



Cultural Plan 2010 – 2015

Part 1 – Action Plan

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Foreword -

Tamworth's Vision is *"to be seen as the leading region in rural Australia because it is the perfect place to live, invest, visit and work"*. The Cultural Plan will make a significant contribution towards realising this vision.

The Tamworth Regional Council Cultural Plan 2010 – 2015 celebrates the achievements of the previous Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan and provides guidance for a way forward for the next five years. It illustrates the complexity, diversity and richness of the cultural life across the Tamworth region, and in doing so, highlights the key trends and challenges faced in the provision of cultural services and facilities.

In addition to the professional services provided by the Council, educational bodies and the private sector, an enormous contribution is made by volunteers across the region. In all, the Plan lists approximately 109 volunteer organisations that engage members of the community in the provision of a wealth of activities and cultural events. "Making our own fun" is an important aspect of life, particularly in the smaller communities where the arts, cultural and heritage calendars abound with interesting and vibrant activities.

It is well known that a robust cultural life is important to the health and wellbeing of any community, including the role it plays in attracting and retaining residents. A key role for Council, identified in the Cultural Plan, is one of provision of facilities and some services, and the generation of support and maintenance of social capital, which is essential to the sustainability of our community life. Collaboration and partnership with volunteers and community organisations in the not for profit sector is outlined in the Plan as a key way of communities working together to meet common needs and aspirations.

I commend the Tamworth Regional Council Cultural Plan and look forward to the continued development of our cultural lives in the Tamworth region.



James Treloar

Mayor

Acknowledgements

The Tamworth Regional Council Cultural Plan has been compiled following extensive consultation with Community Development Committees and Arts and Cultural Groups across the Tamworth region.

In particular I wish to thank the Chairs and members of the Community Development Committees at Barraba, Bendemeer, Kootingal, Manilla and Nundle for their willing contributions and support.

The providers of professional cultural services, including the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, TAFE, Department of Education and Training have been very helpful in providing advice and information, as have the Executive Directors of the Tamworth Regional Development Corporation and Tourism Tamworth.

Within Council I thank Bruce Mercer, Manager Cultural and Community Services and Genevieve Harrison Manager, Strategic Planning and Development for their major contribution to this document.

The Activity Managers within Cultural and Community Services Division have also provided much assistance in shaping this document. In particular I thank Sandra McMahon, Kay Delahunt, Kerrie Little, Steven Blanch and Michaela Stevens for their helpful comments.

Above all, I thank the many volunteers who work with such care and dedication to preserve our history and heritage, and play such a major role in contributing to the dynamic cultural life that helps the Tamworth region *“to be seen as the leading region in rural Australia because it is the perfect place to live, invest, visit and work.”*

Meg Larkin
20 April 2010

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Vision

Tamworth to be seen as the leading region in rural Australia because it is the perfect place to live, invest, visit and work.

1.1 Overview

The Tamworth Regional Council Cultural Plan 2010 – 2015 has been developed following a review of the previous Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003-2005; research; community consultation throughout the Tamworth region; and discussion with key service providers outside of, and within Council.

The Review of the Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003-2005 showed that much had been achieved since its adoption by Council. Highlights include:-

- The completion of the new purpose built Tamworth Regional Gallery and Library in December 2004
- Completion of the Capitol Theatre in November 2008
- Installation of tiered seating at the TRECC
- Feasibility study for the resiting of the Norm Mackellar Stage (as part of the Fitzroy Street/Bicentennial Park Master Plan)
- Relocation of Walk a Country Mile to the Tamworth Visitors' Centre
- Review of the S94 Plan to encourage Developer contributions to cultural infrastructure, in particular, public art
- Development and adoption of the TRC Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan
- Continued and expanded support of the Tamworth Country Music Festival
- Continued support of NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week, Seniors Week, Youth Week and other events that celebrate cultural diversity.

The TRC Cultural Plan 2010-2015 builds on the outcomes of the Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003-2005. It updates and extends the scope of that Plan to take in cultural resources and activities in all parts of the expanded Tamworth region, created by the Council amalgamation in March 2004.

The Plan addresses issues that are in the public domain and are of concern to the Council. It does not address issues in the provision of arts or culture by the commercial sector. It does not duplicate planning instruments for major operational activities of Council, such as the Tamworth Country Music Festival, the Tamworth Regional Gallery, Tamworth Libraries and the Capitol Theatre, as these have their own detailed Strategic and Business plans, either in preparation or already in existence. The TRC Cultural Plan seeks to address gaps that fall between operational areas of the Council and between the direct responsibilities of the individual Directorates of the Council.

The cultural life of the region is generic and evolves over time to reflect the aspirations, opportunities, diversity, interests and achievements of the people who live in, and who visit, the communities. It is not the business of the Council to order this cultural life, but rather it is their business to understand that an active and participative cultural life contributes to:-

- Maintaining a sense of place and a sense of distinctive identity and belonging;
- Encouraging inclusive, sustainable and resilient communities;
- Supporting guardianship of our heritage and participation in the maintenance of public assets;
- Promoting economic development;
- Attracting new residents to the region;
- Encouraging tourism and the development of creative industries;
- Promoting general social and community wellbeing; and
- Stimulating personal engagement and contribution for all age groups.

Because many of the items listed above are qualitative and difficult to measure, there are some challenges in developing a plan with distinct milestones and cut off dates. Rather there are a number of strategies suggested that are ongoing and will underpin the work of the Council, community members and volunteer groups in reaching towards their community aspirations. Throughout the consultations and research, much thought has been given to ways in which the Council could provide a basis of support and encouragement for communities to continue to develop and enrich their cultural lives without undue imposition or control.

Throughout the consultations it was evident that, while some of the communities in the Tamworth region have embraced the benefits of the relatively newly amalgamated region, there are still some areas where people work in isolation and have reservations about the benefits of

being part of a broader region. Within the framework of arts, heritage and cultural activities there is potential for groups to work together to overcome some of the barriers.

The dynamic nature of cultural life requires leadership and co-ordinated effort to support and guide future directions. For that reason three new initiatives are recommended, that will underpin the successful implementation of this Plan and maximise its benefits. These initiatives are:-

- The establishment of an Arts Advisory Committee of Council to provide advice to Council and work with the not for profit sector involved in the cultural life of the region;
- The appointment of a Cultural Development Officer to lead and co-ordinate the implementation of the Cultural Plan; and
- The implementation of a three year project, in association with Arts NSW and Museums and Galleries NSW to address a range of important issues relating to the preservation and development of Museums and Heritage collections and records of the Region.

1.2 Arts and Cultural Facilities and Venues

One of the outcomes from the research for this Plan has been to confirm a widespread acknowledgement of a high level of satisfaction with existing cultural facilities in Tamworth. People consulted have commended the Council on the completion, since the last Cultural Plan was adopted in 2003, of the Tamworth Regional Gallery and Library, plus the upgrade of libraries in South Tamworth, Barraba and Manilla; substantial upgrading at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre; the opening of the new Capitol Theatre and the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre

Outside of the city there are a number of public halls and museums that need attention. These are addressed in relevant sections of the Plan.

Future public facilities to be considered in relation to cultural services are:-

- An archival storage centre to preserve historical and heritage material;
- A central community resource facility that would provide meeting and storage space for a number of community groups;
- A review of the housing of museums and the possibility of a “Dispersed Regional Museum;”
- Upgrading and expansion of the Library at Kootingal;
- A new Library at Nundle;
- Assistance with major upgrading of the Nundle Museum; and
- Assistance with major upgrading of the Nundle Memorial Hall

1.3 Support for the Not for Profit and Volunteer Sector

The council is well aware of the massive contribution of volunteers to the community, sporting and cultural life of the region. “Making our own fun” is a strong characteristic and source of pride, particularly to the smaller communities across the region. Page 15 of this document lists over 100 not for profit organisations that underpin arts, cultural and heritage achievements in the Tamworth region. These organisations contribute enormously to the rich and varied activities that occur throughout the year. Issues of concern to the volunteer sector include, but are not limited to:-

- Training in governance, management, all aspects of event management and sourcing of funding, through fundraising and grants;
- Financial stress in maintaining activities and the pressures of continual fundraising;
- Volunteer burnout and succession planning – not enough volunteers coming up to replace existing volunteers;
- Confusion over how to access relevant Council staff;
- Groups working in isolation and a desire to work with other like minded groups across the region; and
- Financial support from Council in the form of a dedicated cultural fund (as distinct from the current all purpose Annual Donations Program)

1.4 Protection of our History and Heritage

The custodians of most of our history and heritage are volunteers. The dedication of the volunteers who run the many local museums in the region is extraordinary, but many are very concerned about the future of their museums and historical archives.

Since the amalgamation of the Councils that now form Tamworth Regional Council in 2004 the number of volunteer managed museums in buildings owned or managed by the Council in the Tamworth region has risen to nine. While some are housed in well preserved and well presented buildings, such as the Power Station Museum and Calala Cottage there are a number which need substantial repair and maintenance. Most, if not all the Museums are running out of space for the storage of their collections and records. The quality of storage areas in some instances is not conducive to the long term preservation of records. Not only do the Museums and Historical Society collections maintain our heritage and history, they also contribute to tourism in the region and attract a significant number of visitors, in particular people returning to the region to research their family history.

A substantial Museums Project needs to be undertaken to ensure the future preservation of records and collections and to assist the volunteers in moving forward and ensuring continuity.

The following projects relating to Heritage issues have been included in the Plan:-

- Address the provision of archival and collection storage for museum collections and records for the region;
- Work with Arts NSW and Museums NSW to establish a three year Museums Project under the management of a professional Museums Co-ordinator to work with the volunteers and ensure that collections, records, buildings and personnel are valued and preserved. This could lead to the concept of a “Dispersed Regional Museum,” where the local museums work together to retain their own distinctiveness while contributing to an overall regional collection;
- Investigate opportunities for the digitisation of historical records held in the Museums and Historical Societies, in a project to be managed by the Tamworth Libraries and ensure that these records are made available to researchers online and through the libraries’ local studies collections; and
- Continue to upgrade Museum buildings across the region.

1.5 Lifelong learning, recreation, economic development, tourism and population growth

The cultural life of the region has an impact on residents, potential residents and visitors to the region. The contribution of the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music is acknowledged and supported by the Council. The opening of the Capitol Theatre has added a new dimension, with strong support being noted from residents throughout the Tamworth region. The Tamworth Regional Development Corporation has included these two facilities in its marketing of Tamworth as important contributors to the economy and attractors of new residents.

Tamworth Libraries are well used, with some 48% of the population being recorded as members. Together with other adult education providers, the libraries provide excellent opportunities for lifelong learning and recreational reading. The need to continue the gradual upgrade of the libraries, by expanding the Kootingal Library and providing a new Library at Nundle are noted elsewhere in this Summary.

The Tamworth Regional Gallery and a number of commercial and community based art and craft centres and galleries contribute to a range of visual arts activities and interests and to the economy by providing outlets for the region’s many artists and craft people.

Recent changes in the educational emphasis of TAFE NSW to only teach courses that lead to employment outcomes have resulted in a loss of opportunities for amateur artists and craftspeople to upgrade their skills. These are catered for to some extent by local craft centres. An increase in the educational programs provided by the Tamworth Regional Gallery would assist in addressing this gap.

In addition to the Tamworth Country Music Festival, there are volunteer run community festivals in Barraba, Kootingal, Manilla, and Nundle which bring a number of visitors from other towns within the region and tourists to the region. Organisers of these festivals requested additional assistance and training to improve the quality of their festivals. Many find dealing with different departments of Council to be challenging.

The contribution of Tourism Tamworth in developing annual tourism strategies in Barraba, Manilla and Nundle was noted in the consultations as being a positive and helpful action in assisting local community groups to promote their events and tourist outlets.

Council's Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan provide a basis for ongoing celebration and acknowledgement of the region's diversity and special characteristics. Strong support was expressed during the consultations for the expansion of the Public Art Program to the smaller towns and villages outside Tamworth.

The following projects have been included in the Plan

- Continue to promote the availability and diversity of excellent cultural facilities and activities in all promotional material about the Tamworth region;
- Further develop the educational program at the Tamworth Regional Gallery;
- Provide additional support to volunteer organisers of community festivals; and
- Develop a region wide strategy for public art projects that celebrate the diversity and special characteristics of the region.

1.6 Support for special groups within the community

1.6.1 Young People: Council has a well developed Youth Program in Tamworth with a small number of outreach programs to outlying towns. The council supports Youth Week activities throughout the region. Further development of youth programs, in consultation with young people through Youth Forums in the towns and villages outside Tamworth, is an important consideration to engage young people and assist with local retention of young people beyond school years.

1.6.2 Indigenous people: Approximately 7% of the total population of the Tamworth region identify as Indigenous. This is higher than the state average of 2.2%. Council maintains a collection of Aboriginal artefacts at the Botanic Gardens, and supports the Aboriginal community through its involvement in NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week.

The Tamworth Regional Gallery supports Aboriginal Arts and Crafts through including exhibitions of Indigenous arts in its annual program of touring exhibitions, and through providing access to local arts groups to display their works in the community gallery in Ray Walsh House. For some time there was a group of Aboriginal Artists, "Gamilarart" operating in Tamworth, but this has now been disbanded.

Young dance groups such as the Gomeri Dancers are emerging and are supported through Council's Youth Program at "The Youthie," as is the Annual Cultural Showcase conducted during the Tamworth Country Music Festival.

Council is considering a policy in relation to the appropriate acknowledgement of traditional owners for public events in the Tamworth region.

The development of an Indigenous Cultural Strategy is recommended in the Action Plan.

1.6.3 People from Non English Speaking Backgrounds: The Tamworth region has a comparatively low population of people from non English speaking backgrounds, however this may change as the population grows. Council has been working with the Community Relations Commission for a multicultural NSW and is maintaining a watching brief on demographic trends and changes. Future participation in multicultural events may be considered, such as an event to celebrate harmony Day.

1.6.4 Our Ageing population and People with a Disability: Council works assiduously to maintain the safety of, and provide equity of access for, people with a disability. All of Council's buildings meet appropriate standards for access by people with a disability, as do all educational facilities in the region. The Action Plan notes the importance of including people with disabilities in groups that will assist with planning for cultural development in the future.

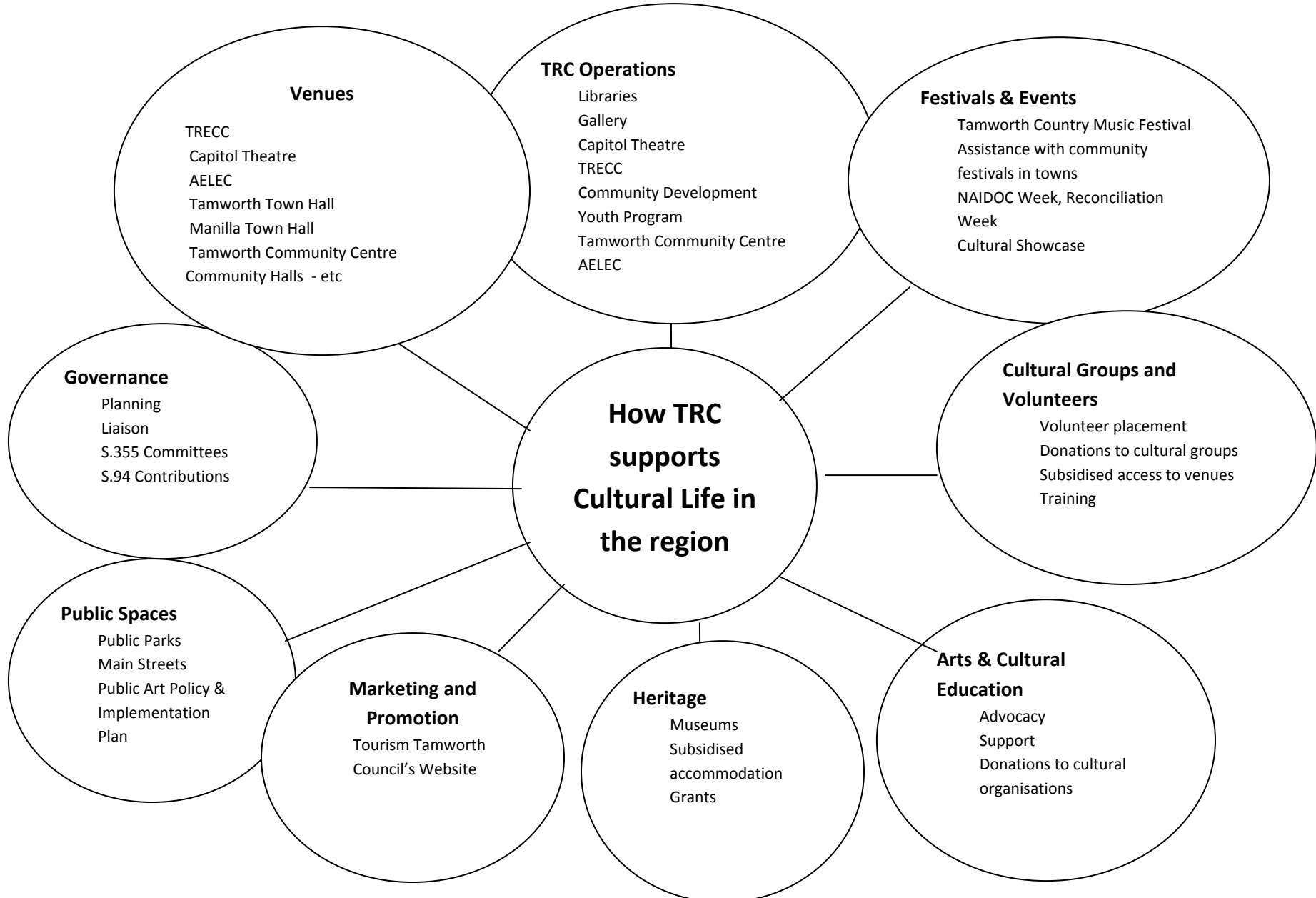
Challenge Disability Services has commenced an annual art competition through its programs across the region and has been displaying the results of the competition in the Community Gallery in Ray Walsh House. This initiative has had positive outcomes for the artists and the broader community.

The following projects have been included in the Plan:-

- Develop, in consultation with the Aboriginal community of the Tamworth region, a comprehensive Indigenous Cultural Strategy;
- Maintain a relationship with the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW and continue to measure the number of people from non English speaking backgrounds settling in the Tamworth area;
- Develop, in consultation with young people, a Regional Youth Strategy that includes the needs of young people in the towns and villages outside Tamworth; and
- Consider the inclusion of representation of the interests of people with a disability in an Arts and Cultural Advisory Group (if formed).

1.7 Conclusion

The Tamworth Regional Council Cultural Plan 2010-2015 acknowledges the dynamic contribution of a large number of individuals and groups to the cultural life of the region. In attempting to highlight issues that do not fall directly within current management portfolios, and those that require coordination across multiple portfolios in Council, the Plan seeks to continue to build on past initiatives and find new ways of working with the community to build on the uniqueness and "liveability" of the Tamworth region. The activities listed in this Executive Summary are considered to be the major initiatives for future development. The Action Plan also includes a number of smaller projects that are related to those listed in this overview.



2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Why have a Cultural Plan?

The cultural life of the Tamworth region is rich with opportunities for participation in cultural events, for a career as a professional artist, for contribution as a volunteer and for personal and professional development as an amateur artist participating in an abundance of arts and crafts programs and groups.

Cultural Planning is not compulsory for Local Government in NSW, however Councils are strongly encouraged to create Cultural Plans to guide their support for the needs of their communities. State and Federal arts agencies frequently favour Councils that have Cultural Plans, as it enables their funding programs to assess a particular Council's commitment to cultural development, through an overview of activities currently occurring within a council area, and to consider how the particular funding will enhance the planned development of arts and cultural life within the local government area.

Relationship to other Plans

The TRC Cultural Plan takes into account the NSW State Plan and the Tamworth Regional Council's Community Strategic Plan.

The NSW State Plan

Objectives within the NSW State plan that are relevant to the TRC Cultural Plan include:-

- Increase the number of people participating in the arts and cultural activity;
- Increase the number of people engaged in Volunteering;
- [Increase opportunities for] children and young people; and
- [Provide] access to services for the elderly and planning for an ageing population.

Tamworth Regional Council Community Strategic Plan

Local Government is required to create a Community Strategic Plan, *"...that has been developed and endorsed by the Council and that identifies the main priorities and aspirations for the future of the local government area covering a period of at least 10 years from when the plan is endorsed"* (NSW Local Government Act S402 (1)).

The Action Plan attached to the TRC Cultural Plan has been arranged to follow the relevant *Themes and Strategic Objectives* of the TRC Community Strategic Plan, namely.

Theme - A Spirit of Community

Outcome 1 : A caring community – where people will be supported by appropriate services, there will be a range of facilities that will be accessible for all people, there will be a strong focus on the safety and health of our community, our social and cultural heritage will be protected and conserved.

Outcome 2 – An involved community – Our citizens, Council, other stakeholders and other levels of government will co-operate to address local and regional issues and shape our future.

Outcome 3 – A community of cultural and recreational opportunity – Our region will have a wide selection of recreational and cultural activities that cater for the diverse needs of our citizens and visitors.

Theme – A Prosperous Region

Outcome 4 – A strong regional economy – Our regional economy will provide opportunity for growth and investment, our town centres will be unique, vibrant and attractive, our business activities will be well managed.

Outcome 5 – A significant tourist and events destination – the features of our region will attract national and international recognition.

Theme – A Sustainable Region

Outcome 8 – Excellence in regional planning and development. – Our places and spaces will be attractive, liveable, sustainable, and enhance our region.

Outcome 9 – A healthy natural and built environment – Our natural and built environment will be conserved and sustainably managed for current and future generations.

Many of the operational areas of Council, such as the Libraries, the Regional Gallery, the Tamworth Country Music Festival have their own strategic and business plans. The Cultural Plan attempts to cover issues that are not addressed in these operational plans, or that fall between the different operational areas of Council.

2.2 Defining Culture

Regional Arts Australia, the national advocacy and industry development body for the arts in regional Australia undertook a national survey in 2009 to seek the views of the one-in-three Australians who live in regional, rural and remote Australia.

People responding to the national consultation (estimated as 85,000 people reached by participation in community consultations and email surveys) requested that arts and culture in regional Australia should be concerned with five main goals, namely:

- *Building a strong sense of purpose and identity;*
- *Developing inclusive and resilient communities;*
- *Engaging young people in creating regional futures;*
- *Health and wellbeing; and*
- *Environmental sustainability.*

NSW – Department of Local Government – Cultural Planning Guidelines provides the following definition of culture.

Culture in its widest sense is about what matters to people and communities. It is about relationships, shared memories and experiences. It is about identity, history and sense of place. It is about the different cultural and religious backgrounds found in most communities. It is about things we consider passing on to future generations. It is our way of connecting the present with the past and the future.

The document notes that “culture” has three dimensions

- *Our sense of place, our values and our identity;*
- *The material products of creative processes; and*
- *Our engagement in and participation in creative processes.*

Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003-2005 (page 4) defines culture as “*all of the customs and activities which constitute lifestyle. It includes:-*

- *Design and ownership of public buildings/spaces;*
- *Community events;*
- *Heritage and history;*

- *Visual and performing arts;*
- *Popular entertainment; and*
- *All other forms of creative activity.*

2.3 Regional Demographic

Population figures used are quoted from the Tamworth Regional Council's Management Plan 2009/2012.

- The estimated resident population of the Tamworth region on 30 June 2008 was 57,182.
- Measured against the NSW average, there is a smaller proportion of people born overseas, and/or from a non-English speaking background. Overall 5.1% of the Tamworth population were born overseas, compared with 23.8% in NSW. 2.0% were from non-English speaking backgrounds, compared with 16.8% in NSW.
- Tamworth has a relatively large percentage of Indigenous people, with 7% of the population declaring Aboriginality compared to the state average of 2.2% .
- The largest changes in the Tamworth population in recent years have been a significant increase in the number of people over the age of 50. (Approximately 34% of the population)
- The population statistics show a drop in the number of 18 to 24 year olds remaining in the region following secondary school as many leave for study and work.
- The Cultural Plan takes account of creating meaningful activities for the increasing number of older people within the community and the difficulties experienced in retaining young people in the region.

