

Newcastle Voice Youth Services



October 2009 - March 2010

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Executive Summary

This report summarises the public opinion gathered regarding youth services in the western suburbs of the Newcastle local government area. The consultation was conducted on behalf of Youth Services to identify current youth services provided by other organisations, as well as preferences for new activities.

This consultation will inform Council's Youth Services unit (otherwise known as The Loft), providing a range of relevant and appropriate youth arts and cultural activities in partnership with young people and other organisations in the western suburbs.

Qualitative consultations involved eight community workshop sessions between September 2009 and March 2009, with a total of 85 participants. A workshop outline was developed to ensure that The Loft's objectives could be met and to increase the engagement of young people in the planned activities. Workshop participants were asked to vote on their preferred activities out of a possible forty activities which have been previously conducted through The Loft, choice in delivery methods and a fee structure. The tally boards guided community input and generated much discussion among the participants. The discussions produced a number of consistent themes: safety, sense of community and transport.

A key item for exploration and review was the current membership structure. At present, once a \$22 annual fee has been paid to The Loft, most activities are provided free of charge. Gigs are often held weekly for a \$10-\$15 entrance fee and regularly attract large audiences of 12-18 year olds. However, when asked 78% of workshop participants indicated that they would prefer to pay a \$55 annual membership fee, with no additional cost for individual activities.

Participants were asked to indicate their preference for the best time to hold youth activities – either during the school term or the school holiday. The workshop sessions revealed that 69% of participants preferred the school term.

Interestingly, an unexpected outcome presented itself. As the workshops progressed and discussions between various community organisations occurred, the idea of a day time 'gig picnic' at Wallsend pool became attractive for many reasons. The day could involve numerous community organisations, with young people from diverse segments of Newcastle's population attending the same social event. It could include market stalls, allowing people to mix and mingle, youth DJs from the lessons conducted by The Loft, as well as numerous high school bands. Discussions are under way to plan and implement this activity at Newcastle's inland pools over the summer.

This consultation report will contribute to The Loft's proposed workshops in various outreach locations during the January school holidays. These in turn will inform the development of a Youth Services Strategy for Newcastle City Council.

Introduction

Background

The Loft Arts and Cultural Centre, in partnership with young people, seeks to provide diverse, meaningful and relevant arts and cultural activities. The Newcastle City Council Youth Services unit currently has three primary functions:

- Providing a CBD venue focusing on culture and arts for youth
- Providing outreach services through grant funded programs for disadvantaged and marginalised youth groups
- Facilitating other service providers to achieve better outcomes for youth in the LGA.

From a community service perspective, there are a number of providers offering services for youth in Newcastle, such as PCYC, the Samaritans, the Conservatorium of Music and all sporting organisations. Council's role is to ensure appropriate services are available to particular community groups – such as youth - across the city. This can be achieved through development of strong partnerships with key existing services so that services are provided across the local government area.

Report Purpose

Following the first round of the Sustainability Review recommendations in May 2009, Youth Services resolved to formalise and expand their outreach activities in the outer suburbs of Newcastle.

The location of The Loft Youth Venue provides good access to many young people across the city. The focus for this consultation was to address those youths who experience difficulty in getting to the city from the western suburbs of Newcastle and to gather their input regarding activities of interest that are not currently available in their area.

Throughout this community consultation, external organisations that provide youth services in the western suburbs, were invited to promote and participate in the workshops. Several community groups in the outer suburbs had already undertaken collaborative projects with The Loft to develop activities without duplicating existing services. This consultation provided an opportunity to further explore other organisations' facilities, skills and current programs.

The consultation program's objectives were:

- To determine the opportunities for the Loft to further expand youth services in conjunction with other associations; identifying areas where Council could play a greater role in facilitation, promotion and support for the youth of Newcastle through the integration of existing external service providers and Council facilities
- To engage youth in the delivery of activities
- To contribute to a clear youth strategy across the whole LGA

Scope of Consultation

A number of communication tools and engagement methods were implemented as part of this consultation. The purpose of this activity is to determine opportunities to provide youth services across the city and engage youth in the delivery of activities and to do so in a public, transparent way. All promotional tools are included in Appendix III.

Information Provided

A poster and information fact sheet were created and distributed during school holiday programs. The poster was positioned at the school holiday program sessions offered by Live Sites, The Loft Arts and Cultural Centre, Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, Maryland Multi-Purpose Centre, Jesmond Park Uniting Church hall, and the Elermore Vale Community Hall. The poster was also visible during the following community events: the Callaghan Multicultural Festival, The Maritime/Mattara Festival, Shortland Festival and the Doggy Day Out to increase awareness of the public workshop sessions and register interested parties.

Throughout the consultation program, local media was used to inform the public about the workshop sessions. Specifically, two media releases and 'This Week at Council' were created and distributed, with one radio interview opportunity taken up on 2NUR.

Information on the workshop sessions was provided on Council's website. The weekly Council e-newsletter also had a standing item about the consultation's progress

Due to lack of funds, no paid advertising was placed in local newspapers during the consultation period. Information was also distributed through professional networks of Loft staff.

Workshops

The workshops were promoted to internal and external stakeholders and the community through The Loft's networks. Invitations to the workshops were extended through Ward 4 Councillors, the Minmi Progress Association, the Wallsend High School, Minmi Public School, the Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, Northern Settlement Services, Newcastle's Youth Development Officer, Callaghan College Waratah Campus, as well as the Loft Arts and Cultural Centre's staff.

Invitations were also sent to all Newcastle Voice members (1500 individuals) as well as through the monthly Newcastle Voice (MyVoice) newsletter.

The workshop sessions were held on the following dates, and locations. Attendance at the workshop sessions was recorded via attendance registers. Attendance figures of each session are as follows:

Date & Time	Location	Participants
Thursday, 3 September, 7-9pm	Minmi Progress Hall	19
Tuesday, 29 September, 6-8pm	Jesmond Park Uniting Church	0
Tuesday, 20 October, 11-2pm (2 Sessions)	Wallsend High School	16
Wednesday, 21 October, 6-8pm	Maryland Multipurpose Centre	4
Thursday, 22 October, 6-8pm	Elernmore Vale Community Centre	0
Thursday, 29 October, 4.30-6.30pm	Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre	14
Friday, 5 March, 12.30-1.30pm	Callaghan College, Waratah Campus	32
Total		85

Methodology

Data Collection

Workshop sessions are a useful tool for in-depth insight into the opinions of a small group, allowing many contributions. Unlike a survey, they enable the discussion of complex issues and underlying concerns and allow for deliberation and the brainstorming of ideas.

Eight workshops were held at various times of day during September and October, and in March 2010 to increase the possibilities for community engagement. The workshops were semi-structured to allow participants to impart their likes and dislikes about current youth activities as well as discuss possible ideas for new youth activities, in the western suburbs.

The three workshop sessions conducted at the Wallsend High School and Callaghan College, Waratah Campus, were modified to suit the one hour timeframe allocated to a class period. The focus of those workshops was to consider, vote and then plan youth activities which could be appealing. This element of the workshop structure was consistent with the two hour workshop, and allowed for discussion and deliberation around the activities and all tasks required.

Consultation Area

Because the focus of this consultation was on the western part of the Newcastle local government area, invitations to workshop sessions through Newcastle Voice were targeted to specific suburbs.

