



AGENDA APPENDIX
Council Meeting
Wednesday 23 July 2014

AGENDA ITEM FOR SEPARATE DISTRIBUTION TO COUNCILLORS AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM DUE TO DOCUMENT SIZE.

THE ITEM IS ACCESSIBLE VIA THE COUNCIL WEBSITE OR BY CONTACTING COUNCIL ON 03 5662 9200.

E.3 SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB REVIEW

Appendix 1 – Senior Citizens Club Review



Senior Citizen Club Review

Aged & Disability Services

South Gippsland Shire Council has undertaken a review of its support and interaction with Senior Citizens clubs. The review supports Council's strategic direction 2.1.3 We aim to minimise barriers and find ways to support our volunteers, community groups and committees to provide services beyond those that Council, by itself, can provide.

April 2014

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Executive Summary

Senior Citizen Centres provide a focal point for senior activities in a community facility that is easily accessible. They serve as places of nutritional, social, physical, and educational activities designed to respond to an increasingly diverse demand of needs and interests while fostering independence and community interaction among participants. The centres not only serve the members of senior citizen clubs but are hired out to other clubs within the community with the revenue being retained by the clubs.

Council supports the four senior citizen centres in Leongatha, Mirboo North, Foster and Korumburra by providing the buildings and approximately \$15,500 per annum in total towards general maintenance. Council also funds approximately \$5,500 annually to subsidise the cost of providing meals and distributes Dept. of Health HACC Maintenance Grant of \$5,367 to each of the four centres with Korumburra Italian Seniors receiving \$4,800 directly from Dept. of Health.

In benchmarking the distribution of meal subsidies, South Gippsland Shire Council is the only Council in Gippsland to provide a meal subsidy. The original intent of the subsidy was to boost meals on wheels targets within the HACC program however, the meals on wheels program is currently exceeding targets by 21% in 2012/13 and a waitlist is likely in 2014/15 year.

New Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms to be implemented on 1 July 2015 have not guaranteed ongoing maintenance grant funding for Senior Citizens Centres. It is unlikely that the centres would be able to meet the maintenance costs from their own funds and they would most probably look to Council to meet the funding shortfall.

In consultation with Council's property department it was reported there are inconsistencies with the lease agreements with some centres having no lease in place. The property department is currently developing a policy for Council endorsement in April 2014 to ensure consistency and Council requirements are clearly outlined and implemented including the acquittal of funding from Council.

Consultation with all five seniors clubs supported the results of a state-wide MAV survey of declining membership and difficulty in finding members to take on Committee of Management roles. Council's facilitation in the developing of partnerships between all clubs could see benefits of networking and clubs supporting each other to manage challenges, develop ideas and information for programs, recruitment of new members and grant opportunities.

Through consultation with Council Officers, Executive members of Senior Citizen clubs and benchmarking it is recommended that Council:

1. Facilitate the development of a Senior Citizen Clubs network with the aim of expanding these partnerships to include other like clubs for seniors
2. Encourage Senior Citizens Clubs to be integrated in multi-purpose hubs, as they are developed, rather than being a stand-alone facility
3. Review and implement lease arrangement in line with endorsed Council Leasing Policy
4. Develop protocols between the Building Operations department and Aged and Disability department to assist in determining priority for maintenance and upgrades to the Senior Citizen Centres
 - a. Install Unisex Disabled toilet at Daker Centre
5. Cease providing meal subsidy to Senior's clubs in the 2015/16 financial year
6. Maintain the current even split of Dept. of Health HACC Maintenance Grant Funding for 2014/15 financial year.
7. Complete a financial analysis for 2013/14 and 2014/15 on operating costs of Senior Centres to inform Council of cost-effective options when Aged Care Reforms come into effect July 1 2015.

Introduction

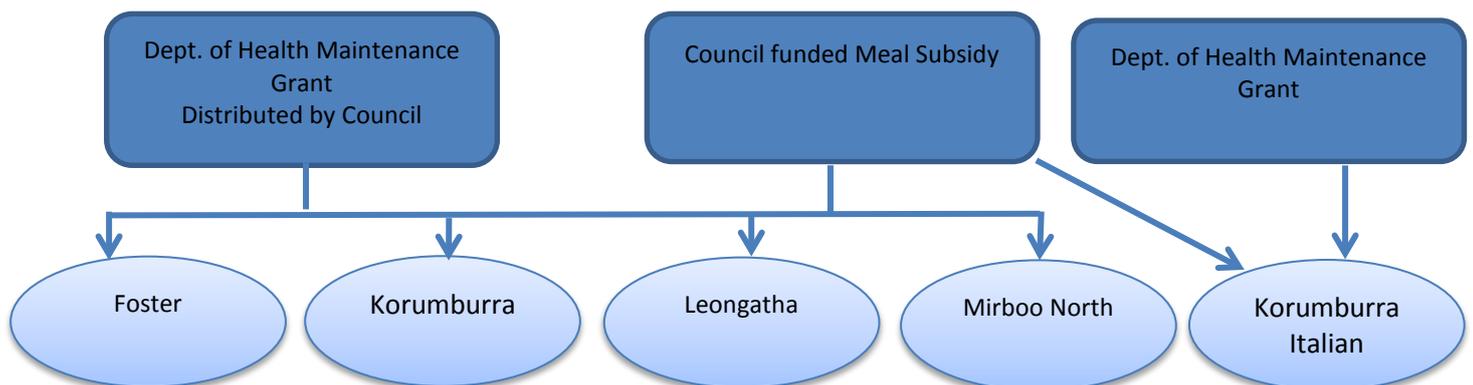
South Gippsland Shire Council is undertaking a review of its support and interaction with Senior Citizens clubs. This review will support Council's strategic direction 2.1.3 *We aim to minimise barriers and find ways to support our volunteers, community groups and committees to provide services beyond those that Council, by itself, can provide.*

Senior Citizen clubs provide a friendly, welcoming place for social activities, meals and educational opportunities for residents over 55. They promote social connection which can improve wellbeing by having a better lifestyle and a positive approach to ageing. In South Gippsland, Seniors clubs operate out of, historically, purpose built facilities that are easily assessable and meet their needs. The Senior's clubs are not-for-profit organisations with a Committee of Management that governs not only club operations but the facilities they operate from.

This review should be read in conjunction with the blueprint for all Social Community Infrastructure that is currently being developed. This blueprint will inform the future direction of Council's community facilities including senior citizen buildings and is due for Council endorsement in June 2014. The blueprint identifies Korumburra and Leongatha as priorities for the development of a multi-purpose hub.

Background

There are five Senior Citizen clubs in South Gippsland located in Leongatha, Mirboo North, Foster and Korumburra, with four clubs operating from Council owned facilities. Korumburra also has an Italian Senior Citizen club that operates from their own centre. As depicted below, Council supports the four Seniors clubs in council buildings by providing the infrastructure and general maintenance, and all five seniors clubs with meal subsidies. The Department of Health provide a Building Maintenance Grant that is distributed by Council to the four clubs in Council buildings and the Dept. directly funds the Korumburra Italian Seniors club.



The Home And Community Care (HACC) Building Maintenance grant is block funded from the Department of Health and distributed to Local Government in recognition of the significant contribution to the ongoing costs of operating Senior Citizen Centres. The block funding increases by CPI annually and is evenly distributed by Council to the four centres operating out of Council buildings. The Department of Health provides the maintenance grant directly to Korumburra Italian Seniors club.

