

From: John Mudge [mailto:john.mudge@austax.biz]  
Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2014 3:25 PM  
To: culturalplan  
Subject: RE: - draft Ballina Shire Cultural Plan - for public comment

Hi Skye,

Thanks for including me on the list of your (Draft) Ballina Shire Cultural Plan. ☺

Another consideration is:

1. Tree Art (native or exotic trees) of sacred symbols or Angelic Seals or anything sacred; and
2. Places and Street names based on (spiritual entities, Archangels, ascended Masters, sacred names and places).

Tree Art

I have (attached) some Tree Art I did of the Sacred Star and Circle on our farm at Wollongbar. I used the tree Sequoia Sempervirens (Coast Redwood). Sempervirens means "ever-living". I hope one day, long after I am gone, that the tree art will rival that of Stone Henge in the UK. ☺

It would be good if the community got involved in designing and planting the trees.

I hope the above helps. ☺

Yours Sincerely,

John Mudge



From: Rose Leeson [mailto:errose@bigpond.com]  
Sent: Monday, 17 March 2014 12:24 PM  
To: culturalplan  
Subject: TRIM: RE: Ballina Shire Cultural Plan - Draft for comment

Appears to me to be an informative document, covering all aspects.  
I notice that cultural postcard was available at Wardell Post Office, first I have heard of it.  
I got my enews, forwarded it to all people on my contact list around Wardell District, and asked if they wanted to have in put.  
got a reply from Lois Cook to say she was having an input, but have have not or did not hear from another person at all.  
Did not receive a postcard or know of anyone that had a postcard. I am not speaking for any Wardell Organisations. just myself.  
Maybe in future a different approach would receive more input.  
I was looking to see what schools were involved, but notice they are included in family fun section.  
I thought Council had a lost opportunity with the Maccas site at West Ballina, whereby that whole area could have been transformed into an aboriginal cultural centre'  
I have seen Byron Bays aboriginal festival on NITV many times, and find their channel have interesting programs.  
I see it as the younger generation who will eventually transform the nation, as their is still too much cynicism and racism .  
I took the document to a meeting the other night, 8 people there, and not one person interested in at all.  
Most disappointing.

I am looking forward to Balina Shire Aboriginal Heritage Study, so could you please keep me in mind for a copy.

Regards  
Rose

From: Tintenbar Up Front [mailto:tintenbarupfront@gmail.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2014 1:06 PM  
To: culturalplan  
Subject: TRIM: Tintenbar Up Front

Hi,  
I head a team of enthusiastic volunteers who run Tintenbar Up Front, a monthly performance in Tintenbar Hall. It has become an important event in the cultural life of Tintenbar and beyond. If our event is not part of your cultural plan, you might consider including it.

You can find out much more at [www.tintenbarupfront.com](http://www.tintenbarupfront.com)

Yours

Peter Lino and the TUF team

From: Kerrie Fairlie [mailto:Kerrie.Fairlie@rtrl.nsw.gov.au]  
Sent: Friday, 21 March 2014 3:23 PM  
To: Matthew Wood  
Cc: Kerrie Fairlie; Jo Carmody  
Subject: submission for Cultural Plan

Hi Matthew

I would like to suggest that the services of the public library be included in the Ballina Cultural Plan. Libraries at Ballina, Alstonville and Lennox Head provide a valuable service to residents of all ages, with over 50% of the community being members.

Although the library service is under Lismore Council for day to day management, the Ballina Council has a significant investment in our libraries.

Services include storytime for 2 to 5 year olds, Ten minutes a day for babies and toddlers, craft in school holidays, talks by authors, etc., housebound services.

Extensive collections, including print materials, audiovisual items, and eresources, databases on the library website, local history and Indigenous collections.

Free wifi and personal computers for internet use for the public.

Regards Kerrie

Kerrie Fairlie | Ballina Area Librarian | Richmond-Tweed Regional Library  
8 River Street, Ballina T:0266862831 F:0266869352 | www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au  
The Richmond-Tweed Regional Library acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung Nation, traditional custodians of the land on which we work.

From: sax xoholic [mailto:saxxoholic1@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, 23 March 2014 10:33 PM  
To: culturalplan  
Subject: TRIM: Cultural Plan - My Preferences

To Whom It May Concern,

As someone who has recently relocated from Byron Bay to Ballina for reasons too many to name, im hoping my fresh perspective will be of some help...

So , this is some of what I would like to see...

1) no more jetskis, waterskis or wakeboards or fast moving watercraft of any kind from the river mouth to the RSL club. this is disturbing the dolphins and I haven't even seen any turtles. totally irresponsible to have this activity in the area, particularly dangerous for the turtles. dangerous for dolphins as well.

Having the boats and jetskis hooning around this area scares the fish, which is not good for the eagles either.

my preference for Ballina culture is to see the dolphins more. I love to watch the eagles catch fish. Im sure they enjoy to eat it too.

Im sure most tourism operators would agree. And if they don't, they are the wrong kind. Tourism in this beautiful area should be focussed on the appreciation and enjoyment of nature, and a healthy lifestyle, in a sustainable fashion to be preserved for residents and visitors of future generations.

2) Same area as 1) - no fishing. this is the dolphins feeding area. This is the eagles feeding area. they were here before any of us were. what right do we have to take what is not ours, nor ever has been? what are we on this planet for anyway? a) to drink beer and say "its mine" over every square inch we can just for the sake of it, while fishing for our entertainment - or b) to preserve and protect the environment for future generations of both humans and all the other species who also need it for their survival?

