

community connect

the newsletter of ballina shire council

café updates



ballina shire council – employer of the year



art news



what to do during the school holidays



ballina shire market guide



George Negus set to take the stage this Australia Day

One of Australia's most respected and experienced journalists and interviewers, George Negus, will be the official guest at the 2014 Ballina Shire Australia Day celebrations.

George has interviewed world leaders, personalities and reported from the world's major trouble spots. He will provide the official keynote address at the Australia Day ceremony which will be held at the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre at 9am on Sunday 26 January 2014.

For more information go to **discoverballina.com** or phone the Ballina Visitor Information Centre on 1800 777 666. See Page 8 for details on Australia Day nominations and how community groups can get involved.

Credit: Arrangements made through Celebrity Speakers celebrityspeakers.com.au



Ballina Shire Councillors and Staff wish our residents and visitors a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Merry Christmas!



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FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Cr David Wright

"It is pleasing to be able to report on the amazing number of developments that have occurred in Ballina Shire during 2013."

Council's policy of promoting community events with 'seed' money has led to the recent, amazing 40th Anniversary Las Balsas and the Inaugural Prawn Festival which, combined with the very successful Skullcandy Grom Open at Lennox Head, Country Fair at Alstonville, Coastal Country Music Festival in River Street, Boat and Leisure Show on Fawcett Park and the Ballina Fine Wine, Fun and Food Affair, have put Ballina Shire on the map as a destination for visitors. The Alstonville Show was also bigger and better than ever with extra attractions.

These events highlight the wonderful assets of the Shire's beautiful scenery and our fabulous network of volunteers.

The opening of the new Ballina Surf Club with associated new road and car park, continued development of the Wollongbar Sporting Fields, implementation of the West Ballina Wastewater Treatment Plant, pavement works at the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport and further works for parking and streetscape in the Ballina Town Centre,



Ballina Shire Council named NSW EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR



Council's Manager Risk & Human Resources, Kelly Brown, receiving the State Award from Group Training Representative Jason Sultana

Ballina Shire Council scooped the pool at the recent NSW and ACT Group Training Awards held in Sydney. Council took out the prestigious Large Host Employer of the Year Award.

Council currently has 23 apprentices and trainees across various trades including Electrotechnology, Plumbing, Engineering, Automotive Mechanical, Horticulture, Sports Turf Management, Water Operations, Civil Construction, Construction, Formwork/Falsework and Development & Environmental Health Services.

In recent years we have hosted more than 100 trainees and apprentices and we are committed to employing trainees and apprentices to provide career training and employment opportunities for some of our young residents.

Ballina Shire Council staff dominate 2013 Novaskill Awards

Congratulations to staff members, Phillip Francis and Mitchell Bailey, who were rewarded for their hard work at the 2013 Novaskill Awards.

Group Training Outstanding 1st Year Apprentice / Group Training Trainee of the Year

Phillip Francis – Certificate III Horticulture Trainee.

Group One Training Trainee of the Year

Mitchell Bailey – Certificate III Water Operations.

reflect over \$80 million in expenditure by Ballina Shire Council to improve community assets.

It is great to see growing commercial confidence in the Shire with the opening of Bunning's and its 'tailed' Big Prawn as well as the new Woolworths in River Street which have added amenity and convenience for visiting and local shoppers.

I would like to thank the Federal Government for the continued support of infrastructure, resulting in over 200 residential lots becoming available to low to moderate income earners in our Shire and the NSW Government for its promise to improve the viewing area on North Wall following their recent block construction works. It would be fantastic to see the State Government actually dredge the bar in 2014 as that would provide a significant boost to our local and visitor economy.

In the people stakes, the Shire has also flourished. Ballina Shire's, Jacqueline Freney gained well-earned recognition in being awarded the 2013 NSW Young Person of the Year and Ballina Shire Council was

awarded the NSW Employer of the Year. Volunteers continued their fantastic work with the revamp of the Williams Reserve Clubhouse by the Lennox Head Combined Sports Club, the continued dune care work by dedicated workers, environmental works by EnviTE, the volunteers who directly help Council at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery and the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport and the amazing performances by all the service clubs who continually work for community groups and donate to a wide variety of charities, both local and international.

I am really looking forward to the 2014 Australia Day Celebrations with Ambassador – George Negus. What a great way to start the New Year!

Finally, I wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas break. Please be sun and surf safe. Please obey the lifesavers, spend wisely, care for family and support those who are less fortunate.

We are blessed to live in an environmental wonderland. Make sure you do all that you can to enhance the incredible assets that we share.



Airport Upgrade

New technology ready for take-off

New GPS technology allowing planes to fly with a higher degree of accuracy is being introduced at the Ballina Shire Council owned and operated Ballina Byron Gateway Airport in January 2014.

The Smart Tracking system, also known as Required Navigation Performance, is used by pilots when weather and runway visibility is poor. This means increased safety and improved reliability of flight schedules and airport services as planes will now be able to land in conditions that previously may have prevented them from landing.

For more information visit ballinabyronairport.com.au or phone the Noise Complaint and Information Service on 1800 802 584.

Runway Overlay Project 2013

Council has just completed a \$4.5 million runway overlay at the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport. Just like we need to reseal and reconstruct roads, we also have to provide new overlays to the airport runway. This work was completed in ten nights and involved a large amount of asphalt being laid on the runway, with the contractor having a purpose built asphalt plant located at the front of the Airport while the works were taking place.

The existing runway surface was laid 25 years ago and was approaching the end of its designated life. It needed to be upgraded to ensure it could cope with the increased number of aircraft flying in and out of Ballina.

For more information on Ballina Byron Gateway Airport's Runway Overlay Project visit ballinabyronairport.com.au

Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Record Passenger Traffic

Ballina Byron Gateway Airport has achieved a 11% per cent passenger growth (for the financial year to date) compared to the same period last year, to reach an annual total of 370,000 passengers per annum – at the end of October 2013.

The Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Manager, Mr Neil Weatherson said that the Airport achieved an annual total of 356,740 at the end of June 2013, and that this figure has been increasing monthly.

"We recently had the highest number of total passengers in any four month period through the Airport, and this supports our decision to invest more than \$10.5 million over the past two years in expanding and upgrading our facilities to accommodate the growing number of visitors and airline services to the region."

"We are also looking at a record holiday season with the introduction of six weekly services to Melbourne over the festive period".



COUNCIL PROJECT UPDATES

Coastal Shared Path and Walk

After many months, if not years of preparation, Council has lodged planning applications to obtain approvals for the construction of the coastal shared path and walk projects between Ballina and Lennox Head.

The applications are currently being assessed by Council assessment staff and when planning consents are obtained work will start almost immediately with the entire project to be built in stages based on the order of importance, along with funding availability.

Details of the route layouts for the Coastal Shared Path and Walk are available on the front page of Council's website.

Missingham Park Markets Site

A fully constructed car park is planned for the Missingham Markets site with work scheduled to start in the New Year. This new car park will ensure that the markets are more accessible in wet weather and will maximise car parking at this popular location.

Wollongbar Sports Fields

The construction of this new sporting complex is progressing with the major bulk earthworks now completed. The next phase of the project will be the actual shaping of the fields along with the installation of key infrastructure such as water, wastewater and electricity. The construction of these fields is expected to continue throughout 2014.

Ballina Town Centre

Following the successful completion of the River Street upgrade between Cherry and Martin Street and the Cherry and River Street intersection to Fawcett Park, Council has now approved funding to reconstruct the Moon and River Street intersection to Fawcett Park. This project will include the reconstruction of the Moon and River Street roundabout.

Works on this stage are scheduled to start towards the end of the current financial year.



Tamar Street Car Parks

Council purchased the commercial properties at 74 and 78 Tamar Street to provide an additional 70 car parking spaces for the Ballina Town Centre. The demolition of the existing buildings is underway and we are aiming to seal both car parks in the New Year.

Wigmore Arcade

As part of Council's commitment to the Ballina Town Centre we are continuing to examine options to refurbish the Wigmore Arcade complex to improve the overall retail experience for Ballina. The works now under consideration relate to a more minor refurbishment that will minimise any impact on existing tenants. However the works will help to modernise the Arcade and provide a stronger connection with the existing Wigmore Car Park, along with the new Tamar Street Car Parks.



Café Updates

Council is currently involved in negotiations for four cafés that are located on Council owned or controlled land.

Ballina Surf Club Café

The lease of this new café and the downstairs kiosk has been granted to a joint venture between two local families. The new operators already have the kiosk open for business with builders currently fitting out the café. The operators are hoping that the café will be operational the week before Christmas.

