

**MINUTES OF THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE  
BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 COMMENCING AT  
5.00 PM**

1. **PRESENT:** Simone Carmichael (Chair), Iain Lindsay-Field (Minutes), Ken Spinks, Peter Lawler, Linda Nelson, Wayne Whitby, Gavin Helgeland (BSC – Manager – Strategic Development)
2. **APOLOGIES RECEIVED:** German Ugarte, Dianne Williams, Michael Kitzelmann, Terri Bilske, Vivienne McEvoy
3. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:** Minutes acceptance of 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2019  
Moved: Iain  
Seconded: Linda  
(Please note no quorum for July, 2<sup>nd</sup> and July, 25<sup>th</sup> meetings)

**4. BUSINESS ARISING:**

New Members for Tourism Committee – Holdover to next meeting

Gate on skate park side of playground – Linda has spoken to Viv and she said that she felt Viv thought it was a good idea. Follow up with Viv next meeting.

Workshops re Annual Calendar Events/Merchandise – Discuss when German is at next meeting.

Interpretative Pavilion Signage – Holdover to next meeting.

Audit Programme for Visitor Traffic – Gavin advised that he can access this sort of data.

Harvest Festival – Mon is going to the Grazing the Lachlan Festival and will let us know about it. Gavin advised grant funding is available for industries that want to do Cellar Door sales.

Ben Scott Bird Trail Environmental Water – Mon to ask James Maguire about any possible watering for this area.

**5. MONTHLY & QUARTERLY REPORTS**

**a) Tourism Report**

2019 visitation is tracking well above 2017 and 2018. Balranald may get 2000 visitors in Sept 2019 which will be a record (see attached). Viv also provided NSW state wide stats (see attached)

**b) Tourism Related Grants**

Riverfront Development - Gavin advised that he hoped to be at a detailed level of planning by Nov/Dec 2019.

The Tourism Infrastructure and Events Funding will come up again in Feb 2020.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

Water bubbler near skate park – Linda has spoken to Viv and she said that she felt Viv thought it wouldn't be hard to do. Follow up with Viv next meeting

Planned maintenance programme for township approaches – Peter asked whether there was a cyclical programme of maintenance cleaning? He noted that the entrance to the town from the West hadn't been cleaned for well over 12 months. Linda advised that the bridge needs sandblasting and re-painting and appreciates that this is a RTA responsibility.

Use of Hashtags in Social Media – Iain requested that those people on social media should use as a minimum the hashtags visitbalranald and myriverinamurray.

Dirty Doors & Windows in Discovery Precinct – Linda noted this on Interpretative Pavillion and also noted grass in some gutters.

Wayne asked whether some of the Agenda items put to the Committee were too operational and wasted the Committee's time. Generally agreed that he was right but there needs to be a way that small issues can be brought to Council's attention without interfering with the valuable volunteer time that the Committee Members give. Discuss more with Viv next meeting.

**7. Balranald Bunyip Doctoral Thesis – Therese Apolonio**

At around 5.00 pm Iain made a preorganised call to Therese and German (who was at home and not feeling 100%) to discuss how support could be given to Therese's work. It was felt that this work on the bunyip skull (and discussions about bunyips generally) may become a key feature of the South side of the upcoming Riverfront development. Talked about Dambo, Barradine Tourist Route and the indigenous engagement process. To progress this further it was felt that a sub-committee of the Tourism Committee may continue to have discussions with Therese. Iain to make a recommendation at the next meeting. This phone hookup ended at 5.25pm.

Discussions closed at 6.15PM

Next Meeting – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2019 @ 4.00 pm