



# **CULTURAL PLAN**

**JULY 2005 to JUNE 2008**

**Area: 2049 sq Km Population: 8178**



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## 1. PREFACE

In June 2004, Berrigan Shire Council initiated a cultural policy and planning process with and on behalf of its community and the Berrigan area. Berrigan Shire Council recognised the importance of ensuring its residents had quality of life, sense of place and social and economic opportunities available through cultural development initiatives. It also wanted to tap into a Regional Cultural Plan being undertaken by the Murray Region of Councils.

Stage one involved a community survey which was sent out to community groups, citizens and business. This survey informed the council of the diverse issues the community faces in regards to cultural development.

Stage Two involved Berrigan Shire Council hosting community workshops in Finley and Tocumwal in August of 2004. The workshops were formatted to ensure that the communities involved had input and ownership over the cultural policy and plan. About 26 people representing the different interest groups within the Berrigan area attended these workshops.

So what is culture?

As outlined in the in the Cultural Planning Guidelines released by the Dept of Local Govt and NSW Ministry for the Arts in July 2004, Culture is about what matters to people and communities.

It is about relationships, shared memories and experiences. It is about the different cultural and religious backgrounds found in most communities. It is about the things we consider valuable for passing on to future generations. It is our way of connecting the present with the past and the future.

Local and regional cultural planning deals with these unique values and experiences. It is a way of helping councils integrate and focus their efforts in all the areas that affect the quality of people's lives. It is a way of linking those efforts with their broader management plans and strategies.

With sound cultural planning, councils can gain a clearer sense of a community's aspirations and values. This in turn can influence policy-making and planning decisions for the whole community.

The concept of the regional cultural plan for the Murray region was discussed during the workshops. It was clearly identified throughout the process that for sustainable social, economic or cultural development, it had to be undertaken on a regional perspective and through partnerships with neighbouring councils and other tiers of government. The impact of cultural development projects within individual local government areas appeared to provide benefits not only directly to that community but the region. Berrigan Shire Council has been active in pursuing sustainable economic development for the area and providing the necessary infrastructure for current and future economic development. The original call for a workshop on the cultural future of both the communities it represents and the region as a whole recognised that culture is a significant determinant of lifestyle quality which is a necessary part of attracting and retaining economic development as well as meeting the needs of residents.

Berrigan Shire sees its role as one of providing leadership with and on behalf of its communities. Its role is to assist its communities to realise their cultural, social and economic aspirations. This plan does not seek to change existing cultural programs and projects rather its objective is to generate new sources of assistance and support for the community to realise their identified cultural aspirations.

The plan sets several policy lines on which Council/s can/ will model their approach to cultural issues. The major implementation strategies include specific projects that will develop the strength of community cultural events.

By utilising cultural development as the foundation for the Berrigan community's social and economic growth, a sustainable cohesive community can be further developed.

## **2. Defining Cultural Activities.**

Cultural Activities encompass the visual, performing and literary art, social events and activities, educational activities leading to the development of cultural skills and knowledge, festivals, celebrations, commemorative events, community and urban planning and design, public art and cultural planning. This document recognises and advocates strategic planning as a key initiative enabling local communities to respond to changing social, recreational, leisure and economic needs and to address the increasing demand for cultural resources.

## **3. The Objectives of this Plan**

Broadly speaking the objectives of this cultural plan are the same as those recommended in the Department of Local Government Cultural Planning Guidelines which are as follows:

- to promote the cultural well being of the shire;
- to enable Council to devise and implement cultural processes consistent with broader objectives;
- To enable Council to identify the interrelationships between its activities and policies and recognise their cultural implications for a genuine whole of Council approach to cultural planning.
- to emphasise community engagement and creative expression of values and aspirations;
- to allow this expression of values and aspirations to inform council policies and decisions, thereby bringing the culture of government to that of the communities within the shire; and
- to improve links with other spheres of government in order to increase opportunities for partnerships and funding

## **4. Knowledge and understanding of local cultures: recognition and response**

This cultural plan incorporates -

- A thorough understanding of what matters to the Berrigan Shire community, its relationships, shared memories, experiences and identity. It recognises that although our community is not particularly culturally diverse, it is made up of people who have differing beliefs and preferences.
- A thorough understanding of the cultural products, assets, resources and infrastructure in a community.
- A thorough understanding of how people in their community use and interact with local and regional/sub regional cultural products, assets, resources and infrastructure.
- Recognition and support for Aboriginal cultural development processes and practices.
- Recognition and support for cultural diversity.

## **5. A Shared Vision**

This cultural plan reflects -

- The meaningful engagement of partners, community organisations and groups in the development and implementation of the plan.
- An agreed vision of how people in this community want to relate to each other and to their natural and built environment, and how their community wants to experience its place and its culture.
- An agreed vision about how to remove the barriers to and enhance the opportunities for cultural expression in the community.

## 6. Integration and Connectivity

This cultural plan will -

- Be integrated into council's management planning processes.
  - Be integrated into a council's other planning processes with links to other policies and plans.
  - Promote the development of partnerships community organisations other Councils and agencies in its implementation.
- Be integrated with Council's Social/Community Plan.

