



FINANCE POLICY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

11 AUGUST 2020

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **FINANCE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING of ORANGE CITY COUNCIL** will be held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, BYNG STREET, ORANGE WITH AN OPTION OF ONLINE CONFERENCING PLATFORM ZOOM DUE TO COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS** on **Tuesday, 11 August 2020.**

David Waddell

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For apologies please contact Administration on 6393 8218.

AGENDA

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 (the Act) regulate the way in which Councillors and designated staff of Council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public role.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons given for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussion or voting on that matter, and requires that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code of Conduct also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Committee Members now disclose any conflicts of interest in matters under consideration by the Finance Policy Committee at this meeting.

2 GENERAL REPORTS

2.1 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - POST EXHIBITION - DUNTRYLEAGUE GOLF CLUB

TRIM REFERENCE: 2020/1131

AUTHOR: Nick Redmond, Acting Director Corporate and Commercial Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the Council Meeting held on 2 June 2020, Council considered a request for financial assistance from Duntryleague and resolved:

RESOLVED - 20/001

Cr S Munro/Cr R Turner

That Council resolves:

- 1 *To support the diversion of stormwater from Woodward Road into Duntryleague;*
- 2 *That funding of \$3,500 for the infrastructure and wages in addition to the Development Application Fees (\$230) and Road Opening Permit Fees (\$437.50) for the Duntryleague Golf Club Storm Water diversion be funded from Road Maintenance Fund.*
- 3 *That subject to the approval of a Development Application, Council:*
 - I. *Undertake all survey work;*
 - II. *Gift three x 600mm diameter storm water pipes;*
 - III. *Reimburse Development Application fees;*
 - IV. *Waive all Road Opening Permit fees; and*
 - V. *Assist with the lodgement and approval of the RMS Road Occupancy License together with the Works Authorisation Deed as a contribution/works in kind.*
- 4 *To place the proposed allocation of funds to Duntryleague Golf Club on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days (in accordance with section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993).*

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy “17.2 Collaborate - Ensure financial stability and support efficient ongoing operation”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$1,500 for concrete pipe infrastructure, \$2,000 of staff wages, \$230 for Development Applications Fees and \$437.50 for Road Opening Permit Fees to be funded from the Road Maintenance Fund.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Council can only assist other organisations financially (in cash or in kind) in accordance with section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Council has in place a policy for donations made under section 356 of the Act.

Strategic Policy - ST029 - Donations and Grants, requires formal application to be made for Donations or Grants and approved in accordance with the policy. This request falls outside the current policy, therefore no formal application for was sought.

Whilst the request falls outside of Councils Policy, Council has the discretion to utilise an alternate funding source as identified above.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council support the request for Financial Assistance from Duntryleague Golf Club to:

- 1 To support the diversion of stormwater from Woodward Street into Duntryleague;**
- 2 That funding of \$3,500 for the infrastructure and wages in addition to the Development Application Fees (\$230) and Road Opening Permit Fees (\$437.50) for the Duntryleague Golf Club Storm Water diversion be funded from Road Maintenance Fund;**
- 3 That subject to the approval of a Development Application, Council:**
 - I. Undertake all survey work;**
 - II. Gift three x 600mm diameter storm water pipes;**
 - III. Reimburse Development Application fees;**
 - IV. Waive all Road Opening Permit fees; and**
 - V. Assist with the lodgement and approval of the RMS Road Occupancy License together with the Works Authorisation Deed as a contribution/works in kind.**

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Council's Technical Services Division has been working closely with Duntryleague Golf Club on various water savings initiatives after the Club having to access Council's potable water supply for irrigation in 2018 under Level 2 and 3 restrictions. The Club has sunk a new bore and changed its golf course maintenance practices with a view of saving water.

2.1 Request for Financial Assistance - Post Exhibition - Duntryleague Golf Club

Currently under Level 5 restrictions, no town water is used on the course. The greens are watered via bores and some members are carting water in from their own bores for use on the tees.

A project proposed by the Club is to divert the existing 600mm diameter storm water main traversing Woodward Street into the existing dam along the 2nd fairway and then progressively extend the capacity of the dam. The water captured in rain events can be further transferred and stored at other dams around the golf course. The 2nd fairway dam has an existing overflow structure that allows water back into the Woodward Street storm water main. Figure 1 below shows the proposed culvert deviation and Figure 2 below shows the proposed dam extension.

