

community connect

the newsletter of ballina shire council

make some cash with the 'garage sale trail' sat may 5



recognition for locals at awards ceremony



residents enjoy locals rewards



workshops & exhibitions at gallery



3 bin waste drastically reduces landfill



WELCOME TO BALLINA FROM AIRPORT AMBASSADORS

The Ballina Visitor Information Centre

received a wonderful response from the local community when we recently sent out a call for Volunteer Airport Tourism Ambassadors. Eighteen volunteers have been selected to promote the Ballina Shire to visitors.

In February the volunteers undertook visitor services training and an airport induction to help them in their new role as Volunteer Airport Tourism Ambassadors. They will be based at the new Visitor Services desk in the Arrivals Terminal at Ballina Byron Gateway Airport. Volunteers will work in pairs to provide a meet and greet service on behalf of the Ballina Shire and Northern Rivers region. A total of 21 flights from Sydney, Melbourne and Newcastle will be met each week. If you're interested in becoming a Volunteer Airport Ambassador contact the Ballina Visitor Information Centre on 1800 777 666.



Photo supplied by The Ballina Shire Advocate



PASSENGER NUMBERS SOARING AT BALLINA AIRPORT

Domestic travel figures in Australia have slowed but the Ballina-Byron Gateway Airport is defying the trend.

The airport is one of the busiest in regional NSW with passenger numbers and flight services expected to continue to grow substantially over the next several years.

There are currently more than 40 Regional Express, Virgin and Jetstar services to Sydney, Newcastle and Melbourne every week. Agreements have been signed to increase these services over the next three years.

More than 300,000 passengers passed through the airport last year and these numbers are predicted to reach 500,000 by 2015/16.



THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Cr Phillip Silver

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Ph: 02 6686 4444
Fax: 02 6686 7035
Email: council@ballina.nsw.gov.au
Web: www.ballina.nsw.gov.au
Street Address:
 Cnr Tamar and Cherry Sts,
 Ballina
Postal Address:
 PO Box 450, Ballina 2478
Office Hours:
 8.15am to 4.30pm Monday
 to Friday
 (excluding public holidays)
After hours contact:
 02 6626 6954

Council's Community Access Points:

Meeting agendas and documents on exhibition can be viewed at Council's Customer Service Centre; Alstonville, Ballina and Lennox Head Libraries; Kentwell Community Centre and Council's website www.ballina.nsw.gov.au

Council publishes public notices weekly and Community Notices on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Ballina Shire Advocate. Council also distributes "Community Connect eNews" via email on a regular basis, visit www.ballina.nsw.gov.au and follow the links to subscribe.

Summer is over and the hot weather has certainly been patchy this season. Despite the weather, thousands of people found time to visit the twilight markets in Fawcett Street. The markets were a trial to gauge how much support they had from the community and I am pleased to report they have been successful.

Council has decided to plan for this to be a regular event in summer, held every Thursday night (weather permitting) from the start of the September/October School Holidays.

The opening of the Ballina Bypass has certainly made things a lot quieter

in town with heavy vehicles noticeably absent from our streets.

The Ballina Locals Rewards campaign has so far been very successful in encouraging people to shop locally.

One of our priorities is to continue with the implementation of the Ballina Main Street Beautification program. The next 12 months will see some \$3.3 million expended to improving facilities and infrastructure in and around the Cherry/River Street roundabout and from Cherry Street to Martin Street.

Council recently awarded funding for a number of community events and programs for the 2012/13 year. You will find details of the successful applicants on page 3 of this newsletter. A significant allocation of funds has been awarded to the Ballina Coastal Country Music Festival which will be held 28-30 September. The inaugural festival last year was a resounding success for the shire and I am looking forward to catching some of the acts again this year.

Many of you will know I have announced I will not be seeking reelection at the Local Government elections in September. It will mark the end of 20 years in Local Government, a time I have thoroughly enjoyed.

A career in Local Government is extremely rewarding and I encourage community-minded people to consider putting their hands up to run for election to the Ballina Shire Council.



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2012 Ballina Shire Australia Day award winners:

- Col Lee - Citizen of the Year
- Jason Sines Jnr - Young Citizen of the Year
- Jacqueline Freney - Sports Person of the Year
- Our House - Community Event of the Year

Due to an outstanding number of applications received for Volunteer of the Year, Council awarded three recipients:

- Richard Lutze - Volunteer of the Year
- Dawn Sword - Volunteer of the Year
- Christopher Cook - Volunteer of the Year



Col Lee - Ballina Shire's Citizen of the Year

COUNCIL ELECTIONS

This is a big year for Local Government in NSW with elections to be held on 8 September. Ballina Shire residents will be voting in a new Council to represent them for the next four years.