I choose b). to preserve and protect and to RESPECT the planet upon which we live. From what ive seen, this area has many people who need an attitude adjustment from a) to b), or if they cannot, at least laws to protect the environment from those with the strong a) belief.

This is a beautiful area that hasn't been completely destroyed yet. good idea to at least preserve what nature is left. good idea to market it as such to visitors and for natural beauty to become its international image, not rednecks and hoons.

3) no further buildings approved over 4 storeys high.  
nice to have tourism, of the right kind, lets not get coolangatta or surfers paradise trashy. nor Byron overpriced and fake either. build good affordable apartments along the river, along, the beach, but not too high.

That's it folks, 3 points.

thanks for your time,  
Garth Russell Saxophonist and Composer Ballina Resident

From: Malcolm Milner [mailto:mmilner@norex.com.au]  
Sent: Friday, 28 March 2014 10:34 AM  
To: culturalplan  
Subject: TRIM: Comments on Cultural Plan

I would like to submit some comments on the Cultural plan.

#### Heritage

I agree with an objective of coordinating the efforts of the Shire historical and heritage groups. A major omission at present is the lack of an active group in Ballina itself. There is a large amount of material relevant to Ballina that requires ongoing maintenance and regular promotion.

Funding for walking trails with appropriate leaflets would be a major contribution to tourism and valuable for locals to understand local heritage.

#### Outdoors

It is a major failure of our efforts to provide tourists with a fulfilling experience that we do not have any brochures promoting our coastal walks and other natural attractions.

Council probably has management or master plans in place for all the environmental assets it attempts to manage but inadequate resources severely limit its ability to implement these plans.

Lake Ainsworth is probably the best example where inaction has caused severe degradation to its surrounds reducing its aesthetic values and threatening its environmental health.

The community has reacted adversely to recent council plans for developing infrastructure within the natural environment and council should develop a 'style' manual based on what is acceptable to locals and which will also develop a niche market for tourists.

Malcolm Milner

Convenor  
Lennox Head Heritage Committee

President  
Lennox Head landcare

# Aboriginal Cultural Concepts

P.O. Box 355

WARDELL NSW 2477

Email: [culturalconcepts@bigpond.com](mailto:culturalconcepts@bigpond.com)

Website: [www.aboriginalculturalconcepts.com](http://www.aboriginalculturalconcepts.com)

## OUR COMMUNITY : OUR CULTURE

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Ballina Shire Cultural Plan 2014 – 2020

*Lois Cook/Traditional Owner (Nyangbul)*

*Aboriginal Cultural Concepts* is pleased to provide the following recommendations:

**Supported in principle:**

**Aboriginal Cultural Concepts** supports in principle the proposed Ballina Shire Cultural Plan.

*Aboriginal Cultural Concepts* recognise the proposed Plan will include new and more contemporary definitions of Cultural Planning. I recommend that Aboriginal objects and places are included in the Ballina Shire Cultural Plan and management both tangible and intangible cultural values.

**Acknowledgement:**

Ballina Shire Council acknowledges that we are here on the land of the Bundjalung people. The Bundjalung are the traditional owners of this land and are part of the oldest surviving continuous culture in the world I recommend the following:

**Recommendation (A)**

Include the following points;

- That we are here on the land of the Nyangbul Traditional Owners and is part of the oldest surviving and continuous culture in the world.

**Our Community: Our Culture and Sustainability:**

Aboriginal Cultural Concepts support in principle the community sustainability objectives and strategic planning directions. In support of this I recommend the following:

**Recommendation (B)**

Identifying people with authority to speak for country and identifying Nyangbul cultural needs, facilities and management practices to be supported

- The Traditional Owners be recognised as the Custodians of the Ballina Shire and first point of contact in relation to Nadioc Week activities and festivities to develop appropriate activities to celebrate their culture and heritage.
- should reflect the cultural grouping within the local area
- Councillors and employees this requirement for Induction Training is also addressed in point OEH Recommended Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Conditions of Approval

- Induction Training should be developed in collaboration with the local Aboriginal community and should include a maintained record, including timing, of all personnel and contractors involved for the duration of the project.
- Coupled with cultural heritage induction (which addresses responsibility to protect and conserve Aboriginal objects) is a broader understanding of cultural awareness and cultural protocols. In conjunction with induction training that is developed in collaboration with the local Aboriginal community, Council is encouraged to include a program of cultural awareness.
- Such a program would provide an opportunity for explanation of the cultural significance of the East Ballina area in particular, and strengthen the relationships Council is seeking to build, for example, with the recent formation of the ACC (Aboriginal Consultative Committee).
- To create a venue for the exclusive use of the Aboriginal community for the purpose of a Cultural Keeping Place, exhibitions, celebrations, gatherings and planned cultural activities and exchange.

**Cultural Activities in our Community:**

Aboriginal Cultural Concepts support in principle the cultural activities in our community and recommend the following:

**Recommendation (C)**

- That an aboriginal Cultural Education and Keeping Place be built in the shire to accommodate the growing number of Aboriginal artifacts, utensils and tools found during the development and built environment of the town to reflect the cultural and social background of the Nyangbul people and best promote the cultural identity of the town.
- That only Nyangbul Custodians and Traditional owners welcome invitees of the Ballina Shire Council, Naidoc Week, Seniors Week, Education Week, Youth Week Multi cultural Week and at other celebrated occasions held by the shire.
- That Welcome to Nyangbul Country signs be place at the entrance and exit of the shire Council boundaries.

