



## **Notice of Ballina Shire Council Aboriginal Community Committee Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that an Aboriginal Community Committee Meeting of Ballina Shire Council will be held in the Ballina Shire Tuckeroo Room (Committee Room), 40 Cherry Street Ballina on **Thursday 08 October 2015 commencing at 5.00 pm.**

### **Business**

1. Nomination of Chair for this Meeting
2. Attendance and Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Confirmation of Minutes
5. Matters Arising from last Meeting
6. Deputations
  
7. General Business
  - a) North Creek Dredging
  - b) Welcome or Acknowledgement - 2016 Ballina Coast and Hinterland Visitor Guide
  - c) Cabbage Tree Island Infrastructure
  - d) Timing of Committee Meetings
  - e) Australia Day Awards 2016
  
8. Business Without Notice
9. Council Documents on Exhibition
10. Next Meeting
11. Meeting Closure

Access to the meeting room is via the ramp off Cherry Street. The main access to the Council's Customer Service Centre is closed at this time.

Paul Hickey  
**General Manager**

**1. Nomination of Chair for this Meeting**

The Committee has previously determined its preference to having a rotating Chair for each meeting. It is recommended that a Chair be nominated for this meeting.

**2. Attendance and Apologies**

**3. Declarations of Interest**

**4. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 9 April 2015 were distributed to members on 17 April 2015. A copy of the Minutes is contained with the Agenda.

There are no Minutes for the Committee Meetings that were scheduled for Thursday 11 June and Thursday 13 August as these meetings were not held due to a lack of attendance.

**5. Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

**6. Deputations**

NIL

**7. General Business**

**a) North Creek Dredging**

Ballina Shire Council is investigating the feasibility of dredging in North Creek, Ballina. The project has three broad aims a) Extract sand for construction and land raising; b) Improve navigation safety for small vessels in North Creek; and c) Improve tidal circulation and water quality in upper North Creek.

The feasibility study is being conducted by Hydrosphere Consulting on behalf of Council. The project manager, Mick Howland will provide a brief presentation on the scope of proposed dredging. This presentation is an early opportunity for Committee members to identify potential issues or opportunities for improvement relating to the project.

## b) **Welcome or Acknowledgement – 2016 Ballina Coast and Hinterland Visitor Guide**

### Aboriginal Welcome and Visitor Guide Content

#### **Background**

Approximately every 18 months Ballina Shire Council produces the Ballina Coast and Hinterland Visitor Guide. This guide aims to interpret the natural environment and cultural heritage of the shire pertaining to visitor experiences.

The visitor guide is distributed nationally and has a wide readership. Ballina Shire Council wishes to acknowledge the local Aboriginal people through this important publication and seeks the Aboriginal Community Committee's endorsement for the welcome.

In 2014 Ballina Shire Council produced 50,000 visitor guides. Council wishes to print 80,000 guides in 2016. We aim to have these guides ready for distribution prior to Easter in 2016.

#### **Objective**

- To recognise the shire's Aboriginal culture, including key historic events and places of significance to local Aboriginal people
- To invite visitors, new residents and locals to appreciate the significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites throughout the Ballina Shire. The visitor guide content provides readers with an appreciation for the past and how this has contributed to society today as told by our local Aboriginal people
- To promote the NSW Government's declaration of East Ballina Aboriginal Place
- To promote the NSW Government's declaration of the Lennox Head Aboriginal Area.

#### **Suggested Aboriginal Welcome for opening page of visitor guide**

*Jingi Wahla – or welcome – to the Ballina Coast and Hinterland, the traditional Nyangbul Country of the Bundjalung Nation.*

*Ballina Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the past and present Nyangbul Elders and pays its respects to their descendants as the traditional custodians of this land. Council also acknowledges that, as indigenous people, Nyangbul people hold a unique place in our shire.*

*Nyangbul custodianship of the Ballina Shire area dates back many thousands of years. Together with all Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, the Nyangbul people are part of the oldest and continuing culture in the world.*

