

SECTION 428 (2) (a) Financial Statements

The audited financial statements and auditor's report are presented as Appendix A to this report.

SECTION 428 (2) (b) Performance in terms of principal activities

(according to the 2004-2005 Management Plan)

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

Catchment Management

Collaroy-Narrabeen Property Information Dossiers

The Council finalised an information dossier of properties within the coastal hazard zone along Collaroy –Narrabeen Beach during 2004-2005. This information will be used by Council staff and emergency services when managing emergency situations and to inform beachfront property owners of existing property details and their coastal hazard situation.

Water Quality Monitoring Program

The Council began developing a new water quality-monitoring program, which over time will be able to provide more accurate scientific data on which catchment management decisions will be based.

Narrabeen Lagoon Foreshore Management Plan

This Plan was developed during 2004-2005 to address foreshore erosion and habitat improvement at Narrabeen Lagoon. Particular points around the lagoon have been identified as needing protection from wind generated waves and as such, coir logs have been installed to protect the banks from further erosion. These areas have also been planted with phragmites native plants. Fencing off of sensitive areas, creation of formalised access points, bush regeneration, re-planting and weed control was also completed on the foreshore around the Berry Reserve.

High School Catchment Crawls and Sustainable Youth Forum

On Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 August 2004, students from 12 high schools from the Warringah and Manly areas participated in the first ever 'Northern Beaches Catchment Crawl'. Over 80 high school students crawled around the catchments of Warringah and Manly to investigate the local water quality issues.

The Catchment Crawl involved students travelling by bus around the catchment areas of Curl Curl Lagoon, Dee Why Lagoon and Manly Dam and undertaking water quality testing using Sydney Water's Streamwatch testing kits.

Students collected water quality results from a number of sites throughout the catchment. Students then compiled their results from the day into a comprehensive report and presented their findings at the Sustainability Youth Forum held on Tuesday 14 September at Freshwater Surf Lifesaving Club.

The Youth Forum allowed students to evaluate their water quality results and develop solutions for each school to help improve local water quality.

Keeping Our Dam Alive - Manly Dam

During previous years the Council has provided \$300,000 in funding each year to maintain the Manly Dam area. Over the years this funding has been used to undertake bushland regeneration and maintenance programs, water quality monitoring and maintain the recreational facilities within the Dam.

With the help of local residents, Council is now making Manly Dam a primary focus for environmental improvement

works. In 2004-2005 additional funding of \$1.5 million over the next three years has been allocated towards environmental improvement works to the Manly Dam area, including \$150,000 towards community education programs. Approximately \$950,000 has been allocated to bush regeneration over the next three years.

A range of community workshops, community action days, bushwalks, wildlife spotlighting activities and information sessions will be held for residents and the public. Topics covered will be protection of habitat and local wildlife and water quality. Council will also be working closely with local schools to educate school students on the Dam's significance and protection.

Conservation & Land Management

Weed Guide

The Council produced a free Environmental Weed Guide during 2004-2005 featuring 21 environmental weeds that are a significant problem throughout Warringah. The publication was launched in conjunction with the Keeping Our Dam Alive project in March 2005. The Weed Guide has now been distributed to all Warringah libraries, local nurseries and is available through Council's Customer Service Centre.

Summer Bush Walk Program

To raise community awareness of Warringah's unique bushland areas, Council hosted a free bushwalks program during the summer of 2004-2005. These walks were all guided by qualified staff and included; Rock

Rambling at Long Reef Headland, Bushwalks at Manly Dam and Stony Range Reserve and Wildlife Spotting at Manly Dam.

Protecting Threatened Species - Duffys Forest Program.

This education program is available free to all local primary schools and involves a series of lessons on Warringah's threatened species followed by an excursion to one of the last remaining examples of Duffys Forest bushland.

Pest Species Abatement Program

The Council again participated in the northern Sydney Fox Baiting Program. The program was run in September 2004 and May 2005, resulting in the baiting of 16 foxes at Manly Dam and was supported by the removal of 27 foxes in other areas.

Council continues to target locally based European Wild Rabbit populations through a combination of techniques including; trapping, strategic shooting, baiting, fumigation, warren dismantling and construction of fences. A total of 88 wild and 35 domestic rabbits were removed in local areas as a result of this program during 2004-2005.

Cats are prohibited from wildlife protection areas in Warringah and the Council conducts a cat trapping program in designated protection areas. In 2004-2005 this resulted in 48 cats being removed from these areas.

Warringah Small Mammal Survey

During 2004-2005 Council developed a survey to measure the sustainability of key threatened species. The survey

highlighted that Anembo Reserve in the suburb of Duffy's Forest is home to the small and elusive threatened Eastern Pygmy Possum.

Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Team

Warringah is a key representative on this project team that includes the Department of Environment and Conservation, NSW State Forests and Ku-ring-gai Council. During the last financial year the team continued to oversee the quarterly bandicoot trapping survey program within the Garigal and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Parks.

Noxious Weed Education and Eradication Program

The aim of this program is to progressively reduce the extent of noxious and environmental weed infestation on private and public lands. During 2004-2005 Council undertook 600 inspections of private lands that border or support key bush regeneration sites and sensitive bushland areas - half of these resulted in the issuing of noxious weed notices.

Bush Regeneration Program

The program assists the Council in managing and protecting our biodiversity. During the last financial year 4600 hours of work was undertaken, which resulted in 8830 seedlings planted at 55 sites.

ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH & WASTE EDUCATION

Warringah Kids Care Calendar

The Warringah Kids Care Calendar was developed in 2004 and featured the winning artworks from the Warringah Kids Care Art Competition.

Participants in the competition were asked to design a poster that highlighted

how we can all work together to protect our environment. This year, the 13 winning posters from the competition were printed in the 2005 'Warringah Kids Care Student Calendar'. This calendar was distributed to all Warringah students in years K- 6.

Eco Schools Grant Program

Each year, Warringah Council's provides funding to school for environmental

projects as part of the Eco Schools Grant Program. Schools can apply for funding up to \$2,500 for the development and implementation of a wide range of environmental projects including establishment of worm farms, installation of rainwater tanks or the undertaking of environmental excursions. In 2004-2005, Warringah Council provided over \$45,000 to 20 local schools as detailed below:

School	Project	Funding
Allambie Heights	Eco Garden and environmental audits	\$2,500
Beach School	Integrated Permaculture System	\$2,500
Brookvale PS	Worm farming, Native birds, Streamwatch	\$2,024
Cromer PS	Flood mitigation erosion control	\$2,500
Curl Curl North PS	Native Garden Outdoor Classroom	\$2,456
Davidson High School	Garden & recycling centre	\$2,500
Fisher Rd School	Greening of School grounds	\$2,000
Frenchs Forest PS	Eco garden	\$2,000
Kamaroi Rudolf Steiner	Nature Trail & outdoor classroom	\$2,180
Killarney Heights PS	Eco Garden	\$2,500
Kinma School	Worm farm & 'No dig' garden	\$2,365
Manly Vale PS	Native Garden Outdoor Classroom	\$1,500
Mimosa PS	Rainwater Tank	\$2,500
Narrabeen Lakes PS	Water & Bushland Conservation	\$2,500
Northern Beaches Christian	Bush regeneration	\$2,300
Cromer Campus	Greening school grounds	\$1,350
Mackellar Girls	Streamwatch & Environmental Projects	\$2,400
St John the Apostle PS	St John's Community Eco-Garden Project	\$2,500
Terrey Hills PS	Rainwater Tank and irrigation	\$2,500
Wakehurst PS	Rainwater Tank and Frog Pond	\$2,500

World Environment Day Youth Expo

The third World Environment Day Youth Expo was held at James Meehan Reserve, Dee Why on Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 June 2005. Over 1500 students attended the event from 22 local primary schools.

The Expo provided students with the opportunity to discuss and learn about the local environment and investigate how they can contribute to its future protection. Twenty-five environmental experts and key organisations from around Sydney participated in this exciting event and hosted a variety of student workshops covering water quality testing, native flora and fauna, coastal processes, Aboriginal culture and turning waste into art.

Hilltop to Headland

During 2004-2005 the Council again hosted the free Hilltop to Headland environmental lecture series. This series of community lectures is now in its ninth year. Lectures included Snakes of the Northern Beaches, Water Conservation, Ethics of Waste, Energy Conservation, Sustainable Living and Native Bees.

Business of Air Quality

In 2004-2005, Warringah Council received funding from the NSW Government's Clean Air Fund to work in partnership with small to medium sized industrial businesses regarding air quality. The project was known as 'The Business of Air Quality'.

As part of the project guidelines were developed to help improve the way air pollution is managed by these businesses. Other Councils can use

the guidelines as a reference when deciding on which control measures are appropriate depending on circumstances and assist Councils to use a consistent approach when dealing with air quality concerns. They also help improve the level of expertise and accessibility to relevant information.

The guidelines give minimum standards of controls for air quality relevant to businesses to follow over next five years. The guidelines are available free-of-charge on the Council's website at www.warringah.nsw.gov.au

Water Conservation

In 2004-2005, the Council completed Stage 1 of the Warringah Water Conservation Program. This program included the development of a resident Water Conservation Package that was launched at the Community Water Conservation Lecture on 16 March 2005. The kit contains important information for the community on how to conserve water in and around the home including greywater re-use, installation of rainwater tanks and water saving devices.