The allocation of funding for Senior Centres has varied over time, in 2006 it was agreed the allocation of funds from the department would be distributed evenly between the four clubs. This is still current practice with Seniors clubs receiving the maintenance grant from Dept. of Health which Council distributes twice a year in December and June.

Council's Property department provide periodic, scheduled maintenance and upgrades to the facilities. The allocation of resource in the budget is based on information provided by user groups to determine Building Service Levels and a review of maintenance and capital works programs.

The meal subsidy is provided to all five seniors clubs at a rate of \$1.50 per meal (in-line with Dept. of Health unit price) with the number of meals provided submitted to Council by each club in December and June every year. Historically this subsidy was to boost meals on wheels targets within the HACC program. The original intent of the subsidy was for HACC clients who would normally receive a delivered meal through the meals on wheels program, to have centre-based meals at seniors functions. Over time, this subsidy seems to have been extended for all members attending seniors' functions. Currently, the meals on wheels program is exceeding targets not including the additional subsidy provided to Seniors clubs which is directly funded by Council.

Council's Aged and Disability department has limited interaction with seniors clubs. The financial contribution from Dept. of Health and Council through maintenance and meals subsidies is seen as beneficial by seniors clubs and assists in their minor maintenance of the buildings and reduces costs of providing meals to their members. Currently an Aged & Disability staff member meets with the clubs individually twice a year to discuss any upcoming events, programs, issues arising and to support and distribute relevant information to clubs. Council also has a tenant/landlord relationship with the clubs through the Building Operations department. This relationship generally centres on scheduled or required maintenance of buildings along with upgrades to the centres.

Discussion

Benefits of Senior Citizen Clubs

Social activities provide many benefits to people of all ages. Once people retire, the social interaction that they once had at work is gone. Participation in social activities during older adult and senior years is important so they maintain their connection to other people. Seniors report that to be involved in a club gives them activities to look forward to, having a place to be, people who expect them to show up and a strong sense of purpose.

Senior Citizen clubs in South Gippsland offer a range of activities to meet the needs of their members. These range from card games, exercise classes including activities such as lawn bowls, musical entertainment, meals, singing groups and bus trips. Each club provide activities based on the needs and interest of their members. Seniors who participate in these activities are not only socially connected. They are able to build new relationships, are provided with mental stimulation keeping their brain active, have opportunities to learn new skills and engage in physical activity. Research shows that participation in clubs can slow the rate of age-related health issues and improves overall health and wellbeing enhancing people's quality of life.

Senior Citizen Centres provide a focal point for senior activities in the community in a facility that is

easily accessible. They serve as places of nutritional, social, physical, and educational activities designed to respond to an increasingly diverse demand of needs and interests while fostering independence and community interaction among participants. The centres not only serve the members of senior citizen clubs but other clubs within the community.

There is an increasing trend within the senior population to move away from the traditional senior citizen clubs preferring alternate or special interest seniors groups for example Conservation Societies, U3A and Probus. The decline in membership of traditional seniors clubs and a rise in special interest groups within South Gippsland is seen as evidence of this trend. Table 1 illustrates the popularity of Probus clubs as compared to traditional seniors clubs. Probus has two clubs in both Leongatha and Korumburra with each town having combined membership of two hundred plus. Significantly, all Probus clubs have large numbers attending meetings and higher membership costs than seniors clubs. It is important to note that many senior citizen club members are also members of Probus. However, people are generally not a member of more than one Probus club.

Table 1

Senior Citizen Club Members & Attendance			
Club	No. of Members	Average attendance	Annual Membership Cost
Leongatha	160	80	\$5
Foster	35	25	\$2
Mirboo North	112	60	\$5
Korumburra	120	45	\$5
Korumburra Italian Seniors	45	30	\$5
Total/average	472	48	4.40
Probus Clubs			
Leongatha Probus	100	80	\$37
Woorayl Probus	150	100	\$30
Foster Probus	120	90	\$30
Korumburra Probus	135	100	\$15
Coal Creek Probus	80	60	\$20
Total/average	585	86	26.40

Probus clubs do not draw on any support from Council and do not have a designated Council facility to operate from. They are self-sufficient and have evolved to meet the needs of senior members of the community. Whilst there has been an increase in membership for Probus and other like groups such as U3A, there has been a decrease in membership for Seniors clubs suggesting Seniors clubs have failed to evolve to meet the needs of the growing number of seniors within the community.

Aged Care Reforms

On 20 April 2012, the Australian Government announced a comprehensive package of reforms to build a better, fairer, more sustainable and more nationally consistent aged care system.

The *Living Longer Living Better* aged care reform package represents the commencement of a 10 year reform program to create a flexible and seamless system that provides older Australians with more choice, control and easier access to a full range of services, where they want it and when they need it. It also positions the government to meet the social and economic challenges of the nation's ageing population.

On 1 July 2012 the Commonwealth HACC Program assumed full funding, policy and operational responsibility for HACC services in all states and territories (except Victoria and Western Australia). However, the Victorian Government has now agreed and signed on to the reforms and will transition responsibility for HACC services to the Commonwealth from 1 July 2015. The Commonwealth is currently consulting with the Dept. of Health, Municipal Association Victoria and HACC providers about the reforms and transition to the Commonwealth system. Council has been advised that direct service will be block funded until June 2018, however this has not been confirmed in writing. To date no discussion has taken place in regard to the HACC Building Maintenance Grant that is distributed to Senior Citizen Clubs.

Further information can be found at <http://www.livinglongerlivingbetter.gov.au>

Funding

In total the State Government and Council invest approximately \$47,000 per annum into Senior Citizens Centres (excluding any capital works). Less than 50% of that contribution is from Council. Based on a total membership of 472 the annual cost to Council per member is \$44.

Department of Health

The Department of Health provides annual Service System Resourcing funding via a HACC Building Maintenance Grant to Council to assist Senior Citizen clubs with the maintenance cost of operating their centres. This grant is intended to contribute to the maintenance of the building and is not intended to subsidise the activities of the centres. The Department of Health stipulate in their guidelines (Appendix A) for agencies receiving a HACC Building Maintenance Grant that they must ensure access to the facility by people from the whole HACC target group. Council is required to submit an Annual Service Activity Report outlining the amount of funding provided per centre.

Council

Meal Subsidy

Meal Subsidies are currently funded to all five Seniors Clubs by Council at a rate of \$1.50 per meal. Each club submits twice a year the number of meals provided to members. Council currently provides a total annual allocation of \$5,500 per annum to support seniors clubs in providing regular meals to its members. The Department of Health expects that funding for meal subsidies for Senior Citizen Centres should be part of the annual meals targets set by them. This is challenging for Council as 2012/13 Meals on Wheels data shows Council provided 3,701 meals (21%) above the annual target. This was not inclusive of any meal subsidies provided to seniors clubs which amounted to a further 3,585 meals subsidised.

