

MINUTES FROM THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL CULTURAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BALRANALD ON MONDAY JULY 13th 2015 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM.

PRESENT: Doreen Greenham (Chair), Margaret Butler, Sue Balshaw, Cr Steve O'Halloran, General Manager Aaron Drenovski, Cr. Elaine Campbell and Cherie Murphy (minutes).

APOLOGIES: Jan Lawler, Cr Alan Purtill, Bella Mannix, Mayor Byron

The minutes of the Meeting held on Monday May 11th 2015 were read and accepted.

Moved Sue Balshaw
Seconded Margaret Butler

Cr. Elaine Campbell joined the meeting at 5.05pm

BUSINESS ARISING:

Movies during School holidays

Sue asked the General Manager of the outcome of the movies that were supposed to be shown over the last school break.

The minutes from the last meeting reflected that the General Manager was looking at holding more movie sessions during the school break (26 June – 13 July).

The General Manger advised that presently Council are only able to run old movies, not new releases, because of the movie projector at the Theatre Royal. To be able to run new releases, Council would need a more superior movie projector – in the \$80,000 range, which is unaffordable, but the General Manger has had brief discussions with a mining company possibly becoming a funding source.

The General Manager has also been in discussions with the CWA who are interested in running the movie sessions, with Councils assistance.

The CWA has 7 to 8 committee members at present and would like to try different ideas, such as various sessions to cater for all types, like a ladies night with nibbles etc. The CWA have also advised that they would request Council waive the hire fee and pay for the movie, and hopefully the movies will be well received.

The General Manager said that previous movie sessions had a turn-out of approximately 90 people, and he feels this is the result of the movies not being new releases. A good example is that the CWA are hosting a movie session in Swan Hill and are taking a bus load of people from Balranald over there – it would be great to get others from neighbouring towns to come to Balranald for a movie session. The other factor is that we need to break even and there is no point in holding movies that people can watch in their lounge rooms.

The General Manager will keep discussions going with the CWA, with the possibility of trialling their idea.

Comments were made as to the lack of heating at the Theatre Royal, and there is no way people would attend a session in the colder months.

Doreen Greenham stated that heating needs at the Theatre Royal should be investigated. All committee members present agreed.

The General Manager responded saying the biggest problem with heating the whole of the Theatre Royal is that the ceiling is so high and there is no insulation in the building – it's just not viable.

The General Manager also advised that he and the Building Inspector had investigated the possibility of securing the open trusses on the ceiling where bi-fold doors close off the main hall area to the reception area, so as to install heating in the front area of the hall. This area could seat around 100 people for a movie session.

The committee were pleased with this information, and would like further details of progress towards this result in upcoming meetings.

Music night – Variety Concert

Margaret Butler advised, that, due to circumstances beyond the committee's control, the variety concert will need to be postponed to mid 2016. There are many pressures at the moment, including additional pressure on schools / teachers to have acts available, especially with their 150 year celebrations this year, and the fact that the concert would be held in a busy time between the 5 Rivers Outback festival and the Balranald (horse) Races.

Margaret said she was pleased with the enthusiasm and assistance she has been offered regarding the concert. The committee, made up of Doreen Greenham, Hutch Lawrie, John Curran, Allan Purtill, Bella Mannix, Central School music teachers and herself will meet in January of 2016, to nut out details for the concert, and minutes will be presented to Council with a request to Council to waive the hall hire fees – as “all monies received are to go towards the purchase of a grand piano”.

At present, the committee have acts including St. Josephs, a band, 2 solo artists, recitations, an act from the hospital staff, sing Australia (hopefully) and John Curran being MC for the night, also singing, some comedy and ukulele act.

Sue Balshaw said that the music night would need to be held during the warmer months if held at the Theatre Royal.

Margaret felt March to April would still be mild enough to hold the concert then, but this was only a tentative suggestion at this stage as decisions / dates would need to be made by the whole committee, with all details forwarded to Council for acceptance.

Cr O'Halloran felt that a tentative date should be made so as to lock it in (tentatively).

Margaret said she had been unable to contact the school (being school holidays) and wanted to confirm with Aaron (Central School principal) and Gerri's replacement at St Josephs before committing to a date.

Sue felt that October or November was better timing than early 2016 as school would only just be back and it would make it harder.

Margaret said as the school would be busy with the 150 year anniversary, this wouldn't be an option, and the idea of the concert was to make money for the grand piano, although didn't want to make admittance fees too expensive, feeling that \$10 / family or \$5.00 Adult would suffice.

Sue advised the committee that they made about \$3,000 at the last concert held.

The General Manager suggested Saturday 23rd April 2016 as a tentative booking at this time.

The committee agreed, although would ensure the date coincided with football being played locally.

NEW BUSINESS:

Variety Concert

Cr Campbell advised that she approached Kiandra Dalton Chloe Calleja and Jessie Armstrong to sing at the concert.

Margaret Butler mentioned Tima Serevi and the Fijian group that was here previously would be a great addition also.

Elaine suggested she talk to Millie Egan to see if the group could sing – if enough notice was given, they may be able to come back.

Skills Audit

Sue Balshaw queried the skills audit, and if any progress had been made, and who was doing it. Sue believed the skills audit was for to have a complete database through South West Arts. The committee felt that the data base was for local use only.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS

Cr O'Halloran raised, for information of the committee, that The managers of the Shamrock Hotel are in discussions to have the 60 piece Australian Scottish Band play in Balranald.

Kieran and June at the Shamrock have two tentative bookings at this stage, he believed the dates were 22 August and 12 September, but was unable to confirm.

Cr O'Halloran suggested that Council offer the Theatre Royal as a back-up undercover area in case the weather is not favourable.

Doreen Greenham advised that she will make contact Kieran or June for further information.

Footnote: at the General Managers request, Council staff member Cherie Murphy contacted June for confirmation of date(s).

June advised Cherie that they are still waiting to see if the band was available and of a confirmation date.

Cherie told June that the Theatre Royal is unavailable as another group has already booked the Hall for 22 August. June said that she preferred the September date, but it would depend on availability.

Cherie advised June that she would tentatively book the Theatre Royal for 12 September and would await further details from her or Kieran.

Art Gallery

The General Manager advised the committee that the split system had been approved for the back room at the Gallery.

On another note, the committee would have noticed the solar power system installed on the roof of the Discovery Centre. The company / installer also advised the General Manager that, as a good will gesture to the community, they would like to install a small solar power system to another building – the General Manager suggested The Gallery.

This system would only assist the back area of the building where the split system was installed, although would keep electricity costs down, they just needed to check the trees located on the property would not hinder this installation.

The General Manager also advised the committee that \$5,000 had been earmarked in the budget to replace the broken toilet at the Gallery.

The committee thanked the Council for their foresight in thinking of and suggesting the Gallery for solar power and also for the split system and badly needed toilet.

NEXT MEETING: 14th September 2015 at the Council Chambers commencing at 5pm.

MEETING CLOSED: There being no further business the discussions was declared closed at 5.31pm.