2.4 Not for profit organisations supporting arts cultural and heritage in the Tamworth region

Barraba

- Barraba Community Development Committee
- Arts Barraba
- Barraba Potters and Craft Guild – Clay Pan
- Barraba Festival Committee
- Barraba Shire Band
- Barrapella Vocal Group
- Frost Over Barraba
- Nandewar Historical Society
- Nandewar Historical Museum
- Barraba Branch Library
- Tourism Barraba
- Barraba Central School and other schools
- Barraba Book Club
- Barraba Chess Club
- Barraba Combined Pensioners and Senior Citizens
- Barraba Information Centre Museum

Bendemeer

- Bendemeer Community Development Committee

- Bendemeer Art Show
- Bendemeer CWA Players
- Bowery Inn Craft Centre Art and Craft Cooperative
- School Choir
- Ruth Matthews – Theatre and Cabaret
- “Beat the Heat Festival Committee (in development)
- Bendemeer Bush Poetry Festival
- Grey Fergie Muster

Kootingal

- Kootingal Community Development Committee
- Kootingal CWA
- Kootingal Lions Club
- New England Knitters Guild
- Quilters
- Kootingal Book Club

Manilla

- Manilla Community Development Committee
- Manilla Art and Craft Society Inc

- Manilla and District Country Music Association Inc
- Manilla Matters Committee
- Manilla Creative Artists
- Manilla Band
- Manilla School Band
- Manellae Lodge Men’s Choir
- Manilla Historical Society
- Manilla Pipe Band
- Manilla Central School Band
- Manilla Vintage Machinery Group
- Manilla Library Local History Collection
- Manilla and District Historical Society
- Manilla and District Historical Museum
- Manilla Vintage Machinery Collection

Nundle

- Nundle Community Development Committee
- CWA and Art Show
- Nundle Museum
- Nundle Go for Gold Festival

- Nundle Gourmet Picnic
- Monday Craft Ladies (Hanging Rock)
- Nundle School
- Nundle Museum
- Nundle Lions Club
- Book Club
- Anglican Church
- Catholic Church

Tamworth

- Tamworth Regional Council
- Tamworth Country Music Festival
- Hats off to Country Music Festival
- Tamworth Regional Gallery
- Tamworth Libraries
- Capitol Theatre, Tamworth
- Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre
- Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music
- Tamworth Regional Development Corporation
- Tourism Tamworth
- Arts North West
- Tamworth Arts Council

- CMAA Australian Academy of country Music
- New England Institute of TAFE – Tamworth Campus
- Challenge Disability Services
- Tamworth Community College
- University of the Third Age (U3A)
- Australian Country Music Foundation
- Country Music Association of Australia
- Capital Country Music Association
- Tamworth Musical Society
- Tamworth Choral Society
- Tamworth Dramatic Society
- City of Tamworth Eisteddfod Society
- Tamworth Clarinet Choir
- Tamworth Poetry Reading Group
- Tamworth Highland Society Pipe Band
- Tamworth RSL and Citizens Brass Band
- Gamilaroi Dancers
- Tamworth Regional Craft Centre Inc
- Tamworth Embroiderers Guild

- Tamworth Hand spinners and Weavers Guild
- Tamworth Lapidary Club
- Tamworth Wood Turners
- Tamworth Philatelic Society
- Australian Blacksmiths Association
- Tamworth Historical Society
- New England Film and Sound Archive
- National Trust (Tamworth Branch)
- Tamworth and District Family History Group
- Calala Cottage Museum
- Australian Country music Foundation Museum
- Power Station Museum
- Walk a country mile Interpretive Centre
- Fellowship of First Fleeters – North West Chapter

2.5 Facilities and Venues

Tamworth

- Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre (TRECC)
- Capitol Theatre, Tamworth
- Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall
- Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC)
- Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, Chapel Theatre
- Tamworth Community Centre
- Coledale Community Centre
- School/TAFE and Church Halls and Auditoriums
- West Tamworth Leagues Club (West)
- Wests Diggers
- The 'Youthie'

Barraba

- The Playhouse Hotel (privately owned)
- Queens Street/Memorial Clock/Mall
- Barraba Bicentennial Centre
- Barraba Library
- Clay Pan and Fuller Gallery

- RSL Memorial Hall
- St Laurence's Church and Youth Centre (Thomas Jones Organ)
- Amphitheatre at the Preschool Barraba showground
- Sporting Clubs – Tennis, Golf, Bowling, Rugby
- Nandewar Historical Society Museum
- Barraba Information Centre
- Band room at the Information Centre

Bendemeer

- Bendemeer Hall
- CWA Hall
- Bowery Inn, Craft Centre
- Bendemeer Bridge
- Primary School
- Preschool
- Churches
- Bendemeer Hotel and River
- Anzac Park
- Fergie Flats
- Rodeo Ground
- Tennis Club
- Football Ground

Kootingal

- Kootingal Memorial Hall

- Kootingal Library
- Kootingal Community Hall (Dept Lands)
- Moonby House (Quilt Show)
- Kootingal Bowling Club
- Amphitheatre
- Anzac Park

Manilla

- Manilla Town Hall complex
- Manilla Main Street
- Luis Johnston House
- Presbyterian Church, and Church Halls
- CWA Hall
- RSL Hall
- Sporting Clubs – Bowls, Tennis
- Chaffey Park
- Pioneer Park

Nundle

- Nundle War Memorial Hall and Arts Hall
- Hanging Rock Community Centre/Cinema
- Nundle Museum
- Nundle Branch library
- Anglican Church
- Main Street

2.6 Museums and Historical Societies

Tamworth

- ❖ Tamworth Historical Society
- ❖ New England Film and Sound Archive
- ❖ National Trust (Local Branch)
- ❖ Tamworth Family History Group
- ❖ Calala Cottage, Tamworth Historical Society
- ❖ Australian Country Music Foundation (ACMF) Museum
- ❖ Power Station Museum
- ❖ Tamworth Family History Group
- ❖ Wax Museum
- ❖ Walk a Country Mile Interpretive Centre
- ❖ Fellowship of First Fleeters – North West Chapter

Barraba

- ❖ Nandewar Historical Society
- ❖ Nandewar Historical Museum, Barraba
- ❖ Barraba Information Centre Museum
- ❖ Shed of Knowledge

Kootingal

- ❖ Parry Council Survey of Historic buildings
- ❖ History of Kootingal, compiled by Kootingal School P & C, 1976 and 1988
- ❖ Moonby House – Heritage Listed

Manilla

- ❖ Manilla and District Historical Society
- ❖ Manilla and District Historical Museum
- ❖ Manilla Vintage Machinery Collection

Nundle

- ❖ Nundle Museum – Old Courthouse
 - ❖ Local Historian, Geoff Cummings
 - ❖ Church Boutique (Heritage Building)

2.7 Music, Dance and Performing Arts

Tamworth

- ❖ Australian Country Music Foundation (ACMF)
- ❖ Country Music Association of Australia (CMAA)
- ❖ Capital Country Music Association
- ❖ Tamworth Independent Artists Recognition Awards (TIARAs)
- ❖ Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music
- ❖ Tamworth Musical Society
- ❖ Tamworth Arts Council
- ❖ Tamworth Choral Society
- ❖ Tamworth Dramatic Society
- ❖ City of Tamworth Eisteddfod Society
- ❖ Tamworth Clarinet Choir
- ❖ Tamworth Poetry Reading Group
- ❖ Tamworth Highland Society Pipe Band
- ❖ Tamworth RSL and Citizens Brass Band
- ❖ Gamilaroi Dancers
- ❖ ECNAD Dance Academy

- ❖ Owl and the Pussy Cat Dance School
- ❖ Golden Oldies Dance Group
- ❖ Tamworth 50/50 Dance Club
- ❖

Barraba

- ❖ Barrapella Vocal Group
- ❖ Barraba Shire Band
- ❖ Kaluder Dance Studios

Bendemeer

- ❖ CWA Players
- ❖ Bendemeer Theatre and Cabaret Group (Ruth Matthews)

Manilla

- ❖ Manilla Pipe Band
- ❖ Manilla Central School Band
- ❖ Manellae Lodge Men's Choir
- ❖ Manilla and District Country Music, Inc.

2.8 Visual Arts and Crafts

Tamworth

- ❖ Tamworth Regional Gallery
- ❖ Tamworth Regional Craft Centre Inc
- ❖ Tamworth Embroiderers Guild
- ❖ Tamworth Hand spinners and Weavers Guild
- ❖ Tamworth Lapidary Club
- ❖ Tamworth Wood Turners
- ❖ Tamworth Philatelic Society
- ❖ Australia Blacksmiths Association

Barraba

- ❖ Barraba Potters and Craft Guild (The Clay Pan)
- ❖ Frost over Barraba

Bendemeer

- ❖ Bowery Inn Craft Centre, Art and Craft Co-operative
- ❖ Bendemeer Art Show

Kootingal

- ❖ Kootingal CWA

- ❖ New England Knitters Guild
- ❖ Kootingal Quilters
- ❖ Kaluder Dance Academy
- ❖ Cloverleaf Dancers

Manilla

- ❖ Manilla Art and Craft Society Inc
- ❖ Manilla Creative Artists

Nundle

- ❖ Nundle CWA Art Show
- ❖ Monday Craft Ladies (Hanging Rock)
- ❖ Hanging of the Quilts

2.6 Festivals and Events

All locations

- ❖ Australia Day
- ❖ Anzac Day

Tamworth

- ❖ Tamworth Country Music Festival
- ❖ Hats Off to Country Music Festival
- ❖ Craft Markets

Barraba

- ❖ Barraba Festival

Bendemeer

- ❖ 150 year celebrations in 2010
- ❖ Grey Fergie Muster (every third year)
- ❖ Beat the Heat Festival (in development, planned for Jan 2011)
- ❖ Bush Poetry Festival (1st Saturday in August)

Kootingal

- ❖ Pumpkin Festival in April each year
- ❖ Quarterly markets

Manilla

- ❖ Australia Day
- ❖ Platypus Festival (every second year)
- ❖ Easter Festival Churches Fraternal

Nundle

- ❖ Go for Gold Easter Festival
- ❖ Nundle Gourmet Picnic

THEME : A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY – A Caring Community

Outcome 1 A Caring community – Where people will be supported by appropriate services, there will be a range of activities and facilities that will be accessible for all people, there will be a strong focus on the safety and health of our community, our social and cultural heritage will be protected and conserved.

1.1.1. Improve access to services and facilities for people with a disability

The needs of people with disabilities are addressed through the Council’s Disability Action Plan and the various agencies that provide services designed to meet their needs. People consulted requested inclusion of people with a disability in a Cultural Advisory Group of Council, if formed.

ACTION:

- Ensure that an Arts and Cultural or Advisory Group (if formed) includes people with special needs.

1.1.3 Recognise and plan for the needs of an Ageing Population

Strategies that encourage participation in arts, cultural and heritage activities are important in planning for an ageing population. Not only do such activities provide interest and vitality, they keep people engaged in a number of ways that contribute to community well being and development. Volunteering in some of Council’s operational activities such as the Regional Gallery and Tourist Information Centre, participating in Friends’ Groups, participating in performance groups, preserving our heritage through activities in Historical Societies and Museums are some of the valuable ways in which older members of the community contribute.

ACTIONS:

- Continue to encourage participation in volunteering in arts, cultural and heritage activities for older people.
- Continue to support Seniors Week and other events that celebrate ageing in the community.

1.1.6 Promote the region as a culturally inclusive and diverse community.

Tamworth has a relatively high population of Indigenous people. The Council assists through participation in groups such as the Coledale Action Team, through assistance with NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week, and through activities at “The Youthie.” The recent emergence of the

Gomeri Dancers demonstrates a significant benefit of young Aboriginal people taking pride in their culture, and their willingness to share this with the non aboriginal community.

Council houses Aboriginal artefacts at the Botanic Gardens. The Art Gallery hosts touring exhibitions of Indigenous art as part of its exhibitions program. Celebration of, and pride in culture can have significant positive effects. The region does not have a comprehensive Indigenous Cultural Strategy.

ACTIONS:

- Engage with the Indigenous community to create an Indigenous Cultural Strategy for the Tamworth region.
- Collaborate with the Indigenous community on any future developments of the collection of artefacts at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens
- Continue to support Indigenous events such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week
- Continue to support Indigenous performance groups in the celebration of Aboriginal culture
- Continue to develop the Indigenous Cultural Showcase as part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival
- Continue to support Youth Week activities across the region

The Tamworth region has a relatively low number of people from non English Speaking backgrounds. However, it is anticipated that this may change as people move away from the cities. The Council maintains a watching brief in association with the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW.

ACTION:

- Continue to support the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW in addressing the needs of people from Non English Speaking backgrounds living in the Tamworth region.

1.1.7 Develop and maintain a range of community facilities and services that meet the diversity of community needs, interests and aspirations.

Since the amalgamation of the Councils of Barraba, Manilla, Nundle, Parry and Tamworth in March 2004, the management of arts, cultural and heritage services have been spread across three Directorates of Council.

Regional Services	Corporate and Governance	Environment and Planning Strategic Planning Division
<p>Cultural and Community Services Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries/CNRL • Tamworth Regional Gallery • Community Programs • Youth Program • Community Development • Cultural Development • Liaison with Arts North West <p>Recreation and Horticultural Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Keeping Place at the Botanic Gardens • Public Parks used for community events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festival and Events • S355 Committees • Public buildings • Community Halls • Museums • Marketing and promotion through Tourism Tamworth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Art Policy and implementation Plan • Gateways Projects • Economic Development Strategy • Regional Development Liaison through TRDC • Heritage Grants

It is agreed that the division of duties relating to the cultural life of the region across the Directorates has been generally successful, however it may be valuable for Council to look at this distribution of duties in any organisational restructure that may be impending.

ACTION:

- Review the distribution of Council’s services relating to cultural development with a view to creating better collaboration between the various Directorates.

People consulted in the development of this Plan were very supportive of the Council’s initiative in providing subsidised access to the Capitol Theatre, on the basis of a fee for the number of seats sold, for not for profit groups. These groups were concerned that access to their activities and events be maintained at an affordable level and therefore requested that the Plan include consideration of Council’s fees and charges for community groups to be kept at a minimum.

ACTIONS:

- Monitor fees for the hire of cultural facilities so that they are set at an affordable rate to ensure maximum community use.
- Monitor fees for the erection of promotional banners for cultural events/markets/fairs so that they are not prohibitively expensive for the community

- Consider Council’s contribution to CAPERS though further subsidisation of the use of TRECC

Consider increasing Council’s Waiving of Fees budget and advertise this program through the media

There is a high level of satisfaction with existing cultural facilities in Tamworth. People consulted have commended the Council on the completion, since the last Cultural Plan was adopted in 2003, of the Tamworth Regional Gallery and Library, plus the upgrade of libraries in South Tamworth, Barraba and Manilla; substantial upgrading at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre; the opening of the new Capitol Theatre and the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre.

Outside of the city there are a number of public halls and museums that need attention. These are addressed in relevant sections of the Plan.

ACTIONS

- Undertake a feasibility study and design brief, and seek funding for a Historical Archive Centre for regional museums and historical society records and artefacts
- Support the Australian Country Music Foundation in their attempts to secure funding for a country Music Hall of Fame
- Undertake a feasibility study for a Community Resource Centre that provides meeting and storage space for a range of community not for profit organisations
- Undertake a study of the accommodation of museums across the region and the possibility of a “Dispersed Regional Museum”
- Undertake an expansion of the Library at Kootingal, in conjunction with a review of the needs of the Kootingal Memorial Hall
- Undertake planning for a new Library at Nundle, with a view to seeking grant funding from the State Government.
- Provide assistance to the Nundle Lions Club with major upgrading of the Nundle Museum
- Provide assistance to the Nundle Memorial Hall Committee in their quest for funding for major upgrading of the Nundle Memorial Hall

THEME : A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY – An involved community

Outcome 2. An Involved community - Our citizens, Council, other stakeholders and other levels of government will co-operate to address local and regional issues and shape our future.

2.1.2 Engage with the community and develop constructive partnerships in the delivery of services and facilities

Council’s contribution to the cultural life of the region

Tamworth Regional Council is a major provider of arts and cultural infrastructure, provider of services and supporter of cultural activity throughout the region. The Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003-2005 made provision for the establishment of an Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, as a Committee of Council, to liaise with arts and cultural groups and facilitate opportunities for networking and for shared activities and promotions. The Terms of Reference required that the Committee host two forums per year to consult with representatives from the groups, to keep Council informed and provide input into the Annual Management Plan. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee operated throughout 2003, but was disbanded in March 2004 at the time of the amalgamation. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee was not reconstituted when the new Council was elected in September 2004.

In the consultations for the preparation of this Cultural Plan, representative of arts and cultural groups in Tamworth were very much in favour of the establishment of a new Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee. Representatives again favoured twice yearly meetings, convened by the Committee to bring the groups together for discussion of issues that are common to all.

It was apparent in consultations in most of the smaller towns outside Tamworth that the cultural groups work in isolation from each other. There would be much benefit in bringing volunteer groups together to share knowledge and information about issues such as event management, promotion and publicity and audience development.

Cultural Development Officer

A designated position of Cultural Development Officer was approved in the TCC Cultural Plan adopted by the Council in 2003. For a variety of reasons this position has not yet been established. Research into the value of such a position, and consultations in the preparation of this Plan have strongly supported the creation of a position of Cultural Development Officer as a priority for the Council. The position would have a responsibility for the implementation of the Cultural Plan, and would lead Council's liaison with the many arts and cultural organisations and volunteer community groups that contribute to the cultural life of the region.

There are many needs that could be addressed by leadership from Council and a collaborative approach with the arts and cultural community. Many Councils of a similar size and importance of Tamworth Regional Council have invested in a Cultural Development Officer with significant positive outcomes. It is recommended that should this position be approved, it be placed in the Cultural and Community Services Division. A position Description outlining the duties of a Cultural Development Officer are provided on Page 54.

ACTIONS

- Consider the establishment of an Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee to work with arts and cultural groups to lead the implementation of the TRC Cultural Plan

- As a matter of priority create a position of a Cultural Development Officer to work with Council and Arts and Cultural Groups in the implementation of this Plan – from 2010
- Encourage Cultural exchanges, through the Sister City program
- Through Council’s Youth Program, coordinate Youth Forums and consultations, annually, or as needed, with young people on matters relating to their needs and involvement with civic life
- Support the Tamworth Youth Program to deliver a range of outreach activities for young people in towns outside Tamworth

2.1.3 Encourage community involvement in defining and shaping the character and identity of individual communities

Tamworth is a new region. In the consultations it was apparent that some communities feel very much part of the regional community, while others do not. Consideration needs to be given to developing a greater awareness of belonging to the regional community while preserving the “distinctiveness” of each community.

In the communities outside Tamworth the Community Development Committees (CDCs) are actively engaged in the conduct of a range of community activities, including some highly successful festivals and related events.

The consultations with CDCs in Barraba, Bendemeer, Kootingal, and Nundle demonstrated the value of this form of dispersed governance in the smaller communities outside Tamworth. There is commitment, enthusiasm and a “can do” attitude in most of the CDC’s in the service of their communities. Most were already actively participating in festivals, arts and cultural activities and were working closely with Tourism Tamworth on local Tourism and Marketing Plans to promote a range of community and cultural events.

Some CDC’s however, expressed concerns at their growing volunteer workloads and burnout in meeting their communities’ expectations with limited resources and limited training. Many expressed concern at the number of different people they needed to deal with in Council when organising events.

Many members of CDC’s expressed a need for broader involvement and training and sharing of ideas, and showed a strong interest in being part of twice yearly meetings with an Arts Advisory Committee and in working with a Cultural Development Officer. An area which has potential for synergy is in the development of skills in relation to the community festivals across the region.

ACTIONS

- Continue to support and engage Community Development Committees and local arts groups in the presentation of community festivals and events
- Provide assistance with events such as the Barraba Festival, particularly with reference to training and supporting volunteers, and in seeking grant funding
- Provide advice and assistance with the development of the proposed “Beat the Heat” festival at Bendemeer
- Provide advice and assistance with the development of the “Pumpkin Festival” in Kootingal
- Provide advice and assistance with the redevelopment of the “Platypus Festival” in Manilla
- Provide advice and assistance with the “Go for Gold Festival in Nundle”

2.1.4 Enable, promote and recognise the work of volunteers within the community

Volunteers form the bulk of people involved in delivering arts cultural and heritage activities in the region. Council recognises the work of Volunteers through its Annual Donations Program, its Gift of Time Ceremony, and its Volunteer Placement and Training program which deals mainly with volunteers in the welfare sector. The consultations revealed a number of areas in which Volunteers require assistance to maintain their involvement and support for the region.

Many volunteers were unaware that Cultural groups are eligible for Council funding through its Annual Donations Program and suggested that the fund be reviewed with a view to providing a separate Cultural Fund.

ACTIONS

- As part of the role of a Cultural Development Officer, explore opportunities and resources to foster improved exchange of information, ideas, resources and projects between organisations involved in local arts and cultural activities
- Continue to arrange funding and sponsorship workshops for community and cultural groups relating to successful submission writing
- Approach Tamworth Community College and/or Arts North West to provide governance and leadership training for volunteers
- Review allocation of funding through the different directorates of Council to consider the best ways of allocating funding to arts and cultural activities
- Continue to hold volunteer awards on an annual basis to acknowledge the contribution of local volunteers in developing a vibrant and creative region
- Provide professional assistance in the recruitment and training of volunteers in Barraba, Bendemeer, Kootingal, Manilla, Nundle and Tamworth
- Undertake publicity and promotion of volunteering and the value of becoming a volunteer, throughout the region

- Continue to support and encourage volunteers throughout the region through the Volunteer Placement and Training Program based at the Community Centre
- Continue to recognise the contribution of volunteers through the Gift of Time celebration annually, and other opportunities as they are available
- Review Council's Annual Donations Program with a view to dividing the current Donations vote to provide separate funds for Community Development and for Cultural Development and increase the annual budget allocation
- Maintain the Council's Waiving of Fees Policy and increase the quantum of funds allocated for the implementation of this policy
- Continue to keep fees for the hire of venues to a minimum to encourage and support the efforts of volunteer organisations
- Continue to keep fees for the erection of banners to a minimum to support the efforts of volunteer groups
- Consider providing access to colour printing facilities to not for profit organisations as a contribution to the cost of promoting and presenting community based cultural activities and events
- Continue to facilitate specialised cultural training for working with people with physical, emotional and intellectual disabilities

THEME : A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY – A Community of Cultural and Recreational opportunity

Outcome 3 A Community of Cultural and Recreational Opportunity – Our region will have a wide selection of recreational and cultural activities that cater for the diverse needs of our citizens and visitors

3.1.1. Recognise and enhance cultural diversity and support cultural and artistic endeavours

Council supports cultural and artistic endeavours in many ways through its support of regional artists through the Tamworth Regional Gallery and through its support of the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music and through its provision of venues such as the Capitol Theatre, TRECC, Town and Community Halls. The consultations revealed a high level of satisfaction with this support.

ACTIONS

- Employ a full time Cultural Development Officer, as the central person to drive the implementation of the Cultural Plan and to support the many people who work in the arts and cultural service groups
- Undertake the development of an Indigenous Arts and Cultural strategy for the Tamworth region
- Continue to protect and preserve items/places of Indigenous and European heritage

- Continue to host touring exhibitions of Indigenous art when, and as appropriate, as part of the Gallery’s annual program of exhibitions and public programs
- Arrange twice yearly meetings between arts and cultural groups to explore opportunities for further activities, training and development
- Provide support to Tamworth Regional Craft Centre Inc in their efforts to obtain grant funding for construction of a Pottery shed and expansion of the Craft Centre
- Continue to promote arts and cultural events to all Councillors and encourage their involvement
- Continue to work with Arts North West in the general promotion of arts and cultural activities to the New England and North west region
- Develop a database of facilities and arts and cultural venues in the region
- Continue to use and promote the Tamworth Regional Community Services Directory as the main resource for information about arts and cultural groups and regularly update it
- Encourage the Tamworth and District Chamber of Commerce to encourage “street art” as part of the Community Craft Fair in Peel Street
- Continue to support youth bands, through the Council’s Youth Program and make this a feature of Council’s Youth Strategy
- Continue to promote the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music as an important cultural asset for the region
- Continue to support, develop and promote the Capitol Theatre, Tamworth
- Continue to support and develop the Tamworth Regional Gallery and the Community Gallery in the foyer of Ray Walsh house
- Continue to operate and market the TRECC through Council’s Events Division and Tourism Tamworth

Records relating to historical and cultural heritage

A major concern in undertaking the preparation of the Cultural Plan has been to consider the long term security and safety of valuable historical records and heritage items relating to the Tamworth region.

A second concern has been to consider how support of the region’s museums could contribute to future tourism and boost visitor numbers. Many of the Museums reported on the popularity of family history research and the number of people who revisit the Museums in each town to seek information about their forbears and former residents.

In the consultations it was very evident that there is urgent need for consideration of modern methods of document cataloguing and storage to preserve original material and to improve access. As scanning and digitisation of records is becoming more widespread and affordable, it is recommended that Council become involved in facilitating the care and control of records which may otherwise be lost. This could be done initially by the implementation of a project under the direction of a specialist Museums Coordinator and the Tamworth Libraries to provide expert advice and leadership to enable volunteers to undertake the work.

At the end of the project it may be possible for the Tamworth Libraries to take on the responsibility through a local studies program, to ensure that essential records are preserved and maintained for the benefit of the entire regional community.

In all cases the volunteers who run the museums, share a commitment and dedication to their collections and facilities. However there is much need for collaboration and support.

A key strategy of this plan is the consideration of the conduct of a three year project to update and upgrade the museums under the professional advice of a Regional Museums Coordinator. An outline of the duties of a Regional Museums Coordinator is provided on page 56 of this document.