However, all residents and ratepayers who attended community events throughout the city, where Newcastle Voice was present, were informed and invited to attend the sessions. Furthermore, the information sheet and poster were distributed widely throughout Ward 3 and 4.

Representation

The views collected in this report can not be said to be statistically valid because few people chose to attend the individual sessions and in two instances no community participants attended.

Consistent themes presented in this report are derived from contributions and the reliability and validity of those interpretations can be assessed.

Participants

The community workshops were open to all residents and ratepayers of Newcastle, with an emphasis in all promotions and invitations for young people aged 12-25, as their views are of particular interest to The Loft Arts and Cultural Centre’s staff when planning future activities.

The workshop sessions were facilitated by Newcastle Voice, whose responsibility as researchers is to protect the privacy of individual participants.

There were a total of 85 participants across eight sessions (two at Wallsend High). All of the participants were community members. The following table identifies the participants by age for sessions where community members attended. The distribution was as follows:

Location	12-15yrs	16-18yrs	25yrs +	Total	%
Minmi	6	3	10	19	22%
Wallsend High School, Wallsend	16			16	18%
Maryland Multi-Purpose Centre, Maryland	2		2	4	6%
Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, Lambton	12	2		14	16%
Callaghan College, Waratah Campus	32			32	37%
Total	68	5	12	85	
%	80%	6%	14%		

Due to the small group size at Maryland, the workshop outline was not followed but much useful discussion took place.

A few demographics were collected from the workshop participants:

- 55% of participants were males and 45% were females.
- Participants live in Minmi, Maryland, Fletcher, Lambton, New Lambton, Wallsend, Waratah, Hamilton, Teralba, Glendale and Shortland.

Data Handling and Analysis

The data handling and analysis was carried out by Council staff from the Customer Service, Communication and Consultation Service unit. The approach used during the consultation was designed to increase inclusiveness and generate actionable items for The Loft's staff. An iterative process developed themes from workshop transcripts.

All participants were informed of what the workshops were about and what would happen to the information provided, including its potential use in any reports or publication. All responses are treated in confidence, to ensure the anonymity of respondents. No identifying information is included with any responses selected for this report.

It is the practice of all professional market and social research organisations, including Council, that the informed consent of the parent or responsible adult must first be obtained for interviews with children, where children are defined as being under 14 years of age and young people are defined as being 14 - 17 years. Throughout the consultation workshop sessions, consent from either a parent or other responsible adult present was obtained. Furthermore no demographics, other than age or gender, were captured from the youth present at the session.

At the conclusion of each workshop session, participants were asked to provide feedback. Due to the lack of attendance at two sessions and the young attendees at others, a total of 16 community participants complete the feedback form. The feedback is included in Appendix IV.

Key Findings

Common Themes

The workshop session discussions produced a number of common themes:

- Safety
- Sense of community
- Transport

Safety

Workshop participants raised concerns regarding safety, in terms of the need for supervision at youth activities, attending safe youth activities and overall the need to feel safe in the areas the youth activities are held.

- “I’ve been hit on Minmi Road on my bike, it’s not safe as it is.”
- “Being chased down the street (12 years old)”
- “Bullies and rubbish at the skate park.”
- “The Tank Paddocks are great for kids, they all ride their trail bikes safely around the bush.”

There was mention among the workshop participants that skate park facilities should not be made of steel as it makes the surface very hot during the summer months, slippery when wet and causes more injuries compared to concrete.

Sense of community

The workshop sessions revealed a strong sense of community in each location. People spoke of the involvement in school and social activities:

- “Community is small and close, school is a hub for that”
- “People feel a part of the community – all sorts of people attend school events”
- “Everything is close – shops, sporting fields, friends, city, beaches (Merewether and Newcastle), Lambton pool.”

It was noted during the sessions that the population is growing as new housing is being built in the western suburbs.

- “3000 new homes to come for Minmi, huge development, loss of community!!!”

The soccer competition held by the Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre at Tighes Hill TAFE was discussed as an excellent social opportunity to meet people from other cultures in a purposeful, informal way.

Transport

The lack in public transport was a theme that was top of mind during the workshops. Discussions revolved around public transport shortages such as the frequency of services, inadequacy of bus routes, the lack of bus shelters and signage along bus routes, the need for integration of public and private bus company timetables, as well as improved frequency and increased safety on trains to the city and beaches.

- “Don’t want to be another Tillegerry – a Port Stephens peninsula development which was poorly executed and created significant social problems.”
- “Public transport is terrible, the low frequency of buses in any direction.”
- “Public transport is lacking – in quality of service routes and in the frequency of services.”

The lack in public transport leads to all manner of social difficulties. Many young people spoke of the ‘postcode gangs’ which provide a degree of social cohesion in these areas:

- “The 2287s, the 2298ers, the Shorty Boys, the Shoalie Boys, the Ice Boys. These are small, informal groups all keen to identify with and belong to something.”
- “The 2298 boys – they’ve been caught, but they’re still around.”

Participants also mentioned cycle ways and the need for them to connect to major destinations such as Wallsend and the university. Participants mentioned that they regularly cycle the 5km from Fletcher to Wallsend to connect with public transport there. The extension of the Fernleigh Track and the research into a proposed cycleway to Glendale are viewed with some scepticism – as these places are already better serviced with public transport and therefore do not warrant cycleways.

In suburbs closer to the city, participants agreed that there is adequate transport, with young participants aware of the free public buses into the city and making use of them, as well as the train to the city and beaches.

Current Activities

Participants at the Callaghan College, Waratah Campus session were asked for their main non-school activities and methods of transport to and from these activities. The following results show the spread of activities from the group – which totals more than 32, as each participant had the opportunity to write several activities. This activity was not conducted during the other workshops.

Activity	Participants
Parents or other family drive me	
To footy training, swimming training, netball, kayaking, dance, boxing, gymnastics, tennis at Broadmeadow	24
To work at family business, Kotara Westfield	2
To shopping	3
To other social activities: movies, sleepovers, beach, friends, Loft gigs (3)	22
Church or youth group	3
Public transport to work or entertainment	
Bus to the city or beach	20
Bus to Kotara	6
Train to the city or beach	5
Train to work	1
Bus to sport – soccer, gymnastics, pool	3
Pedestrian transport	
Walk to Islington Park, Waratah Leagues Club to play netball, basketball, soccer, Lambton Pool	12
Ride scooter to and from Mayfield Skate Park, skateboard, Ripstik, cycle	9
Walk around the neighbourhood, walk the dog	8
Walk or cycle to tutor, to friends' houses, to shops, to work	9
Activities at home	
Internet , MSN, My Space, computer, TV	21
Hang out with friends	12
Homework	8
Take photos, draw, listen to music, play music (drum)	7
Family stuff	4