Signature:



Date: 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2014



*Ballina Environment Society Inc*  
 PO Box 166 Ballina  
 NSW 2478 Australia  
 Email: [BES2478@gmail.com](mailto:BES2478@gmail.com)  
 Ph: 0421-551-768



#### **BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL CULTURAL HERITAGE PLAN SUBMISSION**

Although the intent of the Cultural Heritage Plan is commended, there is a lack of direction, feasibility and structure.

BES commends the inclusive nature of the report but considers this consultancy lacking in the ability to be a Plan.

If the document was designed to move cultural and heritage considerations forward, the first and most important content would include:

- Identification of Council policies which could show more regard to Cultural Heritage.
- A considered debate over development obligations on Aboriginal land, particularly as Ballina Shire has significant, publicly identified sites which are not identified in Schedule 5 of BLEP11.
- Review of Strategic Growth Areas. As BES has repeatedly requested, it is essential Council defines Environmental Zones in Strategic Growth areas if our environmental and cultural heritage is to be properly conserved.
- A review of the heritage treatment in BLEP11, prioritising a review of the heritage items listed in Schedule 5, given the progression these matters through processes like those involved with the development of this plan and work by the State Government.

Instead, we are presented with a wish list of possibilities without budgets, without timelines and without direction for Council to set priorities.

Planning to make a plan is not a plan.

Ballina Shire is the custodian of significant lands. BES does not feel this responsibly is promoted in the 'Plan'.

In particular BES would like to know the references for the overview of local Aboriginal heritage presented on page 13. Some of the wording could be seen as patronising at least to our traditional owners and erroneous in some conclusions regarding of our shared history. The omission of any mention of Ballina's middens is also regrettable.

BES applauds Councils intent in commissioning this consultancy, but feels our community would be better served with a revision to more precisely define the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats presented by the gamut of projects put forward in the Cultural Heritage Plan as it stands.

This Plan requires modification to identify, assess and strategize the next steps for Council.

Yours faithfully  
 BALLINA ENVIRONMENT SOCIETY

Fiona Folan  
 President  
 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2014

From: John Rado [mailto:john.rado@gmail.com]  
Sent: Friday, 28 March 2014 4:59 PM  
To: culturalplan  
Cc: Robyn Brady; Alstonville Studio  
Subject: TRIM: Ballina Shire Cultural Plan 2014:2020

Dear Councillor Wright,

We have just read the Ballina Shire Cultural Plan 2014:2020 and are responding to the call out for comment by March 28.

Thanks for turning the Council focus to this important area.

As one of the regions' newest and most diverse arts bodies, Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre Inc. we are pleased to see Art Smart high on the Plan, and the need recognised for creative activities to be accessible to the whole shire.

Sprung!! Intergrated Dance theatre Inc. was founded in 2012 thanks to an Accessible Arts grant and has gone on to win CASP, Arts and Disability, Northern Rivers Community Foundation, St George Charitable Foundation, and Arts NSW grants to support our busy program of dance and theatre workshops for persons with and without disability.

The attached photographs by Katrina Folkwell of our recent new work "Encounters" and our short promotional film <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtqffZfDDQ> bear witness to our cultural activity in the community: Katrina's photos were exhibited at the Northern Rivers Community

Gallery in April 2013. We created live "roving statues" (see P1040817 of our dancers Zac Mifsud and Max McAuley taken in front of the Gallery by Sarah Kearney) as well as a performance of a work-in-progress, at the opening of this event. As seen in the promotional video, we created a major work last year, Dwell a Triple Bill, which featured a remarkable exhibition of Art and Photographs created by artists with and without disabilities, A chosen three of these major works were used to inspire the choreography of three integrated Dance Theatre pieces. Completing the Triple Bill was a 90 minute discussion between the audience and an expert panel. The full professional documentation of all three parts of the work is available through our web page.

Based in Alstonville at the Alstonville Dance Studio, Sprung!! hopes to be an ongoing part of the cultural landscape in Ballina Shire. We would be interested in being Ambassadors for "Our Place", creating performance art at some of our iconic locations... We are a significant part of the "creative industry employment growth", employing artists, dancers, actors, musicians, and arts administrators. We are keen to be part of the shire's arts promotional strategy and to continue our commitment to integration and cross-fertilisation, ensuring that arts and disability is not marginalised but is part of an active process embracing diversity and creating broader and more inclusive cultural practices.

Please ensure that Sprung!! is on the Shire's cultural register and included in the next "creative and cultural industries representatives focus group meeting". We look forward to meeting with you to discuss ideas further.

Possible ways of being involved:

Sprung!! roving statues as iconic local performance art and interfacing with local sites e.g. as postcard or calendar

Sprung!! performances as part of a Pop Up Art display  
YoungSprung (aged 6-12) and Sprung!! leaders being involved in a Ballina  
Children's Festival to foster creative accessibility and inclusivity.

We look forward to furthering this conversation and being part of a  
dynamic next 6 years,

Kind regards,  
John Rado, General Manager and Robyn Brady, Founder and Board Member.

--  
John Rado  
General Manager  
Sprung!! Integrated Dance theatre  
299 Fernleigh Road,  
Fernleigh. NSW 2479  
Tel: 0468 356 164  
Email: [john.rado@gmail.com](mailto:john.rado@gmail.com)



From: John Rado [mailto:[john.rado@gmail.com](mailto:john.rado@gmail.com)]

Sent: Saturday, 29 March 2014 2:46 PM

To: culturalplan

Cc: Robyn Brady; Alstonville Studio

Subject: TRIM: Ammendment to SPRUNG!! email

Dear Councilor Wright,

In our letter to you yesterday I neglected to talk about our specific Artistic Vision for the year and also neglected to connect the details to the long term contact between Ballina Shire Council and our Artistic Director Sue Whiteman. Sue will be leading our team from an artistic point of view and it is her many ideas and wonderful vision which makes me confident that our program for 2014 can greatly and mutually benefit the Community at large as well as the Council and Sprung!!