ACTIONS

- Collaborate with Arts NSW and Museums and Galleries NSW in the appointment of a Regional Museums Coordinator, on a three year contract to conduct a project working with the regions' volunteer run museums and historical societies, to undertake a range of duties required to ensure the preservation of the regions history and heritage
- Undertake a study of the storage and preservation needs for historical records and artefacts relating to the Tamworth region held in Barraba, Manilla, Tamworth, and Nundle Museums and Historical Societies
- Investigate opportunities for additional storage for historical collections and records owned by the Nandewar District Historical Society, consider the digitisation of important records
- Investigate opportunities for a project to collect oral histories from the people of Kootingal, and to update the historical publication of Kootingal undertaken in 1998
- Investigate opportunities for updating and/or reissuing of historical publications relating to the Nundle area
- Re-establish a biennial heritage Awards program to recognise and celebrate projects which preserve and promote the city's history and heritage

3.1.2 Provide a diverse range of high quality and well maintained active and passive recreation facilities

A list of facilities and venues used for cultural activities and events is provided on page 16 of this document. The list contains both indoor and outdoor venues and also includes some privately owned venues that supplement Council's public facilities.

ACTIONS

- Continue to support, develop and promote the Capitol Theatre, Tamworth
- Continue to support, develop and promote the libraries throughout the Tamworth region.

3.1.3 Encourage lifelong learning to create a vibrant and economically sustainable community

Council's role in the provision and promotion of lifelong learning is implemented through its provision of library services, the education programs at the Tamworth Regional Gallery, its Theatre Program, Youth Program and before and After School Programs. Council also plays an important role in advocacy and support for other education providers.

ACTIONS

- Consider the appointment of an Education Officer to the staff of the Tamworth Regional Gallery to provide a comprehensive educational program relating to the annual program, adults and children; to develop educational kits; provide an outreach program for the region and to support professional development for visual arts teachers
- Continue to conduct summer art camps at the Tamworth Regional Gallery
- Continue to make the Esther Halliday Studio available to artists to conduct workshops and visual arts training
- Support the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music in its efforts to conduct music schools and master classes
- Support and advocate, on behalf of the Tamworth Regional community to the NSW and Australian Governments for the increase of music education in schools.
- Consider alternatives for provision of general interest arts and cultural education (outside the formal TAFE education system)
- Continue to vigorously promote the Capitol Theatre, Tamworth Regional Gallery, Tamworth Libraries and Museums across the region.
- Encourage the practice of regular story telling relating to the history of Tamworth at the Library
- Review the open hours of the Barraba Branch Library with a view to increasing access to five days per week
- Consider space requirements for the Kootingal Library together with future use for the Kootingal Memorial Hall
- Provide a new enlarged Library at Nundle
- Continue to support the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music through subsidised access to performance and rehearsal spaces
- Through the Tamworth Regional Gallery monitor the needs for arts and craft education for non award artists and craftspeople, following the withdrawal of access to non award courses by the TAFE

THEME: A PROSPEROUS REGION – A strong Regional Economy

Outcome 4 - A strong regional economy . Our regional economy will provide opportunity for growth and investment, our town centres will be unique, vibrant and attractive, our business activities will be well managed

4.1.1 Foster links between the various communities within the region

Finding like minded residents to work together on projects of interest to several communities would be facilitated through the establishment of an Arts and Cultural Advisory Group and through the services of a Cultural Development Officer to foster links between the various communities in the region.

Information about what is happening in the region is provided by Tourism Tamworth which operates Visitors Information Centres in Tamworth, Barraba, Manilla and Nundle. The Tourism Tamworth website lists arts and cultural events in its *What's On* section on its Website.

Tourism Tamworth, in consultation with the CDC's in Barraba, Manilla and Nundle, has developed Tourism and Marketing strategies and detailed annual action plans for each of these towns. CDC's consulted in each community in the preparation of this plan expressed their appreciation of the services of Tourism Tamworth in their support of local activities and events.

Tourism Tamworth creates and distributes New Residents' kits which contain a range of material suitable for people newly arrived in the community. Tourism Tamworth noted that the most sought after item of information in the new Residents' Kit is the Tamworth Regional Council Community Directory.

ACTIONS

- Use the position of a Cultural Development Officer to encourage communities to work together on projects and activities that link the communities in the region.
- Continue to work with Tourism Tamworth to promote arts and cultural activities throughout the region.
- Undertake a review of signage throughout the region and install prominent and distinctive signage to arts and cultural facilities and events
- Continue to work with the media and to develop greater and more consistent coverage of local arts and cultural activities

4.1.2 Provide for, and facilitate future economic growth within the region.

Some arts, culture and heritage activities are significant contributors to the economy of the Tamworth region. To date there has been no attempt made to measure the contribution of arts and cultural activities to the economy of the region. It is recommended that an audit be undertaken using a similar framework to the recent sports audit to assess the broad economic impact of these activities.

The Tamworth Country Music Festival is the prime example of how a Festival, growing over a number of years can contribute to the economy. Across the region a number of smaller festivals are providing a boost to local economies, in addition to building social and cultural capital.

With the strength of Tamworth's reputation for country music, there may be potential for developing the commercial production of music and film relating to Country music. Some commercial music studios exist, and there may be opportunities to support these industries through advocacy and publicity.

Development for individuals into employment in the performing arts, both within and outside Tamworth, is supported by the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, the Department of Education's Regional Arts Programs and the amateur musical and dramatic societies.

There are a number of commercial and community based galleries across the region, selling the work of regional artists. In Barraba, the Clay Pan and Fuller Gallery have been a viable business for many years, providing an excellent community resource and both a learning and a commercial outlet for local artists and crafts people. In Bendemeer, the Bendemeer Craft Centre serves a similar purpose for local residents.

Nundle, in particular has a range of arts and craft business that attract tourists to the town and provide a boost to the local economy.

Local craft markets provide a useful outlet for crafts people and their customers.

Annual art shows including "Frost Over Barraba", the Nundle Art Show, Bendemeer Art Show and local A & H Association shows provide outlets for regional artists and craftspeople so showcase and sell their products.

ACTIONS

- Undertake an audit of the contribution made to the Tamworth regional economy by arts, cultural and heritage events and activities, using a similar methodology and framework to the recent sports audit.
- Explore, with the Tamworth Regional Development Corporation, the possibility of promoting Tamworth as a music industry centre by offering incentives to existing industries to relocate to Tamworth
- Work with TRDC and Tourism Tamworth to promote Tamworth as having broad music industry capabilities (more than country music)
- Continue to promote the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, the Capitol Theatre, the Tamworth Regional Gallery and the Libraries as important cultural assets for the region, in all marketing material that promotes Tamworth as a choice of place to live
- Facilitate quarterly meetings with cultural industry representatives to encourage strategic and co-operative development of the cultural industries in Tamworth and region
- Continue to acknowledge the contribution of the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music as an attractor of new residents

THEME: A PROSPEROUS REGION – A significant Tourist and Events Destination

Outcome 5 – A significant Tourist and Events Destination. The features of our region will attract national and international recognition

5.1.1 - Market the region as a significant tourist attraction and destination

As Council has established Tourism Tamworth as its marketing agent, a number of ways in which the cultural activities could contribute to marketing region were considered.

ACTIONS

- Consider the publication of a brochure outlining the significant arts and cultural facilities and activities, to be included in material promoting the region
- Work with Tourism Tamworth to develop promotional strategies for participation in arts and cultural activities
- Highlight the value of the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music in any promotional materials and activities
- Continue to support Tourism Tamworth as the central ticketing agent for regional events. Encourage community and cultural groups to use Tourism Tamworth's ticketing agency
- Promote Tourism Tamworth's "What's On" listing to cultural and community groups and organisations
- Work with Tourism Tamworth to ensure that all information relating to arts and cultural events is being captured and disseminated throughout the region
- Encourage cultural organisations to promote themselves by use of local media and links to Council and Tourism websites
- Promote and support the new TRC Website that was launched in January 2010
- On Council's website, provide links to the websites of arts, cultural, heritage and history groups
- Continue to promote the TRC Community Directory as the primary source of current information about arts and cultural organisations in the Tamworth region and ensure that all groups are listed and that their entries remain current.
- Consider the publication of an arts and cultural promotional publication to be included in new residents packs
- Support the Tamworth Regional Development Corporation in its efforts to market Tamworth as a sophisticated regional centre with a number of excellent cultural facilities

THEME: A SUSTAINABLE REGION – Excellence in Regional Planning and Development

Outcome 8 - Excellence in regional planning and development – Our places and spaces will be attractive, liveable, sustainable and enhance our region.

8.1.1 Maintain and enhance the liveability and amenity of the Tamworth Region as a place to live, work and pursue a lifestyle choice

There was great support for the Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan adopted by Council in 2008 and a desire to work towards having public art that celebrates the uniqueness of the communities in the region.

ACTIONS

- Reinststate Main Street Programs that celebrate the history and special characteristics of each town
- Continue to implement the Tamworth Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan as funds permit
- Continue to encourage Developers to include art or craft works in all major developments
- Complete the Public Art Work in the Queen Street Mall in Barraba
- Investigate opportunities to celebrate the history and geography of the Kootingal area through the provision of public art using local granite
- Investigate opportunities for public art projects in Nundle that celebrate the special characteristics of the village

THEME: A SUSTAINABLE REGION – A healthy natural and built environment

Outcome 9 – A healthy natural and built environment – Our natural and build environment will be conserved and sustainably managed for current and future generations.

9.1.3 Manage built public assets for current and future generations

In relation to cultural buildings, many of the museums outside Tamworth are in poor condition, and are seriously lacking in storage space. The Nundle Courthouse Museum is not owned by Council, but is built on Crown Land and subject to a Trust.

ACTIONS

- Undertake a review of the conditions of all museums in the region
- Continue to progress the implementation of Stage 4 of the City Beautification Master Plan, including the re-siting of the McKellar stage
- Continue to develop and implement the Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan
- Assist, through Advocacy, the Lions Club of Nundle in its efforts to maintain and improve the Nundle Court House Museum

9.1.4 Promote and undertake conservation of built heritage

Communities consulted demonstrated a strong sense of pride in their local communities. Many were proud of the historical buildings within their towns and sought means of preserving buildings and maintaining signage that is sensitive and appropriate to the age of the buildings.

ACTIONS

- Consider reinstating the Main Street Program in Barraba, with particular reference to the preservation and appropriate signage of historic buildings
- Investigate opportunities for the preservation of historic buildings in Kootingal
- Investigate opportunities for the preservation of historic buildings in the main street of Manilla
- Assist, through advocacy, the Nundle Memorial Hall Trust in seeking funding for the refurbishment of the Nundle Memorial Hall
- Investigate opportunities for the preservation of historic buildings in the main street of Nundle
- Investigate opportunities for the preservation of the water races in the river at Nundle
- Investigate opportunities for the preservation of the historic cemeteries in the Nundle area

SUMMARY ACTION PLAN

Abbreviations used in this document

RESPONSIBILITY

C & CS	Civil Construction and Engineering Services Division
C & G	Corporate and Governance Directorate
CC & ES	Cultural and Community Services Division
ED & CP	Economic Development and Commercial Property Division
EMT	Executive Management Team
F & E	Festivals and Events
H & R	Horticulture and Recreational Services Division
S & PD	Strategic Planning and Development Division
TRDC	Tamworth Regional Development Corporation
TT	Tourism Tamworth

PRIORITY AND TIME FRAME

S	Short Term 1-3 years
M	Medium Term – 3-5 years
L	Long Term - 5 years plus
O	Ongoing

THEME : A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

Outcome 1 A Caring community – where people will be supported by appropriate services, there will be a range of facilities that will be accessible for all people, there will be a strong focus on the safety and health of our community, our social and cultural heritage will be protected and conserved.

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
1.1.1	Improve access to services and facilities for people with a disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include a position for a representative of people with a disability on an Arts and Cultural or Advisory Group (if formed) 	C & CS	S

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
1.1.3	Recognise and plan for the needs of the ageing population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to encourage participation in volunteering in arts, cultural and heritage activities for older people 	C & CS	O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Seniors Week and other events that celebrate ageing in the community 	C & CS	S
1.1.6	Promote the region as a culturally inclusive and diverse community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with the Indigenous community to create an Indigenous Cultural Strategy for the Tamworth region. 	C & CS	M – L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with the Indigenous community on any future developments of the collection of artefacts at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens 	H & R	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Indigenous events such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week 	C & CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Indigenous performance groups in the celebration of Aboriginal culture 	C & CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop the Indigenous Cultural Showcase as part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival 	C & CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW in addressing the needs of people from Non English Speaking backgrounds living in the Tamworth region. 	C & CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Youth Week Activities across the region 	C&CS	S
1.1.7	Develop and maintain a range of community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a feasibility study and design brief, and seek funding for a Historical Archive Centre for regional museums and historical society records and artefacts 	C & G and C & CS	M
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Australian Country Music Foundation in their attempts to secure 	C & G	S

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
	facilities that meet the diversity of community needs interests and aspirations	<p>funding for a Country Music Hall of Fame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a feasibility study for a Community Resource Centre that provides meeting and storage space for a range of community not for profit organisations Undertake a study of the accommodation of museums across the region and the possibility of a “Dispersed Regional Museum” Undertake an expansion of the Library at Kootingal, in conjunction with a review of the needs of the Kootingal Memorial Hall Undertake planning for a new Library at Nundle, with a view to seeking grant funding from the State Government. Provide assistance, through advocacy, to the Nundle Lions Club with major upgrading of the Nundle Museum Provide assistance, through advocacy, to the Nundle Memorial Hall Committee in their quest for funding for major upgrading of the Nundle Memorial Hall Review the distribution of Council’s services relating to cultural development with a view to creating better collaboration between the various Directorates Monitor fees for the hire of cultural facilities so that they are set at an affordable rate to ensure maximum community use. Monitor fees for the erection of promotional banners for cultural events/markets/fairs so that they are not prohibitively expensive for the community Consider Council’s contribution to CAPERS though further subsidisation of the use of TRECC Consider increasing Council’s Waiving of Fees budget and advertise this program through the media 	<p>C & CS and ED & CP</p> <p>C & G and C&CS</p> <p>C&CS and C & G</p> <p>C&CS and C & G</p> <p>C & G</p> <p>C & G</p> <p>EMT</p> <p>C & CS</p> <p>CC & ES</p> <p>F & E</p> <p>C & CS</p>	<p>S-M</p> <p>M</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>M</p> <p>M</p>

THEME : A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

Outcome 2. An Involved community - Our citizens, Council, other stakeholders and other levels of government will co-operate to address local and regional issues and shape our future

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
2.1.2	Engage with the community and develop constructive partnerships in the delivery of services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the establishment of an Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee to work with arts and cultural groups to lead the implementation of the TRC Cultural Plan 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a matter of priority create a position of a Cultural Development Officer to work with Council and Arts and Cultural Groups in the implementation of this Plan – from 2010 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage Cultural exchanges, through the Sister City program 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through Council’s Youth Program, coordinate Youth Forums and consultations, annually, or as needed, with young people on matters relating to their needs and involvement in civic life 	C&CS C&CS	S/O S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Tamworth Youth Program to deliver a range of outreach activities for young people in towns outside Tamworth 	C&CS	S
2.1.3	Encourage community involvement in defining and shaping the character and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support and engage Community Development Committees and local arts groups in the presentation of community festivals and events 	F&E	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide assistance with events such as the Barraba Festival, particularly with reference to training and supporting volunteers and in seeking grant funding. 	F&E	S

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
	identity of individual communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide advice and assistance with the development of the proposed “Beat the Heat” festival at Bendemeer • Provide advice and assistance with the development of the “Pumpkin Festival” in Kootingal • Provide advice and assistance with the redevelopment of the “Platypus Festival” in Manilla • Provide advice and assistance with the “Go for Gold” Festival in Nundle” 	F&E	S
			F&E	S
			F&E	S
			F&E	S
2.1.4	Enable, promote and recognise the work of volunteers within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the role of a Cultural Development Officer ,explore opportunities and resources to foster improved exchange of information, ideas, resources and projects between organisations involved in local arts and cultural activities • Continue to arrange funding and sponsorship workshops for community and cultural groups relating to successful submission writing • Approach Tamworth Community College and/or Arts North West to provide governance and leadership training for volunteers • Review allocation of funding through the different directorates of Council to consider the best ways of allocating funding to arts and cultural activities • Continue to hold volunteer awards on an annual basis to acknowledge the contribution of local volunteers in developing a vibrant and creative region • Provide professional assistance in the recruitment and training of volunteers in Barraba, Bendemeer, Kootingal, Manilla, Nundle and Tamworth • Undertake publicity and promotion of volunteering and the value of becoming a volunteer, throughout the region • Continue to support and encourage volunteers throughout the region through the Volunteer Placement and Training Program based at the 	C&CS	S
			C&CS	S
			C&CS	S
			C&CS	S
			C&CS	S
			C&CS	S
			C&CS	S

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
		<p>Community Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to recognise the contribution of volunteers through the Gift of Time celebration annually, and other opportunities as they are available • Review Council's Donations Program with a view to dividing the current Donations vote to provide separate funds for Community Development and for Cultural Development and increase the annual budget allocation • Maintain the Council's Waiving of Fees policy and increase the quantum of funds allocated for the implementation of this policy • Consider providing access to colour printing facilities to not for profit organisations as a contribution to the cost of promoting and presenting community based cultural activities and events • Continue to facilitate specialised cultural training for working with people with physical, emotional and intellectual disabilities 	<p>C & CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p>	<p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p>

THEME : A SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

Outcome 3 A Community of Cultural and Recreational Opportunity – Our region will have a wide selection of recreational and cultural activities that cater for the diverse needs of our citizens and visitors

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and time frame
3.1.1	Recognise and enhance cultural diversity and support cultural and artistic endeavours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employ a full time Cultural Development Officer, as the central person to drive the implementation of the Cultural Plan and to support the many people who work in the arts and cultural service groups 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake the development of an Indigenous Arts and Cultural strategy for the Tamworth region 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect and preserve items/places of Indigenous and European heritage 	SP&D and H & R	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to host touring exhibitions of Indigenous art when, and as appropriate, as part of the Gallery's annual program of exhibitions and public programs 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange twice yearly meetings between arts and cultural groups to explore opportunities for further activities, training and development 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to the Tamworth Regional Craft Centre Inc, through the Council's Donations Program and or/ provide assistance to the group in their efforts to obtain grant funding for construction of a Pottery shed and expansion of the Craft Centre 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote arts and cultural events to all Councillors and encourage their involvement 	C&CS	S

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and time frame
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a database of facilities and arts and cultural venues in the region 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to maintain and to use and promote the Tamworth Regional Community Services Directory as the main resource for information about arts and cultural groups 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to encourage Arts North West to seek funding for professional training for performing arts 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage the Tamworth and District Chamber of Commerce to encourage “street art” as part of the Community Craft Fair in Peel Street 	C & CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support youth bands, through the Council’s Youth Program and make this a feature of Council’s Youth Strategy 	C&CS	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain membership of Arts North West to encourage arts and cultural development at a regional level. 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Arts NSW and Museums and Galleries NSW for the appointment of a Regional Museums Coordinator, on a three year contract to conduct a project working with the regions’ volunteer run museums and historical societies, to undertake a range of duties required to ensure the preservation of the regions history and heritage 	C&CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a study of the storage and preservation needs for historical records and artefacts relating to the Tamworth region held in Barraba, Manilla, Tamworth, and Nundle Museums and Historical Societies 		M
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for additional storage for historical collections and records owned by the Nandewar District Historical Society, consider the digitisation of important records 	C&CS	L M
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for a project to collect oral histories from the people of Kootingal, and to update the historical publication of 	SP & D	M

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and time frame
		<p>Kootingal undertaken in 1998</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for updating and/or reissuing of historical publications relating to the Nundle area Re-establish a biennial heritage Awards program to recognise and celebrate projects which preserve and promote the city's history and heritage 	<p>C & CS</p> <p>SP & D</p>	<p>M</p> <p>L</p>
3.1.2	Provide a diverse range of high quality and well maintained active and passive recreation facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support, develop and promote the Capitol Theatre, Tamworth Continue to support, develop and promote the libraries throughout the Tamworth region. Continue to support and develop the Tamworth Regional Gallery and the Community Gallery in the foyer of Ray Walsh house Continue to operate and market the TRECC through Council's Events Division and Tourism Tamworth 	<p>F&E</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p>	<p>S/O</p> <p>S/O</p> <p>S/O</p> <p>S/O</p>
3.1.3	Encourage lifelong learning to create a vibrant and economically sustainable community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the appointment of an Education Officer to the staff of the Tamworth Regional Gallery to provide access to training and development for amateur artists and crafts people Continue to conduct summer art camps at the Tamworth Regional Gallery Continue to make the Esther Halliday Studio available to artists to conduct workshops and visual arts training Support the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music in its efforts to conduct music schools and master classes Advocate, on behalf of the Tamworth Regional Community to the NSW and Australian Governments for the increase of music education 	<p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p>	<p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p>

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and time frame
		<p>in schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider alternatives for provision of general interest arts and cultural education (outside the formal TAFE education system) • Continue to vigorously promote the Capitol Theatre, Tamworth Regional Gallery, Tamworth Libraries and Museums across the region. • Encourage the practice of regular story telling relating to the history of Tamworth at the Library • Review the open hours of the Barraba Branch Library with a view to increasing access to five days per week • Continue to support the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music through subsidised access to performance and rehearsal spaces • Through the Tamworth Regional Gallery monitor the needs for arts and craft education for non award artists and craftspeople, following the withdrawal of access to non award courses by the TAFE 	<p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C&CS</p> <p>C & CS</p>	<p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>S</p> <p>M</p>

THEME: A PROSPEROUS REGION

Outcome 4 - A strong regional economy . Our regional economy will provide opportunity for growth and investment, our town centres will be unique, vibrant and attractive, our business activities will be well managed

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
4.1.1	Foster links between the various communities within the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the position of a Cultural Development Officer to encourage communities to work together on projects and activities that link the communities in the region. 	C&CS, SP&D, F&E, H&R	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Tourism Tamworth to promote arts and cultural activities throughout the region. 	C&CS and TT	S/O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of signage throughout the region and install prominent and distinctive signage to arts and cultural facilities and events 	CC&ES	M
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with the media and to develop greater and more consistent coverage of local arts and cultural activities 	All Divisions	S
4.1.2	Provide for and facilitate future economic growth within the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an audit of the contribution made to the Tamworth regional economy by arts, cultural and heritage events and activities, using a similar methodology and framework to the recent sports audit. 	SP&D,TRDC, ED&CP	S/O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore, with the Tamworth Regional Development Corporation, the possibility of promoting Tamworth as a music industry centre by offering incentives to existing industries to relocate to Tamworth 	TRDC and TT	S/O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with TRDC and Tourism Tamworth to promote Tamworth as having broad music industry capabilities (more than country music) 	TRDC and TT	S/O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, the Capitol Theatre, the Tamworth Regional Gallery and the Libraries as important cultural assets for the region, in all marketing material that 	All Divisions	S

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
		<p>promotes Tamworth as a choice of place to live</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate quarterly meetings with cultural industry representatives to encourage strategic and co-operative development of the cultural industries in Tamworth and region 	C&CS	S/O

THEME: A PROSPEROUS REGION

Outcome 5 – A significant Tourist and Events Destination. The features of our region will attract national and international recognition

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority timeframe
5.1.1	Market the region as a significant tourist attraction and destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the publication of a brochure outlining the significant arts and cultural facilities and activities, to be included in material promoting the region 	TRDC, C&CS, SP&D	M
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Tourism Tamworth to develop promotional strategies for participation in arts and cultural activities 	TT & C&CS	L
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Tourism Tamworth as the central ticketing agent. Encourage community and cultural groups to use Tourism Tamworth's ticketing agency 	C&G	S/O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Tourism Tamworth's "Whats On" listing to cultural and community groups and organisations 	TT, C&CS,F&E	S/O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Tourism Tamworth to ensure that all information relating to arts and cultural events is being captured and disseminated throughout the region 	TT, C&CS,F&E, IT	S/O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage cultural organisations to promote themselves by use of local media and links to Council and Tourism websites 	C&CS and IT	S/O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support the new TRC Website that was launched in January 2010 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Council's website, provide links the websites of arts, cultural, heritage and history groups 	C&CS and IT	S/O
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to promote the TRC Community Directory as the primary source of current information about arts and cultural organisations in the Tamworth region and ensure that all groups are listed and that their entries remain current. 	C&CS and IT	S/O

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority timeframe
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Tamworth Regional Development Corporation in its efforts to market Tamworth as a sophisticated regional centre with a number of excellent cultural facilities 	C&CS and TRDC	S/O

THEME: A SUSTAINABLE REGION

Outcome 8 - Excellence in regional planning and development – Our places and spaces will be attractive, liveable, sustainable and enhance our region.

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
8.1.1	Maintain and enhance the liveability and amenity of the Tamworth Region as a place to live, work and pursue a lifestyle choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalise programs that celebrate the history and special characteristics of each town 	SP&D	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage signage to include local artwork and photography 	SP&D and CC&ES	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement the Tamworth Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan as funds permit 	SP&D	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to encourage Developers to include art or craft works in all major developments 	D&A and SP&D	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the Public Art Work in the Queen Street Mall in Barraba. 	SP&D	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities to celebrate the history and geography of the Kootingal area through the provision of public art using local granite 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for public art projects in Nundle that celebrate the special characteristics of the village 	SP&D	S
			SP&D	S

THEME: A SUSTAINABLE REGION

Outcome 9 – A healthy natural and built environment – Our natural and build environment will be conserved and sustainably managed for current and future generations.