There would be an argument that the use of this storm water reduces the intake of Council's storm water harvesting but Council should note this reduction would be minimal as it is in the top of a localised catchment and offset by the golf club having to purchase treated potable water, when available. The relief that this proposal provides also assists in increasing the capacity of the piped stormwater system downstream.

The following approvals would be required by authorities for the project:

- 1 Council would need to approve a Development Application because of the removal of trees on the heritage listed site.
- 2 Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) would require a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) and a Road Occupancy License (ROL) to undertake the works within a State Road corridor.
- 3 Council would require a Road Opening permit to undertake trenching works within the verge of the road.

Council has several 3.6m long 600mm diameter storm water pipes superfluous from the Forest Road (SFR to Hospital) project after it was found the proposed 600mm diameter storm water main intersected with a water main. Three lengths of the pipe could be gifted to the golf course project. Council's Technical Services Division has refined its processes since the Forest Road project to reduce the likelihood of this happening again.

It is proposed that Council undertakes all survey work, gifts three x 600mm diameter storm water pipes, reimburses all Development Application fees, waives all Road Opening Permit fees and assists with the lodgement and approval of the RMS Road Occupancy License together with the Works Authorisation Deed as a contribution/works in kind.

Submissions

Following exhibition of this request for financial assistance, six submissions were received. Four submissions in support of the proposed funding allocation and two against. Each submission is attached for Council's consideration as well as a short outline below.

The exhibition period closed on 10 July 2020.

The submissions supporting the proposal (which included one from the club) said it would maintain a parkland, the club provided benefits to the commercial and business community, it would reduce downstream flooding, it supported greenspace and the course attracted visitors to the city.

2.1 Request for Financial Assistance - Post Exhibition - Duntryleague Golf Club

The submissions opposing the proposal raised concerns about the impact on the stormwater harvesting schemes, the payment for that water, it may set precedents for other organisations and was providing support to a minority group.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Submissions - Duntryleague Financial Assistance, D20/43474 [↓](#)



*"Providing members and guests with one
of Australia's Great Golfing, Historic,
Social and Corporate Experience!"*

The Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
ORANGE NSW 2800

Dear David

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – DUNTRYLEAGUE GOLF CLUB

Further to your advertisement in the Central Western Daily of 27th June, 2020, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Council for their support in water collection for Duntryleague and its magnificent gardens and golf course.

Around the course there are some 12,000 trees and shrubs. It takes a lot of hard work and money to maintain this parkland.

Duntryleague is a community icon and responsible for thousands of people visiting Orange each year.

Its golf course is famous around the country and worldwide. Not only a jewel for our city but for our state and nation in golfing parlance.

We see between 40,000 and 50,000 rounds of golf played at Duntryleague, many of these by visitors to our town.

Because Duntryleague is such a drawcard in the wider golfing community we see great benefits to our wider Commercial and Business Community.

Woodward Street, Orange NSW 2800
PO Box 82, Orange NSW 2800
Ph: 02 6362 3466 | Fx: 02 6361 7259 | www.duntryleague.com.au

It is estimated that Duntryleague generates between \$5million and \$8million dollars into our community each year through visitor and tourist spending.

This project is also particularly important to the safety of our community by reducing the risk of downstream flooding of properties in an extreme storm event".

During the project, the retention basin will be cleaned out and increased in size to provide better flood mitigation for the city.

We see this as a joint venture between Duntryleague and the city to improve the facilities of the city and, at the same time, upgrading and maintaining an improved flood mitigation plan and increasing the level of safety for our citizens.

Yours Sincerely

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of John Cook.

John Cook
President

From: Lee Pickett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 26 June 2020 11:38 PM
To: Orange City Council
Subject: Request for Financial assistance Duntryleague Golf Club

To Whom It May Concern

Congratulations on Councils decision to support this application Golf courses are an integral and important part of the community offering green space that breaks up the congested and sometimes ugly landscape of housing estates that offer nothing but extreme water usage and not so pretty sights.

Many times the energy and water saved in the harvesting process in the long run outweigh the initial installation costs, not to mention the community support that a project like rainwater harvesting at the local golf course generates. The challenges facing the golf industry are not going away anytime soon. In a sport heavily influenced by tradition, it will take creative, ingenious, and sustainability-minded individuals to lead the way and Duntryleague are forging the way here. The future of golf depends on these forward thinking projects.

I believe Council are supporting a very worthwhile project and by way of contribution of much needed works whether it be gifted or not is not setting a precedent, it is responding to a current need and is making this decision on its merits of what is presented to them at the time.

