OUR CULTURE:

CURRENT COMMUNITY PROJECTS

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Foyer Art depicting artwork by the Saltwater Women Art Group
(Image Ballina Shire Council)

BALLINA SHIRE COUNCIL'S FOYER ART PROJECT

Created by Ballina's *Saltwater Women Art Group*, Ballina Shire Council's Customer Service Centre foyer art is a contemporary work depicting symbols of water, pipis, the pigface plant and sugarcane. These elements are all important facets of the Bundjalung people's cultural heritage and connection to the Ballina Shire landscape.

The project invited Aboriginal community members to submit a work of art that was a celebration of Aboriginal people and culture of our Shire community. Ballina Shire Council is pleased to have this work prominently located for both residents and visitors to appreciate.
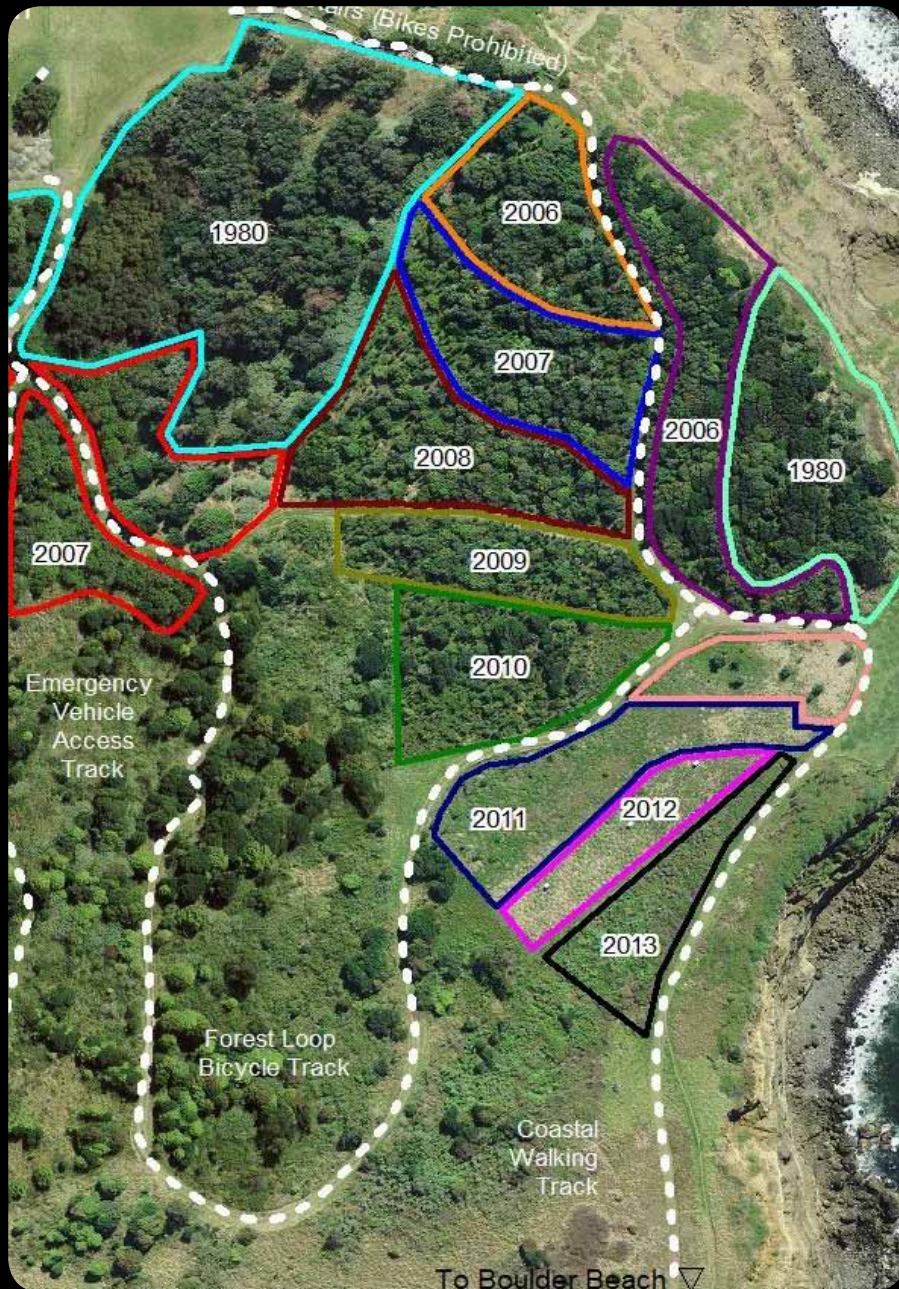
Historic Ballina Waterfront Interpretive Signage (Image Ballina Shire Council)

HISTORIC BALLINA WATERFRONT INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

The *Historic Ballina Waterfront* trail highlights the historic significance of the river to the Shire's European settlers. Its stories reveal how the river has shaped past residents and activities, and that the river supports numerous animal species and surrounding planting communities. These stories are part of our Shire's, and the region's, cultural and environmental heritage.

