

Balranald Shire Council

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW & RESTRUCTURE

Our Community - Your Voice

Council was placed in Administration in January 2020. Under Administration the elected representatives (Councillors) were removed. Council will remain in Administration until the September 2024 local government elections in which new a new team of Councillors will be elected.

Executive leadership of Council believe that while our community is without elected representation it is more important that ever to have structured, consistent and formal channels for receiving community input into the decisions that define Council actions. Council is first and foremost for community. Our community needs your voice.

Council will have a number of ways of hearing from community whilst under Administration. Of these, the Advisory Committees will be the most consistent, enduring and formal.

We have had an Advisory Committee structure for some time - volunteer groups formed by Council to guide Council's decision making in key areas such as community beautification, tourism and the management of some assets. These groups have been the think tanks and practical hands of many projects across the Shire and we are very grateful for the time and effort they have given so generously to our Community.

Council seeks now to restructure and strength these groups as we move forward, to ensure strong community voice is retained throughout the Administration period, and beyond. These new Advisory Committees will run for the next 4.5 years, meet regularly and form recommendations to Council to inform and guide Council's decisions. They will be the most direct and consistent way to guide our Shire's future.

You're invited!

We are inviting you to take part in two consultative workshops to inform the new Advisory Committee structure - including their areas of focus and when and how they operate.

This part of the process is happening now and will be finalised in June 2020. The following stage will be building our new Advisory Committee membership - in July 2020 we will be inviting all interested community members to apply to become a Committee member.

This is your chance to design not only how Council hears community voice over the coming 4.5 years - but also to be one of these consistent and important voices, who, in partnership with Council, create the best Balranald Shire possible for all community members.

The workshops will be facilitated by local researcher Rachael Williams. Rachael will be acting as an independent agent to lead this review and restructure, and then report to Council recommendations for the most beneficial committee structure to give strong voice to the community.

Due to the current restrictions on gatherings, these workshops will be virtual gatherings.

Each session will be split into a teleconference session and a Facebook session, to allow the greatest number of people to engage. Full details on the days, times, format and focus of each session are on the reverse of this sheet.

Advisory Committee Workshops Schedule

Consultation will take part in two phases, within each phase there will be two sessions, one via teleconference and one by Facebook live stream. We recognise that not all community members have Facebook, and conversely not all community members are comfortable in a conference call. We hope by offering two sessions at each stage, with different interface methods for each, to minimise barriers to participation and therefore maximise community representation. The purpose of each phase is described below, with the dates and times for each session. Each session will run for approximately 45minutes.

To participate via Facebook registration is not required, simply navigate to our page at the time the stream is scheduled and refresh the page if it the video post does not appear for you. While watching the livestream, please comment your thoughts and questions, we will attempt to respond to all comments however please be mindful there may be some delay for your comment to appear at our end. Please also respect the page rules for content (i.e. language). Posts that breach the rules will be removed.

The video will remain on our page after the livestream for those who missed the original stream or who wish to rewatch. Comments will continue to be monitored and questions responded to.

To participate via teleconference **registration is essential**. To register, please call Council office on 03 5020 1300, please provide your full name and the contact number on which you will participate, as well as which sessions (E-workshop 1 session B, E-workshop 2 session B or both) you wish to register for. Don't forget to charge your phone before the meeting!

E-workshop 1

<u>Phase 1 consultation</u> WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY **Session A)** Facebook livestream 10am **Session B)** Teleconference 5pm

Focusing on:

✓ Your hopes for Shire individuals and communities over the coming 4 years - and how these 'hopes' drive the focus areas for the revised Advisory Committee structure

✓ If you are currently a member of an Advisory Committee (or were previously a member) what worked well and what would you change

E-workshop 2

<u>Phase 2 consultation</u>
WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY
Session A) Facebook livestream 10am
Session B) Teleconference 5pm
Focusing on:

