

Cultural Committee Minutes – November 16<sup>th</sup> 2015. Commencing at 5pm

**MINUTES FROM THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL CULTURAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF BALRANALD ON MONDAY NOVEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> 2015 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM.**

**PRESENT:** Doreen Greenham (Chair), Margaret Butler, Jan Lawler, Cr Steve O'Halloran, Bella Mannix, Sue Balshaw, Linda Nelson, Robyn Davis, Ema Serevi, Elizabeth White and Cherie Murphy (minute taker).

**APOLOGIES:** Cr Elaine Campbell, Mayor Cr Leigh Byron

The minutes of the Meeting held on Monday July 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 were read and accepted.

**Moved** Bella Mannix  
**Seconded** Margaret Butler

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

**Cake Stall**

Margaret Butler advised she was pleased with the stall, taking \$607.

Margaret is planning another cake stall for 24 March 2016.

This and other monies raised will go toward the purchase of a piano.

**Music night – Variety Concert**

Margaret Butler advised the Variety Concert will be held in April 2016, with money going towards the purchase of a piano and is hoping everyone will support these events / fundraisers.

Margaret Butler reported that she had spoken with the General Manager to have funds managed by Council. Elizabeth advised an internal Council account has been set up.

**General Business**

**Doreen Greenham** advised (as per Cr. O'Halloran's comments from the September Minutes) she wasn't aware of the "Brisbane Line", but thought it sounded very interesting.

Cr. O'Halloran suggested the committee take steps to secure Bob Brown (historian who was a speaker at a recent conference Steve O'Halloran attended) to give a talk before he becomes unavailable.

*(The "**Brisbane Line**" was a controversial defence proposal allegedly formulated during **World War II** to concede the northern portion of the Australian continent in the event of an invasion by the Japanese.)*

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**Jan Lawler** informed the committee that she attended the South West Arts meeting recently. Very productive – Kerry-Anne Jones, Regional Arts Development Officer/Executive Officer has linked her projects with Councils Strategic Plan. Very lucky to have Kerry on board, and a positive move for South West Arts.

There is a MOU between South West Arts and South West Music to develop more activities in Balranald, confident to gain more creative arts and cultural activities, including the Young at heart Film festival, held annually during Seniors Week.

Cr O'Halloran stated that Council needs to continue its membership with South West Arts. It's a worrying situation, if South West Arts disappears.

Jan queried if Council had a Cultural Plan and if not would like to have one completed, including ensuring it aligns with and is included in Councils strategic plan. Balranald Shire needs more visual and cultural events and projects.

Elizabeth White advised that the current Strategic Plan is scheduled for review via community consultation to revisit and modify this plan

One of the biggest issues, Jan advised, is the lack of social capital. There are just not as many volunteers these days, and we need to look towards the younger generation to replace those who are no longer able to assist - the older generation are getting tired. It's a community effort.

The other issue is the processes that new volunteers need to go through to be able to volunteer, such as police checks and working with Children Checks, just to name a couple.

**Robyn Davis** informed the committee that Community Carols will be held on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 6.00pm. Robyn, Fr Pat Austin and Pastor Dennis (New Pastor at the Presbyterian Church) have held an informal meeting. Pastor Dennis will carry out the address this year.

They will also send invitations to different organisations and invite community groups to have a song or skit. Flyers will also go out to the community.

Robyn has been in consultation with Millie regarding the Fijian Choir at the Variety Concert.

Ema Serevi asked to be included in the talks so she can also rally the group and ensure everyone is aware.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next Cultural Committee meeting will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 5pm.

**CLOSURE:** There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5.28pm.

**Recommendation:** That the report be received and noted.