



It's important to keep things in perspective, and this is so true when we consider the tumultuous time our community has been through recently. Thankfully our community was spared from the most severe impacts of the recent floods, unlike so many communities and towns along the east coast and we are very mindful of the challenges faced by our northern neighbours. But that doesn't mean that our community across our Shire isn't still hurting from the temporary closure of Waterfall Way for the third time now in 13 months.

It seems our local roads and in particular Waterfall Way has become more vulnerable to landslips especially during the La-Nina weather pattern which has played out over the past two years, and its recent closure has done nothing to ease the burden that our community and in particular Dorrigo residents and businesses have carried more recently.

Council continues to work with all tiers of government to explore opportunities to provide alternative routes across the Shire so our residents, businesses and industry can have reliable access to alternative travel options when severe weather events close roads including Waterfall Way.

This includes working with Transport for NSW regarding alternative routes including Summervilles/ Gordonville Road, and opportunities to fund and deliver road upgrade works. As is the case with the alternate East Dorrigo Way route from Dorrigo to Coffs Harbour, which requires a multi-faceted government solution to effectively manage the issue. Pleasingly a recent meeting in Bellingen brought Federal, State and Council leaders to the table to openly discuss the concerns and map out the most viable action plan for the various options.

So our aim is to continue to do our best to keep you informed and supported through these tough times, and we remain focussed on pursuing every opportunity to build resilience across our shire, and work with all levels of government to support our communities including funding and delivering flood-free alternative routes for the people of Bellingen Shire.

Get To Know Your Councillors

A minute with Mayor Steve Allan & Councillor Ellie Tree



What is your favourite place in our Shire to relax?

I'm a saltwater person so it's kayaking on the Kalang, riding my bike to Hungry Head before jumping in the surf, or picnics and swims at the beautiful lido area that I love to do in my relaxation time.

When you look at our Community Vision, what opportunities do you see to improve our road map for the future?

I would say that our current Community Vision captures and describes the aspirations and values of the Bellingen Shire very well but it is always useful to revisit and refine such important plans.

One of the biggest issues facing our Shire, and across our region, remains youth unemployment and a lack of opportunity for career development for our younger people. I believe we have an opportunity to focus on job creation and the nurturing of innovation in start-up businesses, agriculture, sustainable tourism and within our creative community. This will result in more jobs with better career pathways to keep our young people in the Shire.

Improved connectivity and communications will be vital to enable this and is also an area that deserves a clearer focus.

We have an opportunity to focus on our built environment with activation of public spaces, beautification of town centres and maintenance of public assets to make our Shire a more liveable place.



What is your favourite place in our Shire to relax?

Wenonah Headland. It's the best place to be just as the tide starts to fall and the rockpools are exposed. Best place for little dips for my little people!

When time prevails, we grab our coffees and head down to explore. This summer we've been spending our beach visits in gumboots and raincoats, but the exploring is just as fun!

When you look at our Community Vision, what opportunities do you see to improve our road map for the future?

Communication, always! The results emerging from the Community Vision survey show that the previous one is still pretty much on track with what the community identified as important to them back then, which is helpful in terms of planning, haha! The biggest way to improve on our road map for the future is to continue to invest in our community, in education and on communication.

The more we can remember that communities are made of families and groups of people working together – the more we can respect one another and keep moving forward together to achieve our shared aspirations. And of course, more youth investment and involvement in the decision-making process!

Keep an eye on up and coming issues of our newsletter to get to know your remaining Councillors.

Visit www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au for more information on your new Council

Out & About In The Community



If you're a fan of Bill Collins, David Stratton and Margaret Pomeranz then you need to join our monthly Vintage Film Club where our Shire's film buffs view and review the classics.

So if getting comfy at your local library with film loving friends and a cuppa sounds like you, then check out your local library's sessions times below:

- Dorrigo Library – First Saturday of the month 2pm
- Bellingen Library – Second Saturday of the month 2pm
- Urunga Library – Third Saturday of the month 2pm

for more info visit <https://www.crl.nsw.gov.au/news/vintage-film-club-streaming-into-your-library/>

Need someone to talk to, or need help and advice around emergency accommodation, family matters and challenges with mental health?

Then drop in and say hi to one of the team @ the Bello Shire's Youth Hub.



Bridge Renewal Program Update



Concrete works for the Bielsdown Bridge abutments are now complete as well as offsite works to precast the four 32.5m super-t girders that will be lifted in place late in April. Completion for the project expected late July 2022.

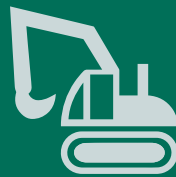
Flood Recovery



Inspections Completed
100 % Rural Roads Inspected
47 % Urban Streets Inspected

1041 FEB 22	915 MAR 21
124 FEB 20	345 DEC 20

Total Damages
2,425 Total damages recorded over the 4 recent flood events



70.7kms Gravel road damage
4.5kms Sealed road damage
1,223 Sealed road potholes
9,146m3 Debris removal
50 Bridge & Culvert damages
21 Large slip sites

Cockspur Coral Tree Eradication Campaign

Bellingen Shire is within the exclusion zone for Cockspur Coral Tree under the North Coast Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan. Which means it is to be eradicated from the land and the land is kept free of the plant. You'll notice posters going up and trees coming down across the coast and valleys of the shire, if you have this plant on your property, you must act by poisoning or removing it. Please get in touch with Council for more info and advice.



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Local Matters

"Building on our connected community"



Autumn 2022