community values Cultural Diversity.
- Audience Development  
The arts and cultural activities encourage community participation and enhance lifestyle.
- Building Businesses of the Future  
The economic base is diverse, dynamic, competitive and sustainable.
- City Identity and Sense of Place  
The city’s built environment is functional, attractive and sympathetic with the natural environment and the city’s linked villages are socially mixed residential communities.
- Investing in Cultural Infrastructure  
The city’s recreational and cultural infrastructure meets the needs of the community, encourages tourism and contributes to economic development.

## **WOLLONGONG CULTURAL INDUSTRIES AUDIT – MAY 2000**

*Guppy and Associates and National Economics, May 2000. Funded by the Illawarra Regional Development Board and Wollongong City Council.*

Directions for the Future:

- City Image and Cultural Tourism  
Promoting a creative city image that promises and delivers a range of venues, activities and experiences for both visitors and locals.
  
- Business Development  
Developing a business strategy that prioritises resourcing the sector, enhancing its scope and capabilities and promoting partnerships between cultural enterprises and local business.  
  
Strengthening capabilities in high growth areas including multimedia, design, world music and visual arts
  
- Market and Audience Development  
Developing a comprehensive approach to the marketing of cultural activities and products in the Illawarra through promotion, communication and media strategies and the development of new audiences.  
  
Building strong business and community networks around suppliers, customers, marketers and the finance community and with other industries particularly tourism.
  
- Community Cultures  
Strengthening the range of cultural resources available at a local level and expanding the potential of popular forms such as world music and multimedia.  
  
Developing locally based cultural industry structures around local planning initiatives, studio and workshop strategies and cultural tourism.
  
- Research Development  
Developing appropriate mechanisms for tracking the economic performance of cultural industries in the Illawarra.

## **SHELLHARBOUR CITY COUNCIL CULTURAL PLAN – 2000-2004**

- Indigenous Communities in Shellharbour
- Multicultural Communities
- Young People
- Women
- People with Disability
- Older People
- Shellharbour Regional Identity
- Artworkers
- Buy Local
- Cultural Facilities
- Cultural Facilities Plan

- Multi-function Arts Centre
- Theatre / Performance Space
- Library and Museum Services
- Art Built-in
- Public Art
- Cultural Development
- Cultural Activities
- Economic Benefits of Integrated Cultural Plan
- Cultural Industries/ Cultural Tourism

#### **SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD – STRATEGIC PLAN – 2001-2004**

- Cultural Confidence and Pride
- Opportunity
- Development
- Enrichment
- Support

#### **TO THIS END THE ARTS BOARD SHALL ENDEAVOUR TO:**

- Consult with the community to explore existing and future needs and priorities
- Administer an annual Arts Grants program
- Attract Sponsorships, bequests and endowments
- Establish arts scholarships and Arts Awards
- Support the establishment of Arts Spaces
- Expand Arts Education in the region
- Develop a Shoalhaven City Art Collection

#### **KIAMA CULTURAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT STATEMENT – AUGUST 2000**

- Improve opportunities for employment
- Increase tourist spending on local art and culture
- Promote contribution of the arts to the local economy
- Improve efficiency of resources utilisation

## **REGIONAL (SOUTHERN COUNCILS)**

The Regional Strategy for Museums, Galleries and  
Cultural Organisations in the Illawarra Region – 1997  
The Regional Distinctiveness Project (LGSA) – 1997  
The Regional Film Strategy – Film Illawarra - 1999  
The Illawarra Cultural Partnerships Group Plan – 2000  
The Illawarra and South Coast Regional Strategy - 2004

## **ILLAWARRA AND SOUTH COAST REGIONAL STRATEGY**

The Illawarra and South Coast Regional Strategy will direct future planning and investment decisions that will manage landuse, population growth and coastal values for the Illawarra and South Coast Region of NSW over the next 25 years.

The Illawarra and South Coast Regional Directions Statement was approved for consultation in April 2004. The feedback and discussion arising from the Statement has clarified the framework and outcomes to be achieved by the Regional Strategy.

The Statement draws together the issues raised by the various regional planning studies and sets a context for a regional planning program. The Statement, based on the key themes of economic development, infrastructure, community, settlement and environmental sustainability, identifies issues, challenges and regional planning outcomes for the Illawarra and South Coast.

## **ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN THE ILLAWARRA**

### **ILLAWARRA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS – WOLLONGONG/KIAMA/SHELLHARBOUR COUNCILS**

#### **ILLAWARRA ART STRATEGY PROJECTS –**

Funded by NSW Ministry for the Arts (2002-2004)

- Media Equipment Project – resourcing regional arts media equipment needs
- Sparx Magazine – youth skills development in writing, photography, cultural design with three mentors and 12 trainees producing a bimonthly cultural magazine
- Performing Arts Facilitator – worker funded to support the performing arts sector

#### **FUTURE PLANS:**

- Public Art Policy
- Public Art strategy
- Public programs strategy linking library, museums, art centre and national and state museum collections with local schools and public programs
- Growth and development of Performing arts initiative for young people
- Development and expansion of Blowhole Designs graphic design & Sparx Magazine as a sustainable youth arts training and employment initiative for young people
- Artist in residence program in collaboration with local schools

### **WOLLONGONG/KIAMA/SHELLHARBOUR/SOALHAVEN COUNCILS**

#### **NSW Artstart Youth Arts and Skills Festival Projects**

- Unearthing and Celebrating Youth Culture – Zombie Motel published/regional exhibitions and distribution of book (2001)
- Unearthing and Celebrating Youth Culture – production of CD Rom and Website. NSW Artstart Youth Arts and Skills Festival (2003)
- Regional Youth Performing Arts Strategy (2005)

### **WOLLONGONG**

The Council provides support for a wide range of cultural activities including: tourism (festivals and events), education, public art and landscaping projects throughout the local government area including the Entertainment Centre foreshore precinct.