Ballina Gallery Café

Eggs Builders have been appointed by Council to undertake refurbishments to this café that will help better integrate the café with the Northern Rivers Community Gallery.

Fawcett Park Café

After many months of delays work has finally started on repairs and refurbishments to the building following the café's closure when the previous operator went into receivership. The building was also severely damaged in the February 2013 storms. Bennetts Pty Ltd is undertaking the construction works for Council with this work being funded in part by money received from the insurance claim for storm damage. The works also include separate public and customer toilets as combined use of the existing toilets caused

operational difficulties for the previous operator.

Construction is scheduled to be completed by mid to late January at which time the building will be handed over to the new café lessee. The lessee, appointed by Council, will then be responsible for any works they wish to undertake prior to reopening the café.

Shelly Beach Café

Following the purchase of this business from the previous owner, the new owners have decided to reconstruct the existing building prior to reopening the business. This is a decision of the owners, as they had the option to re-open the existing business.

Council has approved the new owner's redevelopment plans, however the new building is larger than the existing footprint and requires the acquisition of approximately 130 square metres of adjoining crown land, from the State Government, prior to building works commencing.

Council is working with the new owners to finalise this acquisition and we are anticipating that the owners should be able to commence reconstruction works in early 2014.

Buried rock wall at Seven Mile Beach Lennox Head

Lennox Head residents may have noticed unusual digging on the sand dunes along Pacific Parade recently. We are trying to learn more about a rock wall that was built in the 1970s to reduce erosion that was occurring along Seven Mile Beach.

The rock wall is now buried below the dunes. Council engaged a contractor, who used ground penetrating radar technology, to survey the wall. We also used an excavator to expose the wall at several locations.

We don't have much information about this wall and we want to know more about its actual location and shape so we can determine the level of protection it may offer against coastal erosion in the future.

The results of the work are now being compiled and further reporting will be provided to Council.



Marine Rescue Tower

Local firm, GeoLINK Pty. Ltd., is completing the planning application for the new Marine Rescue Tower. This planning application is scheduled to be lodged with Council in early 2014 and it is anticipated that approval for the construction of the new building should be granted by April / May 2014.

Actual construction of the Tower still depends on funding assistance from either the State or Federal Governments as the funding Council has available is only equivalent to approximately 50% of the total cost of the building.

Discussions are ongoing with our local State and Federal members in attempt to obtain that matching funding.



Roadwork Projects

Maintaining the road network in the Ballina Shire is a priority for Council and several road reconstruction projects have recently been completed. These include:

- Midgen Flat Road (east of Broken Head Road)
- Uralba Road (near the Bruxner Highway intersection)
- Sneaths Road (west of Pearces Creek Road)
- Compton Drive (adjacent to Shaws Bay).

A section of Eltham Road (south of Pearces Creek Road) has received an RMS road safety grant, and this project has started with a section of reconstruction and reseal including curve markers and line marking.

Work is well advanced on the realignment of Compton Drive at Lighthouse Beach, Ballina. This includes the provision of new parking facilities for the Ballina Surf Club. The small car park immediately next to the surf club building will be closed when the new parking area is opened. This road project is expected to be completed by the end of December 2013.

Council has also let tenders for the upgrading of sections of the old Pacific Highway on Tamarind Drive and Kerr Street, as well as a section of Byron Bay Road near the northern boundary of the Shire. The work on Kerr Street will be undertaken at night to cause minimum disruption to traffic. These projects are expected to start in early 2014.

The \$8 million contract for the construction of Ballina Heights Drive is underway. The small bridge has been finished and a northern section of road should be sealed in December 2013. Weather permitting, the entire project should be completed in March 2014.

Road projects marked for commencement in the New Year include:

- Tuckombil Road (between Teven Road and Byrnes Lane)
- Canal Road (between Vera Street and Fox St)
- Links Ave (Eyles Drive to Chickiba Drive).

Improved pedestrian safety at Kerr and Tamar St intersection

New fencing has been installed at the intersection of Kerr Street and Tamar Street to guide people to crossing refuges. This work was funded by a grant from the RMS.

Annual road resealing program is underway

The road resealing program is performed during the summer months and includes the clearing of vegetation from roadsides and drainage repairs. Some roads receive a bitumen reseal over an older asphalt surface. Resealing most roads in bitumen is cheaper than asphalt and allows Council to resurface more roads. This allows for improved amenity of more streets across the road network.

Bridgeworks

Residents of River Drive in Ballina may have noticed uneven road at the small bridge near Carrs Lane. Council staff have investigated and it seems poor soils are the reason for the uneven road and this may continue slowly. To control this expected movement in the short term we are planning to install an anchoring system in December. Monitoring of the situation will continue.

Burns Point Ferry back in operation



Much to the relief of some South Ballina residents, the Burns Point Ferry is back in operation. It was dry-docked during early November for annual maintenance and inspection by the RMS. Hydraulic rams and other repairs and improvements were done and sections of the ferry were repainted.

Osprey continue to delay Wardell boat ramp

As reported several months ago, the replacement of the Wardell boat ramp was delayed because an Osprey pair was nesting on a nearby nesting pole. The Osprey are still active in the nest and work on the boat ramp has been rescheduled to the New Year.

Ballina Quays and Banyanda Lake maintenance

A comprehensive underwater survey of the Ballina Quays and Banyanda waterways has just been completed. The survey took longer than expected but it has provided a comprehensive picture of the canal profiles.

We are now using this information to prepare a tender for the maintenance of the canals. We expect this will probably involve a dredge – Council has set aside funding for dredging.

New roundabout behind Woolworths in Ballina CBD

A roundabout has been installed at the intersection of Fawcett Lane and Cherry Street behind the new Woolworths supermarket in the Ballina CBD.

Given the limited space available, the roundabout is flat to allow trucks to drive over the central island to get through the intersection. All other passenger vehicles must use the roundabout in accordance with the road rules.





Image: Hardworking volunteers Liz, Margaret & Elizabeth with Lucas Salmon from Council

Community volunteer garden program at work

Council's Community Volunteer Garden Program is up and running with a small group of hardworking volunteers planting and tidying gardens at the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre.

Liz Griffiths, who is a new resident to the Ballina Shire, has joined the program and is working with Lucas Salmon from Council.

"He is a great mentor and an exceptional employee and I am really enjoying being a part of the program," Liz said.

"It has provided me with a social avenue as well as the opportunity to make a contribution to the community by improving the Shire's gardens," she said.

Council really appreciates the work done by the Gardening Volunteers, and there is always plenty of gardening to do around the Shire. Council is looking for more volunteers like Liz to help with garden maintenance. Jobs include planting shrubs, weeding, pruning and spreading mulch. We provide all the tools and materials and the opportunity to learn from our professionals.

If you want to get involved phone Lucas Salmon, Vegetation Management, on 6686 1460 or email lucass@ballina.nsw.gov.au

roundabout refresher

- On approaching a roundabout you must give way to all vehicles already on the roundabout.
- Slow down and stop if necessary.
- Indicate if you are turning left or right
- Give way and enter when there is a safe gap
- Indicate left to exit



MYTH BUSTERS

Council placed the blocks on North Wall.

These works were not funded by Council and the only involvement of Council was to be advised by NSW Trade and Investment that the works to reinforce the existing structure were proceeding. The State Government has advised that the works were essential to maintain the structural integrity of North Wall into the future.

As the community expressed its disappointment with the unsightly nature of the works and the loss of view from the end of the wall, Council successfully negotiated with our local member, Mr Don Page to have the State Government allocate \$120,000 to provide an elevated path along at the eastern end of the wall.

This work will restore accessibility to the view that existed prior to the concrete blocks being placed on the wall. The construction of this elevated path is anticipated to commence shortly with the works being managed by the State Government.

Council wants to relocate the Lennox Head Markets as the Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre is a "white elephant"?



The Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre continues to have high usage levels primarily in the peak times of week nights and on weekends, and usage of the

Lennox Head library has increased by up to 50% since it was relocated to within this Centre. Pleasingly, the main hall and the meeting rooms at the Centre continue to be used by a wide range of people and for a wide range of purposes including sporting groups, religious groups, government agencies, community groups, private companies, union meetings, school groups, charity events, conferences, health and well being groups, Aboriginal organisations and disability groups, just to name a few.

The proposal to relocate the markets to the Centre relates entirely to the health of Lake Ainsworth and overcrowding. Any relocation would actually result in a minor number of bookings for the Centre being cancelled to suit the market timetable.

Community centres operated by Council, such as Lennox Head and the Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre do operate at a loss, which reflects the community use of the facilities and the fact that Council charges concessional fees for use of the centres. For an idea of what the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre is being used for, go to page 20 of this edition of Community Connect.