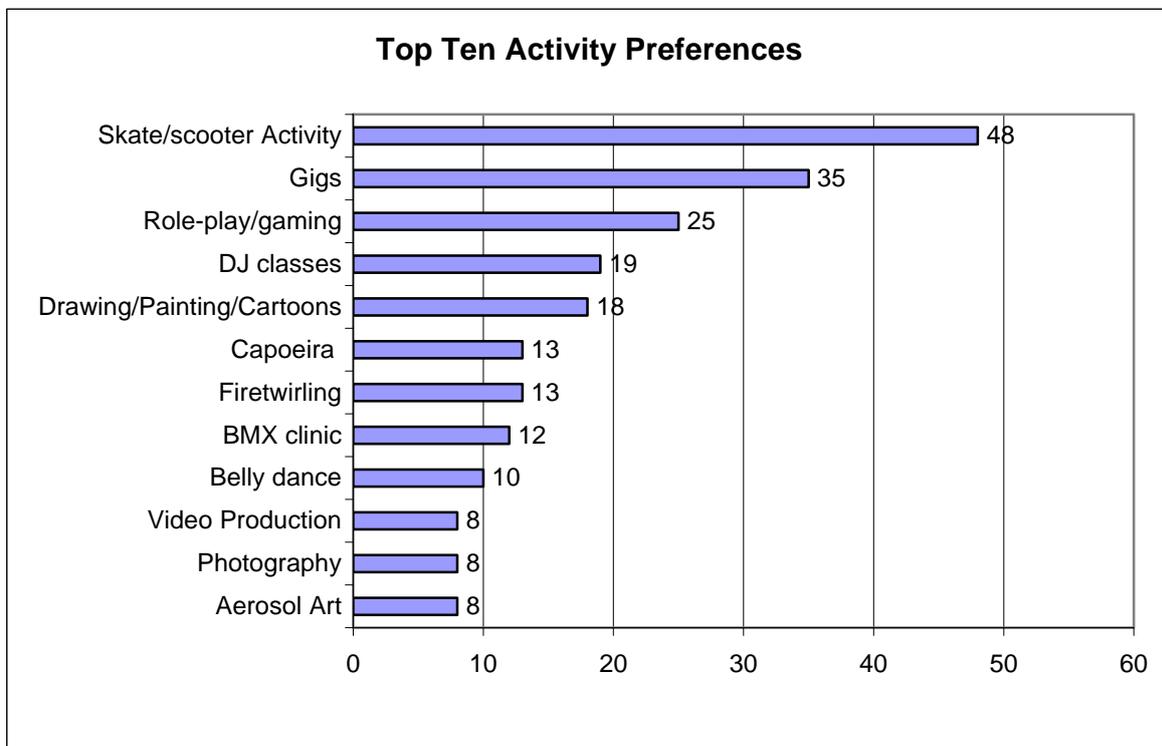
Activity Preferences and Plans

Major team sports are generally well provided across the Newcastle local government area. The Loft Arts and Cultural Centre is sought out by young people for culture/art type activities. Participants felt that they would prefer a wider variety of activities and access to Loft equipment and skills.

The workshop sessions dedicated fifteen minutes to showcase the specific Loft Arts and Cultural Centre's activities. The intent of the Loft Arts and Cultural Centre is to mentor dedicated and motivated young people and develop them to lead programs by actively planning and implementing them. There was consistent surprise at both the range and quality of Loft activities currently on offer from all participants.

Discussions preceding the voting revealed that the young people present are most interested in activities already known to them, with only some being curious about new activities. The following graph depicts the top ten activities voted by all workshop members, as totals. Please note that adults over 25 years of age were given fewer voting opportunities compared to other age groups. The Loft caters specifically to 12-18 year olds so staff were particularly interested in accessing their interest. Overall totals do not add to the total number of participants, as people had the opportunity to vote more than once. The full list, by location and ages, is available in Appendix II.

Graph 1: Top 10 Activities Voted by Participants (aged 12-18)



The top preferences for the workshop session were identified. Typically, the entire group was broken into two or three smaller groups, sharing similar interests, who provided options for activity planning for each of the top activity preferences. A planning template was used by the groups for genuine engagement with participants.

Each of these completed detailed activity plan worksheets are included by location in Appendix II. They reflect the maturity of the groups, a keen awareness of the number and complexity of actual tasks required and garnered significant support from young people to assist in ways which they were comfortable to offer. During the workshop interested participants' contact details were gathered for later reference. These individuals will be contacted to get involved with the implementation of the programs. All contact details obtained have been removed from this report to preserve the confidentiality of individuals.

Below is the summary of the activity plans by location.

Table 1: Activity Plans by Location

Location	Activity	Timing	Payment
Minmi	Hip hop & Break dance class	During school term, after school for 6 weeks	Pay once a year
	Skate, Scooter, BMX sessions	During school term, Saturday 4pm	Pay once a year
	Circus skills	During school term	Pay once a year
	Theatre sports	During school term, after school	Pay once a year

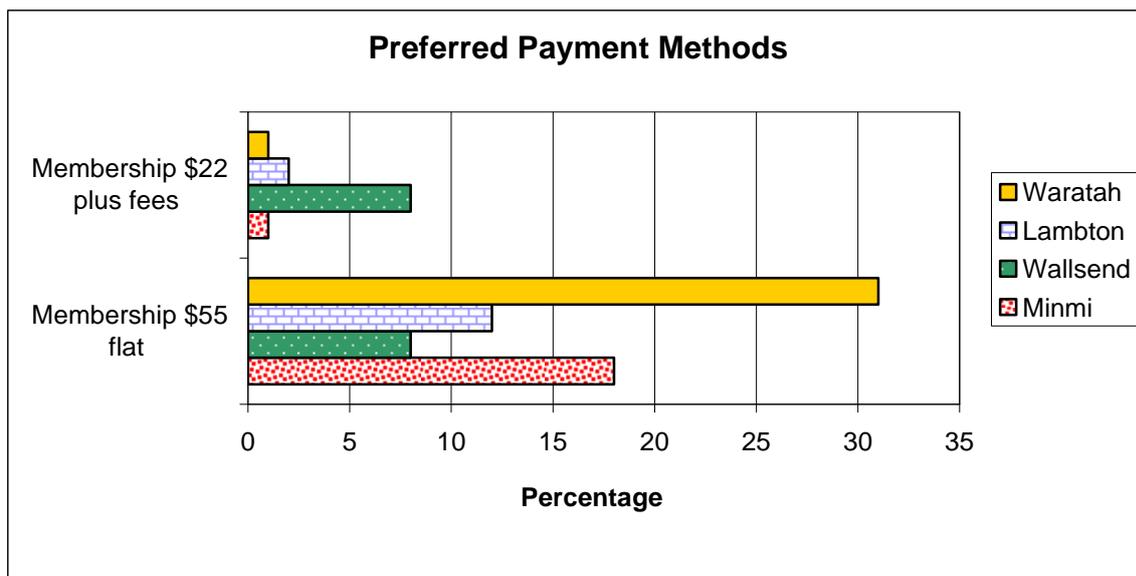
Location	Activity	Timing	Payment
Wallsend	Firewirling, Circus skills & Belly dancing	School term: After school 6-week program	Free – Loft member \$10 – non members
	DJ classes & Aerosol art	1/month fortnightly Wednesdays or Sundays	or 'Try before you buy': \$10-\$15 for first class \$15-\$20/class for program duration
	Role playing, Gaming & Theatre sports	School Holiday: 1 day	\$15 for day for Loft member & non members
	Surfing & Photography day	School Holiday: ½ day or 1 day Two 2-hour photo editing sessions	\$10 for surf class \$22 – Loft membership
Wallsend (continued)	Skate, Scooter & Gig Day	School Holiday: 1 day	Free – Loft member \$5 – non members
Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, Lambton	Firewirling & Capoeira	After school program	Small fee
	DJ classes	School Holiday: One 2-3 hour class	\$15 for first class \$55 membership
	Skate, Scooter free riding day	Fortnightly on Sunday	Entry to skate park (ie Slam Factory), no additional fee
Callaghan College, Waratah Campus	Music – gigs with demonstrations of piercings or similar	School term, weekly	\$55 per year one group, entry fee at the door second group
	Action – soccer skills, circus skills, break dancing	School term, Wednesdays	\$55 per year, one group, \$10 at the door second group
	Multimedia	School term	Included in Loft membership
	Art – drawing and painting	School holidays, two full days AND school term, several afternoons per week	\$55 per year, included in Loft membership

Payment Options

A key dimension of the consultation was to determine price sensitivity to varying payment options. At present, the annual membership fee of The Loft Arts and Cultural Centre is \$22 per year. This allows members access and information about activities. An additional payment is required for individuals who elect to participate in activities, including gigs.

