

**REPORT OF THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY 2nd October
COMMENCING AT 5.05 PM**

1. **PRESENT:** Iain Lindsay-Field (Chair), Michael Kitzelmann (GM), Gavin Helgeland (BSC), Simone Carmichael, Wayne Whitby, Dianne Williams, Ken Spinks, Ken Barnes, Vivienne McEvoy (BSC), Peter Waterhouse (Guest).

German Ugarte arrived at 5.15pm, Terri Bilske (DCCS) arrived at 5.25pm, and Mayor Alan Purtill arrived at 5.27pm

Ken Barnes departed at 6.30pm

2. **APOLOGIES RECEIVED:** Peter Lawler

3. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The Minutes were accepted from meeting held on 4th September 2018 with the following amendment that all references to "RSL" should be amended to "Balranald District Ex-Servicemen's Memorial Club".

Moved: Wayne Whitby

Seconded: Ken Spinks

4. **BUSINESS ARISING:**

- a) **Fence at back of Discovery Centre – Shire to provide options as fence not working**

Vivienne advised that herself and Andre had met onsite and would look at installing some more trees and extra signage. Dianne suggested planting some bush tucker trees.

Action: Dianne to contact Patsy to check what bush tucker trees would be best suitable.

Moved: Dianne Williams

Seconded: Simone Carmichael

- b) **New Committee Members – 2 vacant positions on the committee**

Action: Vivienne advised that after the Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th September, 2018 that all committees are now under review.

GM confirmed that the functions of all committees will be workshopped with Councillors in the coming weeks.

- c) **Key Tourism Actions for 2018 Document progress through Shire**

Action: GM advised that the Strategic Tourism Plan is on hold until further workshops have been carried out. Deleted last part of sentence.

d) Progress on selection of new Tourism Manager

GM confirmed the appointment of Acting Manager Community and Tourism Services, Vivienne McEvoy.

e) Community event (gathering) to officially open AC/DC frogs

German is organising with Zoe from 5 Rivers Festival to have a sausage sizzle onsite on Saturday 6th October. \$150 has been donated to assist with purchase of sausages and bread from BSC. 10.00 am to midday.

f) Riverina Murray Marketing Campaign

Further to discussion held on 7th August 2018 regarding the alignment of Destination Riverina and Murray, Cr Ugarte suggested that they be asked to do a small presentation on the benefits of the campaign.

Action: Cr Ugarte to follow-up re: the presentation - ongoing

g) Destination NSW Road Trips Campaign

Discussions were held regarding the Destination NSW Road Trips Campaign and the opportunities that are available in the region such as:

Tour buses from Swan Hill to Balranald, linking in with train timetable, which spend a few days in Balranald and include tours out to Mungo and Yanga and in Balranald/Euston.

- Foodies & Heritage
- Burke & Wills Trail
- Silo Trips/Tours
- War Memorial Tours/Trails
- Southern Cross/Aviation/Pilots Trails

Action: Ongoing discussions

h) Drinking Water Fountains

Ken Spinks previously suggested that drinking water and water aeration stations be included in the Market Street revitalization project. There was a belief that this had been included.

Vivienne confirmed there is 1 drinking station included in the Market Street upgrade plans which is multipurpose – drinking, refilling and pet.

Action: Ken S will provide photos to Gavin on what he has seen in other countries for consideration.

i) Sale of Westland Motors Building (Friends of the Southern Cross)

GM advised that Council is not able to get involved with organisations; however Council had been in discussions with FOOSC and offered support if needed. Overall,

the committee agreed that it would be detrimental to the visitors to lose this important tourist attraction.

Action: Iain, Dianne and Wayne meeting with FOSC committee on 8th October at 2.30pm.

j) Erect date of opening sign on Swing Bridge

Action: Vivienne following up on opening date and the possibility of adding to signage.

GM mentioned the bamboo along the banks, near the swing bridge and asked about the significance. Simone advised that it is an indigenous bamboo and it could be cut back but it would regrow and it was good for bird nesting and provided a good water filter for the river.

k) Is there a Tourism Committee Budget and, if so do we have a project for it?