Building Maintenance

Council's building maintenance department provides periodic, scheduled maintenance and upgrades

to the Senior Citizen buildings including Leongatha, Mirboo North and Korumburra. Maintenance to Foster Senior Citizen centre is part of the ongoing maintenance to the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre. *The maintenance cost in Table 2 for Foster is 10% of the actual maintenance costs for the whole facility based on 2012/13 maintenance figures that are attributed to common areas and those specifically for the Seniors area. Council's building maintenance also provides an additional maintenance grant to the Committee of Management for Foster War Memorial Arts Centre (see Table 3)

The table below illustrates funding provided to all clubs in the last financial year.

Table 2

Senior Citizen's Club Funding 2012/13				
	Dept. of Health Funding	Funding from Council		
	HACC Building Maintenance Fund	Council's Building Maintenance Costs	Meal Subsidy	Total Council Funding
Leongatha	\$5,367	\$3,680	\$1,551	\$5,231
Foster	\$5,367	* \$5,727	\$486	\$6,213
Mirboo North	\$5,367	\$1,710	\$1,080	\$2,790
Korumburra	\$5,367	\$4,346	\$1,674	\$6,020
Korumburra Italian	\$4,800	\$0	\$587	\$587
Total Overall Funding/Contribution	\$26,268	\$15,463	\$5,378	\$20,841
				\$47,109

Note Dept. of Health funding increases by CPI annually. Meal subsidies are dependent on the number of meals submitted by each centre.

Table 2 illustrates Council contributes \$20,000 annually to the seniors clubs with meals and the maintaining of infrastructure supporting the older members of the community. Dept. of Health funding is distributed equally between the four Senior's Clubs by Council twice a year. Korumburra Italian Seniors receive the grant directly from Dept. of Health.

Table 2 shows that Building Maintenance is varied between centres and is based on information provided by the user groups with priority given to requests and budget resources.

Korumburra and Leongatha clubs receive the highest meal subsidies due to high membership numbers Korumburra Italian Seniors Club receives the least amount of funding from Council as they only receive meal subsidies.

Agreements with Council

Council has a variety of agreements with Senior Citizen clubs operating out of Council buildings as

illustrated in table 3. Each centre has a long standing arrangement that these facilities are used primarily for the activities of Senior Citizens Clubs. Leongatha, Mirboo North and Korumburra pay a peppercorn fee to Council as part of their lease arrangement and govern the facility as a Committee of Management including all bookings, cleaning, insurances, minor maintenance etc., retaining the fees from hiring out the facility.

Table 3

Council & Senior Citizen Club Agreements						
Centre	Type of Lease	Expiry Date	Annual Rent	Land owned by	Building owned by	Additional Grant – Council’s Building Dept.
Leongatha	Operating Overholding	Jan-11 month by month	\$10 per year plus GST	Council	Council	
Foster	Section 86 Foster War Memorial Arts Centre Committee		Seniors hire a room for \$750 per year from S86 Hall Committee	Council	Council	\$6,000 <i>(funding for basic maintenance)</i>
Korumburra	No lease or agreement		No rent	Council	Council	
Mirboo North	General	Jun-18	\$1 per year plus GST	DSE	Council	

As depicted in table 3, Korumburra Senior Citizen centre has no formal agreement with Council and Leongatha’s contract has expired and is now on a month by month agreement.

Mirboo North’s lease is current and the building is on Crown Land.

Foster Seniors is unique as they pay \$750 rent annually to Foster War Memorial Arts Centre (FWMAC) Committee for the use of a dedicated room. All maintenance to the room is provided by the FWMAC committee however, Foster Senior’s Club still receive the \$5,367 HACC Maintenance grant.

Consultation with Councils Property Coordinator acknowledged the inconsistencies with lease agreements between the centres. Within each of the agreements there is no mention of the HACC Building Maintenance Grant or guidelines associated with the grant (see Appendix A). It is the recommendation from the Property Coordinator that where possible, there needs to be:

- Consistent agreements with all centres
- Food handling requirements acknowledged and implemented where required
- Acknowledgement of funding received through Council
- Acquittal of funds received from Council
- Annual Reporting

- Maintenance schedules submitted in consultation with the Building Operations Coordinator including responsibilities of Council and Senior Citizens clubs

The Property Coordinator is scheduled to present a Leasing Policy for Council endorsement in April 2014 addressing inconsistency and accountability for organisations operating out of or leasing Council buildings.

Relationships with Councils – state-wide perspective

A survey completed by the Municipal Association Victoria Positive Ageing branch investigated Council involvement with Senior Citizen Centres and Seniors Clubs across the whole of Victoria. The report identified that many Councils both in rural and metro regions reported similar issues. The most important issues identified were:

1. Finding people to take on club management roles
2. Unable to attract new members with declining membership
3. Sense of ownership limiting use of building by others
4. Senior citizen buildings needing to better respond to local community needs
5. Increasing demand for facilities for other seniors activities

In discussing these results with Senior Citizen’s clubs they all agreed with the findings of declining membership and difficulties in people taking on club management roles. Council’s Aged and Disability Manager confirmed that Seniors clubs assuming an ownership of the buildings limits the use of the building to other community groups.

Benchmarking

In benchmarking Councils contribution to Senior Citizen Clubs with HACC Managers and Council’s Super 11’s table 4 below illustrates that of the nine Councils, only three of them manage the buildings in which the Senior Citizen clubs operate. This includes all maintenance, cleaning, insurance and bookings for hiring the halls including Senior Citizen’s clubs. These Councils also utilise the HACC Maintenance grant from Dept. of Health to offset their expenses. Of the Councils that don’t manage the buildings all but two disperse the grant to their clubs. Surf Coast and Swan Hill utilise their maintenance grant to maintain and clean the building, utility costs and offset deficits (if required) to the seniors clubs directly. They state this method has been proven to enable the clubs to self-manage and individually develop their plans and priorities. Most other Councils disperse the grant either equally or by historical agreements.

South Gippsland, Surf Coast and Swan Hill are the only Councils to provide a meal subsidy to their Seniors Clubs. Swan Hill includes the meal subsidy as part of their 850 HACC meals on wheels targets.

Table 4

Benchmarking other Councils			
Municipality	Manage Senior Citizen Centres	Provide Maintenance Grants	Provide Meal Subsidies
South Gippsland	x	✓	✓
Bass Coast	x	✓	x
Baw Baw	✓	x	x
Latrobe	✓	x	x

Wellington	x	✓	x
East Gippsland	x	✓	x
Moorabool	x	✓	x
Surf Coast	x	x	✓
Swan Hill	x	x	✓
Casey	✓	x	x

Most Council's reported having limited contact with their Senior's clubs usually via meetings on a quarterly basis and through seniors week activities. Consistently with the MAV's state-wide survey all Councils who do not manage their buildings reported issues regarding ownership of the buildings as the clubs see the building as their own. All Councils reported declining membership as an issue for the clubs to maintain viability.

Consultation

Surveys and face-to face meetings were conducted with all five seniors clubs (Appendix B). All Seniors clubs agreed with the State-wide survey that it was difficult to attract new members and find people to take on management roles. All clubs except Leongatha, reported a decline in membership and attendance at regular activities. Clubs reported that when activities were accompanied with a meal there was increased attendance. Korumburra Seniors reported a high membership but low attendance at activities. All clubs contract commercial caterers to provide meals, however, Foster arrange a discounted group price with different venues around the Corner Inlet area.

Korumburra Italian Seniors reported significant issue for ongoing viability is that younger Italian members of the community do not need to get together with other Italians and generally have their own friendship base.