An option tested with workshop participants was an increase of the annual membership fee with participation for all activities included. A striking outcome was that the workshop sessions revealed that 85% of participants would prefer to pay a \$55 membership flat fee per year, with no additional cost for individual activities as and when they are taken up. This suggests that the current membership fee is no impediment; and possibly that it is easier to pay for something once a year rather than seek continual payments from parents throughout the year.

Graph 2: Payment Preference

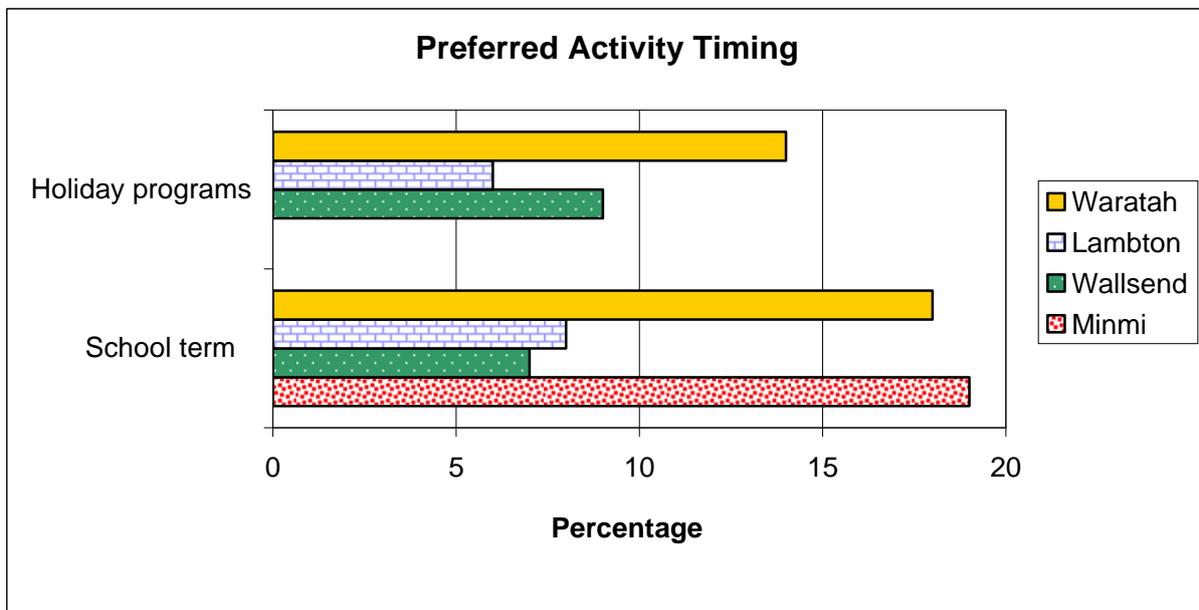


Timing Preferences

Participants were asked for to indicate their preference for attending activities during the school term versus the school holiday. Timing is a critical factor of Loft programs to ensure that the youth activities are well attended. Each participant was asked to vote on their preference, with 64% selecting the school term.

The workshop participants discussed specifics around days of the week, duration of program and time of day during the activity planning portion of the sessions. These can be viewed in Appendix II.

Graph 3: Time of Year Preference



Immediate Outcomes

Wallsend Pool Party

There was some discussion during the workshops about which nearby venues are considered appropriate to hold youth activities. The library at Wallsend, which has already been used by Loft Arts and Cultural Centre for activities during school holiday programs, is a place young people will only travel to if there is something specific they want to do. The Wallsend pool was found to be a very attractive venue by the younger participants.

Subsequently the workshop sessions revealed that participants were interested in planning a day time 'gig picnic.' The day would include market stalls, allowing people to mix and mingle. Participants spoke about wanting to learn DJ skills during a set of workshops and play at the event. The Wallsend High School has six bands with students interested in the project

As this 'gig picnic' would involve numerous community organisations, young people from diverse segments of Newcastle's population would pull together. Recent migrant young people in Newcastle who participated in the workshop sessions mentioned that it would be a good opportunity to socialise with Anglo-Saxon young people who were born in Newcastle.

Locations were discussed, with the Wallsend pool and the Pioneer Hall being the most attractive options. The Wallsend High School, although centrally located, is not considered a desirable location for this event, as students are there all through the school term. Since this consultation, the Loft has embarked on partnership arrangements with NCC Aquatic Services to present a 'pool gig' as part of its open day at Wallsend Pool on 17 January.

January Holiday Planning

January school holiday activity planning occurred, with fresh program ideas and interested community youths as a result of the input received from participants of this consultation.

Other Topics Raised

Skate Parks

The skate parks in Sydney (Monster) and on the Central Coast (Slam Factory) were repeatedly mentioned as being excellent. In the activity planning stage, some young people were keen to arrange group transport to these locations, as well as the various locations around Newcastle.

The Maryland skate park was also mentioned as needing an upgrade. It is considered unsafe because of the numerous fights which break out and the smashed bottles often found littered there.

A question was raised about the status of the Jesmond brickworks skate facility which had been scheduled for completion two years ago.

A number of events and skills clinics are regularly scheduled by the Loft at Maryland and Wallsend Skate Parks. In October 2009, Newcastle's first ever scooter competition was held, attracting 107 people and strong sponsorship support.



Appendix I - Workshop Materials

Workshop Outline – 2 hours

Welcome and introduction

5 mins

Setting the scene

Newcastle Voice 15 mins

What are the best things about this part of Newcastle?

What are the worst things about this part of Newcastle?

Loft Activity Showcase

Loft 15 mins

Showcase of specific activities, presented by youth member of the Indent Committee. The Loft emphasises mentoring young people to lead programs. Need to have dedicated and motivated young people wanting to take part and be active in the planning and implementation of programs.

Exploring the options

Loft and Voice 25 mins

Discussion of 40 items, choices in delivery methods, fee structure.

Describe voting process/activity. What's needed?

All stand, move around to the boards, vote for their preferences using their dots. Discussion and music.

Break

15 mins

Loft and Voice staff tally boards, write up 3 top items of interest.

Making it happen

Loft and Voice 30 mins

Break into 3 working groups around top voted activities. Discuss, use worksheet, participants complete details for future Loft reference. Loft and Voice staff assist as needed, one per group. Emphasis is on the young people developing the actions.

Next Steps

10 minutes

Each group reports back to whole group about next steps to bring their activity to Minmi.

Conclusion

Newcastle Voice 5 mins

Questions? Hesitations? Other comments?