Council also worked with Sydney Water on a campaign to encourage residents to have a water conservation retrofit and install water saving showerheads. To encourage residents to undertake this retrofit, Council gave away three AAAAA rated Samsung water efficient washing machines as prizes to winning residents. These washing machines were donated by Harvey Norman Balgowlah.

Environmental Awards

The Council won a number of awards for its environmental conservation and improvement works during 2004-2005:

Sydney Winner of Overall Award for Sydney's Cleanest Beach 2004.

This award from the Keep Australia Beautiful Challenge (KABC) was for the full range of Council programs and community actions taking place at Freshwater Beach.

Sydney & State Winner of Young Legends Award.

These two awards, also from KABC, was for Council's youth based education programs at Freshwater including the Youth Sustainability Forum, Whale Songlines, the Eco-Schools grant funding program and the Beach Awareness and Safety Education Program.

Sydney Winner of Alcoa Australia Rolled Products Litter Prevention Award.

This award was for Council litter prevention programs including signage and recycling facilities at Freshwater Beach.

NSW Highly Commended Alcoa Australia Rolled Products Litter Prevention Award in the Litter Prevention Category for Council's comprehensive waste management strategy.

This includes 7 sets of recycling stations and innovative public signage.

Sydney Winner of Energy Australia Friendly Beach Award.

This award recognised Freshwater Beach's public facilities and a safe and enjoyable swimming experience for the community.

Freshwater Beach was the winner

of a new award called 'The Special Achievement Award' for local Bushcare volunteers Margaret and Arvon Roberts for outstanding contribution to the regeneration work at Freshwater Beach for the past 10 years.

NSW Winner of Department of Planning Natural Heritage Award.

This award recognised the extensive efforts of volunteer groups including Reefcare, Fishcare, the Long Reef Surf Life Saving Club and Council in managing Long Reef Beach and Aquatic Reserve. The efforts of these volunteers and Council have resulted in the Greenlink Walkway and the restoration of habitat for threatened species.

Sydney Winner of Department of Planning Natural Heritage Award.

This award was presented to Reefcare for the volunteer conservation work being undertaken at Long Reef Beach, supported by the Council.

Sydney Highly Commended The Partners Local Government Leadership Award.

Awarded for Council's partnerships with local volunteer groups including Reefcare.

Warringah Council received a Highly Commended Environmental Education Metro Pride Award from Keep Australia Beautiful for the Duffys Forest Environmental Education Program.

The program also won the NSW Local Government Association Excellence in the Environment Biodiversity Management Award.

In the same awards the Council won the Regional Environmental Education Award for their World Environment Day Youth Expo 2004.

Dogs Big Day Out

The 5th annual Dogs Big Day Out was held at Frenchs Forest Showground in October 2004. More than 3,000 people attended on the day. This annual event provides Council with a valuable opportunity to communicate with dog owners and raises awareness on responsible dog ownership.

Waste Online

This year Council developed an online database for residents to search for all waste information for their property. This database – known as Waste Online - became available to residents from 1 July 2005. The database provides all resident garbage, recycling, and general & metal clean-up collection dates plus links to the Council's Waste & Recycling Guide.

Waste Recycling Guide

A new look Waste and Recycling Guide, with the core theme "Being Waste Wise", was developed to help residents understand and make the most of all Council's waste and recycling services.

Compliance Services

A health and environmental complaints investigation service was provided. All processes were reviewed during 2004-2005 and new procedures adopted to reflect legislative changes and new Council policies.

The review resulted in a new Environment Protection Officer position being approved to implement a sediment and erosion control program on building sites, as well as a new program in on-site sewage management to ensure environmental protection standards are maintained public health protected.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

Children's Services

Demand for child care places in 0-3 age group remains high within Warringah, while demand for the three to five year age group seems to have been managed with current supply. At the end of the financial year there were 1067 children in the waitlist, of which 915 children (85.8%) were in the 0-3 age group.

The total number of families included in the waitlist at the end of the financial year was 1199, with 132 (11%) having more than one child on the list.

The Families First project was completed and a final report submitted to the funding body.

Long Day Care Centres

The Council's Long Day Care Centres exceeded their utilisation targets reaching 98.5% for the year. These Centres continue to offer families both full time & part time positions as well as flexibility of days in an attempt to meet their needs.

All four of Council's Long Day Care Centres have been working towards the implementation of a curriculum model titled the Emergent Curriculum. Parents were educated about the new curriculum model and new technology was installed to allow work and activities to be photographed and activities recorded in portfolios.

Both Narrabeen & Dee Why Long Day Care Centres were involved in a research project called Watch Wait and Wonder. This was a partnership project between Council and the Department of Health to determine if a clinical support used with families in crisis can be used as part of a method to strengthen the

bond and relationship between parents and children generally. Approximately 70 parents attended the sessions across both centres.

Brookvale Children's centre was re-accredited in October 2004, and achieved a high quality rating in all of the 10 quality areas.

In 2004/2005 Narrabeen & Dee Why were successful in achieving significant grants through the Department of Family & Community Services Minor Capital Upgrade Systems & these funds were earmarked for shade & air-conditioning respectively. In the past year both the shade and air-conditioning units have been installed at the centres.

The upgrade of the Brookvale Centre's 3-5's outdoor play area is currently a focus. As part of the upgrade an application to the Federal Government has been submitted for a Community Water Grant. Should this grant application be successful these funds will be used to install rainwater tanks and a stormwater retention basin.

Family Day Care

Family Day Care was required to renew their licence in September. A licensing visit was successfully conducted and comments were made that the systems in place were good. A full audit of carers was implemented to ensure that they meet the higher requirements of the new Regulations. The audit was completed in October and all carers were found to be compliant.

Mobile Occasional Care Centre

The NSW Department of Community Services visited the service in July 2004 regarding re-licensing and the new licence was received in September 2004.

In November shade sails were purchased and plans were made to install them to provide more shady areas in the yard.

Integration and Resource Team

The IRT have continued to support children with additional needs and offer training and resources to staff in childcare services across the Northern Beaches local government areas.

Training Topics offered have included: Raising Awareness of Aboriginal Culture; Music for 0-3s; Hands Can Talk-Learning how to sign and training specific to meeting the needs of children being included in Vacation Care programs.

Vacation Care and School Holiday Recreation Program

Attendance at Warringah Council's seven vacation care services during 2004-2005 totalled 11,909 children and included the integration of 20 children with additional needs. Nine of these children received additional funding support from the Department of Family and Community Services.

The Council's School Holiday Recreation Program catered for 345 young people and offered skateboard workshops, free skate days, surf school, beach safety and awareness programs as well as a variety of outdoor adventure days. Other activities such as beach volleyball, circus skills, hip hop, break dancing and movie making workshops were also available during school holidays.

The Council and local service providers jointly offered discounted access to a variety of recreational experiences including bowling, movies, kayaking, rock climbing, fitness, rollerblading, swimming, beach volleyball and mini golf.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Aged Services

'Richer in Retirement' Seminar

Over 100 seniors attended this seminar held in September 2004, which presented such topics as health and safety strategies; services to assist with home and garden maintenance; available transport options, and activities to enrich life in retirement.

Seniors Week Program March 2005

'Celebrating Contribution and Culture' Concert was the premier event for Seniors Week in Warringah. Over 120 people attended this event, which provided a showcase for the Frank McAskill Awards, performances of seniors from the Tongan, Chinese and Italian communities, and prizes for winners of the 'Waste Tips' rhyming competition.

Other events for Seniors Week included 'A Day for Seniors at Stony Range', which offered a guided walk, BBQ and workshop on making environmentally friendly products; a CPR workshop; Reconciliation video and discussion; a talk on medication management for the OMNI (Older Men New Ideas) group, and the Annual Indoor Bowling Tournament.

CHEERS (Cheerful Healthy Eating for Elderly Residents and Seniors)

In partnership with Health Promotion, a program encouraging seniors to learn more about nutrition and have an opportunity to socialise was launched in

April 2005. Seniors meet in a designated local restaurant each month and after lunch, hear tips from a dietician who has liaised with the chef in regard to preparing the menu. The lunches are very popular with local seniors and the restaurants are most obliging.

The 40th birthday for Forest Seniors Club was celebrated in July. The club has now amalgamated with Terrey Hills Seniors, and members from both clubs joined together to farewell and thank Joy Trainor the outgoing president who had contributed so much over the past 12 years.

An Italian Walking group was launched by Council in February 2005 at Dee Why Beach. The venture was in partnership with CO.AS.IT and offered training for leaders and the opportunity for local Italian seniors to keep fit and socialise. Council's Aged Services Team also launched a booklet 'Favourite Walks in Warringah for Older People' which continues to be very popular with senior walkers.)

OMNI – (Older Men New Ideas)

This local group reached its 3rd year milestone in October 2004. The group continues to be supported by Council, meeting fortnightly and proving to be an ideal way for older men to get together for support and listen to speakers on a range of health and welfare topics.