## 7. Sustainability

This cultural plan demonstrates -

- Commitment to building the capacity of the council to recognise and respond to its community's cultural values and aspirations.
- Commitment to building the capacity of communities to express and realise their cultural values and aspirations.
- Support for cultural activities that support and build on the capacity of local cultural practice and businesses.
- Organisational arrangements for policy delivery, including a budget and administrative framework to ensure that the scope of the cultural plan is fulfilled.

## 8. Berrigan Shire Council Demographics

### 8.1 Berrigan Shire – An overview

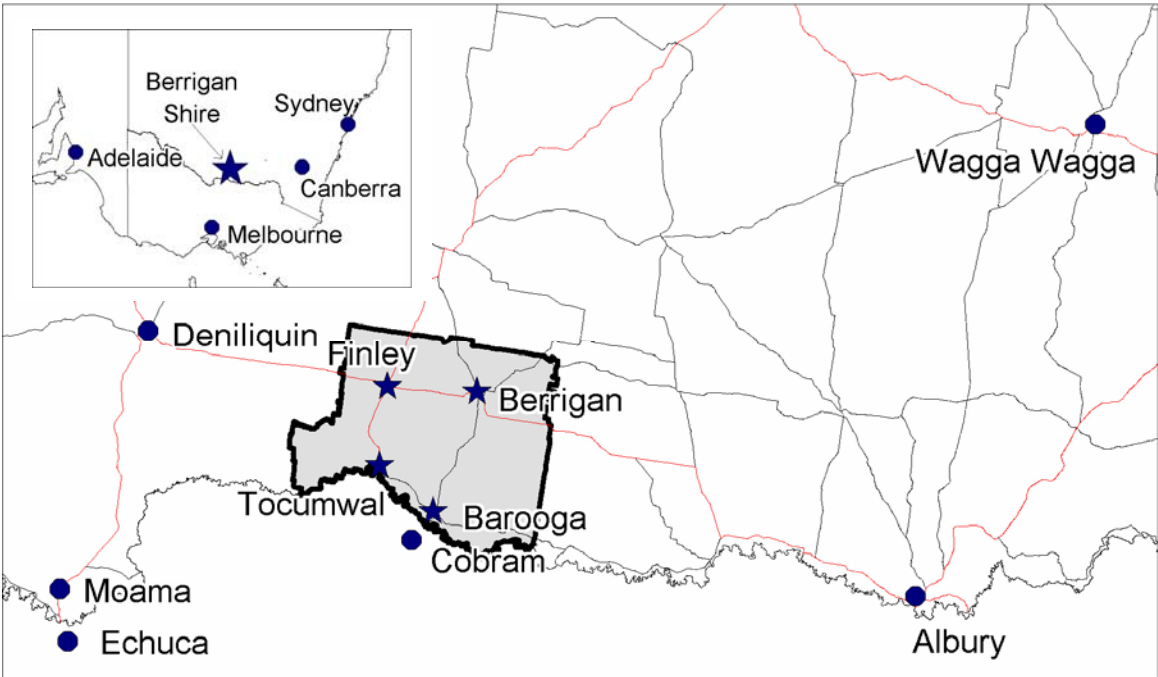
Berrigan Shire Council is a progressive region located on the Murray River in the agriculturally rich southern Riverina of NSW. Covering 2049km<sup>2</sup>, Berrigan Shire has a population of 8,178<sup>1</sup> and includes the towns of Barooga, Berrigan, Finley and Tocumwal. Finley is the Shire’s largest town with a population of around 2,100. Tocumwal has a population of about 1,950, Barooga almost 1,300, and Berrigan just under 1,000<sup>2</sup>. The remaining 23 per cent of the population live in rural areas of the Shire.

Historically the economy of Berrigan Shire has been reliant on agriculture, with holdings covering about 200,000 hectares. Of this, irrigation is available to 75 per cent of land within the Shire, with 86 per cent of properties utilising irrigation for production. Agriculture is diverse with livestock, pasture crops, grains, oilseeds, vegetables, fruit, wine grapes and dairy products being among a range of agricultural pursuits.

In more recent years off-farm industries have grown markedly, with a significant base of small and medium sized manufacturing and processing firms being established in the Shire. These changes have been mirrored by growth in service related industries, particularly tourism based businesses along the Murray River.

All towns within the Shire are experiencing positive growth, with the most rapid changes being seen in Tocumwal and Barooga. Growth in Barooga is largely being driven by industrial and commercial development across the river in Victoria, whilst growth in Tocumwal is being fuelled by the “in-land sea change” phenomenon that is bringing large numbers of retirees to the area.

Berrigan Shire offers vibrant communities that have remained healthy despite the changes that have affected most of regional Australia. There are many cultural groups operating in Berrigan Shire performing important functions which enhance the life of the residents. In most cases they are operating in an independent way and not co-ordinating with other groups. One of the challenges of this



<sup>1</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Local Government Area (LGA) populations for each State and Territory”, www.abs.gov.au – Themes Demography. Estimated Resident Population as at June 2003 (preliminary).

<sup>2</sup> Estimates based on figures derived from the 2001 Census of Population and Housing.

plan is to enhance communication between cultural groups and get them working in a co-ordinated manner.