Close

The Loft Activities Planning Workshop

Agenda

6pm Welcome	5 mins
Newcastle Voice	
Setting the Scene	20 mins
Newcastle Voice	
Loft Activity Showcase	15 mins
The Loft	
Exploring the Options	20 mins
The Loft and Newcastle Voice	
7.15pm Break	15 mins
Making it Happen	20 mins
All	
Next Steps	10 mins
All	
8pm Close	
Newcastle Voice	

Ground Rules

- Today is about gathering community priorities, so every contribution is valued.
- The focus is for the *participants* of activities to be involved in planning them and making sure they happen, not for adults to design and deliver. So that guides our approach tonight.
- Photographs may be taken and used on the Council's website and to promote future Newcastle Voice events. Please let us know if you would **not** like to be photographed.
- Thank you for your participation today.

Feedback Form

Your feedback is important to us - thank you for taking the time to complete this sheet and provide us with your comments.

What did you particularly like about this workshop?

Please suggest any improvements that could be made.

Any other comments?

4. Please rate your overall satisfaction with the workshop.

<input type="checkbox"/> Completely dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat satisfied	<input type="checkbox"/> Completely satisfied
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5. Would you attend another group like this– on a different subject?

YES / NO

NAME: (optional) _____



Appendix II - Workshop Outputs

Workshop 1: Minmi, Minmi Progress Hall, 7-9 pm, 3 September

Participants

Sixteen community members attended the workshop (10 females and 6 males). Below is the breakdown of the participants by age group:

Age	Number	Percentage
12-15 years	6	38%
16-18 years	1	6%
18-25 years	0	0%
25 years +	9	56%

Discussion

Workshop participants were asked to name the three best things about Minmi. Below are the responses from the group:

- Safe Place
- Community is small and close, school is a hub for that
- There's a family feel, supportive
- People feel a part of the community – all sorts of people attend school events (more than in this principal's experience of other areas)
- The natural environment; the rural feel, while close to the city, the rural park.
- The Tank paddocks are great for our kids, they all ride their trail bikes safely around the bush.

Participants were also asked to name the three worst things about Minmi. Below are the responses from the group:

- People smoking around kids
- Public transport is terrible, the low frequency of buses in any direction. This is especially important for the young ones.
- 3000 new homes to come for Minmi, huge development, loss of community!!!
- Not enough youth activities offered nearby

Activity Preferences

Activities	12-15yrs	16-18yrs	25 yrs +	Total	Percentage
Break dancing	3		3	6	11%
Skate/scooter clinic or competition	4		1	5	9%
BMX clinic	1		3	4	7%
Hip hop dance	2	1	1	4	7%
Circus skills		2	2	4	7%
Badge-making	1	1	1	3	6%
Theatre Sports		2	1	3	6%
Video Production		1	2	3	6%
Badge making	1	1	1	3	6%
Aerosol Art	2			2	4%
Zine making	2			2	4%
DJ classes	2			2	4%
Screen printing	2			2	4%
Capoeira Brazilian dance/martial art		1	1	2	4%
Surfing	1		1	2	4%
Drawing/Painting	1	1		2	4%
Martial Arts			1	1	2%
Singing		1		1	2%
Guitar tuition			1	1	2%
Radio and podcast production		1		1	2%
Photography		1		1	2%
Gigs, music at Minmi Hall			1	1	2%
TOTAL				87	100%

When to Play	12-15yrs	16-18yrs	25yrs +	Total	Percentage
School term	6	3	10	19	100%
Holiday programmes				0	0%

How to Pay					Percentage
Membership \$55 flat per year	6	3	9	18	95%
Membership \$22 plus fees per activity			1	1	5%

NB: Participants had more than one vote at each stage of this activity, therefore totals do not add to the total number of participants.

Minmi Activity Plans

Activity	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Hip Hop/Break Dance classes</p>
Timing	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>2 hour workshop, 2 hours after school, 6 week program during school term.</p>
Payment	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>One pay for the year.</p>
Tasks required	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minmi Hall = venue. 2. Stereo system, workshop split into two sessions per style. 3. Break dance first, then hip hop 4. School bulletin, flyers, newspapers, friends.
Key contacts	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

Activity	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Theatre Sports</p>
Timing	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p>
Payment	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p>
Tasks required	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minmi Hall as the venue 2. Teachers provided by The Loft 3. Small program run through schools, year 6 up. Use assembly, small workshop to demonstrate what's involved. 4. Websites, You Tube of what's involved, newsletter 5. Short play on a podcast, so youth can see what it's about.
Key contacts	<p><i>Who's going to get involved when it's time to start this one? Which task will you be good at? Name, phone number and email please. In nice writing.</i></p> <p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Circus Skills</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>School term</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>Flat annual fee of \$55</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minmi school COLA as the venue 2. Circus trainer for skills and equipment. 3. Volunteer adults and kids set up and pack up. 4. Promotion through newsletters, website and letter drops. 5. Loft to provide the communication between the trainer and the community.
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p><i>Who's going to get involved when it's time to start this one? Which task will you be good at? Name, phone number and email please. In nice writing.</i></p> <p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Skate/Scooter/BMX</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>During school term, on Saturday afternoons, 4pm.</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>Pay once per year, \$55. As per tallyboard.</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Venue – outside, in a local skate park – Maryland while we wait for Minmi to be built. Minmi needs its own skate park. 2. Bus to other parks – once a term trips to other parks 3. Small weekly fee to cover food and drinks. 4. Extra meeting for kids interested in own skate park in Minmi – including lighting for night-time use. 5. Advertise and letterbox to get kids interested.
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p><i>Who's going to get involved when it's time to start this one? Which task will you be good at? Name, phone number and email please. In nice writing.</i></p> <p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

Workshop 3 and 4: Wallsend High School, 20 October

Participants

Sixteen students attended the workshop, 8 males, 8 females, all between 12-15 years of age.

Discussion

As this workshop was modified to suit the one hour timeframe of a class period, the focus of the workshop was to consider, vote and then plan youth activities which could be appealing. This element of the workshop structure was consistent with the two hour workshop, and allowed for discussion and deliberation around the activities and all tasks required.

Activity Preferences

Activities	12-15yrs
Skate/scooter clinic or competition	5
BMX clinic	2
Belly dance	4
Circus skills	3
Theatre Sports	2
Video Production	1
Singing/song writing	2
Aerosol Art	6
DJ classes	7
Surfing	4
Martial Arts	3
Music/guitar tuition	2
Drawing/painting/cartooning	2
Photography	3
Activity Preferences (cont'd)	

Fire twirling	7
Gigs	3
Role play/gaming	3
Capoeira	1

When to Play	12-15yrs	Percentage
School term	7	
Holiday programmes	9	

How to Pay	12-15	Percentage
Membership \$55 flat per year	8	95%
Membership \$22 plus fees per activity	8	5%

NB: Participants had more than one vote at each stage of this activity, therefore totals do not add to the total number of participants.