Seniors Have Their Say Survey

In 2004 the process of assessing the needs of local seniors commenced with a number of focus groups being held. These focus groups were used to scope a questionnaire, which was then distributed to almost 1000 seniors. In

all some 455 older residents responded and a report was compiled from the data and comments that were made. This report is now available to the public.

DISABILITY SERVICES

Information and training

In October/November 2004 52 Council staff participated in a training program to assist them to become familiar with the Warringah Access Checklist 2004. Council staff enrolled in this program attended from the following three Service Units:

- > Planning and Assessment Services – 39 employees
- > Project Services – 11 employees
- > Policy and Planning – 2 employees

Following the preparation of the checklist enhanced access standards were accepted by Council for future capital improvements, as recommended in the Disability Discrimination Act 1993.

Disability Information Service

Located in Dee Why Library, the Disability Information Service provided free information on services and resources to 557 people with disabilities, their carers or disability services by telephone, email, and letter during 2004-2005. The Council's website www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/disab.htm contains a link to a large database specifically for people with a disability – known as LINCS – as well as publications and archived issues of a free fortnightly e-newsletter. Newsletter subscriptions rose to 550 individuals and organisations, such as special schools and peak disability services that reprinted items in their newsletters or forwarded them to parents and clients. The "Leisure for Youth and Adults with Disability" booklet again proved to be popular with schools, leisure providers and parents. Brochures in each branch of the Warringah Library Service were provided to the public on various disability services.

Promoting Community Awareness

In December 2004 the International Day of People with a disability event was celebrated at Collaroy Beach. This event was well attended by a wide selection of disability services and people with disabilities. Highlights included:

- > Presentation by children at Cromer Public Integration class
- > Launch of the Liberty Swing
- > Launch of the 'Freewheeler – beach wheelchair' and 'Disabled Surfers Association' trailer

Warringah Council Access Advisory Committee

This committee continued to meet regularly throughout the year and is made up of representatives from relevant services and people with a disability. The Committee's purpose is to advise the Council on the needs and services for people with a disability and their carers.

Disability Services Survey

Approximately 800 copies of the Disability Services Survey were distributed to the Warringah community in 2005 through peak disability service organisations with nearly 200 being returned to Council. The survey focused on the following themes:

- > Ability to access Council Chambers and Customer Service Centre
- > Ability to access Council's recreational, leisure and social facilities
- > Ability to access commercial and retail facilities in the built environment
- > Access to footpath and infrastructure
- > Availability of public transport
- > Access to local information
- > Complaints mechanisms

The findings of this survey will be used in future years to improve disability services and access for the Warringah Community.

Accessibility to Council assets

Access audits were conducted and improvements made – particularly for those with a disability - to the following Council community facilities;

- > South Curl Curl Beach
- > Dee Why Beachfront Reserve
- > Dee Why Lagoon
- > Narrabeen Beach
- > Accessible toilet – Forestville Shopping Centre
- > Glen Street Theatre
- > Council Gallery and Chambers

In addition, an audit was conducted of all Council car parks for disabled parking spaces.

Mobility Parking Blitz

In July 2004 a community education campaign was carried out to educate the community on the importance of designated accessible parking bays for holders of the Mobility Parking Scheme permit.

BEACH SERVICES

During 2004-2005, the Council's Beach Services Team managed and patrolled Warringah's nine beaches from Freshwater to North Narrabeen seven days a week from September to April. On weekends and public holidays the team worked in partnership with volunteers from local surf life saving clubs. Throughout the season over 2 million people visited Warringah's nine beaches with lifeguards undertaking a total of 1039 rescues and administering 3664 first aid treatments. In addition, lifeguards conducted 186,204 preventative actions such as directing swimmers to stay between the flags, or moving flagged areas. Council lifeguards also dealt with 3050 breaches of regulations in regard to litter, dogs and anti-social behaviour on beaches and beach reserves.

The Council donated \$62,120 towards local surf life saving clubs and the Sydney Northern Beaches Branch to assist their ongoing support to the community.

In 2004 the Council formed a partnership with the Manly Warringah Credit Union. The Credit Union pledged \$39,600 in sponsorship, which will be used for the purchase of rescue equipment over the next two years.

Warringah's Beach Awareness and Safety Education Program (BASE) delivers water safety messages to primary school students and adults from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. A total of 6300 people undertook the program in 2004-2005, which was delivered by Council lifeguards in the classroom and on the beach.

INFORMATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

Library Services

The Council's library service added 15,467 new books and 5,191 audio-visual items to its collection during the year. Over 716,757 people visited the four branch libraries at Dee Why, Warringah Mall, Belrose and Forestville borrowing a total of 1,048,052 items from the libraries during the year.

A new Library Management System was implemented and went live to the public in October 2004. The new Library Management System provides a web-based catalogue and improved searching facilities for library users. The new system has also allowed library staff greater control over the loan and return of books leading to improved management.

In addition to this new system further upgrades were made to improve the speed of our network connections to the internet and between branches. A new photocopying and membership card was introduced and all library members have had their membership renewed.

Council installed solar panels at Forestville Library. The panels are connected to a display in the Library showing the amount of energy generated from the panels. As part of the World Environment Day forum, a specialist climate change education show provided participating children with an insight into the causes, impacts and solutions to climate change.

Children's activities

This year the Library's weekly story-time sessions ran at full capacity. 286 sessions were attended by a total of 7206 children who enjoyed the family-friendly atmosphere and great stories, rhymes and songs. In a separate series of vacation care programs 633 children attended.

A Summer Reading Club was introduced in late 2004, with over 100 children attending this new program.

Children's Book Week provided an opportunity for another 81 children who came to craft workshops. At the Council's Australia Day celebrations the Library tent attracted 250 visitors. Christmas card workshops attracted 82 children and the Halloween Craft Workshop 25 children. Forestville Library was chosen as the venue for the launch of the children's book *Taming Butterflies* by Sue Whiting, with guest of honour the Hon. Tony Abbott MP.

The Libraries also ran 17 library tours for primary schools and preschools during 2004-2005.

Local Studies

Outreach activities continued to play an important part in the role of the Local Studies team this year. As well as school visits to St Kevin's and North Curl Curl Primary Schools talks were given to the Women's Wellness Group at Dee Why and the Seniors Week Computer Expo at Dee Why RSL.

Technology and resources continued to be upgraded in both the Local Studies and Family History sections. New computers in Family History now give access to updated CD Rom material purchased and a new microfilm reader/printer.

The theme for the National Trust Heritage Festival in 2005 was Community + heritage – celebrating sixty years. The photographic display mounted in the Civic Centre looked at the lives of members of our local community who turned sixty this year. In addition to the Heritage Festival exhibition other displays were mounted this year for Australia Day and International Women's Day.

Local Studies continued to provide support to local community groups in the celebration of heritage. In particular this year the Frenchs Forest Combined Churches borrowed an exhibition for their Forest Fun Day. Support was also given to the community group Sempre Con Te in their celebration of local Italian women's heritage.

The use of the libraries for the loan of books and audio-visuals, as a place to study and relax and for programs and events continues to increase, particularly at Council's newest library in Forestville.

CULTURAL SERVICES

Warringah Art Exhibition

Two changes were implemented for the 2004 Warringah Art Exhibition. One was the introduction of an entry fee and the limiting of entries to one work per artist.

This resulted in a reduction in the number of entries from previous years with 220 entries being received and 97 works subsequently being selected for hanging by two judges, Evert Ploeg, local portrait painter and David Manuell, high school art teacher.

This year saw the introduction of an Indigenous Youth Award and Kai Graham, a young indigenous artist was engaged to organise this award. Entries were received from students from the Biala Hostel and also from young people from Warringah's sister city, Brewarrina. Joint Indigenous Youth Award winners were announced at the Exhibition Opening on 8 July; Bianca Peters with her photograph from Brewarrina and Eliza Williams with an acrylic painting from Warringah. Approximately 1,200 attended the exhibition from 8 July to 18 July 2005. Artlink Art Supplies supported the exhibition and the Indigenous Youth Award with a \$4,350 sponsorship.

Local Government Week

The first week of August 2004 was Local Government Week and this year's theme was "The Year of the Built Environment". Two local playgrounds were officially opened with morning events at Stirgess Avenue, Curl Curl and Hews Parade at Belrose. Approximately 100 and 50 residents and children respectively celebrated each opening.

Interactive school tours were organised for three primary schools, with two classes from each school enjoying mock

Council meetings. The young people debated the benefits of a skate park versus a library. A citizenship ceremony on 8 August saw 63 people become new Australian citizens.

Sister City Youth Cultural Exchange – From Chichibu, Japan to Warringah

Nine students from four schools from Chichibu, and one teacher plus a delegate from Chichibu Town Hall arrived on 9 August for a week's cultural visit. Students were hosted with home stay families from Freshwater Secondary College Senior Campus and Council staff. The students participated in English as a Second Language classes, visited a Japanese Language class at Harbord Primary School; toured the sites of the CBD, as well as Manly and Ku-ring-gai National Park. They also participated in the Oxford Falls Peace Park Anniversary event by performing several traditional folk songs.