✓ Reviewing the revised Advisory Committee structure

For more information please email about this project, please contact: Gavin Helgeland <u>ghelgeland@balranald.nsw.gov.au</u>, or; Rachael Williams <u>rachael@locallogicplace.com.au</u>

> "Coming together is a beginning Keeping together is progress Working together is success"

> > Henry Ford

BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4/2020 - APRIL

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR Next Ordinary Meeting of Council: 5pm, 19 May 2020

I know that with the COVID-19 emergency upon us many are doing it tough out there and I share people's concerns for their health, their financial future, their job, or their local business. The situation is moving so rapidly. We must all listen to the authorities and play our role. Just as each of us needs to look after ourselves and our families. Council plays a special role in looking after the community. For example, we are working closely with various response agencies, led by NSW Health and the Police, through our Local Emergency Management Committee to ensure that we are doing everything practicable to stay ahead of the pandemic threat and to be able to respond rapidly through the various local and regional emergency management processes if required. We have also temporarily closed the public areas of the main Council office and some of our open space facilities, and we have stepped up cleansing and disinfecting our most frequently used facilities to avoid spreading contamination.

The following is a brief update on events. Please take a look at the Calendar of events in this newsletter to understand key dates for engagement.

Community Confidence & Satisfaction Survey

A big "Thank You" to those who participated in Council's baseline telephone survey last week, which was undertaken to measure the current level of community confidence and satisfaction with Council. A random sample of residents was contacted by telephone by an independent survey firm and asked a series of questions. The residents who were contacted provided feedback on their satisfaction and confidence levels. The survey outcomes will be published on the 15th May, and they will inform future Council initiatives. They will also enable us to compare our performance with future survey outcomes to determine if it is improving.

Meet & Greet Program

Unfortunately, my "meet and greet Shire residents" program was abruptly interrupted by the emergence of COVID-19. Although I had the chance to meet many of you, some groups that I missed included our sporting groups and the folk in Euston. Although I attended several meetings in Euston, I had intended to hold another open session there which was foiled by the introduction of mandatory 'social distancing' requirements. I want to say that I'm sorry the program ceased so abruptly, and I promise to finish this when we get the all clear on COVID-19 – the sooner the better.

Community Engagement Strategy

The public exhibition period for the draft community engagement strategy closed on 17 April. In the March Newsletter I foreshadowed public workshops to refine and finalise the strategy, but COVID-19 events overtook us. Instead we relied on formal submissions. I will be considering adoption of a final version of the strategy at the Council Meeting in May.

Advisory Committees Framework Review

The importance of sustained engagement with our community



cannot be overstated. An important way of achieving this will be through the establishment of a number of advisory committees. The advisory committee framework is currently being reviewed to better align committees with our Community Strategic Plan. You can participate in this review via e-workshops to be held on Wednesday 6 May and Wednesday 13 May. The advisory committee framework will be finalised when Council formally adopts it in June. Expressions of interest will then be sought from our residents to become Committee members from July, in time for the new financial year. Once again, although it was resolved at the March Council meeting to hold a series of community meetings about the committee structure at various locations around the Shire, this has also had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

Draft Budget FY2020-21

It is that time of year again when Council is finalising the draft 2020-21 Budget. An essential part of making this budget robust is consulting with our community to ensure it is well informed and understood. We intend to offer a preliminary snapshot of the draft budget shortly. This will be posted on Council's website, social media and in your letterbox. The post will also contain instructions on how you can access a submission form online, complete and return it to Council, if you wish to make a submission. The submissions will inform the final draft budget which will be placed on exhibition after the May Council meeting and a public e-workshop will follow to go through the budget and engage on budget matters you have raised.

I trust you all stay well and that, as a community, we continue to avoid infection by COVID-19.