If you have any other stories you would like clarified please email Council at mythbusters@ballina.nsw.gov.au



Say thank you to a local hero

If you know a “local hero” how about nominating them for a Ballina Shire Australia Day Award. There are seven categories for nomination:

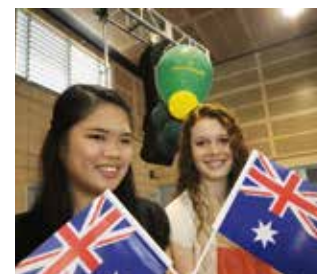
- Young Citizen of the Year (30 years of age or under)
- Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year (60 years of age or over)
- Volunteer of the Year
- Sports Award (individual or team)
- Arts/Cultural Award
- Community Event of the Year

It's easy to nominate, go to **discoverballina.com** to download a nomination form or collect one from Council's Customer Service Centre, 40 Cherry Street Ballina. Nominations close Sunday 22 December 2013.



Want to join in the celebrations?

Community groups are invited to join in the Australia Day celebrations on Sunday 26 January 2014 at the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre. Groups may like to use the event as an opportunity to fundraise by running a community barbecue, promote their group or provide an educational display.



Schools and performance-based organisations such as choirs or dance groups are also encouraged to nominate to perform at the official ceremony. Expressions of interest are being invited from all types of organisations ranging from schools, chambers of commerce, community organisations or individuals who would like to be part of the celebration.

To find out more, go to **discoverballina.com** or phone the Ballina Visitor Information Centre on 1800 777 666.

COMMUNITY FUN AT THE INAUGURAL BALLINA PRAWN FESTIVAL

The community came out in force to celebrate the Ballina Prawn Festival.



Top: Kazzi and Milly Scott on the Ferris wheel, and Kai and Erin Dali with the Prawn Festival mascot.
Photo credits: Simon Scott, June Beresford and Peta-Lyn Dalli



Amy Campbell

What do you like about living in Ballina Shire?

I like the friendliness of living in a small community. When I take my kids to the playground people actually stop to have a chat. I like that people are generally supportive of local business and I also appreciate the efforts of our local volunteers who give up their time to organise community events and activities eg: playgroup.

What is the one thing that you think the Council should do to improve the lifestyle you have in Ballina Shire?

I would like Council to reconsider some road access issues, such as doing what they can to get a southern access put on the highway at Tamarind Drive. It seems a waste to build highway infrastructure without providing full access to both ends of Ballina. I would like to see Council reverse its decision to close Deadmans Creek Road when the new Ballina access road opens. It is poor urban planning to close off existing access, particularly to the established Summerhill Cres estate, and extend access to the entire Cumbalum estate further north and away from Ballina.

Council's response

Council resolved, as recently as the November 2013 Ordinary Meeting, to write to the NSW Minister for Roads to seek a commitment from the State Government for the construction of the second south facing ramp onto the Pacific Highway.

Council has approached the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) on this project before and, to date, the response has been that there are higher priorities from a safety perspective for the Pacific Highway upgrade. Council acknowledges this, particularly as the ramps are

estimated to cost in the tens of millions of dollars, however we will continue to lobby the State Government to consider the works, if a funding opportunity arises.

In respect to Deadmans Creek Road the forward planning for the Ballina Heights Estate has this road being removed once the construction of the new Ballina Heights Drive is completed. This road is currently under construction.

The major benefit of removing Deadmans Creek Road is that in times of flood the water will drain significantly faster, resulting in improved flood outcomes for this location.

The elected Council will consider a report on the removal of Deadmans Creek Road, which will identify the advantages and disadvantages of the road removal, prior to any works being undertaken to remove the road. This report is likely to be submitted to Council sometime during 2014.



Liz Roberts

What do you like about living in Ballina Shire?

I love the relaxed atmosphere and the friendly people.

What is the one thing that you think the Council should do to improve the lifestyle you have in Ballina Shire?

I would like to see Council put in the cycleway between Lennox and Ballina, it is such a beautiful view, and it will make it safer for kids and families to enjoy cycling.

Council's response

Applications have been lodged with Council to obtain planning approvals for the construction of shared paths (cycleways) and a walking track between Ballina and Lennox Head. As soon as we can obtain the planning consents for part or all of the

proposed projects we will look to commence construction of the works.

The delivery of these projects is one of the highest priorities for the elected Council and the broader community. An overview of the proposed routes is located in the front page of Council's website.



Bindjarla Cook

What do you like about living in Ballina Shire?

I like the rural community environment mixed with the coast, as well as the friendly people.

What is the one thing that you think the Council should do to improve the lifestyle you have in Ballina Shire?

I feel that the plateau is often forgotten, so definitely encourage more people to visit and make the plateau feel like it's truly a part of the Shire. Also provide more youth orientated activities on the plateau.

Council's response

The plateau is very much an integral part of the Ballina Shire. With the completion of the Alstonville bypass Council has shown its commitment to the plateau with a multi million dollar upgrade of the Alstonville Main Street.

Wollongbar is identified as a residential growth area for the Ballina Shire and we are in the process of constructing a major sporting complex that will cater for both the existing and future population. This sporting complex, which is estimated to cost approximately \$7 million, will provide football and cricket fields, along with new tennis and netball courts. Council is also looking to provide new skate parks at both Alstonville and Wollongbar.



Roger & Kathy Platt

What do you like about living in Ballina Shire?

How can you not like living in Ballina Shire! It would be the most naturally beautiful area on the east coast. I love belonging to such a positive community with strong values for supporting other people and events such as the Prawn Festival and the re-opening of the Lennox Bowling Club (Club Lennox).

What is the one thing that you think the Council should do to improve the lifestyle you have in Ballina Shire?

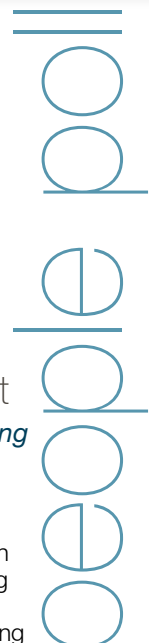
Living near the "Lake" we would love the foreshore of Lake Ainsworth to be filled with more sand as the erosion is quite severe. Also we would like to see a children's shaded park down in that area of Lennox Head, at least toilets are already there.

Council's response

Council has engaged a firm to provide recommendations on what actions should be taken to improve the eastern precinct of Lake Ainsworth along with identifying the preferred long term option for the future of the Lennox Head Surf Club (i.e. refurbish or rebuild).

Any improvements are to be based on the Lake Ainsworth Master Plan which identifies the closure of the eastern access road as a priority, along with the provision of additional car parking, a new children's playground and other enhancements such as increased picnic facilities.

Council currently has approximately \$1.3 million in funding available to implement any recommendations and the consultant's report is expected to be submitted to Council shortly. Hopefully this will then allow the preferred works to commence during 2014. The adopted Master Plan is available on our website.





How long have you been with Council? I started at Ballina Shire Council at Christmas time 18 years ago.

Have you always been a Foreman Concrete Construction and Drainage with Council? What did you do before joining BSC? I started out as a concreting labourer, then a formwork carpenter. Before joining Ballina Shire Council I played a bit of football.

What does your current role entail? My job involves coordinating jobs on site and working with apprentices, labourers and carpenters.

What is your least favourite aspect of the job? It's disheartening having to re-do jobs, that we've done to high standards, that haven't met the expectations of some of the community.

Most favourite aspect of the role? Working outdoors in a great coastal environment and watching our apprentices grow and develop their skills.

Do you get involved in other activities at Council? I'm involved in the Social Club, Staff Consultative Committee, Work Health & Safety Committee and the Union Picnic Day.

Most memorable moment at Council? Winning my first \$50 draw from the social club Christmas party after 16 years.

What do you like about living in Ballina Shire? It's a great place to raise kids, and living on the coast there are plenty of activities to keep kids occupied eg: Nippers, Footy and wide range of sports.

Where were you born, favourite food, what do you do in your spare time? I was born in Manly then spent a bit of time in Canberra. Roast dinners are my speciality. Well we really don't have spare time; we're generally busy with the kids.

If I won lotto I'd would... pay off our mortgage and travel to some place warm ... with the kids of course.

Favourite film? Pulp Fiction

I had a good laugh when... I heard the joke going around this year that went something like South Sydney was going to win the comp.

If I had the chance I would... watch the Brumbies (Rugby), Bombers (Soccer/Football) and Raiders (League) win their premierships after watching the Blues win the Origin decider in Brisbane.

Editor's note: Before joining Ballina Shire Council Brad played for Canberra Raiders, but Brad modestly says there were so many good players that he didn't get the chance to play many first grade games. Another Council employee, Chris Kinna, also played for the Raiders around the same time as Brad.



