

community connect

the newsletter of ballina shire council

clean out the clutter on second hand saturday



responsible pet ownership



council projects planned for 2011/12



less landfill with 3-bin system



workshops & exhibitions at gallery



Troy Cassar-Daley in Town for Ballina Coastal Country Music Festival

You won't need to book a holiday this October long weekend because all the entertainment will be in Ballina. Country music legend Troy Cassar-Daley will be in town for the Ballina Coastal Country Music Festival. He is the headline act and will perform at the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre.

The inaugural Ballina Coastal Country Music Festival will kick off the long weekend festivities with plenty of live country music, buskers, street performers and children's activities in River Street and Fawcett Park.

The festival will run for three days, and will feature great music and loads of prizes and giveaways.

COME TO BALLINA FOR THE ANNUAL BOAT AND LEISURE SHOW

The Ballina Volunteer Marine Rescue is hosting the annual Boat & Leisure Show on the October long weekend. It will showcase what's new in leisure craft, trailers, fishing, bait & tackle, survival and navigation aids.

The Boat and Leisure Show will be held at the Ballina Seagulls Rugby League ground and will feature exhibitors, demonstrations and information sessions. The boat show is on Saturday 1 - Sunday 2 October and gates open at 9.00am.



PADDLE AROUND BALLINA ISLAND

For the more adventurous types, the Ballina Surf Life Saving Club will host a 10km all craft challenge around Ballina Island. There will be some great local and interstate competitors as well as fantastic prizes. The race is a major fund-raiser for the Ballina Surf Life Saving Club and Ballina Jet Boat Services. The event kicks off 9.00am Sunday 2 October at Missingham Amphitheatre.

For contact details and event information refer to page 6 of this newsletter or visit www.discoverballina.com

These events have been supported through Council's Festivals and Events Program. To apply for future support phone Holly Archibald on 6686 1457.



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; Ballina Community Services Centre; Wardell 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.

Welcome to another edition of Community Connect. The October long weekend promises to be one of the best weekends of the year with loads of entertainment on offer. The Coastal Country Music Festival, The Ballina Boat and Leisure Show and the Ballina Island Paddle have been supported through Council's Festivals and Events Program. Country music legend, Troy Cassar-Daley, is the headline act and I am sure he will put on a great show.

The Ballina Shire continues to thrive

and I am extremely proud to be the Mayor of such a prosperous and vibrant area in NSW. There is currently a lot of activity in the industrial estate near the airport with Harvey Norman, Spotlight, Pillow Talk, Forty Winks and Pet Stock now open for business.

The new draft Local Environmental Plan (LEP) will soon be re-exhibited for public comment after a number of changes were made to the original document. The LEP is important because it sets out what areas of Ballina Shire will be available for development, agriculture and environmental protection in the future.

I would also like to encourage people to support the Relay for Life which will be held at the end of October. The event is organised for the Cancer Council and raises much needed funds for support and research. Cancer has touched many people in our shire and this event celebrates life, family, friendship and community.

Also contained in this edition is information about a survey on Council-operated swimming pools. If you are a regular or even an occasional pool user please take the time to complete this online survey.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. If you need any information about a story don't hesitate to contact Council on 6686 4444.



Draft Ballina Local Environmental Plan RE-EXHIBITION

Council has been preparing a new local environmental plan (LEP) for the Ballina Shire over the last few years. The LEP is significant as it establishes the local planning framework for land use and development. It addresses a variety of issues including land zoning, building form, subdivision and environmental management.

Council undertook the public exhibition of its draft LEP between March and June 2010 and in response to public feedback, some adjustments to the draft LEP were made.

Council also decided to provide further opportunity for public comment on the revised draft LEP prior to its finalisation.

We are planning to exhibit the revised draft LEP in September. For more information, or to receive notification of LEP related activities, please phone Ms Lee Hillyard from Council's Strategic and Community Services Group on 6686 1284. Information is also available at Council's LEP project website www.newlep.ballina.nsw.gov.au





Ballina Community Garden

Spring is here and seedlings are already sprouting at the new community garden in Ballina.

