

ITEM NO: 4**SUBJECT: STORAGE FOR BLUE MOUNTAINS MUSICAL SOCIETY****FILE NO: F03368/F00088**

Recommendations:

1. *That the Council receive and note this report.*
 2. *That the Council write to the Blue Mountains Musical Society, confirming previous advice that the Council does not have any suitable storage facilities available.*
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Report by Group Manager, Community & Corporate:**Background**

In September 2007 the Blue Mountains Musical Society (BMMS) approached the Council through a Councillor, requesting discussion on the options for the improvement of storage facilities for the BMMS.

Discussions were held with the BMMS in October 2007 and again in December 2007 regarding the matter. The BMMS was advised that regrettably the Council does not have any suitable facilities available for their use.

At the Council meeting of 11 March 2008, it was resolved:

"That a report come to the Council on possible options for assisting the Blue Mountains Musical Society with costume storage."

(Minute No. 437, 11/3/08)

Report

It is understood the Blue Mountains Musical Society currently has three storage facilities, none of which are Council owned:

- Greenway Lane, Springwood (privately leased);
- Scrivener Lane, Springwood (privately leased); and
- Lawson Road, Springwood (storage container on road reserve outside Springwood Council Depot – there is not room for this facility to be expanded).

A number of suggestions have been investigated to determine if they could address the needs of the BMMS, as follows:

- *The placement of storage containers at Springwood Depot.* This is not considered suitable, as it would raise a number of security problems in regard to access by non-staff to the depot, as well as OH&S issues with unauthorised persons accessing the site.

- *The use of the Faulconbridge Church Hall at 585 Great Western Highway, Faulconbridge, which Council is in the process of acquiring. This is not considered suitable, as the LEP Zoning of Living General, does not permit storage facilities.*
- *The use of the Old Scout Hall at Fairy Dell Reserve, Springwood Avenue, Springwood. This is not considered suitable, as there are major access constraints, lack of passive surveillance and the LEP Zoning of Recreation – Environmental Protection does not permit storage facilities.*
- *Renting of commercial storage facilities has also been investigated. A standard garage sized facility (6.0m x 2.7m) in either the Blue Mountains or Penrith, ranges in cost from \$260/month to \$340/month (\$3,120 - \$4,080 / per annum). There is no allowance in the current or proposed Council budgets for such costs, particularly given the ongoing nature of the expense.*

Underlying the request from the Blue Mountains Musical Society is the question of the Council’s involvement in their need for storage facilities. While the contribution of the Blue Mountains Musical Society to the cultural richness of the Blue Mountains Community is well recognised, there are many worthwhile community organisations including sporting groups that regularly seek the assistance of the Council in providing storage space for their resources and equipment. Unfortunately, the Council does not have any suitable storage premises available for our community building user groups, or venue hirers.

Conclusion

All possible Council owned resources have been considered in an effort to assist the Blue Mountains Musical Society with their storage needs, however, the Council does not currently have available any suitable facilities for the use of community groups for storage.

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ITEM NO: 5

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE / DONATIONS – RECOMMENDATIONS BY COUNCILLORS

FILE NO: C00944

Recommendation:

That the Council approve the following donations from the Councillors’ Minor Local Projects Vote:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<i>Blaxland Neighbourhood Centre</i>	<i>\$400.00</i>
<i>Mountains Youth Resource Organisation Inc</i>	<i>\$400.00</i>
<i>Mountains Youth Band</i>	<i>\$400.00</i>
<i>Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>
<i>Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre</i>	<i>\$200.00</i>

Report by General Manager:

On 11 July 2000 the Council adopted a revised Policy for Councillors’ Minor Local Projects allocations for the provision of community assistance/donations. The following recommendations for donation, which appear to fall within the ambit of the Policy, have been received and are submitted for approval.

Minor Local Projects

<u>Recommending Councillor</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Cr Brown	Blaxland Neighbourhood Centre	Towards knitters and preparations for men’s group	\$400.00
Cr Brown	Mountains Youth Resource Organisation Inc	Towards the disco for people with disabilities	\$400.00
Cr Brown	Mountains Youth Band	Towards music stands, assistance with payment for tutors for enrichment days.	\$400.00
Cr Creed	Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre	Blokefest	\$200.00
Cr Frappell	Lower Mountains Neighbourhood Centre Inc	Men’s program project	\$200.00