Having said that, my enthusiasm for a personal meeting with you and Sue Whiteman is strengthened, so that we can discuss and plan in more detail our co-operation in the future. I would appreciate a meeting as soon as possible as we are already entering the 2nd quarter of 2014

Respectfully

John Rado

General Manager

Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre

299 Fernleigh Road,

Fernleigh. NSW 2479

Tel: 0468 356 164

Email: [john.rado@gmail.com](mailto:john.rado@gmail.com)

To Whom It May Concern

Firstly I would like to thank you for the opportunity to express my views in regards to the new Ballina Shire wide Cultural Community Projects, presumably being done in partnership with Jali LALC.

My name is Troy Anderson, I am a locally born Indigenous person strong cultural values. My family has always expressed their connection with lands situated within local cultural boundaries and are very well known by the neighbouring cultural communities eg Bandjalang, Widgebul & Arrakwal peoples. I have been representing the best interest of the John Cook Foundation , Numbahging Native Title Claimants & Elders Group who have been working towards recognition for our people and community for well over two decades now dating back to the North Creek Bridge and Coast Road, to more recent court cases involving the appropriation of an Aboriginal Place Declaration for Angels Beach and the Allahwa Bushland Reserve East Ballina. We are also responsible for the underpass mural depicting local heritage values of the area with a very small budget and incorporating those values through tourist activities, and public education walks in partnership with the Ballina Environmental Society & Angels Beach Dune Care, in which we will be publishing once all research and consultations are done with all local families that may hold cultural knowledge.

I have many concerns regarding the implementation and responsibilities of both BSC and Jali in the validity of appropriating funds to map sensitive information that some feel may be used to the detriment of the Indigenous community. Firstly I would like to know why other stakeholders were left out of the whole process for the implementation in the first instance, including the initial approval process, and also the methodology for full community consultation on behalf of both BSC and Jali. As it seems that the Indigenous community including many voting members of Jali, has little knowledge of any partnership agreements between the two parties. So there is a need for extensions for submissions and further community consultations as members have notice there artworks have been used without their permission or the identity of the artist, or the use of the art groups name. Then as pointed out previously the underpass mural, Angels Beach Declaration and the Allahwa Bushland all done by Numbahging Group, has been left out why? Especially when our group are and have been registered stakeholders in regards to heritage related issues within our community for years now. Examples of this are Ballina Highway Bypass Project, Woodburn To Ballina Project, North Byron Festival site, North Angels Beach Development, Skinners Head Development, North Cumballum proposal and the controversial Ballina to Lennox Head and Byron Share Bike Path which is still ongoing.

Again it seems BSC attempts to engage the indigenous community on cultural matters has divided our community again by not being totally transparent in its responsibilities to community. As I feel this should have been a partnership between BSC and the newly formed Aboriginal Representative Committee that has community reps to be informed and advise council regarding the collective cultural Identity. But that I understand was approved by the only two Indigenous people at the last council meeting and is this wording to be included in the booklet itself. If this is the case then it would seem that BSC is pursuing a Native Title Determination on behalf of Individual groups and organisations using heritage grants to achieve this outcome. As I have mentioned prior, I represent the Numbahging Native Title Claimant Group and their best interest, but it seems there are others specifically the Jali sites officer Marcus Ferguson, and Lois Cook Burrabi both asserting that they are Traditional Custodians for the Native Title Group, as per dispute Angels Beach North onsite meeting.

It should be noted that the Numbahging Elders Group and indigenous people within the community find it totally disrespectful and feel that the Jali sites officer is misrepresenting the Land Council that we are all members of. In explaining all this I feel that BSC and Jali need to be accountable in its affairs of Native Title as an anonymous member has called in the Native Title Unit to have workshops at the newly built SLSC at short notice. Has BSC council had previous community Native Title Meeting here, as there as seems to be controversy surrounding the jali Lalc, and the Land claim over the site and surrounding areas that was withdrawn so Jali receive favours in return, including DA's and financial incentives that we are currently seeking an explanation for.

Again I call for full disclosure of all the facts, when was the partnership agreement, signed and by whom, was it signed, and the approval process by both councils and the reasons in which it was imperative to do so. As we feel totally misrepresented, misinformed and discriminated against, based on the past legal action our group has taken against BSC, whereby consent was approved by the Jali sites officer and Lois Cook misrepresenting the native title group stated Angel Beach was of no cultural significants yet we know have an Aboriginal Place Declaration for that area, thanks to Numbahging Clan of the Lower Richmond, and Bundjalung Nation. Therefor there needs to be more input into the cultural concepts incorporated with full community approval and consultation as it seems people that are employed by council, seem to have ulterior motives and conflicting interest in regards culturally appropriate people being employed and empowered to control all cultural affairs.

There are processes and procedural fairness and we have been advocating for a long time now, to have grassroots Indigenous partake in mainstream society, but it is often difficult when we have reps that have countertransference problems in acknowledging anyone that don't fit their selected group of individuals, pertaining to act in the best interest of community. Having a transparent cultural agenda is essential to best interest of the community and council needs to upfront before implementing any specific programs or projects.