## 8.2 Demographic Profile of Berrigan Shire

On Census Night, 7 August 2001, 7692 people (3879 males and 3813 females) were counted in Berrigan Shire<sup>3</sup>. The ABS readjusted this population figure to 8138, taking into account undercounts and people who were not at home on Census night but live in Berrigan Shire for more than six months of the year<sup>4</sup>. Anecdotal evidence suggests that a large proportion of the people recorded away from the Shire on Census night belong to the Shire's "grey nomads" – retirees who migrate north in winter, predominantly on camping/caravanning holidays. Thus it is reasonable to assume that Berrigan Shire's retired population is larger than the statistics suggest.

Compounding this trend, only the 45 and over age groups experienced a population increase in the period 1991 to 2001, the most significant increases taking place in persons aged 75 and over. Decreases were experienced in all other age brackets, the most significant being 0-4 years (27.4%) and 25-34 years (29.9%). (See Table 1).

**Table 1 – Population by Age Bracket (Persons)<sup>5</sup>**

	1991	1996	2001	Change 1991-2001
0-4 years	631	595	458	-27.4%
5-14 years	1263	1276	1124	-11.0%
15-24 years	972	897	784	-19.3%
25-34 years	1111	914	779	-29.9%
35-44 years	1123	1172	1006	-10.4%
45-54 years	937	1045	1102	17.6%
55-64 years	911	927	966	6.0%
65-74 years	722	806	793	9.8%
75-84 years	311	393	506	62.7%
85 years and over	78	116	174	123.1%
Total population	8059	8141	7692	-4.6%

Correspondingly, the median age has increased from 35 years in 1991 and 38 years in 1996 to 42 years in 2001 (41 years for males and 42 years for females)<sup>6</sup>. As can be seen from Table 2, the ageing of the population has not been constant throughout the Shire. The median age of Barooga, whilst higher than the state median is the same as the median for regional areas. Further analysis of the Shire's population profile demonstrates that Tocumwal plays a significant role in creating the Berrigan Shire's "aged" profile with the median increasing to 50 years in 2001 and Tocumwal having higher than average proportions of persons aged 55 and above (see also Table 3).

Clearly from the above and following tables our population is aging rapidly.

<sup>3</sup> ABS, "CDATA 2001", T02 Age by Sex – All persons in Local Government Area Berrigan (A), Cat.no. 2044.0.30.001-2044.8.30.001. Excludes overseas visitors.

<sup>4</sup> ABS, Regional Population Growth, Australia and New Zealand 2001, Cat.no. 3218.0.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> ABS, "CDATA 2001", T23 Selected Averages(a) in Local Government Area Berrigan (A), Cat.no. 2044.0.30.001-2044.8.30.001.

**Table 2 – Median age by town (years)<sup>7</sup>**

	Males	Females	Persons
Barooga	40	36	38
Berrigan	42	45	43
Finley	38	43	40
Tocumwal	48	53	50
Non-Town Areas	41	42	42
Berrigan Shire	41	42	42
NSW	35	36	35

**Table 3 – Age Distribution of Persons within Berrigan Shire<sup>8</sup>**

	Barooga	Berrigan	Finley	Tocumwal	Non-Town	Total
0-4	17.3%	15.1%	26.4%	9.2%	32.0%	100.0%
5-14	14.0%	9.9%	25.3%	14.8%	36.0%	100.0%
15-24	12.9%	13.6%	26.2%	17.3%	30.0%	100.0%
25-34	17.4%	13.6%	24.3%	17.6%	27.0%	100.0%
35-44	13.0%	9.8%	25.5%	16.0%	35.6%	100.0%
45-54	13.4%	12.8%	22.5%	18.2%	33.0%	100.0%
55-64	9.6%	11.3%	18.9%	24.5%	35.7%	100.0%
65-74	14.6%	11.1%	24.6%	29.3%	20.5%	100.0%
75-84	11.6%	17.2%	28.1%	28.7%	14.4%	100.0%
85+	4.0%	23.0%	39.1%	28.7%	5.2%	100.0%
Total proportion of Shire population	13.3%	12.4%	24.5%	19.7%	30.1%	100.0%

Note: Highlighted cells represent instances where the proportion of the age group living in the town is higher than the town's proportion of the total Shire population.

<sup>7</sup> ABS, "CDATA 2001", B03 Age by Sex in collection districts 1011001-1011011 & 1011101-1011109, Cat.no. 2044.0.30.001-2044.8.3.001.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

## 9. POTENTIAL POLICY AND PLANNING STRATEGIES

The following were identified as issues were identified through the community consultation process. They are issues that could be addressed by Council or the community given adequate resources.

### 9.1 Enhancing Culture through Heritage

#### 9.1.1 Federation & the Township of Berrigan

**Issue:** There is a strong opinion in the community that Berrigan's role in bringing about Federation has been largely overlooked. The forefathers of Berrigan deserve to be recognised for their foresight and initiative. It will also ensure that history is correctly recorded.