The community garden, which is the first in the Ballina Shire, is on a site on the corner of Swift and Clarence Streets.

The project has received \$40,370 in financial support from the Northern Rivers Foodlinks Project. This money has been used for a site fence, garden bed materials, a clubhouse, plants and other materials.

To find out more go to the garden's website at www.ballinacommunitygardens.com which includes a schedule of garden activities.



4WD Beach Access Permits

With the warmer weather approaching, beach-goers are reminded 4WD beach access permits are required for Seven Mile Beach at Lennox Head. Permits are colour coded and current for the financial year.

Annual Permit	\$55.00
Six Monthly Permit	\$33.00
Thirty Day Permit	\$22.00

Permits can be purchased at the following locations:

- Ballina Shire Council, cnr Tamar & Cherry Streets, Ballina
- Ballina Visitor Information Centre, River Street, Ballina
- Lennox Head Caltex Service Station, Byron Street, Lennox Head.

The 4WD Permit Application Form can also be downloaded from Council's website.

Rangers are patrolling the area and checking that 4WD permits are valid.



BUSKERS/ STREET PERFORMERS

Strolling down the street or through a market and stopping to watch the talents of a musician or entertainer is a great way to pass a few minutes and escape from the hustle and bustle.

Buskers and entertainers bring colour, life and vibrancy to town centres and the Ballina Shire Council is encouraging performers to make regular appearances in towns and villages in the shire.

The Council has a commitment to ensure public safety is not compromised and we therefore require all buskers to apply for a licence to perform in public areas. We have tried to keep fees reasonable with three-month and 12 month licences available for \$20 and \$60 respectively.

Applications may be made at the Customer Service Centre in Cherry Street.

Enquiries: Regulatory Services,
Ph 6686 4444.



SWIMMING POOL SURVEY - LAST DAYS TO COMPLETE

The shire's swimming pools are now open for the 2011/12 season. The pools at Alstonville and Ballina opened approximately 36 years ago and have served the community well. It is inevitable however that the swimming pools undergo improvement to meet the community's needs.

A discussion paper has been developed to highlight current maintenance issues, and includes options for remediation and redevelopment. The desired outcome of discussion surrounding this document is to set a direction for the future of swimming pool facilities managed by Council.

For Council to understand the needs of the community, we are asking residents to complete an online survey by visiting www.ballina.nsw.gov.au



Please take a couple of minutes to tell us what sort of facilities you would like to see in the future.

Council has also written to high frequency user groups such as schools and swimming clubs to gauge their requirements.

Surveys close 14 October 2011.



ARTS NEWS



FROM THE NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

You are invited to the Northern Rivers Community Gallery to see the following exhibitions:

Beautiful Nature: Heartfelt House Art Prize

Wed 7 Sept to Sun 2 Nov 2011

Pallingjang Saltwater Prints Exhibition

Wed 5 Oct to Sun 30 Oct 2011

A touring exhibition from Wollongong City Gallery. From 12 Oct also see prints by local Aboriginal artists created with artist Anne Leon.

Four new exhibitions by: Enid Taylor, Patsy Walsh, Loui Fraser and Fox Street Preschool

Wednesday 2 November - Sunday 27 November 2011

Artist talk by Enid Taylor

Sat 5 Nov

1.30pm. Free entry and all welcome.

44 Cherry Street, Ballina. Gallery Hours Wed to Fri 10.00am to 4.00pm and weekends 9.30am to 2.30pm (closed public holidays). Ph: 6681 6167

Pictured: Artworks from Wollongong City Gallery Touring Exhibition

School Holiday Workshops for Kids

To celebrate the Pallingjang Saltwater Prints exhibition kids can enjoy one of the fun hands-on printmaking workshops with artist Julie Barratt. Exploring and experimenting with monoprinting, lino printing and stencilling, kids will also create their own diamond fold book to display their unique prints.

Four separate workshops for children aged 6 - 12 years

\$15 per child

Fri 7 Oct

10.00am - 11.30am or 12.30pm - 2.00pm

Sat 8 Oct

10.00am - 11.30am or 12.30pm - 2.00pm

To book phone the Gallery Coordinator on 6681 6167 (weekdays).