Thankyou: Troy Anderson

Spokesperson: John Cook Foundation & Numbahging Native Title Claimant Group

82650081337

Cabbage Tree Island Wardell 2477

## Aboriginal Cultural Concepts

P.O. Box 355  
WARDELL NSW 2477  
Email: [culturalconcepts@bigpond.com](mailto:culturalconcepts@bigpond.com)  
Website: [www.aboriginalculturalconcepts.com](http://www.aboriginalculturalconcepts.com)

### OUR COMMUNITY : OUR CULTURE

At the last Aboriginal Cultural Advisory Committee Meeting the General Manager gave members of the committee until Anzac Day to make more recommendations for the Ballina Shire Council Cultural Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Ballina Shire Cultural Plan 2014 – 2020

*Lois Cook/Traditional Owner (Nyangbul)*

***Aboriginal Cultural Advisory Committee Member***

*Aboriginal Cultural Concepts* is pleased to provide the following recommendations:

**Supported in principle:**

***Aboriginal Cultural Concepts*** supports in principle the proposed Ballina Shire Cultural Plan.

*Aboriginal Cultural Concepts* recognise the proposed Plan will include new and more contemporary definitions of Cultural Planning. I recommend that Aboriginal objects and places are included in the Ballina Shire Cultural Plan and management both tangible and intangible cultural values.

**Acknowledgement:**

Ballina Shire Council acknowledges that we are here on the land of the Bundjalung people. The Bundjalung are the traditional owners of this land and are part of the oldest surviving continuous culture in the world I recommend the following:

**Recommendation (A)**

**Aboriginal Culture**

As an Aboriginal Cultural Advisory Committee Member I support in principle the community sustainability objectives and strategic planning directions. In support of this I recommend the following:

Potential Projects;

- That the Traditional owners and spokes persons be directly involved with Naidoc Week celebrations
- That the Ballina Shire business community promote Naidoc in direct consultation with the Traditional Owners and spokes persons for Nyangbul Traditional Owners
- Hold local and Aboriginal music and dance performances in direct consultation with the Traditional Owners and spokes persons for Nyangbul Traditional Owners
- To collaborate with Elders and theatre groups to tell aboriginal lories in direct consultation with the Traditional Owners and spokes persons for Nyangbul Traditional Owners
- To promote opportunities and partnerships to establish a Cultural Centre or Keeping Place in direct consultation with the Traditional Owners and spokes persons for Nyangbul Traditional Owners
- To work directly with the Traditional Owners and spokes persons Nyangbul Traditional Owners in relation to dual place naming throughout the shire
- in direct consultation with the Traditional Owners and spokes persons and Nyangbul Traditional Owners
- To work in direct consultation with the Traditional Owners and spokes persons for Nyangbul Traditional Owners in relation to care for and interpret the natural and cultural landscape.
- That the Traditional Owners and spokes persons for Nyangbul Traditional Owners be consulted in relation to any cultural landscape conservation plans or management across the shire and the coastline. (ER)

**Cultural Spaces:**

As an Aboriginal Cultural Advisory Committee Member I support in principle the community sustainability objectives and strategic planning directions. In support of this I recommend the following:

**Recommendation (B)**

That the **Wardell and District War Memorial** Hall be upgraded to the standard of other cultural spaces and halls in the shire by making funds available to provide immediate necessary infrastructural change to address security and WHS standards. (ER)

**Recommendation (C)**

That a **Skate park** be planned and initiated in the township of Wardell near the old Post Office at the old children's park space. (ER)

Due to the fact that the new boat ramp has been built, the shires recommendation for a Skate Park at East Wardell be re-evaluated due to the WHS assessment and implementation strategies.

**Recommendation (D)**



That a pathway be constructed in East Wardell along the river (1 klm long) to give residence and visitors access to the river frontage for recreation space. This is an (ER) project Groups such as Envite, BSC Parks and open space sector and planners, and community volunteers.

**Recommendation (E)**

That a free swimming pool be constructed in East Wardell creating a family friendly atmosphere and a cultural space to be shared with Empire Vale, and other surrounding schools and communities, and that the community be made aware of the BSC policy on a swimming pool in the town of Wardell and its Indigenous disadvantaged community.

Signature:



Date: 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

## THE CHURCH ON THE PLATEAU

The Combined Churches of Alstonville/Wollongbar

PO Box 13, Alstonville NSW 2477

Together Seeking To Serve Our Community



3 June 2014

### Ballina Shire Cultural Plan 2014 - 2020 Submission

Dear Skye

As members of our local Chamber of Commerce and as a group of local Churches, ("The Church on the Plateau"), with a special interest in the welfare of our community, we thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the "Ballina Shire Cultural Plan 2014 - 2020.

A healthy community requires all its parts working in unison, ie Council, Business, Family, Sport/Leisure, Education, Health, and Spiritual.

We would like to draw Councils attention to the major Cultural contribution that the Churches and their very caring organisations that are attached to the many denominations across our great Shire.

Along with the responsibility of the Spiritual wellbeing of our Shire, these caring facilities, along with the Churches, operate to care for the needs of some thousands of our Shire residents in many and varied ways.

They also contribute in a wider way through the important role of employment of many Shire residents as well, which in turn contributes to the financial benefits of our Shire.

These people make up a vast army, along with the many volunteers from the Churches, and along with many others.

To omit to include the Spiritual Culture of our Shire in this proposed document we believe would be devoid of a very rich part of our Shire's Culture.

Please let me name just a few of the facilities that are provided for the great benefit to our Shire.

Aged Care Facilities, Schools, Temporary Housing, Women's Refuge and Safe Houses, Book Shop, Food Bank, OP Shops, Counselling Services, Men's Shed, Children's Ministries, along with the Ministries of the many Churches across our Shire, just to name a few.

We, as the Churches of the Alstonville Plateau would also like to acknowledge the great work of Council in putting together this document and for Council's concerns for the welfare of our Shire as a whole.