Once again your support of this application is a much needed boost to Duntryleague and the community

Regards

Lee Pickett

Sent from my iPhone

David Waddell

CEO
Orange City Council
council@orange.nsw.gov.au

RE: Dundryleague Golf Course

Stormwater Harvesting
Record No 2019/2779
Council meeting 19th May 2020
Agenda: 5.7 Current Works p421

Dear David (CEO) and Councillors

Orange and Region Water Security Alliance would question the diversion of stormwater, away from Council's stormwater harvesting scheme, when Orange is under "Critical Needs" provisions. Council's first priority would be to secure Orange's water supply, so that it does not come under these provisions.

Council should, at the earliest, comply with any agreements and obligations Council has with other parties (including the environment) for the supply of water before consideration of this proposal.

The information provided does not clearly outline the full impact of the proposal:

- The quantity of water on a yearly take
- The payment for the water taken
- If approved, consideration for replacement trees for those that may be removed
- Is a water extraction licence required by Dundryleague? Will the water take be accounted for via Council's extraction licence?

It is a known fact that golf courses can use a substantial quantity of water and it should not be dismissed lightly by Council. Approving this water diversion to Dundryleague may set a precedent for other worthy organisations (sporting fields and parks) to apply for a similar diversion which could significantly impact on Orange's stormwater harvesting scheme.

Orange and Region Water Security Alliance, is of the opinion that the Community and Council should not support this proposal.

Orange and Region Water Security Alliance would appreciate a reply to this letter.
Happy to discuss further with Council staff.

Yours sincerely

Cyril Smith
President
Orange and Region Water Security Alliance
20th June 2020

Orange City Council
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10 JUL 2020

CONTAINER No.

PR 22661

Tony Leahey

Orange NSW 2800

8 July 2020

COUNCIL SUPPORT DUNTYLEAGUE GOLF CLUB

Chief Executive Officer

Orange City Council

PO Box 35

Orange NSW 2800

Dear Sir

I would like to add support to Council's decision to provide assistance to Duntryleague Golf Club by diverting water through the detention basin on the club's ground at the Prince Street / Woodward Street intersection.

Although not a large amount of stormwater will be made available every little bit helps and I understand there is a benefit to the downstream underground drainage system during large storm events.

It is pleasing to see Council supporting the city's sporting clubs during this difficult period

Yours Faithfully

Tony Leahey

Orange City Council
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13 JUL 2020

CONTAINER No.

PR 22661

Orange N.S.W

2800

9/7/2020

Financial Assistance Duntryleague Golf Club.

The Chief Executive Officer

Orange city Council

Dear Sir,

As a rate payer of Orange, I strongly OBJECT to this proposal. This proposed funding is directed to a MINORITY Group, as such They should find their own finance.

If Council has excess Funds that should be directed to a NOT FOR PROFIT, not a MINORITY GROUP.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Patrick Bayada



Orange City Council
Scanned

13 JUL 2020

CONTAINER No.

PR22661



The Chief Executive Officer
Orange City Council
135 Byng Street
Orange NSW 2800

Letter of support- Water Harvesting

Dear David,

Duntryleague Golf Club is an integral part of drawing tourists to the central west. Supporting Duntryleague is essentially supporting the city of Orange.

Golf in general supports many businesses across Orange on an annual basis. A travelling golfer spends in excess of \$200.00 per day, hence the sport is a valuable contributor to the town's economy.

A golf course in pristine condition will always attract a considerable number of tourists. The water harvesting project once approved will definitely be beneficial on two fronts. One to give the Duntryleague water storage a boost and two, ease the burden of flooding in areas beyond the course in the lower lying Hartas Lane area.

The additional water availability will greatly help the club get through the difficult summer months when greater demand is placed on the clubs current water storage and also higher course usage through holiday visitations.

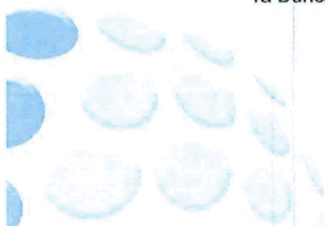
Many clubs across NSW are accessing this type of scheme, namely Elanora, Avondale, Bankstown, Twin Creeks, Charlestown to name a few. It's cost effective and keeps clubs financially healthy by not having to buy water which can be problematic in summer months.