**Recommendations:**

- That Council ensure that this matter is researched and accurately recorded in the shire history which is currently being written. Council and the NSW Heritage Office are paying Jackie Veroccio to write the thematic history of the shire. This should be finished by September 2005.  
**Timing:** September 2005  
**Cost:** No additional cost to that already committed for the writing of the history.
- That liaises with the Berrigan Heritage Museum to gather information on Berrigan's role in Federation.  
**Timing:** Complete by May 07  
**Cost:** No additional cost to Council. Clerical time will be required.
- Investigate the interest and viability of having a federation celebration in Berrigan.  
**Timing:** Complete investigation by June 07.  
**Cost:** Nil.

#### 9.1.2 Tocumwal Aerodrome

**Issue:** The Tocumwal Aerodrome was built by the American armed forces during World War II and was the biggest aerodrome in the Southern Hemisphere. It was also central to the Australian Government Defence Policy known as the Brisbane Line.

The Hangars at the Aerodrome are enormous and of unique construction. They were built during the war at incredible speed.

The Aerodrome is a unique asset and central to why the town of Tocumwal is as is today. The Tocumwal Historic Aerodrome Museum Committee (THAM) is a committee of Council dedicated to preserving the history of the Aerodrome. It has an impressive display of photographs, wartime paraphernalia and has released a book. THAM is also keen for the township of Tocumwal to be recognised by the general public as the site of this unique asset and to increase awareness of the important role that the Aerodrome played in Australia's World War II defence strategy.

**Recommendations:**

- That Council support THAM in any grant applications for the re-development of the Aerodrome or for the development of a museum at the aerodrome.  
**Timing:** February 06 and ongoing.  
**Cost:** Nil
- That Council support initiatives by THAM to have Tocumwal recognised as the site of the Historic Wartime Aerodrome.

- **Timing:** March 07 & Ongoing
- **Cost:** Nil
- That Council initiate discussion between THAM and Tocumwal on the Murray to make the Tocumwal Historic Aerodrome Museum an advertised Tourist Attraction.  
**Timing:** April 07  
**Cost::** Nil
- That Council include the Aerodrome Hangers on its Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and do all it can to preserve the unique physical buildings at the Aerodrome.
- **Timing:** November 06
- **Cost:** Nil

### 9.1.3 Finley Pioneer Railway Station

**Issue:** Finley has a unique pioneer railway station. One of only two remaining in Australia. The station was constructed according to Australian Designs by Whitton a famous government architect. Nearly all stations of that era were constructed along English designs.

Indeed Finley's growth in the early part of the century was primarily due to railway. As the terminus of the line Finley became a huge grain handling and stock transporting centre and broke the commonwealth record for the amount of grain transported in 1933. The prosperity of Finley was linked to the railway and when the line was extended to Tocumwal much of the

#### **Recommendations:**

- That Council ensure that the Finley Pioneer Railway Station is recognised in the shire thematic history.
- That Council ensure that Finley Pioneer Railway Station be placed on the State Heritage Register.
- That Council support the Finley Pioneer Railway Committee through the Heritage Fund in its efforts to restore the station.

### 9.1.4 Tocumwal Railway Station

**Issue:** The Tocumwal railway station is another unique building in the shire which highlights the town's heritage and culture. Although in NSW it was run by the Victorian Railways which sold both NSW and Victorian tickets. There is a fully maintained wide gauge line heading south and a standard gauge line, which is no longer operational, heading north.

The building is progressively being restored by the Lions club of Tocumwal Railway Preservation Committee. The Southern Riverina Arts Council is currently using this building as its meeting venue.

#### **Recommendation:**

- That Council ensure that the Tocumwal Railway Station is recognised in the shire thematic history.
- That Council ensure that Tocumwal Railway Station be placed on the State Heritage Register.
- That Council support the Tocumwal Railway Committee through the Heritage Fund in its efforts to restore the station.

### 9.1.5 Wheels of Prosperity

**Issue:** The Wheels of Prosperity are situated at the northern end of Finley near the Finley Lake on the western side of the Newell Highway. This is in a highly visible location seen by thousands of passing motorists every day. The Wheels celebrates the prosperity brought to the region with the advent of irrigation. It is a unique monument with moving dethirige water wheels on a hillside garden setting. The monument is unique, attractive and says something about the history of this region. The problem is that the monument is not operating (i.e. the wheels are not turning and the water not running) the lights are not turned on at night. By not having this monument operational Finley is missing a golden opportunity to celebrate its culture with the wider community.

**Recommendation:**

That Council work with the Finley Camber of Commerce and Finley Tidy Towns to have the Wheels of Prosperity back to full working order.

**Timing:**

This project should be completed by November 2005

**Cost:**

There may be some cost for the restoration and it's suggested that Council partially fund these works up to an amount of \$2,000. There will also be the ongoing cost of additional electricity which Country Energy have indicated they are prepared to sponsor.

### 9.1.6 Access to Cemetery Records

**Issue:** Much of the community heritage comes from the forefathers of the community. The cemetery records are a significant part of the Shire's cultural heritage. They have details of where people lived, when they died, their religion and who their spouse and children were at the time of their death. These records are important for people wanting to get a sense of cultural identity.