With our Blessing and Kind Regards

Jim Willis

On behalf of The Church on The Plateau.

9.9 Our Community: Our Culture - Ballina Shire Cultural Plan.DOC

Submission	Strength(s) of the Cultural Plan	Weakness(es) of the Cultural Plan	Other	Comment on submission
John Mudge - Wollongbar	The submission appears to support the Cultural Plan.	No specific comment made.	<p>Welcomed opportunity to comment on the plan Suggests tree art as further cultural activity in the shire.</p> <p>Suggests place and street names based on spiritual entities, Archangels, ascended masters, sacred names and places.</p> <p>Would like the community to be involved in tree planting projects on his property.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council's <i>Naming of Roads Bridges and Public Places</i> policy is guided by the NSW Geographical Names Board criteria. Spiritual entities and sacred places are likely to be acceptable name choices in accordance with these criteria and in the case of establishing significance in the local context.</li> <li>• The plan supports community members initiating community cultural activity.</li> <li>• Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan</li> </ul>
Rose Leeson, Wardell	General support of the plan.	Did not receive a Cultural Postcard promoting the Cultural Plan.	Disappointed about local community interest in the final plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Cultural Postcard available at Wardell Post Office and advertised as being located there.</li> <li>• Only one cultural postcard collected from Wardell despite it being available for the duration of the exhibition period.</li> <li>• Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan.</li> </ul>
Peter Lino representing <i>Tintenbar Up Front</i> ('a monthly performance in the Tintenbar Hall')	No specific comment made.	No specific comment made.	Request made to be part of the Cultural Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The plan supports community members initiating community cultural activity and the ongoing use of historic community halls.</li> <li>• <i>Tintenbar Up Front</i> presents a future community partnership opportunity, which the plan promotes.</li> <li>• Recommend suggesting</li> </ul>

9.9 Our Community: Our Culture - Ballina Shire Cultural Plan.DOC

Submission	Strength(s) of the Cultural Plan	Weakness(es) of the Cultural Plan	Other	Comment on submission
				<p><i>Tintenbar Up Front</i> register on Council's Community Directory to be part of future cultural activity partnership opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan.</li> </ul>
Kerrie Fairlie on behalf of Ballina Library	No specific comment made.	Ballina library services are not sufficiently represented in the Ballina Shire Cultural Plan.	Recommends Ballina library services be included in the Ballina Cultural Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community libraries are referred to specifically at the objective 'Cultural Spaces' where the following is indicated: <i>These centres also have highly valued public libraries that provide cultural activity centring on books, audio and digital resources that meet our personal interest and education needs. Our libraries also offer other services, including toy libraries and hold local history resources.</i></li> <li>A Potential Project listed under this Cultural Spaces objective also includes: <i>Collaborate with our libraries to hold cultural activity.</i></li> <li>Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan.</li> </ul>
Garth Russell - Ballina	Supports promotion and enhancement of the shire's natural environment/ attributes for its intrinsic value as well for residents' enjoyment, and as a tourist attraction.	No specific comment made.	Would like to see jet skis, water skis and other fast moving water craft banned from the river mouth to the RSL club as it is considered a threat to water dependent fauna which are a tourist asset.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limitations on river and fishing activities are not considered in the draft Cultural Plan, however the Great Outdoors objective does emphasise the need to <i>Care for, or enhance, our natural and other outdoor environments which underpin our special</i></li> </ul>

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			<p>Suggested the banning of fishing from the river mouth to the RSL Club to protect dolphin food source.</p> <p>Would like to see 4 storey building restriction in Ballina.</p>	<p><i>lifestyle.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current building restrictions in the CBD limit building height to 18 metres which can be up to 6 storeys. Residential areas on Ballina Island are restricted to 8.5 metres which is typically 2 story developments.</li> <li>• Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan.</li> </ul>
Malcolm Milner	Supports potential for co-ordination of the efforts of the shire's heritage/history organisations to promote sense of place and particularly through walks and brochures.	<p>Shire community/ Council fails to promote our natural areas through walks and brochures.</p> <p>Council inadequately resources management plans for natural areas that are considered an important cultural asset.</p>	<p>Lake Ainsworth is a significant natural assets that is subject to degradation due to inaction.</p> <p>Suggests a 'style manual' to guide infrastructure development in natural areas and based on community consultation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council has existing Vegetation Management Plans for many natural areas across the shire that are updated and reviewed. These are implemented as they are resourced.</li> <li>• Council has no existing style manual for guiding infrastructure development in the shire's natural areas however some vegetation management plans could detail the sort of infrastructure appropriate for particular reserves.</li> <li>• Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan.</li> </ul>
Lois Cook – representing Aboriginal Cultural Concepts	Supports the plan 'in principle'. supports the concept of the plan incorporating 'new and contemporary definitions of cultural planning', as well as 'the community sustainability objectives and strategic planning directions' of the plan.	Additional recommendations are made, see next column.	<p>Key recommendations made by Ms Cook can be summarised as the following:</p> <p>Re-wording of the Cultural Plan Aboriginal acknowledgement to replace use of the word Bundjalung with Nyangbal;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently no individual family or clan grouping in, or beyond, the Ballina Shire are acknowledged as Traditional Owners or Native Title holders as determined by the <i>NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act</i> or the <i>Commonwealth Native Title Act</i>. Notwithstanding the</li> </ul>