GM advised that there is not a Tourism Committee budget but there is a budget for Tourism Activities, Tourism Advertising, and Tourism Promotion within Council budget.

Iain asked if there is a project can Tourism Committee apply for funding? GM advised under the new structure Gavin Helgeland would be looking at Grant opportunities under the role of Manager Strategic Development, Vivienne would be looking Community and Tourism and Council were reinvigorating the Youth Council. GM also advised of the opportunity to partner with schools using old road signage to construct murals in the future and gave the attendees a snapshot on how they could look in the community.

German suggested the donation collection tin funds be used to projects and GM recommended that the Tourism Committee put forward to Council to use these funds for projects.

Action: Ongoing – new business at next meeting

l) Historic Bridges – Waugorah Road

After consultation with DID who advised that the timber was not useable, DCCS will follow up with GM of Murray to confirm.

m) Frog at Library

Vivienne is looking at the hedge/garden with a possible update of the garden or move the frog.

Action: Vivienne will report for next meeting.

n) Project Templates

DCCS advised the template previously presented was a budget template for submissions to Council. Iain voiced frustration and requested that a project

document be drawn up so that it could be completed and ready to go when there was an opportunity. GM made the following 3 points:

1. Council is reviewing Committee Structures, defining functions and roles
2. Organisational Structure review has included future development and growth.
3. What initiatives is the Tourism Committee delivering, not Council doing as Council is not a tourism body.

Action: Ongoing

5. MONTHLY TOURISM STATISTICS

Vivienne advised that September figures have shown an increase in visitor numbers at the Visitor Centre, Interpretive Centre and on the website.

Vivienne asked the committee what they want to see as far as statistics go as previous reports show things that aren't relevant to the Tourism Committee such as the best selling merchandise at the visitor centre.

Mayor Purtill advised that the Ex Serviceman's Club had in excess of 18K visits last year.

Action: Committee to have a think about what they want to see statistically and advise how they propose to use the information to ensure that reporting isn't done for reporting sake.

6. NEW BUSINESS

1) DPI Letter re Fish Restocking/Have we had a reply to our letter – Ken B

Action: Carried over

2) Community Economic Development Strategy Forum 8th & 9th October

GM introduced Professor Peter Waterman RFD, Adjunct Professor from Charles Sturt University/Managing Director of Environmental Management Services and one of the founding members of the Sustainable Economic Growth in Regional Australia Foundation. Peter is a significant influence in the field of Regional Development and will be working with Council at the forum on 8th and 9th October to be held at Theatre Royal. Peter is a regular attendee at SEGRA (Australia's premier conference on regional issues – assisting regional, rural and remote Australia).

Peter made the comment – 'the only people who can guide and drive is YOU'.

GM has advised that the Tourism Committee are expected to demonstrate what opportunities there are for tourism in Balranald Shire.

3) Update on Caravan Park

GM advised that it is an ongoing issue and Council are moving forward.

4) Balranald Nature Reserve

Cycle and walk trail – grade both where needed? Flattening levee and grading back lignum – mapping and signage to accompany both. Council to have gazetted nature reserve by State authority (important), grant monies would be available once gazetted – Ken S.

Action: Carried over

5) Removal of dangerous trees and logs from the river in the town precinct be undertaken.

Action: Carried over

7. MATTERS WITHOUT NOTICE

- 1) Masterplan Discover Centre
- 2) General Tourism
- 3) Discovery Precinct
- 4) 2018 Action Plans after workshop

GM advised that with the ongoing developments inside Council, Tourism and the Discovery Precinct require further workshops and put to council prior to any comment or review by the Tourism Committee.

Mayor Purtill expects Tourism Committee support when it is reintroduced.

Simone mentioned that we are heading to our biggest weekend of the year – 5 Rivers Outback Festival and wished the event the best.

MEETING CLOSED AT 6.40PM

NEXT MEETING: 6th November 2018