If you have a passion for issues in the Ballina Shire, or a desire for community service, you could find a career as a Councillor very interesting and rewarding.

The Ballina Shire Council website has a lot of information for people considering running in the election. Go to the homepage, www.ballina.nsw.gov.au and click on '2012 Local Government Elections'.

For more information about the elections call Sandra Bailey on 6686 4444.



LOVE FOOD, HATE WASTE WITH COWGIRL CHEF AND PIERRE!



Love Food Hate Waste is the name of a new campaign aimed at reducing the amount of food we throw out. The North East Waste Forum has developed the program to show people how to avoid wasting food and save money at the same time.



The Love Food Hate Waste program features the characters Cowgirl Chef and French Chef Pierre. Cowgirl Chef entertains audiences with a whip cracking, egg beating, vegetable juggling cooking show while French Chef Pierre shares his love for food and good kitchen practices to tantalise the taste buds and awaken the senses.

Cowgirl Chef and French Chef Pierre will perform at Woolworths Ballina Fair Shopping Centre on 1-2 June.

Further information:
www.northeastwasteforum.org.au



2012/2013 FESTIVALS AND EVENTS SUPPORT PROGRAM

FUNDING ANNOUNCED



Ballina Shire Council is pleased to announce five events have been successfully funded in the 2012/13 Festivals and Events Support Program.

The Festivals and Events Support Program, now in its third year running, provides the opportunity

for Ballina Shire community events to access up to \$50,000 in funding. Council is now pleased to announce the following events have been successful for 2012/13;

- Ballina Coastal Country Music Festival Inc '**Ballina Coastal Country Music Festival**'
- Volunteer Marine Rescue NSW, Ballina Unit '**Ballina Boat and Leisure Show**'
- Apex Club of Alstonville '**New Years Eve Family Festival**'
- Rotary Club of Ballina on Richmond '**Ballina Fine Food & Wine Festival**'
- House with No Steps '**Summerland House Farm Country Fair**'

For further information please contact Holly Archibald, Council's Events & Grants Support Officer on 6686 4444 or by email at hollya@ballina.nsw.gov.au.



Join the Garage Sale Trail

Saturday 5 May 2012

It's time to clean out the garage and get rid of some clutter. Ballina Shire Council is encouraging the community to participate in the national Garage Sale Trail in 2012.

The Garage Sale Trail is about sustainability, community and creativity, a platform for anyone who wants to make some money or raise money for a cause.

Think pre-loved items, handmade goods, vintage, art and design, fashion, music, craft and everything in between.

Register your sale on the trail at www.garagesaletrail.com.au (it's free) or by calling 6686 1458. Your garage sale will be advertised both online and in our local papers.

Bargain hunters get ready! Get out there on Saturday 5 May and use your mobile to find Garage Sales near you at m.truelocal.com.au or look out for the list in the local papers in the week leading up to the event.





COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The beautiful Richmond River is one of the Ballina Shire's most popular natural assets. It has also played a major role shaping Ballina into the vibrant town it is today.

The protection and rehabilitation of the Richmond River has been recognised by State and Local Governments as an important issue. To ensure this is a priority for the region, the Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Richmond River (formerly known as the Estuary Management Plan) has been endorsed by the NSW Government as the plan for the collective future management of the Richmond River.

The plan identifies 13 strategy areas for action involving State Government, Local Government, stakeholder groups and the community, working together to improve the health of the river.

The plan identifies a number of strategies to be addressed over a 10-year period. The estimated cost of implementing these strategies is around \$16 million. It is anticipated the implementation of the plan will be funded by the NSW Government, local councils (including Ballina) and possibly the Federal Government.

CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY: 2012 - 2020



During 2010, Ballina Shire Council conducted a series of discussions with the community about climate change. In particular, we wanted to

know about the community's perceptions of, and concerns about, climate change. We also wanted to know what the community thought Council should be doing in response to the climate change predictions issued by the State and Federal Governments.

