



# MINUTES

Community Development Committee

held at

Council Administration Centre  
Committee Room  
180 Mort Street, Lithgow

on

Tuesday 20 June 2023

at 4:00 PM

# ORDER OF BUSINESS

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2. Present .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
3. Apologies .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4. Confirmation of Minutes.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
6. Declaration of Interest .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
7. Presentations .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
8. Staff Reports .....	<b>3</b>
8.1. Round 1 Financial Assistance.....	<b>3</b>
8.2. Opera Event at Union Theatre .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
8.3. Community and Culture Projects update .....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
9. General Business.....	<b>7</b>
10. Meeting Close .....	<b>7</b>

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 4:10pm.

## **2. Present**

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Councillor Maree Statham, Mayor; Councillor Eric Mahoney, Leanne Walding, Glenda Anthes, Gaye MacFarlane, Nathan Mas-Stephens from Lithgow Information and Neighbourhood Centre and Rachael Young.

Staff: Kylie Blakemore, Criss Portilla and Matthew Johnson

## **3. Apologies**

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Deputy Mayor Cassandra Coleman and Councillor Bryce

## **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

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The Minutes of the 11 April 2023 CDC meeting were ratified by the committee and reported to Council on 24 April 2023.

## **5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

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The Chair called for any matters arising from previous minutes.

There was no business arising.

## **6. Declaration of Interest**

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The following Declarations were made in relation to Item 8.1 Round 1 Financial Assistance:

Mayor Maree Statham – application from Portland Tidy Towns  
Rachael Young – applications from Rydal Show Society and Daffodils at Rydal  
Leanne Walding - applications from Nanna's Touch and Mingaan

These Committee members did not participate in the discussion or voting on these applications.

### **ACTION**

THAT the Present, Apologies and Declarations of Interest be noted.

**Moved:** Leanne Walding **Seconded:** Gaye Macfarlane

## **7. Presentations**

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Nil presentations

## **8. Staff Reports**

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### **8.1. Round 1 Financial Assistance**

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Council called for applications from the community during April 2023 for Round 1 2023/24 Financial Assistance.

Eleven applications to the value of \$25,688 were received. The available budget for Rounds 1 and 2 combined is \$30,257.

The Committee reviewed each application against the assessment criteria used in past years:

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- Provides evidence and understanding of unmet need.
- Demonstrates experience delivering activities/services.
- Demonstrates a collaborative approach.
- Includes timeframes and an evaluation for determining how outcomes are achieved.
- Skilled/trained staff, volunteers and support are available.

One application to the value of \$6,590 was deemed ineligible as it was from a group outside of Lithgow LGA and no evidence was provided of local consultation or engagement.

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council award \$19,098 in Round 1 2023/4 Financial Assistance to the following 10 organisations.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Recommended Amount</b>
Lithgow Arts Council	Sponsorship of the 2023 Lithgow Arts Council awards	\$2,000
Daffodils at Rydal 2024	Daffodils at Rydal 2024 event	\$1,500
Tarana Tanker Trailers Inc	Registration of 12 firefighting tanker trailers	\$1,400
Portland Golf Club	To provide family nights for the local community to meet and socialise	\$3,000
Nanna's Touch Community Connection Lithgow	Provide weekly meals to local homeless people and people on low incomes impacted by the Covid pandemic and facing food insecurity.	\$3,000
Mingaan	NAIDOC 2023 event	\$3,000
Rydal A H & P Society	Prize money sponsorship of Heavy Horse and Dog Yard sections of 2023 Rydal Show	\$1,000
Lithgow District Car Club	General Rate component reimbursement for Yvonne Martin Motor Sport Club circuit Portland	\$1,143
First Australian Muzzle Gun Club / Lithgow Valley Archers	General Rate component Reimbursement for premises in Doctors Gap Rd Lithgow	\$1,055
Portland Tidy Towns	Refurbish Pioneer Park Portland and Cullen Street footpath garden. Maintain Williwa and Wolgan Street footpath gardens.	\$2,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$19,098</b>

**Moved:** Gaye MacFarlane    **Seconded:** Glenda Anthes

## **8.2. Opera Event at Union Theatre**

The Committee discussed two proposed Opera Performances of Donizetti's Rita at the Union Theatre on Friday 3 and Saturday 4 November 2023. Council staff have identified likely costs using the costs of the 2022 Opera Event as a guide and a draft budget was tabled at the meeting for discussion.

Opera Director John Wregg will bring the performance to Lithgow and will translate the Opera from Italian to English. There will be three opera singers and a pianist.

Using the costs of the 2022 Opera event as a guide and a conservative estimate of potential ticket sales, the event appears to be financially viable, with a likely small deficit that can be met through Council's event budget.

Quotes to supply food and drinks will be sought from a number of local businesses with the cost (of food at least) to be embedded in the ticket price.

We hope to engage local musical organisations including Lithgow Musical Society and Mitchell Conservatorium to provide front of house services and music before curtain rise.

### **ACTION**

THAT the discussion of the proposed Opera Performances at the Union Theatre in November 2023 be noted.

**Moved:** Gaye MacFarlane **Seconded:** Rachel Young

## **8.3. Community and Culture Projects update**

The following update was provided by staff:

### **Waste 2 Art**

Kylie Blakemore has been coordinating the 2023 Waste 2 Art competition in collaboration with Lithgow Library. There has been a range of workshops and artists talks at various venues, followed by a successful opening preview event at Lithgow Library.

