New Category for 2012 Australia Day Awards

Planning for the Bellingen Shire Australia Day celebration and Awards Ceremony is well underway.

The 2012 Australia Day activities will be held at the Urunga Public School and nominations for awards are now open. Mayor Mark Troy said “Australia Day provides an opportunity for all of us to celebrate our wonderful country. We will also recognise and thank those special community members who give so much to our local communities as well as recognising sporting and other outstanding community and creative achievements.

I encourage everyone to give some thought to an individual, team or community organisation that they believe should receive recognition for their work or achievements.”

With so many talented, creative, young people living in our Shire a new award category has been added, the “Under 18 Creative Arts Award”, for music and art, either written or performed.

Nomination forms are available from the Shire’s libraries, the Administration Centre or on Council’s website www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au. Closing date for nominations is Friday 19 November 2011 so be quick.

Raleigh Works Depot

The Raleigh Works Depot Upgrade is progressing well with the old Store shed demolished and the new shed well underway. The floor has been poured, materials storage bins constructed and the frame is now going up. As well, earthworks around the site are now in progress.

Although bad weather set the project back several weeks the recent run of sunny skies has enabled the workers to make up the lost time. At this point the project is around 33% completed and is in line with the budget.

It is anticipated that the Store Shed will be finished prior to Christmas and if the weather holds, demolition of the old workshop area will then commence.

Adam Gilchrist Bust in Bellingen

Hundreds gathered to welcome back one of Bellingen’s favourite sons, Adam Gilchrist, on Saturday 10th September.

Adam was in town to unveil a commemorative bust of himself in Maam Gadguyi Park and he was met by Mayor Mark Troy (see right) who hosted the visit and spoke at the unveiling.

Adam thanked the community and Council for the honour and then graciously signed all manner of cricket paraphernalia and posed for photos, before heading off to the Junior Cricket registration morning. A great visit and thank you to Adam for your generosity and time.

Bellingen Island

Stage 2 of bank protection works at Bellingen Island have been completed. This work was aimed at improving bed and bank stability along the eroding north bank of the Bellingen River between the Point and the protected vegetation remnant on the Island.

The works stabilized the toe of the bank and deflected flows away from the sensitive north bank back towards the opposing bank and gravel bar.
Community Newsletter

Moodys Bridge Bank Stabilisation

The approaches to Moodys Bridge have suffered severe erosion in recent flooding events. Significant bank scour and slump is now threatening the Kalang Road and contributing to poor water quality downstream. The Moodys Bridge Bank stabilisation project will stabilise the bank using a combination of best practice engineering works (Council) and revegetation design (Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority). It will augment bridge protection works previously undertaken and will be delivered via a partnership between Bellingen Council, the NSW Environment Trust, Catchment Management Authority and a local Kalang resident.

CBD Streetscapes

The CBD streetscapes upgrade is a staged project that seeks to enhance the central business districts of Bellingen, Dorrigo and Urunga including main streets, facilities and public recreational areas. These works were funded by the Federal Government under the Commonwealth Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program.

In Bellingen, Council has completed construction of the lookout platform at the northern end of Church Street and undertaken rehabilitation works following tree removal. The remaining road marking and shared usage area works were completed in mid-August. Further resurfacing works and stencilling will be undertaken in Pub Lane following completion of sewerage line replacement works which are currently ongoing.

Completed works in Urunga include footpath resurfacing works, construction of traffic calming devices, road stencilling and tree plantings. Installation of street furniture, including rubbish bin surrounds and bench seating are scheduled to be completed by mid-November.

Access Committee asks residents to be its ‘eyes and ears’

The Bellingen Shire Access Committee was established to assist Council in its goal to ensure that all residents and visitors have equal access to the Shire’s facilities and services. The Committee discusses key issues and makes recommendations to Council. However, the Committee cannot do this alone and recognises that those who regularly use various roads, footpaths, public facilities and open spaces are most likely to be aware of access issues that arise in particular locations. The Committee therefore is calling on the wider community to be its ‘Eyes and Ears’.