ASBESTOS MANAGE WITH CAUTION

The dangers of asbestos have been well documented in recent years with microscopic asbestos fibres capable of causing asbestosis or lung cancer.

Many buildings erected between the 1940s and 1980s contain asbestos (fibro-cement). It was commonly used as a lining in bathrooms, wet areas and under eaves and as insulation. It was a particularly popular building material in coastal areas because of its resistance to salt air.

Many houses, although they may not appear to, still contain asbestos and this is not dangerous if the building is in good condition and the asbestos is not disturbed. Health risks arise when asbestos is handled or broken, particularly when buildings are renovated or demolished.

Because of the public health risk associated with asbestos the NSW Government has strict laws associated with the disturbance, removal, transportation and disposal of the material.

If more than 10 square metres needs to be removed use a licenced asbestos remover.

Never pressure clean asbestos.

Minimise risk by using products available on the market that can be painted direct to the surface without having to prepare first.

Asbestos can only be disposed of at a waste facility licenced to receive it. Ballina Shire's waste facility is not currently licenced. The nearest licenced facility is at Lismore where it must be delivered triple-wrapped.

There is a lot of information about the handling, removal and disposal of asbestos on Council's website.

If you have an enquiry or concern about the management of asbestos phone Council's Regulatory Services Group 6686 1210.



SECOND HAND SATURDAY SAT 15 OCTOBER

Second Hand Saturday, the biggest garage sale day on the North Coast - is on again from 8.00am, Saturday 15 October 2011. Second Hand Saturday is a community event involving FREE coordination and promotion of garage sales across the region.

You can participate in 2 ways:

1. Registering for FREE online at www.northeastwasteforum.org.au or phone 6686 1458 (registrations close 5 October) to receive free promotion material and a listing of your address in local papers and on the NEWF website. Then all you have to do is hold your garage sale!
2. Join in the treasure hunt on Saturday 15 October, and find the garage sales near you and grab some bargains! You can find out where all the garage sales are to be held on the NEWF website: www.northeastwasteforum.org.au or in local papers.

Please note: Garage sale signs may only be erected on private property. All signs erected on public land; including telegraph poles, street signage, roundabouts and trees may be removed and fines issued by Council's Rangers.



UPCOMING EVENTS

BALLINA COASTAL COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

1 - 3 October 2011

A country carnivals-style festival providing entertainment and activities for all ages.
Phone Carol Stacey 0408 663 325.
www.ballinacountrymusic.com

BALLINA BOAT & LEISURE SHOW

1 - 2 October 2011

Check out what's new in boats, skis, kayaks, fishing gear and loads more.
Phone Duncan Woodhead 0409 281 316.
www.vmrballina.com

BALLINA ISLAND PADDLE CHALLENGE

2 October 2011

A 10-kilometre all craft challenge around Ballina Island.
Phone Andrew Doherty 0418 640 372.
www.ballinasurfclub.com

ROTARY DUCK RACE

2 October 2011

Make sure you buy yourself a duck and get along to watch the race at Fawcett Park. All proceeds to charity.
Phone Gary Faulks 6686 2620.

BALLINA FAIR GO SKATE COMPETITION

8 October 2011

An extreme skate boarding competition for competitors of all ages.
Phone Holly Archibald 6686 1457.
www.fairgoskate.com.au

SECOND HAND SATURDAY

15 October 2011

The biggest garage sale day on the North Coast. Free to register.
Phone Kate Heyward 6686 1458.
www.northeastwasteforum.org.au

BALLINA SHIRE RELAY FOR LIFE

29 - 30 October 2011

An overnight community event held in Kingsford Smith Park where teams participate in a relay-style walk or run to raise funds for the Cancer Council. The event brings the community together for a night of fun, entertainment, celebration and remembrance.
Phone Kim Vincent 0401 340 496
www.relayforlife.com.au

For more information on events in the Ballina Shire visit www.discoverballina.com

Kerbside Collection

Why does Ballina Shire not have a bulky collection service?