FREE CHILD RESTRAINT SAFETY CHECKS

Ballina Shire Council, in partnership with Dancers Car Care, a local RMS authorised restraint fitter, is offering \$30 vouchers to local families for a free child restraint safety check or installation.

Parents and carers living in the Ballina Shire can visit Ballina Shire Council's Customer Service Centre to collect a free voucher to have your child restraint, harness and booster seat checked or installed for free.

Using a correctly fitted and age appropriate restraint greatly increases a child's safety in a crash. A research study, funded by the RMS, has shown that children who are restrained incorrectly are up to seven times more likely to be seriously injured in a crash than children who are restrained correctly.

Residents who are not able to collect a voucher can phone Jodie Hewett, Road Safety Officer on 6686 4444. The child restraint vouchers are valid until 30 June 2014 and conditions apply.

Up to \$1,500 rebate for a Rainwater Tank

The rebate includes:

- Up to \$500 for the rainwater tank (depending on volume) PLUS
- \$500 rebate if the tank is connected to the toilet/s PLUS
- \$500 rebate if the tank is connected to the washing machine.

Available to eligible town water customers in Byron, Ballina, Lismore and Richmond Valley council areas.

Other eligibility criteria, terms and conditions apply.

Find out more at www.rouswater.nsw.gov.au

Rous Water
RESIDENTIAL SUPPLY

REBATE OF \$1,500 FOR RAINWATER TANKS

Rebates for your home water saving projects are still available, including a generous rebate of up to \$1,500 to purchase and install a rainwater tank. These rebates are part of our ongoing efforts to be more water efficient with our drinking water resources.

The 'rainwater tank rebate' is one of a range of water saving incentives offered to eligible residential town water customers in the Ballina Shire. The rebate offered for a rainwater tank is based on the size of the tank and how it is connected to the house.

Summer is a great time to install a rainwater tank so that you can capture and reuse rainwater in your garden and in your house for things like toilet flushing and clothes washing. A study by Rous Water in 2010 showed that the average household that installed a rainwater tank saved around 50,000 litres per year.

Rebates are also available to town water customers to change single flush toilets to dual flush, and to change an old showerhead to a water-efficient model.

To obtain more information about the rebates and terms and conditions, visit the Rous Water website rouswater.nsw.gov.au.



SWIM SAFELY THIS SUMMER

Lifeguard Patrols

With the start of the warmer weather contracted surf lifesavers and volunteers are again patrolling beaches in the Ballina Shire. For your safety please swim between the flags.

Patrols normally operate from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Beach	Patrols start	Patrols finish
Lennox Head Beach	23/09/2013	26/04/2014
Sharpes Beach	21/12/2013 12/04/2014	27/01/2014 27/04/2014
Shelly Beach	21/12/2013	27/01/2014
Lighthouse Beach	23/12/2013 14/04/2014	24/01/2014 25/04/2014



download
the free
app

Up-to-date beach and surf safety information is now at your fingertips. Download the free app from beachsafe.org.au. The app gives updates on conditions at more than 11,000 Australian beaches.

BeachSafe is brought to you by Surf Life Saving Australia.

Swim into Summer at the Ballina and Alstonville Pools

Summer is here so take the opportunity to get fit and meet new people at your local pool.

Season tickets are available for the Ballina and Alstonville pools and they can be used at either pool. EFTPOS facilities are available.

Alstonville Heated Pool

Ph 6628 0826

Mon to Fri 6.00am to 6.00pm

Sat 8.00am to 6.00pm

Sun and Public Holidays 10.00am to 6.00pm

Ballina Memorial Swimming Pool

Ph 6686 3771

Mon to Fri 6.00am to 6.00pm

Sat 8.00am to 6.00pm

Sun and Public Holidays 9.00am to 6.00pm

Have you registered your backyard pool or spa?



A reminder to all Ballina Shire residents

who have swimming pools to make sure your pool is registered on the NSW Swimming Pool Register.

The NSW Government has passed new laws to try to reduce the number of children drowning in swimming pools. All backyard pools and spas in NSW are now required to be registered on the NSW Swimming Pool Register.

Registering is simple. Go to swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au.

You will need to know the address, the size of the property, the type of pool you own (e.g. in ground, spa pool), whether any work has been done to your pool barrier, and how old your pool is.

Whether you already own a pool, or you build one later on, you will need to register it. Failure to have your pool registered can attract a fine of up to \$220.

So do your part to keep kids safe: register your pool, check your barriers and make sure it's safe.

If you would prefer, Ballina Shire Council's Building Services Section can register your pool for a fee of \$10; refer to our website for registration application details. Enquiries: Ph: 6686 1254.





The Tradies' Guide To Good Access

The Tradies' Guide to Good Access was launched at an information night hosted by the Master Builders' Association at Ballina RSL Club on 19 November 2013.

Steven Pizzol, who is a member of Ballina Shire Council's Access Reference Group, launched the guide. Steve is a quadriplegic and prior to his

accident was a builder, undertaking all his training at the Lismore TAFE.

Steven gave a great speech to the 40 builders present about his experiences in gaining access to buildings and getting out and about in Ballina.

The guide provides renovators, builders and developers with simple information about minimum building requirements that help make the built environment more accessible for everyone.

This booklet is an initiative of the Northern Rivers Regional Access Forum which includes representatives from access groups from Ballina Shire Council, Byron Shire Council, Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley Council, Kyogle Shire Council and Tweed Shire Council. Coffs Harbour City Council also contributed to the production of the guide.

A copy of the guide is available on Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au

Above: Steve Pizzol with fellow Access Reference Group member, Walter Mulgrave.

RISING STARS SCHOLARSHIP

Southern Cross University Rising Stars Scholarships 2014

Ballina Shire Council is a proud supporter of the Southern Cross University Rising Stars Scholarship Program.

Southern Cross University (SCU) is currently seeking applications for the 2014 scholarships.

Applications for the Council Scholarship are open to Ballina Shire residents wanting to study a full-time undergraduate degree at Southern Cross University. The scholarship is for \$5,000 per year for three years.

For further information visit scu.edu.au/risingstars or phone SCU's Scholarships Office on 02 6620 3313.

Applications close 31 December 2013.



*Rising Stars Scholarship Award Ceremony 2013.
From left; Vice Chancellor Prof Peter Lee, Sharnie Flanagan-Boyd and Timothy McQuade*

AWARD RECOGNITION



Ballina Shire Council has recently received two commendations.

Highly Commended – Local Sustainability Award – Environmental Excellence

Ballina Shire Council has been highly commended for its overall progress in sustainability by the Local Government NSW Awards for Environmental Excellence.

We have been working on all areas of sustainability, and aim to improve our social and economic performance as well as reduce our operational impact on the environment.

Our Environmental Action Plan documents the projects and improvements to our operations. Some notable projects include:

- new ways of assessing asbestos hazards onsite
- new recycled wastewater treatment plants at Lennox Head and Ballina resulting in massive improvements to the treatment of our Shire's wastewater (sewage)
- stormwater infrastructure upgrade and saving hundreds of megalitres per year from leaks
- biodiversity projects including:
 - Lennox Head land revegetation
 - saving the endangered plant species *Fontainea oraria*
 - work at Lake Chickiba with international migratory birds at risk
 - the massive efforts by volunteers in our local bushland reserves
- reducing Council's vehicle fleet carbon footprint
- minimising Council's energy usage and the environmental impacts of our buildings and
- installing energy efficient streetlighting across the entire Shire.

We expect these projects will result in significant savings, particularly on our energy bills.

Highly Commended – Coastal Management Awards – Climate Action Strategy

Ballina Shire Council's Climate Action Strategy aims to improve our environmental performance, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and better manage our financial energy commitments. It was developed in close consultation with community representatives. The Climate Action Strategy has been implemented across all areas of Council operations. Some of the improvements include:

- Installing solar panels on a number of community buildings
- Replacing streetlights with energy efficient fittings
- Diverting 47% of compostable waste from landfill
- Hosting the Northern Rivers Carpool program to promote carpooling.

Ballina Coastcare was also commended for its work in restoring coastal bushland reserves.



Don't play renovation roulette with asbestos

The website asbestosawareness.com.au aims to alert Australians of the dangers of working with asbestos during home renovations and maintenance, and educate them about where asbestos might be found in and around the home.

Australia is ranked among the top consumers of asbestos cement products per capita in the world, and almost every home built or renovated before 1987 is likely to contain asbestos in one form or another.

Previously, those affected by asbestos-related diseases were exposed to raw fibres in the mining and manufacturing process, or by workers using asbestos products in the workplace. The current wave of asbestos-related diseases predominantly affects people exposed during home renovations and maintenance, specifically handymen, DIYers and family members present at the time.