1991 - Heritage Study in which items were identified, listed, described and rated.

1995 - Cultural Needs Assessment and in

1996 - Report on Civic Plaza as a Cultural Precinct.

1997 - Corporate Plan includes 'enhancement of lifestyle' among the key goals.

1997 - Regional Strategy for Museums and Galleries of the Illawarra Region

While Wollongong is recognised as a driving force in the region, fragmentation within the cultural sector has led to the demise of the cultural broker program and identified the need to consolidate art spaces and incorporate cultural aspects into urban plans.

Wollongong City Council currently employs six Cultural Services staff in Community and Cultural Services: Coordinator, Cultural Planner, Community Cultural Development Worker (placemaking and public art), Acting Community Cultural Development Worker (arts/business/public art), Museum Development Officer, and Viva La Gong Festival Manager

It continues to make significant financial investment in regional infrastructure including the Wollongong City Gallery, the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre and Wollongong Conservatorium of Music.

## RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Cultural Development – broad and innovative programs with diverse communities

- Small grants program \$30,000 per annum supporting local community cultural development (1999-2005);
- Cultural facilities development and service agreements with key organisations, i.e. Project Contemporary Artspace, Bellambi Studios, Circus WOW, Illawarra Art and Craft Network, Create Illawarra, Performance Illawarra; South Coast Writers' centre;
- Implement Public Art solutions in Council facilities: three artworks in Dapto Ribbonwood centre and Library, Artplan for Thirroul Community Centre and Library, Mt Keira Summit Park;
- Placemaking projects with local residents and artists to improve urban amenity and identity in Wollongong e.g. Hooka Park – Place of Healing and Wellbeing, Bellambi Safe Streets, Wentworth Street Revitalisation, Osborne Park environmental artwork, Cringila Community Oven;
- Museum development projects to improve coordination, management of cultural heritage and cultural tourism, image and identity of the city, i.e. Celebrations – Spirit of Communities,
- Cultural Reference Group and Arts Managers meetings.

Cultural Planning – coordination of the Cultural Plan 1998-2003 to provide best practice planning collaboration with other planning functions in the city

- Cultural Industries Audit 2000
- Wollongong Museum Report 2002
- Wollongong Public Art Policy 2002
- Public Art Conservation Report 2002
- Feasibility Study Creative Energy Centre 2004
- Evaluation of Cultural Plan (1998-2003)
- Draft Cultural Facilities Study 2005

Cultural Funding – Partnership Funding and Partnership Delivery for key projects (total of \$871,938.74 in funding for cultural projects since 1999)

- Attorney General's Department & RTA – RTArt on traffic control boxes \$32,000.00
- Attorney General's Department – Shack Attack Mural \$13,910.74
- Australia Council – Dapto Ribbonwood Centre & Osborne Park \$41,950.00
- Centenary of Federation \$70,060.00
- Department of Housing – Bellambi Safe Streets and Warrawong Short Film Project \$25,395.00
- DIPNR – Bellambi Safe Streets, Hooka Park, Wentworth Street Refurbishment,

- Osborne Park \$251,723.00
- Lake Illawarra Authority – Hooka Park Berkeley \$28,000.00
- Community Solutions & Healthy Cities Illawarra – Bellambi Safe Streets \$12,000.00
- Bluescope Steel – Bellambi Safe Streets \$3000.00
- Juvenile Justice – Bellambi Safe Streets \$5000.00
- Department of Land & Water Conservation – Stormwater Mural \$5000.00
- NSW Ministry for the Arts – Merrigong (Illawarra Escarpment Project), Illawarra Strategic Museums Planner, Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, Illawarra Youth Arts Strategy, Viva La Gong \$109,2000.00
- IMB Community Foundation – Strategic Museums Planner \$40,000.00 for Museum Development Officer
- Festivals Australia, City Coast Credit Union, Tourism NSW, Wollongong Image Campaign and Surfing Diversity UoW – Viva La Gong Festival \$127,700.00
- Festivals Australia – Warrawong Short Film Project \$15,000.00
- NSW Department of State & Regional Development – Cultural Broker Position \$64,000.00
- Regional Assistance Program, IACC – Performers’ & Artists’ Networks \$60,000.00
- Funding Partnership with Department of State & Regional Development for Council’s Arts and Business (CAB) Programme \$7000.00

Cultural Industries – implement the Cultural Industries Audit 2000 and develop strategies for future economic development

- Program Delivery with Australia Business Arts Foundation for Council Arts Business Program with 20 arts businesses (2003-2005)
- Cultural Industries Broker – three year appointment to implement the Cultural Industries Audit
- Project Delivery with Wollongong City Employment and Training; [www.createillawarra.com](http://www.createillawarra.com) online hub promoting and creating free websites for local creative industry. Includes: what’s on, creative items, services and outlets, opportunities and resources. Training local unemployed people to build and maintain websites through a Work for the Dole program.
- Partnership Funding with Illawarra Area Consultative Committee (DOTARS) for arts industry network projects – Create Illawarra and Illawarra Art and Craft Network.
- Viva La Gong Festival of arts, culture and innovation with over 200 community groups involved (2000-2005).
- Illawarra Art and Craft Network – insurance coverage, networking and marketing support for visual arts and crafts practitioners.