Some sections of the community are critical of the Council for not providing a bulky kerbside collection service. Council has, in fact, investigated this issue thoroughly and has contacted other local governments that provide a service for their ratepayers. After weighing up the options Council decided against a bulky kerbside collection service for a number of reasons. These reasons include:

- A Council service targeted to the whole community is more expensive when compared to the total cost of individuals managing their own needs – in other council areas the service costs \$15-\$20 per household.
- Kerbside collection is inconsistent with Council's programs which encourage the reduction, reuse or recycling of unwanted goods and waste and also the "polluter pays" principles, as endorsed by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.
- Evidence from other councils is that participation rates are relatively low and decline after the initial service.
- Poorly presented waste can escape into the environment.
- There are often ongoing management issues with residents continuing to place waste in the street after the collection day and throughout the year.
- The presentation of hazardous materials creates safety risks and issues for the wider community and waste collection staff.
- The private sector is able to provide services on demand to those who require specific assistance.

What to do with your larger unwanted items?

There are a number of options for managing your bulky household waste items:

- Save your unwanted items for Council endorsed programs such as the Garage Sale Trail or Second Hand Saturday.
- Sell or give away your items for free online – search "sell items free" or "give away items free".
- Take unwanted (quality and unbroken) goods/clothing to local charity shops.
- Use the Recycling Near You website www.recyclingnearyou.com.au to find local drop-off options for items including computers, batteries, printer cartridges and other recyclable items.





More on Waste

Many urban residents will have noticed their waste service charge has increased by \$13.50 per quarter in the 2011/12 year. Whilst Council would prefer not to raise fees, a portion of the additional revenue has been used to implement the 3-bin waste service.

Ballina Shire urban residents have three bins for organic waste, recyclables and mixed waste.

Why is there a 3-bin service?

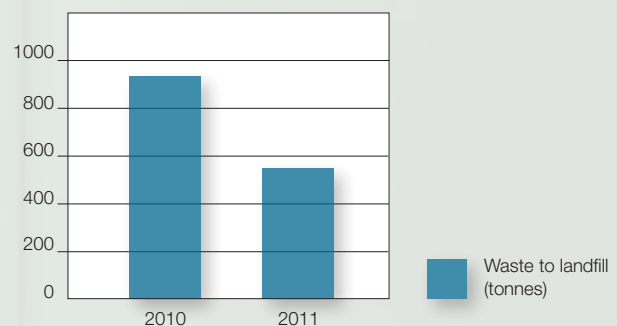
- Our landfill is filling up and will be at capacity in five to seven years if we continue sending waste to landfill at our current rate. We can potentially double the remaining life of our landfill by using a 3-bin system. In addition to this, a residential organics service must be in place prior to the State Government approving landfill development or extension.
- The 3-bin system creates the potential to recycle up to 50% more of our waste that was previously going to landfill. The garden and organic waste is converted to usable compost.
- Up to 70 tonnes of material is potentially prevented from going to landfill every week. Organic material decomposing in landfill produces the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide and methane.
- It is more cost effective to implement the service and remove garden and organic waste before it gets to landfill than to pass on the ever-increasing State Government taxes to ratepayers. By reducing the amount of waste going to landfill means, we pay less in State Government taxes.

Initial results on the urban 3-bin waste service

The urban 3-bin service is off to a great start with results from the first month showing:

- 378 tonnes of organic waste being transferred to Lismore for processing to compost in July 2011.
- 41% less waste was deposited in the Ballina Shire landfill (when compared to the monthly figures from July last year).
- A relatively low contamination rate at under 1% with plastic bags considered the biggest contaminant.

Comparison of Waste to Landfill July 2010 and July 2011



These figures are considered very positive for the start of a new organics service and Ballina Shire residents are congratulated on their enthusiasm to reduce waste to landfill and recycled organic waste.