Strategy Number	Strategy	Action	Responsibility	Priority and timeframe
9.1.3	Manage built public assets for current and future generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of the conditions of all museums in the region 	C & G	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a feasibility study for a “Dispersed” Regional Museum 	C & CS	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to progress the implementation of Stage 4 of the City Beautification Master Plan, including the re-siting of the McKellar stage 	SP&D and C&G	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake major repair and maintenance of the Nundle Museum 	C&G	S
9.1.4	Promote and undertake conservation of built heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider reinstating the Main Street Program in Barraba, with particular reference to the preservation and appropriate signage of historic buildings 	SP&D	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for the preservation of historic buildings in Kootingal 	SP&D	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for the preservation of historic buildings in the main street of Manilla 	SP&D	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist , through advocacy, the Nundle Memorial Hall Trust in seeking funding for the refurbishment of the Nundle Memorial Hall 	C&G	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for the preservation of historic buildings in the main street of Nundle 	SP&D	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for the preservation of the water races in the river at Nundle 	SP&D	S
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate opportunities for the preservation of the historic cemeteries in the Nundle area 	SP & D	S

ARTS AND CULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Potential Roles

- Provision of expert advice to Council in relation to the implementation of the TRC Cultural Plan
- Provision of advice and ideas to Council on ways to support local arts and cultural development as an important component of the region's economy, liveability, sustainability and growth
- Assistance to Council in enhancing community participation and consultation in the development of Council's arts and cultural events, public art and place making projects
- Leadership in the development of strategic initiatives involving the development of specific arts and cultural development projects
- Joint promotion and marketing of events
- Improving knowledge of governance requirements for volunteer organisations
- Provision of a conduit of information and communications between arts cultural and heritage groups

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Draft Duties

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL POSITION DESCRIPTION

1. **POSITION TITLE:** CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
2. **POSITION NUMBER:** R23NEW
3. **DEPARTMENT:** REGIONAL SERVICES
4. **DIVISION:** CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES
5. **GRADE:** *(PET Insert Date)*
6. **ORGANISATION RELATIONSHIPS**
 1. Position title of Supervisor:
MANAGER CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES
 2. Positions which report directly to this position:
None
 3. Number of positions that report indirectly to this position:
None
7. **KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES**
 1. Undertake the coordination of the implementation of the TRC Cultural Plan 2010 – 2015 as adopted by Council, annually review the Plan and make recommendations for the inclusion of priority actions in Council's annual Management Plans and other key strategy and operational processes and documents
 2. Assist as required in the development of divisional operational plans, business and management plans across the division.

3. Initiate, design and develop projects, programs and strategies to address identified cultural needs and opportunities in the Tamworth region
4. Work across Directorates in Council to develop and enhance participation in cultural activities across the region.
5. Seek grant funding and sponsorship opportunities to implement the Cultural Plan and other cultural projects
6. Provide specialist advice and training in governance and events organisation to not for profit arts organisations across the region.
7. Provide advice and support the community in relation to community arts and cultural development
8. Create and maintain a network of arts, heritage and education and related workers in the region and work with these networks to develop and promote participatory activities
9. Engage the business community and work with organisations such as the Tamworth Regional Development Corporation to identify and progress opportunities for the development of cultural industries in the Tamworth region.
10. Work with agencies such as the NSW Film and Television Office to promote the Tamworth region as a film and television location
11. Work with indigenous community representatives to develop an Indigenous Arts and Cultural Strategy that promotes Indigenous arts and enhances an understanding of indigenous culture in the Tamworth region.
12. Prepare for and co-ordinate public forums, community meetings and consultations as required.
13. Plan, lead and/or contribute to major reviews and change management initiatives directed towards enhancing the delivery of Council's cultural services
14. Influence outcomes by developing and maintaining effective networks with internal and external stakeholders including the development and maintenance of strategic partnerships
15. Contribute to the annual review of the Cultural Plan in terms of priority areas and community consultation
16. Advise Manager Cultural and Community Services on cultural issues and developments likely to impact on the region including funding policies of other government agencies
17. Network regularly with community arts/cultural groups, other municipalities and relevant arts/cultural organisations regarding current developments in arts and cultural issues
18. Work with the Public Art Panel for the effective implementation of Council's Cultural Plan
19. Integrated Management Systems (IMS)
 - Actively co-operate with supervisor/manager to ensure activities related to IMS safety, quality and environmental protection requirements are carried out on a day to day basis
20. Occupational Health & Safety
 - Immediately report any injury, damage, unsafe condition or hazard to the immediate supervisor.
 - Where protective clothing or equipment is issued it shall be utilised and in the manner intended.
 - Take reasonable care for the health and safety of all persons who are at their place of work.
 - Co-operate with the supervisor in the measures taken to ensure occupational health and safety.
 - Must not intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything which has been provided in the interests of the health, safety and welfare of persons at work.

- Must not aid or abet any persons in breaching the OH & S Act 2000 and its regulations.

21. Undertake other relevant duties as directed which are consistent with the employee's skill, competence and training.

8. CORE ORGANISATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. Communicate in an appropriate and effective manner, consistent with the requirements of the position, to enhance the image of Council.
2. Understand and adhere to Council's policies, Code of Conduct, and other legal requirements.
3. Comply with equal employment opportunity (EEO) legislation and with Council's policies and procedures for dealing with EEO.
4. Contribute to improved organisational effectiveness, by respecting other employees, by acting honestly and with fairness, and by working to achieve Council's and team objectives.

9. SKILLS, QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

SKILLS

Essential

- ◆ Excellent verbal and written communication skills, including the ability to condense large quantities of information and write synopsis; aptitude to proof read and provide comment on work, ability to present written report in a succinct and accurate format.
- ◆ Excellent interpersonal skills, including ability to effectively communicate with community and fellow staff in productive manner. Well developed ability to research and prepare submissions for State and Federal funding.
- ◆ Well developed ability to research and manage projects.
- ◆ Strong organisational skills for planning and facilitating public forums and community group meetings.
- ◆ Sound understanding of meeting arrangement and minute taking procedures for working groups and special committees.
- ◆ Ability to act in a self directed manner, demonstrating leadership, initiative and effective judgement.
- ◆ Ability to work co-operatively within a team environment.
- ◆ Well developed problem solving and decision making skills.
- ◆ Ability to prepare reports and general correspondence with a high degree of accuracy.
- ◆ Ability to interpret and understand Council policies and procedures in order to liaise and communicate effectively with the community and other Council staff to ensure proper and accurate understanding of Council's policies, procedures and guidelines.
- ◆ Understanding of corporate/management planning in the local government context.
- ◆ Ability to formulate for approval and implementation (once approved), procedures to support the effective administrative, planning and reporting functions of the Cultural and Community Services Division.

- ♦ Working knowledge of adopted Council Policies and Organisational Management Policies relevant to the Division.
- ♦ Computer Skills. Demonstrate a well developed general knowledge of computer applications provided, including but not limited to, Microsoft Word, Excel and Access Database and the use of Internet search tools, and a basic knowledge of Microsoft Powerpoint and Publisher.

1 > Basic Concepts of IT

The physical make-up of a personal computer and concepts such as data storage and memory.

2 > Using the Computer and Managing Files

The fundamental functions of a personal computer and its operation system.

3 > Word Processing

Creating, formatting and finishing a word-processing document, and using more advanced word-processing features.

4 > Spreadsheets

Developing, formatting and using a spreadsheet; using basic formulas and functions to perform standard mathematical and logical functions.

5 > Databases

Designing and planning a simple database using a standard database package; retrieving information from an existing database.

6 > Presentations

Creating, formatting and preparing presentations, using graphics and charts and various slide show effects.

7 > Information and Communication (Internet and Email)

Using a Web browser application and available search engine tools to accomplish Web search tasks; using E-mail software to send, receive and organise messages.

- ♦ Corporate Information Systems/Applications
 - TRIM Records Management System (All Computer Users).
 - Finance 1, Inquiries.
 - Finance 1, Purchasing.
 - Finance 1, Management Resources.

Desirable:

- ♦ Advanced skills in Microsoft Publisher and Powerpoint.

QUALIFICATIONS

Essential

- ♦ 3 year Degree in community planning or cultural development or a similar discipline, combined with extensive practical experience in project management.
- ♦ NSW Class C Driver's Licence

Desirable

- ♦ Research skills

EXPERIENCE

Essential:

- ♦ 2 to 3 years experience in a community development or cultural development field.
- ♦ Use of computer software including word processing, database and spreadsheet applications.
- ♦ Prior experience in a client service environment and working in the community.

Desirable:

- ♦ Previous experience in a research/investigation and analysis environment
- ♦ Knowledge of local government requirements and procedures.

10. SIGNATURES:

POSITION HOLDER:

(PLEASE PRINT NAME)

SUPERVISOR:

MANAGER:

DATE:

REGIONAL MUSEUMS CO- ORDINATOR

Draft Duties

Undertake feasibility study of the Museums in the region with a view to developing a Plan for a “Distributed Regional museum”

Review the physical conditions of Museums and their suitability to house museum collections

Provide leadership and assistance to the Volunteers in the following areas:-

- **Collection management**

- Conservation, particularly of records and photographs
- Collection display and interpretation
- Significance assessment of artefacts owned by the museums.
- Storage of records, including digitising and indexing of records
- Acquisition and De-acquisitions policies and procedures

- **Promotion, tourism, audience development.**

- Promotion of museums throughout the region including assistance with production of brochures etc
- Development of points of difference with each community to be developed by each museum
- Regional heritage based tourism initiatives

- **Financial resources**

- Assistance with funding, sponsorship, new ways of fundraising and generating income
- Training in management of finances

- **Human Resources and community engagement**

- Ways of attracting new members and volunteers
- Volunteer training
- Links with schools and development of educational programs
- Building partnerships with community organisations and service clubs
- Community education in understanding the value of the museum
-

- **Regional networking and planning**

- Sharing information
- Sharing promotion and publicity (Museums trails)
- Collaboration on research and preparation of publications

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TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

CULTURAL PLAN 2010 – 2015

PART 2

CULTURAL AUDIT

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Cultural Audit accompanies the Tamworth Regional Council Cultural Plan 2010-2015. It provides a record of issues discussed during the consultations and a short description of the principal organisations contributing to the arts, cultural and heritage life of the region.

The purpose of the Cultural Audit is to provide a reference point for the next phase of development for the region, and to be a guide for the people implementing the Cultural Plan.

In the preparation of the Cultural Plan consultations were undertaken in Barraba, Bendemeer, Kootingal, Manilla and Nundle. These consultations were arranged through the local Community Development Committees and by invitation to known arts and cultural groups in each town.

In Tamworth a different approach was taken, with consultations being arranged with different interest groups. Invitations were sent to Music and Performance Groups, Visual Arts and Craft Groups and History and Heritage Groups. Not all consultations were well attended, so where possible individual meetings were subsequently arranged with key personnel.

In addition, considerable research was undertaken using a range of online resources and literature relating to cultural planning, the Tamworth Regional Community Directory, local telephone books, media and event calendars.

The TRC Cultural Plan 2010-2015 has been formatted to comply with the Council's Community Strategic Plan. However, for clarity and to acknowledge the considerable input from various groups and individuals, the Cultural Audit has been divided into broad groupings, with comments on current strengths, and on the issues that need to be addressed following each section.

2. REPORT ON LOCAL CONSULTATIONS:

The following section provides a brief outline of matters discussed with each community during the consultations. The notes are intended to give a brief overview special distinctiveness and some future aspirations of each community. A summary of the main issues to be addressed in the Cultural Plan is provided at the end of the section on each town.

2.1 BARRABA -

Organisations contributing to the cultural life in Barraba	Community Venues used for cultural events	Community Events/Tourism/Businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barraba Community Development committee • Arts Barraba • Barraba Potters and Craft Guild – Clay Pan • Barraba Shire Band • Barrapella Vocal Group • Frost over Barraba • Nandewar Historical Society • Barraba Branch Library • Tourism Barraba • Barraba Central School • St Josephs School • Barraba Preschool • Barraba Book Club • Barraba Chess Club • Barraba Combined Pensioners and Senior Citizens • Kaluder Dance School • Towards Transition Barraba 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Playhouse Hotel (privately owned) • Queens Street/Memorial Clock/Mall • Barraba Bicentennial Centre • Barraba Library • Clay Pan and Fuller Gallery • RSL Memorial Hall • St Laurence’s church and Youth Centre • Amphitheatre at the Preschool Barraba showground • Sporting Clubs – Tennis, Golf, Bowling, Rugby • Nandewar Historical Society Museum Barraba Information Centre • Band room at the Information Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia Day • Anzac Day • Frost over Barraba • Clay Pan – 2 exhibitions per year. • Barraba Festival • Barraba Show • Cinema at the Playhouse (weekly) <p>Tourism destinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playhouse Hotel • Nandewar Historical Museum • Museum at the Information Centre • Fossickers Way • Woodsreef Village • Bird Routes • Family History research • St Laurence’s Church – Thomas Jones Organ <p>Cultural Industries/ Businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playhouse Hotel • Fuller Gallery at the Claypan • Barraba Gazette • Fibres and Beyond

BARRABA SWOT ANALYSIS

<p>Strengths What we value now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a beautiful place geographically • It is peaceful and quiet • It is a very connected, good natured community with a high level of community spirit • People are honest, it is safe, you can leave your car unlocked • We appreciate the fresh air and the bird life • Our volunteers are thriving • We accept and are open to people from different lifestyles and different cultures • The Play House Hotel has increased the number of activities in the town • The Clay Pan provides a social place in addition to being an excellent craft centre • Frost over Barraba is very well established and provides a great outlet for regional artists • The Tourism strategy develop jointly with Tourism Tamworth is appreciated and valued 	<p>Weaknesses – What we don't like about Barraba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water- Lack of water is limiting growth of the town, food production and maintenance of gardens • The Council amalgamation split the community into two new council areas • People feel they have lost their identity due to the amalgamation • There is a general sense of disempowerment as local governance (eg hospital board, Council) have been removed • People feel they are not being listened to by TRC • There is insufficient local input into decision making • Volunteers are burning out, with too many responsibilities and not enough resources • There are problems with communication throughout the district • The Nandewar District Historical Museum is very short of space and needs secure storage for records
<p>Opportunities – How we would like our community to be in five years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water – from water comes improved opportunities • A one stop shop for all Council facilities in the main street, with a cultural centre, library and information centre • Completion of the mall public art project • To have the library open five days per week • Storage and preservation for local history materials at the Museum • Preservation of the historical buildings in the main street. • Professional assistance to the volunteers, particularly in the 	<p>Threats – What factors are inhibiting progress?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the main street is no longer a project due to amalgamation • There are no heritage plans in place to preserve the Main street • The Museum is running out of space for storage of records and collections • Lack of music education in schools is inhibiting recruits for local band • The population is ageing

<p>Information Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Music education program in schools • A Drama Education program in schools • Support for the Festival 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are leaving for study and work opportunities • Water situation deters potential new business ventures and new residents
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Summary of priorities.

The Barraba community is very concerned about the future of the town because of severe lack of water, and this matter overshadowed much of the consultations. On the positive side, the community has well established annual events such as the Barraba Festival and “Frost over Barraba”, a very successful annual art show. The Nandewar Historical Society provides a comprehensive service relating to the history of the town and the Clay Pan continues to provide an excellent venue and commercial outlet for local craftspeople. The contribution of the privately owned Playhouse Hotel was widely acknowledged to be an important contributor to the cultural and community life of the town and district. The Nandewar and District Historical Society and Museum have been collecting local and family history for many years but are very short of storage space for collections and for records.

Priorities for development in the Cultural Plan are –

- Investigate opportunities for additional storage for historical collections and records owned by the Nandewar District Historical Society, give consideration to digitisation of deteriorating records, and provide assistance with boosting the number of volunteers assisting with the Museum (Strategy 3.1.1)
- Provide professional assistance in the recruitment and training of volunteers in Barraba (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Provide assistance with community events, such as the Barraba Festival, particularly in relation to training and supporting volunteers and in seeking grant funding. Action Plan (Strategy 2.1.3)
- Complete the public art work in the Queen Street Mal, Barraba and consider reinstating the main street program in Barraba, with particular reference to the preservation and appropriate signage of historic buildings (Strategies 8.1.1 and 9.1.4)
- Advocate to state government for the implementation of music and drama education in schools (Strategy 3.1.3)
- Review the opening hours for the Barraba Library (Strategy 3.1.3)

2.2 BENDEMEER

Organisations contributing to the cultural life in Bendemeer	Community Venues used for cultural events	Community Events/Tourism/Businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendemeer Community Development Committee • Bendemeer Art Show • CWA Players • Art and Craft Cooperative/Bendemeer Craft Centre • School Choir • Ruth Matthews – Theatre and Cabaret 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendemeer Hall • CWA Hall • Bowery Inn, Craft Centre • Bendemeer Bridge • Primary School • Preschool • Churches • Bendemeer Hotel and River • Anzac Park • Fergie Flats • Rodeo Ground • Tennis Club • Football Ground 	<p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia Day • Anzac Day • Bendemeer Art Show (April) • “Beat the Heat” Festival (planned for 2011 and beyond) • CWA Players – 3 shows per year • Great Fergie Muster (every 3rd year) • Bush Poetry (August) <p>Tourism destinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McDonald River • Bendemeer Bridge • Historic Buildings in the town

BENDEMEER SWOT ANALYSIS

<p>Strengths What we value now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The smallness of the community • The distinctiveness of the seasons • The people – sense of community • The River/beach/trout/swimming • The Bendemeer Bridge • Tamworth people picnicking by the river 	<p>Weaknesses – What we don't like about Bendemeer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fact that the community is divided over camping area issues • Difficulties in attracting new volunteers to be involved in community activities
<p>Opportunities – How we would like our community to be in five years In five years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Beat the Heat to be a successful festival in the week prior to the Tamworth Country Music Festival • Community Centre/Rural Transaction Centre/Internet Access and Homework Centre for young people • To be trained in preparing for and running festivals 	<p>Threats –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people go away to schools and work. There is very little for young people to do after school and weekends. There is difficulty in finding anyone to run youth programs.

Summary of priorities

People consulted in Bendemeer were very committed to the community life of the village and were interested in a forward looking program of events to celebrate the beauty of the area, the heritage of the town, including celebrations for the Bendemeer Bridge and ideas for a new festival, “Beat the Heat” beginning in 2011, is aimed to bring people to the town in the week building up to the Tamworth Country Music Festival. Assistance to existing volunteers, and the attraction of new volunteers was of concern.

Priorities for Development

- Provide advice and assistance with the development of the proposed “Beat the Heat” Festival in Bendemeer (Strategy 2.1.3)
- Provide professional assistance in the recruitment and training of volunteers in Bendemeer (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Consider reinstating the Bendemeer Development strategy to include the possible inclusion of a Community Centre/Rural Transaction Centre/ Internet Access and Homework Centre for young people. (Strategy 8.1.1)
- Advocate to state government for the implementation of music and drama education in schools (Strategy 3.1.3)

2.3 KOOTINGAL

Organisations contributing to the cultural life in Kootingal	Community Venues used for cultural events	Community Events/Tourism/Businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kootingal Community Development Committee • Kootingal CWA • Kootingal Lions Club • New England Knitters Guild • Quilters • Kootingal Book Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kootingal Memorial Hall • Kootingal Library • Kootingal Community Hall (Dept Lands) • Moonby House (Quilt Show) • Kootingal Bowling Club • Amphitheatre • Anzac Park 	<p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia Day • Anzac Day • Pumpkin Festival • Craft Markets (Quarterly) <p>Tourism destinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pumpkin Festival • Craft Markets

KOOTINGAL SWOT ANALYSIS

<p>Strengths What we value now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCDC with a “we’ll do it ourselves attitude • Country atmosphere with access to a major centre • Caring people • Village lifestyle, no rushing • A progressive town • Access to cultural, health and educational facilities and activities in Tamworth • A wide demographic with good interaction between the generations • Own chemist, doctor, library and supermarket • 	<p>Weaknesses – What we don’t like about Kootingal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Kootingal Hall is too small to be used for many events • The Kootingal Library is very well used, but is very cramped. • No historical society in Kootingal , and no one recording the history of the area. • The most recent history of Kootingal was compiled by the P & C in 1988 • Parry Council’s survey of historical buildings needs to be located and updated
<p>Opportunities – How we would like our community to be in five years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public art featuring and celebrating the granite of the area • Opportunities for growth, but at the same time preserving the village atmosphere • Cultural heritage to be preserved with a streetscape plan to preserve old buildings • A Multipurpose Centre to replace the inadequate memorial hall. • An oral history project to preserve some of the stories of the older people • The pumpkin festival to have grown, but still be manageable • Participation in a regional museum • Provision of tourist information about Kootingal. 	<p>Threats –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None recorded

Kootingal Summary of priorities

The Kootingal consultation showed the very strong “can do” attitude of the Kootingal CDC, and a considerable amount of pride in the community. People consulted noted that they enjoyed and appreciated the proximity to Tamworth which gives access to a range of cultural and sporting events, while maintaining a comfortable village atmosphere in Kootingal itself. They stressed the importance of controlled growth that benefited the village without detracting from the village atmosphere.

Kootingal - Priorities for Development

- Provide advice and assistance with the development of the Pumpkin Festival in Kootingal (Strategy 2.1.3)
- Provide professional assistance in the recruitment and training of volunteers in Kootingal (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Complete a review of the community needs in relation to the replacement/expansion of the Kootingal Community Memorial Hall (Strategy 8.1.1)
- Upgrade and expand the Kootingal Library Strategy 3.1.3
- Investigate opportunities to celebrate the history and geography of the area through the provision of public art using local granite (Strategy 8.1.1)
- Investigate opportunities for the preservation of historic buildings in Kootingal (Strategies 8.1.1. and 9.1.4)
- Investigate opportunities for a project to collect oral histories from the people of Kootingal and to update the historical publications of Kootingal undertaken in 1988 (Strategy 3.1.1)
- Advocate to state government for the implementation of music and drama education in schools (Strategy 3.1.3)

2.4 MANILLA

Organisations contributing to the cultural life in Manilla	Community Venues used for cultural events	Community Events/Tourism/Businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manilla Community Development Committee • Manilla Art and Craft Society Inc • Manilla and District Country Music Association Inc • Manilla Matters Committee • Manilla Creative Artists • Manilla Band • Manilla School Band • Manellae Lodge Men’s Choir • Manilla Historical Society • Manilla Vintage Machinery Group • Manilla Library Local History Collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manilla Town Hall • Manilla Small Town Hall • Manilla Main Street • Luis Johnston House • Presbyterian Church, and Church Halls • CWA Hall • RSL Hall • Sporting Clubs – Bowls, Tennis • Chaffey Park • Pioneer Park 	<p>Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia Day • Anzac Day • Manilla Platypus Festival • Easter Festival • Historical Society Dinner and events • Vintage machinery day • Manilla Matters Monthly Markets <p>Tourism destinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manilla and District Historical Society Museum • Chaffey Park Weir • Warrabah National Park • Splitrock Dam

MANILLA SWOT ANALYSIS

<p>Strengths What we value now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's a beautiful place • Personal connections with local people, fellowship and mateship • Sense of belonging • Involvement connectedness and safety • Diverse range of activities, sports, library and children's activities • Easy to be involved with volunteer and charity activities, especially local volunteer activities • The new library is an attractive and popular space • Close enough to Tamworth to attend cultural and sporting activities • Affordable housing • Co location of Visitors Information Centre and Museum allows Museum to be open every day • Monthly movies conducted by Manilla Matters are popular with young people 	<p>Weaknesses – What we don't like about Manilla</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of water • Anti social behaviour – a small number of vandals causing problems • Museum is running out of space for storage of collections and records. Archival space badly needed
<p>Opportunities – How we would like our community to be in five years In five years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like Manilla to be exactly the same as it is now • Keep the small town feeling • Have the Platypus Festival as an annual event • Preserve the look of the town • Retain services • Find additional storage and records storage for Museum 	<p>Threats –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insufficient volunteers working for the Historical Society • There are insufficient new volunteers taking up roles in the community

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digitise frequently used records on history of Manilla | |
|--|--|

Manilla Summary of Priorities

The consultation in Manilla was disappointing in terms of attendance, however those did attend had a broad range of interests and contributed generously, with pride in the history and heritage of Manilla. There was a general feeling that the recruitment and retention of volunteers is an issue of some concern for the future.