The deadline for entries was extended until Tuesday 20 June, and we now have a fantastic range of entries from both professional and emerging artists and creatives across all categories including 3 D Sculpture, 2D textiles and mixed media, functional design and fashion.

The awards ceremony will take place Friday 23 June at the library, with light refreshments and live music from 5.00pm – 7.00pm. To celebrate this year's theme of Textiles and Fast Fashion, a Waste 2 Art Recycled fashion parade competition will be held. The public exhibition of artworks closes on 8 July with the winning artworks from each category to be sent to the Regional Waste 2 Art Competition in Blayney.

### **Eskbank House and Museum**

The Museum is staffed by volunteers from Friday to Sunday each week and it has been a challenge sometimes to have sufficient coverage to open. Fortunately, we have some new volunteer applications being processed.

The Bushfire Community Recovery grant is coming to an end with two final events on winter pruning and working with bees being held in the Museum's Heritage Garden this month. The museum has some highly skilled and motivated volunteers who are determined to make the Heritage Garden sustainable into the future.

The Museum Advisor program, which provides curatorial and collection management and promotion advice to Eskbank House and other local museums, will be continued for the next financial year. This program has been a real benefit to the museum.

Council is waiting to hear the outcome of a heritage grant application for much needed capital works including roofing and guttering repairs and installation of a sub-floor ventilation system.

### **Disability Action Implementation Action Plan**

Criss Portilla informed the Committee that work will commence in the next few weeks on update of the DIAP with consultations in partnership with LINC, Schools and the 2023 Disability Alliance Network to commence in July 2023. The updated plan will be completed by November 2023.

### **Planet Youth Program**

Criss also provided an update on the work of the Planet Youth committee: Community Engagement Action Plan and budget has been approved. Schools have approved the Planet youth surveys to occur in August.

Schools' consultations supported by Council and conducted by Youth action will take place during October-November, including but not limited to the following subjects: Re- engagement in education and learning, mental health and wellbeing, life post Covid, youth unemployment, which will inform LCC new Youth engagement Plan.

### **Refugee Week**

Refugee Week from 18-24 June has been acknowledged by Council with a media release and a Facebook media campaign.

### **Union Theatre**

The seating supplier has informed Council that the new seating will now not be delivered until October 2023, 3 months later than scheduled.

Fire suppression design of the planned kitchen upgrade is underway after which plans will be submitted to Council for approval and with works to hopefully commence later in 2023.

Recent events include a very successful Youth Week festival weekend, a last-minute booking for the Euphoria travelling theatre production sponsored by Bathurst Entertainment Centre (BMEC) and Arts Out West. Unfortunately, there was a mix up in the promotions by BMEC and the audience numbers were very low for what was an exceptionally high-quality show.

The Union Theatre website design is in progress and plans are in place to create an advisory group to assist with ideas on how to manage the Theatre and engage a diverse range of event bookings from both local and regional creatives and professional touring groups.

Discussions are in progress for hosting the 2024 Comedy Festival at the theatre, a Festival of One Act Plays in partnership with Lithgow Theatre Group. A smaller event may be held this year in preparation for an inter-regional competition in March – April 2024. There have also been workshops and showcase events for the Live and Local Music Program.

Lithgow Musical Society just finished their first production for 2023 Jekyll and Hyde, to great acclaim.

The Theatre gallery will be used by several local artists for small shows over the coming months plus the venue has been independently booked by a touring Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band (not same as the other Fleetwood Mac Tribute show at Club Lithgow in August).

### **Other Cultural Activities**

Kylie Blakemore has been liaising with regional arts organisations and touring groups to put Lithgow and the Union Theatre 'on the radar' to attract high quality acts that traditionally bypass Lithgow.

Preparations are underway for an exhibition showcase of some pieces from Council's Art collection at the Tourism Centre Art Gallery in partnership with the Visitor Centre team, with an opening event to be held from 5.00- 7.00pm on Tuesday 28 June. This is free and open to the public from Thursday 29 June. We hope this will be the start of monthly 'salon 'style networking evenings showcasing a local business/ service/ product – first at the VIC and then hopefully on rotation with other businesses/members of the Tourism group/ business chamber.

### **Blast Furnace**

Design work for the performance stage is being finalised and the design of feature lighting is largely complete. Next step is seeking NSW Heritage Office approval to the works then seeking tenders/quotes. Works are expected to commence later in 2023 and be finished in the first half of 2024.

### **Lake Pillans**

Design work is being finalised for carparking, landscaping, lighting and pathway upgrade works. Council will be seeking tenders in the next 2-3 months with works expected to commence later in 2023 and be finished in the first half of 2024.

### **Community Resilience Project**

Council has recently appointed a new Community Resilience Officer, Greg Thurling, to replace Rachel Nicholl.

Greg started on 14 June and will be working within Council and with community groups, businesses, and other stakeholders to develop disaster preparedness and resilience strategies. Initially Greg will be giving some focus to the Wolgan Valley.

### **ACTION**

THAT the update of current projects be noted.

**Moved:** Leanne Walding **Seconded:** Rachel Young

## **9. General Business**

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Nil General Business.

## **10. Meeting Close**

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There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 5:15.