Wallsend High Activity Plans

Activity	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Firetwirling/Circus Skills /Belly Dancing</p>
Timing	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>School term, after school, six week program on Wednesdays. Minimum 5, maximum 20 participants.</p>
Payment	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>Free for Loft members, \$10 to others. Fundraising by performance.</p>
Tasks required	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Venue – outside, in a local park. Or in a community hall, the PCYC, Wallsend Pool. 2. Materials to be provided – and ice blocks, bbq, drinks. 3. Promotion at school assemblies, at markets, and with a poster run. Bright, colourful posters. 4. Design and put up poster at schools, telegraph poles and on the main street in Wallsend. 5. Online promotion: myspace, email to all students in school, school notices. 6. Loft to organise instructors, venues and refreshments (perhaps sponsored).
Key contacts	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>DJ classes/Aerosol Art</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>Once a month or fortnightly on Sundays or Wednesdays for 2-3 hours. Leading to a big event where new skills can be shown off.</p> <p>Timing needs to consider weekend schedule of public transport – buses??</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>'Try before you buy', pay \$10-15 once off for this, and then sign up for a program over time. Pay \$15-20 per class once underway.</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aerosol art agreement – make participants sign an agreement at the start of the program: if anyone is caught 'tagging', impose a fine and make them clean up. 2. Venue: Scout Hall, Elermore Vale, or Pioneer Hall Wallsend. 3. Promotions on Myspace, posters at school and on telegraph poles. Promote through the following schools: Bishop Tyrell, Wallsend High, Cardiff High, West Wallsend, Jesmond High (senior high part). 4. Materials needed (to be provided by The Loft): aerosol paints, wall, timber, canvas, old whitegoods, face masks. 5. Option of painting on business owners' walls – lengthy process to gain approval for a design. 6. Instructor for DJ classes to be provided by The Loft, with turntable etc.
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Role playing/Gaming/Theatre Sports</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>One big day during a school holiday time – as has been conducted in The Loft venue in town. One big day is expected to attract more people, and more people make the day more fun.</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>\$15 for the day, bring own lunch or money to buy. One price for all.</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage the gaming/role play instructor. They have story lines and character sheets which start the role play game. 2. Venue: Pioneer Hall, or Scout Hall, or in a theatre. 3. Arrival at 9.30; get plot lines and scenarios. character sheets (which includes character background, weapons, skills), prepare character, commence play. After lunch: either continue game or move to theatre skills workshop and game. 4. Promotion through flyers, on radio, posters, myspace. 5. Consider availability of costumes, make-up, props? Not essential, but would enhance the day. 6. Transport?? Hold the event not too far away.
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Surfing/Photography Day</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>One big day or half day during a school holiday (check tides and surf condition)– that’s the only way this could work. Two one-hour follow up sessions for photo editing at The Loft.</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>\$10 for the surf class, \$22 membership for The Loft.</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Venue – beach and follow up for photography editing in The Loft. 2. BBQ – sausage sizzle, sell cans \$2, Loft has BBQ. 3. Engage photographer – Renew Newcastle's surf photography shop? (Alexandra Thompson). 4. Promotions – put on myspace, posters, flyers, school newsletters, library.
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Skate/Scooter/Gig Day</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>One day in the school holidays.</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>\$5 in, free for Loft members. Hold 5 places for free entry if required.</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stockton, Warabrook, Maryland skate parks. The Loft to secure the venue. 2. Food, drinks, shade, prizes. Approach Wild Surf Co, Skate Shop, Switch, 50/50. Live music: approach school bands, need a power source. Need an OK for loud music. Approach KFC for sponsorship of event. 3. Need Loft to organise stage, sound system, judges of comp. Repeat as for Maryland Scooter Comp day. 4. Promotions – school, posters, graphic design, myspace. Hang posters in Maryland shops, skate parks, shopping centres. 5. For set up and pack up – need about 10 people.
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p>.</p> <p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

Workshop 5: Maryland, Maryland Multi-purpose Centre, 6-7pm, 21 October

Participants

Four community members attended the workshop (4 males), by age group.

Age	Number
12-15 years	2
25 years +	2

Discussion

Workshop participants were asked to name the best things about Maryland. Below are the responses from the group:

- New housing.
- Friends, the sense of community within people they know.
- Open spaces.
- We're turning into India here now, but we're all just neighbours, it's fine.

Participants were also asked to name the three worst things about Maryland. Below are the responses from the group:

- Isolation from the city.
- Public transport is lacking – in quantity of service routes, and in the frequency of services. The state government review of all public transport is now apparently focusing on Wollongong, after identifying the Wallsend to Maryland stretch as a strategic bus corridor 6 (six) years ago.
- The private bus company's time tables, which service out from Wallsend (Hunter Valley Buses), do not tie in with the Newcastle public bus systems time tables. Buses arrive after the connecting buses have already left. The 226 route needs to be re-done, it does not service its area well. Route-sharing between public and private buses should be explored.
- Don't want to be another Tillegerry – a Port Stephens peninsula development which was poorly executed and created significant social problems. See also: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2004/05/19/1111108.htm>
- Kids from this area are the perpetrators of violence at the uni – it's known who they are, and they're locked up now, but it's unpleasant to know. Discussion about the various 'postcode gangs' followed – the 2287s, the 2298ers, the Shorty Boys, the Shoalie Boys, the Ice Boys. These are small, informal groups all keen to identify with and belong to something.

Due to the small group size, there was a discussion about what is truly needed in Maryland, with the generally agreed observation that youth activities provided are lower priority here than pressing infrastructure needs, as follows:

- Bus shelters and signs are urgently needed in Maryland at the Highland County end of Minmi Road.
- Public transport! "I did a 100km round trip to take my two boys to work in Kotara."
- Cycleway from Maryland to Minmi, with a spur to the university and on to the Wallsend Wetlands. The extension of the Fernleigh Track and the research into a proposed cycleway to Glendale are viewed with some scepticism – as these places are already better serviced with public transport and therefore less need of cycleways as essential commuter links. People regularly cycle the 5km from Fletcher to Wallsend to connect with public transport there.
- An indoor skate park with adequate supervision. The Slam skate park on the Central Coast is indoors and fully supervised and described in glowing terms. Some years ago, a petition with 200 signatures was sent to Sonia Hornery for a skate park in Fletcher, with no response received.
- "Where did the s.94 money set aside from the housing development in Maryland go?"
- "I've been hit on Minmi Road on my bike, it's not safe as it is."

Youth Activity Preferences

In terms of immediate youth activities which would be well received, discussions centred around the following activities, with the overarching principle for all successful youth activities: structured, supervised, safe.

Gig picnic

A day time 'gig picnic' with market stalls, allowing people to mix and mingle. Wallsend High School has six bands, people could learn DJ skills and then play at a gig.

Locations were discussed, with the rejection of Wallsend High School which is centrally located, but not a place people wish to go out of school hours, or during holiday periods. The Wallsend Pool and the Pioneer Hall were both attractive options.

Sporting activities

The soccer competition held by the Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre at Tighes Hill TAFE was discussed as an excellent social opportunity to meet people from other cultures in a purposeful, informal way. This event was promoted by word of mouth only and attracted 100 competitors.

Schools provide all sporting activities, and so the lacking dimension is the opportunity to meet new people. During winter, sporting activities take more time than in summer. Cricket is one of the few options here – which is also not attractive to everyone.

Workshop 6: Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, Lambton, 29 October

Participants

Fourteen students attended the workshop held in the Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre in Lambton, with four girls and ten boys, in the following age distribution:

	12-15yrs	16-18 yrs
Numbers	12	2

Discussion

Discussion was focused on the immediate neighbourhood of the Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, and also considered the city more broadly. The location of the centre, and the demographics of the participants mean that access to activities and a broad range of activities is not difficult.

Skate-boarding and scootering are major recreational activities for this group and there was much animated discussion about the merits of various venues in Sydney and on the Central Coast. There was strong feedback not to make skate park facilities out of metal – it’s too hot in summer, too slippery and causes more injuries when landed on than concrete. A question was raised about the progress towards the Jesmond Brickworks skate facility – which had been promised two years ago.