**Recommendation**

That Council make its Grave finder software available through the Visitor Information Centre and through its Library Branches. Furthermore that Council provide training in the use of the software.

**Timing**

This software should be available be use by November 06 and training should be concluded by March 07.

**Cost:**

Approx \$1500 to cover additional license fees.

## 9.2 Enhancing Culture through Community Groups

### 9.2.1 South West Arts

**Issue:** South West Arts is managed from Hay and is the regional arts group for South West NSW. Berrigan Shire is on the South Eastern end of the South West Arts area. Council currently pays a subscription of about \$6,000 per annum to be a member of South West Arts. In return it receives services such as cultural workshops, Outback theatre in schools, advice on running cultural events and assistance with grant applications.

Recently Council has received good service from South West Arts but feels that it is at times disadvantaged by being so far from the head office in Hay. The SW Arts Chief Executive has recently agreed to spend at least one day per month working in the shire which will help give her a better understanding of cultural needs in our shire.

**Recommendations:**

- Foster better communication between SWArts and the Southern Riverina Arts Council.

- Enter into a simple performance agreement with South West Arts.
- Continue the practise of requiring the South West Arts RADO to work within the shire at least one day per month.

### 9.2.2 Southern Riverina Arts Council

**Issue:** The Southern Riverina Arts Council is a group based in Tocumwal dedicated to the furthering Arts and Culture in the shire. The group has existed for many years but has communications with Council have been few. The group has recently had a new lease of life as a result of some new members joining who are keen to implement some new projects. It is important that Council communicate with the Arts Council and endeavour to help in any way it can.

**Recommendations:**

- That Council ensure that a Councillor or Staff member be available to attend the Southern Riverina Arts Council monthly Meetings.
- That Council co-ordinate communication between SW Arts and the SR Arts Council.

## 9.3 Culture through Communication

**Issue:** People throughout the shire do not know when cultural events are happening. For example, People in Tocumwal and Finley may not know when the Berrigan Amateur Dramatic Society (BADs) Play is being held. Also people in cultural groups do not know who to contact from other cultural Groups.

**Recommendations:**

- Create a Cultural Diary depicting all Cultural Events within the Shire and when they are happening. This can be posted on Council's web page and advertised generally so that the general public and members of other cultural groups know when these events are taking place.
- Create a cultural contact list of all groups and a contact person, and circulate to all cultural groups and circulate publicly so prospective new members know who to contact if they wish to be involved.
- Create a separate cultural section on Councils website. This will be a reference point for all people in the shire regarding cultural events, contacts, news and information. It will also offer cultural groups a channel of communication.
- Install a community notice board in at a central location where cultural and other news and events can be advertised.

## 9.4 Enhancing Culture through Events

### 9.4.1 Corner Markets

**Issue:** Corner markets are small markets where local artists and producers sell locally made items to members of the public. Because the focus is on locally produced items and the market showcases the culture of the area in which it is held.

The markets are co-ordinated by the Southern Riverina Arts Council. At the time of writing three had been held in Tocumwal with some success. They have generally been held late on a Sunday afternoon during the summer months.

**Recommendation:** That Council support the Southern Riverina Arts Council in its endeavours to make the Corner Markets an established part of the Cultural Calendar.

## 9.4.2 Farmers Markets

**Issue:** Farmers Markets provide a showcase for the great diversity of produce grown in the region and make it possible for local residents to access locally grown foods and to directly support local farmers and small business. They have been held successfully in Echuca and Deniliquin and run by Central Murray Produce who are a food group that representing Campaspe, Murray, Moira, Deniliquin, Jerilderie, Wakool, Conargo and Berrigan Shires. The response to the markets from the public has been extremely good which is fantastic for farmers participating in this grass roots movement and it follows a world-wide trend of farmers getting together to meet an increasing demand for locally produced quality product delivered from paddock to plate. As all produce sold is locally produced it allows for the culture of the area to be celebrated through food.

**Recommendation:** that the Council liaise with Central Murray Produce to have a farmers market held in a town within Berrigan Shire on a regular basis.

## 9.4.3 Celebrating the Centenary of Berrigan Shire.

**Issue:** The centenary of Berrigan Shire will come about in March 2006. This is a significant event as our shire is one of the oldest in NSW and has remained in its current form for its entire existence. Celebrating this milestone would give the community a local focus and allow it to celebrate what makes it unique.

**Timing:** March 2006

**Cost:** \$3,000 EST.

## 9.4.4 Linking Cultural Events to Tourism.

**Issue:** By linking the two, both the causes of culture and tourism can be advanced. The cultural event can be used as something to attract tourists, while at the same time the tourists make the event more viable. A good example of this is the Port Fairy Folk festival, held on the Victorian Labour Day weekend in March each year. The cultural and tourism bodies need to get together and establish where their common interests lie. Perhaps together they could come up with a cultural event that could be supported by the tourism bodies and therefore enhance culture while also attracting tourists to the shire.

During the public consultation period the community did identify that there was a lack of cultural festivals in Berrigan Shire.

**Recommendation:** - That Council make as part of its funding agreement with Tocumwal on the Murray that it to liaise with cultural groups within the shire with the view to organising and supporting cultural events.

