



community **connect**

the magazine of ballina shire council

inside

Welcoming visitors to the shire



Marina Master Plan



Pool upgrade update



Airport terminal expansion



Launch of Aboriginal Cultural Ways: Interpretive Signage Project

Locals and visitors can explore our rich Aboriginal heritage amongst the beauty of the Ballina coastline.

The series of interpretive signs installed along the Coastal Recreational Path, and officially launched in February, recognise the Aboriginal cultural values and provides stories of historical events, dreaming, language and connection to place.

The 22 large panels are placed along the East Ballina Aboriginal Place section of the Coastal Recreational Path that stretches six-kilometres from Angels Beach, East Ballina to Sharpes Beach.

For the complete experience a web app can also be used in conjunction with the signage to provide complementary material along the path.

The Aboriginal Cultural Ways Project has been a collaboration between Ballina Shire Council, Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council and Ballina Shire's Aboriginal community. The project has also been supported by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and the Heritage Council of NSW.

This significant resource can be appreciated by everyone and is an opportunity to explore the shire's rich cultural heritage.

Refer to page 16 for safe use of our shared paths.





our *vision*

serving the **community** of today while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow

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engaged leadership

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connected community

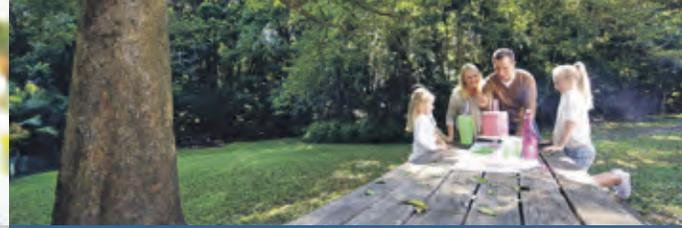
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from the mayor's desk

"It is actually raining as I write this column. I'd forgotten what wet weather was. It's hard to believe that it's almost the end of March. So much has happened in the first three months with so many visitors enjoying the beautiful sunshine, frequenting the beaches and helping many businesses experience record trade."

Firstly, the official opening of the new building to house our Marine Rescue volunteers will happen in April. The tower features updated surveillance gear, an internal lift to help members access the observation room as well as providing extra communication equipment. The Open Day over the holiday period had hundreds of people touring the facility and enjoying the sausage sandwiches available.

The Coastal Recreational Path from Angels Beach to Sharpes Beach carpark has been completed and locals and visitors have been traversing the Walk by foot or bicycle, enjoying an experience of a journey into the dreamtime with magnificent displays of local Aboriginal history and stories as well as gaining a sensory experience through the coastal vegetation.

Over the holiday period, I was in contact with many visitors and locals. It was great to see hundreds in the water on the beaches, at Shaws Bay and Lake Ainsworth. I couldn't believe the huge numbers on the sand built up in the river near the sailing club as well as around Missingham Bridge. Some days the areas looked like miniature towns.

Many people said that they would be returning to visit or even set up a new family home. Certainly, there is a wide range of land to build on as well as older homes to purchase. It looks as though recent increased growth is set to continue.

As I visited the beach each day, it was an eye opener to see the volunteer lifesavers and professional lifeguards at our beaches, patrolling and attending to rescues and first aid. Without their presence, many visitors would have found themselves in serious trouble. Well done and thank you for keeping beach goers safe.

I am looking forward to Council's asset renewal in 2017. With the Ballina and Alstonville pool redevelopment, the heated pools catering for multiple uses, will set a very high standard.

The Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Terminal redevelopment expansion of the arrival and departure areas, additional entrepreneurial ventures as well as new toilets, will ensure the continued growth of flights and passenger numbers. The record figures over the holiday period are currently pushing towards 500,000 passengers annually.

The airport growth has had great benefits for locals and visitors alike with cheaper air fares and increased flights. The Melbourne route has proved to be very popular.

Hopefully the extreme weather is over for a while and residents will be able to use our waterways and paths for their relaxation in a much cooler atmosphere in our part of paradise.

Cr David Wright

our values

creative

accessible

respectful

energetic

safe



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN *our community our future*

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the visionary long term document that provides the broader strategic direction for Ballina Shire Council. It outlines key outcomes the Council, other agencies and the community will work towards over the next ten years.

You may recall in the December 2016 issue of Community Connect we sought community feedback on the type of future you wanted for Ballina Shire. This feedback helped shape the draft CSP, which was prepared by Council on behalf of the community and is now currently on exhibition.

Now it's your opportunity to let us know if we are heading in the right direction. You can download a copy of the draft CSP on Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au (search CSP). Hard copies of the document will also be available at our community access points including the shire libraries, community facilities and visitor centre.

**Submissions are invited until
28 April 2017:**

Email council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Write to Community Strategic Plan,
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450 Ballina NSW 2478

Phone Corporate Communications,
phone 6686 4444

Web ballina.nsw.gov.au
(search CSP)



ballina marina master plan – exhibition



For many years, the Ballina community has expressed an interest in a greater range of marine infrastructure in Ballina.

Council is now preparing a Master Plan to encourage and guide redevelopment of the area commonly known as the Trawler Harbour site in West Ballina.

Since early last year, Council has been investigating the establishment of a marina and potential land uses such as residential redevelopment, public esplanade, dry storage for boats, commercial spaces and open spaces. The aim of the project is to attract Government and private interest to consider the site for investment and redevelopment.

The draft Ballina Marina Master Plan has drawn on previous plans, detailed site assessments and feedback from the community and stakeholders. Council is now seeking feedback on the draft master plan and its supporting materials.

Submissions are invited until 28 April 2017:

Email marinamasterplan@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Write to Ballina Marina Master Plan
Ballina Shire Council PO Box 450 Ballina NSW 2478

Phone Strategic and Community Facilities Group, ph 6686 1284

Web ballina.nsw.gov.au (search Ballina Marina Master Plan)



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN FULL SWING

OPPORTUNITY + INNOVATION + ACTIVATION

Council is preparing an economic development strategy for Ballina Shire to strengthen our local economy.

The development of the strategy will be based on consultation with local businesses and key industry groups initially through a series of workshops and an online survey. Once drafted, the strategy will be placed on exhibition for broader public consideration.

The first stage of the project involved an online survey and a series of community engagement workshops where participants shared their views on the opportunities and constraints to economic prosperity in Ballina Shire. Participants also helped Council identify obstacles to doing business in the shire along with possible solutions.

This feedback will now help form a draft strategy which will be presented to Council before progressing to exhibition for wider community feedback.

For more information visit ballina.nsw.gov.au (search Economic Development), or contact Simon Scott on 6686 4444 or email simon.scott@ballina.nsw.gov.au.



ocean breeze reserve master plan

Lennox Head's Ocean Breeze Reserve is a green open space located on Hutley Drive. In the past, Council has received a number of proposals for the public space, including a community garden and a BMX bike track.

Over the last six months, Council has sought community feedback on the reserve's future and invited residents to complete an online survey to understand the community's aspirations for Ocean Breeze Reserve.

Council is now using this community feedback to inform the preparation of a master plan for the reserve.

A draft Ocean Breeze Reserve Master Plan is expected to be placed on exhibition in July 2017.

For further information, phone the Council's Strategic and Community Facilities Group on 6686 1284.



ALSTONVILLE 2037

With the community's help, Council is continuing to plan for the future of Alstonville.

Following extensive community consultation in 2016 a draft Alstonville Planning and Environmental Study has been prepared by Council. The study examines issues raised by the local community and proposes various ideas on how this vision may be realised through to 2037.

Ideas for the future include new affordable housing, consolidating development closer to the commercial centre by rezoning some land for medium density purposes and permitting higher residential densities, and dual occupancy development on certain larger lots.

The community is again encouraged to provide feedback on the draft vision and offer additional ideas or suggestions.

Interested community members are invited to the study launch and briefing at the Alstonville Plateau Bowls & Sports Club, 10 – 14 Deegan Drive, Alstonville, 6:30pm Monday 3 April 2017.

Submissions open 5 April and close 12 May 2017.

Email council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Write to Alstonville Strategic Plan, Ballina Shire Council PO Box 450 Ballina NSW 2478

Phone Strategic and Community Facilities Group, 6686 1284.

Online Survey can be completed at ballina.nsw.gov.au (search Alstonville 2037)



engaged leadership





Pools dive into redevelopment



Next summer the community will be cooling off in revamped and modern aquatic facilities thanks to major Council investment.

After 40-plus years of use the much-loved Ballina and Alstonville swimming pools are being redeveloped simultaneously. Both pools are now closed for the season and are expected to reopen for the summer in mid-November.

Once completed, the up-to-date aquatic facilities will become valuable community assets for the next 40 years.

WHAT IS PLANNED?

Following comprehensive community consultation in 2016, a design concept for each facility was developed and endorsed by the Council. Council has received the relevant planning approvals and works are now underway to deliver these valuable community resources.

Woollams Pty Ltd has designed and is constructing the new pools and facilities, which will include:

- FINA compliant 50m x 20m heated pools. Each pool will have eight 2.5m-wide lanes for competition swimming and water polo games
- 25m x 15m heated enclosable pools for swimming lessons, children's play, lap swimming and rehabilitation
- access ramps into all pools
- wet play splash areas for children
- the Ballina pool will have a new amenities building and transparent fencing along the Richmond River
- enhanced landscaping at each site.

