

MINUTES FROM THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL CULTURAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BALRANALD ON MONDAY MAY 11th 2015 COMMENCING AT 11.05AM.

PRESENT: Jan Lawler (Chair), Margaret Butler, Sue Balshaw, Cr Alan Purtill, Cr Steve O'Halloran, Director Corporate and Community Development, Elizabeth White, and Cherie Murphy (minutes).

APOLOGIES: Doreen Greenham.

The minutes of the Meeting held on Monday March 23rd 2015 were read and accepted.

Moved Margaret Butler
Seconded Jan Lawler

BUSINESS ARISING:

Jan advised of a correction to the March minutes, being the Annual General Meeting of South West Arts board will be held at 10.00am on 30 May at Bishops Lodge, Hay (previously advised the meeting was to be held on 29 May at Goolgowie).

Movies during School holidays

Sue queried the outcome of the movies over the School break. Elizabeth advised that they were well received and popular although felt that more patronage was needed to break even. The General Manager is, however, looking at holding more movie sessions during the upcoming school holidays (26 June – 13 July). Elizabeth believes that additional advertising (over a longer period) may see more attend in the future, including in to the schools for their newsletters, advertising on social media, and in the Balranald section of The Guardian.

Elizabeth further advised that Council needs to be licensed to hold each movie and this comes at a cost, hence not breaking even on these occasions. Council also sold chips, lollies and drinks at each session.

Music night –

There are no outcomes (at this time) from this query (Cr Elaine Campbell was an apology).

Grand Piano for the Theatre Royal –

Margaret Butler is still trying to source funding for a grand piano for the Theatre Royal and raised the idea of holding a variety concert to assist in the purchase of a piano.

Margaret is positive that there is enough local talent in Balranald and surrounds to hold such a concert, with many talented people, such as vocalists, bands, skits, poets.

Margaret has spoken to John at the hospital and he is a very talented man. John would be pleased to be the compere for such a show.

Margaret believes that people would come to this type of event, and would hope Council waive the hire fees for the Theatre Hall.

Elizabeth advised that the Cultural Committee would need to submit a request to Council to waive the fees, and didn't see it being an issue.

Sue had concerns regarding the weather and temperamental Grand pianos.

Margaret advised that there would be no issues, however the piano would need to have a cover made for it and a water system set up to control the humidity in the building.

Elizabeth queried the cost of a Grand piano, and Margaret advised it would be about \$30,000.

Alan Purtil suggested the Cultural committee organise and work with a co-op committee to organise and run the variety concert.

NEW BUSINESS:

Variety Concert

Elizabeth queried a time frame or date the committee would like to hold the concert.

Jan suggested the same weekend as the 5 Rivers Festival.

Sue advised that there are too many people over committed now with the 5 Rivers Festival and there is so much on now, it will be hard to co-ordinate / fit in.

Steve suggested that a committee needs to be established now to start organising such an event.

Steve is keen to help, and suggested advertising in the next newsletter etc.

Jan suggested that a "whole town survey" be sent out to audit the skills and talents of the locals:

- Singers
- Dancers
- Poetry
- Entertainers etc

Alan agreed that there are many talented locals, and suggested Margaret speak with her contacts, such as Hutch Lawrie, Doreen Greenham, John Curran etc and invite these people to the next Cultural Committee meeting to organise to set up a committee for the variety concert.

All in agreeance.

Round Table Discussions

Steve said we need to (continue to) push for artists. Balranald Council is leading the way with cultural activities in the Shire, with comments from other Shires during a strategic planning meeting in Deniliquin recently. Balranald is a supportive Council, making a difference and other Shires are envious of our efforts.

Jan thanked Council for its continuous support, including the latest advert Council submitted in The Guardian newspaper advertising David Eastburn's Independence of New Guinea display.

Margaret Butler agreed, "The Town has a soul and needs to be fed".

Alan suggested a separate meeting for the Variety concert.

Elizabeth agreed and requested after hours.

Sue requested a change of Cultural committee meeting time to 5pm as morning meetings are hard for those working to make it.

All voted.

Committee agreed by consensus to the 5pm commencement time.

Steve advised Cr. Jolliffe was advised of a Grand piano that may be available.

Committee asked if Elizabeth could contact Cr Jolliffe at a convenient time to learn if this is the case.

Sue – the David Eastburn Independence of New Guinea exhibition has been well received.

Jan – there is a new picture hanging system in place at Gallery – much easier.

Jan queried with Elizabeth if there is a 'General Cultural allocation' in the budget. She is hoping to secure a curator on an as-needs basis, possibly through South West Arts and possible funding from other areas.

Elizabeth explained that there is no general allocation as such, and that there are separate budget line items for The Gallery, museum, gaol, Wintong School.

Elizabeth advised that the committee would need to write to Council before March 2016 with costings to Council for future budget for the things they wish to see for the committee.

NEXT MEETING: 13th July 2015 at the Council Chambers commencing at 5pm.

MEETING CLOSED: There being no further business the discussions was declared closed at 11.50am.