If left undisturbed, asbestos generally does not pose a health risk however, with DIY renovations on the increase, people should visit asbestosawareness.com.au to learn where asbestos may be found and how best to manage it.



Asbestos can be under floor coverings such as carpets, lino and vinyl tiles, behind wall and floor tiles, in cement floors, internal and external walls, ceilings, eaves, garages, around hot water pipes, fences, extensions to homes, outdoor toilets and backyard sheds.

Don't play renovation roulette! Think smart, think safe, think asbestosawareness.com.au. It's not worth the risk!

AUSTRALIAN SEABIRD RESCUE WINS TOP ENVIRONMENT AWARD

Australian Seabird Rescue (ASR) has won the NSW Peabody Environment and Landcare Award for its work in wildlife rescue and conservation. ASR maintains vigilant patrols of our beaches, creeks and waterways, rescuing and rehabilitating sea birds and marine animals, removing tonnes of rubbish and raising public awareness about human impact on the environment.

Congratulations to Tweed Byron Ballina Community Transport which was shortlisted for the Community Service of the Year Award. It operates a vital service providing transport to schools, the elderly, physically challenged, Aboriginal communities, social groups and youth organisations.

For more information on these organisations go to the following websites:

Tweed Byron Ballina Community Transport
community-transport.org.au

Australian Seabird Rescue
seabirdrescue.org



EnvITE CELEBRATES 20 YEARS SERVICE TO THE BALLINA SHIRE

Many Ballina Shire residents would have seen groups of people doing environmental restoration work in bushland and in beach areas. Much of this work is coordinated by EnvITE, the Environmental Training and Employment organisation.

EnvITE is a non-government organisation that provides training and employment opportunities through various State and Federal funding programs. EnvITE is celebrating 20 years in the Ballina Shire and this milestone was marked by the unveiling of a plaque at the Richmond River Nature Reserve at South Ballina.

EnvITE currently has a Work for the Dole team working on improving beach access tracks that were damaged by erosion. They are also involved in several other projects which are being managed by Council.

Straying stock

Stock owners are reminded to check their fencing is adequate to keep their animals from straying onto public land.

Straying stock can cause serious accidents on roads and other public areas.

Rangers can issue penalty notices to people who fail to keep their animals confined and secured on private land.





arts News

corporate giving

The Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG) welcomes expressions of interest from our corporate community to help us support artistic and creative excellence in the Ballina Shire.

Corporate partnerships with the NRCG can provide exceptional opportunities to drive business awareness and support proud corporate citizenship.

The NRCG offers a variety of programs to enhance your business profile, network and branding through our corporate giving programs.

To find out how corporate giving can benefit your business and assist us to realise our vision, please phone Ingrid Hedgcock, Gallery Coordinator, on 6681 6167, and ask for a Corporate Giving Prospectus.

visit the gallery shop for unique gifts



Credit: Jen Banks, Gingko leaf pendant, sterling silver

The Gallery shop stocks a fantastic range of hand-made products created right here in the Northern Rivers region.

for kids

From 8 – 26 January families can drop-in for a self-guided art-making activity (no need to book).

There will also be an artist-run workshop with Jennifer Collins exploring prints and collage. Bookings and payments are essential. Call the Gallery for details.

The Northern Rivers Community Gallery is located on the corner of Cherry and Crane Streets Ballina and is open Wednesday to Friday from 10am until 4pm and weekends between 9.30am and 2.30pm. The Gallery will be closed over the Christmas period from 23 December 2013 to 7 January 2014 inclusive. The Gallery is closed on public holidays and entry is free. For all enquires phone the Gallery on 6681 6167.

nrcg | northern rivers
community gallery

exhibitions

27 November – 22 December 2013



Geoff Hannah & his students Group exhibition

An exquisite exhibition of hand-crafted timber furniture, jewellery boxes, guitars and more by Geoff Hannah and his woodworking students – Mary Alderman, Paul Amour, Mike Evans, Colin Fardon, Greg Foster, David Gilmore, Brian Henry, George Lewin, Matt McKay, Paul O'Sullivan, Janus Page, Barbara Riordan, Gary Shallala-Hudson, Ted Slattery, Lucille Stace and Francesco Stassi.

Credit: Geoffrey Hannah, Oriental style cabinet on stand

Wildflowers Lynette Weir

A beautiful collection of hand-coloured lino-block prints depicting wildflowers and wildlife. The centrepiece of the exhibition is a composition featuring flora of the Ballina region.

Credit: Seaside wildflowers



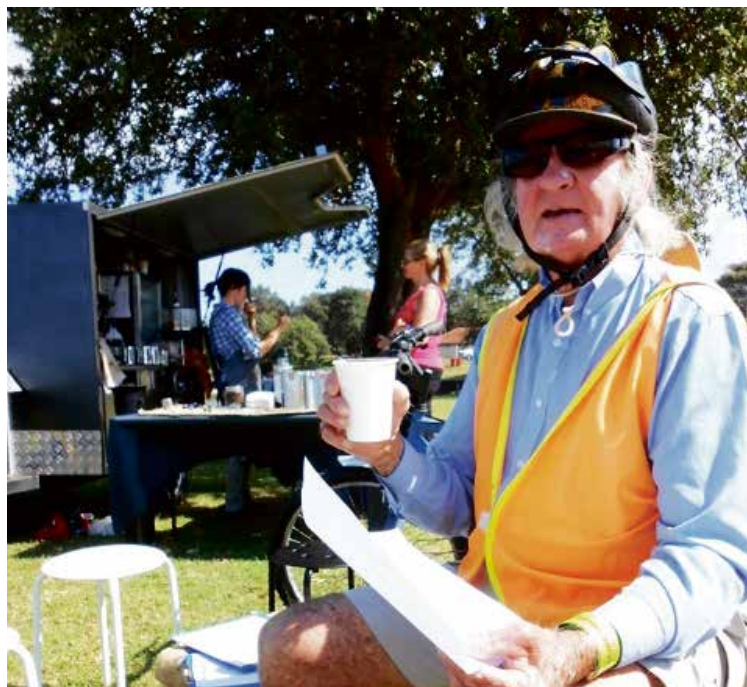
8 January – 9 February 2014

Four Exhibitions

From 8 January enjoy four new exhibitions featuring artwork by Jennifer Collins, Wanda Hitch, Paul Button, Rick Molloy and Donna Sharam.



Clockwise from top left: Jennifer Collins, Paul Button, Donna Sharaman, Rick Molloy.



Carney loves cycling in Ballina

85-year-old Carney Goodger dropped into the Ballina Shire Council's pop-up coffee shop by the river recently to have a cuppa and a chat. The pop-up coffee shop promoted cycling and NSW Bike Week.

Carney rides regularly to keep fit.

"I encourage others who are younger than me to ride. Ballina has great paths; it's flat and perfect for the older rider too," he said.

Some 65 cyclists stopped at the coffee shop to talk about how cycling in the Ballina Shire can be made safer and more enjoyable. Their comments and feedback will inform a review of Council's Road Safety Strategy and the development of a new Bike Plan.

Thank you to everyone who supported the cycling event, including Council staff.

Interpretative Signage Project – Ballina's Historic Waterfront

Ballina's Historic Waterfront trail provides brief insights into the historic importance of the river to the Shire's earliest European settlers and later residents. It gives us a taste of how the river has shaped, and been shaped by, past residents and activity in Ballina. It also highlights that the river supports numerous animal species and surrounding planting communities that are an important facet of the regions environmental heritage.

Indeed it only begins to reveal the many histories that are part of our community's past. Stories represented in the trail are by no means exhaustive of the stories the river's landscape represents and Council is looking to extend the project further to include other historical references.



FLOOD PHOTO GALLERY

The Ballina Shire Council has an on-line gallery of photos taken during flood events across the Shire. The earliest photos we have are from 1893. To look at the gallery go to **ballina.nsw.gov.au**.

If you have any flood photos you would like to contribute to the on-line gallery please phone Suzanne Acret on 6686 4444.

All photos will be returned.



STOP ILLEGAL RUBBISH DUMPING



The illegal dumping of household and garden waste as well as building and commercial rubbish is a continuing problem in the Ballina Shire. It has significant ramifications for public health and safety and for the environment. So far this year there have been more than 100 reported cases of illegal dumping in the Ballina Shire.

Illegal dumping pollutes our waterways, neighbourhoods and bushland. Garden waste is also a huge problem spreading weeds into the environment, as well as creating a fire hazard. Council has to clean up and dispose of the

illegally dumped waste and investigate each incident. This is time-consuming and costly.