When discussing the potential impact of the Commonwealth Aged Care Reforms and the uncertainty of ongoing funding of the maintenance grant, all clubs stated there would be a substantial impact on the viability of their club if the grant was reduced or no longer offered. Clubs stated they would need to increase membership costs to cover cleaning, re-polishing floors, utilities, insurance, general maintenance and minor upgrades to the facilities.

The Senior's clubs manage and hire out the halls to community groups and for private functions and retain the income generated. The survey identified many of the groups utilising the halls meet the HACC target group however, what is charged to each group has not been disclosed. Foster seniors club rents their room for \$750 annually from the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre and is unable to generate additional income from hiring out of their room although they do receive the maintenance grant of \$5,367 and are not required to contribute to maintenance costs.

Any change of the meal subsidy was met with resistance with clubs stating the subsidy assists in keeping costs at an affordable price for members. It was suggested by Mirboo North Seniors that if changes had to occur, they need to be staged over three years to allow clubs to gradually increase costs rather than a large increase at the one time. Table 6 below shows the cost of meals to clubs and their members. Foster has the highest per meal cost due to having meals at commercial venues however; they also provide the highest subsidy to make the meal affordable for their members. Korumburra utilise the subsidy for catered and non-catered activities such as soup and sandwich days. It is important to note that other clubs like Probus order off the menu and pay for their own

meals.

Table 6

Club	Cost per Meal charged to Members	Cost of Meal	Council Meal Subsidy	Subsidy provided by club per meal
Leongatha	\$8	\$10	\$1.50	\$0.50
Korumburra	\$10	\$11	\$1.50	\$0
Mirboo North	\$11	\$13	\$1.50	\$0.50
Foster	\$10	\$15	\$1.50	\$3.50
Korumburra Italian Seniors	\$10	\$14	\$1.50	\$2.50

Other issues identified were the priority of scheduled maintenance and/or upgrades. For instance Leongatha has requested a unisex disabled toilet. They currently have disabled toilets located inside the men's and women's toilet presenting challenges for their members who have the opposite sex as a carer for example a husband and wife. This creates difficulty in what toilet they use and can be a barrier for some people to attend activities. A unisex disabled toilet would alleviate this issue. Consultation with the Aged and Disability Department could inform the building team of the importance of such works.

Recommendations

Given the uncertainty of continued HACC Maintenance block funding from the Dept. of Health it would be counterproductive to make any major funding changes to the maintenance grant dispersed to Seniors Clubs at this stage. This is not to say that when there is confirmation of ongoing funding that changes shouldn't be made. The following recommendations are a combination of what can be implemented in the short term and considerations for funding the seniors clubs when there is clarification on the reforms.

Increasing partnerships

As a result of the MAV state-wide survey and consultation with the senior citizen clubs there are common issues facing all clubs. It is recommended that establish quarterly network meetings to include all seniors clubs to discuss challenges and coordinate events. Council will need to facilitate these meetings with a focus on developing partnerships that will benefit the operation of the clubs. Depending on the willingness of the clubs, there are opportunities to partner with each other or expand to incorporate other like groups such as Probus.

Benefits of this partnership:

- Developing ideas and information for programs and grants,
- Promoting clubs including recruitment strategies,
- Facilitating club and committee planning sessions
- Facilitate training opportunities
- Management matters (constitutions, complaint resolution, managing risk including assistance and support to the smaller clubs),
- Linking isolated seniors to clubs and groups
- Assisting club exchange activities, visits & networking activities (intergenerational, cultural)

- Negotiate with caterers to achieve “best value” for meals (currently one caterer is charging different rates per head for meals).

Leasing of Council buildings

The current leases with Seniors clubs are inconsistent and do not detail Council requirements as part of the lease. Council’s Property department is currently developing a policy for Council endorsement to ensure consistency and Council requirements are clearly outlined and implemented. It is important to ensure funding, reporting and acquittals are clearly outlined in the lease and reporting requirements of the Aged & Disability department need to be incorporated. Maintenance schedules and responsibilities of the clubs and Council need to be clearly articulated in consultation with the Building Operations department.

Protocols between the Building Operations department and Aged and Disability department need to be developed when determining priority of maintenance and/or upgrades to the buildings. It is important that the Aged and Disability department are consulted to assist the Building Operations department in determining their priorities in particular if these upgrades relate to access.

Meal subsidy

Benchmarking across the State illustrated that only two of the nine Councils consulted provided meal subsidies with no Councils in Gippsland, other than South Gippsland, providing a meal subsidy. Meal’s subsidies were introduced to boost meals on wheels targets within the HACC program. Currently the meals on wheels program is exceeding targets and investigating implementing a waitlist. It is proposed meal subsidies to clubs should cease.

As the 2014/2015 budget has been approved, there should be no changes to the subsidy for 2014/2015 financial year. Clubs should be notified in writing that the meal subsidy will no longer be provided commencing 2015/2016 financial year.

Maintenance grant funding

As of 1 July 2015 dependent on Government funding

The current dispersion of the HACC Maintenance Grant is inequitable and not used in accordance with the HACC guidelines. The dispersion of the grant has been a longstanding agreement with all clubs and is now relied upon by some clubs to cover the shortfall in running costs. The Senior Citizen clubs, excluding Korumburra Italian Seniors who receive direct funding from Dept. of Health, have differing needs and expenses. Some centres are older and require additional maintenance, others generate additional funds through hall hire although these centres have higher utility and cleaning costs. It is not recommended to base any distribution of funds on membership numbers as there are many factors that impact upon expenses.

Further investigation is needed into the ongoing costs of each centre. The current lease arrangements do not stipulate providing annual reports including financials to Council, therefore, ongoing costs for each centre is not able to be calculated at this point in time. Providing these reports is a recommendation for the new leases with Council.

It is important to note that any changes to ongoing management of the centres need to align with the Social Community Infrastructure project with a clear transition plan for implementation.

Option 1- WITH Government Grant

Continue with current arrangements whilst investigating the viability of Council retaining the grant and paying for all maintenance costs for each centre, and in the case of Foster Senior Citizen’s to pay

the annual rent. Any excess in funding could be dispersed based on maintenance priorities established by the Senior Citizen Club partnership.

Option 2- NO Government Grant

If government funding is to cease, this will most likely result in increased costs to Council with additional requests for minor maintenance. It is imperative to understand the financial operations of each centre to determine the financial impact on Council.

Financial Implications to Council

Meals subsidy

Based on 2012/13 figures table 7 illustrates the current subsidy provided to each club. By giving clubs 12 months' notice this will allow them to budget for the increase costs.

If the meal subsidy was to continue it will cost Council approximately \$6,000 annually.

Table 7

Clubs	No of meals 2012/2013	Council Meal Subsidy \$1.50
Leongatha	1,034	\$1,551
Korumburra	1,116	\$1,674
Mirboo North	720	\$1,080
Foster	324	\$486
Korumburra Italian Seniors	391	\$587
Total	3,585	\$5,378

Maintenance grant

Council plays the role of administrator of the Department of Health HACC Maintenance Grant funding and does not deduct any administration fee but distributes all of the funding evenly to all four clubs. Council's Building Operations department contributes approximately \$15,500 annually for the ongoing maintenance of the facilities.