Access issues may include the absence of kerb cuts (which facilitate the use of wheelchairs and scooters), uneven or narrow paths of travel and missing or inadequate ramps to public facilities. For example, the Committee arranged for benches to be strategically placed around the Shire’s townships especially for people with mobility difficulties and new seats have recently been installed in Bellingen and Dorrigo.

If you know of any barriers or difficulties with access to Council-owned land or premises or have any ideas or suggestions for improving accessibility to the Shire’s facilities and services, please contact Council’s Community Planning Officer, Josie Robinson on 6655 7666 email robinson@bellingen.nsw.gov.au

Hammond Street Retaining Wall

Works have been undertaken to reconstruct the Hammond Street retaining wall that had collapsed. The retaining wall is the gateway to North Bellingen and is visible from the Bellingen CBD. Reconstruction works have included a new pathway designed to improve access and pedestrian safety.

Previously pedestrians needed to either cross the road at a sharp bend, with limited visibility, on the northern end of the Bridge or travel across a gravel car park to use a set of steep steps to gain access to a bitumen service road off the eastern side of Hammond Street.

Snippets

WORLD RALLY

The Australian leg of the 2011 World Rally was held on the Coffs Coast over 8-11 September. Bellingen Shire hosted 3 stages of the event and received rave reviews from the international drivers regarding the quality of the roads and the organisation of the event.

Council has commenced discussions around the event returning in 2013 and for Bellingen Shire to play an increased role.

For more information visit the Rally website at www.rallyoverseas.com.au

MANUFACTURE COFFS COAST

Manufacture Coffs Coast (MCC) was formed in 2009 to promote and foster the development of manufacturing on the Coffs Coast. The group covers the local Government areas of Coffs Harbour City, Nambucca and Bellingen.

The membership has grown to over 100 companies which cover a wide range of manufacturing and service businesses within the region.

Bellingen Shire recently hosted an industry visit with about 30 members visiting Bellingen Solar and Pacific Coast Switch Boards.

For more information visit the website www.manufacturecoffscoast.com.au

COFFS COAST TOURISM

Earlier this year members of Tourism Bellingen and Tourism Coffs Harbour voted to join forces to form a new Tourism group to represent the operators and associated industry people on the Coffs Coast.

The aims and goals of the new tourism association are to provide a voice for tourism operators in our region and work closely with both Coffs Harbour City and Bellingen Shire Councils in the promotion and development of tourism.

The inaugural President of the association is Gay Sadlethton from Bellingen who was elected into office at the recent AGM. The Shire is also represented on the Board by Katherine Wood from NPWS Dorrigo and Cr Ian Coo being the Council delegate on the Board.

For more information visit www.tourismcoffscoast.com.au

Cycle fans turn out for On Ya Bike! Day

More than 40 riders participated in this year’s Council-organised On Ya Bike! Day event, incorporating Ride2Work, Cyclists joined Mayor Mark Troy from Bogg Creek, with others riding in from Raleigh and the Gleniffer Roses Road loop; meeting for a fresh, local-food breakfast in the Maan Gadguring Park.

General Manager, Liz Jeremy notes, “We know that our community is passionate about sustainability and alternative transport options. Council has prioritised the implementation of projects that promote pedestrian access and is currently working on the development of a new bike plan to make cycling an easier and more attractive option for residents”.

The event was kindly sponsored by Kombu and Running Wild Adventure Tours.

Bowraville Road Reconstruction

During significant rain events in February and March 2009, two zones of the Bowraville to Bellingen Road suffered major damage due to landslides and related scouring of embankments. This has resulted in the road being closed to through traffic since that time.

The Northern zone of landslide damage occurred in the vicinity of Dyers Mountain above the southern end of Spicketts Creek where up to 10 landslides, including 8 major embankment failures occurred within a 0.8 km section of road.

Following lengthy discussions, the NSW State government has provided funding to reconstruct this section of Bowraville Road. Council will project manage the delivery of these works.

Phase 1 of the project is the preparation of detailed design. Tenders have been called for this part of the works and will be considered by Council shortly. The construction phase of the project can then be put to tender.

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