Ballina Shire Council and North East Waste have launched a campaign targeting illegal dumping on the north coast. The campaign involves TV, newspaper and radio advertising to raise awareness of the costs to the community of illegal dumping and the launch of a dedicated website.

Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) of up to \$1,500 for individuals and \$5,000 for corporations apply to those caught illegally dumping. Offences under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act can reach up to \$250,000 and possible jail time.

If you see someone dumping rubbish illegally please record some details and report the incident to Council on 6686 1210. Alternatively, go to **illegaldumping.com.au/report.html** or Council's website **ballina.nsw.gov.au** and provide as much detail as possible.



Off-leash dog exercise areas

-  bicentennial gardens (northern area of the reserve), ballina
-  compton drive, east ballina
-  gap road, alstonville
-  seven mile beach, north of lake ainsworth, lennox head (old 4wd access)
-  ballina heights estate, eastern reserve area, ballina heights
-  headlands drive drainage reserve, skennars head
-  the spit, ballina

conditions of use

1. Your dog must always be under effective control. 'Effective control' means your dog responds to your command and remains close to you.
2. If your dog is not sufficiently trained to be under your effective control and shows signs of anti-social behaviour and aggression you must remove the dog immediately from the area.
3. Pick up your dog poo and dispose in a waste bin.
4. Be considerate of all other users of the area. It is not for the exclusive use of dogs and their owners.
5. Your dog must be accompanied at all times by an adult or person over 16 years.

WARNING: Dogs not being managed responsibly in these areas will be seized by Council Rangers. Thank you for your co-operation.



random dog checks

Council Rangers will be increasing their patrols particularly around beach areas this summer. They will be doing random checks on animals to see if they are registered and microchipped.

Dog prohibited areas



Because of the popularity of some beaches, and the presence of migratory and shore birds, dogs are not allowed on:

- Shelly Beach
- Lighthouse Beach
- Seven Mile Beach, south of Lake Ainsworth Reserve (old 4WD access point), Lennox Head
- Flat Rock Reef
- Sharpes Beach (northern end of Sharpes Beach during summer when the beach is patrolled)
- Chickiba Lake (north/eastern corner surrounding the migratory and shore birds roosting area)
- Lake Ainsworth & surrounding foreshore/reserve
- Fire Trail, end Camp Drew Rd, Lennox Head
- The Serpentine
- And other areas as signposted.

If a person has their dog in a prohibited area they may be issued with a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN) of up to \$330.

Pooches in public places to be on a lead

Dogs are allowed in most public places in the Ballina Shire but unless they are in a specific off-leash area, all dogs must be on a lead that is controlled and held by a competent person over 16 years of age.

Dogs are allowed on Angels Beach, Sharpes Beach and Flat Rock Beach but they must be on a lead. It's a good idea to check the signs in public places to see if dogs are allowed to be there.





Lost and found – a dog's tale

A local truck driver recently noticed a lonely dog wandering down Kerr Street in Ballina. Concerned the dog was going to get run over, the driver called the ranger who took the foxy to the pound. Luckily the dog was microchipped and she was found to be a long way from home. Zara had been reported missing from her Sydney home months earlier.



The ranger got in touch with her owner, which was an animal welfare organisation. They were so excited to hear Zara had been found. A carer drove up from Sydney and collected her from our Ranger, Garry Connors. Zara was chauffeured back to Sydney the next day.

Zara was able to be reunited with her owner because she was microchipped and registered.

All cats and dogs in NSW must be microchipped by the time they are 12 weeks old or before being sold or given away. They must also be registered with Council when they are six months old.

New changes to the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 has increased fines for failing to register a dog or cat from \$165 to \$275. If you are unsure how to microchip and register your pet please phone our Rangers on 6686 1210 or visit our website ballina.nsw.gov.au

Dog attacks and new dog legislation

There have been a number of reports in NSW of people, including young children, being attacked by dogs in recent months. In some cases the dog was the family pet. Council is encouraging people not to leave their dogs alone with young children, no matter how gentle the dog seems.

Following the recent dog attacks the State Government passed new legislation giving Councils the power to crack down on dogs deemed "menacing", even if they have never killed or caused injury.

A dog that has tried to attack a person and/or animal, or has displayed "aggressive tendencies", may be considered menacing under the amendments to the Act.

If Council declares a dog as "menacing", the owner will be required to desex the dog, keep it muzzled and leashed, and in the control of a person over the age of 18 years every time it is in a public area.

8 TIPS

YOU CAN DO NOW TO PREPARE FOR STORMS

1

MAINTAIN YARD AND BALCONY



Secure or put away items that could blow around in strong winds

2

CLEAN GUTTERS



Clean your gutters, downpipes and drains regularly to prevent blockages

3

TRIM BRANCHES



Trim trees and branches that could potentially fall on your home or property

4

FIX ROOF DAMAGE



Fix any damage to your roof including broken or missing tiles

5

CHECK INSURANCE



Check your insurance policy is current and adequate

6

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY PLAN



Make a plan for your family that outlines what you would do in an emergency

7

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT



Prepare an emergency kit in case you lose power or need to leave your home (turn over for checklist)

8

LISTEN TO LOCAL RADIO



Listen to your local radio station and other media for weather warnings





What to do during the *School Holidays*

Looking for something to do with the kids or grandchildren over the Summer school holidays? It's all happening in the Ballina Shire with lots of sporty, fun, creative and educational activities to keep the kids entertained.

MAKE A SPLASH

Richmond River Cruises

Wednesdays and/or Sundays – minimum bookings required
Where: Richmond River Princess Cruise, Richmond River, Ballina
Bookings: 1800 777 666 Ballina Visitor Information Centre for cruise dates. Cruise includes morning or afternoon tea. Cost is \$15 for kids & \$30 for adults

Ballina Pool & Waterslides

Open daily – Monday to Friday 6.00am to 6.00pm.
 Saturday 8.00am to 6.00pm.
 Sunday & Public Holidays 9.00am to 6.00pm
 River Street Ballina
 Waterslides \$15 (includes pool entry) Adults \$3.80 Children \$3.10 (Children under 12months free) Spectators \$2.60

GET CREATIVE

Northern Rivers Community Gallery

44 Cherry Street, Ballina

Drop in activities from Wednesday 8 January 2014
 Kids workshop and activities – bookings essential
 Ph: 6681 6167

Del Strong Art

14-16 January
Birds, Feather & Nests
21-23 January
All things Horses

Studio 88a Main Street, Alstonville
 Ph: 6628 1749 or mobile 0410 447 717
 delstrong.com
 email art@delstrong.com

Ballina Library Workshops

Ph: 6686 2831

Lennox Head Library

Christmas Decoration Making
 17 December 3.30-5pm
 Lennox Head Library, Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre,
 Ph: 6687 6398



Lennox Head Kidz Klub

Wednesdays – Fridays, 8-10, 15-17 & 22-24 January 2014
 Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre
 Ph: 6687 6291
 \$20 per child per session or \$40 per child for the full day

Project X Little Builders

Monday 13 January
 Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre
 Ph: Anna 0409 432 829
 \$50 per session (includes materials & refreshments) or \$85 for the whole day

EDUCATIONAL

Australian Seabird Rescue Tours

School Holiday Tours
 From 10am weekdays daily
 Monday 6 to Friday 24 January 2014
 264 North Creek Road, Ballina
 Ph: 6686 2852

Ballina Naval & Maritime Museum

Open daily from 9am-4pm
 Regatta Avenue, Ballina
 Ph: 6681 1002
 Adults \$5 Kids \$2

Thursday Plantation

Open weekdays 9am-4pm & weekends 10am-4pm
 Gallans Road, Ballina
 Ph: 6620 5150
 Free

SPORTY ACTION

Lake Ainsworth Sport & Recreation

New Years Getaway Camp
 Saturday 28 December 2013 to Friday 3 January 2014
 Lake Ainsworth Sport & Recreation Centre
 Ph: 131302 or 6687 7168
 \$511.50 (5-17 years) or \$682 (18 & over)

Adventure Camp

Wednesday 22 to Friday 24 January 2014
 Lake Ainsworth Sport & Recreation Centre
 Ph 131302 or 6687 7168
 \$240

Tassiriki Ranch Beach Horse Riding

Daily beach horse riding tours
 Moylans Lane, Empire Vale
 Ph: 6683 4602

Classic Aero Adventure Flights

Take a scenic flight in a genuine ex-RAAF warbird plane

Daily
 Ballina Byron Gateway Airport
 Ph: 0432 318 282

Byron Bay Air Charters

Scenic Coastal Flights
 Daily
 Ballina Byron Gateway Airport
 Ph: 6686 4876

Air T & G Scenic Helicopter Flights

Now taking flight students*
 Daily
 Ballina Byron Gateway Airport
 Ph: 6681 4915 or email mail@airtg.com.au
 age conditions apply