Conclusion

Senior Citizen Clubs provide a focal point for 472 members attending senior activities in the community in a facility that is easily accessible. Four of the five Senior Citizen Clubs operate out of Council owned buildings at a peppercorn rate with the Korumburra Italian Seniors operating from their own building. Council supports all five clubs by subsidising the provision of meals totalling approximately \$5,500 annually.

South Gippsland Shire Council is the only Council in Gippsland to provide meal subsidies to Seniors Clubs. Considering Council's HACC Meals on Wheels program is exceeding targets and considering implementing a waitlist for these services, it's recommended Council cease this funding in 2015/2016 financial year.

Council administers equally a Dept. of Health HACC Maintenance Grant to Leongatha, Foster, Korumburra and Mirboo North, with each club receiving \$5,367 annually with this amount increasing by CPI yearly. Korumburra Italian Seniors receive this grant of approximately \$4,800 directly from the Dept. of Health. There is uncertainty that this grant will continue when the new Aged Care Reforms are introduced in July 2015 and further investigation into the operating costs of each centre will inform Council of the most cost-effective options.

The implementation of the recommendations from this review will see Council provide consistent and current leases on buildings and support the development of a network with seniors clubs with an aim of expanding the network to include other like clubs. Through this network Council will promote independence and self-sufficiency of Seniors clubs to evolve to meet the needs of senior members of the community.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Facilitate the development of a Senior Citizen Clubs network with the aim of expanding these partnerships to include other like clubs for seniors
2. Encourage Senior Citizens Clubs to be integrated in multi-purpose hubs, as they are developed, rather than being a stand-alone facility
3. Review and implement lease arrangement in line with endorsed Council Leasing Policy
4. Develop protocols between the Building Operations department and Aged and Disability department to assist in determining priority for maintenance and upgrades to the Senior Citizen Centres
 - a. Install Unisex Disabled toilet at Daker Centre
5. Cease providing meal subsidy to Senior's clubs in the 2015/16 financial year
6. Maintain the current even split of Dept. of Health HACC Maintenance Grant Funding for 2014/15 financial year.
7. Complete a financial analysis for 2013/14 & 2014/15 on operating costs of Senior Centres to inform Council of cost-effective options when Aged Care Reforms come into effect July 1 2015.

7.15.6 HACC Building Maintenance Grant (Previously Senior Citizen Centres)

A. Introduction

The HACC Program contributes towards the maintenance of a network of buildings, which operate as venues for services for the HACC Program target group. These venues are non-institutional and community based and were often built using a mix of HACC Program, local council and community funding. It is acknowledged that in Victoria Local Governments contribute significantly to the ongoing costs of operating HACC Centre buildings.

This funding was previously known as a Senior Citizen Centre Maintenance Grant.

The name has now been changed to more accurately reflect HACC Program policy which requires HACC buildings to be available for use by the whole HACC target group, not only older people.

B. Use of HACC Building Maintenance Grant

The grant is not intended to subsidise the activities of particular clubs or organisations which use the centres. The grant is a contribution to the maintenance of the building itself. In some circumstances the grant can be paid to offset rental costs of a leased venue.

It is important for agencies receiving a HACC Building Maintenance Grant to ensure access to the facility by people from the whole HACC target group including frail older people, people with disabilities, and carers, as well as people from Special Needs Groups (see section 4), including people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, people who have insecure living conditions (such as rooming houses and Supported Residential Services) and financially disadvantaged people.

The HACC Program encourages HACC facilities to be used by a broad cross section of target groups, such as venues for Planned Activity Groups, carer support groups, and centre based meals.

C. Enhancing Access to HACC Buildings

Barriers which inhibit HACC target groups from accessing HACC include:

- cultural and language barriers
- cost or perceived cost
- buildings which are inappropriate or difficult to access for people with disabilities
- buildings which are located in areas not readily accessible by public transport
- buildings which are unavailable for after-hour or weekend use
- lack of information in community languages about the activities and services provided at the venue

Agencies should develop and implement strategies to ensure that the building is accessible to all consumers.

D. Funding Eligibility

The HACC building grant is available to approved organisations which establish, maintain or financially assist in the operation of a HACC building.

E. Provision of Meals

Where the funded agency receiving a HACC Building Maintenance Grant wholly or partly assists in the preparation or provision of an approved Delivered Meals service for HACC consumers, a maximum of \$6,192 per annum per facility is available. For all other funded agencies a maximum of \$4,128 per annum per facility is available.

Eligibility for a HACC Building Maintenance Grant is conditional upon:

- Department of Human Service approval of the premises to be used.
- Use of the facility being available to all frail aged and people with disabilities and their carers, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and special needs groups among the HACC Program target group, such as people experiencing insecure housing
- The services which are to be provided at the approved premises.

Funded agencies should have structures such as a community based management committee in place, to enable consumer input to decision making regarding use of the HACC building.

Appendix B Survey Results and Meeting Minutes

Results from Senior Citizen's Survey				
	Leongatha	Korumburra	Foster	Mirboo North
No of members	160	120-130	35	112
Frequency of meetings	Weekly & weekly sub-groups on 3 days		twice/week	monthly
Meals supplied	yes	yes	yes	yes
How often	monthly	fartnighly	monthly	monthly
Catering	lets have a party	casual catering	Local hotel	Friends of Mirboo North Aged & Community Services
How much rent is paid	no	no	\$750	no
who manages the facility	Seniors club	Seniors club	S86 Foster War Memorial Hall Committee	Seniors club
is it used for other groups	yes	yes	Yes	yes
what is the hire charge	yes there is a hire charge - didn't provide details	negotiable	nil	Rates set for Regular users higher rates for casual bookings
Who hires your facility	probus clubs CWA Sth Gippsland Singers Weight watches Rock & roll group SNAP Writers discussion group GSHS - exercise group	Bingo Indoor Bowls Concert group coffee mornings	Youth Clinic	GSHS - Community care, Church groups, CWA

Council support received	Maintenance grant/meal grant	Maintenance grant/meal grant	Meal grant/maintenance grant	Meal grant/maintenance grant - major maintenance needs
Any other comments	Facility uses for: Weddings Funerals fundraising events sporting clubs seminars community groups	Bruce Faulkner and Liz Walker very helpful	Happy with support from Liz Walker	Nil

	Ian Rasmussen & committee 5662 3325 lsccl@dcsi.net.au	Joy Anderson President 56551143	Gwen Combridge 56821460	Margaret Peters 5668 1392
Person Responding				
Seniors week	Yes would like to be involved but did not give any details	Having an open day - entertainment to be organised	travelling by bus to the concert - 21 people to attend	

Minutes

Meeting with Baromi Centre Senior Citizen Club

<i>Wednesday 8 January</i>	<i>Mirboo North Bakery,</i>	<i>10.30am-11.30am</i>
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Attendees: Shelley Fixter, Margaret Peters, Denise Paterson, Gerry Rabach

Apologies: Louise Brydon

1. Overview of State-wide results from survey of Councils interaction with Senior Citizens clubs

- Finding people to take on club management roles
- Unable to attract new members and declining membership
- Sense of ownership limiting use of building by others
- Council's requiring multiuse of buildings to meet the needs of the community
- Increasing demand for facilities for other senior group activities
- An unwillingness of senior groups to work together

The Baromi Centre agrees with the state-wide findings that it is increasingly more difficult to find people to take on the management roles. They have a strong membership but at times a limited number of members attending activities. Attracting males to attend activities is an issue with a strong Men's Shed group and Wednesday Warriors (who assist in maintaining the Lyrebird walk and rail trail). These groups cater more to the Male tastes in the area. Generally speaking when attracting new members, the personal approach of visiting new residents and inviting them to attend has worked well.