If you need anything further please contact me on [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

Peter Mitchell
Chairman Golf NSW

1a Duncan Street PO BOX 195 Arncliffe, NSW, 2205 P: 02 9505 9105 www.golfnsw.org
Golf NSW Limited ABN: 48 001 642 628



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2.2 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - BANJO PATERSON FESTIVAL - NATIONAL BUSH POETRY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 18 TO 20 FEBRUARY 2020

RECORD NUMBER: 2020/1265

AUTHOR: Merran Byers, Events Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council can only assist other organisations financially (in cash or in kind) in accordance with section 356 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Council's Strategic Policy - ST144 - Event Sponsorship Program and its related Event Sponsorship Program Guidelines are used to assess applications for Event Sponsorship.

Rotary Club of Orange Inc. have requested a quick response event sponsorship to secure the funding to host the National Bush Poetry Championship as part of Banjo Paterson Festival 2021 program. Total amount requested is \$12,000 cash to support the championships.

LINK TO DELIVERY/OPERATIONAL PLAN

The recommendation in this report relates to the Delivery/Operational Plan strategy "11.2 Prosper - Develop and attract a variety of events, festivals, venues and activities for locals and visitors, ensuring accessibility for all".

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council's budget for the Event Sponsorship Program for the 2020/21 financial year is \$200,000.00.

Events Sponsorship Program	Actual or Committed
7 July 2020 - Finance Policy Committee meeting (see Note 1)	\$7,000
TOTAL	\$7,000
Events Sponsorship Program Remaining Balance - \$193,000	
Note 1 – Sustainable Living Expo	

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

A Council resolution is required to allocate funds to any external entity.

Applications are considered against the criteria outlined in the Donations and Grants policies. There is an application form that is submitted to commence the process of making a submission. The form contains details to inform Council that the funding request aligns with the intentions the Council has established in the Community Strategic Plan.

2.2 Request for Financial Assistance - Banjo Paterson Festival - National Bush Poetry Championships - 18 to 20 February 2020

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves that funding of \$12,000 be made from the Quick Response Event Sponsorship Funding Program to Rotary Club of Orange Inc. (Banjo Paterson Festival – National Bush Poetry Championships 2020).

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration has been given to the recommendation's impact on Council's service delivery; image and reputation; political; environmental; health and safety; employees; stakeholders and project management; and no further implications or risks have been identified.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

In the Events Sponsorship Program Strategic Policy and guidelines, the following categories exist to support assessment of applications received:

Category	Description
Incubator Event Fund	Provides seed funding to events in their first or second year of activity. Funding range is \$1,000 to \$5,000.
Flagship Event Fund	Identifies and assists the development of events that contribute to the unique character and culture of the Orange360 tourism region and can demonstrate that they attract overnight visitation. Funding range is \$1,000 to \$10,000.
Event Development Fund	Supports events that have already received funding from Council in previous years and can present a comprehensive strategy for future growth that includes the continued development of its tourism potential to drive overnight visitation to the event. Funding range is \$1,000 to \$10,000.
Quick Response Event Fund	Provides seed funding and/or support to events that occur as new and unplanned opportunity for Orange and have not met the funding rounds as outlined below. Funding range is \$1,000 to \$20,000.

Application No ESP	Rotary Club of Orange Inc.
Not for profit (yes/no)	Yes
Event name	Banjo Paterson Festival – National Bush Poetry Championships 2021
Event date/s	18 to 20 February 2021
Level of participation	500 participants/attendees
Ticketed event	
Amount requested	\$12,000
Category and Category range	Quick Response Event Fund - \$1,000 to \$20,000
Aligned with Community Strategic Plan	
Comment and recommendation	
The National Bush poetry Champions is an event development for the festival and will attract visitation from state and nationwide to visit the region. In line with policy, \$12,000 is recommended.	

2.2 Request for Financial Assistance - Banjo Paterson Festival - National Bush Poetry Championships - 18 to 20 February 2020

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 FPC 4 August 2020 - Redacted - Event Sponsorship Application Form - Banjo Paterson Festival - Application ESP20/04, D20/43556 [↓](#)



A: 135 Byng Street, Orange
T: 6393 8000
E: council@orange.nsw.gov.au
W: www.orange.nsw.gov.au

EVENT SPONSORSHIP COVER APPLICATION FORM

APPLICANT'S DETAILS

Name of organisation: Rotary Club of Orange

Postal address:

Contact name: Len Banks

Position: Secretary

Phone: BH: AH:

Mobile:

Email:

What is the legal status of your organisation? (eg Incorporated, Association, etc.)