Priorities for Development

- Provide advice and assistance with the redevelopment of the Platypus Festival in Manilla (Strategy 2.1.3)
- Provide professional assistance in the recruitment and training of volunteers in Manilla (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Investigate opportunities for the preservation of historic buildings in the main street of Manilla (Strategy 9.1.1)
- Investigate opportunities to improve storage for historical collections and records in Manilla (Strategy 3.1.1)
- Advocate to state government for the implementation of music and drama education in schools (Strategy 3.1.3)

2.5 NUNDLE

Organisations contributing to the cultural life in Nundle	Community Venues used for cultural events	Community Events/Tourism/Businesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nundle Community Development Committee • CWA and Art Show • Nundle Museum • Monday Craft Ladies (Hanging Rock) • Nundle School • Nundle Lions Club • Book Club • Anglican Church • Catholic Church • Senior Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nundle War Memorial Hall and Arts Hall • Hanging Rock Community Centre/Cinema • Nundle Museum • Nundle Branch library • Anglican Church • Main Street 	<p>Events</p> <p>Australia Day Anzac Day CWA Art Show Go for Gold Easter Festival Hanging of the Quilts Nundle Gourmet Picnic</p> <p>Tourism destinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nundle village • Chaffey Dam • Nundle Woollen Mill • Mount Misery Mine • Craft shops

NUNDLE SWOT ANALYSIS

<p>Strengths What we value now</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good weather – four distinct seasons • Natural environment • Variation in the landscape • Village Living • Being able to walk everywhere, • A self sufficient town • Heritage tied in to gold • New themed playground 	<p>Weaknesses – What we don't like about Nundle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold winters (for some) • Limited opportunities for art forms, eg dance and music education • The Library is too small, and there are not enough books (due to space constraints) • No specific venue for young people • Small youth population/Limited activities for young people • Transient families due to lack of employment opportunities
<p>Opportunities – How we would like our community to be in five years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Larger population • Mineral tourism – fossicking, gemboree • Annual jazz festival • Heritage orders on buildings in the main street • Monthly markets • More events • Environmental initiatives to generate employment • Preservation of water races and Regeneration of the river • Improved entrance to the town • Build on spill over from the Tamworth Country Music Festival • Redeveloped Hall and new Library • More star watchers making use of the clear skies • Reprint of Hills of Gold publication 	<p>Threats –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nundle Museum in the Old Court house needs \$2500,000 to fully refurbish – Lions Club and Council together • Museum collection urgently needs conservation and preservation • The collection contains valuable remnants of the Goldfields and cataloguing of the collection is needed • The Nundle Hall needs refurbishment. Grant application for jobs fund was unsuccessful • Ageing population • Young people are leaving for study and employment •

Summary of priorities

The Nundle consultations demonstrated the energy and vitality of community life in the area and the strong and strategic vision of the Nundle CDC and community groups. The links to Tamworth and the tourism potential for the Nundle district are very strong.

Priorities for Development

- Provide advice and assistance with for the further development of the Go For Gold Festival in Nundle, and with consideration of other potential festivals that encourage tourism in the Nundle area (Strategy 2.1.3)
- Provide professional assistance in the recruitment and training of volunteers in Nundle (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Assist the Nundle Memorial Hall Trust in seeking funding for the refurbishment of the Nundle Memorial Hall (Strategy 8.1.1)
- Provide a new, enlarged library in Nundle (Strategy 3.1.3)
- Provide assistance to the Nundle Lions Club in extensive cataloguing and preservation of historical records at the Nundle Museum and conservation of the collections of historical collections (3.1.1)
- Undertake repair and maintenance of the Nundle Museum (Strategy 9.1.1)
- Investigate opportunities for the preservation of historic buildings in the main street of Nundle (Strategy 9.1.1)
- Investigate opportunities for the preservation of water races in the river at Nundle (Strategy 9.1.1)
- Investigate opportunities for public art in Nundle that celebrates the special characteristics of the village (Strategy 8.1.1)
- Investigate opportunities for the preservations of historic cemeteries in the Nundle area (Strategy 9.1.1)
- Investigate opportunities for the updating and/or reissue of historical publications relating to the Nundle area (Strategy 3.1.1)
- Advocate to state government for the implementation of music and drama education in schools (Strategy 3.1.3)

3. TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL – SUPPORT FOR ARTS , CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Tamworth Regional Council is a major provider of arts and cultural infrastructure, provider of services and supporter of cultural activity throughout the region in a multitude of ways, as illustrated in the diagram on page 20

3.1.1 Provision of services within Council

Since the amalgamation of the councils of Barraba, Manilla, Nundle, Parry and Tamworth in March 2004, the management of arts, cultural and heritage services have been spread across three directorates of Council.

<p>Regional Services Cultural and Community Services Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Libraries/CNRL • Tamworth Regional Gallery • Community Programs • Youth Program • Community Development • Cultural Development • Liaison with Arts North West • Parks and public spaces 	<p>Corporate and Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festival and Events • S355 Committees • All Council owned buildings • Community Halls • Museum Buildings • Marketing and promotion through Tourism Tamworth 	<p>Environment and Planning Strategic Planning Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Art Policy and implementation Plan • Economic Development Strategy • Regional Development Liaison through TRDC • Heritage Grants
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It is agreed that the division of duties across the Directorates has been generally successful, however some concerns have been raised, that in the large and complex organisation that Council has become, there is no single operational position within the organisation that is accountable for the implementation of this Plan. This is addressed in Item 3.1.8 of this Section.

3.1.2. Arts and cultural infrastructure in Tamworth

The Council has been proactive in recent years in the development of its arts and cultural infrastructure. As noted in the attached *Review of the Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003-2005* many of the Council’s cultural building needs have now been addressed for the foreseeable future. Since 2003 the Council has completed:-

- ❖ Construction of the new purpose built Tamworth Regional Gallery and City Library
- ❖ Major improvements to South Tamworth Library
- ❖ Relocation and major upgrade of the Manilla Library
- ❖ Fitout and operation of the Capitol Theatre, Tamworth
- ❖ Installation of tiered seating in TRECC
- ❖ A feasibility study on the resiting of the Norm McKellar Stage in Bicentennial Park
- ❖ A Review of the S94 Plan and development of a Public Art Policy and implementation plan
- ❖ Ongoing beautification of public spaces used for events
- ❖ Construction of the Australian Equine and Livestock Centre (which may on occasions be used for cultural events)

During the consultations for this Cultural Plan, community representatives in Tamworth expressed their satisfaction and gratitude for the progress that the Council has made in the provision and development of its arts and cultural infrastructure in the city. Public support for all the new developments has been very strong and is evidenced through the maintenance of significantly higher numbers of people using the libraries and gallery since the new building was completed. Similarly, support for the Capitol Theatre has been strong and continues to grow with the introduction of new programs and the first subscription season in 2010.

3.1.3. Community Halls outside Tamworth

Across the region Council has assumed responsibility for a number of community halls as part of the amalgamation of Councils. All halls have been brought up to a standard sufficient to comply with occupational health and safety requirements.

- The **Manilla Town Hall and Small Town Hall**
- The **Bendemeer Hall** has recently been upgraded to accommodate local theatrical activities
- **The Kootingal Memorial Hall** - the use of this hall is currently under review, awaiting the relocation of the Kootingal Preschool. There is need for greater space for community activities, and there is also need for future expansion of the Kootingal Library, which is housed in part of this building.
- **Nundle Memorial Hall** – this facility is owned by the Crown, and TRC has no role in its running or maintenance. Advocacy on behalf of the Management Committee could be provided by Council

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dungowan Public Hall • Limbri Public Hall • Loomberah Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moore Creek Hall • Nemingha Hall • Somerton Public Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watsons Creek Hal • Weabonga Hall •
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3.1.4 Museums

In addition to assuming responsibility for a number of community Halls, the amalgamation of Councils has increased the number of volunteer run museum buildings across the region to nine, namely

- Calala Cottage (Tamworth)
- Tamworth Power Station Museum
- Australian Country Music Hall of Fame
- New England Film and sound Archive
- Tamworth Family History Group
- Nundle Court House Museum (owned by the Crown, with TRC as the Trustee, however as part of the agreement with the Crown, TRC is not expected to allocate any funding to this facility)
- Nandewar Historical Society Museum (Barraba)
- Manilla Historical Society Museum

Some of the Museums have been well maintained and are adequate for their purposes, however a number need substantial maintenance , and many have run out of space for the collections and archives that they house. Section 3.10 (Museums, History and Heritage)of this document contains a discussion, based around the operation of the museums contains suggestions for action for the care of these importance community buildings.

3.1.5 Council's Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan

In 2008 Council adopted a Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan to support the ongoing beautification of the region and to establish a framework in which professional artists can be commissioned to provide works. Council also reviewed its Section 94 Plan to encourage Developers to make contributions towards the provision of artworks in public areas. Over time this policy and implementation plan will benefit the region from a developmental and aesthetic perspective and will support and encourage the work of commercial sculptors and artists.

While the implementation of the Public Art Policy is currently governed by the funds raised from S.94 contributions, chiefly within the Tamworth city area, there is considerable demand from the smaller communities to enrich their town centres with public art that celebrates the diversity and interest of the region.

3.1.6 Community Development Committees (CDC's)

In the communities outside Tamworth the CDC's are actively engaged in the conduct of a range of community events, including some highly successful festivals and related events.

The consultations with Community Development Committees in Barraba, Bendemeer, Kootingal, and Nundle in the preparation of this Plan demonstrated the value of this form of dispersed governance in the smaller communities outside Tamworth. There is commitment, enthusiasm and a "can do" attitude in most of the CDC's in the service of their communities. Most were already actively participating in festivals, arts and cultural activities and were working closely with Tourism Tamworth on local Tourism and Marketing Plans to promote a range of community and cultural events.

Some CDC's however, expressed concerns at their growing volunteer workloads and fatigue in meeting their communities' expectations with limited resources and limited training. Many expressed concern at the number of different people they needed to deal with in Council when organising events.

Many members of CDC's expressed a need for broader involvement and training and showed a strong interest in being part of twice yearly meetings with an Arts Advisory Committee, as outlined above.

Tamworth Regional Council – Infrastructure needs addressed in the Cultural Plan

3.1.7 Historical Archive Centre

The TCC Cultural Plan 2003 listed the need for a central Archival storage centre for the Tamworth Museums and historical societies. This was not addressed and the need for storage continues to be of major concern. . This issue has not been addressed to date and requires attention in the new Plan. (this has been further addressed in Section 11 of this document)

3.1.8 Community Resource Centre

There are many community groups undertaking valuable voluntary work for the well being of the region. Many have difficulty in finding adequate meeting and storage space for their organisations. In consultations with Tamworth arts and cultural groups, this issue was brought up

by a number of groups. It is recommended that a feasibility study for the type of accommodation be undertaken with a view to seeking grant funding for such a facility, should an opportunity occur.

3.1.9 Council Governance relating to arts and cultural activities –Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee

The TCC Cultural Plan 2003-2005 made provision for the establishment of an Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee, as a Committee of Council, to liaise with arts and cultural groups and facilitate opportunities for networking and for shared cultural activities and promotions. The Terms of Reference required that the Committee host two forums per year to consult with representatives from the arts and cultural groups in order to keep Council informed, and to provide input into the Annual Management Plan. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee operated throughout 2003, but was disbanded in March 2004 at the time of the Council amalgamation. The Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee was not reconstituted when the new Council was elected in September 2004..

In the consultations for the preparation of this Cultural Plan, representatives of arts and cultural groups in Tamworth were very much in favour of the establishment of a new Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee. Representatives again favoured twice yearly meetings, convened by the Committee to bring the groups together for discussion of issues that are common to all.

It was apparent in consultations in most of the smaller towns outside Tamworth that the cultural groups work in isolation from each other. There would be much benefit in bringing volunteer groups together to share knowledge and information about issues such as events management, promotion and publicity, and audience development

3.1.10 Cultural Development Officer

A designated position of Cultural Development Officer was approved in the TCC Cultural Plan adopted by the Council in 2003, For a variety of reasons this position has not yet been established. Research into the value and of such a position, and consultations with stakeholders in the preparation of this Plan have strongly supported the creation of a position of Cultural Development Officer, as a priority for the Council. In general terms, the position would have a responsibility for the implementation of the Cultural Plan, and would lead Council's liaison with the many arts and cultural organisations and volunteer community groups that contribute to the cultural life of the region.

Outside of the professional services operated by Council, such as the Libraries, Tamworth Regional Gallery, and professional programs offered by the Capitol Theatre, TRECC and other Council venues, the majority of arts and cultural activity in the Tamworth region is provided by volunteer,

not for profit organisations. The support of these volunteers in an increasingly complex environment is essential to the future vibrancy and development of cultural activity within the region..

As will be noted in the sections of the Cultural Plan that follow that relate to specific components of the region's cultural life, there are many needs that could be addressed by leadership from Council and a collaborative approach with the arts and cultural community. Many Councils of the size and importance of Tamworth Regional Council have invested in a Cultural Development Officer with significant positive outcomes. It is recommended that should this position be approved, it be placed in the Cultural and Community Services Division.

Some duties for such a position could include, but not be limited to :-

- Undertake the coordination of the implementation of the TRC Cultural Plan 2010 – 2015 as adopted by Council, annually review the Plan and make recommendations for the inclusion of priority actions in Council's annual Management Plans and other key strategy and operational processes and documents
- Initiate, design and develop projects, programs and strategies to address identified cultural needs and opportunities in the Tamworth region
- Work across Directorates in Council to develop and enhance participation in cultural activities across the region.
- Seek grant funding and sponsorship opportunities to implement the Cultural Plan and other cultural projects
- Provide specialist advice and training in governance and events organisation to not for profit arts organisations across the region.
- Provide advice and support the community in relation to community arts and cultural development
- Create and maintain a network of arts, heritage and education and related workers in the region and work with these networks to develop and promote participatory activities
- Engage the business community and work with organisations such as the Tamworth Regional Develop Corporation to identify and progress opportunities for the development of cultural industries in the Tamworth region.
- Work with agencies such as the NSW Film and Television Office to promote the Tamworth region as a film and television location
- Work with indigenous community representatives to develop an Indigenous Arts and Cultural Strategy that promotes Indigenous arts and enhances and an understanding of indigenous culture in the Tamworth region.

3.1.11 Arts North West

Arts North West is a regional organisation, which was established in 1996, and which is jointly funded by Arts NSW and by 13 local councils in the New England North West Region. Its purpose is to build community capacity by supporting the development of arts and culture regionally through the provision of advice and assistance, dissemination of information and involvement in the development of regional projects and initiatives.

Arts North West has had considerable success in developing regional projects and bringing substantial grant funding to the region. It has undertaken training programs with volunteer groups, has established a visual arts network, and keeps the arts and cultural organisations informed of funding opportunities and events throughout the region through its E- Bulletin.

Operating at a local level is outside the scope and resources of Arts North West. This small organisation has a brief to develop arts and cultural activity at a regional level, but is not resourced to undertake detailed duties at a local level, and therefore is not able to supply Council with the level of on the ground support that a Cultural Development officer would provide.

Council has recently reviewed its contribution to and benefits from Arts North West and has resolved to maintain its membership of Arts North West.

TRC _ Arts and Cultural Infrastructure - Priorities for development

- Undertake a feasibility study for opportunities for a Community Resource centre that provides meeting and storage space for a range of community not for profit organisations. (Strategy 1.1.7)
- Review the current distribution of accountabilities across Council in relation to the delivery of arts and cultural services (Strategy 2.1.2)
- Consider the establishment of a Tamworth Region Arts Advisory Committee, as a Committee of Council (Strategy 2.1.2)
- As a matter of priority, create a position, within the Cultural and Community Services Division of Council, of a Cultural Development Officer, and fund this position in the 2010-2011 Management Plan (Strategy 3.1.1)
- Continue to maintain membership of Arts North West to encourage arts and cultural development at a regional level. (Strategy 3.1.1)

4. CULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

<p>Tamworth and region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Architectural and Design practices• Printing• Publishing• Film and video services• Radio and Television Services• DVD and Video Hire outlets• Photographic Studios and film processing• Sound recording studios• Supplies for music and theatre productions• Suppliers of products for use in arts and crafts• Retail outlets for art, craft, recorded music, photographic equipment, books and DVDs, film.• Venue Operators (Pubs and Clubs)• Accommodation• Cafes and Restaurants• Agents, promoters, managers, consultants• Media organisations• Web design and computer services• Equipment sales, hire and repair• Schools• Churches•	<p>Barraba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Barraba Gazette• Playhouse Hotel• Fuller Gallery (Art and Craft)• Fibres and Beyond <p>Bendemeer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bendemeer Craft Shop <p>Kootingal</p> <p>Manilla</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manilla Independent <p>Nundle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nundle Craft Shop• Old Church Boutique• Cottage on the Hill• Mount Misery Mine and Shop• Terra Cotta Cottage• Nundle Woollen Mill
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In a knowledge economy, there is much interest in 'cultural' industries and the contribution of creativity for future economic development and growth. Studies of cultural industry development are being undertaken widely, for example the University of Technology, Sydney's Centre for Creative Practice and Cultural Economy. Arts NSW is developing a Creative Industries Strategy which is likely to provide future direction for arts funding in NSW.

Some arts, culture and heritage activities are significant contributors to the economy of the Tamworth region. The Tamworth Country Music Festival is the prime example of how a Festival, growing over a number of years can contribute substantially to the local economy. Across the region a number of smaller festivals are providing a boost to local economies, in addition to building social and cultural capital.

With the strength of Tamworth's reputation for country music, there may be potential for developing the commercial production of music and film relating to Country music. Some commercial music studios exist, and there may be opportunities to support these industries through advocacy and publicity.

Development for individuals into employment in the performing arts, both within and outside Tamworth, is supported by the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, the Department of Education's Regional Arts Programs and the amateur musical and dramatic societies.

There are a number of commercial and community based galleries across the region, selling the work of regional artists. In Barraba, the Clay Pan and Fuller Gallery have been a viable business for many years, providing an excellent community resource and both a learning and a commercial outlet for local artists and crafts people. Local craft markets also provide a useful outlet for crafts people and their customers.

In Bendemeer, the Bendemeer Craft Centre serves a similar purpose for local residents.

Nundle, in particular has a range of arts and craft business that attract tourists to the town and provide a boost to the local economy.

The Tamworth Regional Craft Centre Inc, operates a shop seven days per week to sell items produced by the members.

Annual art shows including "Frost over Barraba", the Nundle Art Show, Bendemeer Art Show and local P A & H Association shows provide outlets for regional artists and craftspeople so showcase their products.

Service industries relating to the dissemination of information through the Internet are developing in this region and being supported by TAFE training in digital media. It is anticipated that, with the roll out of the national broadband network, there will be further opportunities for people to live and work in Regional Australia.

Economic development will be facilitated by a growth of population in the Tamworth region. The branding of the Tamworth region needs to be considered in this context. It is well understood that the attraction of skilled workers and their families to the region will be influenced by the lifestyle they can expect to have here. Cultural assets such as the University of New England Campus, Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, the range of available schools, the Tamworth Regional Gallery, the Capitol Theatre, TRECC and the diversity of Library services assist in attracting new residents.

Should the Council establish a position of Cultural Development Officer, it is envisaged that the incumbent would work with the organisations listed in this section of the Cultural Plan to encourage and promote the cultural assets and activities provided in the Tamworth region.

4.1 Tamworth Regional Development Corporation (TRDC)

TRDC is a joint venture of the Tamworth Regional Council and the Tamworth region's business community.

TRDC works to promote the economic development of the region, through supporting existing businesses and promoting the region generally as a desirable area for investment and for living. Strategies towards bringing more skilled people and skilled businesses to the Tamworth region are being planned by the Board and Management of TRDC. In this context it is considered that branding of Tamworth as a place with a culturally sophisticated profile is the basis of planned strategies; to change perceptions of Tamworth and to ensure that the region is seen as having an excellent, diverse cultural life. The strategy will draw on publicising the opportunities afforded by the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, the new Capitol Theatre, the Tamworth Regional Gallery, the network of libraries and the rich cultural heritage of the area.

TRDC does not specifically target cultural industries, but notes that the implementation of the national broadband network will bring significant new opportunities for industries relying on the rapid transit of large amounts of electronic data.

4.2 New England Institute of TAFE

The Tamworth Campus of TAFE has a Creative Arts and Media Department. This Department, along with other areas of TAFE and in line with government policy, has a strong emphasis on training for employment in the arts and creative industries.

Subjects covered include interactive digital media, web design, 2-D animation, ceramics, photo journalism, and photo imaging, in addition to the traditional drawing, painting, ceramics and contemporary crafts.

4.3 Tamworth and District Chamber of Commerce

Tamworth and District Chamber of Commerce provides a range of services to its members. The Chamber supports all local businesses, whatever sector they serve.

One area which assists small, home based cultural industries is the Cottage Craft Fair held in Peel Street, Tamworth on the third Sunday of each month. Crafts people are charged an affordable fee for a stall and must provide proof of their own insurance cover. The Craft Fair is extremely popular and provides a regular stream of income to small industries.

4.4 New England North West Film Strategy www.filmnenw.com.au

In 2007 Council contributed to the development of a project to document potential film locations in the New England North West region with a view to encouraging the film industry to use this area for feature films and advertising. The funding for this project was allocated by the Northern inland Regional Development Board and auspiced by Arts North West. Further work is being planned through Regional Development Australia – Northern Inland and Arts North West to capitalise on the database of locations that was developed during this project. Promotion of Tamworth in this context is a further role for a Cultural Development Officer

4.5 Tamworth Regional Craft Centre Inc.(TRCC)

The TRCC is situated in a former Tank Factory in Peel Street Tamworth. This organisation provides spaces for people interested in a range of arts and crafts to work together and to sell their products through the shop which operates seven days per week from the Centre.

Priorities for development

- Continue to promote the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, The Capitol Theatre , the Tamworth Regional Gallery and the Libraries as important cultural assets for the region, (Strategies 3.1.2 and 4.1.2)
- Continue to implement the TRC Public Art Policy and implementation plan as funds permit (Strategy 8.1.1)
- Consider a public art program that celebrates the diversity and local distinctiveness of the towns and villages across the region. (Strategy 8.1.1)
- Support the Tamworth Regional Development Corporation in its efforts to market Tamworth as a sophisticated regional centre with a number of excellent cultural facilities (Strategy 5.1.1)

5. THE CONTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTEERS AND NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Volunteers provide a massive contribution to the arts, cultural and heritage life of the region. Volunteer contributions include but are not limited to:-

- Participation in a range of S355 Committees, particularly Community Development Committees
- Preservation of the region's heritage through participation in historical societies and research groups
- Management and operation of the museums throughout the region
- Assistance to Council through reception and shop duties in Council operations such as the Regional Gallery and Visitor Information Centre
- Fund raising and assistance through Friends Groups
- Participation in amateur theatrical and musical groups
- Participation in the organisation of community festivals and events
- Participation in orchestras and bands at community events
- Governance and operation of not for profit arts and cultural organisations

In some centres, volunteers attending consultations for this Plan raised concerns about a difficulty in recruiting new volunteers to take on the duties of their organisations as the current volunteer's age. This issue was particularly raised in consultations with historical societies who run museums and who have collected the majority of records relating to the region's history and heritage. Consideration of strategies to attract more volunteers should be considered by Council.

5.1 Recognition of Volunteers

Council recognises the contribution of its volunteers in the Tamworth community through its Gift of Time Ceremony in December each year. In December 2009, 109 community based organisations were recognised for providing 502,955 hours of volunteer work. This massive volunteer effort was contributed across a broad range of community and cultural activities.

5.2 Council's Volunteer Placement and Training Program

Council operates a Volunteer Placement and Training Program through the Tamworth Community Centre. This program places volunteers in a variety of organisations seeking volunteer support.

In the past two years 176 volunteers have been placed in organisations requiring support.

Council's volunteer training is directed at individual volunteers and includes, rights and responsibilities of volunteers; manual handling, occupational health and safety.

During consultations volunteers working in not for profit organisations highlighted issues with increasing complexity in governance requirements and the need for training in aspects of management for committee executives.

There do not appear to be any providers of this type of training in the Tamworth region. Prepared courses for volunteers are available, but there is no Registered Training Organisation in the Tamworth region currently delivering such training. The matter was discussed with TAFE and the Tamworth Community College, as part of the consultation, both of which organisations noted that there is no educational funding for this type of training. Given the value of the multifaceted volunteer contribution to the Tamworth region, this issue requires further consideration and action.

5.3 Support for Volunteer organisations through Council Donations and/or a Cultural Fund

Council provides some grant funding to not for profit organisations working in the community, cultural and recreation sectors through its Annual Donations Program. The Council also provides, subject to approval of individual applications, subsidised access to its cultural and sporting venues for not for profit organisations through it's waiving of fees policy.

Representatives from arts and cultural organisations favoured a splitting of the Council's donations fund into a specific fund for arts and cultural organisations and a specific fund for community organisations. It was noted that arts and cultural groups are often unaware that they qualify for community donations, and that the distribution of a fund specifically for arts and cultural organisations would enable assessment panels to select cultural activities on merit and in competition with other cultural activities..

The waiving of fees policy is strongly supported by cultural groups, and organisations consulted requested that Council be commended for this. The method of charging for use of the Capitol Theatre on the basis of the number of seats sold is strongly supported. Groups consulted requested that Council continue with its policy to maintain subsidised hire rates for all council facilities and for the erection of banners in the main street.

Priorities for development

- Undertake publicity and promotion of volunteering and the value of contributing as a volunteer (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Continue to encourage and support volunteers through the Volunteers Placement and Training program at the Community Centre (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Continue to recognise the contribution of volunteers annually (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Review the allocation of funds for donations with a view to dividing the current Donations Fund to provide separate funds for Community Welfare and for Cultural Development (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Maintain the Waiving of fees policy, and review the quantum of funds allocated for the implementation of this policy (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Continue to keep fees for the hire of venues to a minimum to support the efforts of volunteer groups (Strategy 2.1.4)
- Continue to keep fees for the erection of banners to a minimum to support the efforts of volunteer groups (Strategy 2.1.4)

6. PROMOTION AND MARKETING/CULTURAL TOURISM

The marketing and promotion of arts, cultural and heritage events is a very important factor in the success of these activities. Promotion of museums and art galleries is also extremely important. Marketing and promotion may be carried out at a local or regional level or beyond the region for major events.