As a result of these discussions, a community forum provided 53 recommendations to Council. These were reviewed and evaluated and now form the basis of the Ballina Shire Council Climate Action Strategy 2012-2020. This can be viewed on Council's website by following the links under 'Environment/Climate Change'.

Council sincerely thanks the participants of the Climate Ballina Conversation Café and the Climate Ballina Citizens' Forum for their part in formulating Council's response to climate change.

COUNCIL'S ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN



Council undertakes a wide variety of actions in the local community, and many of these affect the environment. Over the past three years, Council has been working to identify ways to reduce our impact of Council's activities on the environment.

This process has resulted in the preparation of the Ballina Environmental Action (BEA) Plan.

Council staff and Councillors regularly have input into the ideas and projects within the plan, and we invite the community to do the same.

Check out the plan on Council's website, and if you would like to contribute, please email greenbea@ballina.nsw.gov.au



BALLINA SHIRE ENERGY EFFICIENT STREET LIGHTING RETROFIT NEAR COMPLETION

In late 2011 Ballina Shire Council entered into a new maintenance agreement with Essential Energy to retrofit many of the shire's street lights with new energy efficient fittings.

Of the 2,721 jobs issued by Essential Energy for the Ballina Shire, 2,487 have been completed. Once the project is finished the total energy consumption of the shire's street lights will decrease substantially, from 1,298 MWh per year (mega watt hours) to 725 MWh. Not only will this result in financial savings for Council, but our carbon footprint will be reduced by 607 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.



BALLINA COMMUNITY GARDENS

The Ballina Community Gardens continue to thrive and in a short time they have grown to be a wonderful community asset and have provided a great source of satisfaction, companionship and pride for those involved.

Visitors to the Ballina Community Gardens are welcome. The Ballina Garden Club recently wandered around the plots, taking in the seasonal plantings as well as the orchard which has been expanded to include a fig, pecans, macadamia, longan, feijoa, cherry guava, tamarillos and a kumquat.



New members are welcome.
For more information go to
www.ballinacommunitygardens.com

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL WINS GENDER EQUITY AWARD

The Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) recently recognised Ballina Shire Council with a Bronze award in its 50:50 Vision Councils for Gender Equity program.

The ALGWA congratulated Ballina Shire Council for working towards increasing the representation of women in senior management roles and as elected representatives.

PROPOSED INDOOR SPORTS AND EVENTS CENTRE

It is Council's vision to develop an indoor sports and events centre in Ballina. Last year architects were appointed to undertake the design of a facility which would be able to be used by sports groups and other community groups.

The preferred location for this development is the Kingsford Smith reserve. Council envisages a centre which will include a multi-court centre for sports, trade shows, concerts and performances. It will also include a catered function centre with moveable internal walls to allow for a fully flexible space that can be one large function room or individual rooms.

The architects have been gathering input from the community and sporting groups and will present their vision to Council in coming months.

SECURITY LIGHTING FOR PUBLIC RESERVES

Lighting at Saunders Oval and Bicentennial Park in Ballina and Elizabeth Ann Brown Park in Alstonville is to be upgraded as part of the Federal Government's Safer Suburbs program.

A \$90,000 grant will allow the Ballina Council to install solar/LED lights to provide extra lighting on areas of the fields and parks used as pedestrian thoroughfares.

These parks have been identified by the community and Council as areas where security is an issue. The provision of lighting will improve community safety.

The Solar/LED lights have no ongoing energy costs and require minimal maintenance.



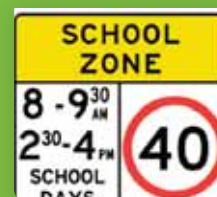
SCHOOL ZONE PARKING ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

NO APOLOGIES, NO EXCUSES

Illegal parking and stopping in school zones puts children at risk and endangers lives. Parking offences in school zones carry heavy fines and loss of demerit points.

All schools within the Ballina Shire are regularly monitored by Council Rangers. The Rangers are present in marked and unmarked Council vehicles and will take photographic evidence of illegal parking and stopping.

For more information on school zone parking and to obtain a copy of Council's updated brochure 'Safe parking in school zones' please visit Council's website www.ballina.nsw.gov.au.





INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF THE BALLINA SHIRE

Ballina Shire Council continues to make substantial investments in community facilities to cater for the diverse needs of residents and ratepayers.

Council recognises that council rates and charges are a financial burden on every household and it is important that we minimise these charges as much as possible, while at the same time ensuring that we provide the highest quality and diversity of services that we can afford.