## FUTURE PLANS

- Cultural participation in Social Data Research Project (2005)
- Completion of the new Wollongong City Cultural Plan (2006-1010) June 2006
- Cultural Facilities Study (2005)
- Contribution to City Centre revitalisation strategy
- Public Art Masterplan and funding structure
- Public Art asset maintenance plan

## WOLLONGONG ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS

Wollongong has a lively and diverse cultural life. It is home to 189 active cultural groups and many more private cultural enterprises. Of the community groups and associations:

- 48 are dance groups or schools, plus 13 language or culturally specific dance groups
- 34 are groups, organisations and clubs resourcing the arts needs of the culturally and linguistically diverse language groups in the area.

- 25 organisations are active in the music scene, both instrumental and choral, ranging from classical to jazz, folk to contemporary.
- 19 are arts/craft groups and galleries
- 11 are cultural festivals
- 10 are heritage organisations or associations
- 8 are new media organisations
- 7 are performance groups or centres

Some of these are listed below:

#### Venues

IPAC – Illawarra Performing Arts Centre  
 Vault – Cabaret Venue  
 Wollongong Town Hall & Community Centre  
 University of Wollongong – Hope Theatre

Miners Lamp Theatre  
 Wollongong Entertainment Centre  
 Wollongong Workshop Theatre  
 Wollongong Youth Centre

#### Performance - Theatre

Merrigong Theatre Company

#### Performance – Circus

Circus Monoxide  
 Circus Solaris  
 POG

Circus WOW  
 Leaping Loonies

#### Performance – Theatre (amateur)

Guild Theatre  
 The Arcadians

SPAT  
 Wollongong Workshop Theatre

#### Music Organisations

Music Oz  
 Wollongong Jazz Orchestra  
 Cantolibre (choral)  
 City of Wollongong Brass Band  
 Wollongong Harmony Chorus (a Capella)  
 Illawarra Festival Chorus  
 The Leisure Coasters

Wollongong Symphony Orchestra  
 Steel City Strings  
 Cheeky Tzatziki (folk)  
 Dlivr  
 Illawarra Choral Society  
 Out of the Blue Singers (a Capella)  
 Wongawilli Bush Band

#### Multicultural Organisations

Decafro  
 Enzian – Austrian German Folk Dancing Group  
 Gypsy Flames Belly Dance  
 Multicultural Women’s Art Performance  
 Slap Sista  
 Vietnamese Dance Group

Dutch Australian Choir  
 Fiji Choir  
 Kaleva Dance Group  
 Sapphire Lounge Singers  
 Tribal Jewels

#### Film Organisations

Film Illawarra  
 Short Sited Film festival

Films up North  
 Relativity

#### Galleries

Articles Fine Arts Gallery  
 Beach Art  
 Editions Gallery  
 Juanita Studio Gallery  
 Lindy Darling’s Art Gallery

Barracks Artists Inc  
 Darru Art Studio  
 Graham Gallery  
 South Coast Gallery Equinox  
 Karoona Gallery

Long Gallery  
Wollongong City Gallery

Project Contemporary Arts Space

Cultural Festivals/Events

Australia Day  
Dapto Annual Street Fair  
Dapto Show  
Fusion – Illawarra’s Music Week  
Helensburgh & District Annual Village Fair  
Mt Kembla Mining Heritage & Music Festival  
Music Oz Awards  
Oktoberfest  
School Spectacular  
South Coast Country Music Festival  
Spring into Corrimal Fair  
UnHinged Short Play Festival  
Wollongong Eisteddfod  
Centacare’s Annual Art & Craft Exhibition Festival of Flight  
International Women’s Day – diving for Girls Pool Party

Bulli Show  
Wollongong Spring Dance Festival  
Festival of Flight  
Handweavers & Spinners Exhibition  
Illawarra Folk Festival  
Wollongong Jazz Festival  
New Year’s FEVEr in the Gong  
Polish Festival  
Short Sited Festival  
Southside Festival  
Thirroul Seaside Arts Festival  
Viva La Gong Festival

Heritage Organisations or Associations with Public Programs

Balgownie Heritage Museum  
Port Kembla Heritage Park  
Wollongong Science Centre & Planetarium  
Illawarra Museum  
Black Diamond & District Heritage Centre  
Wollongong Heritage Centre at the Old Courthouse

Bulli Miners Cottage  
Wollongong City Gallery  
Illawarra Aboriginal Keeping Place  
Migration Heritage Project Inc  
Illawarra Motoring Museum

New Media/Multimedia/Video Production Organisations

Create Illawarra  
Wollongong City Employment and Training

University of Wollongong  
TAFE

Graphic Design/Web Companies

Print Media  
Vicious Cycle

Relativity

Technical Support – Lighting/Sound

Illawarra Production Services

Relativity

Designers/Builders

Dodo Express

David Thomas

## KIAMA

### SUMMARY OF PRIMARY PROJECTS 2002-2005

#### LOCATION - KIAMA MUNICIPALITY/ILLAWARRA/SOUTH COAST

- Kiama Community Arts Centre averaging 50 exhibitions per year
- Arts workshops program
- Beat Graffiti Aerosol Art Project
- Cottage Industries survey and study
- Blowhole Designs youth arts employment initiative in graphic design
- Kiama Cultural Board established 2003 Arts workshops program
- Cultural Mapping conducted
- Kiama Community Arts Centre averaging 50 exhibitions per year
- Stone Walls Research and heritage significance assessment
- Stone walls exhibition and public program
- Indigenous Public Art Project commenced
- Beat Graffiti Aerosol Art Project
- Blowhole Designs - Youth Arts Employment Initiative in graphic design