Map of replanting over the years at Lennox Headland (detail)
(Image Ballina Shire Council)

LENNOX HEADLAND NATIVE PLANT REGENERATION

The first large scale tree (re) planting on Lennox Headland was undertaken by the Ballina Environment Society in 1980. Today it has become a popular community activity, with Ballina Shire Council, local business and the community partnering to make annual plantings. The *Fontainea Oraria* tree, found only in Lennox Head, once reduced to only ten individual plants globally is being regenerated as part of these ongoing plantings.

Ballina Flood 1893 (detail) (Image Richmond River Historial Society)

FLOOD PHOTOS PROJECT

The *Flood Photos Project* sheds light on the power and impacts of flooding events on our landscape and community over time. The historic collection of images gathered from the community reveal how floods have temporarily, and permanently, shaped our landscape over time and how we have responded to these cyclical natural events. The images also document changes to our urban landscape and help us consider the likely future impacts flooding may have on our community and how we might prepare for future weather events. The project demonstrated how we can use the knowledge of the past to help us in the present, as well into the future.

Objects of the Story Publication Cover Art (detail) (Image Keeaira Press).

SHIRE WIDE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT - OBJECT OF THE STORY - REFLECTIONS ON PLACE

Told by local community members through cherished objects and contemporary portraits of the project's story tellers, the *Object of the Story* exhibition celebrated stories of connection to the Ballina Shire landscape. Stories embraced both historic and contemporary perspectives on identity, culture and place.

The project was a partnership between Ballina Shire Council and Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council. The project was supported by the Commonwealth Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities through its *Your Community Heritage* grant.

Artwork on a padmount transformer box at Lennox Head (detail)
(Image Ballina Shire Council)

TRANSFORM COMMUNITY ART PROJECT

The *Transform* Community Art Project partnered emerging artists working with mentors to design and install art works on local transformer boxes in the Shire, as an anti-graffiti initiative. Artists included representatives from INTRA Youth Services, Brain Injury Support Services Inc., Life without Barriers, Southern Cross K-12 School and the Lennox Art Board. Co-ordinating project partners were Essential Energy and Ballina Shire Council.

Family Fun at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery artist run holiday workshops (detail) (Image Ballina Shire Council)

SCHOOL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS AT THE GALLERY

Artist-run school holiday workshops at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery include painting, sculpture, storytelling and print-making. The workshops employ local artists and inspire children's creative expression through the creative arts.

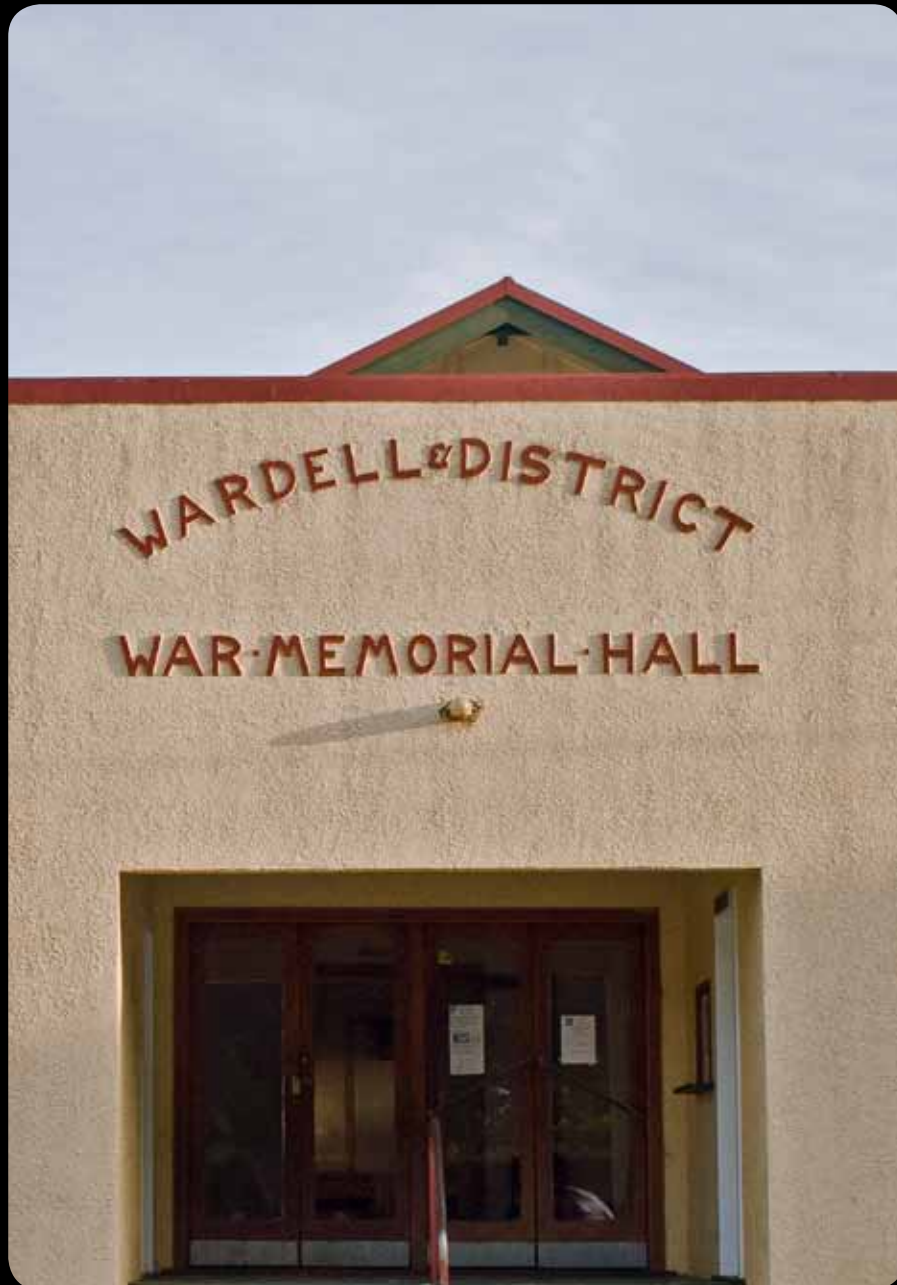*Digby Moran's Art at the Airport (Image Ballina Shire Council)*