6.1 Not for profit organisations

Many volunteer organisations undertake their own promotion and marketing of their operations, however for many of the volunteer organisations the cost of production of promotional and marketing materials is difficult or even prohibitive. During the consultations it was revealed that the cost of maintaining colour printers is very difficult for some organisations. It was frequently suggested by volunteers that Council could assist in this matter by providing access to colour printing as a contribution to the cost of staging volunteer presented community events and activities, where there is limited or no income, as is the case for many of the Museums..

6.2 Professional marketing and promotion

Tourism Tamworth was established as a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2001. Its functions are Tourism, Marketing and Development for the Tamworth Region. Tourism Tamworth receives approximately 60% of its funding from Tamworth Regional Council and raises the balance from commission on ticket sales and collaborative advertising. In addition to the professional staff, Tourism Tamworth uses the services of approximately 100 volunteers.

Tourism Tamworth operates Visitors Information Centres in Tamworth, Barraba, Manilla and Nundle. The Tourism Tamworth website lists arts and cultural events in its *What's On* section on its Website.

Tourism Tamworth, in consultation with the CDC's in Barraba, Manilla and Nundle, has developed Tourism and Marketing strategies and detailed annual action plans for each of these towns. CDC's consulted in each community in the preparation of this plan expressed their appreciation of the services of Tourism Tamworth in their support of local activities and events.

Tourism Tamworth creates and distributes New Residents' kits which contain a range of material suitable for people newly arrived in the community. Tourism Tamworth noted that the most sought after item of information in the new Residents' Kit is the Tamworth Regional Council Community Directory.

It was noted in the consultations that Tourism Tamworth could be more proactive in keeping organisations informed when supplies of their promotional material run out.

6.3 Web Based Information

Web based information is increasingly being adopted for marketing of events. Council's new website, and Tourism Tamworth's website list arts and cultural events and activities in each community – provided that the information is made available by the event organisers.

Priorities for development

- Work with Tourism Tamworth to ensure that all information relating to arts and cultural events is being captured and disseminated throughout the region (Strategy 5.1.1)
- Continue to maintain the Tamworth Regional Council Community Directory as the primary source of current information about arts and cultural organisations in the Tamworth region. (Strategy 5.1.1)
- Consider providing access to colour printing for not for profit organisations as a contribution to the cost of presenting community based cultural events (Strategy 5.1.1)
- Invite arts and cultural organisations to contribute links from their websites to Council's and Tourism Tamworth's website. (Strategy 5.1.1)

7. LIFELONG LEARNING AND EDUCATION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

Region wide

- ❖ Libraries,
- ❖ Local Primary and Secondary Schools
- ❖ Churches

Tamworth

- ❖ Tamworth Regional Gallery
- ❖ Tamworth City Library, South Tamworth Library
- ❖ Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music
- ❖ New England Institute of TAFE, Tamworth Campus
- ❖ University of New England, Tamworth Campus
- ❖ Tamworth Community College
- ❖ CMAA Australian Academy of Country Music
- ❖ University of the Third Age (U3A)

Kootingal

- ❖ Kootingal Branch Library

Manilla

- ❖ Manilla Branch Library

Nundle

- ❖ Nundle Branch Library

7.1 Libraries

Libraries play a very significant role in lifelong learning and recreational activity for regional residents. In addition to providing information and lending services, libraries are increasingly becoming gathering places, both online, through access to websites and interactive information resources, and physically as places to meet and discuss.

Tamworth Regional Council is the Executive Council for Central Northern Regional Library (CNRL)

CNRL Vision Statement :*Central Northern Regional Library assists member Councils to develop branch libraries as lively hubs of activity that not only foster lifelong learning, literacy and intellectual recreation, but serve as gathering places in our increasingly diverse communities.*

While in recent years loans of materials have decreased slightly, there has been a steady increase in membership of the libraries in the Tamworth region and exponential increase in the use of online resources.

Online information delivery has many advantages, including timeliness, reduced physical handling, equal opportunity for remote users, multiple simultaneous use of resources, cost effectiveness, consistency and currency.

Although Library users have enthusiastically taken up the use of web based services they also see libraries as community gathering places and venues for interaction and activity. This is particularly the case in the new and refurbished libraries in the region.

Council has continued to support its libraries. The level of satisfaction with the services is high.

A Strategic Plan for Tamworth Libraries is in development. This plan will cover the operational aspects of library services in detail. Actions in this Plan will form the basis for the Libraries' activities and reporting in Council's Management Plan. These are not replicated in the TRC Cultural Plan.

At 30 June 2009 45.87% of Tamworth's residents were registered members of Tamworth Libraries.

There are 6 libraries in the Tamworth Regional Council area

Tamworth City Library (open 49 hours per week) is housed in an excellent new purpose built facility, completed in 2004.

South Tamworth Branch Library (open 38 hours per week) was extensively renovated and refurbished in 2007/2008. This Branch is now well placed to meet the needs of the South Tamworth residents.

Barraba Branch Library (open 9 hours per week) has recently been refurbished with the assistance of state government grants. Residents consulted in Barraba sought an increase in the number of hours the Library is open to five days per week.

Kootingal Branch Library (open 17 hours per week) shares space in the Kootingal War Memorial Hall, and is short of space for on shelf storage, reading and activities. It is anticipated that when the Kootingal Pre School moves from the rear of the building, the Library will be able to extend into part of the Memorial Hall and thus solve its space issues.

Manilla Branch Library (open 25 hour per week) was moved into the TRC Manilla Branch Office, formerly the Manilla Shire Office. A complete refurbishment of the Library was undertaken, creating an

Nundle Branch Library (open 12.5 hours per week) is housed in an inadequate and poorly maintained space, with inadequate facilities to meet the needs of Nundle residents.

7.2 School Education

The Tamworth region has 23 primary schools, 6 secondary public schools, 4 private schools and 8 catholic schools. Many of the secondary schools have bands and music and performance groups.

The **Office of the New England Regional Director (Schools)** is located in Tamworth. A Regional Arts Development Director is located at the regional office. Each of the schools has an arts curriculum, however the consultations highlighted a serious need for the improvement of music education in schools. This is seen as important by teachers, parent groups, the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium and local band leaders. It was requested that Council advocate on behalf of schools to have this situation addressed by the state government.

The Regional Directorate stages major regional arts events, such as “Capers”, to showcase the work of the schools in the region. The cost of hiring TRECC for major events was raised as an issue of concern to DET.

7.3 Tertiary Education

The **New England Institute of TAFE** Tamworth Campus has an Arts and Media Department. Until recently this department has provided general access to the community to pursue arts and creative activities. A recent change in policy has entailed a change in focus, whereby the TAFE will, in future only teach in areas that lead to qualifications that will lead to employment outcomes. Thus generalist classes are being replaced by training for cultural industries such as arts teaching, interactive digital media and web design and photo imaging.

Visual Arts and contemporary crafts will continue to be taught, at certificate 3-4 level, possibly progressing to Diploma level next year. Business and professional management skills will be included in the course.

TAFE is considering providing supervised access to artists on a rental basis, provided they have skills to a certificate 4 level. These will include access to ceramics, photography, printmaking, photography, screen and film editing.

It was noted, in consultation with other education providers that the proposed cost of hiring TAFE facilities is beyond their means and will inhibit access by general interest groups.

TAFE will also be looking at pathways from schools with links to broad based creative industries, in such areas as media journalism.

This change in direction from TAFE will create a gap in non award arts and crafts skills development.

7.4 Community Education

Tamworth Community College

The Tamworth Community College provides courses in some visual arts and crafts subjects. These courses are not accredited, and therefore not subsidised by government funding.

The College will be moving to its new premises in Munro's Mill in June 2009. This will provide a larger and better shared space for generalist arts and craft courses. There will not be any special purpose studios, equipment or teaching subjects such as ceramics, print making, photography, glass making etc.

The College is unable to use studio facilities at TAFE as these are too expensive for students. It was noted that TAFE and the Community College do not work closely together. The Community college does use school facilities for some courses, such as cooking. It was noted that the cost of accommodation, equipment and tutors is too high for the college to be able to increase the number of courses presently being offered.

7.5 University of the Third Age (U3A)

The University of the Third Age commenced activities in Tamworth in 2008. This organisation is dedicated to lifelong learning and providing opportunities for older people to learn together in a social setting. One of the objectives of the organisation is *"to improve the quality of life of members and to demonstrate that intellectual and physical capacity can be maintained well into the third age"*

For a small annual fee (currently \$30.00 per annum), people over 50 years, retired or semi retired may join this increasingly popular organisation.

Courses are arranged according to people's interests and the availability of tutors. Tutors are not paid.

U3A offers courses from a variety of venues such as UNE (Peel House) the Tamworth Library, Bowling Clubs, Wests Diggers.

Challenges for the U3A are the cost of accommodation for courses, storage for administration records, newsletter production and printing.

7.6 Music Education

Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music

The Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music is a major educational institution that currently caters for approximately 1000 students. The Conservatorium is funded by grants from the NSW Department of Education and Arts NSW, and by fees paid by students. It is housed in a former Dominican Convent. The Conservatorium has established a Foundation for Music Education that provides some additional funding support and bursaries to the Conservatorium.

Tuition is provided in the following studios, with students ranging from beginners to AMusA. Courses include:-

Brass	Flute	Orchestral programs
Clarinet/Saxophone	Guitar Musicianship	Violin/Viola
Classical Guitar	Percussion	Voice
Double Bass	Pianoforte	
Early childhood music	Oboe/Bassoon	

The Conservatorium has a very active orchestral program, and its ensembles, orchestras and bands contribute substantially to Tamworth and the region through the Conservatorium's willingness to provide musical accompaniment to civic and community events.

Council supports the Conservatorium by providing access to an orchestra rehearsal space on the first floor of the Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall. The Conservatorium has also been a frequent beneficiary of Council's Donations program.

Challenges for the Conservatorium in the future include a need for additional space, better disabled access to music studios, access to performance spaces and the cost of hire of performance spaces.

7.7. CMAA Australian Academy of Country Music www.country.com.au

This organisation was formed in 2009 following the merging of the Australian College of Country Music and the Camerata School of Country Music. It has a range of objectives aimed at creating excellence in the country music genre in Australia.

The Academy provides training for singers, songwriters and instrumentalists of all ages. The Academy operates a 2 week residential curriculum for students over 18 and 1 week for students under 18.

7.8 Visual Arts and Crafts Education for general interest students.

Until recently the Tamworth Campus of TAFE has supplied valuable support to general interest students of visual arts and crafts to undertake study and training on the local campus. A recent change in policy direction to ensure that all TAFE courses lead to qualification and employment outcomes has left many interested artists and craftspeople without access to studios to pursue their long term learning and development.

The Tamworth Community College conducts some drawing and painting classes, but does not have access to ceramics studios, photography dark rooms etc, and claims that use of the TAFE facilities. Courses are not subsidised.

The Esther Halliday Studio at the Tamworth Regional Gallery is available for hire by art and craft teachers, for the conduct of courses. There has been an increase in demand for this facility

The Tamworth Regional Craft Centre Inc provides some self help and learning by doing in a range of crafts, plans are being developed for a pottery shed.

The Clay Pan at Barraba also offers group learning to potters, quilters, embroiderers.

Priorities for development:-

- Review the opening hours of Barraba Library with a view to increasing access to five days per week (Strategy 3.1.3)
- Consider space requirements for Kootingal Library together with future use of the Kootingal Memorial Hall (Strategy 3.1.3)
- Consider alternative accommodation for the Nundle Library (Strategy 3.1.3)
- Consider Council's contribution through subsidised access to TRECC for major regional schools events such as Capers (Strategy 1.1.7)
- Advocate, on behalf of the Tamworth community to the state government in support of an increase in music education in schools (Strategy 3.1.3)
- Continue to support the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music through subsidised access to performance and rehearsal spaces (Strategy 3.1.3)
- Through the Tamworth Regional Gallery, monitor the needs for arts and craft education for non award artists and craftspeople. (Strategy 3.1.3)
- Continue to acknowledge the contribution of the Conservatorium as an attractor to new residents (Strategy 3.1.3)

8. ARTS AND CULTURAL FACILITIES AND VENUES

<p>Tamworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre • Capitol Theatre, Tamworth • Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall • Australian Equine and Livestock Centre • Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, Chapel Theatre • Tamworth Community Centre • Coledale Community Centre • School/TAFE and Church Halls and Auditoriums • West Tamworth Leagues Club (West) • Wests Diggers • The 'Youthie' <p>Barraba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barraba Playhouse Hotel Theatre • RSL Memorial Hall • St Laurence's Church and Youth Centre • Barraba Bicentennial Centre • Sporting Clubs – Golf Club, Tennis Club, Bowling Club <p>Bendemeer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bendemeer Hall • CWA Hall 	<p>Kootingal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kootingal Memorial Hall (\$355 Committee) • Kootingal Community Hall (Department of Lands – Reserve Trust) • Kootingal Amphitheatre • Moonby House (Quilt Show) • Kootingal Bowling Club Function Centre <p>Manilla</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manilla Town Hall and Small Town Hall • Louis Johnston House • CWA Hall • RSL Club <p>Sporting Clubs – Tennis Club. Bowling</p> <p>Nundle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nundle Halls Committee • Hanging Rock Community Cinema • Anglican Church – Music 	<p>PUBLIC SPACES USED FOR CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY EVENTS</p> <p>Tamworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicentennial Park • Anzac Park • Peel Street/Fitzroy Street <p>Barraba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queen Street <p>Bendemeer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The River Bank <p>Kootingal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anzac Park • Anzac Memorial • Kootingal Amphitheatre <p>Manilla</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manilla Street (Main Street) • Chaffey Park • Pioneer Park – Monthly markets <p>Nundle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Street, Nundle
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The Tamworth Region is well equipped with facilities and venues for performing arts, music, visual arts and community events. Many of these facilities are Council owned and operated, but a large number of clubs, school and church halls and privately owned venues are also well used for arts and cultural events. Participants in the consultations were complimentary about the progress the Council has made in the provision of arts and cultural facilities.

Since the TCC Cultural Plan was adopted by Council in 2003 a significant amount of work has been done to upgrade the TRECC to create a versatile, comfortable and advanced venue, able to seat an audience of 5,000 for events.

The completion in 2008 of the Capitol Theatre has been very important as the addition of a highly sophisticated, fully technically equipped venue with the ability to host a wide range of professional and amateur shows and events. This venue has been very well accepted by the community and has expanded the range of arts and cultural events to be held in the region.

In the smaller towns outside Tamworth community halls are used for a number of arts and cultural events. Notable improvements have been made to the Bendemeer Hall to enable it to be used as a theatre.

The Nundle Memorial Hall requires extensive upgrade and refurbishment. This hall is managed by a Halls Trust Committee. Council recently assisted the Committee in submitting an application for funding to undertake the required work, however this was not successful and the work has not been able to proceed.

Outdoor venues

In addition to the indoor facilities and venues the Tamworth region has a wonderful array of parks and main streets that are used for outdoor arts and cultural events.

In Tamworth the Bicentennial Park is subject to master planning for part of the next stage of the City Beautification Project. The re-siting and expansion of the McKellar stage has been considered in the planning and will be considered as part of the implementation of the Master Plan. This will greatly improve the amenity of the stage for performers and for audiences.

In Manilla, residents consulted believed that the river and parklands could be made more attractive for use for community events.

In Barraba, Kootingal, Manilla and Nundle the Main Streets re used extensively for cultural events. Participants were enthusiastic about continuing Main Street Programs that preserved the heritage of their older buildings with appropriate signage and heritage colours..

Priorities for development:-

- Assist the Nundle Memorial Hall Trust in seeking funding for the refurbishment of the Nundle Memorial Hall (Strategy 8.1.1)
- Undertake a survey of the Manilla River Parklands with a view to improving their amenity for cultural events)Strategy 8.1.1)
- Consider the reinstatement of Main Street programs in each of the towns in the region. (Strategy 8.1.1)

9. MUSIC, DANCE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Tamworth

- ❖ Australian Country Music Foundation (ACMF)
- ❖ Country Music Association of Australia (CMAA)
- ❖ Capital Country Music Association
- ❖ Tamworth Independent Artists Recognition Awards (TIARAs)
- ❖ Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music
- ❖ Tamworth Musical Society
- ❖ Tamworth Arts Council
- ❖ Tamworth Choral Society
- ❖ Tamworth Dramatic Society
- ❖ City of Tamworth Eisteddfod Society
- ❖ Tamworth Clarinet Choir
- ❖ Tamworth Poetry Reading Group
- ❖ Tamworth Highland Society Pipe Band
- ❖ Tamworth RSL and Citizens Brass Band
- ❖ Gamilaroi Dancers
- ❖ ECNAD Dance Academy
- ❖ Owl and the Pussy Cat Dance School
- ❖ Golden Oldies Dance Group
- ❖ Tamworth 50/50 Dance Club

Barraba

- ❖ Barrapella Vocal Group
- ❖ Barraba Shire Band
- ❖ Kaluder Dance Studios

Bendemeer

- ❖ CWA Players
- ❖ Bendemeer Theatre and Cabaret Group (Ruth Matthews)

Kootingal

- ❖ Kaluder Dance Academy
- ❖ Clover Leaf Dancers

Manilla

- ❖ Manilla Pipe Band
- ❖ Manilla Central School Band
- ❖ Manellae Lodge Men's Choir
- ❖ Manilla and District Country Music, Inc.

Nundle

- ❖

9.1 Music

Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music. In addition to providing individual tuition to in excess of 1,000 students, the Conservatorium supports and coordinates a number of musical groups which contribute to the community through public performances and contribution to civic and community events. These include:-

- Tamworth Regional Youth Orchestra
- Tamworth Youth String Orchestra
- Tamworth Regional Conservatorium Concert Band
- Tamworth youth Choir
- Tamworth Regional Conservatorium Vocal Ensemble
- Tamworth Regional Conservatorium Guitar Ensemble
- Con Artists
- Sinfonia
- Junior Strings
- Mini Minors

City of Tamworth Eisteddfod Society. The Tamworth Eisteddfod is held annually in late May and early June. With sections for Music, Dance, Debating, Speech and Drama.

Tamworth Choral Society. This volunteer group was established in 1949. The Choral Society holds a spring concert and Christmas Carol Services and performs publicly on request

Tamworth Clarinet Choir – This group was formed in 1982 and has been active since that date. The Clarinet Choir performs publicly on request.

Tamworth Jazz Choir has approximately 40 members with a common interest in singing for fun.

Barrapella Vocal Group - This A' Capella group has been singing in Barraba and around the region for many years. The Group performs publicly on request.

Tamworth Arts Council. Until 2010 the Tamworth Arts Council was a presenter of music, generally toured by Musica Viva Australia or other professional touring agencies. Recently government funding to Musica Viva has been cut. The cost of productions has therefore increased and audiences are not large enough to cover the increased costs. The Tamworth Arts Council has gone into recess in 2010 and will reconsider its position in 2011.

Bands

The region has a number of bands which provide excellent service to the regional community. These are volunteer organisations and draw their members from their local communities. As volunteer organisations the bands are dependent on fundraising and donations to cover the cost of uniforms, instruments and music.

Issues raised by the bands include:-

- Difficulties in recruitment of new band members, partly through the lack of music education in the smaller towns
- Difficulties in replacing uniforms and instruments
- Lack of acknowledgement of the contribution that the bands make to community life in their towns

The Tamworth Pipe Band stores its instruments in a room adjacent to the Band stage in Anzac Park. The brickwork in the Pipe Band Room is in need of attention, there are concerns about vandalism in the park, and also about the lack of good lighting.

RSL Band. The RSL Band will lose its accommodation in the V Guy Kable Building when that building is demolished in the near future

9.2 Dance

Most organisations teaching dance in the Tamworth area are privately owned and operated. A number of community based line dancing and group dancing not for profit organisations exist and meet in sports clubs and halls. No issues were raised in relation to this Plan.

9.3 Performing Arts

Professional Theatre at the Capitol. Since the opening of the Capitol Theatre in November 2008 the range and diversity of performing arts activities available in Tamworth has increased significantly. The Council has employed a professional Theatre Director and has undertaken to develop a diverse program of professional touring shows. In 2010 the Theatre provided its first subscription season. Presenters other than

Council, such as the Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music, the Tamworth Dramatic Society and the Tamworth Musical Society have been included in the subscription series.

Tamworth Musical Society. This organisation is one of the oldest most established Musical Societies in Australia. It is a volunteer organisation which produces two Musicals per year, formerly in the Tamworth Town Hall and now in the Capitol Theatre. In addition to supporting lifelong interest in musical theatre, the Musical Society has, over the years, provided a valuable stepping off point for young singers and actors who have moved on to professional theatre.

Tamworth Dramatic Society – The Tamworth Dramatic Society is a volunteer organisation which produces two to three plays per year, currently in the Capitol Theatre.

Program at the Playhouse Hotel, Barraba. The Playhouse hotel is a privately owned facility in Barraba which contains a 54 seat theatre. The Theatre regularly presents touring productions and films for local, and regional residents

10.VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS

<p>Tamworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tamworth Regional Gallery ❖ Tamworth Regional Craft Centre Inc ❖ Tamworth Embroiderers Guild ❖ Tamworth Hand spinners and Weavers Guild ❖ Tamworth Lapidary Club ❖ Tamworth Wood Turners ❖ Tamworth Philatelic Society ❖ Australia Blacksmiths Association 	<p>Barraba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Barraba Potters and Craft Guild (The Clay Pan) ❖ Frost over Barraba <p>Bendemeer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bowery Inn Craft Centre, Art and Craft Co-operative ❖ Bendemeer Art Show <p>Kootingal</p> <p>Manilla</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Manilla Art and Craft Society Inc ❖ Manilla Creative Artists <p>Nundle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nundle CWA Art Show ❖ Monday Craft Ladies (Hanging Rock) ❖ Hanging of the Quilts
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The Tamworth region has a number of retail galleries and outlets for regional artists and craftspeople. Discussion of the commercial aspects of these enterprises is outside the scope of this document.

10.1 Tamworth Regional Gallery (TRG)

Tamworth Regional Gallery is was one of the first regional galleries to be established in NSW. Commencing operation in 1919 as an art salon, the gallery initially grew through donations from private collections and acquisitions?

Since the 1970s the TRG has collected works by significant regional artists and works created in fibre and textiles. The Gallery now has a major and well respected collection of fibre works. To date the Regional Gallery has curated a major Biennial Fibre Exhibition that has opened in Tamworth and toured to regional and metropolitan galleries across Australia. Additional funding has been sourced from the Australian Government's Visions of Australia Fund to assist with the touring of Fibre Biennial. Because of current constraints on funding and staff resources it has been decided that this major Biennial will in future be held triennially.

In 2004 Council completed the construction of a new, purpose built Gallery which provides excellent gallery, working and storage spaces and meets international standards for security and environmental control.

The Regional Gallery is operated by the Council and attracts financial support from Arts NSW, to assist with its programs. It provides an exciting and diverse range of exhibitions and activities throughout the year.

A small shop in the foyer of the gallery provides some income assistance to the operation of the Gallery.

A very supportive Group of Friends of the Gallery assists with volunteer activities and in the provision of catering at exhibition openings and events.

The day to day operation of the Gallery is addressed in the Tamworth Regional Gallery Strategic Business Plan 2008- 2012 and is not addressed in this document.

Staffing at the Gallery currently includes a Director, Assistant Director, Trainee Gallery Assistant and part time administration assistant. In the consultations for this Plan the need for the addition of an Education Officer to increase the range of public and educational programs that will assist in interpreting the collections, was highlighted as a priority for the future operation of the Gallery.

10.2 Tamworth Regional Craft Centre Incorporated

The Tamworth Regional Craft Centre occupies a building at 109 Peel Street Tamworth. The building was formerly a Tank Factory. Since 1997 the members of the TRCC have upgraded and extended the building and fitted out the interiors to create work spaces for a diverse range of craft activities.

In 2009 the TRCC had between 200 and 250 members. Members pay an annual fee (currently \$45.00 and attendance fees established by each craft group to cover the cost of materials and equipment.

Activities offered at the TRCC include:-

- Art
- Blacksmithing
- Bonsai
- Embroidery
- Felting
- Knitting
- Lace making
- Lapidary
- Patchwork
- Quilting
- Spinning
- Silversmithing
- Weaving
- Woodturning

Groups meet on different days and work together to share skills and knowledge. A program of workshops is published in a brochure. Generally the tutors are unpaid, and courses are not accredited.

A shop operates within the Centre, staffed by volunteers. This shop sells items created by members, on a commission.

A pottery shed is being planned for the TRCC.

As the TAFE is no longer offering courses for non award students, TRCC will be the only group pottery shed available to amateur potters in Tamworth. It is likely that the TRCC will fill an important role in providing access workshops for potters and ceramicists in the future.

