

MINUTES FROM THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL CULTURAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BALRANALD ON MONDAY APRIL 18th 2016 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM.

PRESENT: Doreen Greenham (Chair), Jan Lawler, Margaret Butler, Sue Balshaw, Connie Mallet, Ema Serevi, Elizabeth White, Cr Steve O'Halloran, Cr Elaine Campbell, Rev. Robyn Davis, Bella Mannix, and Cherie Murphy (minute taker).

APOLOGIES: Linda Nelson

The minutes of the Meeting held on Monday February 15th 2016 were read and accepted.

Moved Sue Balshaw

Seconded Jan Lawler

BUSINESS ARISING:

Variety Concert - Music night

Cr Elaine advised that Chloe Calleja and Kiandra Dalton have said they will perform and was waiting on the Fijian choir to let her know.

Ema advised that the Fijian choir are able to sing, but would like an official invitation.

Elizabeth advised she will complete this.

Margaret reported

- It has been a busy time but delighted to say all those she has approached to perform at the concert have accepted and happy to oblige.
- Helen Ellis has offered the use of her Yamaha upright piano, and the committee would like to pass on their thanks for the offer.
- Thank Cherie and Council for preparing some flyers for shop fronts and businesses around town. They have been given to all shop fronts, motels, Caravan Park and library. They will also be at the hospital and doctors surgery.
- Went and spoke with Matt Bodinnar and advised him of the variety concert, asking if they could leave the takings from the concert in his safe overnight. Matt said he would be happy to assist, and that Mary Grisdale (being a Bendigo Bank Officer) will do an initial count and record the takings. It will then go to Council for second check and then bank. Matt was thrilled the concert is going ahead and has generously donated his advertising space in The Gaurdian to spread the word further.
- Everything is arranged regarding lights and curtains – thank you to Ray Mitchell for his assistance
- Performers to date are:
 - Doreen Greenham
 - Balranald Central School Primary
 - June Spinks (recitations)

- Sing Australia (also the Sing Australia Choir from Deniliquin is coming to assist and boost numbers. Thank you to those who are assisting)
- Balranald Central School Secondary
- Thom Connellan and his partner Carmen – the River Street Band
- Ezra Tepania
- Barry Hodgson (on the spoons and accompanied by John Curran on mouth organ)
- John Curran
- Shannon Kelly
- Dance performers Rochelle Cameron and Tessa Duryea
- Tony Stead (mime)
- Waiting on Balranald Football Club for advice
- Kiandra Dalton and Chloe Calleja
- Fijian Choir
- Ron and Sarah Murray
- Jeff Edmunds (accompanied by Helen Ellis)
- Helen Ellis
- It is going to be a great night. Hoping many people come and we make good money for the grand piano.
- Admittance fees are \$20 family, \$10 adults and \$5 for people under 18 years.
- Gen McConnell has kindly donated some A4 paper to produce a program for the event and cost to purchase a program will be .50 cents
- Everyone has been very helpful and responsive and not only will it raise funds for the Grand Piano, it will bring the community together – there is a lot of talent in our community

Cr O'Halloran made comment that Bec Drenovski is very talented on the piano and maybe she should be asked to perform if she is able to.
The committee agreed and Margaret advised she will contact Bec.

Connie Mallet said that Council could advertise the event on social media and this will reach many people. Margaret thanked Connie and said that the program would be finalised on Thursday this week.

Robyn enquired if the Committee had completed the request to Council for donation to waive the hire fee of the Theatre Royal and if there is refreshments and in interval at the event.

Margaret said that the letter to Council had been completed and read the reply correspondence from Council stating that it was resolved to waive the fees but stated that the Hall be cleaned after the event. Margaret also advised that the Balranald Netball Club will be supplying soft drinks and confectionery, although was unsure of intervals at this stage "if you have intervals you lose some people, but I will look into this".

Doreen Greenham thanked Margaret for her report and advice.

General Business

Jan Lawler informed the committee of a Media Release received stating that South West Arts have received a grant of \$50,000 (to be shared between 7 Shires) from

ANZAC arts and culture. These funds are offered to “capture and develop stories of Australia’s participation in conflict, celebrating the resilience and acknowledge the sacrifices of our local men and women, while also remembering the contributions of those who remained behind”.

The key initiatives of the project include collation of personal histories from each municipality to develop creative stories of the ANZAC legacy via different mediums such as radio, web, pod cast and audio books, photography, paintings, sculptures, graphic art, film.

Balranald might be able to aim towards a project such as visual arts – a mini film or similar to support our youth with those questions like “why are there wars?”, which was asked to General Sir Peter Cosgrove recently.

As quoted from the Media release “It is a great platform for people to express themselves and engage and educate audiences about important events in Australia’s history”.