Mike Colreavy ADMINISTRATOR

E: mcolreavy@balranald.nsw.gov.au P: 03 5020 1300

From the Youth Mayor

Youth Council business has been temporarily suspended until we have clarity on the current Covid-19 situation. This will effect planned events such as Youth Week 2020, and mental health week indefinitely, until we have confirmation we can resume regular duties. As for the Youth Council Facebook page, we are planning a launch soon, and more information will be made available when we have confirmed details. The announcement of the Youth Council logo redesign competition will be delayed indefinitely until we are able to resume regular business. For the meanwhile, the Youth Council will conduct its business through that of communication through social media (Snapchat), and emails. If you have any enquiries for youth council, please contact us through <u>YouthCouncil@balranald.nsw.gov.au</u>, and we will contact you as soon as we can.

I would like to formally welcome to our Youth Council Caleb and Kyarah Hines. You are both very welcome additions to our group.

I would also like to congratulate Mason Dalton on his election as our Social Media Support Officer. Mason's role will be to create material, and approve of others proposed ideas, for posting on our social media outlets.

Some interesting ideas to do at home while you are in isolation;

•Connect with friends through social media platforms, have discussions through Skype or Snapchat, catching up in this way could certainly be some fun!

•Read a book; I certainly find those books about Australian history, and biographies, very interesting!

•Netflix; Since in isolation, I have been watching a series called Riverdale, where a mysterious group of teenagers in their graduate year of high school face many problems like murder mysteries, which might be one to ignite some of your inner detective!

Editor's note:

out of books? Check out our library news about e-books.

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To bring the social factor to the Netflix binge, check out a Chrome

extension called Netflix Party!!

I hope everyone had an as good as possibly could be Easter, certainly with the restrictions in place it is hard to enjoy such occasions. However, I'm sure that families will have made the most of these holidays through catching up, talking, and spending more time together. I'm sure that parents are connecting with their children on a completely different level with the new at home schooling methods.

Speaking of at home schooling; I'm hearing about how this could permanently change the way our schooling works, with the potential for new online teaching methods, and video conferences being a very welcome tool for teachers. My own experiences with this new online method has introduced myself, my classmates, and our secondary students in particular to new online platforms like Google classrooms and Zoom meetings. In what has been a rapid learning curve in this unprecedented time, I am sure students are finding a way to adapt to these new methods.

I would like to encourage all to follow the physical distancing rules in place, to ensure a speedy return to normal conditions! Please remember- gatherings of no more than two, unless from the same household. Only go out for the essentials (shopping, education, work and medical reasons). Remember to keep your 1.5m distance.

On behalf of the Balranald Shire Youth Council, we pass our best wishes onto all in this tough time, and wish everyone the best, stay safe, clean, and healthy. Stay isolated for our community to stay healthy!

That's all from me!

Jackson Bialobrzeski Mayor Balranald Youth Council

New online resources from ACYP

The Office of the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) has recently launched a new website called **Digital Lunchbreak.** This youth friendly platform has collated all the wonderful resources and activities that have recently emerged for children and young people in response to COVID-19. The new **Digital Lunchbreak** website assists children and young people with finding online resources and activities to do at home in their lunchbreak, around learning hours and on weekends during the current social distancing measures. Visit <u>www.digitallunchbreak.nsw.gov.au</u> to find digital workshops, learning materials, virtual excursions and more.



Council News

In the coming weeks Council will be seeking community consultation regarding the budget for the new financial year. Also ahead are e-workshops to facilitate community input in the formation of new advisory committees. This is your opportunity to submit comment and shape these plans prior to adoption.

