

# Cultural Plan **2003 - 2008**



*"Women of the West" Tapestry,  
Bland Spinners and Weavers Group Inc.*

## People, Pride, Progress

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Prepared for:

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# Overview of the Cultural Plan & Process

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The Bland Shire Council's Cultural Plan reflects the thoughts and aspirations of the Community and will assist Council to address their Vision, Mission and Shared Values.

The cultural wealth and health of a community is instrumental in the development of its future growth. People want to live in places where a broad range of services and opportunities are available to them. This is inclusive of extra curricular activities, entertainment and other recreational pursuits. A healthy, and in turn wealthy community, celebrates a rich and culturally vibrant lifestyle. It is about *People, Pride and Progress*.

The Cultural Advisory Committee of Bland Shire Council regards this Cultural Plan as a living document that allows inclusion of new arts and cultural activities arising as a result of Community development in Bland Shire.

## Community Consultation

Information has been gathered following an extensive community consultation process. Working with Council's Community Development Officer, groups consulted included;

- ~ The Gallery
- ~ Bland Bizarre
- ~ Bland Spinners & Weavers
- ~ Weethalle Whistle Stop & Museum
- ~ Garden & Floral Art
- ~ Porcelain painting/ Art Group
- ~ Barmedman based Artist – Peter Kopilow
- ~ Tallimba P&C
- ~ Community Garden
- ~ Country Women's Association.
- ~ Choir
- ~ Barmedman – CWA, Community Hall, Pool, Community newsletter, Community Centre & Show Society.
- ~ West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Land Council (consultation in progress)
- ~ Waratah Retirement Village
- ~ Heritage Study coordinator
- ~ Eisteddfod Committee
- ~ Bland Shire Library
- ~ Community Radio
- ~ Works engineers (re: improvements previously done and coming up in the surrounding villages of Ungarie, Weethalle and Barmedman and Tallimba).
- ~ Outburst Youth Council
- ~ Heritage Week Committee
- ~ Bottlebrush Festival
- ~ Museum
- ~ Photography Society
- ~ Family History Group
- ~ Book Club
- ~ West Wyalong Town Band
- ~ Tidy Towns committees
- ~ Quota Club
- ~ Ungarie Youth Group
- ~ Rotary
- ~ Vintage Village
- ~ Regional Museum Officer
- ~ Tallimba School

## ~ Community Cultural Development

Council is an active participant of the Eastern Riverina Arts Program, ERAP. Through ERAP, Council:

- ~ Facilitates and promotes community cultural development on behalf of the communities within your region of New South Wales.
- ~ Plans and develops appropriate policies and strategies for community cultural development throughout the region.
- ~ Advocates on behalf of the Region at state and federal level for resources to fulfil identified community needs.
- ~ Promotes and enhances the lifestyle of individual communities and the region.
- ~ Provides advice and assistance to local government shires, the regional arts industry, community groups, organisations, arts councils, government departments, service providers and individuals throughout the region.
- ~ Develops an effective network linking local government shires, arts industry, community groups, representatives from other organisations (eg. Tourism, Regional Economic Development), arts councils, government departments (eg. Department of Education, Community Services), funding bodies (eg. NSW Ministry for the Arts, Australia Council), the state RADO network and individuals.
- ~ Works closely with the Regional Arts NSW on strategic and policy matters.
- ~ Assists in the development of effective and innovative projects that will extend the cultural experiences of all communities and may provide education, training, employment and marketing opportunities for regional artists and communities.
- ~ Consults with the communities to identify and seek to address relevant issues pertaining to the different communities and the region.
- ~ Assists groups, organisations and individuals to design, facilitate, promote and coordinate their projects.
- ~ Assists groups, organisations and individuals in seeking and applying for funding opportunities.
- ~ Develops, promotes and in some instances, coordinates regional cultural initiatives.

Particularly in light of the Bland Shire's proposed growth, it is imperative that Council acknowledges the integral need for ensuring ongoing community cultural development.

Council needs to be more effective in maximising the benefit of their investment in the Program. This can easily be achieved by ensuring your communities are aware that ERAP is a service provider. Refer arts and cultural queries to ERAP.