**Timing:** To be included in the agreement commencing July 2005.

**Cost:** No additional cost

## 9.5 Travelling Shows

### 9.5.1 In the Bin Short Film Festival

In the Bin touring short film festival has been operating for over six years and has become Australia's widest spread and most accessible Short Film Festival. The aim of In the Bin is to bring a new and

exciting form of cultural activity into communities and to stimulate interest in short films. There are two components to In the bin. One is the touring exhibition and the other is the Educational Program.

The touring exhibition shows a selection of the best short films submitted to In the Bin over the past two years. The films can be shown in any environment, whether that be outdoors or indoors, in a pub or in a hall. In the bin supplies all sound, projection and screen equipment. Fourteen of Australia's best short films will be shown.

The Educational Program is designed so that participants will have completed their own short film after two days of intense filming and editing on equipment supplied by In the Bin. The resulting films will be shown at the local film exhibition.

Council can commit to both the travelling film exhibition and the educational program or just the film exhibition. If council were to commit to both In the Bin staff would be in the shire for three days with the first two days being taken up by the educational program and the third day being taken up by the film exhibition. The cost of this project would be about \$1,700 for the film festival and \$2,500 for the educational program.

**Recommendation:** That council commit to the In the Bin Short Film Festival for 2005 and commit to the Short Film Festival and Educational Program for 2006.

### 9.5.2 Attracting Travelling Acts

**Issue:** A point raised at the community consultation meetings is that not enough travelling shows come to the towns in Berrigan Shire. As our towns are relatively small it is sometimes difficult to make the trip viable for the travelling act. However it can be viable if several surrounding shires commit at once. This would be best co-ordinated through SW Arts.

**Recommendation:** Liaise with SW Arts to organise at least two travelling acts per calendar year. This will form part of their performance agreement.

**Timing:** From 2006 onwards

**Cost:** Some Additional expenditure will be required although some acts may form part of our SW Arts subscription. Estimate an additional \$2,000 per year.

### 9.5.3 Jazz on the Foreshore

**Issue:** At the community meetings several people suggested that they would like to see Jazz at the Tocumwal Foreshore. This has been trialed successfully on Easter Saturday after the Tocumwal Races. Council is not in a position to financially sponsor this event.

**Recommendation:**

That Council raise the issue with the Southern Riverina Arts Council and the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce regarding having some Jazz nights on the foreshore.

**Timing:** Raise with community groups by September 05, with a view to have something happening by April 06.

**Cost:** Nil to Council

## 9.6 Volunteering

**Issue:** Most of the cultural organisations throughout the shire rely heavily on volunteers for their survival. The problem is that they are ageing and new ones are becoming difficult to recruit.

**Recommendation:**

Develop strategy to assist and support the cultural groups in the recruitment of volunteers.

**Timing:** Complete strategy by October 2007

**Cost:** Clerical Time. Nil additional cost.

## 9.7 Museums

**Issue:** Berrigan Shire has two excellent museums being the Berrigan Museum and the Finley Log Cabin museum. The public need to be made more aware of these museums and what they have to offer. Volunteers in these museums need specialist training to effectively run and promote their organisations. It must be remembered that unlike in large museums in the major cities, volunteers in Berrigan Shire have no professional staff available as a reference point. Without this training running a museum can often appear daunting. It can often discourage volunteers from joining the Museum Committee because they feel that the tasks required may be beyond their expertise.

**Recommendation:**

That Council apply for assistance through the NSW Heritage Office for the training of museum volunteers in areas such as:

- the writing of collection development policies
- storage procedures
- showcasing, and
- Marketing & promotions strategies.

## 9.8 Oral Histories

**Issue:** Much of the rich history of our shire is in the heads of our elderly citizens and not recorded anywhere else.

**Recommendation:**

That Council

- Through the museum committees arrange for people to be trained in the taking of oral histories and identify key people from whom oral histories should be taken.
- Ensure that all existing oral histories are correctly recorded & preserved.
- In conjunction with the museums create an oral history library.
- Play these oral histories in the public arena

**Timing:** February 2006

**Cost:** \$1,000

## 9.9 Cultural Infrastructure

### 9.9.1 Berrigan Library

**Issue:** The shire assists in catering for the cultural needs of the community by providing buildings to be used for cultural purposes. There are several halls which are used for performing plays and the four libraries are the hub of cultural activities in each town. Council has recently constructed two new libraries. The Tocumwal Library was opened in 1998 and the Barooga Library and Technology centre will be opened on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2005. Finley's library although not new is quite spacious and serves the community adequately. Berrigan library is in relatively poor condition.

**Recommendation:**

That Council investigate the options for the replacement of Berrigan Library

**Timing:**

Full report by June 2006

**Cost:** \$1,000, cost will be primarily in staff time.

### 9.9.2 Signage

**Issue:** It was identified at the community consultation meetings that there is a lack of signage to Cultural & Heritage places throughout the shire.

**Recommendation:** That council develop a plan of required signage for the shire and include distinctive cultural signage within this plan.