OBJECTIVE	EVENT	DATES	
Adopting FY2020-21 Budget	FY2020-21 Draft Budget Snapshot - social media	Monday, 4 May 2020	
	FY2020-21 Draft Budget Snapshot - mail drop	Wednesday, 6 May 2020	
	Public Submissions Period	Monday, 4 May 2020	- Thursday, 14 May 2020
	Draft Budget Presented to Council at May Ordinary Meeting	Tuesday, 19 May 2020	
	Public Exhibition (28 days)	Wednesday, 20 May 2020	- Wednesday, 17 June 2020
	Community e-workshop (early evening - time to be confirmed)	Monday, 25 May 2020	
	Extraordinary Council Meeting to Adopt Budget	Monday, 22 June 2020	
Adopting New Advisory Committees	Community e-workshop 1 on types of committees	Wednesday, 6 May 2020	
	Community e-workshop 2 on types of committees	Wednesday, 13 May 2020	
Surveying Community Satisfaction & Reporting	Survey Report published	Friday, 15 May 2020	

For the latest Council updates please follow us on Facebook, or tune into our weekly radio updates - every Wednesday morning at 8.25am on 3SH.

Infrastructure works Update

Council's construction crew is busy working to complete the reconstruction of a 4km section of the Balranald-Ivanhoe Road north of the Clare crossroads. This section of the road was in poor condition and was originally intended to be rebuilt as part of the project to compete the sealing of the final section of the Ivanhoe Road which was completed last year. A further 2km of the Oxley Road is also being prepared for bitumen surfacing as part of Council's commitment to ultimately provide a sealed road to Oxley. Work will also commence shortly to reconstruct a notoriously bad section of the Ivanhoe-Mildura Road north of Mungo National Park.

Contracts have been awarded for 15 separate formation recovery and maintenance grading programmes under Round 1 of the Commonwealth Drought Communities Programme, involving some 360km of roads. A further tender for additional works under Round 2 of the Drought Communities Programme will be issued later in the year. Work is also in hand to install bores and replace dangerous grids at various locations across the Shire.

Submissions are also being invited from community groups to identify local community facilities to be installed or upgraded under Round 2 of the Drought Communities Programme - see overleaf for further information.

Work is progressing on planning for some major water projects for the coming year, including a comprehensive Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan, preliminary design of a new Water Treatment Plant for Balranald and refurbishment of the Balranald Filtered Water Reservoir.

<u>Council Notices</u> Drought Community Grants

Council's Drought Community Grant program is an opportunity to give funding and recognition to community groups and organisations that play an important part in helping develop the region's environmental sustainability, community wellbeing, economic prosperity and cultural life.

Organisations will be eligible for a maximum of \$10,000 per application. Applications are required to meet eligibility criteria outlined in Council's Drought Community Grants Procedure.

More information regarding this funding can be requested by contacting Council's Director Corporate and Community Development on 03 5020 1300 and on Council's website

http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/uncategorized/drought-community-grants-now-available/

Council Meeting Dates

Council wishes to advise members of the community that the Council meeting schedule for the remainder of 2020 is as follows:

19 May
16 June
22 June*
21 July
18 August
15 September
20 October
17 November
15 December

*extraordinary meeting for the 20/21 Budget

Don't forget, all meetings are livestreamed on Council's Facebook.

Expression of Interest -Temporary Positions Available

Balranald Shire Council is seeking expressions of interest from community members for temporary work during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Please submit your details to Council and be sure to include:

- Name, date of birth, contact information
- Skills/Qualifications
- Licences held
- Types of work you are interested in

Please address your submission to the General Manager and send via snail mail to PO Box 120 Balranald NSW 2715 or email to <u>council@balranald.nsw.gov.au</u>

Library News - Free books \$ e-books!!

As part of your library membership (either Balranald Library or Swan Hill Library if you are a Euston resident using Robinvale library services) you have access to **free e-books and eAudiobooks** through an app called BorrowBox. Head to the app store on your mobile/tablet device to check it out. Your username and password are created by your library membership, please contact your librarians for assistance with gaining these details. The buildings are closed however staff are still available via phone and email.

Balranald Library - Phone 03 5020 1388 (9.30am - 5.30pm M/W/F) Email: <u>aharben@balranald.nsw.gov.au</u>

Swan Hill Library - Phone (03) 5036 2480 (10am-5.30pm M-F, 7pm-8.30pm W, 10am-12pm Sat) Email: <u>library@swanhill.vic.gov.au</u>

Balranald Library is having a clear out and making the culled books available for free to community members. A box will be located outside the library M/W/F to take a book if you wish.