When Council/ Councillors are aware of arts/ cultural projects in their community that require support, again, refer them to ERAP for assistance.

With queries regarding arts related funding, refer them to ERAP for support and guidance.

ERAP produces a newsletter, encourage your community groups and individuals to subscribe. This newsletter often has information regarding funding opportunities, events and activities around the region, opportunities for your communities to access cultural product at a significantly reduced rate, (We always aim to deliver product (workshops/ performance) at a minimal cost to the community.

Encourage information regarding arts and cultural events to be forwarded to ERAP, so that it can be promoted throughout the networks developed for information distribution. ERAP is not limited by the newsletter, a key role within the region is the information distribution and support can provide for community groups.

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# Corporate Plan / Management Plan 2003 - 2008

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## Vision

*People, Pride, Progress*

## Mission

*"Working safely with the people to improve the quality of life and create an environment for future development within the Shire."*

## Shared Values

- ~ Safety
- ~ Fairness & Equity
- ~ Integrity
- ~ Exceeding expectations
- ~ Achievement
- ~ Teamwork
- ~ Co-operation
- ~ Professional attitude & conduct
- ~ Pride
- ~ Innovation and initiative
- ~ Goal orientated
- ~ Outcome orientated
- ~ Respect & Trust
- ~ Creativity
- ~ Quality Outcomes
- ~ Good communication
- ~ Caring
- ~ Flexibility
- ~ Can do approach
- ~ Leadership
- ~ Loyalty
- ~ Enthusiasm
- ~ Dedication
- ~ Access
- ~ Efficiency
- ~ Consultative Process
- ~ Straight Talking
- ~ Awareness

The work already being supported and achieved through Council is complimented by the services that ERAP has to offer. Community cultural development can assist in addressing and achieving a number of Council's proposed Key Performance areas in the following manner:

### Key Performance Area 3: Community Works and Services

**3.1 Objective: To create an environment that enhances the quality of living for all residents.**

*3.1.2 Strategy: Continue to identify, develop and implement town beautification projects.*

**3.3 Objective: To complement the natural beauty of the Shire through the provision of parks, gardens, recreational areas and preservation of the Shire's heritage.**

*3.3.3 Strategy: Preserve and promote the Shire's heritage.*

### Key Performance Area 5: Communication and Facilitation

**5.1 Objective: To increase the level of community awareness of Council Activities.**

*5.1.1 Strategy: Actively engage in community relations activities.*

*5.1.3 Strategy: Identify the best communication channels for different sectors of the community and utilise these to increase community awareness of Council activities and to disseminate information.*

### Key Performance Area 6: Community Well-being & Support Services

**6.2 Objective: To ensure the Bland Shire community has an awareness of, and access to, a broad range of recreational, cultural and community support services.**

*6.2.1 Strategy: Identify and review community needs services on an on-going basis.*

*6.2.2 Strategy: Facilitate and support cultural activities in the Shire.*

## Key Performance Area 3: Community Works and Services

### 3.1 Objective: To create an environment that enhances the quality of living for all residents.

3.1.2 Strategy: *Continue to identify, develop and implement town beautification projects.*

Working with ERAP and the community, Council can develop and implement a broad range of town beautification projects. Projects that celebrate and reflect the community's history, sense of place, future vision and identity. Projects can be developed on a small scale or larger scale, involving the broad range of individuals found in communities, looking at infrastructural needs such as seating, signage, pathways or walls, or merely as surface enhancement. These initiatives can create something unique to the Shire and become a tourist curiosity in themselves, encouraging visitors to stop, look at the range of attractions and in turn create opportunity to contribute to the economic growth of the community.