Peace Park Dedication Day Anniversary

On Saturday 14 August the ninth anniversary of the Park's dedication was celebrated with a multicultural concert and a formal program which included speeches about the importance of peace and tolerance by Sharam Noogostar – Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'i in Warringah, Ken McNab, from the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, and Abdullah Eissa from the Manly Warringah Islamic Society.

This year, 150 attendees were invited to make a 'Peace Flag' which will be sent to America, and joined with flags from over the world to be taken to Japan to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Nagasaki and Hiroshima bombings.

Freedom of Warringah – 7th Army Field Regiment & Warringah Council

On Saturday morning 6 November 2004 at James Meehan Reserve, Dee Why, Council's Administrator Dick Persson inspected the 7th Army Field Regiment on the occasion of the retirement of their Commander.

A parade of vehicles from the Regiment proceeded along The Strand at Dee Why where they were challenged by Police Area Commander and then granted the Freedom of Warringah.

The Events and Cultural Services team worked in conjunction with the 7th Army Regiment to organise this event as well as a reception to present the regiment with the Freedom of Entry Proclamation.

Pasifika Sounds

Workshops in how to compose rap pieces were run for Tongan young people over 5 weeks through October and November 2004. The workshops culminated in a performance of the newly composed works at the Pasifika Sounds concert. This celebration on 4 December 2004, commenced with a smoking ceremony by "Thullii Dreaming" – an indigenous dance group from western Sydney.

"Pasifik Harmoni", a dance group from Polynesia was one of the highlights of the evening, incorporating a Samoan fire dancer in their performance. The concert also included performances of traditional Island Songs to the original rap pieces from the Dee Why Uniting Church Youth Group, the Hephzibah Youth Group and "He Iwi Kotahi Tatou", a Maori cultural group. Approximately 2,000 Warringah residents and visitors enjoyed the evening.

Art Collection

Council's art collection includes 187 pieces of two-dimensional works, craft pieces, historical photographs and sister city gifts. Each of the works were inspected in November and December 2004 and given an individual condition report. A bi-annual exchange of artworks hanging in Council offices also took place.

2005 Australia Day Celebrations

This year's program included three community breakfasts at Dee Why Beach, Narrabeen and Belrose; a community ceremony at Governor Phillip Lookout at Beacon Hill and a Civic Reception that included a citizenship ceremony and presentation of Australia Day Awards and Council's Outstanding Community Service Awards.

For the first time, the Dee Why Breakfast included a family fun area of free activities such as horizontal bungy jumping, rock wall climbing and circus skills. This area proved extremely popular and was sponsored for \$5000 by the Manly Warringah Credit Union. The three community breakfasts were sponsored by Dee Why RSL Club (\$10,000) and the Manly Daily (advertising space) and Narrabeen Butchery who donated kilos of sausages for the breakfasts.

In response to the Asian Tsunami, proceeds from the Australia Day Breakfast raffles were kindly donated by the community organisations that make up the Australia Day Advisory Committee to the Red Cross Australia and Care Australia.

A Civic Reception was held at Dee Why RSL Club on 28 February, to thank the 500 Australia Day volunteers who donated their time to the breakfast events.

International Women's Day

Council celebrated International Women's Day with a two-part community project and event.

The focus of the activities on International Women's Day was a community built 'Wishing Tree'. The tree was made by the community under the supervision of a community artist. The tree allowed the community to contribute their hopes and aspirations for the future together by writing their 'wishes for their daughters' on strips of paper that became the 'leaves' of the tree.

On 8 March 2005 a community event was held in Dee Why Town Centre featuring 11 community groups who provide services and support for women in the Warringah area. TV and radio personality Wendy Harmer delivered the Women's Day speech and the event also featured performances by local women from various backgrounds. The event was attended by approximately 400 people.

Harmony Day

In partnership with the Northern Beaches Multicultural Network, the Council presented a Harmony Day celebration on the Civic Centre lawn on 21 March 2005.

A citizenship ceremony was held for 76 people from over 20 countries, which was followed by an afternoon

of activities and entertainment.

Entertainment included an Indian Odissi Dancer, musical performances from Iran and Indigenous Group 'Nature Nature'. Community members were also able to participate in Korean Paper craft workshops and wrote messages expressing their own sentiments for Harmony Day.

Dee Why library provided a range of community language books and The Northern Beaches Multicultural Network provided a feast of multicultural food enjoyed by those who attended the event.

On Friday 1 April, the opening took place of the new landscaping area at Brookvale Park. The event featured performances by St Augustine's School Band and the Leo Le Lei Singers from Brookvale Public School. In keeping with the tradition of the Park, students from Brookvale Public School also planted trees on the western side of the park.

Approximately 50 adults and 50 students from St Augustine's and Brookvale Public School attended the ceremony.

Anzac Day Dawn Service – Manly Dam

The Manly Warringah War Memorial Regional Park Remembrance Trust and the Council formed a partnership to present the 2005 ceremony at Manly Dam. This proved very successful with 1000 people in attendance taking in a moving service. With the agreement of local service clubs and the Trust, Manly Dam will now be the focal point for future dawn services in Warringah, along with the Oxford Falls Peace Park.

Local Government Cultural Awards 2004

On 6 May the presentation ceremony took place for the annual Local Government and Shires Association of NSW Cultural Awards at NSW Parliament House. 68 Councils were short listed across the total categories and the Council was shortlisted in the popular Cultural Projects Category for the "Whale Songlines" project.

The Guringai Festival

The fifth annual Guringai Festival encompasses and involves nine Councils across the northern area of Sydney. In Warringah, the 'Children of the Setting Sun' a new play by local playwright Patricia O'Jones was performed as a rehearsed reading on Saturday and Sunday 28 & 29 May at Stony Range Reserve at Dee Why.

Patricia O'Jones directed the play and worked with three indigenous actors over a period of 4 weeks to rehearse the play. The play was well received by all who attended each of the performances.

Connexions in Time Photography Project

A \$32,685 Commonwealth Government Visions of Australia grant was received for the Connexions in Time project in 2004. The project was aimed at young people from both Warringah and its sister-city Brewarrina and had two components – skills development and a photography exhibition. Fiona Morris, a social documentary photographer was the project coordinator and teacher.

Eleven young people from Warringah and seven from Brewarrina were chosen and they took part in workshops.

The young people were given digital cameras, and asked to document how they experienced their lives in the two different areas. From 4000 images, 88 were chosen for exhibition in Warringah and Brewarrina. The exhibition in Brewarrina was made possible by a \$3000 sponsorship from Country Energy.

Citizenship Ceremonies

During the year eleven citizenship ceremonies were held, with 687 adults and 107 children from approximately 40 countries becoming Australian citizens.

Glen Street Theatre

During 2004-2005 76,540 patrons attended some 320 performances in the main auditorium and in Sorlies Restaurant. This included 74,587 attendances at 299 main stage performances. Subscriber numbers during the year exceeded 4000. The theatre's professional seasons continue to be of a very high quality, attracting the best productions from around the country and high numbers of subscribers.

Productions Glen Street Theatre presented through the year included The Unlikely Prospect of Happiness and the ever popular Wharf Revue (Sydney Theatre Company), John Bell's masterful Comedy of Errors (Bell Shakespeare), Jacki Weaver in The Blonde, The Brunette and The Vengeful Redhead and the extraordinary Last Cab to Darwin. The annual series of Literary Lunches in Sorlies continue to prove popular with theatre patrons.

The year was one of consolidation with long-term strategic planning that will ensure a healthy future for Glen Street Theatre. The Council's ongoing financial and logistical support allowed

Glen Street to continue its seasons of professional theatre while maintaining availability to local community based groups.

WARRINGAH AQUATIC CENTRE

There were 369,375 attendances for the year with the most significant increase being in programs such as Learn to Swim (102,042 attendances) and Aquarobics, Swimfit, Pilates and Yoga, which in total attracted 164,392 attendances.

The Centre also staged 61 swimming carnivals through the year. Of particular note were two Special Olympics carnivals and the NSW Wheelchair Sports Carnival.

The Centre's swim squad program trained three Paralympians that represented Australia at the Athens Paralympics in 2004 - namely Ben Austin (a world record holder), Sarah Rose and Kate Bailey.

The Centre was also the venue for four film shoots with segments of the Footy Show, a Korean Bank promotion and magazine fashion shoots.

An Environmental Management Program for the Centre was prepared and implemented. One of the main outcomes was savings in water consumption of over 2.5 million litres for the year. The hot water system for the showers was replaced with an energy efficient system that consumes only 10% of the power of the old system. As a result the Centre was highlighted an example of best practice in the aquatics industry. Further investigations are underway into rainwater storage and re-use of backwash water.

One of the Centre's senior staff, Shift Manager Garry Pretti was awarded "Lifeguard of the Year" by the Aquatics and Recreation Institute for his leadership and mentoring activities, particularly in training new lifeguards.



YOUTH & RECREATION SERVICES

Warringah Youth Advisory Committee

Aimee Ho Sing was elected as the youngest ever Chairperson of the Warringah Youth Advisory Committee in 2004-2005. Aimee was also announced as the Council's Australia Day Young Citizen of the Year. Aimee subsequently gained a place on the NSW Premier's Youth Advisory Council which advises the Premier on youth issues.