**Timing:** Signage Plan by March 2006, Implementation by September 2006.

**Cost:** \$5000 for signage implementation. To be included in signage budget.

### 9.9.3 Walking Track

**Issue:** The community has identified the need for a cultural walking track signposted with murals and signage signifying the unique history of the area in prominent places. Possible locations for this include on the river and around the town of Tocumwal or between the Finley Railway station and Finley log cabin.

**Recommendation:** that Council, in conjunction with the Southern Riverina Arts Council, investigate the viability of creating a cultural walking track.

**Timing:** Investigation Complete by December 05

**Cost;** \$1,000

### 9.10 Public Art

**Issue:** At the public consultation meetings the community identified Public Art as one area where the shire was lacking. Public art promotes a sense of community because its there for every-one. It also creates discussion and gives artists an opportunity to display their work.

**Recommendation:** Investigate the development of a main street public art program in conjunction with South West Arts and the Southern Riverina Arts Council, with art works to be designed and developed by students at the local school in conjunction with the cultural committee (to be established)

**Timing:** Investigation complete by September 2006.

**Cost:** Staff time to perform the investigation. Also time for South West Arts and the Arts Council.

### 9.11 Cultural Audit

**Issue:** Council does not have a good idea of what cultural activities, groups and facilities it has in the shire. It needs to have a clear picture of these in order to be able to plan for the future needs of the community.

**Recommendation:** the Council conduct a cultural Audit of all community groups, facilities and events.

**Timing:** September 2005

**Cost:** \$500

## 9.12 Youth Participation

**Issue:** Youth need to be included more in planning of cultural programs and activities. They are an under utilised asset that have a lot to offer this community. Their participation in cultural activities needs to be encouraged.

### Recommendations:

- Develop strategies, in conjunction with the youth sector, to ensure that effective structures are established for involving young people in cultural planning and programming.

**Timing:** Strategies to be developed by April 08.

**Cost:** Nil

- Identify and facilitate the provision of services and facilities that meet the cultural needs of young people, to maximise their engagement and participation within the community.

**Timing:** Services to be identified by December 07, facilitation to be ongoing as required.

**Cost:** Nil to identify service. Cost for the facilitation of the service s will vary. Est. \$2,000

- Develop a partnership between the community and the local schools to ensure participation of youth in cultural events.

**Timing:** Partnership developed by March 08.

**Cost:** Nil.

## 10 Training and Accreditation

Council recognises the importance of identified Council/s employee's, cultural organisations and industries and other key stakeholders to be provided with the opportunities to participate in cultural training to ensure sustainable cultural growth within the Berrigan area

It advocates the importance of arts and cultural training to increase the skills base of the Berrigan area and actively promotes training opportunities to volunteers of community managed cultural facilities leaders within the Berrigan community.

### Recommended Strategies

- Council supports through providing financial support and allocated leave, opportunities for councillors and council staff to participate in cultural training to increase the capacity of council in undertaking cultural development initiatives.

**Timing:** July 2005

**Cost:** \$2,000 per year out of Council's Training Budget

- Council to develop partnership programs with Museums and Galleries NSW to initiate skills development opportunities for its community managed cultural facilities.

**Timing:** November 2006

**Cost:** Nil

- Council to request South West Arts to identify training opportunities available from State and Federal Agencies and Organisations that can assist in increasing the capacity of the community to undertake cultural development initiatives.