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>That through the Community Development Officer, Council work with ERAP in identifying interested groups and opportunities for some small, easily managed initiatives to compliment Council's current work in beautifying the Shire.</p>	<p>Projects in public spaces assists participants in creating a sense of ownership, place, identity and pride in their community. Its an ideal mechanism for bringing the eclectic range of individuals and groups to work together for common goals.</p>	<p>That through the Community Development Officer, Council work with ERAP in identifying interested groups and opportunities for some small, easily managed initiatives to compliment Council's current work in beautifying the Shire. Eg. Working with the School in doing a series of small projects, eg. banners, ceramic murals etc.....</p> <p>As projects have been developed, source funding through programs such as the Regional Arts Fund, Country Arts Support Program, Australia Council - Community Cultural Development Fund.</p>

**3.3 Objective: To complement the natural beauty of the Shire through the provision of parks, gardens, recreational areas and preservation of the Shire's heritage.**

*3.3.3 Strategy: Preserve and promote the Shire's heritage.*

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>Continue the invaluable work being contributed by specialised service providers such as the Heritage Advisor and Regional Museum Officer.</p> <p>Encourage the Museums , History groups, Groups and Individuals within the Shire to engage more effectively with the Regional Museum Officer and Heritage Advisor in actively developing their collection policies, public programs, collection management and preservation of both their built and collected history.</p> <p>Council invest in and develop a Promotional Strategy to promote the Shire's hidden treasures and the specialised service and support provided by the Regional Museum Officer and Heritage Advisor.</p>	<p>It is recognised that these specialised service providers are working well in the Shire, however, there is always a need to sustain and maintain the work they do.</p> <p>With the potential influx into the region, it is important to ensure that people are being informed about the support, guidance and access to resources that are available to them.</p> <p>Council has an extensive range of hidden treasure throughout the Shire. Here is an opportunity for Council to not only let people know about what the community has, but and ideal means of developing tourism product that is specific to the Bland Shire.</p>	<p>Ensure that the broader community are aware about the specialised service providers and how they can access them. Through the Community Development Officer, refer appropriate groups and individuals to these advisors.</p> <p>Council actively acknowledges its treasures and develops a strategy for their promotion. To name only a small hand full;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the range of facilities (halls) accessible to the community.</li> <li>- The 'Green Corridor' project. (West Wyalong Creative Village Project 1992)</li> <li>- The 'Community Garden'.</li> <li>- 'Women of the West' wall hanging - Council</li> <li>- 'Wild Flowers of Bland' – Waratah Retirement Village</li> <li>- Aboriginal Land Council – Bayai Room mural</li> <li>- Barmedman Community Hall – mural</li> <li>- Beckett's Farm - Vintage Village</li> </ul>

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>That Council where appropriate develop collection management and conservation policies for their treasures.</p>	<p>There doesn't appear to be any strategies or policies in place to care for the treasures they hold. this need not be the soul responsibility of Council. However, it should be encouraged that groups who hold these items, look after them. Another opportunity to utilise the services of your Regional Museum Officer, Heritage Advisor or ERAP. We are in danger of not preserving some truly unique and treasured items.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Barmedman - Mineral Pool</li> <li>- Wheethalle Whistle Stop</li> <li>- Wheethalle Museum</li> <li>- Museum &amp; Photographic collection</li> <li>- Piano</li> <li>- Eucalyptus farm @ Tumbalong</li> <li>- Gold mine - history and elements</li> <li>- West Wyalong Local Aboriginal Artifact Shop</li> </ul> <p>That Council commence with developing policies and strategies for the ongoing care of the objects that they have custodianship over, Eg. 'Women of the West' wall hanging.</p>

### Regional Museum Officer

The Riverina is fortunate to have the additional services of a Regional Museums Officer (RMO). Through the Museum of the Riverina's outreach program, the RMO particularly focuses on the areas of policy development and strategic planning, collection, conservation and care and training opportunities for volunteers in Riverina museums.

The Museum of the Riverina's outreach program provides a much needed advocacy role for community museums in the Riverina i.e. with their local shire councils, NSW Ministry for the Arts, Museums and Galleries Foundation of NSW, regional tourism, large urban collecting institutions (Powerhouse, National Museum) regional economic development and arts training associations.

Particular goals of the outreach program include:

Fostering collaboration and cooperation between the museums in the Riverina in order to continually improve standards in museum practice.

Deliver training in the areas of strategic planning, succession planning, collection management, conservation and interpretation and in doing so encourage local community groups to care for their own cultural heritage.