#### KIAMA CULTURAL BOARD

##### 2003

- Developed Cultural Contributions Policy - (small grants program/community arts)
- Administration of Cultural Grants Funding
- Developed Cultural Trail Guidelines in partnership with Kiama Tourism and local heritage organisations

##### 2004

- Developed Kiama Council Art Collection and Acquisitions Policy
- Indigenous Public Art Project completed
- Inaugural Kiama Poetry Festival
- Kiama Community Arts Centre averaging 50 exhibitions per year
- Blowhole Designs - Youth Arts Employment Initiative in graphic design
- Regional Performing Arts Strategy linking with Regional Performing Arts Facilitator
- Inaugural Invent Australia Exhibition

##### 2005 AND BEYOND

- Kiama Community Arts Centre averaging 50 exhibitions per year
- Blowhole Designs - Youth Arts Employment Initiative in graphic design
- Kiama Cultural Board - New board inducted future projects to be determined
- Indigenous Heritage Documentary Project - oral histories/resource for local museums/library and schools to compliment survey and documentation of local sites of indigenous significance
- Cultural Plan
- Youth Performing Arts Strategy linking with Regional Performing Arts Facilitator

## SHELLHARBOUR

### RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS FROM 2003-2005:

- Shellharbour City Council's Cultural Program has undertaken 12 Public Art Projects and 20 Community Cultural Development Projects. These have taken place in public spaces and in school environments
- Shellharbour City Council's new Flinders Child & Family Centre, showcases a ceramic facility for the community
- Shellharbour's new Oak Flats Neighbourhood Centre provides cultural resources to promote visual art workshops with community groups.

### FUTURE PLANS:

- Currently up-dating Shellharbour City Council's Cultural Plan
- Developing a Shellharbour City Council Public Art Policy/Strategy
- Shellharbour City Council has a commitment to cultural facilities and a Multi Function Art Centre is earmarked for the Shellharbour Region.

The plans include three exhibition spaces, wet and dry workshop areas available to the community; a specialised arts practice centre is proposed to operate from the centre this will provide a professional arts focus and an ongoing educational facility.

The exhibition spaces will incorporate a contemporary museum focus and allow for collaborations with regional art galleries while providing affordable community exhibition space.

The centre will be located within City Park with a sculpture garden and a creative playground. This will assist in ensuring the centre is; community friendly, accessible, innovative and dynamic, a symbol of Council's commitment to its citizens.

- Shellharbour's Roo Theatre is an asset to the Shellharbour region providing quality theatre program. Roo Theatre is soon to have an up grade of their facility.
- A Central Library is proposed for the new City centre and the future expansion of Albion Park and Shellharbour Branch Libraries.

Shellharbour City Council Cultural Program has worked closely on projects with the following stakeholders:

- Lake Illawarra PCYC
- The University of Wollongong, Creative Arts Faculty & Research Centre
- Shellharbour TAFE
- Roo Theatre
- Illawarra Women's Health Centre
- Illawarra Migrant Resource Centre
- South Coast Writer's Centre Projects
- Blackbutt Youth Centre
- Shellharbour Primary & High Schools
- NSW Regional Arts
- Australia Council
- NSW Ministry for the Arts
- NSW Attorney General's Department, Crime Prevention Division
- Tongarra Museum

Please refer to Shellharbour City Council's Cultural Plan regarding further Cultural Development Strategies and a copy of the plan can be found on Council's Webpage.

## SHOALHAVEN

*The arts are a major part and key manifestation of the cultural diversity, creativity and identity of our Shoalhaven community.*

Shoalhaven City Council recognises the importance and place of creative expression, cultural facilities, Arts activities and the strategic development of the arts within our city.

Council, in its regional role is also aware of the reality and parameters within which it can lead, manage, broker or nurture arts and cultural development.

To this extent Council has established Arts Management positions and provides an annual arts budget for management, facilities and programs.

### A KEY OBJECTIVE OF CITY PLAN 2000 IS. . .

*"To foster a diversity of...cultural... activities to enrich the lifestyle of residents and visitors."*

City Plan -Shoalhaven City Council (page 19)

## THE SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD

- to develop & implement a strategic plan
- to create processes which promote and develop awareness and accessibility to the arts
- to establish a network of cultural centres/ art galleries throughout the Shoalhaven in the next 10 years with a major facility in Nowra

To this effect Council employs an Arts Development Manager to plan & implement the strategic plan of the Arts Board and to inform and advise Council on matters of Arts Development for our city.

Council also allocates a current allocation of around \$250,000 to implement its strategies and programs.

## COUNCIL SUPPORT

Since 1998 Shoalhaven City Council has been allocating an annual budget allocation to the Arts Board of \$80,000 - \$100,000. Additionally Council provides funding for Museum Development and the engagement and operation of The Shoalhaven City Arts Centre.

The Arts Board submits an annual budget to council based on the programs and strategies contained within its annual Arts Management Plan.

Council has established several Arts support positions including the Arts Development Manager, Arts Centre Manager and Arts Administration support.

#### THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S ROLE IS TO . . .

- Serve as Executive Officer for the Board
- Develop and manage the Arts Board plans, strategies & programs
- Supervise and oversee the Management and programs of the Shoalhaven City Arts Centre
- Liaise with Council's Community Development Unit

#### THE ROLE OF THE SHOALHAVEN ARTS BOARD IS TO

- Offer creative leadership of Arts Development.
- Provide a supportive environment in which diverse, quality, creative and
- Innovative arts projects can flourish.
- Provide funding for arts projects
- Support the creation of Public Art
- Be responsive to the artistic needs of the community
- Recognise the value of the Arts and Artists
- Promote a strong & positive cultural image of the Shoalhaven
- Develop & implement promotion and enrichment of the artistic and cultural life of the city of Shoalhaven
- Provide and encourage the showcasing of the Arts
- Develop Arts grant applications for Council
- Promote, support and advise on arts matters pertaining to the Arts
- Develop a city Museum Strategic Plan

#### ARTS DEVELOPMENT AIMS

The Shoalhaven Arts Board is charged with the development and support for the Arts in Shoalhaven. Its efforts shall be directed at arts practitioners, arts activities & arts promotion.

#### THE BOARD SEEKS TO

- Prepare a strategic 3 year plan and an Annual Management Plan
- Submit its Management plan to Council for annual budget allocation
- Create links with the Arts Community
- Administer an annual arts grant program
- Consult with community & explore arts needs and priorities
- Develop the Shoalhaven City Art Collection
- Forge close links with the Bundanoon Trust
- Seek arts grants & commissions for the city
- Attract arts sponsorship, bequests & endowments
- Explore Arts scholarship and Arts Education schemes
- Enhance the cultural image of the city
- Present an Arts Award system and Presentation Event for the city
- Create arts Information , promotion and Arts Directories for tourism and residents alike
- Engage arts research, dialogue, education and mentorship
- Develop links between Arts, Business, Education & Tourism
- Develop the Arts Centre as a Centre of Excellence
- Optimise practical use of existing arts facilities

- Work to engage the Community towards a love and respect for the Arts
- Interact & liaise with state & federal arts instrumentalities

## EUROBODALLA

### SEAR - SOUTH EAST ARTS REGION

Location - Bega Valley, Bombala, Cooma-Monaro; Eurobodalla & Snowy River Shires  
 Target Audience - communities of the five LGA

#### RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Securing more than \$1.5 million in funding for cultural projects
- Established FLING Physical Theatre, the only funded youth dance company in NSW
- Produced the SEARCH Map listing all the galleries, studios, museums, public art & heritage sites of the region
- Developed cultural infrastructure projects in each Shire
- Managed the South East Film Festival & Jindabyne Sculpture by the Lake
- Developing a viable touring circuit for professional performing arts across the region

#### FUTURE PLANS:

- Ongoing development of cultural plans & cultural infrastructure
- Artform and audience development strategies
- Support for Aboriginal arts development International exchanges
- Strategic partnerships - everyone we can think of (and possibly funding bodies)

## WINGECARRIBEE

### STARTS - SOUTHERN TABLELANDS ARTS INC

Location - Southern Tablelands (Wingecarribee, Wollondilly)  
 Target Audience – a broad cross arts practice, age, and cultural background

#### RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Manage ArtStart,
- Country Art Support Program (CASP)

#### FUTURE PLANS:

- Develop regional profile
- Establish touring program, primarily looking intraregionally and from the Illawarra district.

## **REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **ILLAWARRA AREA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (IACC)**

#### **LOCATION**

Area of operation is the LGAs of Wollongong, Shellharbour and Kiama

#### **PURPOSE**

IACC is a regional economic development agency, run by a community-based board and funded by the Australian Government. There are 56 ACCs around Australia, forming the Australian Government's regional development network.

#### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

Organisations with projects that may be eligible for funding through the Australian Government's Regional Partnerships funding program. Projects should provide economic or employment benefit to the Wollongong Shellharbour and Kiama regions without giving unfair business advantage to the applicant or causing detriment to competitors in the marketplace. Applicants should have substantial partnerships funding to bring to the project. Organisations with a strong cultural focus are eligible to apply for funding.

#### **RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Light Aeronautics Industry cluster project. Regional Partnerships funding of \$330,000 in partnership with Shellharbour City Council to develop an aeronautics business park and attract new businesses and jobs to the Illawarra Regional Airport.
- Shellharbour City No Dole project. Regional Partnerships funding of \$64,600 to a project aiming to ensure that all school leavers in Shellharbour district make the transition either to employment or vocational training
- i3net Business Development project. Regional Partnership funding of \$79,970 to assist the development of export markets for the Illawarra's engineering industry
- Northern Wollongong Business Development project. Regional Partnership funding of \$167,970 to help businesses affected by the closure of Lawrence Hargrave Drive.
- Tourism Illawarra's Destination Management System (DMS). Funding of \$71,780 towards a comprehensive on-line booking system for accommodation and tourism operators in the Illawarra Region.
- Significant involvement in the Illawarra and Shoalhaven Apprenticeship Pilot project. 120 young people placed into trades apprenticeships in the period April 04-05.
- Foundation member of the Illawarra Skills Shortage Taskforce. The Taskforce is working to overcome skills shortage issues in the region.

#### **PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS INCLUDE:**

- Musicoz Music Competition & Festival. Funding of \$33,000 for development of infrastructure for the first Musicoz Festival in 2001 (now Musicoz).