The Baromi Centre encourages the use of the building by a wide variety of groups of all ages. They believe by having these groups use the facility will assist in people attending their activities and a willingness to join their club.

2. Discussion of current operations within Leongatha Senior Citizens and impacts on the running of the groups

Membership

\$5 annual membership. Activities are charged at different rates depending on what they are – eg; if paid facilitator or bus is required.

A variety of activities

The Baromi Centre offers a variety of activities and has recently surveyed their members to find out what activities they want. They are flexible in offering different activities for their members and respond when people aren't attending by changing the activities. Lunches or activities that involve food or an outing are the most popular. On average around 60 members attend their monthly meal.

Food handling

Meals are generally catered for by external provider who have the required food handling certificates.

Issues

Strategically planning for the future. The Baromi Centre have a strong sense that they need to know where they are going as an organisation as they firmly believe that if you stand still the club will no longer exist. The Baromi Centre discussed the historical role of seniors clubs in the community and how this structure and format was still the same. The Baromi Centre in an attempt to attract a wider range of users have changed the name from Mirboo North Senior Citizens Club to The Baromi Centre and have articles and updates in the local

newsletter as the Baromi news. This has been to try and move away from the terminology of senior and to encourage participation from a wider age group particularly those who don't see themselves as old enough for seniors.

3. Leasing arrangements on the building

- Current lease with Council expires June 2018. The building is Council owned on DSE land. This means that the lease is slightly different to other leases as DSE have certain requirements that are required in the lease.
- Council is in the process of developing new consistent leases for Councils buildings that may include:
 - Food handling requirements
 - Funding guidelines and acquittal of funds
 - Annual reporting
 - Maintenance schedules detailing what is who's responsibility

4. Overview of Aged Care reforms and how this may impact seniors

Aged Care Reforms will come into effect July 1 2015. How this will impact on Senior Citizen's groups is unclear – However, there is the potential that the block funding Council receives for maintenance grants may cease. Council will endeavour to keep the Seniors groups informed of any changes as they come to hand.

5. Maintenance Grants and Meals subsidies

Background on the allocation of the current maintenance grant

Block funding is received from the department of Health and this is divided equally between the four senior citizen groups

Guidelines on how the grant is to be used

The department of Health have guidelines for the use of the grant is to contribute to maintenance of the building and to offset rental costs (if required). The grant is not intended to subsidise the activities of the groups. The maintenance grant is also to enable other Senior groups to access the building

Ongoing viability of continuing to provide meals subsidy

Historically meal subsidies were provided to seniors groups to boost meals on wheels targets within the Home and Community Care program (HACC). The original intent of the subsidy was for HACC clients who would normally receive a delivered meal through the meals on wheels program – would have their meal at seniors functions subsidised. Over time this subsidy has been for all members attending seniors' functions. Council is currently providing services above what they are funded, including the Senior Citizens meals subsidy. It is likely that Council will no longer be able to provide a meal subsidy to seniors groups as the Department of Health have stated that MOWs is not a growth area so hence this is a direct cost to Council.

What would be the impact on your centre if funding was to change for the:

a. Maintenance Grant

The reduction or to cease the maintenance grant would mean the Seniors would no longer be viable. The membership money and income from rental would not be enough to cover general cleaning, outdoor garden maintenance, minor maintenance (Baromi Centre have an understanding that anything under \$500 is their responsibility and anything over is Council's). Without the maintenance grant the seniors would be unable to maintain and upgrade their facility to meet today's standards.

b. Meals Subsidy

The reduction or ceasing of subsidising meals would result in increased costs to members whether this is in meals, membership, or at the door for activities. The club feels that any increase in prices will reduce membership and participants at activities. It is the suggestion of the seniors that if this subsidy was to cease that it should be staged over a few years rather than in one hit. This will allow the seniors to gradually increase their fees limiting the impact on its members.

6. Other Business

It was suggested when new leases are implemented that an information session are held for the seniors to understand their role and responsibilities.

It was suggested that information sessions targeted at seniors around being part of an incorporated organisation would be beneficial as many incorporated organisations are run by senior members of the community. This may also help in the recruitment of people to take on management roles if they know there is assistance and support around the requirements of the role.

Close Meeting: 12 noon

Minutes

Meeting with Korumburra Senior Citizens

<i>Tuesday 10 December</i>	<i>Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre,</i>	<i>10:00am -11:00am</i>
<i>Attendees: Shelley Fixter, Louise Brydon, Joy Anderson, Val Rudd, Eunice Wilkinson, Jay Williams, Barry O'Laughlin, Margarel James, Mary Fields, Gwen Daman</i>		
<i>Apologies:</i>		
<p>1. Overview of State-wide results from survey of Councils interaction with Senior Citizens clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding people to take on club management roles • Unable to attract new members and declining membership • Sense of ownership limiting use of building by others • Council's requiring multiuse of buildings to meet the needs of the community • Increasing demand for facilities for other senior group activities • An unwillingness of senior groups to work together <p>Korumburra seniors identified they had trouble attracting new members, people saying they were not old enough to join seniors and many people are working longer. Korumburra seniors have a high membership but not many members attending activities, more people attend when catering or meal is provided. The believe ProBus seems to attract people easier.</p>		
<p>2. Discussion of current operations within Korumburra Senior Citizens and impacts on the running of the groups</p> <p>Membership: High membership of 120 although this does not show in attendance – charge \$5 annually</p> <p>Variety of activities: Offer different activities such as bingo, bowling, and concert groups. Have initiated new activities such as bus trips but members haven't taken the opportunity to attend. Lunches need a minimum of 45 people for the caterers. Korumburra seniors offer a take away service for those who are unable to attend and have found this works really well (normally members assist to deliver meals or family members pick the meals up). Meals are \$10 per head for a 2 course meal. There is also lucky door prizes</p> <p>Food handling: Caterers provide meals – any other food preparation eg; afternoon teas are supervised by members with a food handling certificate.</p> <p>Issues: Transport for members to attend seniors' events, Korumburra is not an easy place to get around for Seniors with mobility issues.</p>		
<p>3. Leasing arrangements on the building –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no current lease with Council • Council is in the process of developing new consistent leases for Councils buildings that may include: 		

- Food handling requirements
- Funding guidelines and acquittal of funds
- Annual reporting
- Maintenance schedules detailing what is who's responsibility

Council will discuss in the future lease arrangements with Korumburra Senior Citizens.

4. Overview of Aged Care reforms and how this may impact seniors

Aged Care Reforms will come into effect July 1 2015. How this will impact on Senior Citizen's groups is unclear – However, there is the potential that the block funding Council receives for maintenance grants may cease. Council will endeavour to keep the Seniors groups informed of any changes as they come to hand.

5. Maintenance Grants and Meals subsidies

Background on the allocation of the current maintenance grant: Block funding is received from the Department of Health and this is divided equally between the four senior citizen groups.

