

8.6. Shoreshocked Youth Festival

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ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE:

To report on the Shoreshocked Youth Festival which was held April 2021.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report is to brief Council on its flagship annual youth event, Shoreshocked Youth Festival, which was held in St Leonards Park on Saturday 17 April 2021.

The concert, the peak event in Youth Week, was held under Covid Safe conditions following its postponement in 2020.

The event reduced the number of bands performing to four and capped the attendance numbers to 500. The event was organised in collaboration with 6 Northern Sydney area Councils.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The event expenditure was \$44,014.

North Sydney Council allocated \$17,000 to Shoreshocked in the 2020/21 budget and this included \$2,044.90 grant income from NSW Youthweek.

Contributions from partner Councils were:

- City of Ryde \$6,300.00
- Ku-ring-gai Council \$5,000.00
- Lane Cove \$7,000.00
- Mosman Council \$4,770.00
- Willoughby Council \$4,863.27

Total contributions from partners: \$27,933.27

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report be received.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

4. Our Social Vitality

4.1 North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy and safe

4.2 North Sydney is creative and home to popular events

BACKGROUND

North Sydney Council has been celebrating Youthweek through its flagship youth event, Shoreshocked, since 1996.

In 2021 Youthweek ran from 16-24 April with the theme “Together more than ever” and Shoreshocked was held on Sat, 17 April.

Shoreshocked is held in St. Leonards Park and is a collaborative project between Councils, Youth Health Promotion (NSW Health) and community organisations from the Northern Sydney district.

Funding is provided by each Council which also includes the NSW Youthweek financial contributions.

It is the only free, large scale, all ages youth festival in Northern Sydney and it provides multiple opportunities for young people to be involved in celebrating youth culture and to showcase their creativity and skills to their peers and to the wider community.

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown of 2020 the event was postponed to 2021 and was able to go ahead in April 2021 just as the restrictions for events were lifted by the NSW Government.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement is not required.

DETAIL

Shoreshocked as a major event requires time to plan and is dependent on multiple stakeholders and partners.

Due to Covid-19, planning the event proved challenging with planning initiated twice only to be halted due to restrictions not being lifted in time.

Following the easing of restrictions on events, the Organising Committee initiated planning for Shoreshocked in mid-February 2021.

The participating Councils included Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney, Ku-ring-gai, Ryde and Willoughby.

The Committee scaled the event back to meet Covid Safe requirements which included shortening the duration of the event, capping the attendance numbers to 500 and removing the community stalls to minimise people congregating in one spot for too long.

The event was held on Saturday, 17 April between 2:30pm and 5:30pm at St. Leonards Park with 4 bands taking to the stage to showcase their talents and entertain the crowd.

The two young bands who were the winners from Battle of the Bands competitions held in 2020 opened the event and gained valuable experience and exposure in supporting the better-known headlining artists.

Phoenix House Youth Services provided a coffee and food stall as part of their Cream Bean Social Enterprise where young people are trained as Baristas and Hospitality workers.

Security and Paramedics, along with Police were on hand to ensure the event ran safely and to provide assistance if required. There were no critical or medical incidents.

The event was well attended by 500 people which was the capped number implemented to meet Covid Safe requirements.

The safety measures meant that the participation of young people in helping to organise the event was not of the same level as previous years.

The feedback from both young people and parents was overwhelmingly positive. Of note was a father who expressed to Council's Youth Worker that music is the only thing that is holding his daughter together at the moment and he was therefore incredibly thankful to the Council for putting the event on.

Similarly, the parents of two of the performers stated similar sentiments and spent some time explaining the challenges their children overcame in their personal lives as well as through the Pandemic. Being able to perform at Shoreshocked was something incredibly special to them all.

For the Youth Workers having witnessed the negative impacts the Pandemic has had on young people to be able to provide a day of joy, music and dance for them was a particular special and positive outcome.

Knowing what Shoreshocked meant to the young people in 2021 is something that will motivate the Committee to provide another positive event for them in 2022.

The organising committee would like to thank the various people at Council who make it possible for the event to be implemented year after year. Special thanks are extended to the staff at St. Leonards Park Depot, The Oval, Events, and Booking. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.