Entertainment

The annual Northern Composure Band Competition was run again this year; in all 27 bands entered and 1400 people attended three heats, a record on both counts. Of the 15 bands selected in the heats, 13 were from local bands.. Sponsorship was at a record high with \$10,000 worth of prizes being given out and the winning band, ManCower, given the opportunity to play at YouthFest in April 2005.

Several band nights were also held during the year. In November 2004 three headline acts supported by two young local bands performed both local and overseas music, attended by over 180 people.

On Sunday 17 April the Council in conjunction with the Warringah Youth Advisory Committee, Manly Council Youth Services and Manly Youth Council presented YouthFest '05 at James Meehan Reserve Dee Why. This year's event was one of the most successful to date, attracting an estimated crowd of 6000 - 7000 patrons. Headline bands featured were Strung Out (USA), Frenzal Rhomb and Useless ID (Israel). Four local support bands selected from Warringah's annual Northern Composure Band Competition; Knucklepuk, Mancower, Edium and August Falling also performed. DJs, breakdancing, markets, a skate competition, rides and a graffiti display all featured.

Event surveys carried out at the conclusion of the event were overwhelmingly positive with 95% of respondents indicated they would come again, with the remaining 5% indicating 'Maybe'. It also showed that two thirds of patrons were from the local region.

Partnerships

A Youth Suicide Workshop was held in Council Chambers in June 2005 in partnership with the Give Anything Prevent Youth Suicide (GAPS) community group. The workshop was attended by over 45 people. The Warringah Youth Advisory Committee also staged a band night to raise funds for GAPS.

The Annual Youth Exchange program hosted four young people from Brewarrina for a week and four young people from Warringah also visited Brewarrina in 2005 from the Warringah Youth Advisory Committee.

The Council participated in the inaugural IMPAKT meeting in Warringah coordinated by NSW Police. The program aims to educate young people and their parents on the dangers of under age drinking. Participants had previously been issued an alcohol related breach by Police and had the option of paying a fine or attending these meetings, accompanied by a parent. The success of this event has ensured that this program will continue throughout the year.

A painting project involving young people used the amenities block at Cromer Park. Consultation was undertaken with the Manly Warringah Soccer Association and Cromer High School on a mural to be painted on the building. The building had previously been continuously 'tagged' with illegal graffiti.

The resulting mural has decreased these incidents dramatically, as well as presenting a more pleasant building appearance. The Soccer Association's name and logo was incorporated in the design as a background for team photos.

Youth Activities Service

This service – known as YAZZ - is a personal development / recreation program for 11 - 16 year olds offering programs on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Four YAZZ programs were offered on Monday afternoons for local schools during 2004-2005 including Allambie and Mimosa Primary Schools.

The program involves young people in activities such as rock climbing, scavenger hunts, bushwalks to develop their social and life skills. Six camps were also conducted, including a new camp to Jenolan Caves and Katoomba.

Four Speaker's Nights were held during the year, covering the following topics:

- > Surviving High School
- > Help! I have a teenager in the house
- > Drug and Alcohol information
- > Strategies for managing stress, anxiety and the "blues" in young people

Over 100 people attended these four workshops. In addition four "Parenting Teenagers Today" sessions were held. Workshops focused on helping parents to understand changes in teenage behaviour, strategies on how to improve family communication and give ideas on how to deal with issues of concern to parents of young people aged 11-16.

The YAZZ program employs a Family Support Worker to provide support and a referral service for the parents of young people involved in the program.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Planning and Assessment

All development applications are assessed against Council's local environmental plan (Warringah LEP 2000) and also other relevant State policies together with statutory environmental legislation. The Council's Planning & Assessment Division is also responsible for issuing construction certificates and compliance certificates that relate to building works in progress where Council is the nominated certifying authority.

In 2004-2005, issuing of building certificates together with planning certificates for conveyancing purposes has continued at a high rate. These trends are consistent with strong levels of activity in the local real estate market.

In contrast, the number of development applications received at Council has dropped by 19% in comparison with previous years. The figures indicate that there has been a reduction in demand for developments of all levels in Warringah. Some 1695 DAs were received in 2004/2005 in comparison with 2093 in 2003/2004. The number of DAs awaiting a decision at 30 June 2005 was 530, compared with 713 in 2004.

Turnaround times for DAs has improved to the point where minor extensions to a home, where the proposals comply with Council's controls and there are no objections, can be assessed within a couple of weeks. Negotiation with applicants to resolve concerns and non-compliance has resulted in significantly improved outcomes, leading to Council defending fewer appeals in the Land and Environment Court.

During 2005 a new online service called DAs Online was developed. DAs Online was launched in July 2005 and allows applicants and the community to track the progress of any development application in Warringah. This has improved the transparency of the assessment process and allowed better interaction with the applicant.

Improved assessment processes together with the introduction of an in-house lawyer have seen significant improvement in the management of appeals to the point that Council has defended 19 appeals in the Land & Environment Court during 2004-2005, compared with 31 in 2003-2004.

Independent Hearing and Assessment Panel (IHAP)

The Council evaluated and reviewed the function of the IHAP panel that was established in 2003 to ensure independence and transparency in the assessment of contentious development applications. The Panel consists of community members and a range of suitably qualified people with expertise in the law, town planning, environment, architecture and urban design.

The Panel's Charter was amended in September 2004 to now consider development applications for Class 2 to 9 buildings under the Building Code of Australia (virtually all buildings apart from detached dwellings), with more than two unresolved objections, as well as Category Three matters requiring referral under the Warringah LEP.

Mediation

The Council's mediation program was amended and focused during 2004-2005 to become more effective in terms of achieving outcomes. Matters are no longer mediated between parties to a mutual position only to be refused or approved on technical planning grounds. Now only disputes involving individual neighbourhood amenity are sent to mediation and this has led to a significant reduction in the number mediated.

In 2004-2005 15 mediations were completed, compared with 26 in 2003-2004. These numbers do not include mediations rejected by applicants or deemed invalid by staff.

PLANNING POLICY

The Warringah LEP 2000

The Warringah Local Environmental Plan (LEP 2000) was gazetted on 5 December 2000 and guides all planning decisions in Warringah since this date. The Warringah LEP is unique in this respect in that it embraces locality or place based planning rather than traditional zonings. As far as possible the LEP set out to include all planning provisions that apply to any given parcel of land in one document, including the incorporation of State and Regional plans policies (SEPPs and REPs). This aspect of the plan has proven to be a frustration for a variety of reasons, largely due to the often complicated, time and resource consuming process to bring the plan into line with changes to State planning policies.

During 2004-2005 the Council considered a number of rezoning applications as well as processing LEP amendments of its own volition, including:

- > Reclassification of an area under the southern grandstand of Brookvale Park (Pittwater Road, Brookvale)
- > Mooramba Road change to locality boundary (E12 Locality)
- > Creation of a new locality for the Dee Why Centre by reclassification of the Howard and Oaks Avenue car park
- > Lizard Rock housing proposal for Morgan Road, Belrose which was subsequently withdrawn
- > Dee Why Bowling Club in Fisher Road North, Dee Why

In addition amendments were made to bring the LEP within the State Government's State Environmental Planning Policies for environmental sustainability (BASIX) requirements and

Senior Living, as well as remove open space and heritage anomalies.

In December 2004 the Department of Planning advised Council that it would be required to prepare a new LEP based on its planning reform initiatives and the standard LEP template developed by the State Government for all Councils in New South Wales. This template must be completed within a three-year period from the end of 2005. The Council has given an undertaking to the Department to complete this project as a priority.

Heritage

Council produced and distributed a new leaflet called "Owning a Heritage Property in Warringah" to all owners of heritage-listed properties and those within Heritage Conservation Areas. This brochure provides detailed information in relation to the rights and responsibilities of owners of heritage-listed properties in Warringah.

The brochure was nominated for the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA) Awards for Excellence in 2004 and received a commendation.

The LEP amendment 'Outstanding heritage items and heritage anomalies' is currently with the Minister for Planning awaiting gazettal. Once gazetted this amendment will have the effect of expanding the list of heritage items contained in the LEP and correct any anomalies.

The Council has continued convening a Heritage Advisory Panel to consider matters arising in relation to heritage. Further, the Council established a panel of heritage experts during 2004-2005 and refers heritage matters arising from development assessments to this panel for expert advice.

Dee Why Town Centre

In 2003 Council embarked on a major urban design renewal project with the NSW Government Architect's Office in consultation with landowners to prepare a new Masterplan for the centre of Dee Why. The purpose of the Masterplan is to develop a "vision" for the town centre as a vibrant and attractive place to work, live and shop along with the provision of a high quality public domain.

The Council adopted the Dee Why Masterplan on 14 December 2004 with significant community support. The project is now focussed on delivering a new planning framework and accompanying development controls to bring the conceptual framework into reality. In 2005 the Council resolved to reclassify the Howard/Oaks Avenue carpark and this LEP amendment is progressing.

Section 94 Plan

A number of large capital projects were delivered in 2004-2005. Many of these were funded by developer contributions under Section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979. The total expenditure of Section 94 funds on capital items last year was over \$2 million. In addition, Council spent more than \$1.7 million on land acquisition, playground upgrades and library books.