Ballina Shire Council Achievements 2010/11



Ballina Byron Gateway Airport

- Reintroduction of Jetstar jet services to Melbourne.
- Trial introduction of daily morning jet services to Sydney.
- Improvements to passenger screening point, departure lounge, inbound baggage conveyor, airport café and dining areas.
- Installation of airport advertising in passenger terminal.
- Purchased additional land for improved Airport operations.
- Preparation of design and development guidelines for the Airport – Aviation Development.



Ballina Coast and Hinterland Promotion

- Serviced more than 55,000 visitors to the Ballina Visitor Information Centre.
- Produced a new visitor guide with 70,000 copies available for distribution.



Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Life Saving Club

- Approved the development application for the proposed \$5.8 million surf clubhouse.

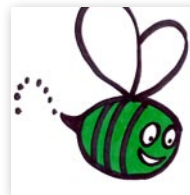


CBD Beautification

- Facilitated and participated in the "Spring Clean" program for Ballina in conjunction with the Ballina Chamber of Commerce & Industry.
- Wigmore Arcade refurbishment - relaying of arcade flooring.
- Continued upgrades of the Alstonville and Wardell Main Streets.

Cemetery Management

- Installed new niche walls at the Alstonville Cemetery and adopted a Cemetery Management Policy.



Climate Action

- Community engaged through Citizen's Forum and World Café for the development of the Climate Action Plan.
- Launch of Council's Environmental Action Plan, with Ballina Environmental Action (BEA) news and Green BEA mascot.

Coastguard Tower

- Project management of proposed Search and Rescue Coordination Centre - Coastguard Tower.



Commercial and Industrial Development

- Construction and leasing of the ARC Building at Southern Cross Industrial Estate.
- Completion of the Harvey Norman Site and Boeing Avenue extension.
- Release of seven industrial blocks at Cessna Crescent, Southern Cross Industrial Estate.



Community Garden

- Facilitated formation of Ballina Community Gardens Inc committee to plan and establish Ballina Shire's first community garden on Saunders Oval, Ballina.



Energy Savings

- Installed solar panels on Alstonville Leisure & Entertainment Centre, Ballina Library, Ballina Community Services Centre, Waste Management Centre, 71 Tamar Street and Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre.

* Some images courtesy of The Northern Star newspaper.



Inaugural Festivals & Events Support Program

- Introduced **Festivals and Events Support Program** of \$50,000 and funded six community events in the inaugural year.

Lake Ainsworth

- Completed construction of the **Lake Ainsworth Car Park** at Lennox Head.



Lennox Head Community Centre

- Completed construction of the **Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre** and **Lennox Head Skate Park**.

NSW Training Awards

- Council received an external nomination for **Employer of the Year** for the 2011 NSW Training Awards.



Road and Transport Infrastructure

- Completion of 0.8km of **upgrading North Teven Road**.
- Completed **replacement of Teven Bridges**.
- Construction of **North Creek Road** and **Southern Cross Drive Roundabout**.
- **Alstonville Village Streetscape** (south side), including upgrade of paths and stormwater. Installation of public art in Freeborn Park. This was created in collaboration with TAFE and local school children.
- **Wardell Village Upgrade** shared path, improved parking, street lighting upgrades, pontoon installation.
- **Upgrade of Park and Mackney Lanes**, including drainage, footpath, lighting and parking improvements as part of the Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre development.
- **Intersection works** at Links/Sneaths Roads (Wollongbar), and Rifle Range/Pearces Creek Roads.
- **Installation of traffic lights** at Kerr and Fox Street intersection.
- **Bus shelters** for Wardell, primarily in locations frequented by school children.
- Wigmore **bus shelter refurbishment**.



Sewer Management

- Completed major project to **optimise the Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plant**.
- Gained **Environmental Planning Approval** for Major Works including the upgrade of the Ballina and Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plants and the Recycled Water Distribution System.
- Completed procurement process and **awarded contract** for these major works.



Sporting Fields and Recreational Facilities

- Managed the installation of the **Ballina Hockey Club's Synthetic Turf** project.
- Acquisition of **land for sporting fields** at Skennars Head and Wollongbar.
- Installation of **sports field lighting** at Quays Reserve and Saunders Oval.
- Installation of **toilet and canteen amenities** at Quays Reserve.
- Extended the **shared path and cycleway** at West Ballina.
- Confirmed route options for **Coastal Cycleway** and **Coastal Walk**.
- Construction of **cricket nets** at Skennars Head Sports fields.