*The shire has numerous important Bundjalung cultural heritage sites and areas that contribute to our unique history as a place. Heritage sites and areas remain important to the identity and culture of the shire's Aboriginal community today. Appreciating the importance of the historic and contemporary landscape to the shire's Aboriginal people enhances all our experience of the shire.*

*Council is committed to working with the shire's Aboriginal community representatives, including young people, to enhance the knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal history, heritage and culture. Aboriginal community members contribute to our shire in*

*many ways and we all have optimism for a strong and respectful future together in our wonderful natural environment also known today as the Ballina Coast and Hinterland.*

*Our region is one characterised by great bio-diversity, with a laid back lifestyle and friendly, diverse communities. We extend a warm welcome for you to come and spend some time with us and discover why visitors, 'sea changers' and 'tree changers' are attracted to this area.*

### **Place Names - Ballina**

*Believed to have been derived from the Aboriginal word Bullinah, meaning 'place of plenty' or 'plenty of oysters'.*

### Visitor Experiences

#### **Aboriginal Cultural Ways**

*Stroll 'The Aboriginal Cultural Ways' path traversing 6 kms of the Ballina Shire's coastline. The path contains interpretive signage recognising the Aboriginal cultural values of the iconic coastline. Located in the vicinity of Angels Beach at East Ballina and stretching north to Pat Morton Lookout at Lennox Head, this location takes in part of the recently declared East Ballina Aboriginal Place, under the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.*

#### **Reconciliation tunnel murals at Black Head Angels Beach Ballina**

*Aboriginal murals in the Reconciliation Tunnel at Black Head, Angels Beach depict the story of the Three Brothers – Yarbirri, Mamoon and Burrung who were the ancestral founders of the Bundjalung Nation. The murals portray scenes from the customary lives of the original inhabitants of the beach whose direct descendants are now Traditional Custodians.*

#### **Lennox Head Aboriginal Area**

*The Lennox Head Aboriginal Area, located within the village of Lennox Head is a reserve approximately 0.3 hectares in size and was gazetted in 1972 to protect the cultural heritage values of the Ceremonial Ring. The Aboriginal Area is located within the area administered by the Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council.*

*The Ceremonial Ring is a special place previously used by the Bundjalung Aboriginal people to initiate boys of the tribe. The Ceremonial Ring consists of a raised ring on sandy ground and is among one of the best preserved coastal ceremonial grounds in NSW.*

*The Ceremonial Ring is of significant cultural heritage value to the shire's local Aboriginal community, and it is also listed on the Register of the National Estate.*

*The soils within the Aboriginal Area are erosion prone if disturbed. Ceremonial Rings on sandy soils are fragile and we request visitors to respect the sensitivity of the site. In addition, for cultural reasons it is inappropriate for visitors to walk over the Ceremonial Ring. (Ref; National Parks and Wildlife Service).*

c) **Cabbage Tree Island Infrastructure**

Members will recall that Council has been making representations, through the office of the Local State Member for Ballina, to encourage the NSW State Government to allocate funds to improve infrastructure on Cabbage Tree Island.

The Committee has previously expressed concern that roads on the Island are in need of repair, and that the access bridge requires urgent attention.

Council staff has been regularly liaising with the Office of Aboriginal Affairs in Coffs Harbour (contact Mr Reuben Robinson) regarding this matter. Regrettably at this time, no indication has been provided about which agency is responsible for carrying out the work, or when resources may be available.

Staff will continue to make enquiries on behalf of the Committee.

d) **Timing of Committee Meetings**

Recently, Council staff has been receiving feedback that the timing of Committee meetings may not suit some members. This may be contributing to the relatively low attendance levels at our Committee meetings in the recent past.

The Committee is invited to discuss this issue and determine whether the current meeting time of 5.00pm remains the preference for future meetings. Members may also wish to confirm that the particular day and frequency of meetings (being the second Thursday, every two months) remains the preferred arrangement.

e) **Australia Day Awards 2016**

The Australia Day Awards program brings the community together each and every year to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements of community minded individuals and groups in our Shire. Local institutions, service organisations and individuals have a good understanding of the people, and groups, who make a significant contribution to our community. Ballina Shire Council is seeking your help in recognising these people and groups for a Ballina Shire Australia Day Award. There are six categories for recognition:

- Young Citizen of the Year (30 years or under)
- Senior Citizen of the Year (60 years or over)
- Volunteer of the Year
- Sports Award (individual or team)
- Arts/Cultural Award
- Community Event of the Year.