The major capital items constructed using Section 94 funds are reported under Capital Works Management in this report.

Section 94 contributions received from developers in 2004-2005 totalled \$5.4 million. Expenditure in 2004-2005 totalled \$2.7 million. The Council has a Section 94 Contribution Plan outlining how these funds are spent available for viewing at www.warringah.nsw.gov.au

INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Construction

Key highlights for 2004-2005 included:

- > 1.2 kilometres of footpaths renewed
- > 150 metres of kerbs and gutterings renewed
- > 10 kilometres of sealed roads renewed

Hazard inspections were also carried out at least once in the year on all roads, footpaths, kerbs & guttering and bridges.

Drainage projects completed during the year included:

- > 2-4 Beach Street, Curl Curl. Reconstruction of approximately 20-metre length of pipe completed in September 2004.
- > 120 Allambie Road, Allambie Heights. Relocation of driveway and modifications to kerb and gutter completed in November 2004.
- > Dorset Close, Belrose. Pipe upgrade work.
- > Acacia Street, Collaroy. Upgrade of two driveway profiles in Essilia Street completed.

In 2004/2005 Council completed the following emergency drainage repairs:

- > 25 Ozone Street, Harbord. Redirection of Council stormwater away from the property.
- > 38 Dresden Avenue, Beacon Hill. Lining of deteriorated pipe.

A budget allocation of \$350,000 was made during 2004-2005 for the Oaks Avenue Stormwater Implementation Plan. These proposed works are currently on hold awaiting finalisation of plans for the Dee Why Town Square and adjoining area.

A budget allocation of \$100,000 was also made for removal of sediment in Manly Lagoon. This project required development consent from Council and this consent has now been obtained. The consent conditions required further works including the identification of a permanent area to place dredged sediments. The consent conditions also stated that dredging was to be undertaken in winter to minimise environmental impacts. These further works are now being completed and dredging will take place in 2006.

An additional \$300,000 was allocated towards stormwater condition assessment and priority work during 2004-2005. Council is currently undertaking a stormwater condition assessment, involving an audit to identify all problem area and prioritise remediation works. This audit is due for completion by the end of 2005.

One of the highest priorities identified by the audit is the remediation of the Collaroy Street stormwater outlet at Collaroy Beach. Council is currently developing a remediation strategy for this outlet and work will begin in April 2006.

Design

56 design projects were completed during 2004-2005. The total development value of these designs was \$4.1 million. Some of the projects undertaken included:

- > Brookvale Valley Local Area Management Scheme traffic devices
- > Roundabout at the intersection of Cavill and Lawrence Streets in Harbord – 'black spot' traffic devices
- > Roundabout at the intersection

of Charles and Ocean View Road Harbord – 'black spot' traffic devices

- > Detailed design of Ocean Street Reserve
- > Skateboard facility at Berry Reserve, Narrabeen - landscape and civil works design
- > Walking track around Dee Why Lagoon
- > Facilities Management
- > During 2004-2005 the Council was responsible for the maintenance of 250 buildings, 122 bus shelters and 6 rockpools.
- > Cyclical painting program of buildings completed, including
- > Narrabeen Lake Sailing Club
- > Queenscliff Swim Club
- > North Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club
- > St Matthews Farm public amenities building
- > South Narrabeen Surf Life Saving Club

Capital works projects completed during 2004-2005 included

- > Dee Why Swimming Club public amenities extension – new toilets and change-rooms
- > Warringah Surf Rescue building upgrade, Fishermans Beach
- > Construction of disabled public amenity, Brookvale Oval

Other major projects included

- > Rebuilding of Frenchs Forest Showground Pavilion
- > Fire safety upgrading program to community centres, childcare centres, surf life saving clubs, swim clubs and sporting clubs

All the Council's ocean rock pools were cleaned on a regular basis during 2004-2005. The cleaning roster for 2005-2006 is now available for viewing on the Council's website at www.warringah.nsw.gov.au

The Council's maintenance team responded to 800 emergency requests and 7750 work requests during 2004-2005.

Capital Works Management

A three year rolling program of capital work was established in 2004-2005 and is periodically reviewed and refined.

A ten year forward plan is currently being developed in accordance with the Asset Management Improvement Strategy.

The annual capital works program was regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure projects are delivered in accordance with the specification, budget and time constraints in the adopted program.

The following major capital works were included in the 2004-2005 capital works budget:

- > Frank Gray Reserve, Curl Curl - \$1,435,000 rehabilitation works. DA lodged awaiting approval
- > Playgrounds upgrade - \$200,00. Upgrades and improvements completed.
- > New netball facility - \$300,000. Ongoing investigation of suitable site.
- > Lighting at Passmore Reserve - \$100,000. Deferred pending resolution of location of new netball facility.
- > Extensions to Nolans Reserve amenities building - \$100,000.

Deferred pending resolution of location of new netball facility.

- > Ocean Street Narrabeen - \$1,400,000. 80% complete in 2004-2005, 100% now completed in 2005-2006.
- > Brookvale Park improvements - \$464,250. Completed during 2004-2005.
- > Berry Reserve youth activity area - \$114,000. Completed during 2004-2005.
- > Change facilities at Dee Why Rock Pool - \$140,000. Completed during 2004-2005.
- > Glen Street Theatre upgrade \$75,000. Completed during 2004-2005.
- > Dee Why Lagoon foreshore upgrade - \$414,427. Design completed, DA lodged, works being undertaken in 2005-2006.
- > New toilet block Dee Why beach - \$145,000. Amendments to the DA to be lodged by club in 2005-2006.
- > Harbord Village Masterplan \$80,000. Completed during 2004-2005.
- > Demolition of Old Dry Cleaners site in Dee Why - \$900,000. Amendments to DA lodged.
- > Willandra Road, Narrabeena, new footpath - \$140,000. Completed.
- > Dee Why headland, new footpath/ carpark - \$80,000. Completed.
- > North Balgowlah Local Traffic Management Scheme - \$60,000. To be completed in 2005-2006.
- > Brookvale Valley traffic works - \$180,000. Completed.
- > Forest Way/Perentie Road/Hews Parade traffic works - \$225,000. Completed.
- > Bus shelter Pittwater Road - \$30,000. DA lodged.

Reserves & Sportsfield Management

The following capital works projects were completed during 2004-2005 in Council's sports fields and reserves:

Skateboard facility, Manly Vale – 2004-2005 expenditure \$20,675

Ocean Street, Narrabeen foreshore park – 2004-2005 expenditure \$757,651 (fully funded through Section 94 developer contributions)

Dee Why Town Centre Masterplanning process - 2004-2005 expenditure \$106,984

Playground, John Fisher Park/Stirgess Reserve - 2004-2005 expenditure \$36,658

Youth Activity Area, Berry Reserve, Narrabeen - 2004-2005 expenditure \$54,099

Brookvale Oval, new public park - 2004-2005 expenditure \$601,805

Playground upgrades, Belrose Library playground; Brooker Reserve; Accessible play equipment at Collaroy - 2004-2005 expenditure \$229,317

Lighting, Lionel Watts Reserve - 2004-2005 expenditure \$24,946

Works Management

During 2004-2005 a three year asset management plan was developed to plan maintenance and repairs in future. The following work was carried out to infrastructure and assets during the year:

- > footpath trip repairs
- > pothole repairs
- > repairing and replacing street name signs
- > repairs to road cuttings
- > grading unsealed roads and/or shoulders
- > road cracking repairs
- > vandalism repairs (for example, broken windows or damaged toilets)
- > painting of buildings
- > maintenance of mechanical building components (for example, air conditioning or lifts).

HEALTH & SAFETY PROGRAM

Animal Management

Council rangers continued to proactively patrol the Council area to enforce the Companion Animals Act 1998. Council has been particularly active in enforcing the dangerous and restricted breed requirements which were introduced during the period. Dog attacks were a priority which resulted in several prosecutions and convictions of irresponsible dog owners. Council rangers worked with staff in Environmental Education to produce a range of educational material aimed at dog owners during the year.

A full procedural review of animal enforcement activities was carried out and new procedures will be implemented during 2005-2006. This will ensure our actions reflect new Council policies and changes in legislation.

Public Health Services

Council's environmental health officers carried out 701 food safety inspections to regulate food businesses and prevent food borne illness. An audit of 23 cooling towers was conducted to ensure compliance with relevant legislation relating to Legionnaire's Disease. Inspections of 124 hair and beauty establishments were conducted to ensure compliance with hygiene requirements under the Local Government and Public Health Acts.

Educational materials such as food safety calendars were prepared for distribution to all 610 food premises in Warringah. The calendar is an initiative of the Council which was supported by Manly and Pittwater Councils in their food safety inspection programs. The Warringah initiative will extend to all food businesses on the northern beaches and emphasises the benefits of regional cooperation on public health matters between Councils.

In 2004-2005 the Council's street cleaning staff removed litter from shopping centres, reserves, playgrounds and sports fields; carried out street sweeping as well as beach raking and cleaning and conducted a litter-bin disposal service for approximately 600 bins in public places.

SAFE COMMUNITIES

Beach Theatre

As part of a campaign to reduce property theft on beaches in Warringah, the successful Beach Theatre Project conducted on Manly Beach in 2004 was extended this year to Freshwater Beach.