Community Notices

The Balranald Rescue Squad would like to say Thanks to all the Balranald Businesses, that donated a prize towards our Raffle Night at the Club on Friday 27th December 2019. All prizes were greatly appreciated Most of all the Squad would like to Thank the Balranald Community and Visitors to our town for supporting the Raffle. A total of \$733 was raised, which will go towards the upkeep and training of our Squad





DOMESTIC FIREWOOD PERMITS – YANGA NATIONAL PARK

Permits are available from 1st May until 30th September 2020 for domestic firewood collection on Yanga National Park. The available firewood is from a single collection point and consists of redgum milled timber offcuts (sleeper backs).

Permits cost \$25/tonne or \$12.50/tonne for pensioner concession with a limit of 6 tonne per household per year.

Permits are only available to residents of Balranald and Murray Rivers Shires.

PLEASE NOTE: DUE TO THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS APPLICATIONS AND PERMITS WILL BE PROCESSED BY EMAIL FROM THE NPWS BURONGA OFFICE.

For more information or permit applications please call the Yanga park office on 0350 201764 or email npws.lowerdarling@environment.nsw.gov.au



Local Land

Services

Life & Light Photography Competition 2020 Theme: Love Our Outback

The Life and Light Photography Competition 2020 is a competition that brings together amateur & professional photographers from across the Western Region to capture this wonderful outback landscape of ours. The competition has been running annually for over 20 years now and seen some of the best photographs and photographers that the Western region has to offer. By capturing their local landscape, people, life and light the competition gives amateur photographers a chance to showcase what life is like in the Western region, with a focus on the things they love the most

Competition Opens: 1st May | Competition Closes: 10th July https://lifeandlight.com.au/

CAN ASSIST PRE-LOVED SECOND HAND BOOK SHOP

Closed until further notice

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE & SUPPORT

Can Assist Balranald Branch will continue to provide assistance to all our existing clients and any new clients in the normal way during the health crisis.

Help is always on hand by contacting the following number 0474 928919 or alternatively by contacting the Community Health Nurse direct

on 0428 201008

The Executive Committee of Can Assist send their best wishes to everyone in the community to Keep safe and Keep healthy during this difficult time



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

TO OUR VULNERABLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

We are experiencing some difficult times at the moment and it is only through working together and helping each other that we will keep safe.





WHO CAN YOU CALL FOR HELP

To help you stay at home we have volunteers who are offering their assistance to deliver groceries. Contact: Murph (Helen) Murphy Phone: 0438 201 474 or Live Better - Connie Rasmussen Phone: 0400 123 940

HELP ISNT FAR AWAY

It is important to keep communnicating with people - if you need to talk to someone there are organisations that can help.





CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) HELP STOP THE SPREAD

CORONAVIRUS HEALTH INFORMATION LINE 1800 020 080

State 3 National Resources - Help during COVID-19

Service NSW is operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - phone 13 77 88 Service NSW can assist with information about COVID-19 and advice about support services you may be eligible for, they are there to help you.

National Coronavirus Helpline - Call this line if you are seeking information on coronavirus. The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. 1800 020 080

People with disability who need help because of COVID-19 can contact the Disability Information Helpline on 1800 643 787 (M-F 8am - 8pm, S/S 9am-7pm, excl. Public holidays)

For free help in your language, call Translating and Interpreting Services on 13 14 50

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can also call the National Relay Service on 133 677

Red Cross: Telecross



The Red Cross has a service called Telecross where a friendly volunteer will call you every day to check that you're okay.

