

Focus on the Coast Innovation in Education 17th June 2010

Q: How do we present a single priority to the State government on the funding for the Wyong Theatre or the Gosford Performing Centre?

Stuart Slough – Wyong Shire Council

John Tilston – Gosford City Council

Both Council have agreed to start developing a Regional Cultural Strategy which would support a regional network of arts facilities (based on earlier work between both Councils).

This network would encompass existing and proposed facilities, so they each provide a different type of arts support due to individual scale, design, management models etc but work together to complement each other (through cross promotion, coordinated programming etc).

The Regional Cultural Strategy will present a case on the trends, needs and priorities for the arts of the growing Central Coast population and of local geographic, travel and locality issues which would justify such a network.

Currently we expect this Strategy to be modelled on the Western Sydney Arts Strategy (a precedent for NSW government) which successfully supported the delivery and development of several arts facilities across the region.

It is this Central Coast Regional Arts Strategy we intend to seek to negotiate multi-year funding for a range of programs and capital works, including the Wyong and Gosford Art Centres.

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Q: What will be the impact of GBID/ Council cultural spaces project (Create Innovate) to cultural practitioners especially visual artists ? Is it open to Artists /Cultural Practitioners in the Gosford LGA?

Mel Law – Youth Connections

The Create Innovate Gosford City project is based on the Renew Newcastle in Newcastle (www.newnewcastle.org). It works in partnership with the landlords of vacant commercial premises in the Gosford CBD to provide affordable premises at very low cost to *Creative and Innovative* enterprises. This includes artists and architects, photographers and digital media, fashion designers and graphic designers and many others.

The enterprises going in to the premises will have a low cost entry point to starting a business, access to business mentoring and support, the provision of public liability and plate glass insurance, wireless internet and phone connection.

The project aims to bring an increased foot traffic, retail variety and vibrancy to the Gosford CBD and may reduce vandalism, graffiti and antisocial behaviour associated with high vacancy rates. The project is due to be launched in August/September. For more information, please contact Deborah Lowndes on 02 4322 7726 or www.gosfordcity.com.au

Yes... It is open to creative and innovative enterprises from the Central Coast.

FOCUS ON THE COAST

Questions & Answers



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Q: Over 20 years ago, I was involved with the then Gosford Orchestral & Choral Society, which used Laycock St as it's venue. It was not long before we were priced out. Will the WSC encourage local groups (particularly small groups) to use the Centre under subsidy or will it be users pay?

Stuart Slough - WSC

Yes, the WSCC Business Plan outlines a management model with different fee levels for community and professional.

This is supported by a program committed to a balance of local and touring, amateur and professional (and where they cross over), developing works and accomplished works, emerging and established artists.