Young drama students were recruited as volunteers to be trained by a professional producer to perform the mime production on the beaches. The aim of the project was to increase beach safety awareness amongst beach visitors in particular about the risks of leaving valuables unattended.

The mime incorporated three short scenarios "Swim between the Flags", "Sun Protection" and "Protecting your Valuables". It showed the wrong way of doing things and the consequences such as leaving valuables on a towel and a thief stealing them and was followed by showing the right way. This year the message also included "not leaving rubbish on the beach" and "not smoking on the beach."

Engrave Your Valuables Project

This project was launched in partnership with the Northern Beaches Police and Pittwater Council. Property engravers were made available on loan from all libraries in Pittwater and Warringah.

While recent data has indicated a drop in theft across the northern beaches over the last three years, property engravers can assist by ensuring property is easily identifiable and engraved, thieves are discouraged and Police can more easily recover and return missing items.

Spiked Drinks

The 'It's Beyond a Joke' Spiked Drinks Campaign was developed as a partnership between Warringah Council, Northern Sydney Violence Against Women Specialist, Manly Drug Education & Counselling Centre, Manly Council and Manly and Northern Beaches Local Area Command Police. The campaign provided beer coasters and posters were placed in licensed venues, easy to read information sheets for licensees and bar staff and training opportunities were also provided for bar staff and security.

Late Night Transport Project

Late night transport strategies were developed in a partnership between Warringah Council, Manly and Pittwater Councils and the State Transit Authority for partygoers on the northern beaches during the summer season in 2004-2005. The focus was to promote late night transport options available and reduce the incidence of drink driving, drink walking and alcohol related anti-social behaviour. This was done by providing information in the shape of a handy wallet-sized card detailing public transport timetables, taxi details, a route map and safe travel tips.

Launch of the Northern Beaches Licensing Accord

The Northern Beaches Liquor Licensing Accord was launched on Monday 8 November 2004 at the Harbord Diggers Club. The Liquor Accord is a Government led initiative driven and supported by the Department of Gaming and Racing, the NSW Police Service and the liquor industry.

The Accord formalises a coordinated approach by the liquor industry and other stakeholders to deal with alcohol related problems in the local area. Licensees, under the Northern Beaches Liquor Licensing Accord, will work together on strategies that promote safe use of alcohol to ensure the objectives of the Accord are met.

Launch of Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan

On Wednesday 8 June 2005 the Council's Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan was officially launched. The aim of the 'Safe Warringah' Plan is to reduce the incidence and fear of crime in the Warringah Local Government Area.

The 'Safe Warringah' Plan will be implemented over the following three years (2005-2008), and following endorsement by the NSW Attorney General, the Council can now apply for up to \$50,000 per year (for three years) to implement strategies within the Plan.

Four key areas have been identified within the Plan as priorities to be addressed:

- > Malicious damage and anti-social behaviour
- > Theft (from motor vehicles, break and enter and theft of personal property)
- > Assaults – violence
- > Perception of crime and fear of crime

Council's Rangers regularly patrolled school safety zones during drop off and pick up times to ensure traffic and parking compliance and to protect the safety of school children. Warringah Rangers are highly visible when enforcing these zones and this also helps remind drivers that parking restrictions are being actively enforced.

Rangers also continued to enforce the clearways on our main roads in morning and afternoon peak periods to help prevent accidents caused by cars parked in these zones. NSW Police also participated from time to time reflecting a spirit of cooperation to promote traffic safety, prevent accidents and enforce parking restrictions.

Again Compliance Services have reviewed the procedures in relation to these activities and will be implementing new standards for enforcement officers to follow. This will ensure Council's actions reflect new legislation, particularly in terms of Occupational Health and Safety considerations for the staff involved in these patrols.

Traffic Management & Street Lighting

During 2004-2005 the Traffic Committee met monthly with the exception of January. At each meeting an average of 25 traffic issues were considered.

The creation of a Development Application Assessment Panel during 2004-2005 has significantly streamlined the review procedure by ensuring that simple traffic matters are dealt with immediately as part of the development assessment process.

Approximately 150 development applications were formally referred to the Traffic Management team for advice and further assessment. Generally all applications were processed within 14 days.

During 2004-2005 the Council was successful in obtaining grant funding from the RTA for a roundabout at Lawrence

and Cavill Streets, Harbord. Local Traffic Management Schemes were developed for the Collaroy Beach and Plateau areas and major streets in Forestville. A consultants brief was completed for a parking and traffic study in the Brookvale East Commercial/Industrial area which will be carried out in late 2005.

All requests for new or improved street lighting during 2004-2005 were processed within 14 days.

Waste & Recycling

During 2004-2005 the Council provided a comprehensive set of waste services to residents including:

- > garbage collection weekly
- > paper and container recycling collection weekly (alternating)
- > vegetation recycling collection monthly
- > metals recycling collection twice per year
- > general clean-up collection twice per year
- > a waste education program.

As a result approximately 120,000 individual services occurred every week during 2004-2005. Data obtained during the year show that more than half of all residential waste was recycled.

As in previous years, a free drop off service was made available at Kimbriki Recycling and Waste Disposal Centre for Warringah residents to take recycling and vegetation.

On 1 July 2004 the Council's new waste services contract commenced, with improved environmental outcomes such as fewer truck movements in streets, through the use of single pass vehicles that have a divided body to

collect both garbage and recycling while keeping them separated. The other main advantage of the new contract to ratepayers was a reduction in the domestic waste charge.

ECONOMIC INITIATIVES PROGRAM

In 2004-2005 the need to mainstream an economic development function as part of Council's activities was identified. The objectives of the function include:

- > Stimulate local employment opportunities in sectors that improve the community, using existing human, natural and institutional resources
- > To work in partnership with the business community to ensure that the economy of Warringah continues to be successful and to maximise future opportunities to further improve the vitality and vibrancy of the area
- > To foster economic development through the implementation of appropriate planning mechanisms.
- > Funds were included in the draft budget for 2005-2006 to prepare an economic development strategy and implementation plan. Some of the activities to be undertaken in the future will include:
- > Improve and increase contact with the local business community
- > Form partnerships with local businesses to jointly develop business plans and marketing strategies for Warringah
- > Ensure the physical infrastructure/future development proposals help foster future economic development
- > Work in partnership with other agencies to develop and promote training programs aimed at assisting local businesses
- > Promote a positive image of Council throughout the community and with key stakeholders

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Strategy & Policy

Management Plan 2004-2007

The annual Management Plan was developed in partnership between Council and the community during 2004-2005 and presented the range of new actions and ongoing services to be provided over the next three years. It also contained the budget and fees and charges for the next 12 months.

Quarterly Performance Reporting

The Quarterly Performance Report is a report to the community on the commitments we made in the Management Plan 2004-2007. The Performance Report was presented to Council on the following dates:

- > September Quarter – 23 November 2004
- > December Quarter – 22 February 2005
- > March Quarter – 24 May 2005
- > June Quarter – 23 August 2005

Future Directions

Work on developing a new Strategic Plan continued in 2004-2005. Working parties comprising members of the community, independent experts, external agencies and Council staff met during the year to develop the goals and strategies. This document paints the 'big picture' of how the community would like the Warringah local government area to be in 10 or 15 years. The draft Strategic Plan will be placed on public exhibition early in 2006.

Review of Community Consultation Process

A review of the effectiveness and structure of the Council's Community Consultation Process was completed. The review resulted in amendments to the Consultation Policy to improve accountability and transparency. The amendment requires Council to keep stakeholders better informed of decision-making processes and the reason for any decision. The review also identified the need for additional training and consultation tools for staff and the establishment of a facility on Council's website to allow members of the public to track the progress of projects that involve consultation. These additions to the consultation process will be delivered in 2005-2006.

Bushland Policy

Work on a new policy and accompanying operational management standards for the long-range management of all Council's bushland areas began. The Policy and supporting standards are to be exhibited in 2005-2006.

Bushland Plans of Management

A series of individual plans of management was prepared for bushland areas. This included covering proposed plans for land at Burnt Bridge Creek and Carnarvon Drive. The first of the plans for Kinka Reserve was placed on exhibition during 2005-2006. All future plans are to be based on specific site analysis, with the first stage targeting high value conservation areas which was completed in June 2005. Further site analysis will be conducted in 2005-2006 with the subsequent exhibition of plans following this data collection. The project will also include an accompanying Urban Recreational Access Plan for bushland areas.

Landscape Policy

Preparation of this new policy was deferred due to preparation of the Warringah Strategic Plan.

Neighbourhood Parks Review & Plan of Management and Playground Strategy

This project was deferred due to preparation of the Warringah Strategic Plan. In 2004-2005 the Council began an analysis of its existing neighbourhood park holdings. The analysis is to determine whether the current number of parks match community needs. A similar analysis is being conducted in relation to Council's playgrounds. These two reports will then be used to prepare an open space plan for Council's neighbourhood parks and guide the future provision of playgrounds. The Council also formed a Playground Advisory Committee during 2004-2005 to help advise it on future playground needs.