FAMILY FUN

Summerland House Farm

Guided plantation tour on tractor, water spray park, playground, mini golf, gardens, heritage cottage, café & The Regional Grocer Daily 9am-4pm
 253 Wardell Road, Alstonville
 Ph: 6628 0610

Macadamia Castle

Full program of activities including animal feeding
 Daily 9am-5pm
 1699 Pacific Highway, Knockrow
 Ph: 6687 8432
 SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ONLY

Amaze N Place

Free alpaca feeding everyday at 11am, free puzzle play, visit the café and lattice maze.
 149 Wardell Road, Alstonville
 Ph: 6628 6286

Ballina Tenpin Bowl

Open daily with Glow in the Dark Bowling from 12noon-4pm

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

2 games \$14
 16 Clark Street
 Ph: 6686 5342

Teven Valley Golf Course

Kids hire clubs for free with every paying adult
 1684 Eltham Road, Teven
 Ph: 6687 8386

Sunrise Cycles

Hire a bike and ride Ballina's cycleways and shared paths
 3 Hogan Street Ballina
 Ph: 6686 6322

Transition Cycles

Hire a bike and ride Ballina's cycleways and shared paths
 49 River Street Ballina Ph: 6686 6522

Note: calendar compiled as at 26 November. For an updated school holiday activity sheet visit discoverballina.com or phone 1800 777 666



Shop fresh shop best at the new Alstonville Farmers Market



If you're not doing anything this Saturday why not drop into Alstonville and have a look at the town's new farmers market. The market is held every Saturday in the carpark behind Quattro Country in Bugden Lane. It's teeming with fresh fruit and vegetables and other tasty morsels. Get all your shopping done and support our local farmers knowing you are buying the freshest produce available.

The market organiser, Steve Cooke, is also looking for non-profit groups wanting to fundraise by operating a sausage sizzle. For details phone Steve on 0478 163 038.

Bugden Lane Carpark (behind Quattro Country)

8am to 12noon, every Saturday.

Parking restrictions

The Christmas holidays are looming and that means parking in the Ballina, Alstonville and Lennox Head town centres will be in demand. To ensure people have access to parking, restrictions are in place in these areas.

Please check the timed parking restrictions so you do not get a Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN). Council Rangers and Parking Officers conduct regular patrols within these areas, including Saturdays.

Fines of \$101 will be issued for overstaying the sign-posted time limit and there is a \$504 penalty for parking in a disabled parking space without a current permit.



MARKET CALENDAR FOR BALLINA SHIRE

There is a market or two held every weekend in Ballina Shire. Discover original artworks, handicrafts, fashion, jewellery, second hand goods, as well as fresh local produce....or just sit, relax and enjoy fabulous food and the sights and sounds of your local market.

BALLINA TWILIGHT MARKETS

Fawcett Park

4pm – 8pm

0407 668 398

Every Thursday during daylight savings

BALLINA MISSINGHAM FARMERS MARKET

Kingsford Smith Drive

6am – 12noon

0416 048 241

Every Sunday

ALSTONVILLE FARMERS MARKET new!

Bugden Lane Carpark

(behind Quattro Country)

8am – 12noon

0478 163 038

Every Saturday

MAKE IT – BAKE IT – GROW IT MARKETS

**Summerland House Farm,
253 Wardell Road, Alstonville**

9am – 1pm

0417 547 555

1st Sunday

ALSTONVILLE COMMUNITY MARKET

Alstonville Showground

8am – 12.30pm

6628 1568

2nd Sunday

BALLINA COMMUNITY MARKET

Canal Road

7am – 1pm

6687 4328

3rd Sunday

LENNOX MARKET

Williams Reserve and the Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre

8am – 2pm

6687 8618

2nd & 5th Sunday

NORTH COAST KIDS & BABIES MARKETS

**Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre,
Cnr Mackney & Park Lanes**

9am – 1pm

0481 085 920

2nd Saturday in Mar, May July, Sept, Nov

community connect



What's On! at your local community facility

Ballina Shire Council has four community facilities across the Shire available to hire for meetings, functions and events. If you are interested in starting a new interest group, sporting activity or community event phone our friendly staff on 6687 6291 or email communityfacilities@ballina.nsw.gov.au.



LENNOX HEAD CULTURAL & COMMUNITY CENTRE
1 Mackney Lane Lennox Head
KENTWELL COMMUNITY



CENTRE
20 Bangalow Rd Ballina

THE RICHMOND ROOM



Regatta Ave, Ballina
BALLINA SURF CLUB FUNCTION ROOMS



65 Lighthouse Parade, Ballina



EVENT VENUES

- LHCCC:** Lennox Head Cultural & Community Centre
KCC: Kentwell Community Centre
RR: The Richmond Room
Ballina SC: Ballina Surf Club Function Rooms

COMMUNITY GROUPS

AMORC

KCC
3rd Saturday of the Month
2:00pm – 4:00pm
Peter Reed on 0428 655 795
amorc.org.au

Ballina Camera Club

KCC
2nd and 4th Thursdays of the Month
6:00pm – 9:00pm
Mark Davis on 6686 6915 or email mark@baaf.com.au

Lennox Head Residents Association

LHCCC
1st Monday of the Month
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Fred on 6687 7790

Sing Australia

KCC
Every Tuesday Evening
7:00pm – 9:00pm
Brian on 0407 358 717

The Silver Smiths

KCC
Every Wednesday Evening
5:00pm – 6:00pm
Helen on 6681 6357 or Norma on 6686 3506

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Broadband for Seniors

KCC
Mondays and Thursdays
9:30am – 11:30am
Phone 6687 6291

Interrelate Family Centres: Outreach Program

KCC
Wednesdays and Fridays
9:00am – 5:00pm
Phone 6623 2750

Northern Rivers Gambling Counselling Service

KCC
Thursdays
By Appointment
Phone 6687 2520

Tarmons House Mental Health Service

LHCCC
Thursdays
8:00am – 6:00pm
Phone 6621 7319

Stepping Out With Confidence Program

LHCCC
Every Monday for 6 Weeks
1:00pm – 3:00pm
The Stepping On Coordinator on 0408 665 282

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Australian Red Cross Blood Service

RR
Various Mondays and Tuesdays
Each Month 1:30pm – 7:00pm
Pre arrange an appointment.
Phone 13 14 95

Breast Cancer Support Group

KCC
1st Thursday of the Month
10:00am – 11:30am
Robyn on 0413 027 446

General Cancer Support Group

Ballina SC
2nd Thursday of the Month
10:00am – 11:30am
Robyn on 0413 027 446

Cannabis Clinic

KCC
2nd, 3rd & 4th Thursdays
9:30am – 3:30pm
1300 664 098

Ujalja Yoga with Jess

LHCCC
Tuesdays & Thursdays
6:00pm – 7:30pm
Jess on 0468 348 015

INTRA: The Buttery's Drug & Alcohol Outreach Program

KCC
Wednesdays
1:30pm – 3:00pm
Ph 6687 2835

Physical Culture

LHCCC
Thursdays
5:15pm – 6:15pm
Sharyn on 6687 4835 or Margaret on 6622 2126
(Recommencing 30th January 2014)

Bulk Billing Psychologist

LHCCC
Tuesdays
8:00am – 5:00pm
Chris on 0413 725 471

Lotus Heart Centre Pop Up Clinic

LHCCC
By Appointment
Emily on 0404 019 078

Yoga Veda Yoga for Surfers

LHCCC
Monday & Wednesday
6:00pm – 7:30pm
Daniel on 0404 833 855



Paediatrician

LHCCC
Every Wednesday & Friday
8:00am – 6:00pm
Dr Uli Schmidt on 02 5622 6020
email kilu11@gmx.de

Soul Awareness Seminars

LHCCC
Various Dates
7:30pm – 9:00pm
Dean on 0418 983 880

SOL North Coast

Nutrition
KCC
2nd and 4th Tuesday
8:00am – 6:00pm
Christina on 6680 8576

The Speech Wave

Speech & Language Pathology
LHCCC
Dates TBC
Joanne on 0419 258 296

Youth Yoga

BDCSA
LHCCC
Mondays 3:45pm – 5:45pm
Steve Bowden 0447 181 208
steve.bowden@bdcsa.org

Iyengar Yoga

LHCCC
Tuesdays 6:00pm-7:30pm
0402 770 441

Purna Yoga With Tamika

Ballina SC
Tuesday
6:00pm – 7:00pm
Tamika on 0439 451 493

Healthy Lifestyles by CHEGS

LHCCC
Wednesday
9:00am-10:00am
Bernadette on 6687 8989

SPORT, GAMES AND COMPETITIONS

Ballina Netball Association

LHCCC
Mondays 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Tuesdays 5:30pm – 8:30pm
Judy on 6686 7191