Waste Management

- Finalisation of **Strategic Waste Plan** looking at the short and long term goals for the collection, processing and disposal of waste, including the diversion of waste from landfill through value adding processes.
- To **encourage home composting** Council dramatically reduced the costs of composting bins and worm farms for residents.
- Completed further investigations into the feasibility of a **Pyrolysis Plant**.
- Held first shire wide **Garage Sale Trail**

Youth Council

- Commenced **Ballina Shire Youth Council**.

** Some images courtesy of The Northern Star newspaper.*



Ballina Shire Council Projects Planned for 2011/12

A built environment contributing to health and wellbeing	A diverse and prosperous economy	A healthy natural environment	Diverse and balanced use of our land	People attaining health and wellbeing
Prepare drainage review for North Ballina	Continue rezoning investigations for Southern Cross Precinct Master Plan	Finalise Coastline Management and Floodplain Risk Management Plans	Review Ballina Shire Combined Development Control Plan	Develop signposting for interpretive walking trails
Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction	Prepare Master Plan for Clarke Street Area (Industrial Area)	Complete update of Council's Urban Water Management Strategy	Finalise renewal of Ballina LEP	Continue with sporting field acquisition, development and financing program
Ballina Surf Club Construction	Finalise next land release at Russelton Industrial Estate	Complete sewer systems model to improve planning and operations of sewer infrastructure	Prepare Local Growth Management Strategy	Develop a crime prevention initiatives program
Ballina Heights Water Reservoir	River Street Beautification	Progress investigation of Pyrolysis (decomposition of organic matter) Project	Promote initiatives within Richmond River Estuary Management Plan with dredging to be pursued	Complete review of Local Disaster Plan



Resilient and adaptable communities	Responsible and efficient use of resources	Transparent and accountable governance
Implement Council's Festivals and Events Support Program	Finalise review of all Council policies	Implement compliance work program
Finalise Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation Strategy	Update customer request system	Implement Risk Management Strategy
Complete Aboriginal Heritage Study	Reconfigure airport terminal	Comply with NSW Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009
Implement regional visitor services strategy	Finalise open space asset management plan	Implement internal Audit Reports and Committee recommendations to improve efficiency and risk areas



GREEN LIGHTS FOR ALSTONVILLE

Six new street lights to be installed in Alstonville as part of the CBD upgrade will be fitted with new LED lighting technology.

This is the first time these 100-watt LED lights have been used for street lighting on the north coast.

The new lights contain no mercury and last about 13 years longer and use approximately 60-70% less energy than the 400-watt metal halide lamps currently used for lighting up our streets.

If you have any ideas on how Council can save energy, waste or water across any of our operations we'd love to hear from you. You can send ideas and suggestions to greenbea@ballina.nsw.gov.au.

community connect



CAPITAL PROJECTS



FOR 2011/12

The Ballina Shire Council has budgeted for a significant number of capital projects in 2011/12. They include:

Community Infrastructure

- Commencement of the new Ballina Surf Life Saving Club
- Crane Street - World War One Tree Memorial Avenue
- Completion of the next phase of the River Street Ballina beautification works
- Finalisation of improvements to the Alstonville and Wardell village centres
- Construction of public toilets at Pat Morton Lookout
- Further works on the Coastal Shared Path and Coastal Walk between Lennox Head and Ballina.

Playgrounds

- Chickiba Sports Fields - new play equipment
- Commemoration Park - new shade structure
- Kellie Ann Crescent - new play equipment
- Campbell Park - replacement of existing soft fall surface.

Sporting Fields

- Kingsford Smith - lighting upgrade
- Skennars Head - lighting upgrade
- Saunders Oval - expansion.

Water, Waste and Sewer

- Ballina and Lennox Head Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrades have commenced, with a total estimated cost of \$45 million.

