

**MINUTES OF THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2019 COMMENCING AT 5.05 PM**

1. **PRESENT:** Iain Lindsay-Field (Chair), Dianne Williams, Ken Spinks, Vivienne McEvoy (BSC – Manager Community & Tourism), Peter Lawler, Wayne Whitby, Linda Nelson, Gavin Helgeland (BSC – Manager – Strategic Development), Simone Carmichael, Michael Kitzelmann (BSC – General Manager)

2. **APOLOGIES RECEIVED:** Ken Barnes, Terri Bilske (BSC DCCS), German Ugarte

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

Minutes of March meeting were passed as a true and correct record

Moved: Wayne

Seconded: Peter

**4. BUSINESS ARISING**

Ian Tulley Presentation: Gavin confirmed Ian will be doing a presentation for Council to consider our inclusion. Details will be made available at a later date.

DRM Board Members visit: Vivienne has confirmed the 'draft' timetable. There is a high possibility of the WAE footage 'final' being made available to rollout at the gathering straight after the Board Meeting, so there may be a small adjustment to the times and where we have afternoon tea and the meet and greet – it might be best to have it here in Council Chambers then head out to the do the site visits.

Easter Sunday – Easter Egg Hunt: The Youth Council has decided to withdraw their assistance on the day due to lack of members on the day. Iain and Linda will coordinate on the day, however Vivienne will organise the eggs, baskets (bunny suit is ready to go) and the Risk Management Plan for the day. Any other assistance on the morning will be appreciated.

Reviving Yanga: Simone produce copies of plans that have been prepared for the Yanga Woolshed including the old buildings, along with the Conservation Management Plan and Site Plan. Included in these minutes (Attachment 1) is the Woolshed Group Site Plan, which shows the vision of the site. As previously stated, funding is the catalyst in further developments.

The committee made some recommendations for the site such as:

- Boat Tours from Balranald to the Woolshed
- Shearing Demonstrations
- Woolshed yarns
- Similar Laser Light shows such as those at the Swan Hill Pioneer village (Michael will make contact with CEO at Swan Hill Council to have the Committee experience the lightshow at the Pioneer Village)
- Need for items and machinery on site to be complete for visitors to visualise

The committee offered their support and will individually contact Local MP along with contacts in Parks NSW to make suggestions. Suggestions of town working bees to help where possible and Simone advised of the planning and approvals that would be required.

#### **5. MONTHLY TOURISM REPORT – Manager Community & Tourism (MCT)**

Tourism statistics will be presented at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

March has seen a big focus on the joint marketing with DRM, NPNSW and BSC. As drafts come through they will be forwarded to the committee for comment/feedback.

- Website
- POS
- Online Bookings
- Visitor Guide update

Vivienne mentioned the You Tube Clip of the Frog plague in Balranald. It has been shared on social media and was shown to the committee. All agreed it is a great quirky look into the frogs in Balranald.

Vivienne reported the Discovery Centre had received \$6,184.95 in donations YTD, which is being used to support the precinct.

We are putting together a 'Windows into our Past' project at the Theatre Royal (old Lee Gees shop), which will use the old door and window frames from the old court house which will provide a frame for images supplied by Rusty Bodinnar. Michael's wife, Cindy, has been inducted as a Volunteer and is heading up this project that includes scanning and preserving more than 200 photos.

Gavin provided an update regarding the successful grant funding of \$1.026m for the Riverfront Project. EOI are being called from the community to get involved in the initial planning, with no ideas too big or too small. He has reached out Balranald Local Aboriginal Land Council for their guidance. He asked that the Tourism Committee continue to communicate positive messaging in the community.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

Di queried the progress of cycling tracks. Gavin confirmed that the cycling tracks will be incorporated into the river front upgrade. Di and Iain reported that they had ridden many cycling tracks that were being constructed on old railway tracks. This needs to be looked into with regards to a track from Balranald out to Yanga Homestead, using the old railway track.

Di has been approached by David Eastburn, who is presenting at the next Balranald Inc meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Copy of correspondence is attached to these minutes (Attachment 2), he is attending an unveiling of signage at Maude to celebrate the 120 year anniversary of Australia's first environmental movement to protect a wetland (Lowbidgee

floodplain) and other signage interpreting buildings in the village. Michael referred to Gavin regarding this important milestone of Environmental Movement.

Ken Spinks advised that the Echuca Car Club had a very comprehensive visit when they toured Balranald last month. Visiting local attractions and meeting local business owners was a highlight of their visit and they would certainly be returning.

Ken also advised the Sunraysia Truck & Tractor Group are visiting on 4<sup>th</sup> May and he would be doing a similar tour of Balranald including Yanga Homestead and Woolshed, the Museum and Art Gallery to name a few.

He mentioned that the museum could do with a curator and suggested while looking at funding opportunities, we look at an opportunity to get funding to fill this role to ensure our history is not forgotten and recorded correctly. Simone mentioned a program called e-hive, an online archiving program, which will assist in cataloguing and recording.

Ken provided an overview of the Gallery visitation (local and visitors) since 2017. The numbers are increasing, and a compliment to the volunteers.

Month	2019	2018	2017
January	96	98	68
February	128	94	67
March	226	143	96
April		259	130
May		287	203
June		235	132
July		252	134
August		169	144
September		221	139
October		525	511
November		177	202
December		90	94

Iain Lindsay-Field, Di Williams and German Ugarte thanked Michael, Gavin and Balranald Shire Council Team for their efforts in what has been completed and ongoing efforts with grants and projects. All agreed.

ITEMS CARRIED OVER:

Ken B - \$ for \$ Fishling Funding - \$1K each, Balranald, Euston and Kyalite Clubs 2019/20 Budget

Ken B - Letter to Minister supporting re-introduction of fishling funding scheme

Next Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Meeting closed at 6:25pm