Far North Coast Futsal

LHCCC
Monday & Wednesdays
Tanya on 6628 3845

Lennox Head Life Ball

LHCCC
Every Tuesday Morning
9:30am – 11:30am
Yvonne on 6687 6238

Wheelchair Sports

LHCCC
Last Thursday of the Month
10:00am – 1:00pm
Phone 6620 6600

KIDS & BABIES

Angelina Ballerina Dance Academy

LHCCC
Every Tuesday
10am – 11am
Phone 6629 1014

Early Childhood Nurse

LHCCC
Every Monday
by Appointment
9:30am – 3:30pm
Phone 6686 8977

Heart of Dance

LHCCC
Mondays
5:00pm – 8:00pm
Tuesdays
3:30pm – 5:30pm
Phone 0422 846 278

Lennox Head Kidz Klub

LHCCC
Wed, Thurs and Fri
January 2014 school holidays
8,9,10th January
15,16,17th January
23,24,25th January
9.30am – 12.30pm and/or
1.00pm – 4.00pm
\$20 per child per session or
\$40 full day.
Pre-registration essential.
Phone 6687 6291

Lennox Head Playgroup

LHCCC
Tuesdays and Fridays
9:30am – 11:30am
(during school terms only)
Jennifer on 0412 485 939

North Coast Kids & Babies Market

LHCCC
Saturday 22 February 2014
Evelyn 0481 085 920
northcoastbabiesmarket.com

IN THE LENNOX LIBRARY

Baby Bounce

Every Wednesday Morning
10:30am – 11:30am
Phone 6687 6398

Story Time

Every Thursday Morning
10:30am – 11:30am
Phone 6687 6398

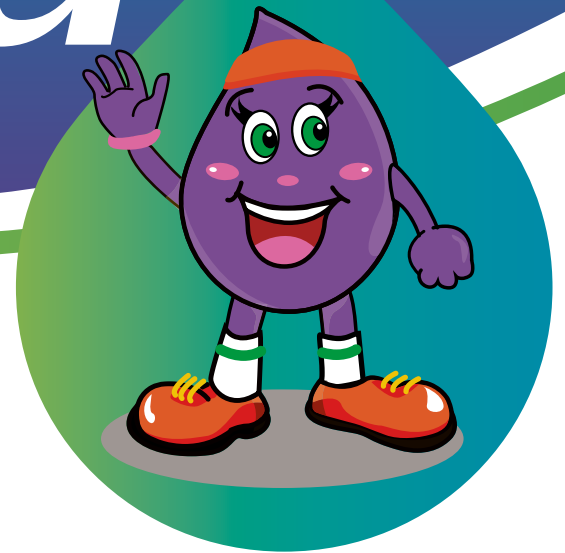
Christmas Decoration Making

For Primary School Kids
13 December 2013
3:30pm – 5:00pm
Phone 6687 6398

For further information on the events listed above download the What's On! Program at ballina.nsw.gov.au/communityfacilities



water



'Crystal' is Ballina Shire's New Recycled Water Drop.

Crystal will start travelling to new housing estates very shortly as Ballina and Lennox Head's Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrades near completion.

We will use Crystal's water instead of our precious drinking water to flush toilets, water gardens and wash clothes.

This means our Shire will be prepared for future population growth and times of drought.

The excess recycled water we don't re-use will be released into our waterways making them much cleaner to swim, surf and fish in.

Crystal is smart and friendly and people are starting to get to know her.

Have a look at who Crystal met at the Prawn Festival.



Clockwise from top, Crystal is pictured with: the Ballina Scope Club, Navy Cadets Ally Cason and Lauren Johnson, Prime Possum, Ballina Pipe Band Drum Major Neville Graham, the Prawn Festival Mascot, the Samba Blisstas, and her helpers with Mayor David Wright.



Second Hand Saturday a big success in Ballina Shire

On 16 November more than 200 garage sales were held in the Ballina Shire as part of Second Hand Saturday. Our Second Hand Saturday scout, Kate Pye, was on the trail early seeking out local treasures and meeting some of Ballina's delightful residents.

"Whether you were a treasure hunter or you hosted a garage sale, I hope everyone had as much fun as I did on the day," Kate said.

"Garage sales are a great way to recycle unwanted items and reduce what we send to landfill. People see treasure in other people's trash and that was certainly the case for me. What I liked most about the day were the people I met and the history and stories associated with the beautiful things I bought".

"Here's my trail for you to enjoy," Kate said.

7.30am Shirley Kocks' Garage Sale



Shirley has three children and moved here from Griffith ten years ago when her husband passed away. Not knowing anyone when she moved here, she immersed herself in the community by volunteering at Lifeline, going to church regularly and joining the Shirley Club. "My wonderful neighbours were also a massive support to me and helped make the transition easy," Shirley said.

Over the years Shirley's collected many things from teaspoons to miniature shoes to music boxes. When asked about her tips for treasure hunters, Shirley suggested "go to expensive addresses and visit older people's houses as they just don't make things like they used to".

Shirley sold me:

- Italian creamer – her son bought two of them for her in Melbourne – \$8
- 1950s leather hat box – \$40
- English Rouge Carlton dish set – \$8
- Mother of pearl cigarette holder and lighter – \$3
- Venetian glass ashtray – \$5
- Glomesh handbag – \$10



8.00am Esther Condie's Garage Sale



Esther was born in London and moved to Australia in 1963. She lived in Brisbane and Sydney before moving to Ballina in 1979 where she met her husband Albert, who works as a local plumber.

Esther worked as a beautician for most of her life and has also danced and acted in stage shows such as 'Carousel' and 'Paint Your Wagon'. She likes the friendly atmosphere that Ballina offers as well as the entertainment and beaches. Esther plays bowls at the Ballina RSL Bowling Club.

When asked for a garage sale tip, Esther suggested it is wise to "have everything clean and tidy with prices marked ahead of time as people will come early".

Esther sold me:

- English doilies – \$1 each
- Silk nighty slip – \$2
- Original 1970s pavlova platter and server – \$4



8.30am Kathleen and Ian Gillespie's Garage Sale



The Gillespies downsized from Bilambil Heights 20 years ago and have six children who live Australia wide. They are originally from Victoria where Kathleen had her own dressmaking business which she gave up to help run their family newsagency in Thomastown. Ian then worked for Imlay (now Bega Valley) Shire Council where he had various roles.

They both like the handy location of the shopping centres in Ballina as well as the good health care. When asked for a tip about holding a garage sale, they suggested, "have everything on show and well displayed and don't overprice things".

They sold me:

- Original 1970s punch bowl – \$10
- Heat lamp – 10
- Nat King Cole 3 set CDs – \$5



"My most unusual find was without doubt this 1950s hair dryer – \$20."



waste watch



new app for bush fire survival plan

The NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) has released a new smart device app called MyFirePlan that allows people to develop a Bush Fire Survival Plan.

The NSW RFS says anyone who lives, works or travels near bush land should have a Bush Fire Survival Plan. The Plan will help you make important decisions about when to leave, what to take and what to do with animals.

For more information about the Bush Fire Survival Plan app, or to print a copy of a Bush Fire Survival Plan to fill out go to rfs.nsw.gov.au



Don't dispose of me yet

Use this issue of Community Connect to wrap kitchen waste and dispose in the green organics bin.



CONTACTING YOUR COUNCILLORS

Councillors are here to represent your views. You can contact Councillors in person, by phone or email.

Mayor



David Wright
Mayor
phone 0415 965 403
davidwright@ballina.nsw.gov.au



Susan Meehan
Deputy Mayor
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smeehan@ballina.nsw.gov.au



Robyn Hordern
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robynh@ballina.nsw.gov.au



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Web: ballina.nsw.gov.au

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40 Cherry Street, Ballina

Postal Address:
PO Box 450, Ballina 2478

Office Hours:
8.15am to 4.30pm Monday
to Friday
(excluding public holidays)

After hours contact:
02 6626 6954

**Council's Community
Access Points:**
Meeting agendas and
documents on exhibition can be
viewed at Council's Customer
Service Centre; Alstonville,
Ballina and Lennox Head
Libraries and Council's website
ballina.nsw.gov.au

*Council publishes public
notices weekly and Community
Notices on the fourth Thursday
of the month in the Ballina
Shire Advocate. Council
also distributes "Community
Connect eNews" via email on a
regular basis, visit ballina.nsw.gov.au
and follow the links to
subscribe.*