While works are underway, take advantage of Ballina Shire's beautiful swimming spots, including the Richmond River, North Creek, Shaws Bay, Lake Ainsworth or our patrolled beaches along the coast.

Project plans and factsheets are available on Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au (search pool redevelopment).



patrolled beaches

In Ballina Shire **volunteer lifesavers** are members of the Ballina Lighthouse and Lismore Surf Lifesaving Club or the Lennox Head Alstonville Surf Lifesaving Club. In comparison, **professional lifeguards** are employed by NSW Australian Lifeguard Service and provide beach safety services to Ballina Shire Council.

BEACH	PATROLS START	PATROLS FINISH	DETAILS
Lennox Head Beach	26/09/2016	24/04/2017	9am – 5pm Professional Lifeguards Mon-Fri Volunteers on weekends and public holidays
Sharpes Beach	8/04/2017	25/04/2017	9am – 5pm Professional Lifeguards 7 days a week
Shelly Beach	8/04/2017	25/04/2017	9am – 5pm Professional Lifeguards 7 days a week
Lighthouse Beach	10/04/2017	24/04/2017	9am – 5pm Professional Lifeguards Mon-Fri Volunteers on weekends and public holidays



SWIMMING POOL BARRIER COMPLIANCE

All pools in NSW are required to have an adequate child resistant barrier to prevent young children from accessing a residential swimming pool.

With the spate of drownings in backyard swimming pools over summer; pool owners, landlords, real estate agents and tenants are reminded to check that swimming pool barrier fencing is adequate.

All rental properties and properties listed for sale MUST have a Compliance Certificate prior to sale or a rental agreement being signed. Heavy penalties apply to landowners and tenants where a swimming pool does not have an adequate child resistant barrier.

Further information is available on Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au (search swimming pools and spas).

If you are concerned about the adequacy of a child resistant barrier around your swimming pool, or wish to obtain a Compliance Certificate for an existing swimming pool, please contact Council to book an inspection on 6686 1254.



New Pedestrian Plan on its way

When it comes to pedestrians, access and safety are top of the list. In September 2016, Ballina Shire Council started work on a new Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan.

Communities across the shire were invited to make suggestions for new or upgraded footpaths, pedestrian crossings, and other pedestrian safety features (such as ramps and signage). Over 280 submissions were received from different townships in the shire including Ballina, Alstonville, Lennox Head, Skennars Head, Wollongbar, Wardell, Newrybar, Teven and Tintenbar.

Major issues for the community were safety, access and improving the walkability of Ballina Shire as a whole.

Suggestions focused on paths between business and residential areas, such as access to schools, retirement and aged care residences and shopping centres. Residents were also concerned about community and recreational areas, such as cemeteries, scenic walks, beaches and sports grounds.

Council is now reviewing and prioritising the suggested footpath projects. This review will include:

- consideration of types of pedestrians and their needs
- predicted usage and popularity of suggested routes
- community value of linkages
- future development
- feasibility and costing of projects.

Information from this review and the community's suggestions will help form Council's draft action plan and works schedule. Once completed, the community will again have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft plan.



School Zones in Force

The school zone speed limitations around the old Ballina High School are still in operation for nearby primary schools and the bus interchange (Cherry Street, Martin Street, Swift Street and Crane Street).



Making Safer Roads

Ballina Shire Council has commenced work on a major upgrade to the intersection of Skennars Head Road and The Coast Road.

Due to the accident history of this intersection, the Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is fully funding the project, estimated to be \$2 million under their 'Safer Roads' program.

The project commenced Friday 3 March 2017 and includes the construction of a new roundabout, reduction in road gradients, and the lowering of speed limits all aimed at improving motorist safety.

The four-month project will include substantial earthworks to reduce the existing steep approaches at the intersection including storm water drainage improvements. The project will also bring improved road alignments and a reduction in speed limits to 60 kmph, and will allow for safer exiting for motorists entering The Coast Road from Skennars Head Road.

The majority of works are occurring adjacent to the existing intersection, which has helped minimise road closures. However, if road closures are required, Council will provide the community with information on the timing and alternative routes.

Further information on the project can be found on Council's website ballina.nsw.gov.au (search Skennars Head roundabout).






Register for

eR@tes >>>

Make the environmentally friendly choice today and put your rate payer money to better use. Receive your rates notice electronically by using eRates.

TO REGISTER
 Visit Ballina Shire Council's website
www.ballina.nsw.gov.au

Click on eRates and follow the prompts. Your next rates notice will be delivered direct to your inbox.




www.ballina.nsw.gov.au



SHARK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

Drones

Drone flights took place every day of the school holidays (weather permitting) at Ballina, Lennox Head, Evans Head, Kiama and Redhead with great results. NSW Department of Primary Industries drone teams worked closely with local beach authorities and sighted 46 potentially dangerous sharks.

You can check out the incredible real time footage the drone teams captured during these trials at [youtube/NSWFisheries](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSWFisheries) The Lighthouse Beach video has gone viral, clocking up over 410,000 views.

SMART Drumlines

NSW DPI scientists continue to remain impressed with the results of the SMART Drumlines as this technology is proving effective in catching target sharks with no bycatch.

NSW North Coast SMART Drumline Trial – three month summary

Between Ballina and Evans Head, 25 SMART drumlines are deployed each day (weather permitting).

Over three months (90 days):

- SMART drumlines deployed for 73-78 days
- total of 18 sharks caught – all released alive, tagging results showing sharks moved offshore
- 16 target shark species – 14 Whites and two Tiger Sharks
- two Grey Nurse Sharks relocated and released alive
- no by-catch.

NSW DPI will release a detailed report on the results of the SMART Drumlines at the end of the six-month Shark Net Trial.

North Coast Shark Net Trial

Each month, North Coast Shark Net Trial reports are made available on the NSW DPI website dpi.nsw.gov.au. A community survey will be released at the end of the trial to capture community feedback.



The Master Locksmith Access Key (MLAK)

What is MLAK? The Master Locksmith Access Key (MLAK) is a system that provides access for people with a disability to public amenities across Australia.

What does it cost? There is no cost to eligible Ballina Shire residents.

How can I get a MLAK? From Ballina Shire Council's Customer Service Centre, 40 Cherry Street, Ballina.

Where can I use the MLAK? A MLAK can be used at the following locations in Ballina Shire:

- **BUS INTERCHANGE**, Tamar Street, Ballina
- **WIGMORE ARCADE**, River Street, Ballina
- **CAPTAIN COOK PARK**, Moon Street, Ballina
- **BICENTENNIAL GARDENS**, Pacific Highway, Ballina
- **MISSINGHAM PARK** Kingsford Smith Drive, Ballina,

The MLAK system can be used across Australia. For more information on the location of MLAK toilets visit the National Public Toilet Map toiletmap.gov.au



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What's on? COMMUNITY EVENTS

Events listed are correct at time of publication.

Visit discoverballina.com or telephone 1800 777 666 for event details.



Ballina scores touch titles

22 - 23 April 2017

Saunders Oval, Ballina

Some of the State's best young touch football players will be on show in Ballina in April when our local club hosts the 2017 NSW Junior Regional Tournament.

NSW Touch Football Association has awarded Ballina Touch the hosting honour for the very first time. It is only the third time in the tournament's 16-year history that a northern NSW town has been chosen to host the event.

The tournament will run across two big days from Saturday 22 to Sunday 23 April at Ballina's Saunders Oval and is expected to attract between 1200 and 1500 visitors to the area.

Ballina Touch Association's President Allan Kirchen is overjoyed that the club will host this premier event, which will bring some 600 of NSW's best junior players, coaches and referees to the region. Countless more spectators will undoubtedly boost the local economy during their stay.

"We are very excited to have this level of elite touch being played in the Northern Rivers," Kirchen said. "It will be fantastic for the area and promises some thrilling games for the Ballina public to watch. We hope the entire community will get behind it."

Junior players in under 14 to under 18 age groups from the State's six regions will compete in boys and girls divisions for regional titles - an important pathway for junior players who have their sights set on both State and national touch teams. Hopefully a number of Ballina players will be selected into the squads and have the opportunity to compete on home turf.

Attracting events like these provides an important opportunity to promote Ballina's local coastline and attractions. Ballina's Visitor Information Centre has already received several enquiries from event-goers on their way to the area.

Congratulations again to Ballina's Touch Association and good luck to all the young players taking part.

To find out what's happening around our region visit discoverballina.com.

Ballina to host 2017 Rotary Conference

5 - 8 May 2017

Ballina will receive another tourism boost when it hosts the 2017 District 9640 Rotary Conference in May.

The conference will be held from 5 to 8 May 2017 and is set to attract over 700 people from 52 different Rotary Clubs.

The combined Rotary Clubs of Ballina-on-Richmond, Ballina and Alstonville were awarded the hosting honour thanks to the region's quality accommodation options and the welcoming nature of our locals.

Ballina's 784 rooms are expected to reach capacity with delegates from south-east Queensland to Grafton already securing their accommodation through the Ballina Visitor Information Centre. Many of these visitors are also expected to extend their stay to further explore the Ballina region.