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			<p>Nyangbal people are exclusively acknowledged as the shire's traditional owners and given priority acknowledgement over other Aboriginal community members in cultural activity partnerships such as NAIDOC Week;</p> <p>Councillors and employees should be subject to Aboriginal Cultural awareness training;</p> <p>The establishment of a Keeping Place in partnership with Nyangbal 'traditional owners';</p> <p>That Welcome to Nyangbul Country signs be place at the entrance and exit of the shire Council boundaries.</p>	<p>above, Aboriginal community representatives may otherwise agree on who speaks for Country, or on behalf of the shire's Aboriginal community, and that they are referred to as traditional owners (but in a non-legal/ cultural tradition sense), and the clan/cultural name to which traditional owners are referred. It is understood that a recent Aboriginal Community Committee the decision was endorsed to reword Council's Aboriginal acknowledgement to refer to Nyangbal people as the shire's 'traditional owners'. At a future time, any other determination made in accordance with the Land Rights Act or Native Title Act, as outlined above, may change the circumstances of the status of the community agreement regarding who are considered 'traditional owners' and when.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both the establishment of a Keeping Place and Welcome to Country Signs in the Ballina Shire have been identified as potential projects to foster understanding of the community's Aboriginal Culture.</li> <li>• Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan.</li> </ul>

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<p>Fiona Folan for the Ballina Environment Society cont.</p>	<p>Supports/'applauds' the overarching intent of the plan.</p>	<p>Does not agree with the structure of plan – would like to see a revision of the plan that considers a more detailed approach to achieving the potential projects identified as possible ways to foster cultural activity in the shire.</p> <p>Suggests Aboriginal Culture objective statement is patronising and the idea of a shared history between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members is 'erroneous'.</p> <p>Regrets the omission of the mention of any of Ballina's middens in the Cultural Plan.</p>	<p>Suggests ways for improving the plan including:</p> <p>The identification of Council policies which could show more regard to Cultural Heritage;</p> <p>A 'considered debate over development obligations on Aboriginal land' particularly with respect to Council owned land and where Aboriginal heritage sites are identified;</p> <p>A review of the heritage items listed in Schedule 5, including listing of Aboriginal sites on the BSC LEP;</p> <p>Review of Strategic Growth Areas to better protect the shire's environmental and cultural heritage assets; and</p> <p>Requests sources used to prepare Aboriginal Culture objective statement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally, key critical points made in this submission are understood but it does not provide sufficient detail to address these concerns in the Cultural Plan.</li> <li>• It appears that the submission has misunderstood the overarching intent of the plan which is to identify the community's cultural strengths and priorities, as well identify potential ways to build on these.</li> <li>• Key land use planning concerns raised around cultural heritage and environmental assets in the shire, and how these matters are managed through the LEP, and/or any other relevant planning instruments, are considered broadly under the Sense of Place, Aboriginal Culture and Great Outdoors objectives of the Cultural Plan. Notwithstanding, the Cultural Plan's intent is not to identify all the possible ways these objectives might be achieved (and given the above noted point).</li> <li>• The BSC LEP heritage schedule was updated in 2012. Items and places of Aboriginal cultural significance were not listed due to the sensitivity associated with identifying these matters to the</li> </ul>



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				<p>general public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the view of staff that the Aboriginal Culture objective statement is not patronising, although it is appreciated this is often a subjective position. Aboriginal respondents to the Plan have not raised this point.</li> <li>• Various sources have been drawn on to prepare the Aboriginal Culture objective statement including Richmond River Historical Society files, AHIMS data; various archaeological reports conducted within the shire over at least the past three decades, personal communication with Jali's sites officer and other cultural heritage experts working in the field of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage management and in the Ballina Shire context.</li> <li>• The whole of the shire contains varied Aboriginal cultural heritage sites, too many to mention individually – notwithstanding the intent of the Aboriginal Culture objective statement was to give an overview of the nature of the shire's Aboriginal cultural heritage assets. Thus a general statement about these sites is referred in the Aboriginal Culture objective statement, with no Aboriginal site type referred at</li> </ul>

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				<p>all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of the word 'our' in conjunction with Aboriginal heritage is used figuratively and in an aspirational sense in the Aboriginal Culture objective statement. The implied suggestion of a shared history in the context of the BSC Cultural Plan recognises that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people <i>have</i> co-existed within the shire's landscape since Europeans first arrived/settled the region (regardless of individual perspectives on the course of this history and its sometimes contested nature).</li> <li>• Moreover, a shared history between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members is invoked in the Plan to describe/demonstrate the community's desire – both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community – to foster understanding of the past relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, as well understanding of Aboriginal culture <i>per se</i>.</li> <li>• Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan.</li> </ul>

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John Rado for Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre	Supports the Cultural Plan as an important community interest focus and asset.	No specific comment made.	Provides further information regarding Sprung's recent activity and expresses desire for future partnership with Council in fostering cultural activity in the shire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommend suggesting Sprung!! register on Council's Community Directory to be part of future cultural activity partnership opportunities.</li> <li>Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan.</li> </ul>
Troy Anderson for the John Cook Foundation	Acknowledges opportunity to comment on the plan.	<p>Aboriginal artworks shown in the plan have been used without permission.</p> <p>'Angels Beach underpass mural, Angels Beach declaration and the Allahwa Bushland all done' by Numbahging Group has been left out of the plan'.</p> <p>Aboriginal community consultation was not adequate, needed to be broader and in association with the Council's Aboriginal Community Committee.</p>	<p>Expresses concern about new wording recently endorsed through the Aboriginal Community Committee for use as an Aboriginal Acknowledgement in the course of undertaking Council business.</p> <p>Expresses other general concerns about recent Aboriginal projects undertaken between Council and Jali Aboriginal Land Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Aboriginal images and artworks used in the plan were used with permission. It is assumed that the particular works referred to by Mr Anderson are those provided by Arts Northern Rivers and showing works by CTI artists that are members of the People of the Reeds art group. These images were provided by Arts Northern Rivers with approvals (these are retained by Council).</li> <li>The Cultural Plan includes select Aboriginal projects as examples of cultural activity fostered in the shire. It was not a comprehensive list of all Aboriginal cultural activity/assets in the shire.</li> <li>Aboriginal community consultation was undertaken by Rob Appo, former Aboriginal Arts Development Officer with Arts Northern Rivers. As with the non-Aboriginal focus groups, group members were a sample of (Aboriginal) people engaged or</li> </ul>