## Heritage Advisor

The role of the Heritage Advisor ideally compliments the Regional Museum Officer's role within the community. Their role appears to largely encompass the enormity of the Shire's built heritage, providing advice on the restoration, ongoing maintenance and potential use for currently unused facilities.

## Bland Shire Heritage/ Museum

The Bland Shire community are extremely proactive in preserving their community's cultural heritage. It is a challenging time for all those involved in the Museum due to the uncertainty in regards whether they stay in their current location or move into the proposed site of the Court House. There has been difficulties in ascertaining ownership of the Court House and this in turn has hindered the Museum's direction.

There is a concern with regards to lack of visitor numbers.

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>The Museum Volunteers review their opening hours and change from 2.30 - 5pm to 10am - 2pm.</p>	<p>In making enquiries with other museums, it has been suggested that visitation tends to occur in the morning rather than later in the day. Changing the times for opening would in turn maximise the invaluable time of the volunteers. The suggested time frame aims to tap into the morning travellers and travellers who like to stop for a visit over their lunch break.</p>	<p>The Museum Volunteers be approached to review their opening hours and change to the opening hours of 10am - 2pm.</p>
<p>That the Museum Volunteers consider the development of a public program to coincide with other community and/or national events. Eg. Festivals, Heritage Week, NAIDOC week, National Water Week.</p>	<p>The Museum already participate in Heritage Week celebrations, however there are opportunities for the group to attract more local and visitor participation if they create more of a 'living' environment.</p> <p>The public programs would allow for greater participation by the broader community, raise awareness about the collection whilst making it more relevant to the community.</p>	<p>The Museum Volunteers work with RMO, ERAP and local educators in developing an easily managed public program and education package.</p>
<p>That the Museum Volunteers work with the</p>	<p>Provides an opportunity for the young people within the Shire</p>	

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
local schools and the RMO in the development of an Education Package. A package that directly relates to the education syllabus.	to actively participate and learn about their local history through the collection and the volunteers who manage it. In addition, the Museum becomes an active resource for educators in the community, making it relevant and developing an opportunity to instigate further interest and perhaps even future participation.	

## Key Performance Area 5: Communication and Facilitation

### 5.1 Objective: To increase the level of community awareness of Council Activities.

5.1.1 Strategy: *Actively engage in community relations activities.*

5.1.3 Strategy: *Identify the best communication channels for different sectors of the community and utilise these to increase community awareness of Council activities and to disseminate information.*

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>Council look at some alternative creative solutions for their dissemination of information.</p> <p>Council actively support and participate in the establishment of and ongoing operations of the Community Radio. i.e. Have a Council activities diary in a regular weekly timeslot.</p> <p>That ERAP develops a more effective strategy for informing communities about their role and support services</p>	<p>Council needs to develop a range of formats for communication. In order to reach the broad spectrum of individuals found within the community, Council needs to identify what are the facilities and networks people actively utilise and collaborate with those groups, facilities and organisations in getting the word out there. You need to speak in their language.</p> <p>There was a definite lack of knowledge about resources available to them. This included awareness about ERAP and its services, funding opportunities, training etc....</p>	<p>Council identifies the facilities and networks people actively utilise.</p> <p>Identify the most appropriate format to deliver Council information. Written, visual, sound etc... Will it be through attendance at meetings, or placing information in their community newsletters, through the net etc.....</p> <p>ERAP has recently appointed a Promotions / Projects Officer. Their role will focus on developing strategies for better informing communities about the organisation and the support services it can provide.</p>

## Promotion

The promotion of the broad spectrum of arts and cultural activity was considered by far the greatest weakness. It was found that promotion/ advertising was largely inaccessible for most groups, groups were busy doing and not having the resources to promote their activities, it came further down the priority list.

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
Council through their Cultural Advisory Committee broker a range of promotional opportunities. Eg. Negotiate the 'Cultural Corner', work with the Community Radio and work with ERAP's Promotions/ Projects Officer.	If the Committee actively works at supporting the promotion for the eclectic range of cultural groups and activities, they are being more proactive in raising the awareness of the rich and vibrant cultural wealth the Shire. In developing this relationship, the Committee will in turn get more support for the initiatives they hope to instigate.	Council through their Cultural Advisory Committee broker a range of promotional opportunities.