The Citizen of the Year award will be selected by the Australia Day Committee from all of the nominees across the six categories. Ballina Shire Council is seeking nominations in each category. All individual nominees must be Australian citizens and reside in the Ballina Shire local government area.

The Award winners will be announced at the official Australia Day ceremony to be held on Tuesday 26 January 2016 at the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre.

Award Nomination Forms can be obtained online from Council's website [www.ballina.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au) or from Council's Customer Service Centre, 40 Cherry Street Ballina. Nominations close on Sunday 6 December 2015.

#### **8. Business Without Notice**

This item provides an opportunity for updates and/or questions to be presented by Committee members.

#### **9. Council Documents on Exhibition**

The following is a list of recent documents that have been placed on exhibition for public comment in the period since the last meeting.

- **Use of Public Land Handbook Policies**
  - Alcohol Regulation on Public Land
  - Busking
  - Banner Poles
  - Commercial Activities on Public Land
  - Community Event Signage
  - Events on Public Land
  - Filming on Public Land
  - Festivals and Events –Council Support
  - Commercial Use of Footpaths
  - Markets on Public Land
  - Monuments and Memorials on Public Land
  - Public Art
  - Weddings on Public Land

#### **10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday 10 December 2015.

#### **11. Meeting Closure**

**MINUTES OF THE BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL  
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER IN COUNCIL'S  
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE  
AT 5.00PM ON THURSDAY 9 APRIL 2015**

**1. Attendance and Apologies**

Members

Susan Anderson, Numbahjing Clan Native Title  
Marcus Ferguson, Community Member  
Nita Roberts, Bunjum Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd  
Carmel Kapeen, Community Member

Councillors in Attendance

Mayor, Councillor David Wright

Others in Attendance

Priscilla Sutor, Numbahjing Clan  
Desmond Anderson, Numbahjing Clan  
Samantha Wortelhock, Clean Slate / Breakaway Art  
Michela Brown, Northern Rivers Animal Services  
Robyn Mostyn, Northern Rivers Animal Services  
Denise Matthews, Northern Rivers Animal Services  
Joe Sabine, Ballina Shire Council  
Steve Barnier, Ballina Shire Council  
Paul Busmanis, Ballina Shire Council  
Ian Fox, Ballina Shire Council consultant  
Holly Archibald, Ballina Shire Council  
Roberto Kenk, Ballina Shire Council  
Fiona King, Ballina Shire Council

Apologies

Councillor Susan Meehan  
Sandra Bolt, JALI LALC  
Mark Moore, Bullinah AHS

**2. Appointment of Chairperson for the Meeting**

The Committee has previously agreed to operate with a rotating Chairperson. On this occasion, Marcus Ferguson was nominated to chair the meeting and he duly accepted the role.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Marcus Ferguson noted a non-pecuniary interest in regard to any matters relating to the Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council. Marcus is an active member of that organisation.

#### **4. Confirmation of Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 12 February 2015 were accepted, by consensus, as a correct record of that meeting.

#### **5. Matters Arising from Last Meeting**

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

#### **6. Deputations**

##### *a) Proposed Public Art Program*

Ms Samantha Wortelhock provided an overview of her artistic career achievements and expressed her desire to work with our local Aboriginal community in undertaking a mural program within the shire.

Committee members expressed their in-principle support for the proposal, subject to details of the program being determined and funding sources established.

Ms Wortelhock was thanked for her presentation and was encouraged to pursue her proposal through further community consultation.

#### **7. General Business**

##### *a) Responsible Pet Ownership*

Representatives from Northern Rivers Animal Services (NRAS) and Council's Ranger, Joe Sabine provided an overview of the animal welfare program that is proposed for implementation on Cabbage Tree Island over the next few months.

The Service and Council will be working in collaboration with Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council and local veterinarians, with details of the program to be provided through community consultation sessions.