Over the weekend, conference delegates will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, explore the beautiful Northern Rivers and enjoy fun activities and fellowship.

The conference will also feature a number of exceptional keynote speakers including Ita Buttrose, Noel Pearson, Bill Boyd and local Kerry O'Brien.

Ballina Shire Council is proudly supporting the annual conference and encourages the wider community to show its support by warmly welcoming our visitors.

For more information visit

rotary9640conference.org.au.

District 9640 Conference
5-8 May 2017
Ballina

Proudly hosted by District Governor Michael & Roz Irving

Rotary  **Rotary Shares Because Rotary Cares**  **ROTARY SERVING HUMANITY**



anzac day commemoration services

Tuesday 25 April 2017

Ballina RSL Sub-Branch

- 5.30am** Dawn Service commences at the Ballina RSL Memorial
 - 10.15am** March Assembly for the Anzac Day March is at the Ballina Court House
 - 10.30am** March commences and proceeds down River Street to the Ballina RSL Memorial
- ballinarsl.com.au/ballina-rsl-club/anzac-day/

Alstonville RSL Sub-Branch

- 5.20am** Dawn Service commences at Elizabeth Ann Brown Park
 - 9.10am** March Assembly at Paddy Budgen VC Memorial
 - 9.30am** Commemoration Service at Elizabeth Ann Brown Park
- rslalstonville@gmail.com



market calendar

Discover original artworks, handicrafts, fashion, jewellery, secondhand goods, as well as fresh local produce...or just sit back, relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of your local market.

BALLINA FARMERS MARKET (Weekly)

Every Sunday morning

7am - 11am
Commemoration Park
Bentinck Street
Ballina

EAST BALLINA LIONS CLUB COMMUNITY MARKET (Monthly)

Every third Sunday of the month

7am - 11am
Canal Road (between Saunders Oval and Ballina RSL Bowling Club)
Ballina

LENNOX HEAD COMMUNITY MARKET (Monthly)

Every second and fifth Sunday of the month

8am - 2pm
Williams Reserve
Lennox Head

THE PLATEAU MARKET AT ALSTONVILLE (Monthly)

Every second Sunday of the month

8am - 2pm
Alstonville Showgrounds
Alstonville

There's a craft market, a car-boot market or a farmers market, somewhere in the Northern Rivers, every weekend.

View the Northern Rivers Market Guide at discoverballina.com to see where the markets are this week!

connected community





BALLINA LAKESIDE SHAWS BAY SWIM

Sunday 16 April 2017

**Shaws Bay
(Ballina Lakeside Holiday Park)**

ballinasurfclub.com.au

Hosted by the Ballina Lighthouse & Lismore Surf Life Saving Club, the Ballina Lakeside Shaws Bay Swim starts and finishes at the Shaws Bay Hotel. The swims include a one lap (850metres), a two lap course (1.7km) and a 200 metre 'dash for cash'.

The event provides a challenge for recreational and competitive swimmers from 10-years of age. The event is part fundraiser, part community challenge and a lot of fun. Attempt one race – or try your luck in all events!

There will be a community BBQ and plenty of vantage points for spectators.



DAGGIEST SHIRT YOU OWN WALK

Saturday 22 April 2017

Lighthouse Beach

Jenny Seymour Ph 0438 998 377

It's three years since the passing of a friend to all, Chicky (Helen) Poulos. Celebrate Chicky's life, make new friends and raise funds for the Ballina Surf Lifesaving Club and the Ballina Hospital Auxillary by walking up to 6.5kms on Chicky's favourite paths including the Ballina wall and surrounding shared paths.

Wear your daggiest shirt and register at 7am at Lighthouse Beach. The Walk starts at 8am.

Donation is \$10 adults and gold coin donation for school children.



OUR KIDS DAY OUT

Sunday 7 May 2017

**Missingham Amphitheatre,
Kingsford Smith Drive, Ballina**

ourkids.org.au

A feel-good FREE event that's all about the kids.

Held annually in Ballina at the Missingham Amphitheatre, this event is packed with fun.

The focus of the day is on children who have been in the Children's Ward and Special Care Nursery at Lismore Base Hospital. It allows parents to reconnect and kids to smile.



MOTHERS DAY CLASSIC

Sunday 14 May 2017

**Missingham Amphitheatre,
Kingsford Smith Drive, Ballina**

mothersdayclassic.com.au

The Mothers' Day Classic is a national fun run/walk held annually to promote awareness and raise funds for breast cancer research. The Ballina event is now in its fifth year with participation numbers reaching over 800 in 2016.

Online registration is recommended and available until midnight Wednesday 10 May. Registrations on the day open 8am. Walkers and runners depart Missingham Amphitheatre from 9am following a picturesque track around Shaws Bay, past Lighthouse Beach before returning to the Amphitheatre for refreshments and prizes.

Ballina is one of only a few national events that welcome dogs to dress up and participate.

This is a fantastic community event and a wonderful way to start your Mothers' Day celebrations.



BYRON BAY TO BALLINA COASTAL CHARITY WALK

Sunday 21 May 2017

**Byron Bay, Broken Head,
Lennox Head, Ballina**

coastalcharitywalk.com.au

Byron Bay to Ballina Coastal Charity Walk starts at Denning Park in Byron Bay, loops around Cape Byron Lighthouse and follows the coastline through to Ballina.

Participants can choose to finish at Broken Head Reserve (12km), Lennox Head Surf Club (24km) or Ballina Surf Club (35km).

The walks are an all-terrain challenge across sand, bush track and roads and should not be underestimated by any walker.

The spectacular scenery creates an awe inspiring backdrop for the event.

The Coastal Charity Walk is a major fundraiser for Westpac Life Saver Rescue Helicopter.



for further information
on events in the Ballina Shire visit **discoverballina.com** or telephone 1800 777 666.



ballina

coast & hinterland



WHAT TO DO DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS?

Looking for something to do with the kids or grandkids over the school holidays? There's something to please all interests including educational, sporting, family fun, and creative activities to keep the kids, and you, entertained.

Visit the Ballina Visitor Information Centre, 6 River Street, for your copy of the School Holiday Program or download a copy from discoverballina.com

If you're hosting an activity in the Ballina Shire phone the Visitor Information Centre on 1800 777 666 or email your details to balinfo@ballina.nsw.gov.au



Love telling people where to go?

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A DESTINATION AMBASSADOR

Are you looking to make new friends, be involved in your local community, enhance your knowledge and learn new skills? The Ballina Visitor Information Centre is seeking volunteers for the Visitor Services Desk located within the arrivals terminal at the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport.

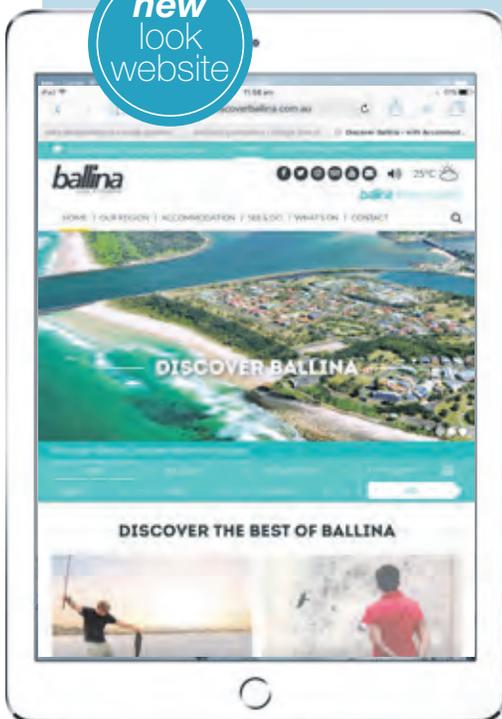
This is an exciting opportunity to meet and greet visitors to the Ballina Coast and Hinterland whilst promoting local attractions, tours, activities and seasonal produce. If you are passionate about this beautiful region we call home, then why not inspire our visitors to stay a little longer and explore a little further by becoming a Volunteer Ambassador.

Current Ambassador, Derek Forkgen, believes the Airport Visitor Services desk has a positive atmosphere, "It's always cheerful at the airport desk because you are usually greeting and helping happy people arriving on holidays."

If you have a solid knowledge about our local area, please telephone the Ballina Visitor Information Centre on 1800 777 666 or come in to the Centre to collect an information package and application form. The Ballina Visitor Information Centre is open 9am-5pm, 7 days a week and is located at 6 River Street, Ballina.

connected community

new look website



Plan your short break online!

The Discover Ballina website has been refreshed and is looking better than ever. The updated destination website is filled with information about what to see and do around our beautiful shire and is a great info source for visitors and locals.

The new-look website features hot deals, accommodation, a food guide, maps, an event calendar, surf reports and much more. It's your online one stop shop for planning weekend activities and mini breaks in your own backyard.

To view the new website visit discoverballina.com.au. For more information phone the Ballina Visitor Information Centre on 1800 777 666 or visit us at 6 River Street, Ballina.



Pixel the Past

This month, stories from Ballina Shire's rich history will be revealed to the community with a 21st century twist.

A group of Alstonville High School students has been working with members of the Alstonville Plateau Historical Society and digital media creators to research and develop digital media histories from the Ballina Shire.