To assist us in this process, since the early 1970s, Council has generated additional revenue from property and associated investments to assist us in meeting community expectations.

Over the years, dividends from our property investments have been used to fund tens of millions of dollars of community infrastructure. Council is conservative with its investments and they have created substantial long-term wealth and assets for the residents of the Ballina Shire.

Because of these investments, rates in the Ballina Shire are relatively low compared to neighbouring Local Government areas. We are currently generating \$1.6 million in rental income from commercial property, which equates to around 10 percent of our rate income. If we did not have this income we would then need to look at rate increases to be able to maintain our commitments to community projects.

Short term gains or long term security?

Council's property investments are structured to continue to provide income over many years. Council believes to sell these properties would provide a short-term windfall for ratepayers, but would not provide long-term income or security.

Community facilities funded from investments

- Redevelopment of the Ballina Surf Life Saving Club
- Land for Wollongbar sports fields
- Land for Skennars Head sports fields
- Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre
- Northern Rivers Community Gallery
- Kentwell Community Centre
- Construction of Angels Beach Drive
- Construction of the Lennox Head bypass
- Construction of the Prospect Bridge
- Initial seed funding for the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport
- River Street, Ballina upgrade
- Alstonville Main Street upgrade
- Wardell Town Centre beautification program

Future facilities to be funded from investments

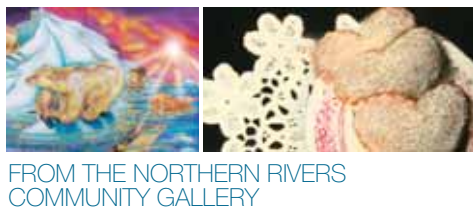
• WOLLONGBAR SPORTS FIELDS

Council is making a significant investment in sporting facilities at Wollongbar with plans approved for the development of an AFL field, two rugby grounds, a cricket oval, six tennis courts and four netball courts as well as lighting, car parking and amenities including clubhouse facilities.

• MORE FOOTBALL FIELDS FOR LENNOX HEAD

Fields at the home of the Lennox Head Football Club are to expand with Council purchasing additional land next to the current grounds on Skennars Head Road. Two full-size fields will be built on the northern side of the clubhouse.

Council is now pursuing funding strategies for both these projects, and importantly the land is now in community ownership for use by future generations.



FROM THE NORTHERN RIVERS
COMMUNITY GALLERY

Pictured: Works from Kim Michelle Toft 'Recipe for the Perfect Planet Pie' and Katka Adams 'Short & Sweet'

MAY

Table Manners a spectacular installation of handmade ceramic dinnerware by ceramic artists Suvira McDonald, Malcolm Greenwood & Sue Fraser; textile artist Kirsten Ingemar; Ikebana artist Di Morison and food stylist Monique Guterres-Harrison (Seaweed Cuisine). Curated by Suvira McDonald.

Short and Sweet exquisite pastel drawings depicting kitchenware and high tea treats by Katka Adams.

Produce-d watercolours of farmers market produce by Karena Wynn-Moylan

Table Manners Maker's Market

Sat 12 & Sun 13 May 10am-2pm. Demos at 11am & 1pm

Enjoy demonstrations of ceramic hand-building and wheel-throwing by artists Suvira McDonald and Malcolm Greenwood. Buy something special from their handmade dinnerware market - one weekend only.

JUNE

Kim Michelle Toft exhibition and launch of Kim Michelle Toft's latest book *Recipe for the Perfect Planet Pie* – a beautifully illustrated book for children about sustainability.

Fun for families

Come and enjoy Ballina Shire Council's celebration of World Environment Day!

There will be a range of workshops and activities – stay tuned for more details. Sunday 3 June, 10.30am – 12.30pm.

Silk painting workshops (for participants 16 years and over)

Join artist Kim Michelle Toft for a hands-on silk painting workshop. Sunday 10 June, 10am – 12noon. \$120pp (materials included)

Dangerously Poetic

Enjoy live music followed by poetry readings by members of 'Dangerously Poetic'. Their latest publication 'Wild Honey' will be available for purchase. Free. Saturday 16 June, 12.30pm – 2pm.



For bookings or enquiries contact the Gallery Coordinator during business hours on 6681 6167.