10.3 Barraba Potters and Craft Guild Inc – The Clay Pan

The Clay Pan has been operating in Barraba for many years. It was originally established by a group of local people seeking to have access to a TAFE teacher from Tamworth to run pottery classes. Over the years it has become an active arts and craft centre where people gather to work and learn together. The Fuller Gallery is attached to the Clay Pan and provides an outlet for local artists and crafts people.

Priorities for development

- Consider the addition of an Education Officer to the Tamworth Regional Gallery staff (Strategy 3.1.3)
- Maintain an overview of opportunities for generalist arts and craft education in the Tamworth region following the withdrawal of access to non award arts and crafts students by TAFE.(Strategy .1.3)

11. FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

All locations

- ❖ Australia Day
- ❖ Anzac Day

Tamworth

- ❖ Tamworth Country Music Festival
- ❖ Hats Off to Country Music Festival

Barraba

- ❖ Barraba Festival

Bendemeer

- ❖ 150 year celebrations in 2010
- ❖ Grey Fergie Muster (every third year)
- ❖ Beat the Heat Festival (in development, planned for Jan 2011)
- ❖ Bush Poetry Festival (1st Saturday in August)

Kootingal

- ❖ Pumpkin Festival in April each year
- ❖ Quarterly markets

Manilla

- ❖ Australia Day
- ❖ Platypus Festival (every second year)
- ❖ Easter Festival (Churches Fraternal

Nundle

- ❖ Go for Gold Easter Festival
- ❖ Nundle

Gourmet

Picnic

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

The Tamworth Country Music Festival is a large and complex festival and has its own Management Plans, so is not considered in this document.

In the smaller communities annual festivals are provided by community groups and serve an important function in bringing people together to celebrate the culture and distinctiveness of each town.

The **Barraba International Festival** is held the first weekend in November and features a different culture each year. This Festival receives some financial support from Council (a continuation of an arrangement with the previous Barraba Shire Council)

The **Kootingal Pumpkin Festival** is held in April each year and celebrates the diversity of life in the Kootingal area

The **Manilla Platypus Festival** has been held every second year, but is now in recess.

The **Go For Gold Festival** in Nundle is held at Easter and celebrates the rich heritage of the Nundle's goldfields history, and the many attractions that Nundle has to offer.

In all communities consulted, the Festival Committees and CDCs were enthusiastic about their festivals but had some concerns about assistance with various aspects of event management, including training in event management, promotion, assistance with grants and financial management. Concerns were also expressed about difficulties experienced in dealing with different parts of Council for the arrangement of festivals – eg street closures, traffic management plans.

Council's Festivals and Events Unit does not at present have a direct involvement in the development or management of community festivals. There is a great deal of expertise in this Unit which could be used to work alongside community festival organisers to improve skills and confidence for the volunteers.

Priorities for Development

- Work with volunteer groups to gain training in all aspects of the management of small festivals
- Review Council's commitment to involvement in community festivals in relation to activities and accountabilities of the Festivals and Events Unit.

12. MUSEUMS, HISTORY AND HERITAGE

<p>Tamworth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tamworth Historical Society ❖ New England Film and Sound Archive ❖ National Trust (Local Branch) ❖ Tamworth Family History Group ❖ Calala Cottage, Tamworth Historical Society ❖ Australian Country Music Foundation (ACMF) Museum ❖ Power Station Museum ❖ Tamworth Family History Group ❖ Wax Museum ❖ Walk a Country Mile Interpretive Centre ❖ Fellowship of First Fleeters – North West Chapter <p>Barraba</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nandewar Historical Society ❖ Nandewar Historical Museum, Barraba ❖ Barraba Information Centre Museum ❖ Shed of Knowledge 	<p>Kootingal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Parry Council Survey of Historic buildings ❖ History of Kootingal, compiled by Kootingal School P & C, 1976 and 1988 ❖ Moonby House – Heritage Listed <p>Manilla</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Manilla and District Historical Society ❖ Manilla and District Historical Museum ❖ Manilla Vintage Machinery Collection <p>Nundle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Nundle Museum – Old Courthouse Building ❖ ❖ Church Boutique (Heritage Building) ❖ Local Historian, Geoff Cummings ❖
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MUSEUMS, HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Preservation of our history and heritage

The Council provides and/or supports many of the Museum buildings in the region, but the management of collections and records is undertaken by volunteers in local historical and other relevant societies.

The volunteer contribution to the preservation of the region's history and heritage is massive. There are currently nine public Museums and a number of historical societies with collections of records being cared for by volunteers.

Most of the museums are housed in Council owned buildings. Some require substantial building repairs. Many have outgrown their available space and are in urgent need of additional archive and storage space. There are many records stored in conditions that are unsuitable for the preservation of historical records in family sheds and garages.

Many of the volunteers involved in the operation of the Museums are concerned that their volunteers are ageing and that there are not enough new volunteers interested in taking an active role in the Museums' activities for the future.

12.1 Australian Country Music Hall of Fame. This museum is housed in the old Mechanics Institute Building at 93 Brisbane Street. The Museum is well managed, but is rapidly running out of space for storage of archival records and country music memorabilia and artefacts. Plans are in place for a new facility, and fundraising has commenced, however construction may be many years away.

12.2 Calala Cottage is Tamworth's main historical museum is housed in a group of buildings in Denison Street, Tamworth. The Museum is very well managed by the volunteers. Council has carried out progressive maintenance of the buildings and is currently funding a new roof for one of the buildings.

The Tamworth Historical Society is in the process of cataloguing all of its records, but urgently needs more space to accommodate growth of these records.

12.3 Power Station Museum. This Museum contains collections and records relating to the development of electricity on the Tamworth region. Some of the collection is stored off site, and space is always at a premium. The Museum is extremely well run by a group of volunteers and paid part time caretaker, and reported that its facility and record storage are adequate.

12.4 New England Film and Sound Archive is housed in Ray Walsh House and is also running out of room. Space is required for storage of film. Older nitrate film requires special storage conditions. Additional space required by this group is for storage, and for showing films to small audiences.

12.5 Tamworth and District Family History Group Inc. has 160 + members who conduct research on the family histories of Tamworth and former Tamworth residents. At the time of writing the groups was in the process of negotiating a move from the V Guy Kable Building in Marius Street Tamworth to a building formerly used by Meals on Wheels. In the consultation, the Family History Group expressed satisfaction with the new arrangements which will give security of tenure and adequate space for their operations.

12.6 Nundle Museum is housed in the Old Court House Building. This Building is constructed on land owned by the Department of Lands and is subject to a Reserve Trust, of which TRC is the Reserve Trust Manager. This building is in need of major repair and maintenance. Council has carried out some recent urgent maintenance but consideration needs to be given to the long term future of the Nundle Museum. The collections are housed in poor conditions with the result that some records are rapidly deteriorating.

Nundle does not currently have a Historical Society, but there are some interested people who may form one. Residents are keen to specialise in the history of the goldfields, both at the Museum and in their research and potential publications.

12.7 Nandewar Historical Society and Museum has an extensive collection of material and records pertaining to the history of Barraba and district. The Museum has need for more space for exhibitions, and local secure storage for records and artefacts. Many of the records are stored off site in a private garage.

12.8 Manilla and District Historical Museum is collocated with the Manilla Visitors Centre, and is thus open to the public daily. There is urgent need are for additional storage of records. A comprehensive collection of agricultural machinery is also owned by the Manilla and District Historical Society. There is a need for additional storage for agricultural machinery.

12.9 Museum Operations

A major concern in undertaking the preparation of the Cultural Plan has been to consider the long term security and safety of valuable historical records and heritage items relating to the Tamworth region. As noted above, many of the Museums have run out of space for storage of records and artefacts

A second concern has to consider how support of the region's museums could contribute to future tourism and boost visitor numbers to the region. Many of the Museums reported on the popularity of constructing family histories and the number of people who revisit the Museums in each town to seek information about forbears, relatives and former residents.

In the consultations it was very evident that there is urgent need for consideration of modern methods of document cataloguing and storage. As scanning and digitisation of records is becoming more widespread and affordable, it is recommended that Council become involved in facilitating the care and control of records which may otherwise be lost. This could be done initially by the implementation of a project under the direction of a specialist Museums Coordinator to provide expert advice and leadership to enable volunteers to undertake the work.

At the end of the project it may be possible for the Tamworth Libraries to take on the responsibility through a local studies program, to ensure that essential records are preserved and maintained for the benefit.

In all cases the volunteers who run the museums, share a commitment and dedication to their collections and facilities. However there is much need for collaboration and support

Needs for support identified during the consultations included:-

- Collection management
 - Conservation, particularly of records and photographs
 - Collection display and interpretation
 - Significance assessment of artefacts owned by the museums.
 - Storage of records, including digitising and indexing of records
 - Acquisition and De-acquisitions policies and procedures
 -
- Promotion, tourism, audience development.
 - Promotion of museums throughout the region including assistance with production of brochures etc
 - Development of points of difference with each community to be developed by each museum
 - Regional heritage based tourism initiatives
- Financial resources
 - Assistance with funding, sponsorship, new ways of fundraising and generating income
 - Training in management of finances
- Human Resources and community engagement

- Ways of attracting new members and volunteers
- Volunteer training
- Links with schools and development of educational programs
- Building partnerships with community organisations and service clubs
- Community education in understanding the value of the museum
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- Regional networking and planning
 - Sharing information
 - Sharing promotion and publicity (Museums trails)
 - Collaboration on research and preparation of publications
 - Relationships with other museums outside the Tamworth region.

At present, there is no position within Council that has a relationship with the Museums. To undertake improvements in the issues outlined above, it would be beneficial to seek the services of a professional Museums coordinator for a limited period to work with the museums. A position of Regional Museums Coordinator, on a one to two year contract would be an effective way of bringing providing impetus to the issues outlined above. Successful programs of this nature are currently being conducted in Wagga Wagga and in the Northern Rivers area. Such a position may attract some grant funding from Arts NSW and Museums and Galleries NSW.

Priorities for development

- . The provision of archival and collection storage for museum collections and records for the region. (Strategy 3.1.1)
- Work with Arts NSW and Museums NSW to establish a three year Museums project under the management of a professional Museums Co-ordinator to work with the volunteers and ensure that collections, records, buildings and personnel are valued and preserved. This could lead to the concept of a Dispersed Regional Museum, where the local museums work together to retain their own distinctiveness while contributing to an overall regional collection. (Strategy 3.1.1)
- Investigate opportunities for the digitisation of historical records held in the Museums and Historical Societies, in a project to be managed by the Tamworth Libraries and ensure that these records are made available to researchers online and through the libraries' local studies collections. (Strategy 3.1.1)

13 GROUPS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

13.1 Youth

The needs of young people were discussed throughout the consultations. In all small communities there are concerns about the number of young people leaving the district for study and work. There were also concerns about finding meaningful activities outside of school hours.

The lack of music education in schools was frequently brought up as an issue of concern, because of the way in which young people living in isolated communities are disadvantaged through not having access to music teachers. A frequently discussed problem was the difficulty in recruiting young people to bands and music groups because of the lack of opportunities for music education.

In Tamworth Council operates a youth program, based at “The Youthie” in Peel and Darling Street. This facility provides very useful drop in centre and range of referral services. The Youth Program undertakes some outreach programs in the communities surrounding Tamworth, but these could be expanded. From time to time Youth Forums are undertaken to ascertain the views of young people on a variety of topics of concern to them.

Through the Youth Program the Council supports Youth Week activities across the region.

Recently the Youth program has developed an annual Indigenous Cultural showcase as part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival, and has supported a developing group of young Indigenous dancers, the Gamilaroi Dancers.

Priorities for development

- Advocate, on behalf of the Tamworth Regional Community to the NSW and Australian Governments for the increase of music education in schools.(Strategy 3.1.3)
- Continue to support Youth Week activities across the region (Strategy 1.1.6)
- Through Council’s Youth Program coordinate Youth Forums and consultations annually, or as needed, with young people on matters relating to their needs and involvement in civic life (Strategy 2.1.2)

- Support the Tamworth Youth Program to deliver a range of outreach activities for young people in towns outside Tamworth (Strategy 2.1.2)
- Include the annual Indigenous Cultural Showcase as an identified event to be supported as part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival (Strategy 1.1.6)

13.2 Indigenous People

Tamworth has a relatively large population of Indigenous people, comprising approximately 7% of the population but does not have a comprehensive Indigenous Cultural Strategy.

The Council assists the Aboriginal community through participation in groups such as the Coledale Action Team, through assistance with NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week, and through activities at “The Youthisie.” The recent emergence of the Gomeri Dancers demonstrates a significant benefit of young Aboriginal people taking pride in their culture, and their willingness to share this with the non aboriginal community.

Council also houses Aboriginal artefacts at the Botanic Gardens. The Tamworth Regional Gallery hosts touring exhibitions of Indigenous art as part of its exhibitions program. Celebration of, and pride in culture is can have significant positive effects. Engage with the Indigenous community to create an Indigenous Cultural Strategy for the Tamworth region.

Priorities for development

- Collaborate with the Indigenous community in the development of an Indigenous Cultural Strategy for the Tamworth region.
- Collaborate with the Indigenous community on any future developments of the collection of artefacts at the Tamworth Regional Botanic Gardens
- Continue to support Indigenous events such as NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week
- Continue to support Indigenous performance groups in the celebration of Aboriginal culture
- Continue to develop the Indigenous Cultural Showcase as part of the Tamworth Country Music Festival

13.3 People from Non English Speaking Backgrounds (NESB)

The Tamworth region has a relatively low number of people from non English Speaking backgrounds. However, it is anticipated that this may change as people move away from the cities. The Council maintains a watching brief in association with the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW, -

Priorities for development

- Continue to support the Community Relations Commission for a Multicultural NSW in addressing the needs of people from Non English Speaking backgrounds living in the Tamworth region. (Strategy 1.1.6)

13.4 Our Ageing Population and People with a Disability

As the population of the region continues to increase in age, there will a continuing imperative to cater for the needs of the elderly and people with a disability. The Council has recently adopted a Disability Action Plan that strives to meet the needs of people with a disability. The council also plays an active role in meeting the needs of people with a disability through its disability Access Groups in each of the towns.

All of the buildings under Council's control currently meet the requirements for disabled access. From the perspective of equity and social inclusiveness it is important that Council continue to make provision for the needs of people with a disability to be heard and met. The inclusion of people with a disability, or their representatives on any Arts and Cultural Advisory Committee was considered to be important to maintain a positive flow of information regarding the needs of this group.

Challenge Disability Services has commenced an annual art competition through its programs across the region and has been displaying the results of the competition in the Community Gallery in Ray Walsh House. This initiative has had positive outcomes for the artists and for the broader community.

Priorities for development

- Include a position for a representative of people with a disability on an Arts and Cultural or Advisory Group (if formed) (Strategy 1.1.1)

TAMWORTH REGIONAL COUNCIL

Review of Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003 -2005

Review of TCC Cultural Plan 2003-2005

Introduction

This review of the Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003-2005 was undertaken as the first step in the compilation of a new Cultural Plan for the Tamworth Regional Council.

The Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan was adopted by Council in February 2003. It was a comprehensive plan compiled following a community survey and extensive consultation with arts, cultural, history and heritage groups in Tamworth.

Following the adoption of the Cultural Plan, Council established an Arts Advisory Committee to guide the implementation of the Plan. This Committee met throughout 2003. Following the amalgamation of the Barraba, Manilla, Parry, Nundle and Tamworth Councils to form Tamworth Regional Council in March 2004 the Council was disbanded and the new region was in administration until September 2004. When the new Council was elected, there were many competing priorities for Council's immediate attention and the Arts Advisory Committee was not reconstituted.

As arts and cultural activities affect and are affected by many aspects of Council's activities, the implementation of the Plan has been carried out in a number of Directorates.

Highlighted achievements of the Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003 – 2005

Much was achieved from the implementation of the TCC Cultural Plan. Actual outcomes for each of the actions and strategies in the adopted plan are provided in the body of this document. Highlights have included, but are not limited to:-

- Completion of the new purpose built Tamworth Regional Gallery and Library in December 2004
- Completion of the Capitol Theatre in November 2008
- Installation of tiered seating at TRECC
- Feasibility study for resiting the Norm McKellar Stage (as part of the Fitzroy Street/ Bicentennial Park Master Plan)
- Relocation of Walk A Country Mile
- Review of S94 Plan to encourage Developer Contributions to cultural infrastructure, in particular public art

- Development and adoption of a Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan
- Continued and expanded support of the Tamworth Country Music Festival
- Continued Support of NAIDOC Week, Seniors Week, Youth Week and other events that celebrate cultural diversity.

Highlighted activities of the Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003 – 2005 that need to be commenced and/ or carried forward to the new TRC Cultural Plan.

- Appointment of a Cultural Development Officer to implement the Cultural Plan and work with communities
- Consideration of ways to support the growth and development of cultural industries in the Tamworth region
- Consideration of means for effective communication with the volunteer sector of arts, cultural and heritage groups
- A feasibility study for an Archive Centre for the Historical Societies and the nine museums located in the Tamworth Regional Council area
- Appointment of a Regional Museums Co-Ordinator
- A review of Council's structure in relation to the distribution of responsibility for arts, cultural, and heritage responsibilities
- A communications strategy that includes arts and cultural activities with tourism and marketing
- Consideration of an Indigenous Arts and Cultural strategy

Scope

The scope of The Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003-2005 incorporated the following areas of Council's activities.

- Design and ownership of public buildings/spaces
- Community events
- Heritage and history
- Visual and performing arts
- Popular entertainment

- All other forms of creative activity

The Cultural Plan did not include recreational and sporting facilities and activities, as these are incorporated in a range of other Council Plans.–

Defining Culture

For the purpose of the TCC Cultural Plan 2003-2003 'Culture' was defined as “ *principally a way of life – this may include customs, rituals, traditions, religious/spiritual beliefs, community events, recreation/leisure and entertainment, activities, the arts, language, architecture, lifestyle (food, dress) and sport, In short culture encompasses the everyday interactions of people within their environment and each other.*”

Guiding Principles adopted for the Cultural Plan included

- Cultural Diversity
- Local identity
- Culture and the local economy
- Cultural activities
- Cultural heritage

Aims and Objectives.

The Tamworth City Council Cultural Plan 2003-2005 was divided into sections relating to the ten specific aims, listed below.

1. Facilities and Services.

Aim: To maximise the use of existing Council and private facilities, to develop /upgrade new cultural facilities in accordance with community priorities and to facilitate service provision that is equitable to all residents.

2. Community Awareness and Involvement

Aim: To raise awareness in the community of the value of culture and to encourage participation by residents in local cultural activities.

3. Education and Training

Aim: To maximise potential leadership within the City, to encourage residents to undertake cultural training for their own cultural development (either as professional or to improve their own quality of life) and to encourage residents to share their skills with other members of the community.

4. Promotions, Networking, Resource Sharing

Aim : To support cultural development by ensuring that residents and visitors are well informed about cultural activities and opportunities and to facilitate the creation of co-operative networks among cultural sectors in order to produce the best use of resources.

5. Partnerships with Government and other service Providers

Aim: To Collaborate with Federal/State government agencies and private service providers to secure the maximum benefits for cultural activities and ensure that the needs of the community are met.

6. Activities/Events/Festivals

Aim: To maintain and enhance the City's cultural vibrancy by actively assisting and promoting a variety of cultural events, programs and activities.

7. Cultural Industry Development/Tourism

Aim: To facilitate cultural industry development/tourism by promoting existing cultural industries and supporting the development of new cultural industries

8. History and Heritage

Aim: To recognise value and protect Tamworth's history and heritage, including its heritage sites and buildings, its numerous collections and archives and to encourage community recognition of the city's past as a key to its potential future.

9. Lifestyle and Identity

Aim: To support and facilitate cultural development which builds on the natural beauty of the city; the diversity, knowledge and skills of the local arts and cultural workers and the commitment of volunteers to enhance a lifestyle which is appreciated by both residents and visitors.

10. Diversity and Special Needs

Aim: To maximise access to and participation in quality cultural activities and opportunities by individuals and groups with special needs, e.g. youth, indigenous residents, residents with a disability and low income residents.

The table below details the progress made under each set of specific Actions that were adopted in the Cultural Plan. The table also lists actions for consideration in the new TRC Cultural Plan currently in development. These actions will be carried forward and included in the Tamworth Regional Council Cultural Plan 2010 -2105

Detailed Review

1. FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Aim: - To maximise use of existing Council and Private facilities, to develop/upgrade new cultural facilities in accordance with community priorities, and to facilitate service provision that is equitable and accessible to all residents.

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in New TRC Cultural Plan 2010 -2015
1.1 Ensure that fees for the hire of cultural facilities are set at an affordable rate to ensure maximum community use (especially TRECC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue hire Fees are set in the Council’s Management Plan each year. • Special (subsidised) rates are given to community, cultural and sporting groups for hire of Council facilities • Waiving of fees policy has been adopted by Council as part of the Donations Program Applications may be made throughout the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Groups consulted in relation to the new Cultural Plan requested that Council continue to provide support through subsidised hire rates for Council owned venues and Waiving of Fees policy. (1.1.1)
1.2 Ensure that the fees for the erection of promotional banners for cultural events/markets/fairs are not prohibitively expensive for the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banner fees are set in the Council’s Management Plan each year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Groups consulted in relation to the new Cultural Plan requested that Council maintain minimum rates for banner fees. (1.1.1)
1.3 Consult with appropriate users of facilities when developing and constructing new venues in order to maximise the appropriateness of cultural infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Working Group was formed and actively assisted in the design and construction of the Library and Art Gallery • A Working Group with representatives from performing arts and music groups was formed and actively assisted with the fit out requirements for the Capitol Theatre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project has been completed, no further action required

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in New TRC Cultural Plan 2010 -2015
1.4 Investigate the feasibility of re-siting the Norm McKellar stage in relation to the sun to allow more daytime concerts with neither the performers nor the audience having to look into the sun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress will be in line with the implementation of Stage 4 of the City Beautification Master Plan. (9.1.3)
1.5 Upgrade the electricity in the Town Hall and assess the feasibility of improving the acoustics in the hall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no action on this item. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be reviewed for possible future action
1.6 Review the Information Centre as a ticketing centre with a view to providing a speedier and more cost effective service to residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Tamworth has become the central ticketing location and now has a comprehensive online system that is linked with the Capitol Theatre and AELEC. • This system is available to all organisations and community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support Tourism Tamworth as the central ticketing agent. Encourage community and cultural groups to use Tourism Tamworth's ticketing agency (5.1.1) • Promote Tourism Tamworth's "Whats On" listing to cultural and community groups and organisations (5.1.1)
1.7 Encourage further cultural exchanges (e.g. art and craft) with Sister City program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchanges in all fields are encouraged by the Sister city Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to encourage these exchanges through the Sister City Committee (2.1.3)
1.8 Employ a full time Cultural Development Officer. This person may perform a dual role as the City Archivist and also assist cultural groups to secure grants/sponsorship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been no action on the recruitment of a Cultural Officer, however, Council has increased its commitment to community and cultural activities through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the establishment of the Festivals and Events Unit ○ the appointment of the Theatre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations have strongly supported the appointment of a Cultural Development Officer, as a central person to drive the implementation of the Cultural Plan and to support the many volunteers who work in arts and cultural service groups. (3.1.1)

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in New TRC Cultural Plan 2010 -2015
	<p>Director</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ continued participation in Arts North West 	
<p>1.9 Investigate the feasibility of developing a Performing Arts Complex to hold 500 patrons (with raked seating, quality acoustics, sound proof rehearsal rooms and café/bar facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fit out of 402 seat Performing Arts Centre, to be known as the Capitol Theatre undertaken in 2008. The Theatre is leased by Council from Box Office Holdings and has gained excellent community support. COMPLETED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to support, promote and develop the Capitol Theatre (3.1.1)
<p>1.10 Develop/redevelop a Library/Art Gallery venue incorporating interactive displays, a café and a meeting room workshop space. If feasible a historical records centre/local archive facility should be established as an adjunct to the new centre (following consultation with appropriate user groups)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Library and Art Gallery building constructed and opened in 2004. COMPLETED ● Historical and archive facility was not included in the building. ● Many of the Heritage and History Groups are storing archives in circumstances that are not ideal. ● The Barraba Shire Offices are being prepared to be the Archive Centre for Council's records. If there is any spare room, community groups may be approached to store their records there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Undertake a feasibility study and design brief for Historical Archive Centre for regional museum and Historical Societies. (9.1.4)
<p>1.11 Seek funding to complete the development of the Regional Craft Centre, e.g., finish the building, and improve the grounds. In addition, the feasibility of establishing a "community "craft facility should be investigated. This facility would provide a venue and equipment (such as a pottery kiln) for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tamworth Regional Craft Centre (TRCC) has been completed,(without Council assistance), and houses activities such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Embroidering ○ Knitting ○ Spinning and Weaving ○ Lace Making ○ Patchwork & Quilting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the Tamworth Regional Craft Centre through the Council's Donations vote, and/or provide assistance to the group in their efforts to obtain grant funding for construction of the pottery building and the expansion of the Craft Centre(3.1.1)