The Pixel the Past project was initiated by Ballina Shire Council and supported by funding from the NSW Heritage Grants Program.

All participants have found the project thought-provoking and fun, which has demonstrated the value of collaboration and intergenerational learning to engage students in our local history.

Recent heritage projects in the Ballina Shire have shown that the community is genuinely interested in understanding our past. Using digital media to tell heritage stories, and the prevalence of digital media in our daily lives, means these stories will be readily available across the community.

Projects are almost complete and the finished products will be launched at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery, Ballina from Wednesday 29 March to Sunday 23 April 2017 (see page 30 for details).



NEW APP ANOTHER REASON TO LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

The Richmond Tweed Regional Library's new app is giving members access to all their favourite library resources at their fingertips.

Library members can now access over 50,000 eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and films at the click of a button.

"The new app is an exciting addition to improve the user experience for library members wishing to use a mobile device, such as a tablet or phone, to access the library online," said Jo Carmody, Regional Library Manager.

"With almost 100,000 members across the four local government areas of Ballina, Byron, Tweed and Lismore, the Richmond Tweed Regional Library is thrilled to be able to improve access to the library's online collections with this app."

Since its February launch, over 800 people have already downloaded the free app. To download it for yourself, simply grab your library card, tablet or smartphone and search 'Richmond Tweed Regional Library' in your app store.

On Tuesday 14 February the Richmond Tweed Regional Library launched the innovative app with celebrations across the region. In our region, Cr Nathan Willis and Cr Sharon Cadwallader officially launched the app with a delicious cake at Ballina Library.

For more information about the new app or to find your closest public library, visit rtrl.nsw.gov.au.



Image: Councillors Nathan Willis and Sharon Cadwallader at the Library App Launch



Movement Revolution

Dubbed the 'Movement Revolution', Lennox Head local Trent Chapman has teamed up with NRL Mental Health Ambassador, Director of Mental Health Movement, Dan Hunt, of the St George Illawarra Dragons, to bring you a FREE community event talking everything mental health.

Dan and Trent believe education is the key to building a resilient community around mental health, and they are leading the way through sharing their own personal experiences, and using the power of story to inspire those around them.

The first instalment in a three-part series will be held Sunday 23 April at the Lennox Community Centre.

In the first 'episode' Dan shares his story of battling bipolar, living in a family with mental illness, and the pressures that came with being a professional NRL athlete. He then shares the tools that have worked for him, where he became informed around mental illness, and how he helped those around him understand what he and people like him go through.

This event is not to be missed, with 50% of the Australian population experiencing poor mental health at some stage in their life, and the other 50% knowing someone who will.

Where: Park Lane Theatre, Lennox Community Centre

When: Sunday 23 April 2017, 9.30am – 11am

Bookings: FREE event visit communityspaces.com.au



Caption: Dan Hunt, NRL Mental Health Ambassador, Director of Mental Health Movement.

park lane theatre lennox head presents...



After a sold-out run of *ROY – A Tribute to Roy Orbison* at metropolitan centres in 2016, multi-platinum-selling and ARIA nominated singer-songwriter Damien Leith is bringing the show to Lennox Head on Saturday 8 April.

Taking the show to regional Australia, the tour is an opportunity for Damien to perform in towns he hasn't played in years, if at all. "I'm a country boy at heart, originating from a small village in Ireland, so regional tours are special to me. The whole vibe and atmosphere in a show is electric. Audiences really appreciate you being there and there is always a great sense of community," said Damien.

The tour commemorates 30 years since Roy Orbison was inducted into the Rock n Roll and Songwriters' Hall of Fame.

"Roy's songs are raw and real and melded together with that distinct melancholy intensity of his voice. He created a unique way of writing and delivering a song, and it's for that reason that to this day, he continues to find new fans all over the world."

Where: Park Lane Theatre, Lennox Community Centre

When: Saturday 8 April 2017, commences 8pm

Tickets: All ages event, \$60 adults / \$55 concession (plus booking fees). Purchase tickets at communityspaces.com.au

NEW TIMES AND DATES FOR KIDZ KLUB THESE HOLIDAYS!

Come along to a jam-packed school holiday Kidz Klub at Lennox Community Centre, featuring a fantastic array of activities including sport-based games, arts and crafts, dress ups and so much more!

Kidz Klub is great value at just \$25 per half day, or \$50 for a full day, and you know your kids will have a fantastic time in a safe and exciting environment.

Some activities will take place outdoors, so make sure you pack sun protective clothing and sunscreen for your child.

Where: Lennox Community Centre

When: Monday 10 April - Thursday 13 April; Tuesday 18 April – Friday 21 April 2017. Morning Session: 9am – 1pm. Afternoon Session: 1pm – 5pm. Full day: 9am – 5pm

Bookings: phone 6687 6291 or email communityspaces@ballina.nsw.gov.au



connected community



CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS:

Follow the Rules on Shared Paths

Ballina Shire has some fantastic shared paths for cyclists and pedestrians, including the new path east of the Flat Rock Tent Park and Angels Beach. Shared Path rules apply.

When riding on a shared path, cyclists should:

1. give way to pedestrians and other wheeled recreation devices. Bike riders should provide one metre passing distance for pedestrians on shared paths where possible.
2. keep to the left.
3. ring your bell when approaching other path users.
4. be careful around children, dogs and older people as they are sometimes unpredictable.
5. travel at a speed that is safe for other riders and pedestrians.
6. move off the path if you are stopped.
7. dismount on footpaths and pedestrian crossings.

Walkers, joggers, skateboarders and scooters should:

1. watch out for cyclists, especially going around corners. Listen for the sound of a bell and avoid moving into the path of a bike. Stay alert for bells if using MP4 players and mobile phones.
2. keep to the left and travel in a predictable manner.
3. move off the path if you have stopped.
4. supervise young children at all times.
5. keep dogs on short leads and under control. Extended long retractable dog leads pose a safety risk for cyclists.

Know the Rules Outside Schools

The safety of our children is a priority for the entire community and this is why Council Rangers regularly patrol school zones. Children are extremely vulnerable because of their unpredictability, their size and inability to judge speed and distance. In fact, it's recommended that a parent or adult hold the hand of children under the age of eight when crossing the road, in the carpark, or when walking on a footpath.

Parking offences in school zones carry heavy fines and the loss of demerit points.

Remember...it is against the law to:

- stop and park in bus zones and 'No Stopping' zones
- double park
- stop longer than two minutes in a 'No Parking' zone
- stop on or within 20m of a pedestrian crossing or children's crossing.

Our Rangers do a great job trying to keep school zones safe but unfortunately people can be very unkind when they realise they have been caught doing the wrong thing.

If you are caught parking in a school bus zone, over-staying the parking limit or having your dog in the wrong place – spare a thought for the Rangers. They are just doing their job. There is an expectation within the community to have laws regarding safety for children, parking and dogs. If you don't want to be fined – do the right thing.



CBD ROUNDABOUT ART PROJECT - HOMEWARD CURRENTS

Two of Ballina's roundabouts will receive an attractive new look when public art sculptures are installed in August this year.

Artist Leith Walton has now completed the designs for the roundabout artworks. The project entitled Homeward Currents involves the design and fabrication of two sculptures on roundabouts in the Ballina town centre at Cherry/Tamar and Fawcett/Moon streets.

The artworks depict two local seabirds frequently spotted around the coast and estuaries of Ballina Shire, an Osprey on the Cherry Street roundabout and a Sea Eagle on the Moon Street roundabout.

Detail on the metal wings of these seabirds is inspired by our local waterways and coastlines. Students from Empire Vale School will work with the artist to design fish to adorn the sculptures' timber supports.



PROTECTING YOUR PUBLIC HEALTH

what to watch out for...



connected community

For more information contact Council's Public and Environmental Health Section Ph: 6686 1210 or visit ballina.nsw.gov.au (search public health food)



LATEST NEWS FROM **ballina byron gateway airport**

Terminal expansion plans take off

There's no arguing Ballina Shire is stunning, and soon the region will have an airport to match. Plans to upgrade the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport terminal have been unveiled and are set to make life much more comfortable for our region's travellers.

The Ballina Byron Gateway Airport continues to be one of Australia's busiest regional airports. Passenger numbers have doubled in the past five years and are expected to hit 700,000 in the next five years.

The Manager, Neil Weatherson says the airport's popularity is what's caused the airport to outgrow the terminal. "There's been a constant overcrowding in the terminal building, so we've had to do something."

Plans for the \$5.4 million-dollar upgrade have been unveiled and feature a landscaped piazza, alfresco dining, art gallery, and kids play area. The upgrade will also increase the check-in, arrival and departure lounges as well as double the seating.

The expansion project is a long-term investment that won't just benefit passengers travelling through the airport, but Ballina businesses can also expect the upgrade to bring a boom to tourism and the local economy.

Construction will commence mid-year 2017 and is expected to be completed in early 2018.



GET THERE QUICKER!

The figures show that BBGA is the fourth fastest growing airport out of the top 50 regional airports in Australia.

The Business at Virgin

Virgin Australia is pleased to announce its award-winning Business Class is now offered on select regional routes operated with Boeing 737-700, 737-800 and Embraer E190 aircraft.

