

Public consultation

\$4.6m Loan considered for new library

MULTI-million dollar investments in Cottesloe's public buildings were on the agenda this month when Council received reports on funding for a new library, and Civic Centre improvements.

Councillors are now seeking residents' comments on a plan to raise a 4.6m loan for Cottesloe's share of the new library and community facilities.

The projected new library will cost a total of approximately \$11.3m and be shared with the Town of Mosman Park and Shire of Peppermint Grove – as is the existing library. The three councils will share the costs, each paying a proportion based on population. Cottesloe's share is 42.74%; Mosman pays 48.29%; and the much smaller Peppermint Grove 9.25%.

Loan

Cottesloe's projected spending was not included in last year's budget, and the Town must now engage in public consultation before proceeding further.

The \$4.6m loan that is being considered would be repayable over 20 years. To meet repayments, a rate increase of 3.92 per cent is projected for the 2008/09 year, followed by a similar amount in 2009/10. The Town's debt service ratio would rise to nine per cent, a level that is considered quite manageable.

Budget

The outlay was not budgeted for 2007/2008 because of uncertainty over land tenure, construction costs and related matters.

"Council has now been advised that inflationary cost pressures have reached such a point that tenders should be called as soon as possible, rather than wait until the new financial year," said CEO Steve Tindale.

"Sale of our depot depends partly on future arrangements for a replacement facility in the area. However, when the sale of the depot is completed it is highly likely that the proceeds will be used to reduce the loan."

Website

Full details of the facts and figures relating to the projected \$4.6m loan and the library project are all available at the Council's website – under 'Have a Say.' Comments and submissions regarding the library project and projected loan should be sent to the Council by 4pm on Wednesday 23 April.

Original veranda treatments outside the War Memorial Town Hall will be restored to allow more light into the building.



COTTESLOE COUNCIL NEWS

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Longer Sculpture by the Sea in 2009

ANNOUNCING that the Cottesloe show has been 'extremely successful' again, organisers will extend Sculpture by the Sea in 2009. It will run from March 5-22, spanning three weekends (instead of this year's two) and give even more visitors the chance to view the works.

Popular lady: Tribanga III fascinates this group of young visitors to the Sea.

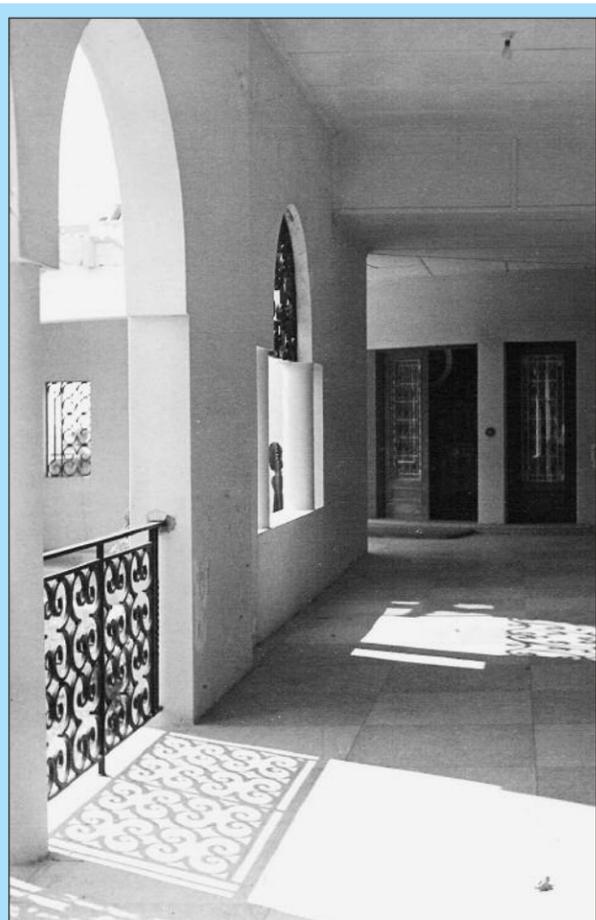


Tribanga III stays here!

CLARA Hali's work 'Tribanga III' is to join the Town's sculpture collection. Location of the new sculpture is still to be decided, but previous purchases can be seen around Cottesloe. '4 Pots' by Yoshio Nitto was bought after the first Sculpture by the Sea, in 2005, and is in the Civic Centre grounds overlooking Oldham's Pool. Mark Grey-Smith's 2006 work 'Centrefold' in on Marine Parade (north) and Jennifer Cochrane's 'Roundabout' also overlooks the ocean, south of Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club.

Civic Centre tenders called

AIR-CONDITIONING, improved lighting and a public address system will be incorporated into the War Memorial Town Hall as part of the programme of building and improvement of the Cottesloe Civic Centre. Also, natural lighting levels in the hall will be raised by returning the verandas to their original style, which allowed more daylight into the building – see picture.



Action Plan is ready

THE Strategic Planning Committee reported this month that following the adoption last July of the Future Plan 2006-2010, it has now prepared an Action Plan. The plan takes each of the strategies considered by

Council as priorities, and breaks them down into individual actions.

These priorities include:

- reduction of beachfront hotel numbers to a sustainable level;
- opportunities for cultural events and activities;
- sinking the railway and realigning Curtin Avenue;
- Foreshore Vision and Master Plan;
- planning incentives for heritage properties;
- a policy on assets;
- new joint library;
- introducing electronically timed parking; and
- further improvement of the community consultation policy.

Tenders are to be called for the Town's plan of renovation and improvements of the Civic Centre, which includes new office accommodation to overcome the overcrowding that is hampering the efficiency of Town staff.

Much of the funding of Civic Centre works – estimated at \$3m – will be met by the \$1.8m received when the Margaret Street sump was sold. The rest will come from loan funds.

Office space

The effect on staff morale of the present cramped conditions in the Civic Centre offices has been noted in 'exit interviews' with employees who have left the Town. They cite poor working conditions amongst other reasons for leaving.

Public areas

Ground-floor meeting rooms in the new design will enable members of the public to consult with staff on planning and building matters, for instance – with greater privacy.

Sustainable gardening thriving in Town

SUSTAINABLE gardening is appealing to more and more people, judging by the enthusiastic attendances at recent community workshops at the Cottesloe Civic Centre.

On February 28 a workshop run by the Great Gardens team provided information on Waterwise gardening, reducing fertiliser use, improving the soil and growing beautiful Western Australian native species.

"The turnout was great," said Jade Hankin, the Town's sustainable development officer. "Many helpful tips and strategies were provided and everyone attending left with a gift!"

On March 27 a second workshop concentrated on food gardening. Participants learned how to grow delicious fruit and vegetables in a water-wise and fertiliser-wise way. Incorporating food plants into landscaping, and ideas for growing in either large gardens or small courtyards were covered.

Cottesloe Food Gardens workshop is something the Town plans to host annually. But if you missed the local events, and would like to attend workshops in another area, please take a look at the Great Gardens website where you could register for an alternative workshop. The site address is www.greatgardens.info

Meetings at Civic Centre

NEXT Council meeting Monday April 28, at 7pm.

Development Services Monday April 21, 6pm.

Works and Corporate Services Tuesday April 22, 7pm.

Planning applications for May close April 2.

COTTESLOE'S Strategic Planning Committee is to hold meetings every other month, with a recess in January, in the same week as other Town committee meetings.

GREEN and BULK WASTE COLLECTIONS in MAY

AREA 1
Put out your waste on May 3/4 (collection - May 5 on.)

AREA 3
Put out your waste on May 17/18 (collection - May 19 on.)

AREA 2
Put out your waste on May 10/11 (collection - May 12 on.)