Subscribe to Gallery e-news at www.ballinanews.net/newsletters

COMPANION ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dog Attacks: Public Safety Concern

Rangers have noticed an increase in the number of dog attacks being reported to Council. Whilst most dogs are generally well behaved, sometimes their behavior is unpredictable. If a dog rushes at, attacks, bites, harasses or chases any person or animal, the owner of the dog, or the person in charge of the dog at the time, is guilty of an offence.

Council recently prosecuted an appeal by a person who was fined for a dog attack offence. The Magistrate ruled in favour of Council and fined the defendant \$3,000 for the offence, as well as ordering they pay the Court costs of \$81 and Council's legal fees of \$2,200.

In the interests of public safety, State legislation requires all dogs in public places to be on an adequate chain, cord or leash that is controlled by a competent person.

For more information on companion animals management visit Council's website www.ballina.nsw.gov.au.



Straying Stock

Stock owners are reminded to check their fencing is adequate to keep their animals from straying onto public land. Straying stock can cause serious accidents on roads and other public areas.

Rangers can issue penalty notices to people who fail to keep their animals confined and secured on private land.



PROJECT UPDATES



Road and bridge projects

One of the core roles of the Ballina Shire Council is to ensure we maintain our local road network. A number of maintenance projects have been undertaken since the start of 2012.

These include:

- **Boatharbour Road reconstruction at West Ballina**
- **Rifle Range Road at Alstonville**, between Maguires Creek and Pearces Creek Road
- **River Drive, South Ballina**
- **The Coast Road at Lennox Head.** While The Coast Road was reopened to traffic prior to Christmas after it was rebuilt following a landslip, there was not time to complete the entire project. It was closed again from late January to early April to allow the road to be upgraded through to the roundabout.

Road projects scheduled for the next quarter include:

- **Cherry Street, Ballina**, in front of Ballina High School.
- **Ross Lane, Lennox Head**, east of Newrybar Swamp Road
- **Rifle Range Road**, Alstonville near Wollongbar
- **Replacement of Gibson Creek Bridge on Eltham Road and Yellow Creek Bridge on Wardell Road**

Pedestrian facilities

Walking is a great way to stay fit and to make it safer for pedestrians. Refuge facilities will be built in Headlands Drive and Skennars Head Road at Skennars Head, and at The Avenue at Alstonville. Work on these projects is expected to start in April.

Car park upgrade at Emigrant Creek boat ramp

The carpark at the Emigrant Creek boat ramp is to be improved. This follows the recent upgrade of the boat ramp. This project is scheduled to start in April and it will be partially funded by the NSW Government's Better Boating program.

Alstonville Town Centre

The upgrade of the Alstonville Town Centre is just about complete. Essential Energy is preparing to connect underground power to the area which will see the overhead power lines removed. Council is also installing new LED road lighting.

Ballina Town Centre

Council has budgeted for \$3.3 million to continue the upgrade of the Ballina Town Centre. The next twelve months will see work focus on the Cherry Street/River Street roundabout and River Street to Martin Street.

Some of this work will be undertaken at night to minimise the impact on shoppers and businesses.

Wardell Village

Last year saw the installation of footpaths, street lighting, a jetty and a pontoon at Wardell as part of the upgrade of the village. In 2012 Council intends to finalise the design of a boat ramp and boardwalk along River Drive.



3-BIN WASTE SERVICE REDUCES LANDFILL

Residents with the urban 3-bin waste service continue to contribute to our shire's sustainability, with the amount of waste going into landfill being reduced by almost half in the last six months.

What goes in your organics bin?

- Fruit & vegetable scraps
- Meat, fish & bones
- Tea bags & coffee grounds
- Bread, cereal, pasta & grains

- Leftover food
- Grass clippings, sticks & twigs
- Weeds, leaves & flowers
- Paper towels & tissues

Tips

- Kitchen scraps can be wrapped in newspaper
- Place newspaper in the bottom of the bin to prevent lawn clippings sticking
- Store the bin in the shade



FREE HELP TO CUT POWER BILLS

It's no secret electricity is expensive.

The NSW Government is helping households save power and money on their electricity bills through its Home Power Savings program. So far 739 households in the Ballina Shire have taken part in the program which is free to eligible customers.

If you have a Centrelink Pensioner Concession or Low Income Health Care Card, a Department of Veterans Affairs Pensioner or Repatriation Health Card or are a social housing tenant or energy utility hardship customer, you are eligible for this free program.