- **Timing:** August 2005, as part of service agreement with South West Arts

- **Cost:** Nil

## 11 Calender of Actions

The following is a list of Recommended Strategies, as defined in sections 9 & 10 above, itemised in date order over the three year period of the cultural plan. The bulk of the strategies appear early in the three-year time frame but are often ongoing in nature.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>2005-06</b>		
<b>July 05</b>	Council support of selected Councillors & Staff for the participation in cultural training	Increased capacity of Council to undertake cultural development activities.
<b>July 05</b>	Funding agreement with Tocumwal on the Murray that requires the Tourist organisation to liaise with cultural groups within the shire with the view to organising and supporting cultural events.	More viable cultural events that are supported through interest from tourists.
<b>July 05</b>	That Council ensure that a Councillor or Staff member be available to attend the Southern Riverina Arts Council monthly Meetings.	Better communication between the Southern Riverina Arts Council and Council.
<b>Aug 05</b>	Council to commit to the In the Bin Short Film Festival for 2005 and commit to the Short Film Festival and Educational Program for 2006.	Exposure to the best short films in Australia.
<b>Aug 2005</b>	Work with South West Arts to identify training opportunities available for Staff & Volunteers	Increased capacity of the community to undertake cultural planning initiatives.
<b>Sept 2005</b>	That Council ensure that this matter is researched and accurately recorded in the shire history which is currently being written. Council and the NSW Heritage Office are paying Jackie Veroccio to write the thematic history of the shire. This should be finished by September 2005.	Recognition of Berrigan's role in the birth of Federation.
<b>Sept 05</b>	That Council raise the issue with the Southern Riverina Arts Council and the Tocumwal Chamber of Commerce regarding having some Jazz nights on the foreshore.	More cultural activity on the Tocumwal Foreshore.
<b>Sept 05</b>	The Council Conduct a Cultural Audit of all community groups, facilities and events.	Will give Council & community arts groups a better idea of the community's unmet cultural needs.
<b>Sept 05</b>	That Council ensure that both the Tocumwal & Finley Railway Station are recognised in the shire thematic history.	Recognition of the stations' part in the growth of the townships of Tocumwal & Finley.
<b>Oct 05</b>	Support the Southern Riverina Arts Council in its endeavours to make the Corner Markets an established part of the Cultural Calendar.	Corner Markets a regular feature at Tocumwal foreshore.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
Nov 05	That Council work with the Finley Camber of Commerce and Finley Tidy Towns to have the Wheels of Prosperity back to full working order.	Living & Working monument showing the shire's heritage that can be seen by thousands of motorists every day.
Dec 05	That Council, in conjunction with the Southern Riverina Arts Council, investigate the viability of creating a cultural walking track.	Establishment of Location, cost and content for a proposed walking track.
Jan 06	That Council ensure that Tocumwal Railway Station be placed on the State Heritage Register.	Recognition of the importance Tocumwal Railway Station.
Feb 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrange for people to be trained in the taking of oral histories and identify key people from whom oral histories should be taken.</li> <li>• Ensure that all existing oral histories are correctly recorded &amp; preserved.</li> <li>• Create an oral history library.</li> <li>• Play these oral histories in the public arena</li> </ul>	Preservation of the cultural history of Berrigan Shire.
Feb 06	That Council support THAM in any grant applications for the re-development of the Aerodrome or for the development of a museum at the aerodrome.	Funding for the restoration of the Tocumwal Aerodrome.
March 06	That council develop a plan of required signage for the shire and include distinctive cultural signage within this plan.	Effective directional signage to places of cultural/heritage significance.
March 06	That Council liaise with the Berrigan Heritage Museum to gather information on Berrigan's role in Federation.	Better Understanding by the community of Berrigan's role in Federation.
April 06	<p>Creation of a Cultural Diary and contact list.</p> <p>Create a separate cultural section on Councils website. This will be a reference point for all people in the shire regarding cultural events, contacts, news and information. It will also offer cultural groups a channel of communication.</p>	<p>Enhanced public knowledge of what cultural events are happening and when.</p> <p>Greater support of cultural events.</p> <p>Better communication between cultural groups by knowing who is who.</p>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>2006-07</b>		
July 2006	Liaise with SW Arts to organise at least two travelling acts per calendar year. This will form part of their performance agreement.	More cultural options for the residents of Berrigan Shire.
Aug 2006	that the Council liaise with Central Murray Produce to have a farmers market held in a town within Berrigan Shire on a regular basis	Forum where local people can buy and sell produce which celebrates our agricultural culture.
Sept 06	Investigate the development of a main street public art program in conjunction with South West Arts and the Southern Riverina Arts Council, with art works to be designed and developed by students at the local school in conjunction with the cultural committee (to be established)	Main street Public Art Program which will add to the streetscapes of towns.
Oct 06	That Council support the Tocumwal & Finley Railway Committees through the Heritage Fund in its efforts to restore the station.	Restoration of Tocumwal & Finley Railway Station.
Nov 2006	Development of partnership programs with Museums & Galleries NSW	Initiation of skills development and opportunities for community run cultural organisations.
Dec 2006	Develop strategy to assist and support the cultural groups in the recruitment of volunteers.	More volunteers for cultural groups.
Jan 07	Investigate the interest and viability of having a federation celebration	Celebration held to recognise Berrigan's role in Federation.
Feb 07	That Council apply for assistance through the NSW Heritage Office for the training of museum volunteers in areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the writing of collection development policies</li> <li>• storage procedures</li> <li>• showcasing, and</li> <li>• Marketing &amp; promotions strategies.</li> </ul>	Better Museum Volunteers who can better run the museums.
March 07	That Council support initiatives by THAM to have Tocumwal recognised as the site of the Historic Wartime Aerodrome.	Greater recognition by the general public as Tocumwal being the site of Australia's biggest WWII Aerodrome.
April 07	That Council initiate discussion between THAM and Tocumwal on the Murray to make the Tocumwal Historic Aerodrome Museum an advertised Tourist Attraction.	Making the Aerodrome a Tourist attraction will help sustain it and enlighten people about its historical significance.
May 07	Investigate the interest and viability of having a federation celebration in Berrigan	Festival celebrating Berrigan's role in Federation.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>2007-08</b>		
Oct 07	Develop strategy to assist and support the cultural groups in the recruitment of volunteers.	More volunteers for cultural groups.
Nov 07	That Council make its Grave-finder software available through the Visitor Information Centre and through its Library Branches. Furthermore that Council provide training in the use of the software.	Greater awareness of the history of our shire.
Dec 07	Identify and facilitate the provision of services and facilities that meet the cultural needs of young people.	Engagement and participation of young people within the community in cultural activities.
March 08	Develop a partnership between the community and the local schools to ensure participation of youth in cultural events.	Greater participation of youth in cultural events.
April 08	Develop strategies, in conjunction with the youth sector, to ensure that effective structures are established for involving young people in cultural planning and programming.	Greater involvement of youth in the planning of cultural activities.

## **12. Contact**

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