Guidelines on how the grant is to be used: The Department of Health have guidelines for the use of the grant is to contribute to maintenance of the building and to offset rental costs (if required). The grant is not intended to subsidise the activities of the groups. The grant is also to enable other groups to be able to utilise the facilities.

Ongoing viability of continuing to provide meals subsidy: Historically meal subsidies were provided to seniors groups to boost meals on wheels targets within the Home and Community Care program (HACC). The original intent of the subsidy was for HACC clients who would normally receive a delivered meal through the meals on wheels program – would have their meal at seniors functions subsidised. Over time this subsidy has been for all members attending seniors' functions. Council is currently providing services above what they are funded, including the Senior Citizens meals subsidy. It is likely that Council will no longer be able to provide a meal subsidy to seniors groups as the Department of Health have stated that MOWs is not a growth area so hence this is a direct cost to Council

- **What would be the impact on your centre if funding was to change for the:**
 - Maintenance Grant
 - Meals Subsidy

Korumburra Seniors receive a maintenance grant through the Home and Community Care Program. The Building maintenance team provide periodic scheduled maintenance to the building as per Council's asset management plan. If the maintenance grant was to reduce or cease the seniors would be unable to continue to maintain their building with the amount of periodic maintenance provided by Council's building department. In particular, minor repairs, cleaning (monthly at \$25 p/h) and garden maintenance cannot be funded through membership and/or fundraising. Recent maintenance and/or upgrades paid for by the seniors' club are new toilet, ramp at front of building, heaters and oven. Seniors have their own insurances and pay all utility bills eg; water, power.

Currently meals are charged at full cost recovery (meaning the seniors charge \$10 per meal and the meals cost \$10). The subsidy is used to offset costs to the committee of providing soup and sandwiches and other non-catered for meals.

6. General Discussion and Actions:

- Transport is a major issue for the seniors club – Aged and Disability department to investigate opportunities to use Community Transport bus.

- Hiring of the building – the building is hired out for a variety of events including fire brigade, Milpara, music group etc. The seniors are reluctant to hire the building for events where alcohol will be sold – due to fear of damage.
- Information and opportunities to apply for Council's community grants – send out information and offer of support in how to go about applying for grants.

7. Next steps

When the review is complete it will go to Council for endorsement of any recommendations. All recommendations endorsed by Council will be communicated in writing to all Senior Citizens groups. Council will meet with the group (if desired) to discuss the outcomes of the review if there are any major changes to support or funding.

Close Meeting: 11.00am

Minutes

Meeting with Foster Senior Citizens

<i>Wednesday 11 December</i>	<i>Foster Senior Citizens Centre,</i>	<i>9:15am - 10:15am</i>
<i>Attendees: Shelley Fixter, Louise Brydon, Gwen Cambridge, Mary Easton, Noela Dougall</i>		
<i>Apologies: Nil</i>		
<p>1. Overview of State-wide results from survey of Councils interaction with Senior Citizens clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding people to take on club management roles • Unable to attract new members and declining membership • Sense of ownership limiting use of building by others • Council's requiring multiuse of buildings to meet the needs of the community • Increasing demand for facilities for other senior group activities • An unwillingness of senior groups to work together <p>Foster seniors identified they had trouble attracting new members and people not saying they were not old enough to join seniors. They also have difficulty in finding people to take on the management roles within the club.</p>		
<p>2. Discussion of current operations within Foster Senior Citizens and impacts on the running of the groups</p> <p>Membership: Foster is a small seniors group with 35 members. They charge \$2 annually and then \$1 per activity.</p> <p>A variety of activities: Foster seniors group have an addiction to Hoy and other card games. They have a great turn out for these activities along with their meal (which is held at a different venue in the corner inlet area each time, normally at a local Hotel). Meals are charged at a set fee to the club of \$15 per head, members pay \$10 per head with the club subsidising \$5</p> <p>Food handling: Limited as no catering occurs at seniors activities besides packet biscuits etc. however, Mary has food handling certificates.</p> <p>Issues: Many members come to the luncheons but not the activities, apart from the popular weekly Hoy. Probus is more popular in the Foster area where there is a perception that they are <i>too young or not old enough</i> for seniors. With a small membership base it is difficult to raise funds or run a variety of activities. Income for the seniors group is through membership, raffles and interest off a term deposit account.</p>		
<p>3. Leasing arrangements on the building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the rental arrangement Foster Seniors' have with War Memorial Arts Hall Committee Seniors pay rent to the WMAH committee annually. That covers their utilities and most maintenance. The seniors group pay their own insurance and cleaning costs. • Council is in the process of developing new consistent leases for Councils buildings that may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food handling requirements ○ Funding guidelines and acquittal of funds ○ Annual reporting ○ Maintenance schedules detailing what is who's responsibility <p>Foster seniors already send an annual report to Council. Any additional reporting would need some easy to fill</p>		

out templates. Foster Seniors are different to other clubs as they do not have a direct lease arrangement with Council; they pay annual rent to the Foster War Memorial Arts Hall.

4. Overview of Aged Care reforms and how this may impact seniors

Aged Care Reforms will come into effect July 1 2015. How this will impact on Senior Citizen's groups is unclear. However, there is the potential that the block funding Council receives for maintenance grants may cease. Council will endeavour to keep the Seniors groups informed of any changes as they come to hand.

5. Maintenance Grants and Meals subsidies

- Background on the allocation of the current maintenance grant

Block funding is received from the department of Health and this is divided equally between the four senior citizen groups.

- Guidelines on how the grant is to be used

The department of Health have guidelines for the use of the grant is to contribute to maintenance of the building and to offset rental costs (if required). The grant is not intended to subsidise the activities of the groups. The grant also supports maintenance of the building to enable other Senior groups to access the same facility.

- Ongoing viability of continuing to provide meals subsidy

Historically meal subsidies were provided to seniors groups to boost meals on wheels targets within the Home and Community Care program (HACC). The original intent of the subsidy was for HACC clients who would normally receive a delivered meal through the meals on wheels program – would have their meal at seniors functions subsidised. Over time this subsidy has been for all members attending seniors' functions. Council is currently providing services above what they are funded, including the Senior Citizens meals subsidy. It is likely that Council will no longer be able to provide a meal subsidy to seniors groups as the Department of Health have stated that MOWs is not a growth area so hence this is a direct cost to Council

6. What would be the impact on your centre if funding was to change for the:

- a. Maintenance Grant
- b. Meals Subsidy

Foster seniors would struggle to continue to operate if the maintenance grant was to reduce or cease. If the meal subsidy was to no longer be available, the seniors club is concerned that many members will no longer attend the luncheons as they will not be able to afford to keep prices low. The seniors club have looked at increasing their annual membership fee from \$2 to \$5 and this has been met with a lot of resistance.

7. Other Business

40 Year Celebration of Foster Seniors – 10 October 2014

Discussed with the club the opportunities to apply for Council Community Grants (Information sent with minutes). Louise offered the assistance of A&D administration support or through Councils Grant Officer in navigating the application process.