## Key Performance Area 6: Community Well-being & Support Services

**6.2 Objective: To ensure the Bland Shire community has an awareness of, and access to, a broad range of recreational, cultural and community support services.**

*6.2.1 Strategy: Identify and review community needs services on an on-going basis.*

*6.2.2 Strategy: Facilitate and support cultural activities in the Shire.*

### Bland Shire Cultural Advisory Committee

The Bland Shire Cultural Advisory Committee has been appointed under the provisions of Section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993.

**Representation and participation in the Cultural Advisory Committee.**

RECOMMENDATION	ACTION
<p>Lack of representation and participation in the committee be addressed. Target proactive community members who are passionate about the groups they are involved in, where possible, representation should reflect the Shire.</p> <p>Representation should reflect the Shires participation in preserving their community's history, arts practitioners, educators, festivals and community groups.</p>	<p>The Committee through Council's Community Development Officer potential candidates be approached. Additional representation should be sought from the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>~ Youth Sector - eg. Identify a potential candidate through the art, drama or music teacher.</li> <li>~ Community Radio</li> <li>~ Education Sector</li> <li>~ Bottlebrush Festival/ Show Society</li> <li>~ Library/ Book Club</li> <li>~ Arts practitioners</li> </ul>

**Mission**

*"To promote, support and nurture art and cultural development in the Bland Shire."*

**Objectives**

- Provide a facility for workshops in a broad range of arts practice.
- Provide & facilitate opportunities for local and touring exhibitions and performances.
- Nurture local arts practice.
- Promote art & cultural activities within the community for the whole community.
- Provide public access to art and cultural resources and supplies.

*Objective: Provide a facility for workshops in a broad range of arts practice*

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>This objective be reconsidered.</p> <p><i>Promote and create a greater awareness of the range of facilities appropriate for use in the presentation of workshops in a broad range of arts practices, available to the community.</i></p> <p>Council provide easy access to the list of all halls, education and recreational facilities available for community use in an online and hard copy format.</p>	<p>The object be achievable and more realistic in expectation as to how the committee operates.</p>	<p>The objective, <i>Provide a facility for workshops in a broad range of arts practice</i> be altered to <i>Promote and create a greater awareness of the range of facilities appropriate for use in the presentation of workshops in a broad range of arts practices, available to the community.</i></p> <p>Council compile a register of facilities with appropriate contacts and hire fees, both in an online and hard copy format.</p>

*Objective: Provide & facilitate opportunities for local and touring exhibitions & performances*

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>The committee should identify and agree to two projects annually. One focused on the visual arts &amp; crafts, the other on performance.</p> <p>To commence with the committee, in collaboration with ERAP, develop and present a visual arts initiative (postcard exhibition), celebrating the Shire, its industries, history, lifestyle and future direction and that could easily be displayed and toured through a range of venues in the shire.</p> <p>The committee consult with Arts on Tour NSW - Regional Support Person and Musica Viva - Regional Touring Coordinator in identifying appropriate material for presentation.</p> <p>Each year focus on a different area of live performance. Eg: Theatre, Music, Dance</p> <p>Source suitable venue for travelling exhibitions, performances, etc.</p>	<p>Postcard exhibition - Easy to manage, display and tour. They provide flexibility in terms of presentation and easy to tour, just need a good suitcase. There are a range of opportunities available and a range of venues that could comfortably house a small exhibition for a week.</p> <p>It is an ideal opportunity to collaborate with groups and Shire communities in presenting visual arts and crafts.</p> <p>A range of other cultural initiatives could evolve from such a project.</p> <p>Performance - the club provides an ideal venue for performance and of course there appears to be a broad range of other intimate gathering spaces for the presentation of small productions of live performance.</p> <p>Venues need only be secure and managed through the committee (nominate a project coordinator) and other volunteers.</p>	<p>Start with the Postcard exhibition - Invite artists from throughout the Shire and broader region to create an artwork around the Bland Shire, its industry, history, lifestyle and future, on a postcard size canvas board. Exhibition to take place in 2004.</p> <p>Approach new industries to sponsor prizes, \$250 - \$500 range for each prize. This provides an attractive incentive for participation and quality entries.</p> <p>Winning works could then be reproduced as postcards for sale and as a means of raising revenue for the ongoing development of a series of Bland Shire postcards with a difference.</p> <p>Work with local artists, organisations and institutions in developing a visual arts/ crafts exhibition program.</p> <p>Commence in 2004 - Work in collaboration with another interested group in the presentation of a mainstream, broad range appeal theatre work.</p> <p>Aim to present a theatre work that is on the HSC syllabus.</p>