General Community Use Plan of Management

This Plan covers the large number of generally small parcels of land Council owns that serve as pathways between streets, stormwater reserves and alike. This plan was prepared during 2004 and adopted in May 2005.

Social Plan Review Group

Resources allocated to this project were used in preparing the Warringah Strategic Plan. Planning for the Social Plan review has now begun.

Griffith Park Plan of Management

The draft Plan was delayed due to a number of community requests to review the location of the proposed new golf club maintenance facility. The plan is to be exhibited in September and October 2005, and considered by Council in December 2005. The plan review was in response to an application for a new amenities and sports club facilities and extensions to Long Reef Surf Life Saving Club.

No Smoking Policy

Council exhibited and adopted a policy to prohibit smoking in certain public open spaces, including all Warringah beaches.

Mooramba Park Plan of Management

Mooramba Park is a pocket park in Dee Why. This plan provided for a playground facility to be constructed in 2005-2006.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

New structure and two new Directors

After an analysis of the organisation and in response to a number of issues raised by the Daly Inquiry a new organisation structure commenced on 1 July 2004.

Under the new structure three Directors report to the General Manager.

These are:

Gary Thomson Director
Customer and Community Services

Lea Rosser Director
Corporate Services

Sue Francis Director
Planning and Assessment Services

Executive Management Team Building

During the year the Directors and General Manager have been working with Harris Smith and Associates to strengthen relationships within the new executive team and establish the new organisational structure. This has involved group work establishing reporting lines and how the team works together, executive decision-making and an individual mentoring program.

Warringah Transition Plan

A major focus during the year was the implementation of the Warringah Transition Program (WTP). The WTP is a comprehensive organisational reform program to address the issues raised by external reviews and the Daly Inquiry of 2003.

WTP had the following broad goals:

- > Restoring public confidence in the integrity of the planning system
- > Restoring the reputation of the Council with all sections of the community
- > Better involvement of the general public in the operations of Council;
- > Improving the administrative systems of Council;
- > Planning for the change in demographics of Warringah, particularly our ageing population and
- > Providing improved facilities for our young people.

Of the 30 WTP projects 29 have commenced with 17 being substantially complete or being progressively implemented, including the Warringah Strategic Plan. Other projects that have reached this stage include:

- > Review of the Code of Conduct
- > Review of the Consultation Policy
- > Review the management of legal services
- > Review of former planning structure (known as the Local Approval Service Unit)
- > Completion of amendments to current Warringah LEP
- > Reform of electoral process
- > Review of mediation service
- > Implementation of complaint management systems

10 of the 30 projects are running behind schedule through a combination of competing tasks and deadlines and delays in other projects. Two of the projects have been absorbed into new projects.

Office of the Internal Ombudsman

Statistics for the reporting period show a slight reduction in complaints to an average

of 8.67 complaints per month down from 11.9 per month in 2003/2004. Fewer complaints were declined and there were less preliminary inquiries conducted than in 2003/2004. There were 26 formal inquiries reported to the General Manager, which represents a 36% increase from 2003/2004 (19).

Considerable effort was expended during the reporting period to secure the appointment of an Internal Auditor, although unsuccessful at that stage. A comprehensive Internal Audit Program is to be conducted in 2005-2006.

The strategic focus of the Office of the Internal Ombudsman for the next 12 months will be directed towards:

- > Improvement in Council's procedures, policies, systems and training through the use of information obtained via the Complaints Management System and the use of Internal Audit based on a risk assessment methodology;
- > Implementation of an internal audit program
- > Continued provision of a high quality complaints management system;
- > Continued provision of high quality probity advice, and;
- > Assistance in the development of training relevant to probity and professional standards.

CORPORATE SUPPORT PROGRAM

Catering & Caretaking

Catering was undertaken during 2004-2005 for the following:

Council Meetings –	22
Citizenship ceremonies–	11
Awards/Events/Receptions –	16
Lunches/Dinners –	114
General Meetings –	390

Marketing & Communications

Key projects conducted by the Council in this area during 2004-2005 were as follows:

- > Preparation of a draft corporate communications and visual standards manual.
- > Implementation of a media planner and quarterly media content analysis reports
- > Distribution of an average of 3-4 media statements weekly.
- > Interior design standards for new Customer Service Centre.
- > Preparation of draft media and sponsorship policies.
- > Review of public signage and preparation of design concepts for suburbs, facilities, beaches and parks.
- > Upgrade of graphic design software and associated staff training.
- > Review and short-term upgrade of Council's website in preparation for new website by June 2006.
- > Renegotiation of Council's print advertising costs.
- > Development of suite of corporate colours based on the Council logo.
- > Preparation of standard templates for

advertising, website, stationery, key Council documents, newsletters and leaflets.

- > Preparation of design concepts for name badges, street banners and stationery for Warringah Centenary in 2006.
- > Production of quarterly staff newsletter (4 editions during 2004-2005).
- > Design and production of first issue of residents newsletter (distributed early December 2005).

Council & Executive Support

Council introduced a new program called 'Taking Council to the Community' during 2004-2005. Council meetings were held in Terrey Hills and Forestville, with over 200 people attending the meetings. A further meeting was held in October 2005 at Brookvale.

Council meetings are broadcast live on the Council's website at Dee Why each fortnight from 7pm onwards. The Council continued with the practice of holding a Public Forum prior to each meeting during 2004-2005.

All business papers, agendas and minutes were prepared and distributed in accordance with relevant legislation.

Customer Service Centre

This year the Customer Service Centre handled 58,501 monetary transactions.

In January, the Customer Service Centre reopened following an extensive renovation that has resulted in a more welcoming facility for our customers. The new open-plan Centre includes a meeting room, play equipment for children and computer access.

The Council's four Call Centres received 194,451 calls, with 84 per cent of calls answered within 30 seconds.

Overall data for 2004-2005 on responses to calls are as follows:

Answered = 89%

Abandoned = 5%

Deflected = 6%

An integrated organisation-wide Customer Service Strategy was developed for the Council during 2004-2005 and a Customer Service Manager's position has been created as a result of this Strategy and the Warringah Transition Plan. The new Manager's position will be filled early in 2006 and a major focus of the role will be the implementation of the Customer Service Strategy.

Financial Management

Major achievements in 2005 included:

- > The Council was the 13th Council to lodge its 2004-2005 annual financial statements with the Department of Local Government.
- > Staff trained in International Financial Reporting Standards.
- > EFTPOS transactions increased by 11.62% in 2005, reducing operational costs.
- > Tender awarded for insurance brokerage and actuarial services for implementation from 1 July 2005.
- > Appointment of consultant to prepare a Long Term Financial Strategy and model linked to Strategic Plan, incorporating asset management plans and future major projects.

Governance Policy & Projects

The Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice were reviewed and updated.

The Pecuniary Interest Register was updated and pecuniary interest returns completed by all relevant staff.

A Governance Health Check was conducted for the organization according to State Government guidelines.

Human Resources

Please refer to Section 428 (2) (m) of this Report.

Information Management & Technology

A new Library Management System called Millennium was implemented in all Council libraries.

Key benefits of the new system include:

- > Improved catalogue and searching capabilities for both staff and customers
- > Greater linking capabilities of customer records
- > Remote access for customers allowing online renewals, reservations and reading history

120 PCs and 6 servers were replaced and updated across Council. Aboriginal sites were added to the Council's computer mapping software.

DAs Online was developed through the Council's existing property databases, allowing customers to track the progress of any development application lodged after 1 July 2005 in Warringah. DAs Online is accessed through the Council's website.

Waste Online – allowing property-owners to access all waste information regarding their property – was also introduced via the Council website.

A cost reporting system for legal expenses was developed for the Legal and Finance teams.

Data collection for the compliance area was improved by adding regulated systems such as cooling towers. An enquiry facility was developed to allow staff to view all Members of Parliament correspondence received.

Standard upgrades of all the Council's major IT software systems were successfully completed.

Insurance

During the year there were 43 workers compensation claims, compared with 46 in 2003/2004, a reduction of 6.52%. The total cost of workers compensation insurance was \$267,840 in 2004-2005 compared with \$214,148 in 2003-2004, an increase of 24.9%.

There were 92 public liability insurance claims, compared with 96 in 2003-2004, a reduction of 4.16%. The total cost of public liability insurance was \$455,678, compared with \$432,574 in 2003-2004, an increase of 5.34%.

Legal Services

In 2004-2005 an in-house legal team was established comprising two lawyers and one paralegal officer. During the year 19 appeals relating to the Land & Environment Court were managed, compared with 31 during the previous year. The tender for legal services was reviewed and a panel of external solicitors established in December 2004.

For full details of legal appeals and cases refer to Section 428 (2) (e) Legal Proceedings elsewhere in this report.

Property Management

All Council's commercial and residential properties were let 100% of the time.

Administrative arrangements for the sale, purchase or management of Council properties were progressed within one month of Council's decision.

Rates

A new banking and collection services tender was awarded for internet and phone payment of rates, allowing for a 1% credit card merchant fee recovery fee applicable to all Council services other than those for children's services and community centres.

The Council's land assets were revalued and the land assets register subsequently updated.

Rates were levied on new valuations (base date 1/7/2003).

Refer to Section 428 (2) (s) for rates and charges written off during 2004-2005.