

**REPORT OF THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL TOURISM COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD AT THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016 COMMENCING AT 5.00PM**

**1. PRESENT:** Cr Ken Barnes (Chairman); Elizabeth White (Director Corporate & Community Development), Connie Mallet (Tourism Coordinator), Cr Steve O'Halloran, John Stevenson, Bronwyn Brougham, Wayne Whitby, Ken Spinks, Ian Field, Di Williams, Ema Suravi,

**2. APOLOGIES:**, Cr Leigh Byron (Mayor), Cr Jeff Mannix, Myrtle Matarazzo, Simone Carmichael, Dinitee Haskard, Jo Gorman, Jo Pedler, German Ugarte, Sue O'Halloran, Martin Kendall, Peter Lawler, Dylan Walsh, Linda Nelson

**3. Presentation of Flowers to Tourism Coordinator**

The Director of Corporate & Community Development presented Tourism Coordinator, Connie Mallet with flowers to formally thank her for the work and hours spent in the Coordinator's own time to develop the new tourism website which she said was excellent and will effectively showcase all that Balranald & surrounds has to offer to visitors

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The following items are to be carried over to next meeting to discuss with and receive an update from John Stevenson:

- **Maintenance/Improvement of the Memorial Bird Trail & Potential New Walk/ Bird Trail:**

As per the feedback provided at the May meeting from Di Williams subsequent to the meeting with James Maguire from Murrumbidgee Water, Di Williams presented a written report to the committee on the meeting and discussions that took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> April and what actions are proposed to move the new Walk/Bird Trail forward (Please see the attached Report).

**Next Step** is for the Shire Council to investigate/research Land Titles and report to the Office of Environment & Heritage.

Shire Council is to also prepare a listing of works and budget for grading/gravelling of existing tracks and possible fence repair

**Recommendation:** It was also recommended that once the Shire Council completed their investigations and listing of works, that a small group of Tourism Committee members be appointed to develop the project

**Recommendation:** It was also recommended that signs be erected at the Memorial Bird Trail to let visitors know that this trail is seasonal subject to water/weather conditions

- **Maintenance/Improvement of the Old Gaol & Protection of the writing on Walls & Wintong School**

John Stevenson provided an update on the proposed awning for the Gaol to protect the walls. He said that this would be constructed in keeping with the look and design of the Gaol. Quotes will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting.

John Stevenson also provided an update on the renovations currently underway on the Wintong School. The new veranda has been built and work will also be implemented inside the school. Further updates will be provided next meeting

- **Mungo Road Closure Sign**

John Stevenson is currently investigating options

## 5. TOURISM ROLLING ACTION PLAN

**Aside from the items from the items above which are also in the Action Plan, the following items were discussed:**

- **Maintenance of the Museum – OH&S report**

The Director of Corporate & Community Services gave the committee a summary of a report that was submitted to her in reference to OH&S concerns of the Museum and what is required to get it to OH&S standards. The Director gave the committee examples of what was required and approximate costs. She suggested that there are some low cost items that can be addressed rather quickly, but there are some major items that will require larger funds and we need to address on how these will be funded. In the meantime since this has been brought to her attention, she is duty bound to present a report to the Council and to present options to address this matter.

- **Heritage Near Me - Heritage Activation Grant**

The Tourism Coordinator presented a grant that is currently opened that may fit the needs of upgrading our Heritage assets such as the Museum

The Heritage Activation Grants program seeks to support the implementation of projects that actively increase community interaction and participation with publicly accessible heritage items listed in a local council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP). This program recognises the importance the reactivation of these spaces/precincts plays in sustainable heritage conservation. Support is available for projects that will increase public interaction and participation with NSW heritage assets whilst conserving their heritage significance.

The Submission is due on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016. The committee agreed that an application should be submitted

- **New Tourism Website**

The Tourism Coordinator reported that the new website was launched towards the end of May and has been positively received. She mentioned that it is a work in progress and that more content will be added to the website progressively and that now that the website is developed and maintained in-house, changes and updates can be done quickly at no cost to Council. She said that all operators listed (including all those in Euston) on the website have been invited to view their content and that any changes/add-ons/edits etc., they wanted can be done quickly.

- **Visitor Guides:** The Tourism Coordinator provided an update and said that the new Visitor Guides should be ready to go to print at the end of June and ready for distribution mid July 2016.
- **Roads to Mungo:** The Tourism Coordinator said that the route to Mungo from Balranald which includes the Marma-Box Road has now been marked on Google Maps.

**MOVED:** Cr O'Halloran moved that Balranald Shire Council write to the Minister to consider Balranald Shire as part of the funding for Regional Development of roads of which Wentworth Shire will be a beneficiary. Cr O'Halloran said that there was around 39million dollars available. We were not successful with our initial application a couple of years ago.

**SECONDED:** Mr Wayne Whitby seconded the motion.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS ARISING

- **Glass Cabinet in front of the Senior Citizens Building:** Mr Wayne Whitby advised that he believed that this is an underutilised asset for promotions and that currently it is filled with old posters. It was suggested that we investigate who looks over the cabinet and that perhaps this could be used more effectively for tourism related activities, events etc., and that it need to be managed more effectively and regularly
- **Donation Box at the Discovery Centre Showers:** John Stevenson advised that he will look into mounting a secure donation box near the showers. He will investigate the best options
- **The Committee's \$5000 funds**  
The Director of Corporate & Community Development recommended that the \$5000 be carried over to the new financial year's budget  
**MOVED:** Mr Wayne Whitby moved that this be carried  
**SECONDED:** Mr Iain Field seconded the motion

## 7. CLOSURE:

The meeting closed at 6.25pm

## 8. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016