- Wollongong Science Centre Business Development Project. Funding of \$66,665 to develop the Science Centre as a major regional tourism attraction.
- Film Illawarra projects. Export Film Illawarra - \$38,000 and Illawarra Film Location Liaison Service - \$55,500.
- Futureworld Eco-Technology Exhibition Centre (ETEC). Funding of \$58,930 towards the establishment of the ETEC.
- Development Strategy for Australia's Industry World. Funding of \$57,600 towards the development of Australia's Industry World.
- Illawarra Art and Craft Network \$30,000.00 (2000)
- Illawarra Performers Network \$30,000.00 (2000)

## FUTURE PLANS

- Ongoing marketing of the Regional Partnerships program.
- Provision of assistance in the development of Regional Partnerships applications.
- Increasing leadership role relating to issues of strategic importance for the sustainable development of the Illawarra region.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS / FUNDING BODIES

The Australian Government Department of Transport & Regional Services (DOTARS) funds the IACC and the Regional Partnerships funding program. The IACC is responsible for marketing the program and assisting with the development of suitable funding applications.

## SOUTH COAST WRITERS' CENTRE

### LOCATION

Office at Level 3 Town Hall Building, Cnr Crown and Kembla Streets, Wollongong. Our membership base covers the Illawarra, Wingecarribee LGA, the Far South Coast and parts of the Southern Highlands (approx 40,000 sq kms).

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Writers and readers in the South Coast region of NSW

### RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Biennial Australian Festival of the Book, Southern Highlands 2002, 2004
- Promotion of literary culture through provision of a range of workshops, groups and readings relevant to the broader community and established writers across a large geographical area
- Provision of professional development opportunities including mentoring and a manuscript appraisal service
- Provision of information to several hundred people each year via telephone, post and email
- Quarterly newsletter which is distributed to approximately 400 members and a further 500 organisations, individuals and schools in the region.
- An Indigenous Program that has included an oral history project with the Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Wollongong
- Successful collaboration with writers from NESB, including a Language of Origin Poetry series broadcast on local community radio station Vox FM, the Community Voices group, a media writing group and a continuing partnership with the Illawarra

- Ethnic Communities Council.
- Provision of a centre that is accessed by writers and readers throughout the region. The centre has also hosted Open Days in 2002 and 2004.
- Providing networking opportunities for geographically dispersed members, including the 2004 Poetry Exchange.
- Successful partnerships and collaborations with arts, cultural and community bodies throughout the region

## **FUTURE PLANS**

To continue to provide excellent opportunities including workshops, access to professional writers, publishing information and events for writers and readers in the south coast region.

## **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

- NSW Ministry for Arts – History and Literature Program
- Wollongong City Council
- University of Wollongong (specifically the Departments of Creative Arts, English Studies and Canadian and Australian Studies)
- Wollongong City Gallery
- LitLINK members
- Wollongong Aboriginal Cultural Centre
- Illawarra Multicultural Services
- Regional libraries and Councils on the south coast
- Regional branches of the Fellowship of Australian Writers
- Illawarra Performance Writers' Group
- Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council
- Southern Highlands Booksellers Association

## **ILLAWARRA CRAFT AND ARTS NETWORK (ICAN)**

The Secretary; 38 Balgownie Rd, Fairy Meadow 2519  
[www.ican.asn.au](http://www.ican.asn.au)    [info@ican.asn.au](mailto:info@ican.asn.au)

### **LOCATION**

Kiama, Shellharbour and Wollongong

### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

150 members

## **RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

- RAP set up funding
- Incorporated
- participation in AbaF workshops
- 'ican composition' exhibition project contemporary artspace, Wollongong
- Funding for seniors week
- Members gave a slide talk about how their travels had informed their artwork
- AbaF- presentation to cultural groups and business people of the illawarra at the WEC

## **FUTURE PLANS**

- Increase membership in Kiama and Shellharbour Council areas
- Develop partnerships with Illawarra cultural groups
- Develop partnerships with WEC, Westpac Bank, i3Net, Simpson Welding products
- Write a business plan
- Deliver professional development workshops for members and the community

## **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

- Ican is supported by cultural services, Wollongong City Council
- Gallery space provided by Raine & Horne Commercial, Wollongong

## **FILM ILLAWARRA**

Film Illawarra was established in August 1999 by the University of Wollongong and Wollongong City Council with seed funding from the Department of Employment Workplace Relations and Small Business.

The organisation acts on behalf of the Illawarra Region of Councils to promote the Illawarra as a viable and competitive film location. It is staffed by experienced film industry personnel who will facilitate your location requirements.

Film Illawarra has been helping professional film and TV productions since 1999. We exist to help Australian and international filmmakers find the locations and facilities they need in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands areas of NSW. We have been instrumental in setting up a Regional Film Policy with the five local councils that represent these areas - so we're in a unique position to help you get the best location for your project.

Film Illawarra was there to help out when the Australian feature Mullet decided to shift from Sydney and shoot entirely on location in Kiama - securing key locations and help from local businesses. When The Man Who Sued God needed somewhere to film a complex pyrotechnic effect, Film Illawarra found a location and liaised with the local community. In all, we've helped over twenty production companies find what they need in the Illawarra area - ranging from commercials to TV drama and major film releases.

- Location surveys
- Finding local expertise and facilities
- Government liaison
- Finding accommodation, catering and transport
- Maps and directions
- Information on the local area
- Extras casting

# ILLAWARRA CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OUTCOMES

A full list of prioritized issues from the three (3) PAR workshops has been prepared and circulated to the project egroup. The facilitator also facilitated the creation of an online discussion room at [www.ccd.net](http://www.ccd.net) which will enable participants in this project to further explore possible solutions to the concerns raised by the workshop groups.