Virgin Australia's Business Class features eight luxury leather seats in a 2-2 configuration, with generous recline, a 38-inch seat pitch and a gourmet inflight menu designed by resident chef Luke Mangan.

Seats are now on sale by visiting virginaustralia.com.



Second Regional Airport in Australia to operate a CAGRS

The Certified Air Ground Radio Service (CAGRS) at Ballina Byron Gateway Airport is now operational, which means safer air travel for our air crews and passengers.

The CAGRS operates for all regular passenger transport in and out of the airport in line with Civil Aviation Safety Regulations.

Ballina Byron Gateway Airport Manager, Neil Weatherson, said "The airport was pleased to have come to this arrangement with Airservices Australia. This new and improved level of communications will see a radio operator work from within the elevated Airservices Aviation Fire Station and advise incoming and departing aircraft of other aircraft within sight of the runway."

This new service meets a recommendation made by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.



LAKE AINSWORTH – *to be continued*

Lake Ainsworth continues to be one of Lennox Head’s most popular locations where visitors and locals go to relax and enjoy the picturesque surrounds.

After ongoing community consultation, Council announced plans in 2016 to invest \$1.7m to increase the overall amenity of the south eastern precinct and improve the space for future generations to come.

The project will create a vibrant public space that offers barbeques, pathways, picnic tables, formalised parking, outdoor showers, erosion rehabilitation and fresh landscaping.

Before scheduled works commenced in February, Council received correspondence threatening legal action in the Land and Environment Court. After seeking legal advice, Council has now reviewed the matter and accepts there are differing legal opinions in respect to the existing planning approval.

Legal action would likely cost the community in excess of \$100,000, even if Council was successful. To avoid this cost, Council has decided to seek an updated planning approval for the project to eliminate any technical points subject to legal conjecture.

It is likely Council will spend between \$20,000 to \$50,000 from the project budget on additional consultancy reports to address the technical matters raised.

This process is expected to take a number of months, which means the eastern precinct works will be deferred until updated approvals are received.

All members of the community are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the project plans and factsheets available on Council’s website ballina.nsw.gov.au (search Lake Ainsworth).

Place making flag and banner designs

Ballina Shire Council has a number of banner poles throughout the shire that provide a vibrant and visual presence for community events and activities.

When not used by community groups or council campaigns these banner poles are left vacant. So to improve the visual amenity and vibrancy in our shire, Council engaged local artist Rachel Stone to work with local community groups and schools to design six new flags and banners that reflect the diversity and richness of our local culture and heritage.

Ms Stone says the inspiration for the Wardell banner came from the many wonderful stories shared by the local community and her creative sessions with school students.

“Sugarcane stories were interwoven with stories of sweet love and inter-generational family farming. The most charming, was a story of someone who lived right by the river who could hear dolphins slapping the water through his bedroom window at night,” says Ms Stone.

Empire Vale Public School student Bella Walsh, painted the sugarcane fields and her interpretation of the all-important span bridge.

Dolphins and sugarcane from the storytelling have been added to Bella’s painting to create the final Wardell design (pictured).

The six designs will be installed before Easter in Alstonville; Wardell; Lennox Head; and Angels Beach North, Kerr Street, Fishery Creek Bridge, and Canal Bridge in Ballina.

Hire information for community groups is available on Council’s website ballina.nsw.gov.au (search banner poles).

Images: Community created Wardell banner design, facilitated by artist Rachel Stone.

Students painting what they love about their community.



around the *business chambers*

ballina chamber of commerce and industry

Based on member feedback the Christmas Holiday period has been kind with many businesses trading very well and accommodation figures reflecting a very positive season. Let's hope this has set the tone for a positive year of trading and business growth.

Our Executive Officer of 12 years, Nadia Elliott-Burgess, is taking an extended break from April to focus on her new project as a first-time Mum. We wish her all the very best and look forward to her return mid next year. In the meantime, Leanne Cawley will be Acting Manager to keep the Chamber office rolling as well as coordinating the Business Awards and our regular networking events.

There are also some changes at a board level with the Treasurer, Marjo Proos from Crowe Horwath stepping aside. We would like to thank Marjo for her years of service and acknowledge her many voluntary hours monitoring the books. Jamie Doyle from Collins Hume will be taking on the Treasurer role.

We have also had a casual vacancy on the board for a few months with the resignation of Cameron Bracken due to his new role based in Tweed. We are very pleased to announce that Chris Duffy from Spaceman Storage has agreed to take on this position between now and the AGM when he will formally nominate for election.

The Board has been busy over the past few months developing and implementing the Chamber's 2016 and Beyond Strategic Plan. Over the coming weeks you will receive a Member Satisfaction Survey - the results of which will help us identify where to best direct Chamber resources to maximise member benefit. This is just one of many identified actions over the coming months designed to ensure the Chamber's core focus is on the betterment of our member businesses in the best ways possible. Please take the time to complete the survey - we will have some great prizes on offer to encourage you!

In addition to the Chamber's monthly board meetings, board members have attended stakeholder meetings with Council staff on a variety of matters including the Economic Development Strategy. Other meetings attended include Shark Management Strategy and the recent Health of the Richmond River gathering - just to name a few.

Jane Laverty has recently been appointed Regional Manager of NSW Business Chamber Northern Rivers, our valued Local Chamber Alliance partners. We are looking forward to working with Jane and the Ballina NSWBC team to further enhance the Chamber movement in this area moving forward.

We look forward to seeing you at a Chamber event soon and please remember that the board and staff of the Chamber are working diligently on your behalf as a valued member, so if you have any feedback or would like to make us aware of any barriers to your business growth please email info@ballinachamber.com.au and let us know.

alstonville wollongbar chamber of commerce

The past 12 months have seen some exciting new businesses come to the Plateau.

These have included:

- 86 On Main – A new restaurant in the old post office building on Main Street.
- Spencer Street Shoes, which showcases a variety of high quality ladies' shoes
- B Grounded, a family run business between three local sisters, offering a beautiful range of housewares and gifts along with the fabulous hairdresser, Claire, situated at the rear of the store.

Recently launched by AWCC board member Ann Leslie, and her husband Andrew, is Pure Nut, a new Macadamia Skin Care range and home based business. They love the Farm to Face concept, and source nature inspired premium key ingredients from Australian farmers. Find them at purenut.com.au

The Creative Tree most recently opened in the Plaza, brimming with handmade goodness and quality children's products. Craft workshops coming soon.

Magpie expanded its ladies clothing business to include an extensive and beautiful range of home-wares.

Local health care centre, Alstonville Osteopathy, has expanded and now operates seven days per week with three osteopaths, four remedial massage therapists, an exercise physiologist and a naturopath/nutritionist.

The AWCC board has had some changes during 2016 with Deb Chapman (One Agency Real Estate) and Sharni Lavis (Alstonville Osteopathy) both joining the ranks. Vice President, Belinda Cordery (Summerland Credit Union), has taken an extended leave of absence and is looking forward to stepping back into her role in the next couple of months, we can't wait to have her back! Ann Leslie and her husband Andrew have also closed their previous café business "The Garden House" and re-established it as boutique accommodation to be found on website Stayz. It was with great sadness that the AWCC said farewell to its newest member and long term Alstonville businessman, Shaun Cashman. Shaun's sudden passing shocked the local community and his absence will be felt by all.

The AWCC has continued to host its monthly networking Business Breakfasts and Business After Hours events. These events enable local business people to network, share ideas and be updated on local news by Ballina Shire Mayor, David Wright. The meetings are held the 1st Tuesday of each month and all members and non-members are welcome.

2017 will feature the upcoming 5th AWCC Business & Community Awards which are the perfect opportunity for us to recognise business excellence on the Plateau. The event is one of the highlights of the year for the business community with a night of celebrations, entertainment and fun had by all. 2016 Business Of The Year, Alstonville Quality Meats, went on to win Regional Retail Business of the year at the NSW Business Chamber Regional Business Awards. Don't miss putting in your entry to ensure your business is in the running!

Alstonville's event calendar would not be the same without the annual Family Festival which will be held again this year. A fun day of markets, pig races and family entertainment that brings together the whole Plateau community. If you would like to volunteer your help with set up or running of the day please contact the AWCC by email at info@alstonvillwollongbar.com.au.



lennox head chamber of commerce

LENNOX HEAD CHAMBER CELEBRATES LOCAL BUSINESS SUCCESS.

The Lennox Head Business Awards provide local businesses the opportunity to celebrate and be recognised for their achievements. The Awards are held annually to acknowledge business excellence within our community. Judging is conducted by a panel outside of the Lennox Chamber Executive Committee.

The Awards night is a fantastic social occasion with plenty of opportunity to network and engage with local business people.

Winners from the Lennox Head Business Awards that are aligned with the NSW Business Chamber program will progress as a finalist to the Northern Rivers NSW Business Chamber Regional Business Awards, with the opportunity of progressing to the State Awards.

The team at Barefruit Marketing took home the top trophy in 2016.

Chief Juicer, Claire Harding says, "the process for entering the Lennox Head Chamber of Commerce Business Awards is very straightforward and the benefits outweigh any initial time taken."

"We were so proud to win the Lennox Head Best Professional Service and the Lennox Head Business of the Year Award in 2016. We're very proud of our Lennox roots – we live here and up until a year ago our business was based in Lennox."