Eligible customers will receive a FREE home power assessment by an energy expert, a Power Savings Kit and a personal Power Savings Action Plan. The Home Power Savings Program estimates you can save up to 20% on your energy bills. Check out the website at www.savepower.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 662 416 to check your eligibility and book an assessment.

If you aren't eligible for this program but are still keen to save money and reduce the amount of electricity you use, "Save Power" kits are available for loan from the Alstonville, Ballina and Lennox Head libraries. These kits contain equipment needed to undertake your own household power assessment.



CBD PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Please remember that parking restrictions apply in the Ballina, Alstonville and Lennox Head town centres.

Check the timed parking restrictions to ensure you are not issued with a penalty infringement notice.

WE MEAN BUSINESS



How can you get involved and make your business stand out from the crowd?

- 1 Visit www.wastewarriors.com.au
- 2 Register your business
- 3 Receive your FREE e-toolkit
- 4 Go in the draw to win great business promotion and prizes



Register to become a Waste Warrior today - it's FREE

UPCOMING EVENTS

OUR KIDS DAY OUT

29 April
Missingham Amphitheatre
Phone 6620 2705
www.ourkids.org.au

BALLINA AND DISTRICT ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW

25 - 27 May
Ballina RSL Club
Phone 6686 6303

ALSTONVILLE ROTARY ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES FAIR

19 - 20 May
Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre
Phone 0411 952 356
www.alstonville.rotary-site.org

WESTPAC LIFE SAVER RESCUE HELICOPTER BALLINA TO BYRON CHARITY WALK

20 May
Coastal Walk from Ballina to Byron Bay
Phone 6627 4444
www.ballinatobyronbaywalk.com.au

BALLINA LIONS FUN-RUN-WALK

10 June
Missingham Bridge Reserve
Phone 6683 4550 / 6686 0412

ALL GIRLS SURF SHOWDOWN

9 - 11 June
Ballina Shire Beaches
Phone: 0427875066
www.allgirlssurfshowdown.com

NAIDOC WEEK

1 - 8 July
Celebration walk & full program of activities
Phone 6686 1284
www.ballina.nsw.gov.au

RUSTY GROMFEST

6 - 11 July
Ballina Shire Beaches
Phone: 0427 875 066
www.rusty.com.au

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

1 June
Lennox headland community tree planting event
Pat Morton Lookout, Lennox Head
Phone: 6686 1412

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Schools - 27 July
Community - 29 July
Ballina Shire Council sponsors schools and landcare groups by providing trees and mulch
Phone: 0437 677 946

For more event info in the Ballina Shire visit www.discoverballina.com

Water talk

A community newsletter for the Ballina Shire Urban Water Management Strategy

Welcome to the first instalment of *Water Talk* for 2012.

Ballina Shire Council's Urban Water Management Strategy is currently focused on the Ballina-Lennox Head Recycled Water Master Plan (the Master Plan), which is a major component of the strategy. The Master Plan aims to have 80% of wastewater being reused by the year 2026.

Progress on the Ballina - Lennox Head Recycled Water Master Plan

A major component of the Master Plan is the construction of the recycled water treatment plants at both Ballina and Lennox Head. The construction works are now well underway and progressing quickly.



Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant - Inlet Works Curved Vortex Formwork

The Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant is being decommissioned and demolished. A new wastewater treatment plant will be built, along with a sludge dewatering facility to remove water from the remaining sludge before disposal. Construction work by contractor Haslin Constructions is

progressing on the new membrane bio-reactor, inlet works and aerobic digester.

At the Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plant a new plant is being built and added to the existing wastewater treatment plant to deliver high quality recycled water, along with a new UV system and a system for chemical dosing to reduce phosphorous in the ocean discharge.

Urban Dual Reticulation

Dual reticulation aims to reduce the demand on our fresh water resources by giving residents in new subdivisions and developments the ability to use two different types of water. Each property is supplied with two separately metered

water supplies, a recycled and a drinking water supply. The recycled water supply is distinguished by the use of lilac-coloured pipes and taps.

At present the water in the second water supply (lilac piping and taps) has drinking water piped to it. Recycled water is expected to be supplied through the system, to homes with dual water supplies in late 2012.

Instead of using drinking water for watering the garden, washing the car and flushing toilets, recycled water can be used. The recycled water will be high quality water treated to the standards set down by health authorities. The difference is where the water comes from.