If not-for-profit please attach evidence - such as charter/constitution showing no personal gain will be available to members, charitable status advice or a statutory declaration

Please select: ☐ Profit or ☒ Not-for-Profit

If not-for-profit: ☒ Constitution, tax ruling or other document confirming not-for-profit status is attached

Is your group/organisation registered for GST? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If applicable, please provide: ABN: ACN:

EVENT DETAILS

Name of event:	National Bush Poetry Performance Championship	
Location of event:	Orange Ex Services Club	
Proposed date/s of event:	18 to 20 February 2021	
If the event is on Council land/ premises, have you booked this space with Council?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
How many people will be involved in your event? (Estimate)	500	
How many people will come from outside Orange for the day? (Estimate)	100	
How many people will stay overnight? (Estimate)	100	
Please provide an outline of the event, including a summary of proposed activities and schedule:		
<p>The National Bush Poetry Performance Championship competition will be held in conjunction with the 2021 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival, an annual event that is gaining momentum with the local community and followers of bush poetry across Australia. The Championship is a national competition in which poets compete in 4 performance categories: original humorous, original serious, contemporary and traditional. Performing well and/or winning in all categories leads to the title of national champion bush poet. It was last held in Perth W.A. in 2017. In all our Banjo Paterson Festivals since 2014, we have engaged national bush poetry performance champions as poetry competition judges, school workshop leaders and local event performers.</p> <p>It is a rare and prestigious honour for the Championship to be held in Orange. This selection recognises the Banjo Paterson Festival as a well organised and popular event and recognises Orange as a preferred destination for visiting poets, supporters and followers from across Australia. It provides the opportunity for the Orange community to welcome these visitors and display its tourism assets which will ensure return visitation and associated benefits to the City.</p> <p>Ancillary events associated with the Championships include professional poetry workshops, a yarnspinning competition and presentation of winners of the Dusty Swag national bush poetry and short story writing competition. These events will be held on 15 and 16 February 2021, ensuring that the participants will stay for the full week of the Festival, contributing significantly to the Orange economy and other tourist attractions.</p> <p>The youth and novice poetry competitions, school workshops and Banjo's birthday celebrations that are normally held at the Banjo Paterson Festival will also be held, providing an excellent mix of poets and performances across all ages and abilities.</p>		

EVENT BUDGET

Please outline the proposed income and expenditure budget for the event

Income Source (cash)	\$
eg: Organisation X	\$ 1000.00
Australian Bush Poets Association	\$ 1000
Local business sponsorship	\$ 3000
Local and State Government grants (decisions pending)	\$ 5000
Rotary Club of Orange	\$ 3000
	\$
Orange City Council Event Sponsorship request	\$ 12000
Total Income	\$ 24000
Expenditure Items (cash)	\$
eg: Marketing – 8 x TV adverts	\$ 2000.00
Judges' fees, accommodation and travel	\$ 8000
Workshop leaders for schools and adults	\$ 3500
Prizes and trophies	\$ 3000
Venue hire	\$ 4000
Printing and certificates	\$ 3500
Promotion	\$ 2000
	\$
Total Expenditure	\$ 24000
Total Income and Total Expenditure must equal	\$
In-kind Contributions	\$ Value of In-kind Contributions
(People's time/ value: Based on May 2017 to May 2018 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures, volunteers are now worth \$41.72 per hour)	
eg: letter drop/ street walk – 1 hour, 1 person	\$ 41.72
10 Committee members x 35 hours (organising, sponsorship, promotion)	\$ 14600
Competitions volunteers 5 people x 24 hours (door, timekeeping, score collation)	\$ 5006
Workshops volunteers 3 people x 30 hours	\$ 3755
Markets and street performances volunteers 10 people x 16 hours	\$ 6675
(Most of these volunteers are members of the Rotary Club of Orange)	\$
	\$
Total In-kind Contribution Value	\$ 30036

DECLARATION

On behalf of: (name of organisation if applicable)

-
- ☐ I certify to the best of my knowledge that the statements made in this application and any supporting documentation are true.
-
- ☐ I understand that should this application be approved by Orange City Council, I may be required to submit any requested Tax Invoices, plans or reports and will be required to enter into an Event Agreement with Council.
-
- ☐ I declare that the Organisation will provide all required paperwork, including a Certificate of Currency of Public Liability Insurance (to a minimum of \$10 million) with Orange City Council noted as an interested party.
-

Signed

Date 7 July 2020

Print name

Len Banks

Position in organisation

Secretary

The information you provide will be handled in accordance with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. The supply of information by you is voluntary. If you cannot provide or do not wish to provide the information sought, your application may be unable to be processed. Any personal information collected from you will be in order to process your application.