Jan has advised that South West Arts AGM will be held in May and Rev. Robyn is thinking of joining the committee. This would be a great additional member from Balranald, particularly with an Indigenous connection.

The Gallery, with assistance from ray Mitchell has completed an E.O.I to Club Grants for funding to re-roof, insulate and air condition the shed and also to erect a toilet at the Gallery. Jan thanked Ray and the Council for their assistance with the E.O.I, and they have been told they should hear something by 27th April. If it is positive, they will then move onto the grant application stage.

Jan also wished to thank Council for the computer and monitor they received after The Gallery’s equipment crashed.

Jan asked if Council, together with the Cultural Committee could review Pillar 4 (*Our Culture - A community that respects and celebrates its diverse cultures heritage and arts*) of Councils Community Strategic Plan. The CWA has since closed – part of our culture has disappeared. We don’t want to lose more, like the Museum or the Theatre – we need to focus more on living in our community and look for options of getting funding to assist in keeping our culture and heritage alive.

Elizabeth advised that the Community Strategic Plan will be reviewed every four years when a new Council is elected (to comply with the reporting requirements of the legislation and the Planning and Reporting Guidelines for Local Government in NSW) by the newly elected Council will confirm its commitment to the four year *Delivery Plan*

Jan said that The Gallery held an adult mosaic workshop last Saturday, which was great. They ended up with two new volunteers. Jan also commented that there are many locals who have never set foot in the door of the Gallery so they don’t really know what’s there or what it’s about – they have had parents drop their kids off and have been amazed at what’s on offer. Jan also said that if the Museum could be cranked up, that would be great too. It’s a shame that it’s not open and functional on a daily basis, with someone managing all of the historical merchandise.

Connie Mallet advised that the Museum is open each day by her staff for people to browse and it is second on the list of attractions visited in Balranald.

Robyn queried if there was video surveillance in the building for all of the precious items? Connie said not at this stage, but funding would need to be sourced to complete this. Jan agreed that there are many precious items that need to be looked after, that's why there is a need for a manager and possibly volunteers to assist also. Jan said she does a workshop with kids every Thursday – if we can get the kids in the parents get interested also.

Sue said it's a great idea but most parents are busy these days with both in the workforce.

Doreen Greenham thanked Jan for her report and advice.

Connie Mallet presented the Committee with a report outlining the alignment of the Tourism strategy with Arts, Heritage and Culture. Each person received a copy of the report to refer to. She said she hoped people realised the importance of tourism to the committee.

Connie briefly summarised the report, focusing on statistics of visitors; (the biggest % of visitors come from NSW) what their main interests / activities are and specific market audiences in conjunction with Councils Tourism Strategy Objectives / outcomes.

Connie also spoke about working out a process of engaging with the community and visitors, incorporating the cultural committee and tourism to boost our community, such as hosting annual or regular events to ensure continuity of visitors to our Shire.

Connie would like to work with the Cultural committee to develop and foster relationships to continue to grow our tourism area in conjunction with the role of the committee, building on our current attractions and incorporating new attractions via promotion and budget timelines.

Jan said its hard as an individual to fund workshops and introduce new activities or more artistic activities in our community / schools etc. we as a community need to work out how to approach this holistically, with a feeling of well-being. We need to link the community experience with the tourism experience.

Connie agreed and said that as an example, the variety concert involves the community, but we can take it an extra step with promotion, incorporate tourism and ensure the community are involved; basically attracting tourism plus involving the community. There is lots of potential / attractions / space and we need to work as a group to come up with ideas.

Sue Balshaw, Bella Mannix and Margaret Butler left the meeting at 5.53pm.

Doreen Greenham thanked Connie for her report.

Cr O'Halloran raised the following questions:

- Helen Ellis' piano - is there a formal agreement with Council for insurances – this needs to be in place.
- Promotion of Yanga / Mungo - Balranald promotes these but there needs to be more / better promotion of these facilities
- Are there brochures out at Mungo?
- Mildura airport doesn't have anything – we need to get our information into there as well.

Connie advised that she has been speaking with National Parks and have just recently commenced managing Mungo NP and Yanga NP under the same zone area (previous to this, they are managed under separate areas). We can cross-promote, which we are looking into at the present time.

Jan Lawler queried if we promote through Mildura.

Connie said that she and her staff regularly send brochures and material to neighbouring areas, including Mungo and the Mildura airport, and she has personally dropped off brochures when she's out and about (like Mungo).

Connie advised that she is currently looking further promotion through Mildura and other areas, and trying to "re-claim" Mungo back from Mildura now as it's in our Shire. Part of her promotion is "Did you know?" where this information is listed etc.

NEXT MEETING: The next Cultural Committee meeting will be held on Monday 20th June 2016 at 5pm.

CLOSURE: There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.05pm.

Recommendation: That the report be received and noted.