Road Works Planned to 31 December

- Rifle Range Rd - upgrade east of Pearces Creek Rd
- Emigrant Creek - boat ramp upgrade at West Ballina
- Shared path & cycleway installation - West Ballina
- Tintenbar Road/Friday Hut Road intersection improvements
- Completion of the new Wollongbar Link Road
- Midgen Flat Rd - Shire boundary to 600m west
- Fenwick Drive - Pop Denison Park to Lakeside Caravan Park entrance
- Upgrade of parking facilities - Ballina Sailing Club (Kingsford Smith Drive)
- Landslip restoration - Coast Road Lennox Head
- Rifle Range Road - Howards Bridge west to end of new works.

Footpath Construction Planned to 31 December

- Green St, Alstonville - Old Bruxner Hwy to South St (western side)
- Rifle Range Rd & Simpson Ave, Wollongbar (approx start date early Sept) - Old Bruxner Hwy to Hill Park

STRAYING STOCK

Stock owners are asked to ensure their fencing is adequate to keep stock from straying onto public land.

There is potential for a serious accident if stock stray onto public roads and other areas. Rangers have the authority to issue penalty notices to owners who fail to keep their animals confined.

Illegal Parking

Did you know that parking on the footpath is illegal in most circumstances? You can be fined for illegal parking even if there is not a built concrete walkway or even if the footpath is on a dead end street.



RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP

Pets are much loved family members and it is very upsetting when a pet goes missing or gets lost.

There are a number of simple measures that will help make it easier to reunite an owner with their pet if it ever goes missing.

Registering your pets

The NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 requires all dogs and cats in NSW to be microchipped by the age of 12 weeks and registered for life by six months of age.

Collars and tags for pets

All dogs and cats must wear a collar and have a tag that shows the name of the animal and address or telephone number of the owner of the animal.

While these requirements only apply whilst the animal is not on the property where the owner is the occupier, it is a good idea to make sure pets can always be easily identified.

Other dog matters

PICK UP WHAT YOUR DOG DROPS

Are you the type of dog owner who carries a plastic bag and picks up their dog's poo?

Or are you the owner who turns the other way when their dog defecates...pretending not to notice...perhaps kicking sand over the mess so some unsuspecting beach-goer will end up with it oozing between their toes?

There are a lot of people who do not clean up after their dogs and this is a constant source of irritation for other members of the community.

Aside from being unsightly, there are health and environmental reasons for picking up your dog's droppings.

It helps to decrease the amount of nutrients entering waterways and reduces the risk of diseases being spread from direct or indirect human contact with faeces.

All dog owners are required by law to clean up after their pets if they defecate in a public place. Failure to do so could mean a fine of \$275.

ROAMING DOGS

Council's Rangers have noticed an increase in the number of roaming/straying dogs in the last several months. These are animals in a public place that aren't on a leash or lead and under the control of a competent person.

If the Ranger sees an animal in public, unleashed and not controlled, a fine of \$220 may be issued.

There are several off-leash dog areas in the Ballina Shire. For more information visit www.ballina.nsw.gov.au.

BARKING DOGS

Barking dogs is a common complaint made to Council. These matters are often very difficult to resolve because:

- Different people have different views about what is a noise nuisance. This varies from the location of the dog in relation to the person making the complaint; the noise tolerance level of the complainant; the type of barking and the time/length of the barking.
- Gathering evidence and completing a "barking dog" diary is time consuming and difficult.
- Council Rangers need to investigate complaints to determine whether the barking is causing a problem.
- Council Rangers require the person making the complaint to be a witness in Court and provide evidence if the matter is to proceed.
- The owners are often unaware their dog is barking excessively.

Council encourages people to discuss their concerns regarding nuisance barking with the owner of the dog before lodging a complaint with Council. The dog owner may not be aware their dog is barking particularly if it is only when they are out.

In most cases owners want to do the right thing and will cooperate.

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



Water talk

A community newsletter for the Ballina Shire Urban Water Management Strategy

Welcome to the second installment of 'Water Talk' for 2011.