QUICK RESPONSE FUND SUBMISSION

The **Rotary Club of Orange** seeks consideration of this request from the Quick Response Fund for a unique opportunity for Orange to host the National Bush Poetry Performance Championships associated with the 2021 Banjo Paterson Australian Poetry Festival.

New activity

These Championships were last held in Perth, WA in 2017 and the decision by the Australian Bush Poets Association (ABPA) to hold the event in Orange in 2021 is a testament to the quality of the organisation of our annual festival and recognition of Orange as a preferred destination for Australia's best bush poets to compete for this prestigious award. This is a one-off event as the National Championships are not held every year and not consecutively at the same location.

Associated with the Championships, which involve poets competing in 4 categories over 2 days, there will be a yarnspinning competition, workshops for new and emerging poets, presentation of the Dusty Swag national poetry and short story writing competition and performances by Australia's best bush poets. All these activities will be spread over the full week of the Festival (13 to 21 February 2021) and will also fit around the regular Festival activities such as the Banjo Paterson birthday celebrations, winery events, and markets.

Increased length of stay

Visitors to Orange for past festivals have stayed an average of 2 nights. It is expected that with these additional activities attractive to many poets, followers and enthusiasts, visitors will stay for the full Festival. While the activities will suit all age groups, the main visitor demographic for this sort of event is retirees who are keen to spend time at a leisurely pace exploring the region they visit. The week's program will therefore provide time for visitors to spend their money across the spectrum of the City's retail, tourist and accommodation providers. This element of the festival alone will inject close to \$50k into the local economy on what is traditionally the region's slowest visitation month (based on 100 people staying for 3 nights at an average value of \$468 per person).

Funding required

The attached Event Sponsorship Cover Application Form details the budget and the funding requested from Orange City Council.

The success of holding this national event in Orange depends on its support from the local community and evidence of encouragement and support from the Orange City Council for:

- organisation of local events and venues,
- funding for professional judges, workshop leaders, venues and prizes

- promotion across the region to attract visitors, and
- publicity for Orange as a destination for future national events of all sorts.

The largest component of the budget is the cost of highly skilled professional bush poetry judges for the Championship competition and associated events. Three judges are required, and they need to be accredited and selected by the ABPA. Approaches have already been made to three potential judges, but confirmation is dependent on securing funds for their fees, travel and accommodation.

The ABPA is a voluntary organisation, with resources largely from membership subscriptions. Their contribution to the budget is small in terms of cash, but large in terms of in-kind involvement of their members. Similarly, the members of the Rotary Club of Orange will be contributing many hours of volunteer time to this community activity.

Other sponsors and grant providers are being approached to assist, but a commitment from Orange City Council at this stage in the planning is essential. A long lead time is needed to secure the judges, venues, contestants, visitors and other sponsors. The Committee has therefore determined that a decision on progressing with the event will have to be finalised by mid-August 2020.

Engaging local businesses

The regular activities of the Festival will continue to celebrate the birth of Andrew Barton (Banjo) Paterson in Orange and to promote the appreciation of rhyme and rhythm in creative writing across the community, especially amongst young people and those who seek alternative ways of expressing their feelings, beliefs and observations. This includes community celebrations, markets and performances to showcase local talent and to expose our community to the best bush poets from across the country.

The Festival enjoys the support of wineries, hotels, restaurants, retailers, tourist operators, schools, historical and writing organisations, art societies and market stallholders from across the Orange region. These local organisations and businesses are invited to hold their own events throughout the Festival, receiving widespread publicity and promoting their own goods and services. School groups are particularly involved with workshops, performances and competitions, showcasing Orange as a cultural and educational centre.

In particular, the inclusion of the National Championships in the 2021 festival enables local organisations and businesses to avail themselves of the exceptional bush poetry talent that will be in town that week. There are opportunities for shows, workshops and casual entertainment to be held in cafes, pubs and workplaces across the City.

The Rotary Club of Orange is most grateful for the past support from Council for this annual festival in recognition of its cultural importance to the City and the community. As we emerge from the restrictions of COVID-19, we are keen to provide the community with family-friendly opportunities to celebrate our history as well as showcase Orange as a destination for national events.

If you require further information, do not hesitate to contact Len Banks or Murray Spicer at contact@rotarycluboforange.org.au

Len Banks
Secretary
Rotary Club of Orange
PO Box 52, Orange NSW 2800