"Winning the Awards has been great for our business and further growth. The publicity around the Awards and the winners is great, and many of our new clients heard about us first there. We're looking forward to the 2017 Awards and celebrating more successes in Lennox Head."

If you are proud to be a Lennox Head business, no matter how big or small, or what you do, you should be entering your local Lennox Chamber Awards. Entry is simple and quick. Keep a look out for the entry details due to hit the Chamber website soon.

GO LENNOX!

Debbie Smith

road and footpath project update

RECENTLY COMPLETED

SKINNER ST, BALLINA – Road reconstruction between North Creek and Martin Street including drainage improvement and kerb realignment.

TEVEN ROAD, TEVEN – Road reconstruction, including drainage upgrade, 700m south of the Tintenbar Road intersection.

MISSINGHAM PARK – Amenity improvement included finalisation of the carpark and landscaping.

COASTAL RECREATIONAL PATH – Angels Beach to Sharpes Beach completed incorporating the Aboriginal Cultural Ways interpretative signage (*refer front page*).

CURRENT PROJECTS

SKENNARS HEAD ROAD AND THE COAST ROAD ROUNDABOUT – This project at Skennars Head recently commenced and will include the construction of a roundabout. Due to the accident history of this intersection, the NSW Roads and Maritime Services will fully fund the project, estimated to be \$2million, under their 'Safer Roads' program (*see page 8 for further project details*).

NASHUA ROAD, FERNLEIGH (part segment 10) – Road reconstruction. Budget \$488,000.

ROSS LANE, LENNOX HEAD CURVE CORRECTION – Curve correction on Ross Lane is funded by the RMS Safer Roads Program with an approximate value of \$780,000.

WARDELL BOARDWALK – Construction of a three-metre wide by 70 metre long timber boardwalk along Bridge Drive between the existing village jetty and the Pacific Highway overbridge.

FUTURE PROJECTS – 2017 CALENDAR

GRANT STREET, BALLINA – Reconstruction of part of Grant Street between River and Tamar Streets, which will include drainage replacement. Road closures will be in place.

ROSS LANE AND THE COAST ROAD, PROPOSED ROUNDABOUT – Project is in the design phase. The project is funded by the RMS 'Safer Roads' Program with an approximate value of \$930,000.

MAROM CREEK ROAD, ROUS MILL (part segment 130) – Road reconstruction budget \$360,000.

FAWCETT LANE, BALLINA (segment 10) – Road reconstruction, budget \$74,000

SHARED PATH EAST (ALONG THE COAST ROAD) – Council has an application with the RMS for grant funding (50%) towards the completion of the remaining section of the shared path between Skennars Head Road (at the roundabout under construction) and Pat Morton Lookout. This is planned to commence in the 2017/2018 financial year.



Look out for our water carts using recycled water for road construction projects reducing reliance on our precious drinking water

COUNCIL TURNS UP THE PRESSURE

Chores like washing the car and the dog are about to get easier for residents living at higher elevations in East Ballina.

The construction of a new booster pump station in East Ballina means residents will soon enjoy an increase in their water pressure, which will make everyday tasks that little bit easier.

Council works are underway to construct the booster pump station to service over 450 East Ballina properties. The Council upgrade will be carried out across 2017 and will help increase the minimum pressure available for properties in line with Council's target service levels.

Council has three existing booster pump stations across the shire which are designed to boost the pressure of water in areas of higher elevation. So, if you live on a hill remember it's the booster pump helping get those pesky suds off your dishes.

Once works are underway, residents will be notified in advance of any planned water supply interruptions and when to expect the increase in water pressure.

In the meantime, have you checked your showerhead? Often plumbers install showerhead water saving devices to help decrease your water use. But they can also significantly affect your water pressure and aren't recommended for every household, particularly in areas that already have low pressure.

For further information call a licensed plumber or visit ballinawater.com.au.



Reservoir revamp on its way

Each year, Ballina Shire's coastline and natural beauty attracts more visitors and residents to the area. As our population and tourism continues to grow our infrastructure must grow with it.

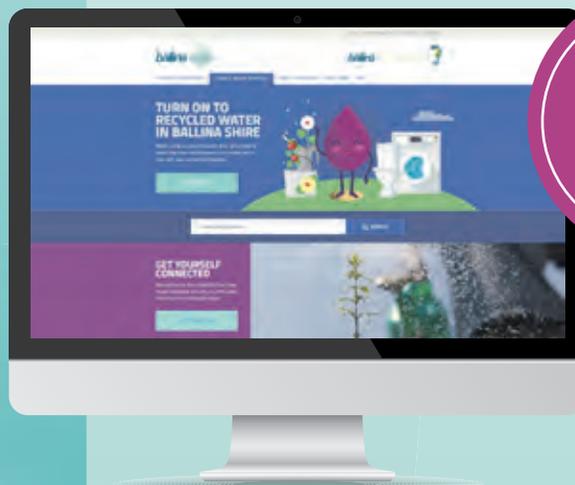
The Council is now planning for future growth and the demand it brings by refurbishing the East Ballina water reservoir.

Council has ten drinking water reservoirs across the shire that collectively hold 44 mega litres of water – that's almost 18 Olympic sized swimming pools! These reservoirs store and supply water to households through a reticulation supply system.

Each day, Council is supplying water to more than 14,000 households. The East Ballina reservoir project will help improve water supply reliability to the community, and meet future demand as our population grows.

Works will commence over the next coming months and are expected to be completed by the end of the year. Residents affected will be notified well in advance of any scheduled supply interruptions.

For further information phone Ballina Shire Council on 02 6686 4444 or visit ballinawater.com.au.



**visit
our
website**

Find all your water information, news and troubleshooting solutions in one place.

ballinawater.com.au

THE TAP'S TICKING UNTIL BALLINA'S RECYCLED WATER LAUNCH

The roll out of Council's revolutionary recycled water project continues as the team gears up for Ballina's turn on.

Over 700 Ballina households will begin receiving recycled water for household use in the coming months. Residents in Ballina Heights, Ferngrove Estate, River Oaks Estate and North Ballina will enjoy the clean and safe water source which costs only 80% of the usual water rate.

Recycled water is crystal clean and safe, cheaper to use and is available 24/7 in drought. It's also suitable for a range of uses inside and outside of the home. These include washing pets, cars, bikes and boats, flushing toilets, irrigating gardens and the cold water laundry tap.

This innovative water program is at the forefront of Australia's recycled water technology and is ensuring a sustainable water supply for future generations.

Lennox Head residents have already given recycled water a big thumbs up. Since the service began last year it's received a wave of support from Lennox Head locals who have said the water quality is excellent and were supportive of long term use in the community.

In the coming months Council will inform residents and local businesses in the area about the many uses of recycled water.

To read the Council's recycled water factsheets or for more information visit ballinawater.com.au.



Tampering with water meters not worth the cost

Water meters might be small but they play a big role in supplying clean and safe water to the community.

Water meters are usually found in your front yard and are used to measure the amount of water being used on your property.

To track your water usage and detect potential leaks, Council encourages residents to regularly check their property's water meter for any variations.

Although you are encouraged to read your meter, it's important you don't tamper with water meters. Meter tampering can lead to water supply contamination and could have a serious impact on public health and safety of local residents.

Public safety is number one, which is why Council takes water meter tampering seriously. In some instances water tampering can lead to legal action and significant fines.

Recently, through Council's Water Meter Reading Program, Council staff identified unusual activities at a Cumbalum address. Following a compliance investigation, a local resident was found to be tampering with Council's potable and recycled water meters on two different properties.

The resident was fined \$3,740 and was also required to pay for their property's actual water usage as well as the damaged and destroyed water meters.

So remember, reading your water meter could help save you money but tampering with it will not.

If you have any concerns about water meter tampering in your area that could affect Council's water supply, please phone Council's water and wastewater department on 6686 4444.

Don't know how to read your water meter? Find out at ballinawater.com.au.



What are YOU putting in your bin?

Do you know what you're putting in your bin? Because we do.

Council recently engaged specialist waste consultants to conduct an audit of our kerbside waste and recycling services. A waste audit is a physical analysis of what's in our waste to identify problems or potential opportunities for improvement.

This information is vital to ensure both the Council and the community are doing all we can to maximise resource recovery.

In November, samples from our garbage trucks were assessed to gauge what residents are putting in their bins. The results indicated, in comparison to other Councils, we are doing a pretty good job but it also highlighted areas for improvement.

The recyclables in our yellow lid bin make up 42% of our total waste collected. When we looked at what was going in our waste (red lid) bins, we can separate even more material for recycling. If we put all of our recyclable material into the co-mingled (yellow) bin and all our organic bin compatible waste into the organics (green lid) bin we will increase our diversion rate from 42% to a whopping 75%!

HEY TOSSER!