Telecross is for people who live alone and are at risk of an accident or illness that may go unnoticed. In particular, people who:

- are frail and aged
- have a disability
- are housebound
- are recovering from an illness or accident

For more information about accessing Telecross as a client, please call Red Cross on 1300 885 698

TAFE NSW In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, TAFE NSW, in conjunction with the NSW Government, is offering a number of fee-free* short courses. Visit the website to view the courses available and find out more information <u>https://www.tafensw.edu.au/fee-free short-courses</u>

World Health Organization

Coping with stress during the 2019-nCoV outbreak

It is normal to feel sad, stressed, confused, scared or angry during a crisis.

Talking to people you trust can help. Contact your friends and family.

If you must stay at home, maintain a healthy lifestyle including proper diet, sleep, exercise and social contacts with loved ones at home and by email and phone with other family and friends.





Don't use smoking, alcohol or other drugs to deal with your emotions.

If you feel overwhelmed, talk to a health worker or counsellor. Have a plan, where to go to and how to seek help for physical and mental health needs if required.

Get the facts. Gather information that will help you accurately determine your risk so that you can take reasonable precautions. Find a credible source you can trust such as WHO website or, a local or state public health agency.





Limit worry and agitation by lessening the time you and your family spend watching or listening to media coverage that you perceive as upsetting.

Draw on skills you have used in the past that have helped you to manage previous life's adversities and use those skills to help you manage your emotions during the challenging time of this outbreak.



Information on immediate emergency assistance or support

- For national emergency relief services, including food, clothing, vouchers or help with bills, contact your local arm of The Salvation Army or St Vincent De Paul
- For local emergency relief providers 'Financial search Crisis and Relief' Material Aid Emergency _ at serviceproviders.dss.gov.au. Please note provider details are updated regularly but may not be current at the time of your search.
- For financial counselling, including advice on managing debt, contact the free and confidential National Debt Helpline by calling 1800 007 007. Or visit MoneySmart for advice to help you manage your money.
- For those experiencing domestic violence, please contact 1800 RESPECT.
- Mensline Australia and the Men's Referral Service also offer support to people using violence. If anyone is in immediate danger, call 000
- Those on a low income may be eligible to apply for a 'No Interest Loan'. For more information and details on how to apply, visit Good Shepherd Microfinance
- To test eligibility for income support payments including JobSeeker, contact Services Australia by visiting

s e r v i c e s a u s t r a l i a . g o v . a u . (Related: Australian Government Assistance dss.gov.au Centrelink 132 300 you may be eligible for Australian Government assistance, such as Centrelink payments)

- For advice on how to seek medical help or to get tested for coronavirus, contact your state or territory health authority, or call the coronavirus helpline on 1800 020 080 at any time.
- Latest news, advice and public health information is available at Australia.gov.au, or download on the 'Coronavirus Australia' app from the Apple and Google Play stores.
- Lifeline offers personal crisis support services. Call 131 114 at any time. Kids Helpline is a free service for young people aged 5 to 25. Kids, teens and young adults can call 1800 551 800 at any time.

[If you want to reach out, but don't want to 'talk' (out loud) many of these services offer webchat, some of these are listed below. The mental health resources available throughout Australia extend far beyond those listed here, if you need help please make sure you connect, however works for you, just reach out]





Contact Council

Street Address 70 Market Street BALRANALD Postal Address PO Box 120 BALRANALD NSW 2715 Opening Hours 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday Phone 03 5020 1300 After Hours (Emergencies) 0418 322 902 Email council@balranald.nsw.gov.au Website balranald.nsw.gov.au Mebsite balranald.nsw.gov.au @ balranald Shire Council @ balranaldshire

Currently on Exhibition

Draft Documents

For most current list and full details please visit <u>http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/council-documents/</u> <u>exhibition-of-draft-documents/</u>

Development Applications

For most current list and full details please visit <u>http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/environment-and-planning/developments-on-exhibition/</u>

Notice of proposed development, as follows:

• DA 40/2020 - Proposed 240ML Irrigation Storage Dam (Artificial Water Body) (Applicant: Price Merrett Consulting P/L)



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http://www.balranald.nsw.gov.au/notice-board/general-notices/

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