*Objective: Nurture local arts practice*

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p>This objective be reconsidered.</p> <p><i>Support and promote local arts practice..</i></p> <p>Council to collate a register of artists, arts practice and contact details in an online and hard copy format.</p>	<p>The role of the committee is as an advisory committee and therefore should be proactive in being aware of who is doing what and supporting them at a local level, provide access to promotional and presentation opportunities.</p>	<p>The objective, <i>Nurture local arts practice</i> be altered to <i>Support and promote local arts practice.</i></p> <p>Create a greater awareness about our local arts practitioners.</p> <p>Council to collate a register of artists, arts practice and contact details in an online and hard copy format.</p>

*Objective: Promote art & cultural activities within the community for the whole community*

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p>Establish a formal agreement between the Cultural Advisory Committee, Council and the local West Wyalong Advocate for a monthly 'Cultural Corner'.</p>	<p>Will provide a regular forum to promote the arts and cultural activity within the Shire. The column may include features on the Shires arts practitioners and groups.</p>	<p>The Committee's 'Promotions Officer' and Community Development Officer approach the West Wyalong Advocate to negotiate a formalised arrangement.</p> <p>The Committee's 'Promotions Officer' work in collaboration with the Community Development Officer and the ERAP Promotions/ Projects Officer in collating appropriate information for the 'Cultural Corner'.</p>
<p>When the Community Radio is up and running, establish a 'Program Slot'.</p>	<p>Providing an opportunity to support a community group as well as creating another local vehicle for promotion and forum for cultural discussion.</p>	<p>The committee actively seek representation and participation from the Community Radio's committee.</p> <p>The Committee's 'Promotions Officer' work in collaboration with the Community Development Officer and the ERAP Promotions/ Projects Officer in collating information for the program.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>All members of the Cultural Advisory Committee actively participate in promoting the cultural life of Bland Shire.</p> <p>The Cultural Advisory Committee utilise ERAP's Promotions/ Projects Officer support services and networks to provide additional opportunities for promoting the cultural wealth in the Shire.</p>	<p>Linking with ERAP's Promotion/ Projects Officer creates a cost effective opportunity for regional promotion.</p>	<p>The Committee's 'Promotions Officer' send information to ERAP's Promotions/ Projects Officer for inclusion in the Bimonthly membership newsletter and email bulletins.</p>

*Objective: Provide public access to art and cultural resources and supplies.*

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>Through the Cultural Advisory Committee, assist ERAP in raising their profile within the community and the support services they can provide.</p>	<p>Council actively participate in the program and it would only be logical that they maximise their investment by raising awareness of this service to its communities.</p>	<p>Spread the word throughout the Committees various networks and through the 'Cultural Corner' and Council's Community Development Officer networks about ERAP as a service provider by actively referring groups and individuals to ERAP.</p>

It is not possible for the Bland Shire Cultural Advisory Committee to meet their current objectives without any resources to enable them to initiate any proposed activities. Resources are required for the use of the committee in order for them to proactively participate and support the ongoing development of the Shire cultural life.

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
That through the Community Development Officer, the Bland Shire Cultural Advisory Committee have allocated an annual Small Projects Budget = \$2000 - \$3000.	Providing the Committee with a budget will not only inspire a greater level of active participation, it will enable them to achieve the Constitutional objectives of the group and in turn be more effective in supporting the Shires ongoing Cultural development.	Small Projects Budget to be utilised for the purpose of initiating the Committee's annual cultural program and/or utilised as a means of seeking additional funds.

## Built infrastructure/ Facilities

Council has a range of facilities that are used for a broad range of activities. Some working more effectively than others. It has been identified that there doesn't appear to be a facility for the presentation of visual arts for any length of time within the community. However, it does appear that there are a range of venues that can cater for live performance.