Workshop participants were asked to name the three best things about Lambton. Below are the responses from the group:

- Skate park in Lambton 50m away from MNC, Slam Factory on the Central Coast.
- Everything is close – shops, sporting fields, friends, city, beaches (Merewether and Newcastle), Lambton pool, places to ride and scoot.
- “We cycle to the free bus stop in Hamilton, and get the bus into town. It’s easy.”
- “Kotara is good for shops and Waratah, Charlestown is scary” (for the people there)
- “I would buy a house here, feel safe here.”

Participants were also asked to name the three worst things about Lambton. Below are the responses from the group:

- Bullies and rubbish at the skate park.
- 2298 boys – they’ve been caught, but they’re still around.
- “People coming out of Wests drunk, guys bashing their wives up against the wall. The police come too late.”
- Being chased down the street (12 years old).

Activity Preferences

Activities	12-15yrs	16-18yrs	Percentage
Skate/scooter clinic or competition	38		
BMX clinic	6		
Belly dance	6		
Theatre Sports	1		
Capoeira	7	3	
DJ classes	9	3	
Drawing/painting/cartooning	1	1	
Photography	4		
Fire twirling	6		
Gigs	4	4	
Recycled fashion		1	
Total			

When to Play	12-15yrs	16-18yrs	Percentage
School term	7	1	
Holiday programmes	4	1	

How to Pay	12-15	16-18 yrs	Percentage
Membership \$55 flat per year	9	2	
Membership \$22 plus fees per activity	2		

Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre Plans

Activity	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Firetwirling/Capoeira</p>
Timing	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>School term, after school.</p>
Payment	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>Small fee, compromise for people who can't afford it.</p>
Tasks required	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Venue – dance studio, neighbourhood centre, safe buildings to prevent fires. Outside? 2. Costumes, footwear, fire extinguisher for fire twirling. 3. Promotion – flyers, radio commercials, word of mouth, schools. 4. All help pack up after the day. 5. Youth workers to secure venue, prepare.
Key contacts	<p><i>Who's going to get involved when it's time to start this one? Which task will you be good at? Name, phone number and email please. In nice writing.</i></p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>DJ classes</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>1 holiday workshop of 2-3 hours – as a taste test. Run this as a workshop on its own.</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>One off workshop for \$15, then pay annual membership to The Loft for \$55 per year.</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Venue: MNC and Pius Hall. 8. Promotions on school newsletter, St Pius, word of mouth. 9. Instructor for DJ classes to be provided by The Loft, with turntable etc.
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Skate/Scooter Free Riding Day</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>One big session during a Sunday, organise during school term, rotate to different location each fortnight.</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>The only payment required is entry to skate parks such as the Slam Factory, petrol for parents transporting children and lunch on the day. There should not be a fee over and above this.</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Venues: Slam (Central Coast), Monster (Sydney Olympic Park), Maitland, Stockton, Newcastle (it's pretty tough there), Mayfield. 2. Transport: group up in cars or use mini-bus available for community transport from Josh, MNC.. Catch train with Josh to the Central Coast. 3. Don't need a teacher – not a competition. This is free riding, at different locations on different days. 4. Promotion through school assembly, put posters up near all the skate parks, internet, attach same poster to school newsletter. 5. Consider availability of costumes, make-up, props? Not essential, but would enhance the day. 6. Transport?? Hold the event not too far away.
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

Workshop 7: Waratah, Callaghan College, 12.30-1.30pm, 5 March

Activity Preferences

Activities	12-15yrs	Percentage
Music	23	35.93%
Multimedia	4	6.25%
Art	12	18.75%
Action	21	32.81%
Other	4	6.25%
Total	64	

Time Preferences

When to Play	12-15yrs	Percentage
School term	18	56.25%
Holiday programmes	14	43.75%

Payment Preferences

How to Pay		Percentage
Membership \$55 flat per year	31	96.8%
Membership \$22 plus fees per activity	1	3.12%

Waratah Activity Plans

Activity	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Art - Drawing/Painting</p>
Timing	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>School holidays – 2 full days</p> <p>Term 1 afternoon a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)</p>
Payment	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>\$55 or \$10 / \$15</p> <p>.</p>
Tasks required	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. At the Loft ; parks 6. Pens, pencils, paints, paper, books, pastels, canvas, 7. Newspaper, magazines, radio, flyers, billboards, kids places (school, fast food places, school newsletter) 8. Word of mouth, local artist, teacher 9. Different styles of drawing/painting, learn techniques
Key contacts	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

Activity	Action - Circus skills
Timing	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>Term on its own</p> <p>Wednesday</p>
Payment	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>\$55 \$9.99</p>
Tasks required	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. PCYC Broadmeadow 7. Flyers for promotion 8. Youth organisers 9. Circus equipment 10. Elephants, Lions and Hippo's 11. Circus tent 12. People to join
Key contacts	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

Activity	Action
Timing	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>School dancing – Break dancing and hip-hop</p> <p>Soccer clubs</p> <p>Rugby league at the park training</p>
Payment	<p>1. <i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>Ask for help</p>
Tasks required	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communication 2. Team work 3. Co-operative 4. Locally 5. Transport 6. Donation 7. Equipment 8. Self management
Key contacts	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

Activity	Music - performances and lessons
Timing	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>50 days a week – term</p>
Payment	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>\$55</p>
Tasks required	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Make arrangements with parents 7. Make arrangements for money 8. Get a job for money 9. Have fun 10. More screamo gig 11. Think of teachers to teach students (Hip hop teachers)
Key contacts	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Music</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>Gigs – weekend nights (Friday, Saturday)</p> <p>Piercing show demo’s and such after shows</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can’t pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>Pay at the door, entry free</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flyers/ posters – promotion 2. Transport 3. Sound technician 4. Security 5. Organisers 6. Bands 7. Venue- Loft, Wesley Hall 8. Audience
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

<p>Activity</p>	<p><i>Write your activity in here.</i></p> <p>Multimedia - photography</p>
<p>Timing</p>	<p><i>School holiday program? During term? How many weeks? Day of the week? On its own, or as part of something else?</i></p> <p>School holiday</p> <p>During term</p>
<p>Payment</p>	<p><i>Fee for the activity? Included in Loft membership? What to do if someone can't pay, but really wants to do this?</i></p> <p>Included in Loft membership</p>
<p>Tasks required</p>	<p><i>List all the steps you can think of which are needed to make this happen. Think about venues, materials, promotions, set up, pack up. Think about what this group can do and then about what help would be needed from The Loft. And anything else.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Council 7. Civic PARK / Newcastle beach 8. Cameras / printer/ dark room 9. Teacher 10. Posters / flyers /at school 11. 4-10 people 12. Promoting it 13. Running it
<p>Key contacts</p>	<p>Contact details provided under separate cover to The Loft, to preserve confidentiality of volunteers.</p>