## KEY ISSUES RAISED

- Social trends identified included: Changing demographics (satellite suburbs for Sydney), increasing generational divide, the gap between rich and poor and social stigma associated with physical and mental disabilities, ethnicity and young people.
- Technological trends identified included: increased isolation due to lack of technical skills and or access to technology and the lack of suitable flexible training in IT.
- Economic trends identified included: Increased isolation due to raising transport costs, the opportunity to create a major cultural industry and the attractiveness of the region internationally, particularly in relation to the film industry.
- Environmental trends identified included: Health issues associated with heavy industry, the need for coordinated town planning and inclusive urban design, and the impact of urban sprawl upon sensitive coastal areas and open space.
- Political trends identified included: The need for major planning to be long term and inclusive of both economic and cultural needs, the impact upon available funding caused by changing social policies and priorities, reduction in cultural activities and events due to public liability insurance costs, lack of innovation in planning.

## IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Each small group of workshop participants then selected one (1) key issue and brainstormed possible solutions, identifying stakeholders and strategic partners.

In all eight (8) issues received intensive examination, the results of which form the basis of the action plan for the Illawarra Cultural Development Plan.

## TRAINING

Over 60 people in the Illawarra have received training in Participatory Action Research (PAR) techniques, through the Illawarra Cultural Partnerships project.

As a result we have begun to develop a common language and strong network between cultural organisations and individuals across the region.

In order to continue building the network and sharing the language, all workshop participants have been provided with an Advanced Research Technique Workbook, outlining the theory

and practice behind the process using a logical progression of activities written in 'plain' English.

It is hoped that participants continued to utilize the workbook when they returned to their organisations and/or communities and submit the results for further discussion

## CROSS CULTURAL WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

The workshop participants included a wide range of arts workers and community cultural practitioners including: a youth worker who runs a local film festival, a council worker who advises people about services of council, a freelance artist with a strong social conscience, an artist and arts worker involved in the Kidz for Peace program.

Following presentations by local cross cultural workers, the forum was divided into small groups who worked to identify and discuss issues and specific community needs within a cross cultural context.

Key issues identified by the small group discussion included:

- Isolation and Depression
- Cross Cultural Activities in Hospitals
- Special services for parents of young children

## PARENTS UNPLUGGED

The group I was with during the Forum/Workshop at the Art Gallery discussed two participants vision for an arts oriented activity for parents and their children to be equally stimulated by and participate in together. The aim of their project was to support isolated parents of children, and their children, under the age of five, and provide a space in camps, arts workshops etc for parents and children to feel welcome. They were not satisfied with playgroups and other activities they had been to. They had a core group of ten parents spread out geographically over a wide area (Wollongong to the Kangaroo Valley).

Some suggestions from others listening to their idea were to:

- Start off small, in one location and then branch out
- Find out about the Kidz for Peace classes run by the Bahai community of Wollongong, which include arts and a virtues program
- Hold a vision making workshop with a guest arts facilitator to help those keen on idea to clarify the project, and invite people beyond the ten already interested to come.
- Look at a regular "family" camp to develop their project idea, and have samples of what they could do
- Keen to have activities like kite making etc. to incorporate talents of parents of children participating to come up with workshops
- Hold a meeting with discussion time for the project, plus creative art making activity
- With vision the right "grants" would be found, or participants could pay a small cost to make the activity self sustaining...

They themselves felt they would like to:

- clarify their vision
- be inclusive of other cultural groups
- talk to CCDNSW for advice once clarifying their vision

## ARTFORM SPECIFIC RESOURCES

The projects described below involve more than one cultural facility in their funding and coordination. They all have a regional focus on the Illawarra area, represent particular artform interests and involve individual artists, organisations and arts companies.

### VISUAL ARTS

Illawarra Art and Craft Network (ICAN) is an incorporated membership based organisation. It promotes advocacy, education, networks and opportunities for art, craft, photography and media local artist and craftspeople. They meet monthly, provide a members' newsletter and collective public liability insurance to 150 members.

### HERITAGE

**The Illawarra Chapter of NSW Museums Australia** covers the entire larger Illawarra Region and meets regularly to provide a networking and support role. The new Museums Development Officer was funded by the Illawarra Mutual Building Society (IMB) Community Foundation, NSW Ministry for the Arts and Wollongong City Council to provide a much needed coordination, promotion and management role for the museums of Wollongong. The Museums Development Officer role is instrumental in securing support and funds from state agencies to Wollongong LGA museum sector from, for example, Powerhouse Museum, Migration Heritage Centre NSW and Museums and Galleries NSW. Access to these resources is made available to other councils through developing an accessible workshop program and online network to share information.

**The Migrant Heritage Project** is a collection of active community members from diverse cultural backgrounds attempting to collect material relevant to the diverse migrant histories of the region and connect these to public programs and/or venues. The Migration Heritage Project has established a working partnership with the University of Wollongong faculties of Creative Arts and History Program, and the Wollongong City Gallery has extended their network to Shellharbour.

The **National Trust** has an office in the Wollongong Old Courthouse.

### PERFORMANCE

**Performance Illawarra** provides support for professional performance practitioners based in the Illawarra and working across all branches of the performing arts, including music, theatre, circus, film/video/new media and community cultural development. They encourage and support professional performance artists by way of advocacy, information, networking and shared resources in order to develop audiences and promote new, exciting and challenging performance work in the Illawarra and beyond.

The **Performing Arts Facilitator** was funded for three years by the NSW Ministry for the Arts to support the diverse artists and companies in the Illawarra performing arts scene.

### MUSIC

The **Wollongong Music Round Table (WMRT)** is a community-based music collective for the Illawarra region. It represents the interests of both musicians and fans, linking the

individual to the community and providing access for venues, studios, record labels, retailers and the industry in general. The four founding principles of the WMRT are to promote the live music scene, link key organisations, help bands to get started, grow and move, advocate for the music scene.