<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
That Council review their facilities and identify an appropriate venue that with minor infrastructural changes, could be utilised for the display of visual arts.	Council will address an identified need within the community, enable a current facility to be more versatile for the community's use. Creating a venue appropriate for display, also creates the vehicle for bringing in touring exhibitions.	<p>Council work with a small working party of arts practitioners and interested individuals to identify an appropriate facility and to assess structural requirements.</p> <p>Council then apply through the NSW Ministry Capital Infrastructure fund in May 2004 for assistance to implement infrastructural changes.</p> <p>Any exhibition program to be managed by organising groups on a voluntary basis.</p>

## Festivals

It has been identified that there are three major community events within the Shire, The Show, Heritage Week Celebrations and the Bottlebrush Festival. It was generally considered that the Heritage Week celebrations have been and will continue to be well supported.

In terms of the Bottlebrush Festival, the general consensus appears to have been a decline in interest and participation, largely influenced by the insurance issue. Too much energy in trying to maintain the insurance. There have been a number of very successful elements to the festival. These include the flower show, garden tours, street parade, scare crow competition, market day and busking competition. Other influencing factors that contributed to the decline of the festival were identified as; need for a festival coordinator, change in personnel and in turn the level of support and guidance received from Council, volunteer exhaustion, lack of relevance to the community, no sense of ownership and timing. Generally it was agreed that there was support and a need for such a festival to take place within the community.

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>That Council work with the interested parties, set up a working party, and review the time of year the festival takes place. That any proposed dates ensures that it compliments the school calendar in order to encourage a greater level of participation.</p> <p>The working party consider dates to compliment the Show.</p> <p>That the working party consider the objectives for a community festival, what it hopes to achieve and who it is for and who will be encouraged to participate.</p> <p>That the working party work with ERAP in developing the vision, framework and strategies for reaching the identified objectives.</p>	<p>In light of discussions with numerous members of various interested and potentially interested parties, the timing in school holidays was in fact detrimental to many people actively participating in the program.</p> <p>Suggestion was also made that it coincides and perhaps compliments the Show. This would certainly enable all involved to maximise on attracting participation from visitors and locals alike.</p> <p>Schools already actively participate in the show and were keen to work with artists in the development of a street parade. Another element that was considered extremely successful in the past. Current timing of the festival doesn't encourage school participation.</p>	<p>Through the Community Development Officer a working party be formed, reflective of all stake holders and potential collaborators.</p> <p>The working party review dates. Realising that the current festival's frame work is built around the Garden activities, this could be complimented. The potential repercussions will need to be considered in the assessment.</p> <p>The Show society be approached to be part of the working party and review process.</p> <p>That the working party work with ERAP and consider the objectives for a community festival, what it hopes to achieve and who it is for and who will be encouraged to participate. This will be integral to the development of the festival and when it is best to occur.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>That the working party also consider changing the 'title' and focus of the festival to make it more relevant to the community.</p> <p>That the working party develop a strategy for engaging a festival coordinator to support the volunteers.</p> <p>Council review the ½ day holiday supporting the Show for the community, making it a full day or not a holiday.</p> <p>The Show Society be more proactive in engaging local schools participation.</p>	<p>If you want people to actively participate in events within the community, ensure they include the participation of the community's children. There are opportunities for skills development and artists in residencies programs here, working throughout the Shire and making the surrounding villages as integral components of the venture.</p> <p>It was clear that people did not all together feel that the Bottlebrush was particularly relevant to their community. Suggestion was made that the theme should embrace the new industries in town. 'Gold' being a concept, even planing events and activities around the golden egg. Creates opportunity for these industries to participate as major sponsors. Relationship building by directly contributing to the presentation of activities that enhance the community's lifestyle.</p> <p>There are also some great opportunities to develop and involve a far greater spectrum of the community in a broad range of events. There are opportunities for garden, sporting, craft and arts groups all to be involved in developing activities.</p> <p>It was suggested that the current format of a ½ day is not achieving its objective of encouraging people to participate and attend the show. It merely serves as a disruption.</p>	<p>That the working party work with ERAP and look at developing a program that has broad appeal and inclusive of the broad spectrum of community groups and organisations.</p> <p>That the working party work with ERAP and the region's schools in developing opportunities for schools to be actively involved.</p> <p>That the working party work with ERAP in identifying appropriate funding sources, assist in the preparation of applications and sponsorship proposals.</p> <p>That the working party with ERAP in developing a brief and strategy for funding a festival coordinator. Festivals Australia - great place to seek funding for additional components to the 'cultural program', coordinator's fee may be sought from here.</p> <p>The Show Day be resumed as a whole day holiday. The Show Society ensure there is active participation from the schools, reduce the entry fee to being more accessible to the whole community.</p>