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in New TRC Cultural Plan 2010 -2015
use by the general public (for a nominal fee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lapidary & silversmithing ○ Painting ○ Wood turning ○ Blacksmithing ○ Bonsai Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Plans have been approved by Council for a Pottery and Ceramics building, for which the TRCC are currently raising funds ● An expansion of the Weavers' area is also being planned, and funding sought 	
1.12 Promote local craft and visual art displays in key locations, e.g. the Visitors Centre, Libraries, Ray Walsh House, and Peel St etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ray Walsh House Community Gallery is managed by the Tamworth Regional Gallery and hosts up to 12 exhibitions of community art and craft works per year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to support the Community Gallery in Ray Walsh House (3.1.1)
1.13 Upgrade TREC (especially tiered seating) to maximise usage. Professional marketing of TRECC is also required to ensure that the "bigger shows" are secured locally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tiered seating has been installed in the TRECC ● Marketing of TRECC has been improved by the expansion of Council's Events Unit and specific agreement with Tourism Tamworth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to operate and market the TRECC through Council's Events Unit and Tourism Tamworth (3.1.1)
1.14 Investigate the feasibility of developing or (redeveloping an existing facility such as the Golden Guitar complex) as a "Country Music Hall of Fame" The Centre would be similar to the Stockman's Hall of Fame at Longreach and would provide a one stop facility for all things Country	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● "Walk a Country Mile" was established, initially at the TRECC and is now operating at the Tamworth Visitors Centre. ● Australian Country Music Hall of Fame has continued to operate from the former Mechanics Institute at 93 Brisbane Street Tamworth. A Foundation has been established and fundraising has commenced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support the ACMF in their attempts to secure funding for a Country Music Hall of Fame.(1.1.7) ● Consider storage needs for archiving of

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in New TRC Cultural Plan 2010 -2015
Music.	<p>for the construction of a purpose built CM Hall of Fame in Tamworth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The collections and archives of the ACMF have been accredited by Museums Australia as a Collection of National and International Significance • The collections are outgrowing the current facility in Brisbane Street. More storage space is required... 	<p>material as part of the feasibility of a central archive for heritage and historical records. (9.1.4)</p>
<p>1.15 Build upon the Work undertaken in the Cultural Audit and establish a comprehensive database of the City's cultural resources for the benefit of residents, visitors and organisations. The database would capture the breadth of resources from individual artists/performers to the locations, cost, size and availability of facilities and should be extensively promoted, especially on Council's website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No current data base exists, however arts and cultural groups are invited to list their details in the Tamworth Regional Council's Community Directory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a database of facilities and arts and cultural venues in the region (3.1.1) • Continue to use and promote the Tamworth Regional Community Directory as the main resource for information about arts and cultural groups (3.1.1)
<p>1.16 Upgrade/continue to develop the Regional Botanic Gardens (especially sealing the main access road) to maximise usage.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant development has occurred at the Botanic Gardens including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Completion of TAFE Horticultural Classroom ○ Entry gates and picnic areas ○ Chapel (2000?) ○ Roads ○ New water feature ○ Victoria Park Miniature Railway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for the Botanic Gardens will continue through the Victoria Park Precinct Plan currently being developed by the Horticulture and Recreation Division, and will not be considered in the Cultural Plan

2. COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

Aim: To raise awareness in the community of the value of culture, and to encourage participation by residents in local cultural activities

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003 - 2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 – 2015
<p>2.1 Nominate a Councillor to hold the “Cultural Development” portfolio for the organisation (and chair the expanded Arts and Cultural Advisory Group)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Arts and Cultural Advisory Group was established and operated throughout 2003, however was not reconvened following the Council amalgamation in March 2004. • Arts and cultural development is addressed across several Council Directorates:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regional Services - Cultural and Community Services Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Libraries, ▪ Galleries, ▪ Youth programs, ▪ Aged care programs, ▪ Community Development and Planning,) ○ Corporate and Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Events Unit, ▪ Community Development Committees, ▪ Community Buildings ▪ Tourism Tamworth ○ Environment and Planning - Strategic Planning Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Public Art Policy and implementation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the need for an Arts Advisory Committee to work with community groups and to lead the implementation of the TRC Cultural Plan 2010-2015 (2.1.2) • Consider the need for the appointment of a Cultural Development Officer to work with Council and arts and cultural groups. (2.1.2)

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003 - 2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 – 2015
2.2 Councillors to attend openings/cultural events and publicist the events as being of value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitations for Council’s cultural events are sent to all Councillors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote arts and cultural events to all Councillors and to encourage their involvement (3.1.1)
2.3 Support the local theatre/drama groups to provide “theatre in the work place”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups consulted did not consider it necessary to pursue this strategy. No further action required
2.4 Council to support the concept of mounting art and cultural displays in shop windows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action by Council, the focus has been on Tamworth Regional Gallery and Ray Walsh House Community Gallery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to focus on the development of the Tamworth Regional Gallery and Ray Walsh House Community Gallery (3.1.1)
2.5 Encourage cultural organisations to promote themselves by use of local media (radio, TV and newspaper) plus talks at meeting of other local community groups on different aspects of culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABC Radio New England North West holds a weekly Arts show which engages with local arts and cultural organisations and groups • Northern Daily Leader – Community News and Gig Guide on Fridays • Local papers provide photographers at arts events • The use of Websites as a central communication medium has progressed exponentially since the TCC Cultural Plan was written in 2003 • Tourism Tamworth “<i>What’s On</i>” provides a central listing of community and commercial events in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and support the new Council website which was launched in January 2010. This website has the ability to provide links to the websites of community and cultural groups. The new website will also have a “What’s On section that will initially list events organised by Council and/or held in Council facilities (5.1.1) • Continue to promote Tourism Tamworth’s <i>What’s On</i> as a central listing of events in the Tamworth region. (5.1.1) • Consider the publication of an arts and cultural promotional publication to be included in New Residents’ packs (5.1.1)
2.6 Support, using sporting or other identities (i.e. cross cultural icons) to promote culture within the city	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No particular promotions using sporting and other identities have been arranged , but individual events are strongly promoted by their organisers, and where appropriate by Tourism Tamworth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Tourism Tamworth to develop promotional strategies for participation in arts and cultural activities (5.1.1)

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003 - 2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 – 2015
2.7 Promote the value of participation in cultural groups and activities as a way of enriching their lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some general promotions have been undertaken by Arts North West 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Arts North West on the general promotion of arts and cultural activities in the region (3.1.1)
2.8 Sponsor a “most promising artist award” re performing, visual, craft etc (similar to the Sports person of the Year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action to date. Groups consulted in the review process did not support proceeding with this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further action required
2.9 Optimise opportunities for cultural activities in the CBD (mainly Peel Street/Bicentennial Park) such as market days/ lunchtime performances, street art, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street performances have been part of CMF in recent years. No specific action at other times of the year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Chamber of Commerce to promote cultural activities at market days etc (4.1.2)
2.10 Explore opportunities and resources to foster improved exchange of information, ideas, resources and projects between organisations involved in local arts and cultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was an area considered by the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group, but was not continued after it was disbanded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider as part of the role for a Cultural Development Officer (2.1.2)
2.11 Liaise with local groups/organisations to establish an “outdoor concert series” and/or an “outdoor film series” such as a ‘deckchair cinema’ in Tamworth’s parks and gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups consulted considered that this is no longer relevant

3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Aim: To maximise potential leadership within the city, to encourage residents to undertake cultural training for their own cultural development (either as professionals) or to improve their quality of life and to encourage residents to share their skills with other members of the community

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
3.1 Hold workshops on “How to write successful Grant Applications” and “How to gain sponsorship for your group”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops have been provided by Arts North West • Groups consulted highlighted the need for workshops to be held regularly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to arrange funding and sponsorship workshops for community and cultural groups relating to successful submission writing through Arts North West. (2.1.4)
3.2 Hold workshops on leadership training and how to work cooperatively within groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approach Arts North West or Tamworth Community College to provide governance and leadership training for volunteers. (2.1.4)
3.3 Support the concept of ‘summer ‘ and winter schools for various cultural media, e.g. visual arts, music, performing arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamworth Regional Gallery holds summer art camps for children • Tamworth Regional Conservatorium of Music (TRCM) holds music workshops, as personnel and resources are available throughout the year • Department of Education and Training has a Regional Arts Advisor who arranges Band camps and training sessions for school children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct summer art camps at Tamworth Regional Gallery (3.1.1) • Continue to make the Esther Halliday Studio available to artists to conduct workshops and visual arts training throughout the year.(3.1.1) • Support the TRCM in its efforts to conduct music schools and master classes (3.1.1)
3.4 Involve the Arts and Media Department at Tamworth Campus of TAFE as a focus for visual arts education/dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular contact is maintained between the Gallery and the Arts and Media Department at Tamworth TAFE. • The Arts and Media Department at TAFE now follows the Australian and NSW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With TAFE focusing on employment based training, a gap has occurred for general interest education in and crafts. Consider alternative provision of general interest arts and cultural education (addressed in

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
	<p>Governments' shifting emphasis from education to training. This means that courses must concentrate on employability as an outcome of training. Courses now provide links to broad based "creative industries and include Interactive Digital Media, photo Imaging and Certificates 3 & 4 in Visual Arts and Contemporary Crafts.</p>	<p>more detail in new Cultural Plan (3.1.1)</p>
<p>3.5 Encourage schools to increase individual music tuition, speech and drama by way of visiting teachers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Education and Training has continued to provide a range of arts and music education, within the annual Department of Education Budget. • Consultations have highlighted the need for music education in schools, in all parts of the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and Advocate, on behalf of the Tamworth Regional Community to the NSW and Australian Governments for the increase of music education in schools. (3.1.1)
<p>3.6 Obtain funding for professional training in performing arts by local and visiting tutors through Arts North West</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts North West has been able to obtain funding for some projects, however not in this area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to encourage Arts North West to seek Funding for professional training for performing arts. (3.1.1)
<p>3.7. Support the use of local tutors in on-going craft courses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local tutors have been used in courses run by TAFE and by individual craft groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support the engagement of local tutors through hiring out of the Esther Halliday Studio at the Tamworth Regional Gallery (3.1.1)
<p>3.8 Support applications by local cultural workers for positions within TAFE and other educational institutions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No known approaches to Council for this support . TAFE appoints teachers on merit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further action

4. PROMOTIONS, NETWORKING, RESOURCE SHARING

Aim: To support cultural development by ensuring that residents and visitors are well informed about cultural activities and opportunities, and to facilitate the creation of cooperative networks among the cultural sectors in order to produce the best use of resources.

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
4.1 Support the development of an 'umbrella' cultural organisation which represents the diversity of cultural interest in the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was a function of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group when it was established in 2003 Groups consulted believed that it would be of benefit to have one or two seminars per year that would bring the arts and cultural groups together for forward planning and discussion of possible joint projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider as part of the duties of a Cultural Development Officer to arrange twice yearly meetings between Council and arts and cultural groups (2.1.2)
4.2 Assist in promoting Tamworth as a regional cultural centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Tamworth has developed Tourism strategies for Tamworth and all smaller centres within the Tamworth region. These strategies include promotion of arts and cultural events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Tourism Tamworth to promote arts and cultural activities throughout the Region.(5.1.1) Continue to vigorously promote the Capitol Theatre, Tamworth Regional Gallery, Tamworth Libraries and Museums. (detailed in new Plan) (5.1.1)
4.3 Ensure that signage to cultural venues (privately owned as well as Council owned) is visible and appropriately placed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some signage has been achieved, however, uniform and prominent signage would be of benefit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of signage throughout the region and install prominent and distinctive signage to arts and cultural facilities (5.1.1)
4.4 Promote cultural activities as part of local media coverage, plus advocate to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Media has continued to promote arts and cultural activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with media and to develop greater and more consistent

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
the local media for more coverage of local activities		coverage of local arts and cultural activities (5.1.1)
4.5 Highlight the value of Tamworth Regional Conservatorium in any promotional strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value of the TRCM is recognised and considered by Council as a very important cultural resource in Tamworth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing (4.1.2)
4.6 Invite Cultural groups to include their brochures, event promotions in New Resident kits etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism Tamworth includes brochures, if they are supplied by the groups. • TT notes that the most important resource delivered in the new residents kit is the TRC Community Directory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the provision of a general cultural life publication for New Residents' kits (5.1.1) • Continue to promote the TRC Community Directory and ensure that all groups are listed and that their entries remain current.(5.1.1)
4.7 Provide assistance to cultural groups in the development of websites and build in linkages for existing groups which have already developed their websites (e.g. history collections/ antique fair. These all need to be linked to a Council Cultural website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been considerable development in use of internet and websites since the last cultural plan was adopted. • Council's new website will have the facility to provide links for arts and cultural groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Council's website to arts and cultural groups to provide links to arts and cultural group websites.(5.1.1)

5. PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SERVICE PROVIDERS

Aim: Collaborate with Federal/State government agencies and private service providers to secure the maximum benefits for cultural activities and ensure that the needs of the community are met.

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
5.1 Approach the State and Federal Governments to develop a strategy which will produce affordable public liability insurance for all cultural groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy has been undertaken through Arts North West and other regional arts organisations. • Some smaller Arts organisations have ceased operations because of the high cost of Public Liability Insurance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to advocate for affordable public liability insurance for arts and cultural organisations.(2.1.2)
5.2 Be pro-active in seeking funding for major capital works projects for cultural facilities, i.e. a new Performing Arts Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Capitol Theatre has been completed. State funding of \$75,000 was contributed for the project 	<p>Possible New Capital Works Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a feasibility study for a Regional Museum (9.1.4) • Develop the Public Art Policy and implementation in preparation to seek capital funding for major public arts projects throughout the region.(9.1.4)
5.3 Develop a partnership with the TAFE as a registered training organisation for film, video, graphic arts, music and the performing arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further action recommended
5.4 Undertake a review of the Section 94 Contributions Plan to identify facilities for developer investment in the cultural infrastructure, such as public art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S94 Plan has been reviewed. Developer contributions now made for public art • . Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan have been COMPLETED • Implementation of the Public Art Policy a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Art Policy covers period 2008-2013 • Implementation of the public art policy to proceed as funds become available (9.1.4)

	priority	
5.5 Review the scope/purpose of Council committees to provide greater recognition/support for the promotion of cultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has established Community Development Committees in the towns and villages outside Tamworth with a broad brief to develop community activities and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support and engage Community Development Committees and local arts groups in the presentation of community festivals and events (2.1.3)
5.6 Facilitate cultural development and the implementation of the Cultural Plan, investigate funding opportunities for a Cultural Development Officer (based at Council) and/or for additional resourcing of community based cultural organisations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has not appointed Cultural Development Officer, but has expanded its Festivals and Events Unit • Provision of Capitol Theatre has benefitted performing arts groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint a Cultural Development Officer within Council, as a priority(2.1.2)
5.7 Review funding under Council's community donations policy to facilitate the establishment of an annual Cultural Investment Program(CIP) similar to the Council's Heritage Assistance Program (which provides financial assistance to owners of Heritage properties for improvement/renovation). The CIP would provide financial assistance to community groups and organisations that operate cultural services or conduct cultural activities on a non-profit basis for the benefit of the residents of Tamworth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and Cultural Groups may apply for funding under Council's Donations policy. There has been no review of this policy to separate funds for cultural groups from those allocated for community groups generally. • Groups consulted favored the separation of funds for arts and cultural activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Council's Donations Policy, both in composition and in quantum to provide a specific fund for arts and cultural groups and events.(2.1.4) • Review current allocations through different Directorates to consider the best ways of allocating funding to arts and cultural activities (2.1.4)

6. ACTIVITIES/EVENTS/FESTIVALS

Aim: To maintain and enhance the City’s cultural vibrancy by actively assisting in promoting a variety of cultural events, programs and activities.

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
6.1 Continue to support the Tamworth Country Music Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Tamworth Country Music Festival has received continuous and expanded support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the Tamworth Country Music Festival (5.1.2)
6.2 Explore the possibility of establishing/promoting Tamworth as a music industry centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CMAA promotes Tamworth as a Country Music industry centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the expansion of music industries in association with TRDC (4.1.2)
6.3 Develop and sponsor a major art prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action has been taken to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups consulted considered that this may not be the best use of resources, and did not wish to pursue this strategy further. Further action is not recommended
6.4 Work co-operatively with cultural groups to establish a broad based Cultural Calendar which is freely and widely available to residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 2003 there has been much development in the use of the Internet to disseminate information regarding events, and to facilitate bookings Tourism Tamworth, as a centralised booking agency has developed a comprehensive “What’s on” section on its web site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Tourism Tamworth to develop its central bookings facility and its <i>What’s On</i> section of the Website (5.1.1)

7. CULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM

Aim: To facilitate cultural industry development by promoting existing cultural industries and supporting the development of new cultural industries

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
7.1 Support the concept of “street art” throughout the year (not just during the Country Music Festival)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed with the Tamworth and district Chamber of Commerce. Some street art and entertainment occurs during markets, but this has not been pursued very vigorously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider “street art” in conjunction with the Sunday markets (T&D Chamber of Commerce) – as part of the brief for the Cultural Development Officer (3.1.1)
7.2 Assist in the development of the music industry by offering incentives to existing industries outside Tamworth to relocate to the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the expansion of music industries in association with TRDC (4.1.2)
7.3 Investigate options for obtaining affordable public liability insurance for craft market stall holders and other cultural events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocacy for cheaper public liability insurance has been undertaken through a variety of organisations including Council and Arts North West 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to advocate for more affordable public liability insurance for all arts and cultural organisations(2.1.4)
7.4 Encourage businesses and tourist operators to use local artists and performers where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider in relation to the duties of a Cultural Development Officer(3.1.1)
7.5 Facilitate quarterly meetings of cultural industry representatives to encourage strategic and co-operative development of the cultural industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts North West conducted Arts as Industries Forum in Tamworth and maintains regional visual artists network TAFE is gearing its arts and media courses towards training for employment in cultural industries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider in relation to the duties of a Cultural Development Officer (2.1.2) Consider in collaboration with TRDC and Arts North West (4.1.2)
7.6 Consider broadening the “branding” of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider in relation to the duties of a

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
<p>Tamworth as the Country Music Capital” to capitalise on the breadth of the existing music industry</p>		<p>Cultural Development Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Consider a joint project with Tamworth Regional Development Corporation, Tourism Tamworth and the Tamworth and District Chamber of Commerce to broaden the branding of Tamworth.(4.1.2)
<p>7.7 Work co-operatively with tourism organisations and economic development agencies to promote Tamworth as having broad music industry capabilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider in relation to the duties of a Cultural Development Officer (4.1.2) •

8. HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Aim: To recognise, value and protect Tamworth’s history and heritage, including its heritage sites and buildings, its numerous collections and archives, and to encourage community recognition of the city’s past as a key to its potential future.

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
<p>8.1 Investigate the scope, nature and location for a new archive/repository centre for all historical records, photographs and other documentation relating to the City’s history. It is envisaged that such a facility could be co-located in either the new Library/Art Gallery complex or as an extension to Calala Cottage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not included in Library and Art Gallery building • An archive/storage space is being developed at Barraba for Council records. If there is any spare space when Council’s needs have been met, then space may be offered to community groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider as a major action for the new Cultural Plan. The need for storage now includes the Historical societies and Museums throughout the regional council area (9.1.4)
<p>8.2 Investigate the development of display facilities for the City’s collections, e.g. Russian ivory, silver, stamps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ivory and silver are held and displayed in the Tamworth Regional Gallery. The stamp collection is no longer held by Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>8.3 Seek funding to establish an Aboriginal Keeping Place at the Botanic Gardens in order to safely store and display items of indigenous culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal artifacts discovered during the establishment of the botanic Gardens are displayed in a secure area at the Botanic Gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the development of an Indigenous arts and culture strategy as part of the new Cultural Plan(3.1.1)
<p>8.4 Facilitate the use of stories and cultural activities from the past by the media in order to increase residents’ awareness of Tamworth’s rich heritage and to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New England Film and Sound Archive has collected a significant amount of material. More public access would be of benefit • Northern Daily Leader has a regular “Visions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
assist to unite groups across different sectors.	of the Past” section	
8.5 Support the practice of regular historical storytelling sessions at the Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historical stories have been included in the program as part of the general program of activities and author talks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider as part of the Libraries’ Operational Plan (3.1.1)
8.6 Re-establish a biennial Heritage Awards Program to recognise and celebrate projects which preserve and promote the City’s history and heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider as part of the duties of a Museums Co-Ordinator(3.1.1. and 1.1.7)
8.7 Continue to protect and preserve items/places of Indigenous and European heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal artifacts discovered during the establishment of the botanic Gardens are displayed in a secure area at the Botanic Gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the development of an Indigenous arts and culture strategy as part of the new Cultural Plan (3.1.1)
8.8 Complete the Tamworth Heritage Walk and Heritage Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further action required
8.9 Develop Public Art Projects promoting Tamworth’s history.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Art Plan is in place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of Tamworth’s history proposed for development of Fitzroy Street, in front of Town Hall (9.1.4)

9. LIFESTYLE AND IDENTITY

AIM: To support and facilitate cultural development which builds on the natural beauty of the City, the diversity, knowledge and skills of local arts and cultural workers, and the commitment of volunteers to enhance a lifestyle which is appreciated by both residents and visitors.

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
9.1 Continue/expand the Arts and Cultural Advisory Working Group (incorporating representatives from all sectors of the cultural community) to oversee the implementation of the Tamworth Cultural Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts and Cultural Advisory Group was not reconvened following Amalgamation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider a twice yearly forum with arts and cultural groups to discuss areas of common interest and need (2.1.2)
9.2 Continue to hold Volunteer Awards on an annual basis to acknowledge the contribution of local volunteers in developing a vibrant and creative City.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Gift of Time” Ceremony has been held annually, and includes volunteers working in arts and cultural activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing (2.1.4)
9.3 Explore opportunities to provide public art and/or community cultural development projects within the development of all new or renovated Council buildings and in open space areas such as streets and parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Art Policy and Implementation Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing(9.1.4)
9.4 Encourage private developers to include art or craft works within all major commercial developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributions from developers for art and craft works are now Included in Council’s S94 Plan 2008-2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing (9.1.4)
9.5 Encourage signage (including billboards) to encompass local artwork/photography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider in relation to the duties of a Cultural Development Officer (9.1.4)

DIVERSITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Aim : To maximise access to and participation in quality cultural activities and opportunities by individuals and groups with special needs, e.g. youth, indigenous residents with a disability and low income residents

For Action 2003	Achievements from 2003-2009	For consideration in new TRC Cultural Plan 2010 - 2015
10.1 Ensure representation on the expanded Arts and Cultural Advisory Working Group from special need groups within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arts and Cultural Advisory Group was not reconvened following amalgamation TRC's Disability Action Plan makes provision for Access groups in each town across the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider in relation to the duties of a Cultural Development Officer and ensure that the Cultural Development Officer is included in Access Groups to ensure that special needs are considered in cultural planning (2.1.2)
10.2 Continue to facilitate (as it has in the past) specialised cultural training programs for working with people with physical, emotional and intellectual disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training programs have continued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing (1.1.1)
10.3 Provide subsidised places for cultural training for residents with disabilities and economically disadvantaged residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
10.4 Examine the feasibility of establishing a permanent display of indigenous art in the City Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This has been considered, and is not feasible because of the need to regularly change exhibitions in the Gallery. In addition, Council does not own a collection of Indigenous art The Regional Gallery displays indigenous art as part of its touring exhibition program, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to host touring exhibitions of Indigenous art when and as appropriate, as part of the Gallery's annual program of exhibitions and public programs. (3.1.1)
10.5 Consider the performance needs of youth (for both rehearsals and events)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Rehearsal Room has been provided at "The Youthie" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Youth Bands through the Council's Youth Program and make this

when developing a Performing Arts Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Youth Bands are engaged to play at events at “the Youthie” Some funding has been made available through Youth Week grants to hold a Youth concert in the Capitol Theatre 	a feature of Council’s Youth strategy (3.1.1)
10.6 Enlarge the existing Skate Park to be more appropriate for skateboards (as opposed to roller bladders) and to provide more lighting to enable safer usage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extension of the Skate Park was completed in 2009. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further action required as part of this Plan
10.7 Facilitate an annual Youth Festival in Bicentennial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No annual Youth Festival has been held in Bicentennial Park, however, a range of youth events have been conducted in various venues by Council’s Youth Program. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider as part of Council’s Youth Strategy (currently in preparation) (3.1.1)
10.8 Support regional youth concerts with ‘big name’ bands appearing in Tamworth and discuss with promoters ways in which such bands could be encouraged to hold all-age gigs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer this item to the Youth Strategy (in preparation)(3.1.1)
10.9 Liaise with local transport providers to ensure that they are made aware of transport problems faced by young people, especially late at night and on weekends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular meetings of a Transport Group convened by the NSW Department of Transport have addressed this issue, with disappointing results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer this item to the Youth Strategy (in preparation)(3.1.1)
10.10 Discuss with promoters of events at TRECC and other venues, the possibility of having a “youth rush” for unsold tickets, at a cheap rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer this item to the Youth Strategy (in preparation)(3.1.1)
10.11 Continue to support NAIDOC Week, Seniors Week and other events that celebrate cultural diversity within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strongly supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ongoing support for NAIDOC Week and other events that celebrate cultural diversity within the region..(1.1.1 and 1.1.3)