## **NEW MEDIA**

**Film Illawarra** is co-funded by the University of Wollongong, Department of State and Regional Development and Wollongong City Council. It is a coordinated attempt to position the Illawarra as a leading location and production centre for film production. This is an innovative and visionary project with potential economic flow-on from film production and distribution through the hospitality, accommodation, transport, personal services and education sectors. As important, the work Film Illawarra is doing is repositioning the Illawarra as a cultural and natural landscape worthy of national and international attention.

**www.createillawarra.com** is a website designed to promote the local Cultural Industry, connect business and community to local artists, groups, small businesses and creative initiatives. In addition it provides up-to-date event & calendar information for the whole community about performance, film, visual arts, writing, music, design and more! It links to resources relevant to employment and professional practice, including legal and business for arts' practitioners and promotes employment, training and grant opportunities. As associated work for the dole project, participants design and maintain free websites for Illawarra artists, arts organisations and creative enterprise. This project was initiated by the Cultural Services Section of Wollongong City Council, funded through the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and established in collaboration with, hosted and supported by, Wollongong City Employment Training.

## **OTHER**

The **Multicultural Arts Officer** is a regional position, auspiced by the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council (IECC) and funded by the NSW Ministry for the Arts. The regional scope includes Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Wollongong LGAs. The IECC is a peak service provider for multicultural communities, with a range of support services and programs for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) youth, aged and families, promoting harmony and cultural diversity. This regional Arts Program is usually implemented offsite and therefore relies on partnerships and links with community cultural facility providers.

A key focus is multicultural performance, working with a diverse network of cultural music and dance practitioners. Practitioners range from emerging to professional artists; applying traditional, contemporary or hybrid cultural practice. Artists and arts workers representing all art forms and cultures comprise the Multicultural Arts Network – a growing database of community members linked together through program initiatives and opportunities.

## DEFINITIONS

### ARTSWORKER

This term tends to be used instead of artist for two reasons.

- a) Some professional CCD workers will be involved in project design, management and evaluation rather than actual art making skills
- b) To acknowledge the additional skills CCD artists employ

As well as the artform expertise required to ensure excellent artistic outcomes, CCD artworkers must apply project management and planning skills, negotiation, communication and collaborative skills. They need the ability to lead, challenge, motivate and facilitate communities in their activities without dominating or directing them. CCD artworkers are also aware of social justice issues, are sensitive and responsive to the needs of many different communities with which they work.

### ACTION-RESEARCH

Describes a method of learning by doing. CCD arts workers experiment with different approaches to gathering relevant material for a project, each of which produces new learning; different types of interactions and different results, the project's focus and core methods for delivery, are then determined.

### COMMUNITY

Describes a unit of social organization based on some distinguishing characteristics or affinity: proximity ('the Shellharbour community'), belief ('the Muslim community'), ethnicity ('the Aboriginal community or Vietnamese'), profession ('the medical community') or orientation (the gay community').

In the context of community cultural development, 'community' describes a dynamic process or characteristic. There is general recognition that to be more than an ideological assertion, the bonds of community must be consciously, perpetually renewed.

“Aspects of commonality that exist between people define a community. People that share common beliefs, have a common origin, share common experiences or merely live in a specific location can be defined as a community”.

Community is that entity to which we belong, greater than kinship but more immediate than the abstraction we call society. It is the arena in which people acquire their most fundamental and substantial experience of social life outside the confines of 'home', it is where one learns and continues to practice how to be social and where one acquires culture.”

[www.artshaus.com.au/community](http://www.artshaus.com.au/community) *Defining Art in the Community 1998*

Another point of view was put by Bong Ramilo at the Art and Community Conference in Melbourne two years ago. He said “a community is a group of individuals trying to work together without murdering each other.”

## COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (CCD)

The meaning of the very name of this sector is the most frequently sought definition by newcomers to the field. CCD is not an artform, but an arts practice. That means it is not about artwork so much as ways of doing any form of artwork. It may be useful to think of the phrase as a description rather than as a name.

CCD activities can incorporate a range of practices and methodologies, which are often developed specifically for each project. This includes using the latest new media or exploring the traditional cultural activities of people from any background.

Unlike other forms of enjoying the arts, CCD provides communities with the chance to express themselves, and to create and manage the projects in which they participate.

Activities tend to be identified as CCD if they feature at least some of the following aspects:

- Community members and artists/artworkers working together with the community members being active participants in cultural activities, rather than passive audience members, and the artists/artworkers providing their expertise through facilitating the cultural activities which the community wants to undertake.
- Community culture being expressed, explored, interpreted, presented or developed.
- Community members gaining new skills and being exposed to new challenges.
- Social and developmental changes taking place alongside artistic outcomes - i.e. something changes through the exposure of ideas, issues and community members to arts and cultural activities. Examples of these changes might be the addressing of community issues, the development of new skills, increased communication and networking, or self-representation of the community to themselves and to others.

CCD describes a range of initiatives undertaken by artist in collaboration with other community members to express identity, concerns and aspirations through the arts and communications media, while building cultural capacity and contributing to social change.

## CULTURAL MAPPING

Refers to the period prior to cultural planning. A good cultural mapping process finds appropriate ways (such as visual or performing arts) to find out about the people in the community, hear their stories and visions for their community and their place.

This creative form of consultation actively engages community members in exploring representing, understanding and presenting their local cultural and identity.

## CULTURAL PLANNING

This process involves partnerships between professional facilitators, local councils and community members to compile a living document which is utilized by council staff and the community to plan actions and evaluate progress.