## Touring Workshop Programs

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>That ERAP work with Council and the range of arts and crafts groups in the development of appropriate workshop programs that can be toured throughout the Shire.</p>	<p>There is a definite desire/ need throughout the Shire to have workshops in an eclectic range of arts &amp; craft practices touring the region.</p> <p>Professional Artist and Craft people coming into the region to run a range of workshops to further develop the skills already within the community. Currently the interested individuals have to travel far and wide at great cost to access opportunities to further their interests.</p> <p>Overall feeling was that more needed to happen within the surrounding villages themselves. This being in terms of if there are workshops coming to the region, can they also happen within the villages.</p>	<p>That ERAP develops a range of touring workshop programs throughout the Eastern Riverina Region and include the Bland Shire and its communities in the Touring Program.</p>

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>Council develops strategies where they invest and create budget allocations so that other sources of funding be sought.</p>	<p>Council needs to accept that in order for groups to attract funding to develop programs of activities, they will need to allocate financial resources. Many application procedures require demonstration of Council's commitment to projects.</p> <p>Council's commitment need not always be dollars in real terms, but do need to have the dollar value attached to any in-kind support they may contribute.</p>	<p>Council acknowledge the importance through a financial commitment to the ongoing development of their Shire's community cultural development. These need not be large sums, and should be identified on a needs basis. To be utilised as a means of attracting additional funds to implement an eclectic and dynamic program of events.</p>

**6.4 Objective: To facilitate and promote youth development within the Shire.**

*6.4.1 Strategy: Support initiatives and activities that service the needs of youth.*

*6.4.2 Strategy: Consult with youth to identify and implement opportunities for development*

*6.4.3 Strategy: Develop partnerships within and external to the Shire that promote the needs of youth and youth activities.*

It was clearly identified that young people’s interest in the arts were generally dominated by their interest in music.

RECOMMENDATION	RATIONALE	ACTION
<p>That Council through their Community Development Officer set up an Indent (Youth Entertainment/ Events) Team in order to develop a series of self determined projects.</p> <p>Make an application through Music NSW’s Indent Partnerships Grants Program (Up to \$6000 for regional areas to run a program of 4 events throughout a year)</p>	<p>It is an opportunity to respond directly to the young peoples interest and desire to access live music in their community.</p> <p>It also creates an opportunity for young people to take control and determine their own program and learn skills in events management.</p>	<p>Establish an Indent Team (14 - 24 years) with interested young people. Contact Music NSW Indent coordinator for an Indent Kit <a href="http://www.indent.net.au">www.indent.net.au</a> . It is important to target proactive people who are interested in ‘doing’ something for themselves. Perhaps seek assistance from Music teachers at the High School.</p> <p>Through the Community Development Officer and supported by ERAP, work with the Indent Team in developing a program of events and make an application to the Indent Partnerships program.</p>

**Conclusion**

Council should be commended on their active participation and support for their Shires cultural development, especially at a time where there is enormous growth occurring within the Shire. In order for communities to prosper and continue to evolve into healthy, wealthy and vibrant communities, their cultural life needs to be nurtured.

The community needs opportunity to access the range of arts and cultural practices, experience the work of a range of visiting practitioners, have the opportunity to enhance their skills and maintain them within their community, enjoy a dynamic program of performing arts, participate in the beautification of their environment and preservation of their history.

It is all about community’s celebrating their sense of place, identity and pride.



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