ART AT THE AIRPORT

Art at the Airport is a rotating program of artwork by leading professional artists from across the Northern Rivers region and is part of by the Northern Rivers Community Gallery program. The project promotes the Northern Rivers Community Gallery and professional artists from our region. Introducing a new dynamic to the airport environs, the program exposes local visual art and artists to the 30,000 people who pass through the Ballina-Byron Gateway Airport each month.

Wardell and District War Memorial Hall (detail) (Image Terry Ferguson)

CULTURAL SPACES AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Shire's community halls are important spaces, located throughout the Shire community and used for local community and cultural events. In recent years, many of these spaces have benefited from renovations and new kitchen facilities. Community groups, as well as Ballina Shire Council, manage these venues, many of which also have heritage significance.

Ballina Shire Council also funds and manages the Alstonville Leisure and Entertainment Centre, Kentwell Community Centre, Richmond Room, Ballina Surf Life Saving Club and the Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre that host a broad program of activities.

Music @ the Gallery (Image Ballina Shire Council)

MUSIC @ THE GALLERY

The *Music @ the Gallery* program hosts various forms of live music by highly talented regional musicians and vocalists. Recent events have featured *Essence*, a contemporary vocal ensemble showcasing sopranos Katie Rutledge and Beth McBride, along with their chamber band of internationally renowned instrumentalists. Funds raised at these events support regional musicians and artists and the continued development of the Northern Rivers Community Gallery.

Swimmers emerging from Lake Ainsworth (Image Ballina Shire Council)

BEACH WATCH

Our beaches, lakes and waterways are significant natural recreational spaces utilised by people of all interests in our community. During busy periods a number of our beaches are patrolled by lifesavers, both professional and volunteers. The water quality of many of our beaches, the river and Lake Ainsworth is monitored by Ballina Shire Council to ensure safe recreation.

For families, Lake Ainsworth is particularly popular providing shade and shallow swimming areas for smaller children. Ballina Shire Council's long term management goals for the lake will further improve water quality and protect the lake's natural values.

Shared Path along North Wall, East Ballina (Image Ballina Shire Council)

CYCLEWAYS & SHARED PATHS - BALLINA LOOP

The *Ballina Loop,* an 11.5 km shared path, is mostly flat terrain and takes in the Richmond River, North Creek, some of Ballina's beautiful beaches and scenic coastal headlands. The pathway fosters the use of our outdoor areas that are highly valued across our community. The extension of Ballina's shared pathways taking in scenic outdoor areas is ongoing.

Fripp Oval, Ballina (Image Ballina Shire Council)

SPORTS FIELD MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Shire's *Sports Field Management Plan* is currently being prepared. The plan will set out how the provision and care of Ballina Shire Council managed sports facilities, fields and reserves will be managed into the future. The plan will set down future management strategies in consideration of legislative requirements, current sporting facilities and assets, our Shire's demographic profile and emerging trends in sport and recreation participation.