Collated Activities Voted By Participants

Activities	12-15yrs	16-18yrs	25 yrs +
Skate/scooter clinic or competition	47		1
DJ classes	16	3	
Firetwirling	13		
Capoeira - Brazilian dance/martial art	8	4	1
BMX clinic	9		3
Gigs	30	4	1
Belly dance	10		
Aerosol Art	8		
Photography	7	1	
Circus skills	3	2	2
Break dancing	3		3
Theatre Sports	3	2	1
Surfing	5		1
Drawing/Painting/Cartooning	16	2	
Hip hop dance	2	1	1
Video Production	5	1	2
Martial Arts	3		1
Badge-making	1	1	1
Singing/songwriting	2	1	
Music/guitar tuition	2		1
Role-play/gaming	25		
Zine making	2		
Screen printing	2		
Radio and podcast production		1	
Recycled fashion/Sewing		1	

Payment Preference	Minmi	Wallsend	Lambton	Waratah	Total	%
Membership \$55 flat per year	18	8	12	31		%
Membership \$22 plus fees per activity	1	8	2	1		%
Total	19	16	14	32		

When to Play	Minmi	Wallsend	Lambton	Waratah	Total	%
School term	19	7	8	18		%
Holiday programs	0	9	6	14		%
Total	19	16	14	32		



Appendix III - Promotional Materials & Media

Poster



Help shape our city's future

Current Consultation

Loft Youth Services

The Loft is seeking information from young people about activities they are interested in - to start programs in the western suburbs

Four workshops are being held to discuss activities, timing and pricing:

Date:	Tuesday 20 October, 2 sessions
Time:	11.00am - 2.00pm
Venue:	Wallsend High School (these sessions for Wallsend High School students only)
Date:	Wednesday 21 October
Time:	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Venue:	Maryland Multipurpose Centre, 207 Maryland Road, Maryland
Date:	Thursday 29 October
Time:	6.00pm - 8.00pm
Venue:	Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, 3 Illalung Road, New Lambton

Come along and help bring the youth activities from The Loft Youth Venue to where you live

Let's see some more trees for pedestrian shade
Yes, we think cycle racks will encourage people to leave the car at home

Share your views through mail or telephone surveys, workshops or community discussions.

Newcastle needs representation from all sections of our community. To join *Newcastle Voice* and take part in consultations with Council you must be a Newcastle resident or ratepayer and also be over 16 years of age

Registering online is easy at
www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au/myvoice

Or order your Free Info Pack via mail by calling
4974 2000.

Information Sheet 1



Over the next nine months, The Loft Arts and Culture Centre will develop an activity program for Newcastle's western suburbs.

A number of workshops are being held to gauge interest and commitment from young people in these areas – so now is your chance to have your say.

Council is particularly interested in hearing from 12-25 year-olds who would participate in the activities.

Newcastle Voice and The Loft Youth Venue have organised five workshops to discuss possible activities, timing and pricing. Voice members and members of the public are all welcome.

Time: 11am to 2pm (two sessions for Wallsend High students only)
Date: Tuesday 20 October
Venue: Wallsend High School
Macquarie Street, Wallsend

Time: 6pm to 8pm
Date: Wednesday 21 October
Venue: Maryland Multipurpose Centre
207 Maryland Drive, Maryland

Time: 6pm to 8pm
Date: Thursday 22 October
Venue: Elmore Vale Community Centre
129 Croudace Road, Elmore Vale

Time: 4.30pm to 6.30pm
Date: Thursday 29 October
Venue: Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre
3 Illalung Street, New Lambton

Please RSVP by the day before your workshop by calling 4974 2823.

Information Sheet 2

JESMOND SESSION:
29th Sept, 6 - 8pm
Jesmond Park Uniting Church, Robert St.

Are there enough activities for young people in your area??

Do you want to make a difference in your community?

Or do you just want to find out what's out there for you?



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU !!



Media Releases

22 September 2009

What we do best heads out west

The team from the Loft Arts and Cultural Centre have joined forces with Newcastle Voice to find out what activities and services young people want in the suburbs.

Life Services Manager DEBORAH LISSON says a clear message of the sustainability review was to look at ways to expand youth services in the suburbs.

“The sustainability review revealed that there is a perception that the Loft provides activities in town only. We are keen to increase our outreach activities - by taking more of what we do best to the west.

“A key part of developing a comprehensive strategy for delivery of youth services across the whole city is finding out what young people want.”

Earlier this month Council ran the first of a series of sessions with the assistance of the Minmi Progress Association.

“The feedback we received from the participants was they really appreciated the opportunity to hear about activities like capoeira, theatre sports and hip hop dancing then vote for activities they are most interested in. This information will be used to develop a program of activities that young people want to get involved in - at times and locations they would prefer.”

“Existing community groups are also involved and this means the forward program will not duplicate existing activities and events.”

Workshop sessions

- 6 to 8pm, Tuesday 29 September
- Jesmond Park Uniting Church, Robert Street, Jesmond

- 6 to 8pm, Tuesday 6 October
- Maryland Multi-purpose Centre, Maryland Drive, Maryland
- Call The Loft on 4974 2092 to register for either session.

For interviews call Deborah Lisson on 4974 5301.

19 October 2009

What we do best heads out west

Capoeira, theatre sports and hip hop dancing are just some of the activities young people say they want out west.

The Loft Arts and Cultural Centre has joined forces with Newcastle Voice to discover what activities and services young people want in the suburbs.

Life Services Manager DEBORAH LISSON says the success of a recent workshop in Jesmond exploring this issue will see workshops continue this week

“The Loft already has quite a presence in Newcastle’s western suburbs and we are willing to do more. We are very keen to hear from young people about their needs and aspirations.

“Participants at our Minmi workshop appreciated the opportunity to hear about a variety activities and voted on their favourites which included capoeira, theatre sports and hip hop dancing.”

Five more workshops will be held over the next ten days to provide plenty of opportunity for young people to have their say.

“A clear message of Council’s sustainability review was to look at ways to expand youth services in the suburbs,” said Ms Lisson.

“These workshops are a key part of developing a comprehensive youth services strategy for the city. Community groups are involved to ensure that existing activities and events are not duplicated. This information will be used to develop a program of activities that young people want to get involved in - at times and locations they would prefer.”

Workshop sessions

Time: 11-2pm (2 sessions)

Date: Tuesday 20 October

Venue: Wallsend High School, Macquarie Street, Wallsend

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Date: Wednesday 21 October

Venue: Maryland Multipurpose Centre, 207 Maryland Drive, Maryland

Time: 6pm to 8pm

Date: Thursday 22 October

Venue: Elernmore Vale Community Centre, 129 Croudace Road. Elernmore Vale

Time: 4.30-6.30pm

Date: Thursday 29 October

Venue: Multicultural Neighbourhood Centre, 1 Victoria Street, New Lambton

For interviews call Deborah Lisson on 4974 5301.

Appendix IV – Participant Feedback

Participant Feedback

1. What did you particularly like about this workshop?

- The organisation was great.
- The inclusiveness – individuals and community groups making decisions. Got a lot done in a short amount of time.
- The information given, was very informative.
- Putting dots on the board.
- Group discussion and info.
- Well organised and structured, good speakers, lots of support, great food.
- Engaging, including of local ideas and knowledge.

2. Please suggest any improvements that could be made.

- Was very well presented.
- Small video clips from Loft on some of their activities.
- Greater advertisements for people to come.
- Need to have another meeting or see schools with mini-workshops.

3. Any other comments?

- The Voice is a great way to access community ideas/concerns and feedback.
- Keep the ball moving.
- Please help us keep our community closeness during the massive increase in population Minmi will suffer in the coming years.
- Well done, great!

4. Would you attend another group like this – on a different subject?

- Yes: 100% of responses