The Ballina Shire Council's Urban Water Management Strategy (UWMS) is currently focused on the Ballina-Lennox Head Recycled Water Master Plan, which is a major component of the strategy.

This Master Plan aims to achieve a wastewater reuse target of 80% by the year 2026. Construction of the recycled water treatment plants has now begun with completion planned for late 2012.

Progress on the Ballina – Lennox Head Recycled Water Master Plan

• **Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The interim Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade is now complete with the new inlet works operational. A new control building with laboratory, storage facilities and an educational area for visiting groups and schools has also been completed.

• **Ballina and Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plants Ultimate Upgrades**

Construction activities have now commenced on upgrades to the wastewater treatment plants that will

allow the reuse of up to 80% of Ballina and Lennox Head's wastewater. These facilities will allow high quality recycled water to be re-used:

- on urban open space areas such as parks and playing fields;
- in homes with dual reticulation; and
- in vegetation regeneration projects.

The Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant will be 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.

At the Lennox Head Wastewater Treatment Plant a new plant will be 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.

Are we talking about recycling water for drinking?

No, the recycled water is only for use on urban open spaces, through dual reticulation and vegetation regeneration projects.

Water terms explained

Recycled Wastewater - Recycled wastewater is wastewater that has undergone a rigorous series of advanced treatment processes to remove organic matter, nutrients and micro-organisms to deliver water that is cleaner, clearer, odourless and disinfected.

Dual reticulation - Two separate pipe networks: one supplies drinking (potable) water and the other supplies recycled water.

Recycled Water Treatment Plant (RWTP) - A facility that processes treated water from the wastewater treatment plant to a higher quality for use within the community, in particular for residential re-use for gardens, toilet flushing and car washing.

Wastewater - Wastewater is generated from commercial, industrial and residential properties including waste from the toilet, kitchen, bathroom and laundry.

Sewerage - The system of pipes and pump stations and treatment plants used to transport and treat wastewater.



Residential Rebates for Water Savers

Rous Water offers a range of rebates and incentives for town water customers in the Rous region to help you and your family use less water in and around your home.

- 1) **Rainwater tanks** – up to \$1500
- 2) **3 star showerheads** – up to \$50 per showerhead (maximum 2 per water account)
- 3) **Dual flush toilets** – up to \$50 per toilet (maximum 2 per water account)
- 4) **Water saving products** – up to \$50 - \$150

There are also rebates and programs available for community groups and businesses undertaking water saving measures.

Go to www.rouswater.nsw.gov.au or phone Rous Water on (02) 6621 8055.



BALLINA COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE

Broadband for Seniors at the BCSC

Seniors in the Ballina Shire

are now able to tap into the technological age with a new "Broadband for Seniors" kiosk open at the Ballina Community Services Centre.



The Broadband for Seniors program is part of the wider Australian Government initiative "Making Ends Meet – Plan for Older Australians, People with Disabilities and Carers".

Broadband for Seniors provides free supported access to broadband internet equipped computers and free computer training for those who need it. Absolute beginners are most welcome!

We are also looking for trainers to help local seniors learn basic computer skills on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer trainer, please phone the Ballina Community Services Centre on 6681 5549.



LENNOX HEAD CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

If you are involved in a community or sporting group in the shire, or need a venue for a function or event, don't forget the amazing new Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre is now open for business.

Staff are keen to assist any person, group or business that would like to use the centre for meetings, activities, events or sporting activities.

The centre has also recently increased its hours to include Saturday and Sunday mornings to accommodate the growing use of the fantastic indoor sports court for casual hire.

For information and bookings on all our centres email: communityfacilities@ballina.nsw.gov.au or phone our friendly staff on 6687 6291

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...and stay connected with *your* council

Community Connect eNews

is Ballina Shire Council's new

electronic newsletter designed to keep people abreast of issues of interest and importance. It's free and is distributed via email on a regular basis.

You can even select which topics interest you most:

- Documents on Public Exhibition
- Jobs@Council
- Meeting updates and items of interest

visit www.ballina.nsw.gov.au and follow the links to subscribe or call 6686 4444 for further information