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				<p>working in the arts and cultural industries sectors in the shire. The group was determined according to this criteria and the recommendations from Mr Appo. It was not determined in accordance with consultation requirements of OEH for cultural heritage management consultations undertaken in the context of land use issues. As in the case of the broader community, it was felt that the survey and the exhibition phase of the project enabled further input from community members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft Cultural Plan was presented to the Ballina Shire Aboriginal Community Committee, who were provided with the opportunity to provide a submission. One additional submission was received from this group.</li> <li>• See comment under submission from Lois Cook regarding an Aboriginal acknowledgement.</li> <li>• Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan.</li> </ul>
<p>Jim Willis representing The Church on the Plateau –The Combined</p>	<p>Acknowledges the work of Council in preparing a Cultural Plan for the shire.</p>	<p>Spiritual culture of the shire is not sufficiently addressed in the Ballina Shire Cultural Plan.</p>	<p>Draws attention to the major cultural contribution that churches and their organisations make and the numerous facilities that are provided by the various religious denominations in the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churches and their associated facilities are important cultural spaces that can be highlighted under the Cultural Spaces objective.</li> <li>• Recommend including a</li> </ul>

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Churches of Alstonville /Wollongbar			shire, including, Aged Care Facilities, Schools, Temporary Housing, Women's Refuge and Safe Houses, Book Shop, Food Bank, OP Shops, Counselling Services, Men's Shed, Children's Ministries, along with the Ministries of the many Churches.	sentence under this objective with the following wording: <i>Churches, and church organisations, of various denominations are part of the shire's historic spiritual culture, or traditions. Churches and other spirituality based organisations continue to generate, and support cultural activity, in the shire.</i>
Lois Cook – as a member of the Ballina Shire Council Aboriginal Community Committee and representing Aboriginal Cultural Concepts.	Supports the plan 'in principle'; supports the concept of the plan incorporating 'new and contemporary definitions of cultural planning', and supports in principle, as a member of the Committee, 'the community sustainability objectives and strategic planning directions' of the plan.	Suggests rewording a number of the 'potential projects' under the Aboriginal Culture objective (see next column).  Suggests additional the 'potential projects' under the Aboriginal Culture objective (see next column).  Suggests inclusion of a number of cultural facilities for Wardell under Cultural Spaces objective	That most of the currently listed Potential Projects under this objective include the words " <i>in direct consultation with the Traditional Owners and spokes persons for Nyangbul Traditional Owners</i> "  Submission recommends additional potential projects including:  That the Traditional owners and spokes-persons be directly involved with NAIDOC Week celebrations; and  That the Traditional Owners and spokes persons for Nyangbul Traditional Owners be consulted in relation to any cultural landscape conservation plans or management across the shire and the coastline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See previous comment relating to the first submission from Lois Cook.</li> <li>• Potential projects relating to these recommendations are currently addressed under the opportunities listed in the Aboriginal Culture objective: <i>Continue to collaborate with Aboriginal Community representative to celebrate and develop NAIDOC Week; and Collaborate with Aboriginal community members to care for and interpret the natural and cultural landscape.</i></li> <li>• The Cultural Plan does not make reference to individual capital works projects to improve cultural spaces. Rather a shire-wide approach to improving cultural spaces is addressed more broadly under the Cultural</li> </ul>

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			<p>A number of public works projects to improve the cultural facilities in the village of Wardell that can be summarise as:                      Upgraded Wardell and District War Memorial Hall;                      Construction of: a skate park;                      A 1 km pathway in East Wardell along the river; and                      A free swimming pool.</p>	<p>Spaces objective to:  <i>Better utilise our existing cultural infrastructure, as well as respond to changing needs, to hold and encourage cultural activity.</i></p> <p>The additional projects recommended in this submission are broadly referred to in a potential project for the Cultural Spaces objective, which states:  <i>Build on existing infrastructure to establish a network of adaptable venues to enable community gatherings and events.</i></p> <p>A number of objectives, potential projects and opportunities listed in the draft plan address the improvement of cultural spaces including facilities and outdoor spaces. For example under the Great Outdoors objective two of the opportunities listed are to:  <i>Manage and promote the attributes and accessibility of Council's managed open spaces and reserves across all age groups and other special needs;</i>                      and  <i>Develop our parks and foreshore areas to be family friendly and flexible spaces for varied cultural activity and events.</i></p> <p>These sorts of projects are also</p>

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				<p>addressed through <i>Promote the regular and safe use of our shared pathways and are planning for their expansion</i> under <i>How Council fosters this objective</i> in the Great Outdoors section of the Cultural Plan.</p> <p>Enhancement of outdoor facilities are also included under the potential projects listed in <i>Cultural Spaces Audit Council's outdoor areas utilised by families to assist planning for the enhancement of these places.</i></p> <p>One of the opportunities listed under Cultural Spaces is also to <i>Manage Council's community and sports facilities to meet the varied cultural needs of the shire.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend no change to draft Cultural Plan</li> </ul>