Put it in the bin.

epa.nsw.gov.au/heytosser



If you see someone littering, report them online at epa.nsw.gov.au/heytosser

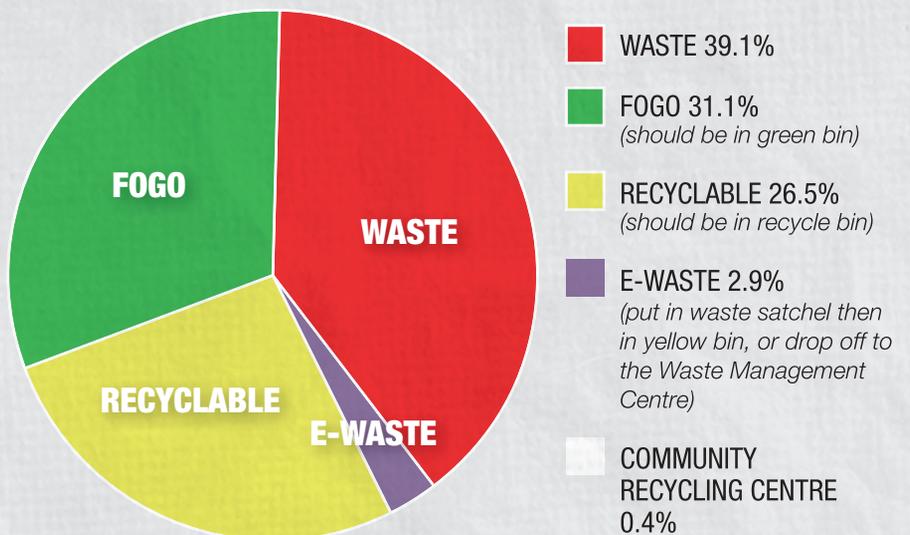
WHAT'S IN A TYPICAL BALLINA SHIRE RED LID BIN?*

Council's recent audit found there's room for improvement in how we use our red lid waste bin – 61% of room to be exact. The audit found that of all the material put in our red bins, only 39% was general waste and belonged there. This means 61% of this waste could have been recycled through our green or yellow lidded bins.

Recycling information and best practice can change over time, so it's important we all continue to make an effort to stay informed. A little bit of education and a few simple household behaviour changes can result in big environmental rewards.

So take a moment next time you lift your red bin and ask yourself what really belongs there.

RED LIDDED WASTE BIN CONTENT BREAKDOWN



*Note: You may not have a red lid bin. Your general waste bin might be dark green.

Don't be foiled this Easter

Easter is almost here which means soon you'll be enjoying yummy chocolates and delicious seafood. Remember to recycle this Easter by putting your aluminum foil in the yellow lid bin and your seafood scraps in your organics bin. Have an egg-cellent Easter!





Shaws Bay Coastal Zone Management Plan CZMP

Shaws Bay continues to be a popular recreational area where locals and visitors go to enjoy the stunning scenery and relax by the water. To maintain this unique area Council is working towards a range of actions outlined in the Shaws Bay Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Background

Shaws Bay formed when the northern training wall of the Richmond River was constructed near the river entrance at Ballina. The body of water comprises part of the former river course and exchanges water with the main river every day.

It is a popular spot for a range of leisure activities, such as picnicking, swimming, snorkelling, canoeing and walking.

The scenic area varies from gently sloping beaches to steep sandy ridges and is home to a range of coastal rainforest species. The bay's seagrass is regarded as some of the best in northern NSW and provides a wonderful environment for safe snorkelling.

Protecting the health of the bay and providing community access

In 2016 a Shaws Bay Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) was developed to establish management objectives, address management issues and identify community desires for its future management.

The CZMP was certified by the NSW Minister for Planning and was Gazetted on 24 June 2016 and includes a series of actions to achieve the plan's objectives.

During 2017 Council will progressively work through these actions:

- control bank erosion and siltation into the bay
- investigate dredging options to reduce infilling and improve water circulation
- enhance safety and the recreational amenity of the foreshore and improve stormwater systems and treatments
- expand Pop Denison Park and improve the foreshore access and recreational areas
- upgrade and improve public amenities.

For more information visit ballina.nsw.gov.au (search Shaws Bay), or contact Council on 6686 4444.





ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT

Responsibilities of owners and occupiers



It is the responsibility of the owner or occupier to ensure:

1. **on-site systems are designed, installed and managed so pollution of groundwater or surface waters does not occur**
2. **there is no risk to public health, safety, amenity and the environment from the operation of an on-site sewage management system.**

Householders should have a sound understanding of the operating requirements of the system they are using and should adjust activities (e.g. by using low phosphorus detergents, minimising use of household chemicals, conserving water and avoiding multiple washing loads in one day). Householders also need to ensure that the necessary service and maintenance contracts are in place.

If a system is defective, report this to Council in order to discuss possible system replacement.

Further Information: Development and Environmental Health Group, Ph 02 6686 4444.

Council has commenced the review of the On-Site Sewage & Wastewater Management (Policy) Strategy. This will be put on exhibition for public comment in late April 2017.

River health – what’s the story?

The health of the Richmond River has received a lot of negative press lately, and you might be wondering why. Are things really that bad? The river looks okay (mostly)...what’s the big problem?

There has been a focus on the health of the river for a number of years now resulting from events such as the fishkills of 2001 and 2008; the dirty water line that we can all see heading into the ocean after a big rainfall event; diminishing fish stocks and oyster stocks; and more recently the Ecohealth Report which identified that our local river is really not very healthy at all. In fact, it scored a D+ overall, but many of the sub-catchments making up the river scored much worse than this.

In some ways, the reasons why the river is in trouble are very simple. Roads, houses, farms and our lifestyles impact on the river and potentially cause many of the issues we see. Addressing these matters will be complicated and need a 'whole of community' commitment.

Ballina Shire Council has requested permission both from the community, and now from the NSW Government, to charge a Special Rate Variation specifically to be spent on Healthy Waterways. This Special Rate Variation will be used to implement existing plans for the Richmond River and Shaws Bay and to improve the health of Lake Ainsworth. We will aim for a mix of both short term and long term initiatives within the plans to ensure that you can see the progress happening. We will update you regularly with our actions.

If the Special Rate Variation is not approved by the NSW Government, we will not be able to work as quickly as we would have hoped. But we do have a strong commitment and a small amount of funding that we can use to progress actions. Please watch this space for future news.

State of the Environment 2016

Every four years, each local government area in NSW prepares a “State of the Environment” report for its community and incoming councillors. The report helps us to understand how our environment is changing, what work is being done and who is doing it, and areas we can improve.

Previous work has shown the Richmond River needs a greater focus on its health, with a 2014 study showing it to be in poor condition. Other areas which would benefit from a sustained focus would be growing more connected native habitat for plants and animals, and reducing our carbon emissions as a community. You can read about Council’s environmental operations performance and how it compares with our neighbouring council areas.

Residents in the Ballina Shire do have one of the highest rates of solar roof panel installation in Australia. We are very good at recycling and using our organics bins, reducing our waste going to landfill. Our landcare groups achieve amazing things even with dwindling volunteer numbers (this trend is being experienced by many community groups). Our waters are mostly healthy for swimming, and we are very good at letting our community know when they aren’t (usually after floods, or during a blue-green algae outbreak).

The "State of the Environment" report reflects the work we all do, within industry, community and in Council itself that impacts on our local environment.

Visit Council’s website ballina.nsw.gov.au (search SOE)

threatened species and weeds profile

White-crowned snake



The White-crowned snake lives in eucalypt forests between Central Queensland and the Coffs Coast, living and feeding in the litter layer on the forest floor. They are classified as Vulnerable in NSW, mostly due to clearing and fragmentation of their former habitat. Their main food is skinks and their eggs.

The White-crowned snake is a small snake, only about 45cm long and quite slim. Its main activities are nocturnal. They are 'reluctant biters' (Queensland Fauna Consultancy, P/L) and will make striking movements if disturbed but rarely attempt to bite. They are classified as weakly venomous.

Their name is derived from the black patch on their head being surrounded by a creamy-white band or 'crown' extending from the neck to the mouth.

Retaining leaf litter and woody debris on the ground assist this snake to survive. Avoidance of tidying up areas of native habitat and leaving larger logs and sticks on the ground will retain the snakes' habitat and feeding grounds.

random fact

One of the easiest ways to help all local wildlife is to keep your cat in at night.



Register your pet: it's cheaper than a fine

All cats and dogs in NSW must be microchipped by the time they are 12 weeks old, or before they are sold or given away and then registered by the time they are six-months of age.

You can register and pay your registration online at petregistry.nsw.gov.au

The online portal pet registry also allows you to update your contact details, report your pet missing, claim missing pets, or register new ownership for dogs and cats.

All you need is an email address and your pet microchip number. If you don't know your pet microchip number, take your pet to a local vet to have this verified.

If you are unable to register, contact or come into Council's Customer Service Centre, 40 Cherry Street, Ballina.

Failure to microchip and register your pet may result in a penalty infringement notice of \$275. It is far cheaper to register your pet than cop a fine.

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, 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 and surrounding foreshore/reserve
- Fire Trail, end Camp Drew Rd, Lennox Head
- The Serpentine
- 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.



CLOSING IN ON ILLEGAL DUMPERS

Illegal dumping is on the rise in Ballina Shire Council but that's all about to change.

From July to December 2016 Council collected illegal dumping data from across the shire. Analysis of the data allowed Council to see where and what is being dumped, something that was previously difficult to do.

During this six month period, 183 illegal dumping incidents occurred, an increase of 92% compared with the previous six months. Ballina had the highest incidence of dumping with a staggering 51, followed by Lennox Head and East Ballina with 27, and Alstonville with 22.

