

Meeting 29th October 2008
St Andrews Rooms Penrith

Arts and Culture Action Group notes

Facilitator : Nick Jones



1. Vision

That by 2030 Penrith is

- A “crucible of creativity”
- A place of distinction, beauty and soul, hand made with pleasure and pride
- A place of festivals and celebrations
- A soft place that honours the feminine as well as the masculine by living and being in tune with nature
- A place that is defined by high quality design, using local skills and sustainable materials

2. Getting there

1. Honouring, empowering and skilling the individual to be creative through a programme of “handmade” workshops, activities and crafts, using local artists and artisans, and starting in 2009.
2. Engaging the community in creative, artistic and cultural activity, starting in 2009 with:
 - a. a programme of events and festivals that celebrate what is special and distinctive about Penrith, its history, geography, the seasons, etc.
 - b. a programme to soften and raise the design quality of the “built and managed environment” of Penrith through working with natural forces and senses (gardens, trees, water, wind, light, sound, touch and taste) to suit and give priority to human, social, cultural and environmental needs, not those of machines or abstract economic ideals.
3. Taking advantage of the power of the arts, cultural and creative sector to raise awareness through all means including :
 - a. the commissioning of challenging, thought-provoking and educative works that address the need for new solutions to meet the challenge of change. Initial commission to be progressed in 2009 with a proposal, fund-raising, and commission by PACT.
 - b. the setting up of media channels eg a web-based TV and radio station, newspaper, email, blogs etc. Initial web based TV station to be set up in 2009 by PACT.