Drinking water is sourced from our limited supply of creeks that feed dams. Recycled water is treated wastewater that would otherwise be discharged to our oceans and waterways and lost.

When recycled water delivery begins we all need to know how it can and cannot be used.



The lilac recycled water tap

Around the home recycled water can be used for:

- Watering your garden, grass and vegetable garden (vegetables should be washed before consumption)
- Flushing your toilet
- Washing your car
- Washing your pathway or house walls
- Filling backyard ponds

Recycled water cannot be used for:

- Drinking
- Cooking or use in the kitchen
- Bathing, showering, or personal washing
- Filling swimming pools or water play toys



'Crystal the Recycled Water Drop' will be helping to deliver messages about recycled water and the ways it can and cannot be used. Keep an eye out for her during 2012.



Lennox Head Public School goes m.a.d. about water

Ballina Shire Council and Rous Water have been working with students in years 5 and 6 from Lennox Head Public School in the Home Make a Difference (m.a.d.) water program.

Some 120 students did the home m.a.d check-up and decided how they can save water at their home by using things such as 4 star dishwashers or washing machines, rainwater tanks, water wise garden with mulch, hose nozzles & native plants.

All participating students received a small prize. The program runs until the end of term 2 when two \$500 major prizes will be drawn.

The Home m.a.d Water team activity is suitable for Stage 3 classes and aims to empower students to work with their families to "make a difference" (m.a.d) for wise water use at home.

For more information or to enquire about your class participating contact Rous Water Community Education Officer, Barbara Jensen, Ph 6623 3827 or email barbara.jensen@rouswater.nsw.gov.au



Lennox Head Public School Year 5 and 6 did the Home m.a.d water check up in Term 1



NEWS FROM THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

LOCALS REWARDS CAMPAIGN

Did you receive your Locals Rewards loyalty card in the last edition of Council's Community Connect? Many locals are currently enjoying great specials and discounts from more than 130 local businesses around the shire as part of the Locals Rewards campaign.

Locals Rewards is a joint community campaign coordinated by Ballina Shire Council, Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Ballina Tourism and Hospitality. It offers residents and visitors fantastic deals, offers and discounts for shopping locally.

If you're a local business who has not registered a special offer for Locals Rewards we highly recommend you join the free program to leverage your exposure in this exciting campaign. To lodge your Locals Rewards offer, download the Ballina Bypass Marketing Campaign Business Participation form from Council's website.

Residents who missed out on a Locals Rewards loyalty card can get one from the Ballina Visitor Information Centre in River Street. Log on to www.discoverballina.com to view special offers.

INFORMATION BOARDS FOR BALLINA SHIRE

Council is pleased to advise that five Local Information Boards will soon be installed around the Ballina Shire. These boards will feature a town map (relevant to the location of the board), a regional map, visitor information centre contact details and a website link to Council's Community Services Directory. The information boards will be in the following prominent locations:

- Tamar Street Bus Stop, Ballina
- Bicentennial Park, Ballina
- Ballina Visitor Information Centre, Ballina
- Ross Park, Lennox Head
- Freeborn Park, Alstonville



BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITY FACILITIES

communityfacilities@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Kentwell Community Centre

(formerly Ballina Community Services Centre)

Corner of Moon Street and Bangalow Road
Ballina NSW 2478. Phone: 02 6681 5549

- Broadband for Seniors (free computer training)
- The Silversmiths (singing group)
- Deportment and Grooming
- Diamond Focus (business networking)
- Lifestyle Modification Program
- SOL North Coast Nutrition
- Sing Australia
- Ballina Camera Club
- Breast Cancer Support Group
- Neways International
- Interrelate Family Centres
- Tarmons House Mental Health Outreach Service and more!



Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre

Corner of Park Lane and Mackney Lane
Lennox Head NSW 2478. Phone: 02 6687 6291

- FNC Futsal
- Netball
- Zumba
- Yoga
- Wheelchair Sports
- Lennox Head Playgroup
- Early Childhood Nurse
- Tippy Toes Playgroup (for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders ASD)
- Ecstatic Studio Art
- Lifeball (seniors exercise group)
- Lennox Head Residents Association
- Library Services and more!



Available for meetings, functions, parties and community events.

The Richmond Room

Regatta Ave Ballina NSW 2478. Phone: 02 6687 6291

Available for meetings, functions, parties and community events.



CONTACTING YOUR COUNCILLORS

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