Using this data, ten illegal dumping hotspots have been identified. Council will now install surveillance devices in these locations to catch illegal dumpers in the act. Fines have increased to a minimum of \$4,000 for individuals and \$8,000 for corporations.

For more information visit ballina.nsw.gov.au and search illegal dumping.

Report a Dumper

Illegal dumping of household rubbish, garden waste and building waste has a significant financial, environmental and social burden on our community. Council incurs significant costs for the investigation, collection and disposal of illegally dumped material.

With your help, we can stop illegal dumping. Members of the public are encouraged to report illegal dumping via RIDonline at ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au.

Reports made via RIDonline are sent to Council for investigation, clean up and action against illegal dumpers.

For further information contact Council's Public and Environmental Health Group on 6686 4444.



Asbestos Testing Program a Success

Renovating your home just got easier thanks to Council's new asbestos testing program. Since its launch in September 2016, 26 locals have already visited the Council's Waste Management Centre and of the 44 samples submitted for testing, 33 contained asbestos.

When homes containing asbestos are demolished or renovated, the asbestos is disturbed and the fibres become airborne and may be inhaled. If those fibres enter the lungs, there is an increased risk of lung cancer or malignant mesothelioma.

Council encourages the community to be aware of these risks and make an informed choice for your family's health. Residents can pick up a free asbestos testing kit to determine whether their house contains asbestos. Households within Ballina Shire can have up to two samples tested by presenting their rates notice to the Waste Management Centre.

Ballina Shire Council also offers disposal kits for removal of up to 10m2 of bonded asbestos (approximately 2.5 sheets of fibro). These kits cost \$30 and include disposal costs, instructions on safe removal and the safety equipment required to remove and wrap the asbestos for disposal at Lismore Recycling and Recovery Centre.

Recent studies show 61% of all home owners renovating their homes experienced asbestos exposure during their renovations. The NSW study by Professor Anthony Johnson also found in 40% of cases children were exposed to asbestos fibres during home renovations. These results are concerning, particularly when many homes in our region contain asbestos.

Asbestos testing and disposal kits can be collected from the Ballina Waste Management Facility, 167 Southern Cross Drive, Ballina. For further information on the program residents can phone Council on 6686 4444.

For more information visit, asbestosawareness.com.au.



arts connect

current exhibitions

Exhibition Dates: 29 March – 23 April 2017 | Launch Event: Thursday 30 March 2017

APRIL 2017

To the Power of Nine | Southern Cross Small Schools



To the Power of Nine – Thinking Outside the Box is a creative arts and creative thinking challenge for local primary school students. Each of the eight schools within the Southern Cross Community of Small Schools will be given 20cm x 20cm cardboard frames, with nine square segments cut into it that is to be incorporated into every artwork. The exhibition is a showcase of the creative results of students being challenged to think outside the box.

Image: Sally Crethar, *Nine Lives*

Pixel the Past | Group Exhibition



Alstonville High School students, members of the Plateau's Historical Society and digital media creators Duke Albada, Susie Forster and Karenza Ebejer and local historian, Kate Gahan, have collaborated to produce new digital media histories from the shire. The project is unique in bringing together young people, older residents and creative media experts to collaborate on their stories.

Image: Monty Greenslade, Jack Fletcher, Elaine McCormack and Susie Forster. Photograph of policeman live statue by Eva Rinaldi. Animation still 'Flies in the Milk – Petty Misdemeanour', from the *Policing on the Plateau* story

LOUD in the Gallery | Annual Youth Week Exhibition



LOUD will showcase final year works from students of Ballina High School, Southern Cross School K-12, Xavier Catholic College. In 2017, the Gallery is offering three Youth Art Awards sponsored by Byron School of Art, Ballina Art and Framing and Byron Arts Magazine recognising high level artistic excellence.

Image: Troy Anderson (Xavier Catholic College), *Deadly Street Fighter*

art at the airport

Exhibition Dates: March – June 2017

Leonie Lane & John Stewart



Outsidelnside is a collaborative project by Leonie Lane and John Stewart, two of this region's many artists and designers who love to represent what is 'local' and unique about the Northern Rivers. Drawing inspiration from their immediate natural and man-made landscapes, they create ceramic vases and wallpaper designs that bring the 'outside' inside.

Image: Leonie Lane, *Wallpaper, Garden with shed*

MARCH – JUNE 2017



upcoming exhibitions

Exhibition Dates: 26 April – 21 May 2017 | **Launch Event:** Thursday 27 April 2017

MAY 2017

Falling into Place | Tanja Taljaard



Winner of the inaugural Byron School of Art Student Prize, Tanja Taljaard, presents an exhibition of works reflecting upon distilled every day moments and altered memories.

Image: Tanja Taljaard, *The shallows -fish out of water*

Secret Female Signatures | Georgie Maddox



Georgie Maddox has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally. *Secret Female Signatures* has been designed to give women a voice through the powerful medium of visual art.

Image: Georgie Maddox, *Voice II*

Coming Home | Corrina McLaughlin



A rediscovery of self through returning home after a long absence. Through the use of images that signify the artist's personal connection to place, a depiction of the bond with the idea of 'home' is explored.

Image: Corrina McLaughlin, *Pebbles*

Repetition and Milk and Honey | RED Inc.



Repetition and Milk and Honey is a group exhibition by four talented local artists, Jennifer Lowrey, John Rose, Leanne Rose and Willie Mutton from the RED Inc. studio arts program.

Image: Jennifer Lowrey, *Pretty things live forever*

Exhibition Dates: 24 May – 25 June 2017 | **Launch Event:** Thursday 25 May 2017

JUNE 2017

The Topography of Virtual Worlds | Steve Kelly



These works were created using 3D modeling and scene creation software. Some images include photographs the artist has taken and used as backgrounds to scenes, or surface materials for objects.

Image: Steve Kelly, *Stone Trees I*

Indigenous Landscape | Richard Tabaka



The exhibition invokes illusory worlds that disrupt the boundaries between the real form of the land and fragments of someone's creative imagination, a document and a fiction.

Image: Richard Tabaka, *D3A0312*

This Storm is Called Progress | Grayson Cooke and Dugal McKinnon



In this audio-visual installation, Cooke's footage of the Naracoorte Caves is juxtaposed against time-lapse video of Landsat satellite images of Antarctic ice shelves, and acoustically framed by McKinnon electronic score.

Image: *This Storm is Called Progress* (video still)

The Wind Never Sleeps | Paul Harrington



Two mesmerizing kinetic wind sculptures by local artist Paul Harrington will be installed in the Gallery garden. The works, stimulated by the wind, respond with a visual dance in tune with the natural environment.

Image: Paul Harrington, *Starboard Tack*



Council services – Easter / Anzac Day Period 2017

LOCATION	CLOSING	REOPENING
Customer Service Centre	4.15pm Thurs 13 April 4.15pm Mon 24 April	8.15am Tues 18 April 8.15am Wed 26 April
Libraries Alstonville, Ballina and Lennox Head	8pm Thurs 13 April 6pm Mon 24 April	9am Tues 18 April 9am Wed 26 April
Northern Rivers Community Gallery	4pm Fri 14 April 2.30pm Sun 23 April	10am Wed 19 April 10am Wed 26 April
Waste Management Centre	4pm Fri 14 April 4pm Mon 24 April	8am Tues 18 April 8pm Wed 24 April
Waste Bin Collection	Bins will be collected as usual on public holidays. Please have bins kerbside by 5am on your normal collection day, as start times and the order of collection may vary.	
Alstonville Swimming Pool	6pm Sun 19 March. Closed for redevelopment (see page 6)	
Ballina Pool and Waterslide	6pm Sun 19 March. Closed for redevelopment (see page 6)	
Burns Point Ferry	Operations as per normal. 5.30am to 12.30am daily.	
Community Spaces Alstonville Leisure & Entertainment Centre Ballina Surf Club Jingi Wahla rooms Kentwell Community Centre Lennox Head Community Centre Richmond Room	4.30pm Thurs 13 April 4.30pm Mon 24 April	8.30am Tues 18 April 8.30am Wed 26 April Community Spaces may be hired on public holidays by prior arrangement.
Visitor Information Centre	Open 9am – 5pm 7 days a week	
After hours emergency number 6626 6954	Emergency calls concerning water, sewerage, roads, stormwater and public health matters.	

Don't dispose of me yet

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

Councillors are here to represent your views. Councillors are elected in Wards, however each Councillor represents the entire community and can be contacted on any matter. You can contact Councillors in person, by phone or email.

your councillors



Cr David Wright
phone 0415 965 403
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MAJOR



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WARD B



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WARD A



Cr Jeff Johnson
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WARD C



council contact information

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Email: council@ballina.nsw.gov.au

Web: ballina.nsw.gov.au

Street Address:
40 Cherry Street, Ballina

Postal Address:
PO Box 450, Ballina 2478

Office Hours:
8.15am to 4.30pm Mon-Fri
(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

Photo contributors: Tony Partridge (cover banner), Chris Nott of CN2480, Northern Star, NSW DPI, Amanda Burdon, Daralyn Jones and Peta Lyn-Dali.