Close Meeting: 10.30 am

Minutes



Meeting with Leongatha Senior Citizens

<i>Tuesday 17 December</i>	<i>Daker Senior Citizens Centre,</i>	<i>12:00pm -1:00pm</i>
<i>Attendees: Shelley Fixter, Ian Rasmussen, Topsyie Winkler, Phil Carter</i>		
<i>Apologies: Louise Brydon (attended 12.55-1.30pm)</i>		
<p>1. Overview of State-wide results from survey of Councils interaction with Senior Citizens clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding people to take on club management roles • Unable to attract new members and declining membership • Sense of ownership limiting use of building by others • Council's requiring multiuse of buildings to meet the needs of the community • Increasing demand for facilities for other senior group activities • An unwillingness of senior groups to work together <p>Leongatha Seniors are a very strong group with a membership of 160 and an average of 80 members attending activities. However, they do find it challenging to attract new members and feel they need to sell themselves as there is the stigma of we're not old enough for seniors. There is some competitiveness between other senior groups such as Probus for members and attendance at activities. Leongatha seniors, as with all clubs, have issues in getting people to take on management roles however; they have a new treasurer and a person doing the newsletters. They have recently undergone constitutional changes with the acceptance of new model rules and a reconstructed statement of purpose. This process was beneficial in re-educating current committee of expectations and responsibilities.</p>		
<p>2. Discussion of current operations within Leongatha Senior Citizens and impacts on the running of the groups</p> <p>Membership: Leongatha has a strong membership with an annual membership of \$5 and a weekly or activity charge of \$2.</p> <p>A variety of activities: A variety of activities and/or entertainment are offered weekly. Leongatha spends approximately \$12,000 annually for entertainment or activities. Meals are the 3rd Friday of the month with an average of 80 people attending. Meals are subsidised for members at \$8 per meal.</p> <p>Food handling: Leongatha use caterers for all lunches however, there are members within the group with food handling certificates.</p> <p>Issues: Leongatha seniors did not identify any major issues. They are in the process of reviewing rental costs for organisations using the building.</p>		
<p>3. Leasing arrangements on the building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current lease with Council – month by month • Council is in the process of developing new consistent leases for Councils buildings that may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food handling requirements ○ Funding guidelines and acquittal of funds ○ Annual reporting ○ Maintenance schedules detailing what is who's responsibility 		

Discussion around the upgrade of the unisex toilet allowing for carers of the opposite sex to assist in toileting. Council's building department are aware of this but no timelines for the upgrade have been given.

4. Overview of Aged Care reforms and how this may impact seniors

Aged Care Reforms will come into effect July 1 2015. How this will impact on Senior Citizen's groups is unclear – However, there is the potential that the block funding Council receives for maintenance grants may cease. Council will endeavour to keep the Seniors groups informed of any changes as they come to hand.

5. Maintenance Grants and Meals subsidies

Background on the allocation of the current maintenance grant

Block funding is received from the department of Health and this is divided equally between the four senior citizen groups

Guidelines on how the grant is to be used

The department of Health have guidelines for the use of the grant is to contribute to maintenance of the building and to offset rental costs (if required). The grant is not intended to subsidise the activities of the groups. The maintenance grant is also to enable other Senior groups to access the building.

Ongoing viability of continuing to provide meals subsidy

Historically meal subsidies were provided to seniors groups to boost meals on wheels targets within the Home and Community Care program (HACC). The original intent of the subsidy was for HACC clients who would normally receive a delivered meal through the meals on wheels program – would have their meal at seniors functions subsidised. Over time this subsidy has been for all members attending seniors' functions. Council is currently providing services above what they are funded, including the Senior Citizens meals subsidy. It is likely that Council will no longer be able to provide a meal subsidy to seniors groups as the Department of Health have stated that MOWs is not a growth area so hence this is a direct cost to Council.

6. What would be the impact on your centre if funding was to change for the:

- a. Maintenance Grant
- b. Meals Subsidy

If Council was to reduce or cease providing a maintenance grant the Leongatha Seniors Club will struggle to provide the activities and entertainment as money from membership would need to be redirected to maintenance costs such as cleaning, re-polishing floors and general maintenance tasks. It may also force the increase of rental costs to cover for the ongoing maintenance.

The reduction or ceasing of subsidising meals would result in increased costs to members whether this is in membership, at the door for activities or meals. The club feels that this will reduce membership and participants at activities.

7. Other Business

Nil

Close Meeting: 1.30pm

Minutes

Meeting with Korumburra Italian Senior Citizens

<i>Thursday 30 December</i>	<i>Korumburra Italian Senior Citizens Centre,</i>	<i>1:30am -2:30am</i>
<i>Attendees: Shelley Fixter, Sarina Lomagnò, Angelina Migliorisi, Maria Arestia</i>		
<i>Apologies: Louise Brydon</i>		
<p>1. Overview of State-wide results from survey of Councils interaction with Senior Citizens clubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding people to take on club management roles • Unable to attract new members and declining membership <p>Korumburra Italian Seniors club agree with the state-wide survey. The said that the younger generation don't seem to need to get together as an Italian group as they have their own friendship groups and activities.</p>		
<p>2. Discussion of current operations within Korumburra Italian Senior Citizens and impacts on the running of the groups</p> <p>a. Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How Many Members – approx. 45 ○ Cost of being a member - \$5 annually, \$5 Cleaning annually ○ Are you having difficulty attracting new members – Yes, numbers are reducing and the majority of members are in their 80's and 90's. <p>b. A variety of activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What types of activities does your club run – Bingo twice a week at no cost to members. Annual bus trip to Thomastown (cheese factory) and Vic Market. Men generally play cards. ○ How many members attend these activities – approximately 10 play Bingo and approx. 25 on bus trips. Attendance on bus trips declining. Mother's day and Father's day celebrations free to celebrating members. <p>c. Meals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who caters for your meals? Casual Caters (private business) ○ How much do they charge the club? \$14 per head with a minimum of 30 ○ How much do you charge your members? \$10 per head ○ On average how many members attend? 30-35 ○ How often do you have meals? Once a month (2nd Wednesday) <p>d. Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the challenges facing your club at present The Italian Seniors own their building and have all as members contributed to the cost of buying the building and renovating. There is a concern as to what will happen in the future when they are no longer able to run the club including the social club. They believe the younger generation are not interested in maintaining activities and/or the social aspect of the club. There has been a decline in hiring of the hall which assisted in covering other operating costs. They believe there will need to be decisions made in the future about the ownership of the building. <p>The Italian Seniors club reported similar issues as all the other seniors clubs with difficulty to attract new members, having enough people to make activities cost effective and the difference in needs for different generations.</p>		

<p>Council's interaction with the Italian Seniors Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your current relationship with Council – Limited – only through meal subsidies • Do you think there can be improvements made <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ If yes, how can improvements be made <p>Italian Seniors club are interested in attending joint meetings however they need to have a purpose. When previous meetings have been held they didn't get anything out of it and it seemed to be a waste of time.</p> <p>The support from Council with the meal subsidy supports the club in keeping meal costs low and affordable for members. To lose or reduce the subsidy the club would then need to increase meal costs.</p> <p>The Italian Seniors receive a monthly grant of approximated \$400 (\$4,800 annually) from Dept. of Health to assist in operational costs of the clubs.</p>
<p>3. Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ CALD Seniors Grants ◦ Council Community Grants <p>Gave grant information to the clubs and offered assistance with completing any applications</p>
<p>Close Meeting: 2.30 pm</p>