Importantly, the checking and treatment sessions for domestic pets will also be supported by an educational program through Cabbage Tree Island School.

Committee members expressed their support for this initiative and their appreciation for the wonderful work undertaken by NRAS.

##### *b) NAIDOC Week Planning*

Committee members and others present discussed planning for Ballina Shire's 2015 NAIDOC Week celebrations, due to be held between 5 and 12 July.

Members noted information contained in an email from Nancy Walke, representing the Bullinah Goori Services Action Group, which outlined consultation arrangements which have been put in place to encourage discussion within community concerning NAIDOC Week.



Due to the lead time and prior approvals required to conduct the annual celebration walk, the Committee agreed to tentatively “lock in” this for Monday 6 July pending confirmation at the consultation sessions, which are scheduled for 22 and 29 April.

A copy of the 2014 NAIDOC Week program was available and reviewed by those present. Generally, it was seen as providing a good basis for discussion in developing this year’s activities. However, confirmation will be sought through the planned community consultation, with a report brought back to the Committee’s next meeting.

*c) Coastal Pathways Projects*

Paul Busmanis and Ian Fox explained the staged progress of the Shared Path and Coastal Recreational Path (CRP) projects.

The shared path project (west of the Coast Road) has been completed for the section along the Coast Road (north of Angels Beach roundabout) and along Skennars Head Road. The section along North Creek Road has recently commenced. The cultural heritage assessments (CHA) for these sections have been completed, and represents the staged progression with completion of assessments for the entire project.

The CHA for the current section of the CRP between Angels Beach and Sharpes Beach has been completed without receiving the promised responses from one of the three Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP). It was noted two of the RAPs had provided good feedback which forms part of the CHA, and the CHA would be submitted as-is to OEH and also to make the AHIP application for the East Ballina Aboriginal Place (EBAP). Any response from the remaining RAP would be welcome when received.

It was confirmed to Susan Anderson that the response was being promised by Troy Anderson. Susan undertook to review the CHA material and organise a prompt response. Council will forward the currently completed documents to Susan.

Further stages of continuing engagement with the RAPs will include the Shared Path East (Skennars Head to Pat Morton) and Coastal Recreational Path (Sharpes Beach to Pat Morton).

Ian Fox also explained progress with the Cultural Ways Project (CWP) which is to provide supporting interpretive signage and information for ‘The Coast Track’. Ian also explained he had a number of stories which needed to be agreed by the RAPs. Susan Anderson offered to review this material as well. The CWP project is investigating a number of ways of presenting cultural information including the use of audio and apps. The Anderson family members indicated they had recordings of stories in language and English which could be of value to the project.

It was noted that the RAPs are busy with field work with the RMS, however there are time constraints with both Council projects and prompt feedback would be appreciated.

d) *Cabbage Tree Island Infrastructure*

The information contained in the report was received and noted.

An update was also provided which noted that the NSW Department of Aboriginal Affairs had arranged a meeting of State Government agencies on 1 April to inspect the Cabbage Tree Island bridge and road network.

Outcomes from the inspection are presently unknown, however it is hoped that further information may be available for the Committee's next meeting.

**8. Business Without Notice**

a) *Wardell Cemetery*

Des Anderson enquired about Council's maintenance program for the Wardell Cemetery. Concerns were expressed that the current maintenance levels are inadequate, and that further improvements are highly desirable for those attending services or visiting the cemetery. Toilets, a small shelter, additional waste bins and improved landscaping within the reserve were mentioned as initial proposals for improvements.

It was suggested that Council prepare a cemetery improvement plan, developed in close consultation with the local community, which would identify prioritised works and ongoing maintenance arrangements.

Council's Civil Services Group is asked to present a brief report to the next Committee meeting.

**9. Council Documents on Exhibition**

The Council documents which have recently been on public exhibition for community feedback were noted.

**10. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held at 5.00pm on Thursday 11 June 2015.

Agendas will be distributed to Committee members prior to that meeting. Any matters which members wish to have considered for inclusion in the next Agenda should be emailed or notified to Council by Friday 29 May 2015.

**11. Meeting close**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.35pm.